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Today's Catholic offering
envelope inserted this week

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Pope greets Bishop Rhoades during 'ad limina' visit to the Vatican



CNS PHOTO / L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

Pope Benedict XVI greets Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, during a Feb. 9 meeting with U.S. bishops on their "ad limina" visits to the Vatican. Bishops from Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin were making their "ad limina" visits to the Vatican to report on the status of their dioceses. For more see page 20.

Lent is time to help others spiritually, materially, pope says

BY MARY SHOVLAIN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In his Lenten message, Pope Benedict XVI called on the faithful to be concerned for one another and "not to remain isolated and indifferent" to the fate others.

Materialism and a sense of self-sufficiency are obstacles to a Christian life of charity, the pope said.

Instead of looking first to God and then to the well-being of others, people often have an attitude of "indifference and disinterest born of selfishness and masked as a respect for 'privacy.'"

He said that God's commandment to love "demands that we acknowledge our responsibility toward those who, like ourselves, are creatures and children of God."

The annual Lenten message was presented during a Vatican news conference Feb. 7

by Cardinal Robert Sarah, president of the Pontifical Council Cor Unum, the office which handles the pope's charitable giving, along with Msgr. Segundo Tejado Munoz, the council's undersecretary.

The cardinal highlighted the pope's call for "fraternal correction" and the Church's prophetic mission in denouncing situations of injustice and poverty in the world.

To overcome such injustices, one must get to the moral roots of such situations, he said. Corruption, accumulation of wealth, violence, and living off the work of others without contributing are all cancers that weaken a society from within, the cardinal said.

But, he said, the true root of the world's injustices stems from ignoring or denying God's existence. By not acknowledging there is a creator and Lord who is greater than man, society degenerates into a "conflictual individ-

SERRANS PRESENT CHALICE TO FOSTER VOCATIONS



SUSAN VALES

Dick Wasoski presents the chalice sponsored by the Serra Club of South Bend to Mary Ann Bachman, center, principal of St. Adalbert School in South Bend and Sister Mary Catherine Ryzewicz, left. The chalice reminds the schoolchildren to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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US bishops urge action on conscience rights

Conscience rights, religious liberty violated by sweeping HHS contraceptive mandate

WASHINGTON — The following letter was inserted in many parish bulletins across the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and the nation. The U.S. Bishops are urging the faithful to contact their U.S. congressmen and senators to support legislation that would protect conscience rights. The letter follows:

On Jan. 20, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) reaffirmed a rule that virtually all private health care plans must cover sterilization, abortifacients and contraception.

The exemption provided for "religious employers" is so narrow that it fails to cover the vast majority of faith-based organizations, including Catholic hospitals, universities and service organizations that help millions every year. Ironically, not even Jesus and His disciples would have qualified, because of their commitment to serve others.

To correct this threat to religious liberty and conscience rights, the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act has been introduced in Congress (H.R. 1179, S. 1467). This measure will ensure that those who participate in the health care system "retain the right to provide, purchase, or enroll in health coverage that is consistent with their religious beliefs and moral convictions." It is more important than ever that members of Congress be urged to co-sponsor this measure — or thanked if they are already co-sponsoring the bill. For the list of current co-sponsors, please check H.R. 1179 and S. 1467 at: thomas.loc.gov.

Action:

Contact your U.S. Representative by e-mail, phone, or FAX letter:

- Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at: (202) 224-3121, or call your members' local offices.

- Send your email to congress through www.usccb.org/conscience.

- Additional contact info can be found on members' web sites at: www.house.gov and www.senate.gov.

Message:

"Please co-sponsor the Respect for Rights

of Conscience Act (H.R. 1179, S. 1467) and help enact it into law. The Obama administration's decision to require even religious institutions to provide coverage of sterilization and contraceptives, including drugs that can cause an abortion, makes passage of this measure especially urgent. Please ensure that the rights of conscience of all participants in our nation's health care system are respected."

When:

Now is the time to build cosponsors. Please act today! Thanks!

For more background information, go to www.usccb.org/conscience.

The following is a list of U.S. representatives that serve the people within the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and the U.S. senators:

Congressman Joe Donnelly, 2nd District of Indiana

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LENT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ualism" and a struggle of one person against another, Cardinal Sarah said.

The theme of the 2012 Lenten message was taken from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews: "Let us be concerned for each other, to stir a response in love and good works."

The pope outlined his message with three points taken from St. Paul's letter: "concern for others, reciprocity and personal holiness."

Concern for others, the pope said, means wanting what is good physically, morally and spiritually for one's neighbor. But he noted that contemporary culture "seems to have lost the sense of good and evil."

"There is a real need to reaffirm that good does exist and will prevail," the pope said, defining good

as "whatever gives, protects and promotes life, brotherhood and communion."

The pope warned against what he called "spiritual anesthesia," which numbs people to the suffering of others. Only a "humbleness of heart and the personal experience of suffering can awaken within us a sense of compassion and empathy," he said.

The suffering of others is not only physical or material, he said, but it is also spiritual, and he encouraged Christians to remember their "spiritual responsibility" toward their neighbor. He called for a renewal of a forgotten aspect of the Christian life, that is, "fraternal correction."

Fraternal correction, he said, is a kind of Christian charity that speaks out against people indulging in sin.

"We must not remain silent before evil," he said.

Often, "out of human regard or purely personal convenience," Christians fail to warn others against ways of thinking and behaving that are contrary to the truth.

The reluctance to confront others in the name of truth, he said, stems from a world view dominated by individualism, which "accepts any moral choice

in the name of personal freedom," which then makes people blind to physical suffering and the spiritual and moral demands of life.

However, God wants Christians to help and encourage each other to strive for the truth, for good and holy lives, he said.

Fraternal correction must never be motivated by a spirit of accusation or recrimination, but instead be both loving and admonishing, as God is with His children, he added.

"Both our sins and our acts of love have a social dimension," which is why the Church asks forgiveness for the sins of its members and at the same time rejoices in examples of virtue and charity in the Church, he said.

The pope said time is precious and people must not become lukewarm about performing good works and using their God-given spiritual and material riches for the benefit of others.

In a world "which demands of Christians a renewed witness of love and fidelity to the Lord, may all of us feel the urgent need to anticipate one another in charity, service and good works," he said.

Government has no authority to redefine marriage, say Catholic leaders

BY MARK PATTISON

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The archbishops of Los Angeles and New York criticized a federal appellate court decision Feb. 7 that ruled unconstitutional California's Proposition 8, a 2008 voter-approved initiative that forbade same-sex marriage in the state.

"The government has no competence and no authority to 'redefine' marriage or 'expand' its definition to include other kinds of relationships," said Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles in a Feb. 7 statement. "To do that is to say that marriage no longer exists. And this would have grave consequences for children and for the common good of our society."

"Our government has a vital interest in promoting marriage for two reasons," Archbishop Gomez said. "First, because marriage is the foundation of society. Second, because government has a duty to promote the well-being of children, who have the right to be born and raised in a family with both their mother and their father."

He added, "This debate over marriage is not about equality or about the needs of individuals. It is much bigger than that. It is about the nature of the human person and the nature of society."

Cardinal-designate Timothy M. Dolan of New York called the 2-1 decision by a three-judge panel of the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals "a grave injustice, ignoring the reality that marriage is the union of one man and one woman" in a Feb. 7 statement.

"The Constitution of the United States most assuredly does not forbid the protection of the perennial meaning of marriage, one of the cornerstones of society," said Cardinal-designate Dolan, who is president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. "The people of California deserve better. Our nation deserves better. Marriage deserves better."

The majority opinion said Proposition 8 violates the 14th Amendment to the Constitution, which guarantees citizens due process and equal protection under the law. It said the state, which had given homosexual couples the right to marry, could not revoke that right.

ProtectMarriage, which put the initiative on the ballot and fought in court to uphold it, can appeal the decision, either to the full 9th Circuit or directly to the U.S. Supreme Court. In the meantime, the appeals panel said no same-sex marriages can be performed.

"Our society does not operate in an amoral or valueless vacuum," said Bishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of Oakland, Calif., chairman of the U.S. bishops' Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage.

"To flourish, it must be infused with moral direction that is grounded in the truth. Of course, the true meaning of marriage, like the gift of human life, is ultimately not subject to a vote or court ruling," Bishop



CNS PHOTO/BECK DIEFENBACH, REUTERS

Advocates of same-sex marriage cheer during a rally outside the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco Feb. 7 moments before hearing the court's decision on Proposition 8. By a 2-1 vote, a three-judge panel struck down the California ban on same-sex marriage, saying that it violates the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which guarantees citizens due process and equal protection under the law.

Cordileone added in a Feb. 7 statement.

"But in California, as in every other state where marriage has been put to a vote, the people justly upheld the truth of marriage. How tragic for California, for the nation, and especially for children, that this correctly informed judgment has now been set aside."

The 9th Circuit's decision is "the latest action in an ongoing attempt to redefine marriage," said Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl of Washington.

"What cannot be changed is the truth: Marriage is the sacred institution that unites a man and a woman with each other and with the children born of their union. It is not the mere public recognition of a committed relationship for the sole benefit of two adults," Cardinal Wuerl said in a Feb. 7 statement. "While today's action is disappointing, it will not be the final word on this issue."

"The proponents of same-sex marriage do an outstanding job of creating the illusion of momentum and support for their cause," said Derek McCoy, executive director of the Maryland Marriage Alliance, in a Feb. 8 statement.

"However, in reality they are steadily losing support among Americans. Every single time the issue of same-sex marriage has come to a vote by the people, it has failed. In 31 states, Americans have rejected attempts to redefine the one institution that is fundamental to the continued existence of every society."

Proposition 8 passed with 52 percent of the vote, although backers of same-sex marriage in California are gathering signatures for a new ballot measure that would explicitly overturn Proposition 8.

Auxiliary Bishop Gerald E. Wilkerson of Los Angeles, president of the California Catholic Conference, expressed disappointment in the ruling but also confidence that it would be reversed.

"We are disappointed by the ruling today by a panel of the 9th Circuit that would invalidate the action taken by the people of

California affirming that marriage unites a woman and a man and any children from their union," he said in a Feb. 7 statement. "However, given the issues involved and the nature of the legal process, it's always been clear that this case would very likely be decided by the U.S. Supreme Court. Marriage between one man and one woman has been — and always will be — the most basic building block of the family and of our society," Bishop Wilkerson added.

"In the end, through sound legal reasoning, we believe the court will see this as well and uphold the will of the voters as expressed in Proposition 8. We continue to pray for that positive outcome."

Supporters of the court's decision included Suzanne Bennett Johnson, president of the American Psychological Association.

"Research shows that marriage provides important health and wellness benefits and that same-sex couples are similar to heterosexual couples in essential ways including the fact that they are just as likely as opposite-sex couples to raise mentally healthy, well-adjusted children," she said in a Feb. 7 statement. "There is no scientific basis for denying marriage equality to same-sex couples."

The 154,000-member association said it has been a strong advocate for full equal rights for gays for 35 years, based on social science research on sexual orientation.

The decision "affirms basic American values and helps tear down a discriminatory barrier to marriage that benefits no one while making it harder for people to take care of their loved ones," said a Feb. 7 statement by Evan Wolfson, founder and president of Freedom to Marry, which advocates legalized same-sex marriage.

The court, he added, "rightly held that a state simply may not take a group of people and shove them outside the law, least of all when it comes to something as important as the commitment and security of marriage."



PUBLIC SCHEDULE OF BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

- Tuesday, Feb. 21, 10 a.m. — Meeting of Bishop's Cabinet, Archbishop Noll Center
- Wednesday, Feb. 22, 12:05 p.m. — Ash Wednesday Mass, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne
- Thursday, Feb. 23, 1 p.m. — Meeting of the Diocesan Finance Council, Warsaw
- Thursday, Feb. 23, 7:30 p.m. — Talk at "Date Night," St. Pius X Parish, Granger
- Friday, Feb. 24, 10 a.m. — Mass at Diocesan Education Conference, Bishop Luers High School, Fort Wayne
- Saturday, Feb. 25, 4 p.m. — Closing Mass at Rekindle the Fire Conference, Allen County War Memorial Coliseum and Exhibition Center, Fort Wayne



Fasting and abstinence during Lent

Abstinence from eating meat is obligatory for all Catholics 14 years of age and older on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all Fridays during Lent.

Fasting is obligatory for all Catholics from ages 18 to 59 on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. The law of the fast means that only one full meal may be eaten. Two smaller meals are permitted, but they should not equal one full meal.

The fourth precept of the Church states: "You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church." According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, this precept "ensures the times of asceticism and penance, which prepare us for the liturgical feasts and help us acquire mastery over our instincts and freedom of heart."

Rite of Election, Call to Continuing Conversion to be celebrated in cathedrals

The Rite of Election of Catechumens and the Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates will be celebrated in the cathedrals of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend on the first and second Sundays of Lent.

These rites will take place in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in downtown Fort Wayne on Feb. 26, the First Sunday of Lent, at 2 p.m., and in St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend, on March 4, the Second Sunday of Lent, also at 2 p.m.

Catechumens are those unbaptized people who will be entering the Catholic Church by receiving the sacraments of initiation — Baptism, Confirmation and the Holy Eucharist — at the Easter Vigil on the night of April 7. Candidates are those who are already baptized and are now preparing to complete their initiation or enter into full communion with the Catholic Church.

The catechumens and candidates come from parishes throughout the diocese. During

the liturgy, each catechumen and candidate, as well as his or her godparent or sponsor, will be presented for recognition to Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, ordinary of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. All together, around 600 catechumens and candidates — along with their godparents, sponsors, families and guests — are expected to attend the liturgies.

Prior to the attending the ceremony, many of the catechumens and candidates will take part in an optional rite at their respective parishes, whereby they are official sent to forth to meet the bishop. The catechumens inscribe their names within the "Book of the Elect," which will be presented for Bishop Rhoades to sign during the Rite of Election, in an event referred to as the Enrollment of Names. After participating in the Rite of Election, the catechumens will be referred to as the "elect," because they will have been officially declared ready to receive the Easter sacraments this year.

Stories of holiness shared by religious leaders at ND conference

BY ANN CAREY

NOTRE DAME — A Buddhist monk, a Sikh faith leader, an Arab Catholic layman, an Israeli Jewish woman and a Trappist monk were among the speakers at an interfaith conference on holiness at the University of Notre Dame Feb. 5-8.

The conference, entitled “Stories of Practical Holiness,” was convened by Notre Dame’s Institute on Church (ICL) to present concrete examples of holiness from diverse faith traditions. The objective of the conference was to deepen inter-religious understanding by demonstrating how the faith of various religious traditions motivates acts of love, compassion, forgiveness and reconciliation.

John C. Cavadini, McGrath-Cavadini director of the ICL, told the opening session that the word “holiness” in the conference title was being used in “a rough and ready way,” not to canonize someone in the Catholic sense. Rather, he said, the term was being used in an experimental way to indicate a certain kind of objective or public pursuit of goodness achieved by a person out of motivation from, and fidelity to, his or her own religion.

The term “practical,” he continued, did not mean that holiness must have a practical application, but rather that it has religious inspiration and character that can carry “a transformative” implication for society or culture and promote peace.

“Holiness often by its very nature — and not as a practical application — strives for social or cultural renewal and inspires the desire to strive for such renewal in others,” Cavadini explained.

The practical dimension of holiness provides a beginning point for inter-religious understanding, Cavadini continued, because everyone understands a community of love, forgiveness, the pursuit of justice and heroic stands or inspiring zeal. And to see how this is connected to religious practice and fidelity helps one to understand different religions in a new way.

The presentation of stories about holiness is not a theoretical exposition of religious ideals or doctrines, Cavadini said, but rather the stories about putting faith into action provide valuable insights at a time when it is thought that boundaries between cultures and religions are impossible to cross and that a multicultural world is hopelessly fragmented.

Pope John Paul II, in his encyclical “Veritatis Splendor” (“The Splendor of Truth”), reminded Catholics that Christians are not alone in their ability to bear heroic witness to the good in human nature, Cavadini said. He explained that the pope may have been saying that the admiration we feel

across such religious and cultural boundaries may open a path to interfaith understanding and help eliminate stereotypes.

The invited speakers visited Notre Dame theology classes during the mornings of the conference, and individual speakers presented in the afternoons and evenings.

Buddhist Dharma Master Hsin Tao of Taiwan spoke about dedicating his life to following the spiritual example of the Buddhist deity, Bodhisattva Kuanyin (known in English as the Goddess of Mercy). He became a monk, and after many years of solitary ascetic practice, established a cultural foundation and a monastery. He also founded the Museum of World Religions in Taiwan in 2001 and in 2002 established the Global Family for Love and Peace.

Bhai Sahib Mohinder Singh Ahluwalia is a Sikh faith leader who is chairman of the religious charitable organization Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha in Birmingham, England. The organization was founded on the principle of selfless service to humanity and has branches in India and Africa. An engineer by training,



BRIAN SHAPPELL

Bhai Sahib Mohinder Singh Ahluwalia, a Sikh faith leader, left, greets Dharma Master Hsin Tao, a Buddhist monk.



Yehezkel Landau, a Jewish expert in Jewish-Arab relations and a co-founder of Open House, visits with Bhai Sahib Mohinder Singh Ahluwalia, a Sikh faith leader.

he has provided assistance in developing countries and participates in numerous international inter-religious organizations.

Abdolrahim Gavahi of Tehran, Iran, was scheduled to speak about Ismael Dulabi, a contemporary Muslim religious healer. However, Gavahi, who is president of World Religions Research Center, was unable to obtain a visa to travel to the United States. His presentation was given by video and narrated by Rasoul

Rasoulipour, visiting associate professor of theology at Notre Dame.

Dalia Landau, an Israeli Jew, and Khader Al-Kalak, an Israeli Catholic with Palestinian roots, spoke about Open House in Ramle, Israel. The project, which they co-direct, is a peace-building program based in the family house of Bashir Al-Khayri, a Palestinian Muslim. Al-Kalak, told the story of how his family and other Arabs were forced out of their homes in 1948 to make

way for the settlement of Jews in the new Jewish state. One of those displaced families was the Al-Khayri family, and their home was given to the Jewish family of Landau, who immigrated from Bulgaria.

After Landau reached adulthood and had inherited the house, she realized the injustice of taking homes away from Arab families. She wanted to make amends, so she contacted the Al-Khayri family and asked what would be the best use of the house. The family asked for a pre-school for Arab children, since there was none in Ramle. The nursery school is thriving, and Open House has added peace-building programs for Christian and Arab teenagers and adults.

Also speaking about Open House was Yehezkel Landau, the former husband of Dalia Landau. He is a dual citizen of the United States and Israel and a co-founder of Open House. A faculty associate at Hartford Seminary in Connecticut, he remains involved in Open House through his work with the Friends of Open House network. He translated for Al-Kalak, who spoke in Arabic.

Trappist Father Armand

Veilleux is abbot of Scourmont Abbey in Belgium. He told the story of the seven Trappist monks at Tibhirine, Algeria, who were kidnapped and killed by Islamic terrorists in 1996. In spite of the fact that other Christians had been killed by Islamic terrorists, the monks decided to stay in Tibhirine because it was their home, and they had developed such a warm relationship with the local Algerian Muslims and had started an effective Christian-Muslim dialogue.

Father Veilleux praised the monks as models of holiness because of their fidelity to their monastic vocation and because they felt they could not leave a population that was suffering. For these Christians to stay was “affirming” to Algerians who wanted to be different from those who were perpetrating violence, he said. A film based on this story, entitled “Of Gods and Men,” was shown twice during the conference.

The conference was co-sponsored by Notre Dame’s Center for Social Concerns and the office of Multicultural Student Programs and Services, with the support of the Fetzer Institute in Kalamazoo, Mich.

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Lifetime ban on Food Stamps for reformed drug offenders being reconsidered

INDIANAPOLIS — Kanda and her husband were both employed and working hard to save money before their son's birth. When the recession hit, both Kanda and her husband unexpectedly found themselves unemployed. Pregnant, with no income or food, Kanda applied for food stamps, but was denied. The reason — she had a previous drug-related conviction on her record that bans her for life from receiving food stamps.

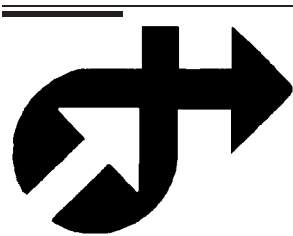
Kanda's story is not uncommon, said Cheryl Ashe, founder of Information Referral and Ex-Offender Services, a ministry at St. Augustine Church in South Bend, who helps ex-offenders successfully transition back into the community after incarceration.

"The road back to becoming a productive citizen is hard enough, but it is especially difficult for those who have a drug felony conviction," said Ashe. That is something Ashe would like to see changed. And she is not alone.

Sen. John Broden, D-South Bend, would too. Broden, who is authoring a proposal, SB 102, to address the problem, said he became aware of the issue when he attended a dinner at Dismas House in South Bend, and heard first hand the frustration these individuals encountered. To Broden's surprise many of them were mothers with children.

"I felt that if people could demonstrate they had successfully completed a respected drug treatment program and had remained drug free, that they should be eligible to get food stamps," said Broden.

The Indiana Catholic Conference, the Church's official representative on public policy matters, supports Broden's pro-



BY BRIGID CURTIS AYER

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

posal.

According to Ashe, the drug felon ban was introduced with the Welfare Reform Act as an opt-in proposal for states. It gave states the choice to make former drug offenders ineligible for Federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, a move intended to discourage drug offenders from exchanging food stamps for drugs. Indiana is only one of 12 states that still has a lifetime ban on people convicted of a drug felony from getting food stamps.

But once a state opts in, state officials may also decide to reverse course, opting back out of the ban through legislative action. Currently, 37 states and the District of Columbia have restored nutrition benefits to people with former drug offenses.

Broden's proposal would allow Indiana to opt-out of the federal law. SB 102 would allow people convicted of a drug felony to receive food stamps, if they meet income guidelines and are enrolled in a drug treatment program or lived in a nonprofit halfway house or had not committed another drug offense in the last five years and are drug tested every two months.

Broden said, that while the federal legislation was well intended, it ignores individuals who have received treatment, are

in recovery and have reformed their lives.

Ashe said that an adult with no income receives about \$200 a month in food stamps for a total of \$2,400 in food stamps a year. According to the Indiana Department of Corrections Web site, as of July 1, it costs an average of \$54.28 per day or \$19,447.20 a year, to keep an adult inmate incarcerated in Indiana.

"It's all about recidivism," said Ashe. "When people get the help they need: be it treatment, a place to live, a supportive family or food stamps; it really helps them remain drug free and on the road to becoming self-sufficient and contributing members to their community. But when they don't, it increases their chances they may become desperate and resort to drugs or crime."

Ashe also said there is research showing that good nutrition helps ease drug cravings, which in turn helps a person remain drug free.

"If an ex-offender can stay drug free, then they have less

chance of committing a crime to support a drug habit," said Ashe.

"The federal government allows people living in drug treatment programs to use their food stamps to pay for meals furnished by the organization," said Ashe. "This would include the Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Centers in South Bend, Indianapolis, Fort Wayne and Gary, and shelters like the YWCA of North Central Indiana and Center for the Homeless. People in Indiana convicted of a drug offense are currently ineligible for a food stamp card."

"Allowing the clients to pay for meals using food stamps helps the organizations lower their food cost," said Ashe. "These organizations are not able to receive food stamp money for these individuals even though they are feeding them. SB 102 would allow these agencies to recoup the cost of feeding ex-offenders convicted of drug felonies."

Even though SB 102 did not receive a hearing in the Senate, Broden said he's hopeful the language in SB 102 could still have a chance of passing this year. Broden said he's working on finding a new home for his bill and hopes to get it amended into an existing bill that's moving. "And if we can't get it passed this year, I will try again in 2013," he said.

Get Connected:

Join the Indiana Catholic Action Network — I-CAN electronically at the ICC web page. In addition to the I-CAN Update, information regarding the bills and the legislative process through the ICC Legislative Action Center is available. Under policy tools click on "issues and legislation" and access the state or federal bills by clicking "current legislation." Access the archived updates, ICC positions and other background information at the ICC web site, www.indianacc.org.

KEELEY VATICAN LECTURE

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Compromise on contraceptive mandate 'unacceptable,' bishops say

BY NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In a move that appears unlikely to end the controversy over a federal mandate that all health insurance plans include contraception and sterilization free of charge, President Barack Obama outlined a plan that would allow religious employers not to offer such services to their employees but would compel insurance companies to do so.

The president announced the policy in a brief statement Feb. 10 but took no questions.

"No women's health should depend on who she is, who she works for, or how much money she makes," Obama said. He said the new policy remains faithful to the "core principle" of free preventive care, but also honors the principle of religious freedom, which "as a Christian, I cherish."

In a statement issued late Feb. 10, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops said Obama's decision to retain the contraceptive mandate "is both unsupported in the law and remains a grave moral concern." The conference also said the continued "lack of clear protection for key stakeholders ... is unacceptable and must be corrected."

"The only complete solution to this religious liberty problem is for (the Department of Health and Human Services) to rescind the man-

date of these objectionable services," it added.

In an earlier statement, Cardinal-designate Timothy M. Dolan of New York, USCCB president, called the announcement "a first step in the right direction," but said "we reserve judgment on the details until we have them."

"We hope to work with the administration to guarantee that Americans' consciences and our religious freedom are not harmed by these regulations," he added.

The USCCB president said Americans of all faiths and of no faith had responded with "remarkable unity" against the HHS mandate because they were "worried about the erosion of religious freedom and governmental intrusion into issues of faith and morals."

Sister Carol Keehan, a Daughter of Charity who is president and CEO of the Catholic Health Association, praised what she called "a resolution ... that protects the religious liberty and conscience rights of Catholic institutions."

"The framework developed has responded to the issues we identified that needed to be fixed," she said in a statement. "We are pleased and grateful that the religious liberty and conscience protection needs of so many ministries that serve our country were appreciated enough that an early resolution of this issue was accomplished."

But U.S. Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., a Catholic who has co-



U.S. President Barack Obama makes a statement at the White House in Washington Feb. 10 about the federal mandate on contraceptive coverage. At left is Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius.

chaired the bipartisan Congressional Pro-Life Caucus since 1982, said the policy announced by Obama "is the discredited old policy, dressed up to look like something else."

He said the requirement that insurance companies provide contraception and sterilization free of charge to all employees of religious organizations would still place the cost ultimately on the religious employers. "Who pays for the insurance policy?" he asked. "The religious employer."

Obama said he had spoken to

Catholic officials directly "from the very beginning of this process" and had promised them that "we would spend the next year working with institutions like Catholic hospitals and Catholic universities to find an equitable solution that protects religious liberty and ensures that every woman has access to the care that she needs."

He said the policy announced Jan. 20 had prompted "many genuine concerns, ... as well as, frankly, the more cynical desire on the part of some to make this into a political

football." Because of that, Obama said, he directed HHS "to speed up the process that had already been envisioned."

But the USCCB statement said the conference was "not consulted in advance" about the Obama announcement.

"Stepping away from the particulars, we note that today's proposal continues to involve needless government intrusion in the internal governance of religious institutions, and to threaten government coercion of religious people and groups to violate their most deeply held convictions," the statement said. "In a nation dedicated to religious liberty as its first and founding principle, we should not be limited to negotiating within these parameters."

The bishops pledged to "continue — with no less vigor, no less sense of urgency — our efforts to correct this problem through the two other branches of government." They have urged passage in Congress of the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act and are looking into the possibility of filing suit against the mandate.

Two colleges — one Catholic, the other Protestant — and the Eternal Word Television Network already filed lawsuits against the policy.

Although HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said the final rule was to be published in the Federal Register Feb. 10, officials later said it would appear there sometime during the week of Feb. 13.

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USCCB official: Revision in coverage still violates religious liberty

BY DENNIS SADOWSKI

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A revision in a federal health care mandate that would shift the payment of contraception and sterilization coverage from religious employers to health insurance companies still infringes upon religious liberty and must be addressed, said an official of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The mandate's narrow exemption for religious organizations and how the revision pertains to self-insured parties, like many dioceses and Catholic organizations, could still force entities morally opposed to contraception to pay for such services, said John Carr, executive director of the U.S. bishops' Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development.

"The fact is we have to go back to the beginning," Carr told several hundred people during the opening session of the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering Feb. 12. "The best way to get out of this is to not get into it. We should not have the government deciding what's a ministry or not. We need the administration to revise it, we need the Congress to repeal it or we need the courts to stop it."

Carr also said that making no-cost contraception available to American women seems to be a top legislative priority of the administration.

"Lots of people have said, 'What are the priorities of the Obama administration?'" Carr told the gathering. "Well, we know one. It's free birth control for everybody."

President Barack Obama announced the revision Feb. 10, after three weeks of intensive criticism over a federal mandate that would require most religious institutions to pay for coverage they find morally objectionable. The rule allows religious employers not to offer such services to their employees but would compel insurance companies to do so.

Shortly after the change was announced, Cardinal-designate Timothy M. Dolan of New York, USCCB president, called it "a first step in the right direction," but said "we reserve judgment on the details until we have them."

But Carr told the social ministers that the USCCB leadership subsequently scrutinized the new rule and realized the conference could not offer its support.

In a statement issued late Feb. 10, the USCCB said Obama's decision to retain the contraceptive mandate "is both unsupported in the law and remains a grave moral concern." The conference also said the continued "lack of clear protection for key stakeholders ... is unacceptable and must be corrected."

After his 45-minute address, which largely focused on the bishops' quadrennial document on "Faithful Citizenship" traditionally released in advance of a presidential election, Carr told Catholic News Service that the revision on who pays for contraception coverage still contains "the very things we object to."

Carr cited the rule's "exceedingly narrow definition" of what constitutes a religious organization, which remains unchanged. He said the administration still does not seem to understand the role of religious organizations and the ministries they offer to society.

"If you're not religious because you care for those who are not members of your faith, if you are not religious because you employ people who are not members of your faith ... that's the heart of who we are," he said.

"The inattention to self-insured plans is a major, major problem. It in some way doubles the problem," he added.

"Instead of all the moral gymnastics, why don't we say that religious institutions don't have to do what they think is wrong," Carr said. "Just do it."

Carr also questioned the process used by the White House in its effort to alleviate the concerns of religious groups about the rules first made public Jan. 20 by Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius.

"If you're going to try and deal with the problem, you ought to talk to people who have the problem," Carr said, explaining that in revising the mandate, no one from the White House had been in touch with any bishop or conference official.

Carr said that the White House only called Cardinal-designate Dolan as well as the USCCB the morning of Feb. 10 hours before its announcement to provide details about the rule change. White House officials subsequently visited the USCCB to explain the revision and answer any questions, Carr added.

An administration official told CNS in an email Feb. 13 that the Obama administration would "work with faith-based organizations, insurers and other interested parties to develop policies that respect religious liberty and ensure access to preventive services for women enrolled in self-insured group health plans sponsored by religious organizations."

The official said a series of meetings would be held "in the coming days" with faith leaders, including Catholic bishops, to "explore solutions" and develop a policy "collaboratively so that the ultimate outcome works for religious employers, their workers and the public."

Obama's revised HHS mandate won't solve problems, USCCB president says

BY FRANCIS X. ROCCA

ROME (CNS) — Cardinal-designate Timothy M. Dolan of New York said Feb. 13 that President Barack Obama's revision to the contraceptive mandate in the health reform law did nothing to change the U.S. bishops' opposition to what they regard as an unconstitutional infringement on religious liberty.

"We bishops are pastors, we're not politicians, and you can't compromise on principle," said Cardinal-designate Dolan, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. "And the goal posts haven't moved and I don't think there's a 50-yard line compromise here," he added.

"We're in the business of reconciliation, so it's not that we hold fast, that we're stubborn ideologues, no. But we don't see much sign of any compromise," he said.

"What (Obama) offered was next to nothing. There's no change, for instance, in these terribly restrictive mandates and this grossly restrictive definition of what constitutes a religious entity," he said. "The principle wasn't touched at all."

Announced Feb. 10, Obama's revision of the Department of Health and Human Services' contraceptive mandate left intact the restrictive definition of a religious entity and would shift the costs of contraceptives from the policyholders to the insurers, thus failing to ensure that Catholic individuals and institutions would not have to pay for services that they consider immoral, Cardinal-designate Dolan said.

For one thing, the cardinal-designate said, many dioceses and Catholic institutions are self-insuring. Moreover, Catholics with policies in the compliant insurance companies would be subsidizing others' contraception coverage. He also objected that individual Catholic employers would not enjoy exemption under Obama's proposal.

"My brother-in-law, who's a committed Catholic, runs a butcher shop. Is he going to have to pay for services that he as a convinced Catholic considers to be morally objectionable?" he asked.

Cardinal-designate Dolan said he emailed Sister Carol Keehan, a Daughter of Charity who heads the Catholic Health Association, on Feb. 10 to tell her that he was "disappointed that she had acted unilaterally, not in concert with the bishops."

"She's in a bind," the cardinal-designate said of Sister Carol. "When she's talking to (HHS Secretary Kathleen) Sebelius and the president of the United States, in some ways, these are people who are signing the checks for a good chunk of stuff that goes on in Catholic hospitals. It's tough for her to stand firm. Understandably, she's trying to make sure that anything possible, any compromise possible, that would allow the magnificent work of Catholic health care to continue, she's probably going to be innately more open to than we would."



Cardinal-designate Timothy M. Dolan of New York discusses the new birth control mandate on "CBS This Morning" Feb. 9.

CNS PHOTO/JEFF NEIRA, CBS



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Cardinal-designate Timothy M. Dolan of New York is pictured after an interview with Catholic News Service in Rome Feb. 13. Cardinal-designate Dolan said that U.S. bishops do not see the White House as truly willing to accommodate their concerns over infringements on religious freedom in the HHS mandate and are therefore exploring "judicial and legislative remedies."

Cardinal-designate Dolan said Obama called him the morning of his announcement to tell him about the proposal.

"What we're probably going to have to do now is be more vigorous than ever in judicial and legislative remedies, because apparently we're not getting much consolation from the executive branch of the government," he said.

The cardinal-designate said the bishops are "very, very enthusiastic" about the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act, introduced by Rep. Jeff Fortenberry, R-Neb. The cardinal said the legislation would produce an "ironclad law simply saying that no administrative decrees of the federal government can ever violate the conscience of a religious believer individually or religious institutions."

"It's a shame, you'd think that's so clear in the Constitution that that wouldn't have to be legislatively guaranteed, but we now know that it's not," he added.

In a phone interview with Catholic News Service in Washington, Bishop William E. Lori of Bridgeport, Conn., chairman of the bishops' Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, echoed what

Cardinal-designate Dolan said about the need for legislative action to enact a religious right to conscience protection into federal law.

"Our religious freedom is too precious to be protected only by regulations," Bishop Lori said. "It needs legislative protection. More legislators, I think, are looking at it. There should be a lot of pressure exerted on Congress to pass it and for the president to sign it."

In Rome Cardinal-designate Dolan said that some "very prominent attorneys," some of them non-Catholic and even nonreligious, had already volunteered to represent the bishops.

"We've got people who aren't Catholic, who may not even be religious, who have said, 'We want to help you on this one.' We've got very prominent attorneys who are very interested in religious freedom who say, 'Count on us to take these things as high as you can.' And we're going to."

He said the bishops draw hope for that fight from the Supreme Court's recent unanimous ruling in *Hosanna-Tabor v. EEOC*, a case regarding the ministerial exception.

"You'd think that (the Obama administration) would be able to read the tea leaves, that these things are going to be overturned," the cardinal-designate said.

Bishop Lori suggested that Obama administration officials would have better understood the concerns religious organizations have about the rule had they tried to talk with the Catholic bishops, evangelicals and Orthodox church leaders who objected to the measure.

"That certainly did not happen," he said.

Such a meeting would have allowed the bishops "to bring it home that our ministries of charity, health care and education flow from what we believe and how we worship and how we are to live."

An administration official told Catholic News Service in an email Feb. 13 that the White House planned to convene a series of meetings "with faith-based organizations, insurers and other interested parties to develop policies that respect religious liberty and ensure access to preventive services for women enrolled in self-insured group health plans sponsored by religious organizations."

Florida Catholics will make pilgrimage to Cuba for pope's visit

MIAMI (CNS) — When Pope Benedict XVI visits Cuba March 26-28, something will be different. “That desire that remained a desire (14) years ago and now is a possibility — the desire for a pilgrimage,” said Bishop Emilio Aranguren Echeverria of Holguin, Cuba, during a visit to Miami at the end of November. That possibility is now a reality. As of Feb. 10, the Miami Archdiocese confirmed that 310 people will be going to Cuba, enough to fill two planes. Nearly 1,000 people had inquired about the pilgrimage after Miami Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski announced Jan. 12 that he would lead one to Santiago and Havana. The deadline for applying for the trip was Feb. 3, because of the time needed to obtain visas from the Cuban government. “We travel in solidarity with the Church in Cuba — and in response to their invitation to share with them this historic event,” Archbishop Wenski said at the Jan. 12 news conference. Participants will have the option of taking part in both papal Masses as well as a Mass to be celebrated by Archbishop Wenski in Havana’s cathedral. When the Vatican announced that Pope John Paul II would become first pope to visit the island in January 1998, a pilgrimage by cruise ship was arranged but was canceled because of vociferous opposition by sectors of the Cuban exile community. Instead, Archbishop John C. Favalora, then head of the Miami Archdiocese and now retired, flew to Havana to take part in the final papal Mass with a small group of south Florida priests, religious and laity. “Things have changed considerably” in the intervening years, said Archbishop Wenski, a Miami auxiliary bishop back in 1998. “Many of those who opposed the pilgrimage (then) changed their mind a week later,” after they saw the Cuban people’s reaction to the pope.

Georgia Supreme Court ruling strikes down law on assisted suicide

ATLANTA (CNS) — A unanimous decision by the Georgia Supreme Court that struck down a law banning people from publicly advertising to help with assisted suicide puts the elderly and people with disabilities in “grave danger,” said a national pro-life leader. The 1994 state law did not prohibit assisted suicides, but it made it a felony for those who promote that they could assist with a suicide. In its Feb. 6 decision, the court said the law violated free speech rights. “The ruling by the Georgia Supreme Court puts the lives of older people and those with disabilities in grave danger because it opens the door for the fringe advocates of doctor-prescribed death to openly advertise the practice in the state of Georgia,” said Burke Balch, director of National Right to Life’s Powell Center for Medical Ethics. “This ruling essentially says if you want to advertise helping people jump

MEN TEST RECYCLED WATER IN PERUVIAN SHANTYTOWN



CNS PHOTO/WALTER HUPIU

off a cliff, you can hang out your shingle in Georgia,” he told National Right to Life News. The Supreme Court’s 7-0 decision means that four members of the group Final Exit Network, charged in 2009 with helping a 58-year-old man with cancer die at his home in Georgia, will not have to stand trial. In its eight-page ruling, the court pointed out that if the state had “truly been interested in the preservation of human life it could have imposed a ban on all assisted suicides with no restriction on protected speech whatsoever. Alternatively, the state could have sought to prohibit all offers to assist in suicide when accompanied by an overt act to accomplish that goal. The state here did neither.”

in the House. On Feb. 1, the state Senate approved it 28-21. Once it becomes law, Washington will be the seventh state in the nation, along with the District of Columbia, where same-sex marriage is legal. Several Republicans in the House argued against the bill, saying that it went against the tradition of marriage. In Jan. 23 testimony before a Senate committee, Seattle Archbishop J. Peter Sartain urged lawmakers to oppose the measure “based on the grave challenge this legislation poses to the common good. By attempting to redefine marriage, it ignores the origin, purpose and value of marriage to individuals, families and society.” In a statement released Jan. 13, the state’s three Catholic bishops called on Washington citizens to support traditional marriage and contact their state senator and representatives to urge them to “defend the current legal definition of marriage as a union between a man and a woman.”

Washington state passes bill legalizing same-sex marriage

SEATTLE (CNS) — Members of the House of Representatives in Washington state voted Feb. 8 to legalize same-sex marriage, and Gov. Christine Gregoire was expected to sign the bill into law by mid-February. The vote came one day after a federal appeals court in California struck down that state’s voter-approved ban on same-sex marriage. In Washington, the legislation passed with a 56-42 vote

Don't wait for explosion: Speakers say Church must prevent abuse

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The take-away message from a Vatican-backed symposium on clerical sex abuse was clear: Victims, truth and justice come first. And the Church

can no longer wait for a crisis to erupt before it begins to address the scandal of abuse. “We do not need to wait for a bomb to explode. Preventing it from exploding is the best response,” said Philippine Archbishop Luis Tagle. The archbishop of Manila was one of more than 200 bishops, cardinals, priests, religious and laypeople who attended a landmark symposium Feb. 6-9 in Rome. The conference aimed to inspire and educate bishops’ conferences around the world as they seek to comply with a Vatican mandate to establish anti-abuse guidelines by May. U.S. Cardinal William J. Levada, prefect of the Vatican’s Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, the office that issued the mandate, said more than 4,000 cases of sexual abuse have been reported to the doctrinal office the past decade. Those cases revealed that an exclusively canonical response to the crisis has been inadequate, he said, and that a multifaceted and more proactive approach by all bishops and religious orders is needed. Countries such as the United States, Canada, Australia and Germany are among those with the most comprehensive and binding guidelines or norms, Cardinal Levada said. “But in many cases such response came only in the wake of the revelation of scandalous behavior by priests in the public media,” he added.

Sex abuse lawsuit against Vatican withdrawn

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A high-profile federal lawsuit accusing Pope Benedict XVI of covering up sexual abuse has been withdrawn. Lawyers for the plaintiff in John Doe 16 v. Holy See filed a notice of voluntary dismissal Feb. 10, bringing the case effectively to an end. The lawsuit was filed in April 2010 in the U.S. District Court in Milwaukee by an unnamed Illinois man who claimed he had been molested by Father Lawrence Murphy during the latter’s time on the staff of Milwaukee’s St. John’s School for the Deaf. The lawsuit claimed that the Vatican “has known about the widespread problem of childhood sexual abuse committed by its clergy for centuries, but has covered up that abuse and thereby perpetuated the abuse.” The lawsuit also sought to prove that the Vatican is a global business empire, engaging in “commercial activity” in Wisconsin and across the United States, and holding “unqualified power” over each diocese, parish and follower. Jeffrey S. Lena, an American attorney for the Holy See, welcomed the withdrawal of “fallacious allegations of Holy See responsibility and liability for John Doe 16’s abuse. A case like this one against the Holy See, which was held together by no more than a mendacious web of allegations of international conspiracy, amounted to a misuse of judicial process and a waste of judicial resources,” Lena said in a statement.

Catholics at risk of losing their connection to the land, says speaker

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholics are at risk of losing their connection to the land, according to a professor from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn. “There are 244 Catholic degree-granting institutions in the United States, and not one of them offers an undergraduate degree program in agriculture,” said Christopher Thompson, academic dean at the St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity, which is housed at the university. In the classes he teaches, he said he was baffled by his students’ seeming ignorance of even some of the basics. Thompson said one student asked him what a kingfisher was. (It is a bird.) Another student asked what an aspen was. (It is a tree.) A student from Los Angeles, after going on a Thompson-led weekend retreat that visited three farms in Minnesota, remarked: “I didn’t know they raised animals in Minnesota.” A graduate student in Thompson’s “Spirituality and Sustainability” class not only had never heard of the chemical giant Monsanto, he had trouble pronouncing its name. Another student told the professor, “I’ve heard that sap from maple trees is poisonous.” (No; it is used to make maple syrup.) Yet another student asked, “Is it safe to put rainwater on a garden?” Thompson told members of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference during its Feb. 11 meeting as part of the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering in Washington: “God does all the time.”

USF PTA Studies Department hosting health fair

FORT WAYNE — The Department of Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Studies at the University of Saint Francis will host a PTA Health Fair, Monday, Feb. 20, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on the first floor of the Doermer Center for Health Science Education.

The health fair will bring to the public health-related topics to increase awareness and promote positive lifestyle changes. Groups of PTA students have collaborated to present displays and materials on the following topics:

- **Walking for Life:** A therapeutic walking program for those who wish to take a step in the direction for better health will be led by Andrea Aboufadel.

- **X-Box Kinect:** Participants will learn how new advances like the X-Box Kinect are bridging the gap between gym and home theater. Jeremy Oyer will lead.

- **Active Lifestyles in Geriatrics and the Retired Population:** Staying active and healthy for older adults is very important. Strategies and programs to achieve this will be led by Daniel Gloy.

- **Workstation Ergonomics:** More demands are being placed on today's workforce than ever before. Along with an increase in hours, workers and employers often neglect important instructions in ergonomics. Christie Wagner will lead.

- **Insanity Workout:** Another demand of today's fitness consumer is convenience and efficiency. The insanity workout offers both in a fast-paced, intense environment. Chelsea Dick will lead.

- **Physical Benefits of Multisport Training:** With the stressful demands placed on the knee joints during running, many people seeking a fun way to accomplish their fitness goals are turning to triathlon training. Matt DeBolt will lead.

The 26 USF PTA students involved are researching selected topics and preparing educational materials for the community as course requirements for one of the last courses in their curriculum, PTA Seminar, prior to graduation.

For more information on the PTA Health Fair, contact Department of PTA Studies Chair Mary Kay Solon at (260) 399-7700, ext. 8547.

Forever Learning Institute opens spring semester registrations

SOUTH BEND — The Forever Learning Institute will offer open registration for spring semester classes on Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 21 and 22, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Little Flower Parish Center, 54191 Ironwood Rd., South Bend.

FLI offers 74 classes and clubs this spring semester that include ballet for adults, history courses, beginning calligraphy, cooking classes, English and writing, dancing, music, skills and sports, social

AROUND THE DIOCESE

NEWS HOUR GROUP INTERFACES WITH GHANA STUDENTS



PROVIDED BY BISHOP LUERS HIGH SCHOOL

Bishop Luers News Hour group, a student-run discussion group of sophomores, juniors and seniors, and facilitated by Meg Ryan, gather every Friday during fourth-period class to watch news and discuss current events and global issues. The group then blogs regularly on Facebook with a group of Bishop Luers-sponsored Teach on the Beach students in Ghana, whom they Skype with each month. Five of the News Hour group students, Amelia Castleman, Alexandria Clinger, Ross Barrientos, Corynn Chamberlain, and Casey Westrick will accompany Ryan to Ghana this summer to assist with Teach on the Beach activities.

studies, exercise, spiritual and discovering antiques.

Classes will run from March 5 to May 11.

Course guides with class listings and registration forms can be found at the South Bend, Niles, Mishawaka and Elkhart public libraries, online at www.foreverlearninginstitute.org, or call (574) 282-1901.

Bishop Luers Show Choir Invitational March 2-3

FORT WAYNE — The Bishop Luers Show Choir Invitational will welcome six local middle schools on March 2 and 19 high schools to the 38th annual competition on March 3.

The middle school competition on Friday, March 2, will offer six premiere middle school competitions. The program will begin at 6 p.m. and the cost is \$5 per ticket.

Bishop Luers High School, host of the longest running show choir competition in the nation, will welcome show choirs from 19 high schools to its annual competition on Saturday, March 3. Some of the most talented high school singers and dancers in the region will provide entertainment throughout the day and night.

The day competition begins at 8 a.m. and runs until 6 p.m. The evening competition begins at 8

p.m. Tickets are sold at the door.

Bishop Luers High School will be broadcasting the invitational live across the nation in partnership with Incommand Broadcasting, at www.bishopluers.org/luersLIVE.

Tickets are \$10 for the day show and \$10 for the evening show, or \$15 for the day and evening programs. For more information call Bishop Luers at (260) 456-1261.

Daniel Schumick earns Eagle Scout Award

FORT WAYNE — Daniel Schumick was awarded his Eagle rank during a ceremony on Jan. 29 at the St. Vincent de Paul Boy Scout Troop 2 Lodge.

Schumick, son of Doug and Diana Schumick of Fort Wayne, began his Scouting adventure as a Cub Scout in 2004 in Stuttgart, Germany. He joined Boys Scouts in February of 2008 at St. Vincent and has earned 52 merit badges so far.

Schumick's Eagle project consisted of constructing benches for St. Vincent School and improving the landscaping in front of the church Spiritual Center by remov-

ing old soil, adding new soil, mulch and a variety of plants.

Schumick was selected in the Order of the Arrow and met the Eagle requirements at the end of eighth grade. He plans to remain active in Scouting while attending Carroll High School. His Scout goals are to continue to take advantage of Scouting fellowship, be a good role model for the junior Scouts, while earning merit badges and advancing through Eagle Palms.

Lindenwood offers men's retreat

DONALDSON — Registrations are now being taken at the Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center for the men's Lenten retreat titled, "Weeds Among the Wheat," with facilitator Father Kevin Scalf, a missionary of the Precious Blood. Father Scalf is the director of campus ministry at St. Joseph's College in Rensselaer.

The program begins Friday, March 2, at 5 p.m. and concludes Sunday, March 4, at 1 p.m. Retreat cost is \$150 per person, double occupancy or \$180 for single occupancy, and includes lodging and all meals. Registration deadline is Feb. 27.

To register call (574) 935-1763 weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., email rvanvactor@poorhandmaids.org or visit www.lindenwood.org.

Marian students earn Scholastic Writing Competition awards

MISHAWAKA — Fifteen Marian High School students won a total of five Gold Keys, nine Silver Keys, and five honorable mentions for their contributions to the Scholastic Writing Competition. The winning entries included short stories, poetry, humor, science fiction and journalism. The winners were Seowoo Park, honorable mention; Rachel Hoffman, two gold and two silver; Cassie Sloma, honorable mention; Mary Gring, gold; Hayden Spiess, gold; and Annamarie Kovalenko, honorable mention; Andrew Smith, silver; Catherine Chustak, silver; Allyson Schmidt, silver; Stacie Skwarcan, one gold and one silver; Cait Bartlett, silver; Patrick Hunsberger, honorable mention; Colin Kibbe, honorable mention; Nicolette DelPrete, silver; and John DeBuysser, silver. Ryan Dainty of the Marian English Department coordinated the submissions.

Dr. Edward Sri to present adult formation on revised translation of Mass

MISHAWAKA — Marian High School will be the host for an evening with Dr. Edward Sri entitled "A Biblical Walk Through the Mass: Understanding What We Say and Do in the Liturgy" on Thursday, Feb. 23, from 7-9 p.m. Dr. Sri will take participants on a unique tour of the liturgy. Based on the revised translation of the Mass, which went into effect Advent 2011, this book explores the biblical roots of the words and gestures experienced in the liturgy and explains their profound significance. The presentation is free to attend; however, registration is required. Contact Janice Martin at (260) 399-1411 or email at jmartin@diocesefwsb.org to register.

Musicians tuning up for Battle of the Streets

FORT WAYNE — Local bands will tune up for the Battle of the Streets, on March 3 at 6 p.m. in the new University of Saint Francis (USF) Performing Arts Center at the former Scottish Rite Center in downtown Fort Wayne.

The USF Music Technology Department will host the competition in association with radio station WILD 96.3 in the center at 431 W. Berry St. Battle of the Streets is a live, local music battle in which artists from the Fort Wayne area pit their music talents against each other until only one remains standing.

Record label executives from across the country will judge the musicians, and the winner(s) will receive cash and prizes and a chance to perform before a national producer. Admission is \$5.

Solo or group artists can sign up for the battle for a half-price fee of \$50 by calling the radio station to register at (260) 747-1511, by Feb. 27.

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Lent offers a

This Lenten season is a 40-day journey into the resolve to move deeper into the love of Christ through activities to assist both individual and family meditation and sacrifice. Display a special bowl or basket in a prominent place in the bowl or basket. Draw one from the list below.

- Create a Lenten prayer that you can recite daily.
- Place a crucifix or picture of Jesus in prominent place in the bowl or basket. Draw one from the list below.
- Perform an anonymous act of kindness for one person.
- Send a letter to a seminarian to underscore your prayers for him.
- Clean a cabinet or closet and donate items to a charity.
- Choose a meaningful Scripture, write it down and memorize it.
- Give up 10 minutes each day till Easter and spend it in prayer.
- Pray for someone you don't like today.
- Smile at a stranger.
- Attend a fish fry or share a meatless meal and tell why you are abstaining.
- Look for evidence of God in your work or school today. Share your findings.
- Give up something you really enjoy — just for today.
- Choose a saint and learn about him/her. Pray for the saint's guidance.
- Attend a Reconciliation service or go to private Confession this week.
- Forgive someone who has hurt you.
- Ask Jesus to heal you of anything that separates you from His love.
- Perform some act of service for your parish or school.
- Go to a room, close the door and pray in secret.
- Resolve to go the entire day without judging anyone today, including yourself.
- Eat pretzels today as a reminder that Catholics used to fast from milk, cheese and wine.
- Save your change all week and give it to the poor.
- Pray the Stations of the Cross and meditate on each one.
- Fast from dessert today.

Give

bowtful of activities

depth of your own heart. It is a time of introspection, repentance and through His Passion and Resurrection. Today's Catholic offers these daily members journey into the Catholic Lenten tradition of prayer, penance and prominent place in your home. Cut the Lenten activity into strips, fold and Lenten activity strip each day and put your faith into action.

each day till Easter.

place to keep your focus

today.

for vocations.

Share it with someone.

training.

ding with someone.

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love.

day.

meat.

to charity.

assert today.

your piece away.

- Pray for loved ones and others who have died.
- Send a card to a grandparent or other loved one, just because.
- Tell your teacher or boss what you like about them today.
- Read the Bible for 10 minutes today. Share what you learned with someone.
- Take a walk with a friend or family member and pick up trash along the way.
- Thank the person who makes your dinner today.
- Pray for those who are ill or lonely today. Then if possible visit, call or send a card.
- Tell someone the story of Jesus' death and resurrection.
- Say "thank you" to five people today.
- Make cookies and take them to a nursing home or homebound neighbor.
- As a child of God, resolve to think and say only positive things about yourself today.
- Be nice to someone you don't like today.
- Complete a chore without being asked today.
- Turn off the TV and computer and pray the rosary together with family or friends.
- Abstain from meat on Fridays and give the money you save to your church.
- Write a letter of love and gratitude to your parents today. Deliver it in person if possible.
- At day's end, perform an examination of conscience. Pray for mercy and the grace for change.

now is a very acceptable time
 behold, now is the day of salvation
 2 COR 6:2

— By Kay Cozad

Lent serves up soul food

BY KAY COZAD

As the season of Lent approaches, the dark winter becomes a time of hope as the Church faithful prepare for the commemoration of the Passion and death of Jesus Christ and the celebration of His resurrection during the three holy days of the Easter Triduum. This 40-day spiritual journey becomes a means of deepening faith and practicing new ways to live out the Gospel message.

Traditionally, this penitential season has a focus on prayer, fasting and alms giving or acts of charity. It is a quiet time of self-examination and subsequent action with a call to conversion that enriches faith and deepens the relationship with Jesus Christ. French-Catholic philosopher A.G. Sertillanges writes, "Conversion means a willingness to see the truth of things and conform one's conduct to it."

So in response to prayer and contemplation during the six weeks of Lent, action is called for. Past generations of Catholic children were first introduced to the practice of Lent through self-sacrifice. The daily struggle of giving up gum or carbonated beverages for six weeks was penance enough as the young challenged their own self-discipline.

The notion of mindful service came on the scene as a viable alternative to giving up a pleasure for many of those children as they grew into adulthood. Attending extra Mass or serving at the soup kitchen added motion to their Lenten sacrifice. But "doing" should never replace the act of self-sacrifice.

Msgr. Michael Heintz, rector of St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend, says, "There is actually an important reciprocal relationship between the kinds of sacrifices undertaken and the acts of charity and good works that issue forth. It has been fashionable to suggest that 'giving up' something is less important, and that 'doing something positive' is where it's at. This is too simplistic and fails to understand the nature of the sacrifices undertaken precisely as the condition of possibility for the positive deeds of charity to be done; it is precisely by sacrifice in communion with Christ that we can be liberated from our enslavement to ourselves and become in fact freer to engage in active charity."

Sacrifice in communion with Christ can bring hearts out of the "self" and into the sacred place of self-giving — the two go hand-in-hand. And while it is the conversion of self through giving up or doing that the faithful strive for during Lent the focus must always remain squarely on Jesus.

Father Tom Shoemaker, pastor

of St. Jude Parish in Fort Wayne agrees saying, "It seems to me that Lent easily becomes a season focused on self. It is a season when we focus on our sins, when we name our virtues and vices and when we plan the changes needed in our lives. It is also a season when we take action — setting into place sacrifices and practices, which will help us grow in virtue and offer a gift to the Lord."

"All of this is good and worthwhile," Father Shoemaker says. "But the main focus of Lent probably shouldn't be on self. It should be on Jesus. Jesus loves us enough that He has given His life to save us. He is our Savior, He is our model, and He is our goal. Surely Jesus should be the focus of Lent. Maybe the best Lent is one in which we make more time to be with Jesus."

The simplicity of that focus is not lost on Mary Glowaski, Secretary for Evangelization and Special Ministries, who recalls her childhood Lenten practices. "When I was a little girl we would give things up, never eat meat on Friday and my mom would encourage us to think of something good to do for others. ... Lent was a time of focus and simplicity; a time when although we worked very hard to be aware of our sinfulness we also had a deeply rooted understanding it was also a time of hope and the promise of forgiveness and new life."

"Lent," she adds, "is a time when we are reminded of just how much we matter to God. It is a time that we can overtly, and intensely turn our hearts to God, to focus on Him and His love for us and to walk with Him as we carry our own crosses in the confidence and comfort of God's love and the hope of the Resurrection."

So how does one go about making a good Lent?

Deacon Jim Fitzpatrick from St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Wayne implemented a challenge to his fellow parishioners at the start of the New Year that he says may be adapted for Lent. In the tradition of New Year's resolutions, the faithful were invited to commit to three spiritual resolutions — a trip to daily Mass once each month, learn a new prayer and teach it to someone each month, and gather with family to read and discuss Scripture for 30 minutes each month with no electronic interruptions. Many have taken the challenge and found a deeper sense of faith.

Deacon Fitzpatrick says an adaptation of these faith formation practices might be, "to go to daily Mass one time each of the six weeks, or pray a different Station of the Cross each week. Take time once a day for contemplation. They can go to the Stations of the Cross each week. Many parishes pray them on Fridays."

Whatever Lenten practice is chosen, the 40 days leading to the Resurrection celebration can be a deeply moving time of communion with Jesus as the faithful turn inward in prayer.

Lenten opportunities offered at Victory Noll Center

HUNTINGTON — Lent is a special time, a time to change, to emerge from darkness into Christ's marvelous Light and to bear witness to transforming love in the world.

Victory Noll Center is offering several opportunities during Lent to deepen relationships with Christ.

Programs begin Feb. 28 with a weekly noontime book study that includes lunch of bread and soup. There are also three retreat opportunities with a one-day event on March 14, the four-day Way of the Desert directed retreat March 25-28, and a two-day Holy Week retreat April 5-6.

In addition, the outdoor Stations of the Cross will be accessible daily during the Lenten season. Victory Noll Center is located on the Victory Noll campus at 1900 W. Park Dr. in Huntington.

Lenten programs to be offered are:

- Lenten Soup and Bread Book

Study — Held on Tuesdays during Lent from noon to 1 p.m., Victory Noll Center director Sue Wilhelm directs discussion of Mary Jo Leddy's book "The Other Face of God."

The book speaks to the warps in society when borders are becoming walls and strangers, like the one in the biblical parable of the Good Samaritan, are being ignored or harassed. For Leddy the Church must stand apart from the larger culture and heed the call of the newcomers and learn from them what has been forgotten about justice, human rights, respect and inclusivity. Mary Jo Leddy is the founder of Romero House in Toronto. She has a doctorate in philosophy and serves as a senior fellow at Massy College, University of Toronto. Her many books include "Radical Gratitude."

"The Other Face of God" may be purchased through Cathedral Book Store in Fort Wayne or ordered by calling Kara Slocum

at (260) 399-1442.

Dates for the book study are Feb. 28, March 6, March 13, March 20, March 27 and April 3.

Lunch of bread and soup will be provided. Free will donations will be accepted to cover the cost of the meal. Reservations are required by the Friday before each session.

• **Lenten Retreat** — This retreat will be held Wednesday, March 14, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

It features a day of prayer, preaching, and pondering the Word with retreat leaders Sister Maureen Mangen and Father Keith Hosey, who have more than 70 years of retreat experience between them. Sister Maureen Mangen is a Sister of the Precious Blood of Dayton, Ohio, and is currently ministering as spiritual director and retreat facilitator with the Sisters of St. Joseph in Tipton. Father Patrick Keith Hosey is a priest of the Diocese of Lafayette and currently is the resident chaplain for the Sisters of

St. Joseph in Tipton.

The cost of the retreat is \$35, and registration is required by March 7.

• **Way of the Desert** — This directed retreat runs from 5 p.m. Sunday, March 25, through 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 28.

Directed retreats offer extended time to tend to the movement of God in a life. It is a special time to go apart and listen, to draw close to the Presence and be refreshed in the inner spirit. Participants may also take part in centering prayer and group "Lectio Divina." Components of this retreat focus on silence, solitude and prayer. Retreatants usually spend three to five prayer periods per day of one hour in length, depending on one's prayer rhythm and unique relationship with God.

Retreat leaders are Nancy Brousseau and Sue Wilhelm.

The cost for the directed retreat is \$290 for single occupancy and includes accommodations and meals. Early registration is encouraged, with the retreat limited to the first 10 who register.

• **Holy Week Retreat: Entering the Kenosis of Christ** — This retreat begins at 5 p.m. Holy Thursday, April 5, and runs through 3 p.m. Good Friday, April 6. The program beholds the deep Love of God in the Holy Mysteries of Holy Thursday and

Good Friday. Participants are invited to enter the Kenosis of Christ, His great outpouring of love, as He emptied Himself. This retreat includes participation in the liturgy, praying with Jesus through the night, the Stations of the Cross and meditating on the Passion narratives.

The cost is \$60 and is limited to the first 10 who register.

• **Outdoor Stations of the Cross** — During Lent, individuals or groups are welcome to walk the outdoor Stations of the Cross on the property of Victory Noll from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

Visitors must check in at the front desk of the Victory Noll Administration Building. Station booklets will be available for those who wish to use them.

There is no cost to visit the Stations of the Cross.

To register for any of the programs, or for more information about the programs or Victory Noll Center, contact the center at (260) 356-0628, ext. 174, or by e-mail at victorynollcenter@olvm.org. More information is also available on the center's website at www.olvm.org/vncenter.html.

No one is ever turned away from a program because of inability to pay. Payment plans or other arrangements may be made by contacting Victory Noll Center.



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A Ministry of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ

Lenten text messages by Father David Mary Engo offered this Lent

BY TIM JOHNSON

YODER — Franciscan Father David Mary Engo of the Franciscan Friars Minor in Fort Wayne will offer daily Lenten messages that will be sent via text messaging to cell phone numbers subscribed to www.CatholicTextMessaging.com, a Catholic text messaging service approved by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades.

Mark Michuda, Grand Knight of Council 13142 at St. Aloysius, Yoder, is spearheading the messaging initiative as “a tool used for spiritual growth and evangelization via cell phone.”

The Lenten messages target the 15 to 40 year olds who communicate primarily through texts. Each message, according to Father David Mary, will be a few sentences or short paragraph.

“We have to get into the same venues that are influencing our young adults,” Michuda said, but “all of us will benefit from the text messages during the Lenten season.”

In a telephone interview with Father David Mary, he said each message will “focus on our deepening conversion towards God as we’re drawn to turn to Him because of the attractiveness in the greatness in His love for us and the dignity that we receive from that love.”

Father Engo said the messages are designed for daily living. “It is very direct in the ability to examine our own consciences,” he said.

Subscribers to the messages become aware of “how we make decisions during the day and trying to be conscious of the presence of God throughout the day, each day through Lent,” Father David Mary noted. “Some helps in prayer will come out here and there.”

The Knights of Columbus’ state chaplains have been working together on a national level searching for ways to bring mem-

bers closer to the Church resulting in new evangelization. The council at St. Aloysius Parish has experimented with text messaging over the last two years with members of their parish and has found success across all ages.

“As a parent myself, I need ways to encourage my children regardless of age to become more active in the Catholic Church,” Michuda said. “I hope that parents will sign their children up for the same reason.”

Subscribers will get a reminder every day that will help them grow and live their faith and become more engaged during the Lenten season.

“At Baptism, godparents make a vow to help the parents raise these children in the Church,” Michuda noted. “Our children need all of our prayers and support. Godparents can share these Lenten text messages as a spiritual resource that supports their godchildren.”

Michuda said the messages will be sent daily from Ash Wednesday through the Easter Triduum.

The web site posts a fee per subscriber to sign up to receive the messages, but for a limited time, and through a grant offered by Our Sunday Visitor, “we have an opportunity to offer it a no cost to the first 2,500 subscribers,” Michuda reported.

There are two ways to sign up for the text messages at no charge within the diocese. Dial 30200 and text “Go Catholic” from the cell phone of the subscriber. The second means is to send an email to catholictextmessaging@gmail.com and enter “Go Catholic” in the subject line and the cell phone numbers of those to be subscribed.

Sean McBride, director of communications for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, said, “We are very excited about this initiative.”

For more information, or to sign up, visit www.catholictextmessaging.com.

Lenten journey takes on deeper meaning through Operation Rice Bowl

BALTIMORE, Md. — Catholics around the world will begin their Lenten journey on Feb. 22. Many American Catholics find that their journey is enriched by participating in Catholic Relief Services’ Operation Rice Bowl.

For the six weeks of Lent, Operation Rice Bowl introduces participants to countries where poor communities are being strengthened by the work of the Catholic Church through Catholic Relief Services.

CRS Operation Rice Bowl materials are available free at orb.crs.org and include a cardboard rice bowl and daily reflection calendar, full color poster, lesson plans and school activities for educators in grades 1-12, coordinators’ guide for parish administrators and volunteers, videos featuring stories of beneficiaries from India, Madagascar and El Salvador and recipes of meatless meals from Vietnam, Zambia, India, Madagascar and El Salvador. For more information about CRS visit www.crs.org.



Simple Meal Recipes for Lent

Lent: Week 1

Vary amin’anana from Madagascar

Hot rice served with fresh greens and juicy tomatoes. A dash of ginger makes this a fragrant and delicious dish.

Ingredients

- 2 Tbsp vegetable oil
- 1/2 small onion, minced
- 1 tsp ginger, minced
- 1 tomato, diced
- 3 cups collard greens, thinly sliced
- 1 cup rice
- 2 cups water
- salt, to taste



Directions:

Heat oil in a medium pot. Add onion, ginger and tomato. Sauté for about 2-3 minutes, until tender. Add greens and stir for 1 minute. Add water and bring to a boil. Add the rice and salt. Cover and cook on medium heat for 30 minutes or until water is absorbed.

Makes 4-5 servings

Nutrients per Serving

Calories	211.71	Fat - Total	6.07 g
Protein	3.89 g	Saturated Fat	0.52 g
Carbohydrates	35.02 g	Vitamin A RE	223.81 mcg
Dietary Fiber	1.58 g	Vitamin C	8.22 mg
Cholesterol	0 mg	Sodium	6.71 mg
% Calories from fat	26%	% Calories from carbs	67%



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Behind closed doors

During a quick trip to the grocery store recently I ran into an acquaintance who had recently lost her husband following a long battle with cancer. After our exchange of social pleasantries, her reply to my gentle prodding was “I’m fine, really.”

But the glazed look of confusion and pain in her eyes communicated a much different message to me.

In her defense, the grocery store is one of the least likely places in which a widow, or anyone in grief for that matter, hopes to unburden her heart. But the feeling of isolation, even in a crowd, is sometimes so overwhelming that the weight of grief must be shared.

“How has it been going for you, really?” I pressed. And as she opened up something she said

really struck me. “I’ve learned not to tell people how I’m really feeling because most don’t want to hear it. They all just say, ‘Looks like you’re doing great.’ Hm-mmm,” she mused, “They should see me behind closed doors.”

Many of us who have experienced the death of someone dear, can relate to her angst. As one who revels in the spoken word, I did not understand, all those years ago, that there would eventually come a time on my grief journey, plotted unwittingly by the sudden death of my husband, Trent, when some of the people in my life would no longer be able to listen to my story of grief. I first experienced this phenomenon, coincidentally, during a visit to the grocery store.

“How are you doing?” my neighbor greeted me as we



KAY COZAD

HOPE IN THE MOURNING

walked together through the automatic doors. “Oh my,” I replied in earnest, grateful for a caring ear. “I miss Trent so much.” “Well, you take care dear,” was her abrupt response, and just as quickly I was left standing — alone — in the produce section.

The hurt I felt that day was magnified by the sense of isolation already in place and it

HOPE, PAGE 15

God forgives, through Jesus



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time Mk 2:1-12

The Book of Isaiah is the source of this weekend’s first reading. These verses come from the second section of Isaiah. At the time of their composition, the long, dreary exile of Jewish survivors of the Babylonian conquest generations earlier of the two Jewish kingdoms had ended. These exiles, or their descendants, yearned for their homeland. The opportunity to return came when the Persian emperor, Cyrus, overwhelmed Babylonia. He allowed the exiles to go home.

The religiously devout among the exiles saw God as the true deliverer. Cyrus merely was the instrument of God in this process. It is not all glorious and happy. God accuses the people of allowing despair to overtake them in Babylon, abandoning hope that God would protect them. Regardless, God was true to the Covenant.

Return to the homeland was bittersweet. The land was desolate and unaccommodating. The prophets still faced the task of sustaining and fortifying the people’s faith.

St. Paul’s Second Epistle to the Corinthians provides the second lesson for this weekend’s liturgy.

Corinth was a chief city in

the Roman Empire. With a large population, including people from throughout the Mediterranean world, it, of course, was a destination for pioneer Christian missionaries. Converts were made in Corinth. A Christian community formed.

Evidently, however, these converts were the source of some anxiety for Paul, quarrelling among themselves, straying into sin and pagan practice, in a word being proud and stubborn. Paul called for uncompromised loyalty to the Gospel.

For its last reading the Church presents a passage from St. Mark’s Gospel. Healing this paralyzed man was marvelous, and lowering him through the roof made it all the more dramatic. Instead of being impressed, the scribes present at the event took offense. The Lord’s statement of forgiving the paralytic’s sin infuriated them, since they held firm the belief that only God can forgive sins, as sins offend God. They refused to accept Jesus as Son of God, the identity Mark so carefully asserted.

This reading, and the context of the times, link this man’s paralysis and sin. Pious Jews of that day looked upon physical maladies as the result of sin. Perhaps the victim of the maladies had sinned. Perhaps ancestors had sinned. Jesus confirmed this link by forgiving the man his sins.

Incidentally, roofs at the time were quite flimsy by modern standards. They were wooden beams laid horizontally from wall to the directly opposing walls of a house. Then thatch was laid on these beams, loosely held together by mud. It kept out the hot rays of the sun, much more a problem in the Holy Land than rainwater.

Reflection

Since Christmas, through the readings at Mass, the Church’s emphasis has been on Jesus as Savior, and as Son of God. With divine authority, Jesus forgives sin. Ultimately, the presence of God among us, in Jesus, is the marvel, exceeding even the cure of the paralytic.

The attitudes of the paralytic, and of the scribes, and their responses to Jesus, are important to note. The paralytic’s anxious hope for a cure is obvious. Still, the connection between his physical plight and sin very likely was on his mind. The Lord’s forgiveness came as much as a disabling of the effect of sin as a restoration of physical wholeness. He accepted Jesus as Son of God.

Scribes, able to read as well as write in an age of illiteracy, knew Judaism and Jewish history. They knew God’s intervention in rescuing the exiles from Babylon, for example. They knew that God had sent the prophets.

Still, despite their knowledge, they did not or could not recognize Jesus. The lesson is that God will forgive us, through Jesus, but we must humble ourselves. Our pride well may paralyze us.

READINGS

Sunday: Is 43:18-19, 21-22, 24b-25 Ps 41:2-5, 13-14 2 Cor 1:18-22 Mk 2:1-12

Monday: Jas 3:13-18 Ps 19:8-10, 15 Mk 9:14-29

Tuesday: Jas 4:1-10 Ps 55:7-11, 23 Mk 9:30-37

Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18 Ps 51:3-6A, 12-14, 17 2 Cor 5:20 — 62 Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday: Dt 30:15-20 Ps 1:1-4, 6 Lk 9:22-25

Friday: Is 58:1-9a Ps 51:3-6a, 18-19 Mt 9:14-15

Saturday: Is 58:9b-14 Ps 86:1-6 Lk 5:27-32

The case for silence

Brian Williams took time from his nightly newscast earlier this month to announce that comedian Russell Brand had filed for divorce from singer Katy Perry, ending a marriage that had barely cleared the one-year mark.

The news was part of a ping-pong pop-culture recap that ended with Williams describing the latest YouTube sensation: a golden retriever bobbing its head to the strumming of guitar.

Broadcasters tout iPads to remind us that they’re hip, sliding graphics with their index fingers. Reality TV’s before-and-after formats serve up immediate gratification, creating a which-house-will-they-choose, which-dress-will-she-say-yes-to suspense that is quickly satisfied. And then there’s the Spike TV formula: a skateboarder crash every five seconds.

The other week CNN featured three panelists, each face in its own box. Whoever was speaking jumped to the top center, yielding a rotating triangle that made me dizzy.

That’s how I felt when I stumbled upon CNBC’s “Mad Money,” where host Jim Cramer appeared sandwiched in rows of stats and stocks, all regularly changing while he walked around his studio packed with flashing screens.

Do TV producers really think we need that much stimulation? No one expects us to be naturally interested; no one believes content can carry its own weight. There must be juggling and tap dancing, a constant flicking of the magician’s wand and fluttering of fake eyelashes. News as a three-ring circus.

It is an assault on our attention spans, and I consider it a spiritual offense. How are we to know it is well with my soul when we cannot achieve the silence needed to assess its state? How can we heed the Psalm’s command to “Be still and know that I am God?”

One of the great surprises of my 20s has been the discovery of my inner introvert — this, following a college professor’s pronouncement that I am a “raging extrovert.”

I take pride in this new dimension and actively cultivate it: outdoor photography, ambling New Yorker essays. I delight in simple pleasures like a card I can write, stamp and seal and the magic of that



TWENTY SOMETHING

CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

next-day delay, the secret knowledge it’ll be in another mailbox tomorrow, waiting quietly — so unlike a text that announces itself loudly at the hip or in the hand demanding attention.

“How good it is to write!” a Catholic dad emailed me tonight, having chronicled his conversion for the first time, prodded by an assignment in his MBA class.

I know how he feels.

Though I’m still working on strengthening my prayer life, I’m practicing stillness and noticing more of God’s goodness. The impact is profound: My heart has never been more grateful.

I was pleased to see Pico Iyer’s essay “The Joy of Quiet” published in the Jan. 1 *New York Times* become one of the website’s most emailed articles. He wrote about a growing demand for hotel rooms without TVs or Internet and then recounted his regular visits to a Benedictine hermitage, where he retreats to “take walks and read and lose myself in the stillness.”

In the February issue of *O: The Oprah Magazine*, Ms. Winfrey dedicates her back-page column to her experience practicing transcendental meditation in Fairfield, Iowa. “Housewives, shop clerks, engineers, waitresses, lawyers, moms, single ladies and me — we all gathered in our dome for the sole purpose of being still,” she wrote. “It was a powerfully energizing yet calming experience. I didn’t want it to end.”

I challenge you to seize this leap year by attempting the opposite: total stillness. Spend at least a few minutes of that 29th day in silence. You may be surprised where it takes you.

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

SAINT OF THE WEEK



Claude la Colombiere

1641-1682
February 15

Born in southeastern France, Claude entered the Jesuits at Avignon and completed theology studies in Paris. After ordination, he preached in Lyon. In 1675, he was named rector of the college at Paray-le-Monial and became confessor of the visionary Sister Margaret Mary Alacoque. He helped her spread devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. In 1676 he was sent to London and reconciled many Catholics to the church they had abandoned. He was arrested and expelled in connection with an alleged plot to kill the king, and died upon returning to France.

HHS and soft totalitarianism

The Obama administration's recently-announced HHS regulations, which would require Catholic institutions to subsidize health insurance coverage that provides sterilization, abortifacient drugs and contraceptives, should be located within the context of the administration's three-year long effort to define religious freedom down.

As the administration has demonstrated in its international human rights policy, it regards religious freedom as a kind of privacy right: the right to freedom of worship, which the administration seems to regard as analogous to any other optional, recreational activity. No serious student of religious freedom, however, takes the redefinition of religious freedom as freedom-to-worship seriously. For if that redefinition were true, there would be "religious freedom" in Saudi Arabia, so long as the "worship" in question were conducted behind closed doors. And that is manifestly absurd.

The HHS regulations announced on Jan. 20 are one domestic expression of defining-religious-freedom-down. The administration does not propose to, say, restore the 1970 ICEL translations of the prayer-texts of the Mass; that, even HHS might concede, is a violation of religious freedom. But the administration did not think it a violation of religious freedom for its Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to try and overturn the longstanding legal understanding, which held that religious institutions have a secure First Amendment right to choose their ministers by their own criteria —

until it was told that it had gone way over the line in January's *Hosanna-Tabor* Supreme Court decision (a judicial smackdown in which the administration's own Court nominees joined).

Now, with the HHS "contraceptive mandate" (which, as noted above, is also a sterilization and abortifacient "mandate"), the administration claims that it is not violating the First Amendment by requiring Catholic institutions to provide "services" that the Catholic Church believes are objectively evil. That bizarre claim may well be another constitutional bridge too far. But the very fact that the administration issued these regulations, and that the White House press secretary blithely dismissed any First Amendment

concerns when asked whether there were religious freedom issues involved here, tells us something very important, and very disturbing, about the cast of mind in the Executive Branch.

It is no exaggeration to describe that cast of mind as "soft totalitarianism": an effort to eliminate the vital role in health care, education and social

service played by the institutions of civil society, unless those institutions become extensions of the state. As my colleague Yuval Levin has pointed out, it's the same cast of mind that gave us Obamacare (which massively consolidates the health insurance industry into a small number of players who function like public utilities) and the Dodd-Frank financial sector reform (which tries to do to banks what Obamacare did to insurance).

The social doctrine of the

The social doctrine of the Catholic Church emphasizes the importance of the mediating institutions of civil society in living freedom nobly and well.



THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

GEORGE WEIGEL

Catholic Church emphasizes the importance of the mediating institutions of civil society in living freedom nobly and well. John Paul II coined the phrase "the subjectivity of society" to refer to these institutions, which include the family, religious communities, and voluntary organizations of all sorts. In "Centesimus Annus," the late pope taught that, among their many other contributions to the common good, these institutions are crucial schools of freedom in which the tyrants that all of us are at age two are turned into democrats: the kind of people who can build free and virtuous societies.

It seems increasingly clear that the Obama administration does not share this vision of a richly textured democracy, in which civil society plays an important, independent role. Rather, it sees only the state and the individual, honoring the institutions of civil society insofar as they can be turned into simulacra of the state. Those with a sense of the ironies of American history will find it, well, ironic that it should be the Catholic Church — long held suspect for its alleged anti-democratic tendencies — that is now cast in the role of chief defender of the fundamental principles of democracy. But that is the task that Catholics have been given.

It is a task in which we dare not fail — for our sake, and for the future of American democracy.

George Weigel is Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.

to the normal we once knew and rebuilding takes time.

Behind closed doors the bereaved may awaken in the morning stunned that the reality of the death was not just vapors of an unsettling nightmare. They may find completing daily chores a task too monumental to accomplish and sit for hours in a daze, unable to move under the heaviness of grief. They may weep uncontrollably at inopportune times, praying for a shoulder to cry on but unable to reach out for help. Some may forget to eat or drink, while others may rush from activity to activity in the hope of outrunning the pain of their grief.

In those early weeks and months following a loss, it is essential that we rally the troops — those people in our lives that are willing to support us as we mourn. These are the people, close family, friends or even

members of a support group, who will listen to us expound on our pain and fears, and will sit with us in silent companionship when there is nothing left to say.

We can create a safe and sacred place with these folks, behind closed doors, where the truth can be shared, and healing can take place. And as we develop a new life where our grief finds its rightful place, these are the people who will eventually walk with us into the sunlight when we are ready to live life fully once again.

Kay Cozad is a certified grief educator and news editor of *Today's Catholic* newspaper. She is the author of "Prayer Book for Widows," Our Sunday Visitor, 2004, and can be reached at kcozad@todayscatholicnews.org.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for February 19, 2012

Mark 2:1-12

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B: the healing of the paralytic man. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

CAPERNAUM	ROOM	THE DOOR
BRINGING	CROWD	ROOF
ABOVE	FAITH	YOUR SINS
FORGIVEN	SITTING	BLASPHEMING
IMMEDIATELY	THINKING	EASIER
WALK	SON OF MAN	EARTH
GO HOME		ANYTHING

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 Y G O O J H A T J O I A
 T I S R E T I T B O N U
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HOPE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

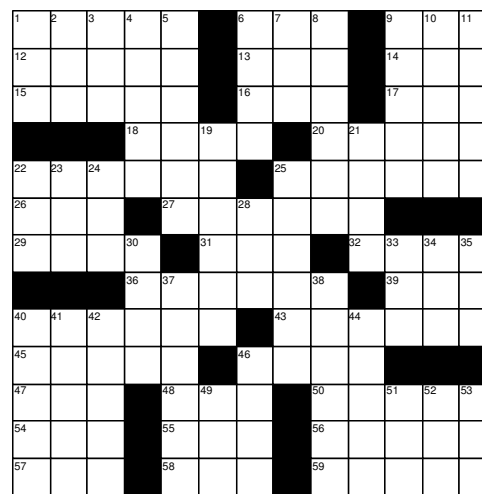
taught me to be cautious in my future interactions. But as time progressed and I began to learn about grief and its path, I realized that there would be those who would be unable, for a variety of reasons, to accompany me in my pain. And that was okay.

It might be that they are frightened by my reaction to my loss as they faced their own mortality. Perhaps they wanted to help but simply didn't know how to go about it. And, I think, as life returns to normal for most after a death, it is natural to believe that the bereaved are returning to normal as well. But those of us who have mourned a loss know that life does not return

The CrossWord

Feb. 22 (Ash Wed.) & 26, 2012

- 55 Lip
- 56 Lowest point
- 57 Snake like fish
- 58 Dante's hellish city
- 59 God's splendor



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 Based on these Scripture Readings: Joel 2:12-18; 2 Cor 5:20-6:2; Mt 6:1-6; 16-18 and Gen 9:8-15; 1 Pt 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15

ACROSS

- 1 Transfiguration mt.
- 6 Type of Buddhism
- 9 We ___ worship to God
- 12 Leper saint of the blind
- 13 Wrath
- 14 ___ Lanka
- 15 Reverse
- 16 Single
- 17 Sprocket
- 18 Undo
- 20 Put to ___ in the flesh
- 22 The oldest of the tribe
- 25 Dry red wine
- 26 Popular pope name

- 27 More distinguished
- 29 Glasses part
- 31 Cow sound
- 32 Country in SE Asia
- 36 Solar ___
- 39 Federal Bureau of Investigation
- 40 Upkeep
- 43 Under tooth's enamel
- 45 Cycles per second
- 46 At sea
- 47 Office of Refugees & Immigrants
- 48 Cause of sickness
- 50 Abraham's son
- 54 Nothing

DOWN

- 1 Sticky black substance
- 2 Muslim name for "noble"
- 3 Not small
- 4 Orange yellow
- 5 Turn back
- 6 God's mountain
- 7 White-tailed sea eagle
- 8 The eye of a ___.
- 9 Abp. Romero
- 10 Authored
- 11 number saved in ark
- 19 Chemical compound
- 21 Duke
- 22 Annex
- 23 Downwind
- 24 Put on clothes
- 25 Rainbow site
- 28 Hit with fist
- 30 Lovers' quarrel
- 33 Furthest back
- 34 Kimono sash
- 35 Jesus was made to be "___."
- 37 Desert dweller
- 38 Dating
- 40 European river
- 41 Uncanny
- 42 Dry sphere from melted liquid
- 44 Whining voice type
- 46 Charity
- 49 Next Vatican Council #
- 51 Flurry
- 52 Sky
- 53 The Lord hears the ___ of the poor.

Answer Key can be found on page 19

Sports

USF SENIOR AMANDA PEDRO DISTRICT ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICAN University of Saint Francis senior Amanda Pedro has been named a first-team selection on the District 3 CoSIDA Academic All-America® Team. Pedro, a graduate of Bishop Luers High School and a nursing major with a 3.44 GPA who has started every game for the 17-9 Cougars, is averaging 13.1 points per game and is ranked in four NAIA Top 25 statistical categories. She has 20 double-figure scoring games with a high of 25 and five double-figure rebounding games with a high of 12. She is fourth in the MCC with three double-doubles.

Squires, Huntington Rams claim CYO weekend victories

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — In junior varsity Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) tournament action, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel hosted the small school 2012 championship on Sunday, Feb. 12.

For the girls, the hosts got by the St. Rose-St. Louis Twins, 32-17, in a hard-fought battle. The Twins hung tough the first half trailing by just two at the break, 11-13, but a big third quarter by the Squires was too much for them to handle.

Returning to the bench after 26 years of coaching both at Hessen Cassel and Bishop Luers, Coach Ed Merz said, "I could not have picked a better team to come back to. I told them at our first practice we were going to make this fun for both of us, learn the game of basketball and be good Christians on the floor."

Long-time co-partner, Kevin Harris, also took a break, but joined Merz as assistant this season.

In the win, the team's lone sixth graders, Jessica Dodane and Kathryn Knapke, carried the Squires at both ends of the court like they have all

season. Dodane scored 10 points while Knapke added six. But young fourth graders like Alivia Beard (eight points), Madalyn Rauner and Maddie Parsenow pulled their weight as well, chipping in crucial baskets and timely rebounds.

For the Twins, Grace Castleman was 4-4 from the charity stripe and led her team with 10 points.

In the boys' brackets, the Huntington Catholic Rams faced St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel for the trophy.

The Rams led the entire game, until the Squires mounted a comeback and tied things up at 27-27 after a Nick Bosler bucket with 2:30 left to play. But Isiah Fettinger's seven fourth-quarter points helped seal the deal for the Rams who won it all, 32-30. Ben Blomeke was huge for Huntington scoring the double-double with 12 points and 14 boards, while Ian Broderick controlled the tempo and settled his team down when they started to get out of their rhythm.

"All season we have talked about staying focused," explained Coach Jim Fettinger.

Hessen Cassel's talented Abram Beard led with 14 points in the contest.

Saint Joseph's girls win first sectional

BY CHUCK FREEBY

ROLLING PRAIRIE — At a school celebrating a year of "lasts," Saint Joseph's girls' basketball team had a chance to celebrate some firsts Saturday night.

Coach Ric Mauch's Indians won the school's first girls basketball sectional since 2007, downing archrival Marian, 42-19, in the Class 3-A sectional final at New Prairie High School. It's the first time Saint Joe has ever beaten Marian in a basketball sectional championship game.

"They wholeheartedly wanted to add a piece of hardware in the storied trophy case before the school shut its doors," said Mauch afterwards. "The girls made a pact that we just weren't returning to Angela Boulevard without singing and laughing on the bus ride."

The good cheer wasn't easy to come by early in this clash, and neither were points. Both teams seemed tight in the first quarter, before freshman Michelle Weaver beat the first-quarter buzzer with a three-pointer. That gave Saint Joseph's a 6-3 lead, and sparked a



DIANE FREEBY

Saint Joseph's No. 25 Alex Kubsch grabs the loose ball. Shown also are Marian's No. 44 Nicolette DelPrete and Saint Joseph's No. 23 Michelle Weaver

10-0 run by the Indians.

"We panicked a little bit and got rattled," said Marian coach Pat Catanzarite. "Look at how many times we either didn't make a pass or made one pass and then shot. They (Saint Joseph's) didn't have to spend any energy on defense."

When the Indians did use their speed and quickness on defense early in the second half, Marian paid a price. The Knights made turnovers on eight of their first nine possessions of the half, many converted into points by Saint Joseph's. Senior Alex Kubsch led the onslaught, finishing the game with 14 points and 10 rebounds, while taking three charges on defense.

"This is amazing," Kubsch said in the postgame celebration. "This is the greatest feeling of my life. I can't explain it."

Kubsch received plenty of help from underclassmen.

Weaver tallied 15 points and six boards, while sophomore Nicole Francouer finished with eight points. Another sophomore, Erin Guzicki, led Marian with eight points.

Defense was a big part of the story for Saint Joseph's. The Indians forced 25 turnovers, while holding Marian to just 18 percent shooting. Francouer and point guard Nicole Przybyslawski held Marian's inside-outside scoring duo of Katie Barnard and Katie Kavanaugh to just eight points collectively.

A young Marian squad closes its season with a 13-12 mark. The Knights graduate just one senior, so hope for next year abounds.

But for the Indians, there's hope for next week, as Saint Joseph's puts its 17-6 record on the line against 18-6 Griffith in the semifinals of the Rensselaer regional at 1 p.m., EST.



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Saints, Christ the King in ICCL semifinals

BY MATT SOBIERALSKI

MISHAWAKA, SOUTH BEND — The quarter finals of the Inter-City Catholic League's post-season tournament started with games at Marian High School and Saint Joseph's High School's Alumni Gym. The opening game at Marian High School saw the Martin De Porres Division champion Mishawaka Catholic Saints taking on a Corpus Christi Cougar team that defeated the Our Lady of Hungary Bulldogs in their first game of the tournament.

The game was controlled early by the Mishawaka Catholic attack as starting guard Joe Ravotto began the game with a quick three pointer. However, Corpus Christi's starting point guard Dominick Ferro tried to slow down the Saint's attack as he poured in nine first quarter points to keep the Cougars in the game as the first quarter ended with Mishawaka Catholic leading, 16-9, over the Cougars.

The song would remain the same in the second quarter as Corpus Christi had no answer to the rebounding of the Saints' bruisers Patrick Coulter, Nate Thomas and Anthony Blum. Mishawaka Catholic used a plethora of offensive rebounds to cash in on second chance points. The Saints would push their lead to 14 before the half.

Dominick Ferro and his Cougar teammates would fight at the start of the second half to cut into

the lead by going on an 8-0 run capped off by a Jake Kelly three pointer. The Saints put in the hands of guard Jake Whitfield, who calmed the team down and got the ball inside to Patrick Coulter, who scored eight of his game high 19 points in the third quarter.

The pesky Cougars just would not go away and fought to the very end. After a Denny Tomes lay-up, Whitfield would take over the fourth quarter. Whitfield went on his own 8-0 run that ultimately was the final blow to the hungry Cougars as the final buzzer sounded with a Saints' 53-29 win.

Whitfield finished the game with 14 points. Coulter finished the game as not only the high scorer but also the high rebounder with 11 boards. Dominick Ferro finished with 13 points and 10 rebounds for the Cougars.

The Mishawaka Catholic win clinched their birth into the semifinals where they would meet the winner of the next game from Marian Gym that pitted the St. Anthony Panthers against the Christ the King Kings.

The Christ the King Kings would use hard-nosed defense and rebounding to try and halt the Panthers of St. Anthony. The Kings used a 6-0 run to close the first quarter to stretch a two-point lead to an eight-point lead. The second quarter saw a lot of the same action from both teams, but after a time out by St. Anthony's, they would go on a 6-0 run to cut the Kings lead to eight.

Christ the King's Riley Stesiak would not let the Panthers make a comeback in the second half as Stesiak scored seven of his 10 points in the third quarter to push the King's lead to 12.

The fourth quarter was the Joe Stead show for the Kings, as he poured in 11 of his game high 13 points, in the final quarter. The Panthers fought and Dominic Matthy's game high 12 rebounds were not enough as the Panthers fell, 40-19, and the Kings solidified their spot in the tournament semifinals.

Other quarterfinal action at Saint Joseph's High School's Alumni Gym saw the Holy Cross Crusaders charge passed the St. Pius X Lions, 39-27. Brendon Chappell led the Crusaders and all scorers with 18 points, while Sam Quinn poured in 15 points for the Lions.

Zach Credi's 13 points and John Byszewski's 10 points paced the St. Joseph, South Bend, Eagles as they topped the St. Matthew Blazers, 46-22.

The semifinals of the post-season tournament will tip off Saturday at Marian High School with the Mishawaka Catholic Saints taking on the Kings of Christ the King at 3:30 p.m. The other semifinal matchup between the Holy Cross Crusaders and the St. Joseph, South Bend, Eagles will immediately follow the first game. The championship game is slated for 3 p.m. next Sunday at Saint Joseph's High School's Alumni Gym.

High School Biology Teacher

Bishop Dwenger High school is looking for a qualified member to join their Science Department this fall. This teacher should hold a valid Indiana State Teaching License and be willing to serve as a teacher in various subjects of science. The teacher should have good classroom management skills and the ability to balance class work with lab work. Every candidate must work well with others in the department and collaborate on building a strong curriculum. The ideal candidate will have excellent written and oral communication skills; and strong organizational skills and the ability to multitask. All Dwenger staff members are required to have a strong work ethic and collaborative approach to work. Since we are a Faith-based school, the Catholic Faith is preferable, but not necessary. Please send resume and cover letter by March 15, 2012 to:

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St. Vincent American Heritage Girl Scouts pledge faithfulness to God, deep respect of others' beliefs

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — A group of young parents from West Chester, Ohio, were seeking a wholesome, Christ-centered program for their daughters in 1995. Frustrated with the increasing secular focuses of other options available, they formed the American Heritage Girl (AHG), which began its first year of programming with about 100 members and 10 troops. Most of the troops met in the West Chester area and worked on badges written by the parents who developed the organization.

AHG is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the mission of building women of integrity through service to God, family, community and country. The organization offers badge programs, service projects, female leadership opportunities and outdoor experiences.

This program of character building has successfully served thousands of girls since its inception and in 2012 was launched in the Fort Wayne area at St. Vincent de Paul Parish.

The Christian Scouts troop

was formed by Pam Leach, Kathy Moran and Melissa Martin. Moran explains, "We worked for a year to educate Msgr. John (Kuzmich, pastor) on the benefits of AHG. Once he gave us his blessing, we simply asked for volunteers who felt called to bring this ministry to St. Vincent."

A team of 14 stepped forward last fall and a troop meeting was held on Jan. 17, with enough leaders to cover all five levels and 61 girls the first outing. The girls were taught the AHG oath, mission and salute as they participated in their first flag ceremony. They also enjoyed getting acquainted, making crafts, working towards their "Joining Award" and a short skit and a guest speaker — a retired veteran showing them the proper care and respect for the American flag.

The vision for AHG is to be the premier national character development organization for young women that embraces Christian values and encourages family involvement. As part of AHG, each member promises to be compassionate by understanding others in fellowship, empathy,



Grace Simcox salutes the flag during closing ceremonies at the first meeting of the St. Vincent American Heritage Girl troop.

kindness and caring. They strive to be helpful and willing to serve others.

In addition, they pledge to be honest, loyal and perseverant, while remaining pure in mind and body. The troop must be resourceful using their time, materials and talent wisely, respectful to their country and

all in authority and responsible for their actions. Finally, AHG demands reverence from their members — faithfulness to God and a deep respect of others' beliefs.

Core concepts emphasized through the ministry include life skill enhancement, female leadership, teamwork development,

building confidence and character, and social and spiritual development. The group accepts girls from kindergarten through grade 12 and divides them by age into the five different level divisions of AHG.

The first group for the youngest members is called "pathfinder." At this level, girls can earn necklace beads for attendance, participation and Bible verse memorization. As a "tenderheart," members earn achievement badges, service stars and activity patches for completing various responsibilities. "Explorers and pioneers" have increased expectations while the "patriot" level expects the highest skill level in all areas. "Patriot" members work closely with the unit leaders helping to plan and carry out activities, allowing them to make decisions on a regular basis.

The St. Vincent chapter will hold individual grade level squad meetings at various times over the next month, while the multi-grade troop meetings will be held the third Tuesday of each month. Their plans for the remainder of 2012 include earning badges, service work and fun.

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MISC. HAPPENINGS

Bach Collegium to perform
Fort Wayne — The Bach Collegium will host a concert Sunday, Feb. 19, at 7 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. This concert focuses on five episodes from the last days of Jesus, to illustrate the development of choral music from the 16th to the 18th century, by means of the St. John Passion as interpreted by Schuetz, Bach and others. Admission is free. For information visit bachcollegium.com or call (260) 485-2143.

Lenten series on Catholicism shown
Notre Dame — "Catholicism," by Father Robert Barron, will be offered for viewing and discussion by Sacred Heart Parish Tuesdays, Feb. 21, 28, March 6, 13, 20 and 27 from 9:30-11:30 a.m., and Thursdays, Feb. 23, Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 from 7-9 p.m. Contact Michelle Kriss at (574) 631-7508 or mkriss@nd.edu to register. Admission is free.

St. Aloysius School plans winter carnival
Yoder — St. Aloysius School will have a winter carnival

Saturday, Feb. 25, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the school gym, 14607 Bluffton Rd. Admission is free. Game tickets will be 25 cents each or six for \$1. A raffle is planned with tickets at \$1 each or six for \$5. All proceeds will benefit tuition assistance.

Theology for Generation X
Fort Wayne — Sainthood and Lives of the Saints will be presented by Dr. John Bequette, associate professor of Theology at the University of Saint Francis, Monday, Feb. 20, from 7-9 p.m. at Don Hall's Gas House, 305 E. Superior St. For information call (260) 436-8704 or email jbequette@sf.edu.

Holy Cross Lenten lectures to begin
Notre Dame — Holy Cross College will begin a six-week Lenten series on Wednesday, Feb. 22 at 7 p.m. at Holy Cross Village. Speakers will include: Brother Raymond Papenfuss, CSC, Father Dan Groody, CSC, Brother John Paige, CSC, Father Michael Connors, CSC, Jean Morman Unsworth and Father Edward Malloy, CSC. Visit www.holycrossvillage.com.

FISH FRIES

Pre-Lenten fish fry
Bluffton — St. Joseph Parish, Knights of Columbus Council 7555, 1300 N. Main St., will have a pre-Lenten fish/tenderloin fry, Friday, Feb. 17, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. in the social hall. Tickets are \$9 for adults, \$6 for children 6-12 and free for children 5 and under. Carry out available.

Knights offer fish fries all during lent
Warsaw — The Bishop Pursley Assembly will host a fish fry on all Fridays during Lent (except on Good Friday) from 4:30-7 p.m. at the council hall. Tickets are \$8.50 for adults and \$4 for children ages 6-12.

Fish fry and salad bar
South Bend — St. Adalbert Parish will have a fish fry and salad bar Friday, Feb. 24, from 3:30-7 p.m. in the Heritage Center. Adults and carry-outs are \$9, children 5-12 are \$4 and children under 5 are free.

Knights plan fish fry
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish

REST IN PEACE

Bremen Janet M. Abbott, 69, St. Dominic	Pauline Marie Duncan, 83, St. Bavo	Joseph J. Wroblewski, 79, Holy Family
Columbia City John L. Fries, 83, St. Paul of the Cross	Elizabeth M. Wullaert, 95, St. Joseph	Joseph M. Wroblewski, 91, Holy Cross
Elkhart Irene T. Smith, 83, St. Thomas the Apostle	Notre Dame Minnie M. Kearney, 77, Basilica of the Sacred Heart	Richard E. Adamski, 86, St. Stanislaus
Fort Wayne Peter Arlid Blichert, 91, St. Charles Borromeo	Stephen S. Marozsan, 86, Basilica of the Sacred Heart	Paul J. Kozak, 81, St. Jude
Sue Tenny-Runser, 69, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	Rome City Esta Joyce Schilling, 84, St. Gaspar	Robert E. Jankowski, 80, St. Adalbert
Mishawaka Barbara J. Peli, 78, St. Monica	South Bend Rita B. Rigney, 81, St. John the Baptist	Walkerton Carol F. Braunsdorf, 77, St. Patrick
		Warsaw William V. Bruno, 97, Sacred Heart

fry on Friday, Feb. 24, from 5-7 p.m. Adults \$8, children (5-12) \$3. Chicken strips for \$8 and shrimp for \$8.50 is available.

CANCELLATION

All family rosary
Fort Wayne — The all family rosary will be discontinued due to lack of attendance. Continue to pray the rosary for all families in the comfort of your home.

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|-----------------|--|--|
| February | 17 St. Joseph Hessen Cassel | US Hwy 27 South of 469 (drive thru only) |
| | 24 St. Louis Besancon Hall | Old US 30/Lincoln Hwy, East of New Haven |
| March | 2 St. Aloysius Church | 14623 Bluffton Road |
| | 3 Mt. Calvary Lutheran | 1819 Reservation Drive, Fort Wayne |
| | 9 St. Joseph Church | Brooklyn/Hale Avenues, Fort Wayne |
| | 16 HAAA- Hoagland Pavilion | Hoagland, IN |
| | 18 <u>Sunday</u> at St. Louis Besancon | Drive thru Broasted Chicken Dinner 11:00 a.m. |
| | 23 Cornerstone Youth Center | 19819 Monroeville Rd., Monroeville |
| | 24 Emmanuel Lutheran Church | 9909 Wayne Trace, Fort Wayne |
| | 30 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Ch. | 10700 Aboite Ctr Rd, Fort Wayne |

PRINCIPAL- SOUTH BEND, INDIANA

Beginning July 1, 2012

St. Adalbert Catholic School is a mission-driven, growing, inner-city, Pre-K-8 school with an enrollment of 217, roughly 90% Latino, and a close association with the University of Notre Dame and its Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) program.

A successful candidate for this position:

- is a practicing Catholic, comfortable with being the spiritual leader of the school.
- has at least 5 years of experience in Catholic schools as either a teacher or administrator.
- is eligible for an Indiana Administrative License. Some Spanish fluency and computer literacy are strongly preferred.

For more information, contact Rhonda Scher at the Catholic Schools Office at 260-422-4611 x3335. Applications on the web at www.diocesefwsb.org/CSO Application review begins March 1.



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Bishops from Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin begin visits to Vatican

BY FRANCIS X. ROCCA

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Members of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Region VII — which includes the states of Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin — started their "ad limina" visits to Rome Feb. 9 with morning Mass in St. Peter's Basilica, before the Altar of the Tomb of St. Peter.

During their visit, which will end Feb. 17, the bishops will discuss a wide range of pastoral matters with Pope Benedict XVI and Vatican officials. A major theme is likely to be the new evangelization, which will be the subject of a Vatican synod this October. In recent weeks, the pope has told other visiting American bishops of the urgent need to defend religious freedom against the threat of "radical secularism."

The bishops' periodic visits are formally called "ad limina apostolorum," which means "to the thresholds of the apostles" Peter and Paul, who were martyred in Rome. Traditionally, the visits serve as an occasion for leaders of local churches to draw inspiration as well as guidance from the center of Catholicism.

The spiritual aspect of "ad limina" visits is most evident in the liturgies that the bishops concelebrate at Rome's four

major basilicas: St. John Lateran, St. Peter's, St. Paul Outside the Walls and St. Mary Major. The Region VII bishops will return to St. Peter's Feb. 11 for Mass at the Altar of Blessed John Paul II.



PROVIDED BY BISHOP KEVIN RHOADES

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, left, and Bishop John M. D'Arcy, bishop emeritus, right, meet with Pope Benedict XVI at the "ad limina" visit Feb. 9.



CNS PHOTO/L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

Pope Benedict XVI meets Feb. 9 with U.S. bishops from Indiana on their "ad limina" visits to the Vatican. Seated at left are: Auxiliary Bishop Christopher J. Coyne of Indianapolis; Bishop Timothy L. Doherty of Lafayette; Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend; and Bishop Dale J. Melczek of Gary.



At left, from left, are Auxiliary Bishop Coyne, Bishop Charles C. Thompson, Bishop Rhoades, Bishop Melczek and Bishop Doherty.

Office of Family Life, Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

Diocesan Marriage & Family Conference

Notre Dame Conference Center • Saturday, March 24, 2012

Come & join Bishop Kevin Rhoades, Fr. Bob Lengerich & Fr. David Mary Engo, FFM

It's easy to lose sight of the "big picture" in the day-to-day business of raising a family and making a marriage work. The 2012 Diocesan Marriage and Family Conference aims to deepen the understanding of marriage and family life as a vocation from God and encourage an appreciation of its many dimensions. We will also be marking the 30th Anniversary of Bl. John Paul II's apostolic exhortation on the family, *Familiaris Consortio*. Pope Benedict has referred to this document as the "Magna Carta" of marriage and family ministry.

Through a combination of plenary sessions and workshops, this conference will explore the Church's rich vision of marriage and family life as it relates to topics such as the theology of the body, family prayer, the family and work, the family as the domestic church, raising teens and dealing with issues such as infertility, divorce and homosexuality. This conference is for adults of all ages and circumstances □ married couples, couples preparing for marriage, single parents, college students, clergy, pastoral ministers and anyone else interested in enriching their understanding of the vocation of marriage and family life.

For the full schedule and to register, go directly to the conference website at cce.nd.edu or call the Notre Dame Conference Center at (574) 631-6691. The registration fee of \$35 per person includes conference materials, continental breakfast, a boxed lunch and afternoon snacks. College or graduate students are welcome to attend any of the plenary or workshop sessions at no cost. For more information, you may call the center or the Office of Family Life at (574) 234-0687.

