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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Pope creates 22 new cardinals, including three from US, Canada

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI created 22 new cardinals from 13 countries — including three from the United States and Canada — placing red hats on their heads and calling them to lives of even greater love and service to the Church.

The churchmen who joined the College of Cardinals Feb. 18 included Cardinals Timothy M. Dolan of New York; Edwin F. O'Brien, grand master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem and former archbishop of Baltimore; and Thomas C. Collins of Toronto.

In their first official act in their new role, the new cardinals were asked to join their peers in giving the pope their opinion, in writing, on the canonization of seven new saints, including Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, an American Indian, and Blessed Marianne Cope of Molokai, Hawaii.

The pope announced at the consistory that the canonization ceremony would be celebrated Oct. 21 at the Vatican.

Cardinal Collins said, "I am delighted that my first action as a cardinal was to join with the College of Cardinals in affirming the canonization of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, who has been such an inspiration for the people of our First Nations and so many others in Canada and the United States."

Cardinal Dolan also mentioned the consultation on the canonization of Blessed Kateri, who was born in what is now New York state, and Mother Marianne,

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CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Pope Benedict embraces Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York after presenting him with a red biretta during a consistory in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Feb. 18. The pope created 22 new cardinals from 13 countries — including two from the United States and one from Canada.

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Bishop Rhoades returns rejuvenated from 'ad limina' visit to Rome

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — A travel weary but exuberant Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, who disembarked from his 21-hour trip home from Rome Saturday, Feb. 18, appeared pleased to find a welcome home party anxiously awaiting his return. Led by almost a dozen students from Bishop Dwenger High School, replete with a welcome home sign, a band of diocesan parishioners and local media gathered to usher the bishop back home.

A press conference was held at the Fort Wayne International Airport where the bishop's flight had landed to address not only the highlights of his 10-day "ad limina" visit to Vatican City, but to clarify the Church's position on the recent mandate on female contraception issued recently by the Department of Health and

Human Services (HHS) and its subsequent "accommodation" for Catholic institutions.

Bishop Rhoades began the conference by distributing rosaries and holy cards blessed by Pope Benedict XVI to the delight of all the students present. He told those congregated that this trip was his first "ad limina" visit with Pope Benedict as a bishop, though he said he had met the pope on previous occasions.

The "ad limina" visit, which occurs every five years, is an obligation of diocesan bishops, following the tradition of St. Paul's visits to St. Peter, the first pope of the Catholic Church. He spoke of the three purposes of the visit that included meeting with the Holy Father, praying at the tombs of Sts. Peter and Paul and meeting with officials of the dicasteries or departments of the Roman Curia.

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KAY COZAD

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades is greeted by students from Bishop Dwenger High School, who met him at the Fort Wayne International Airport on Feb. 18 as he returned from his 10 day "ad limina" visit to Rome.

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Ten days in Rome: Ad limina apostolorum

I am writing this column on the plane on my flight home from the ad limina visit in Rome. It is a long day of travel: from Rome to Atlanta, then Atlanta to Fort Wayne.

I thoroughly enjoyed my first ad limina visit. In many ways, it was like a spiritual retreat, something I did not expect. Our daily Masses at different Basilicas in Rome, as well as time for prayer each day in these beautiful churches, were a highlight for me. We had three Masses in Saint Peter's Basilica in the course of the ten days: at the altars of the tombs of Saint Peter, Blessed John Paul II, and Blessed John XXIII. We celebrated the Mass at the tomb of Blessed John Paul II on February 11th, the 37th anniversary of Bishop D'Arcy's 37th anniversary of episcopal ordination. Bishop D'Arcy was one of the main concelebrants at that Mass. We congratulated and prayed for Bishop D'Arcy on that special occasion.

I was happy to be the principal celebrant on our final day at the Mass at the tomb of Blessed John XXIII. This year, on October 11th, we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of his opening the Second Vatican Council. On that day, the universal Church will begin the celebration of the "Year of Faith."

We also celebrated Masses at the three other Major Basilicas in Rome: Saint Paul outside the Walls; Saint Mary Major, and Saint John Lateran. When we arrived in Rome on Wednesday, February 8th, we celebrated Mass with the seminary community at the Pontifical North American College. I stayed as a guest at the North American College (where I lived as a seminarian) during the ad limina visit. It was good to see one of our own seminarians who is a resident there: Royce Gregerson. Royce, a parishioner from Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Fort Wayne, is doing very well and is enjoying his first year of theological studies at the Pontifical University "Santa Croce."

The ad limina visit by the bishops of Region VII of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (comprising three ecclesiastical provinces: Chicago, Milwaukee, and Indianapolis) included meetings each day at various dicasteries of the Roman Curia. Each meeting was interesting. It was good to learn more about the work of the Roman Congregations, Pontifical Councils, and Tribunals. The Roman Curia serves the Holy Father and the universal Church. The Cardinals, Bishops, priests, religious, and laity of the various dicasteries who met with us already knew a lot about our situation and that of the Church in the United States. It was good to share our thoughts, to ask questions, and to discuss issues of mutual concern.

The following are the dicasteries that I visited during the ad limina: the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith; the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments; the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life; the Congregation for Bishops; the Congregation for



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

While at the "ad limina" visit in Rome, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades meets with students studying abroad from Saint Mary's College.



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and diocesan seminarian Royce Gregerson are shown in the sacristy of St. Peter Basilica in Rome.

Clergy; and the Congregation for Catholic Education; the Apostolic Signatura; the Pontifical Council for the Family; and the Pontifical Council for the New Evangelization.

Our meeting with the Holy Father was certainly the major highlight of the visit. We met by provinces, not by region, with Pope Benedict XVI. So Bishop D'Arcy, the other Bishops of Indiana, and I met with the Holy Father together on February 9th. As always, we experienced the wonderful kindness, gentle spirit, and wisdom of the Holy Father. He asked each of us about our dioceses and about our ministry as bishops. We spoke about the new evangeliza-

tion and the challenges to faith and the Church's mission in today's increasingly secularized culture. As Jesus instructed Saint Peter "to confirm the brethren in the faith," we as bishops, successors of the apostles, felt truly confirmed in the faith by Pope Benedict, the successor of Saint Peter.

One very positive aspect of the ad limina was the time spent with brother bishops from our ecclesiastical region. It was a good opportunity to get to know one another better, not only at the Vatican meetings, but also over meals and social time. These conversations and our daily prayer together strengthened our fraternity and collegiality.

During free time, I took some good long walks in the city, visiting favorite sites from my student days in Rome. At



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and Bishop John M. D'Arcy, Bishop emeritus stand together during their 'ad limina' visit.

each Mass and in many visits to churches, I remembered the faithful of our diocese in my prayers. I prayed especially for the sick, for those in special need, and for those who no longer practice the faith, for their return to the Church.

I enjoyed two special visits while in Rome: pranzo (dinner) with Father Richard Warner, the Superior General of the Congregation of Holy Cross, and his staff at the Holy Cross Generalate in Rome; and cena (supper) with the students from Saint Mary's College who are studying a year or semester abroad in Rome. I

thank both for their wonderful hospitality.

Father Warner gave me a very special gift: a relic of Blessed Basil Moreau, the founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross, whom we pray will soon be canonized a saint. Among the Saint Mary's students I had dinner with were four wonderful young women from our diocese: Ana Diaz-Aguilar, Samantha Marley, Ashley Stopczynski, and Devree Stopczynski. I thank the directors of the Saint Mary's Rome program for their warm welcome: Dr. Portia Prebys and Meagan McHugh.

As we begin this holy season of Lent, may we be diligent in our works of penance and charity! May our Lord purify our hearts of sin so that we will be prepared to celebrate worthily the Paschal Feast at Easter!

Report abuse

It remains important for our Church to protect children and young persons from the evils of abuse. To abuse a child is a sin. The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend remains committed to upholding and following its guidelines, policies and procedures that were implemented for the Protection of Children and Young People. These can be reviewed on the diocese's website, www.diocesefwsb.org under "Safe Environment."

If you have reason to believe that a child may be a victim of child abuse or neglect, Indiana law requires that you report this to civil authorities. If you or someone you know was abused as a child or young person by an adult, you are encouraged to notify appropriate civil authorities of that abuse. In addition, if the alleged abuser is or was a priest or deacon of the Catholic Church, you are encouraged to contact Mary Glowaski, victim assistance coordinator, (260) 399-1458, email: mglowaski@diocesefwsb.org, or Rev. Msgr. Robert Schulte, vicar general of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, at P.O. Box 390, Fort Wayne, Indiana, 46801, or at (260) 399-1419, email: mraatz@diocesefwsb.org. The diocese is committed to helping prevent the abuse or neglect of children and young people and to assist those who claim to have suffered harm as a result of such abuse.

Permanece importante para nuestra Iglesia proteger a los niños y jóvenes adultos de los actos maléficos del abuso. Abusar a un niño es pecado. La Diócesis de Fort Wayne-South Bend permanece comprometida en mantener y seguir sus directrices, pólizas y procedimientos que fueron implementados para la Protección de Niños/as y Personas Jóvenes. Esto se puede observar en la página cibernética de la Diócesis, www.diocesefwsb.org bajo la sección de Ambiente Seguro "Safe Environment."

Si usted tiene razón para creer que un niño puede ser víctima de abuso o negligencia, la ley de Indiana requiere que usted reporte esto a las autoridades civiles. Si usted o alguien que usted conoce fue abusado, ya sea niño o persona joven por un adulto, lo animamos a que notifique las autoridades civiles apropiadas de ese abuso. También, si el alegado abusador es o fue un sacerdote o diacono de la Iglesia Católica, lo animamos a contactar a Mary Glowaski, Coordinadora de Asistencia de Víctimas, (260)-399-1458, correo electrónico: mglowaski@diocesefwsb.org, o al Rev. Msgr. Robert Schulte, Vicario General de la Diócesis de Fort Wayne - South Bend, al P.O. Box 390, Fort Wayne, Indiana, 46801, o al (260) 399-1419, correo electrónico: mraatz@diocesefwsb.org. La Diócesis esta comprometida en ayudar a prevenir el abuso o negligencia de niños y personas jóvenes y dar asistencia a aquellos quienes reclaman haber sufrido daño como resultado de tal abuso.



PUBLIC SCHEDULE OF BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

- Sunday, Feb. 26, 2 p.m. — Rite of Election, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne
- Sunday, Feb. 26, 10 p.m. — Mass at Keough Hall, University of Notre Dame
- Monday, Feb. 27, 10 a.m. — All Schools Mass, Joyce Center, University of Notre Dame
- Tuesday, Feb. 28, 10:30 a.m. — Presbyteral Council Meeting, Sacred Heart Rectory, Warsaw
- Wednesday, Feb. 29, 6 p.m. — Meeting of Diocesan Review Board, Ramada Plaza, Warsaw
- Friday, March 2, 10 a.m. — Mass at Diocesan Education Conference, Marian High School.
- Saturday, March 3, 10 a.m. — Mass with Blessing of Oratory of Saint Felix, Huntington.
- Saturday, March 3, 6 p.m. — Saints Alive, Bishop Dwenger High School
- Sunday, March 4, 9 a.m. — Mass at Culver Academy
- Sunday, March 4, 2 p.m. — Rite of Election, Saint Matthew Cathedral, South Bend

Revision of HHS mandate ignores religious liberty concerns, say bishops

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic bishops across the country have expressed their disapproval of President Barack Obama's newly announced revision to the contraceptive mandate in the health reform law, saying it does nothing to change what they and other religious leaders and organizations consider an intrusion on religious liberty.

Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced Jan. 20 that religious organizations could delay but not opt out of the requirement that all health plans cover contraceptives and sterilization free of charge.

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

And now questions have been raised over how that revision will pertain to self-insured parties, like many dioceses and Catholic organizations, and whether it could still force entities morally opposed to contraception to pay for such services.

"We can appreciate the efforts of the White House to quiet the furor over the president's HHS mandate that would violate the religious freedom of millions of Catholics and other American citizens," Miami Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski said in a Feb. 10 statement.

He noted that hundreds of Catholic universities, colleges, hospitals and other entities offered comments to HHS before the mandate was announced but they "were

given short shrift by the administration."

"The administration continues to insist that the issue is about contraception; we disagree. It is about the first freedom of our Bill of Rights: the freedom of religion and respect for the rights of conscience," he added.

Los Angeles Archbishop Jose H. Gomez said he found the president's revision "troubling and frustrating."

"Unfortunately, he did not really respond to the deep moral concerns raised by America's Catholic community," he said in a Feb. 13 statement.

The archbishop said the fact the revision requires payment of contraceptive coverage to now be borne by insurance companies, rather than religious employers, "completely misses the point. The issue here is not one of bookkeeping or accounting. It is a matter of moral principle and religious liberty," he said.

He also said the government has "no right to require the Catholic Church or other institutions to pay for — even indirectly — products and services that we find to be immoral and unconscionable. Again, this is not a question of contraception. It is a question of religious liberty. This mandate continues to represent a grave government intrusion on Catholic consciences and on the freedom of our Catholic institutions."

Washington Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl similarly noted that the federal mandate "remains essentially unchanged" and criticized the president's "fix."

"Regardless of how it is characterized, shifting the cost of these drugs and procedures to insurance companies does not make their requirement any less objectionable or lessen the infringement on our religious liberty and rights of conscience," Cardinal Wuerl wrote in a



CNS PHOTO/BOB ROLLER

Bishop William E. Lori of Bridgeport, Conn., chairman of the bishops' Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, said a religious right to conscience protection needs to be enacted into federal law, given the ongoing debate over a federal mandate requiring employers, including most religious entities, to provide no-cost contraception and sterilization coverage demonstrates. Bishop Lori is pictured during the 2011 National Catholic Prayer Breakfast in Washington.

Feb. 13 e-letter sent to Catholics of the Archdiocese of Washington.

The cardinal said the "only complete solution to the problem that this mandate poses" would be for Congress to pass the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act introduced by U.S. Rep. Jeff Fortenberry, R-Neb.

Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan

of New York told Catholic News Service Feb. 13 in Rome that Fortenberry's bill 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.

The cardinal said with his revision to the HHS mandate, the president offered "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."

Other U.S. church leaders in Rome on a periodic "ad limina" visit to the Vatican echoed that opposition to the HHS mandate and the revision.

Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago said he was disappointed the issue is being perceived as something that isolates the bishops from the faithful. "To try to divide Catholics is a new challenge to religious liberty," he said.

Bishop Daniel R. Jenky of Peoria, Ill., said no president has ever "tried to tell us what to believe or define what is our ministry." The notion the Church "must cooperate with intrinsic evil is appalling," he said.

Cardinal Wuerl encouraged Catholics not to become complacent or distracted by "incomplete proposals presented as definitive solutions." He said the bishops' Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, chaired by Bishop William E. Lori of Bridgeport, Conn., would be working on action steps to oppose the mandate.

In a Feb. 13 phone interview with CNS, Bishop Lori also called for a legislative remedy, saying, "Our religious freedom is too precious to be protected only by regulations. It needs legislative protection."

An Obama administration official who asked not to be named told CNS in an email Feb. 13 that the White House plans in the coming weeks to convene "a series of meetings with faith community leaders" about the HHS mandate. He said a particular focus of the meetings would be self-insured group health plans that cover the employees of many Catholic dioceses and institutions.

"The administration will 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," he said.

The official said the meetings would be convened "in the coming days" and that "the bishops and others" would be invited.

Meanwhile, Bishop Blase J. Cupich of Spokane, Wash., said the current situation about the HHS mandate provides an opportunity "to have a deeper and, on a prolonged basis, a fundamental dialogue about the role of religion in society in general and the nature of religious liberty, especially as it applies to faith-based charitable, health and social service ministries in the United States."

Contributing to this story were Nancy Frazier O'Brien, Dennis Sadowski and Mark Zimmermann in Washington and Francis X. Rocca in Rome.

Revised contraceptive mandate prompts reaction from Catholic groups

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A former U.S. ambassador to the Vatican and the president of The Catholic University of America were among 300 signers of a letter who called President Barack Obama's revision to a federal contraceptive mandate "unacceptable" and said it remains a "grave violation of religious freedom and cannot stand."

On Feb. 10, Obama said religious employers could decline to cover contraceptives if they were morally opposed to them, but the health insurers that provide their health plans would be required to offer contraceptives free of charge to women who requested such coverage.

The change came after three weeks of intensive criticism that Department of Health and Human Services' contraception mandate would require most religious institutions to pay for coverage they find morally objectionable, despite a limited religious exemption.

Now questions have been raised over how the revision announced by the president will pertain to the many dioceses and Catholic organizations that are self-insured and whether it could still force entities morally opposed to contraception to pay for such services.

The letter signed by former Ambassador Mary Ann Glendon of Harvard and Catholic University's John Garvey, along with professors and other academics, and Catholic and other religious leaders, said it was "an insult to the intelligence of Catholics, Protestants, Eastern Orthodox Christians, Jews, Muslims, and other people of faith and conscience to imagine that they will accept an assault on their religious liberty if only it is covered up by a cheap accounting trick."

Other critics also said the change was a matter of semantics and still failed to address the conscience rights of faith groups and the issue of religious liberty.

Supporters, who included organizations such as Catholics United and Catholic Democrats, said it was a viable response that would keep conscience rights intact and address the health care needs of women.

Still others who opposed the contraceptive mandate said the revision could be a step in the right direction but needed more study because many questions "remained unanswered."

Catholic Charities USA said Feb. 16 that contrary to media reports the organization has "not endorsed" the revision announced by Obama.

"We unequivocally share the goal of the U.S. Catholic bishops to uphold religious liberty and will continue to work with the USCCB (U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops) toward that goal," it said



CNS PHOTO/JASON REED, REUTERS

President Barack Obama delivers remarks on manufacturing in Chandler, Ariz., Jan. 25 during a three-day, five-state tour following his State of the Union address. U.S. bishops continue to lambast the Obama administration for repeatedly denying requests from Catholic bishops, hospitals, schools and charitable organizations to revise its religious exemption to the requirement that all health plans cover contraceptives and sterilization free of charge.

in a statement posted on its website.

Michael Galligan-Stierle, president of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, told Catholic News Service that his organization has "conveyed to the administration that we are interested and deeply committed to ongoing conversation" about the issue.

"We look forward to more in-depth, serious negotiations based on religious liberty being the primary issue on the table," he added.

Holy Cross Father John Jenkins, president of the University of Notre Dame, who has called the HHS mandate "profoundly disturbing on many levels," said Obama's revision was a "welcome step toward recognizing the freedom of religious institutions to abide by the principles that define their respective missions."

In a Feb. 10 statement on the university's website, he said that a "number of unclear and unresolved issues" must be addressed and he hoped they would be discussed in future meetings of U.S. bishops and other religious leaders and White House officials.

The Catholic Health Association, in a Feb. 13 statement on its website, said it was looking forward to "reviewing the specifics of the changes in the mandated benefits."

"On Friday, Feb. 10, 2012, we were notified that our organizations would not have to buy or refer employees for contraception and other services. We were also told that the self-insured plans would be accommodated in this,"

the CHA statement said. "At this time, there are many unanswered questions about specifics. We now have the challenging work of reviewing the proposed rules, examining their impact and giving input before they are finalized.

"As more is known about this, we will be getting that information out to the membership as quickly as possible."

As published in the Federal Register Feb. 15, the final rule said HHS "will work with stakeholders to propose and finalize this policy" before it takes effect in 2013.

A Feb. 10 statement by the Cardinal Newman Society said it would "continue to work with Catholic colleges and universities to find the most acceptable solution to this violation of their religious liberty. But there can be no compromise that does not eliminate the mandate."

Last fall, 18 Catholic colleges asked the Obama administration to exempt all religious individuals and institutions from being forced to participate in the federal contraception mandate.

The Dominican Sisters of Mary Mother of the Eucharist in Ann Arbor, Mich., issued a Feb. 13 statement taking the Obama administration to task for failing to "comprehend Catholic moral reasoning and the full-meaning of the principle of religious liberty." They called it "insulting" that the Obama administration suggested the revision would be "net cost neutral."

"It is simply impossible to ensure that the insurance companies will not pass on those costs to the organizations and individuals who conscientiously object to their insurance policies covering abortion-inducing drugs, sterilization and artificial contraception," the statement said.

The Leadership Conference of Women Religious, based in Silver Spring, Md., called the revised mandate "fair and a helpful way for us to move forward."

"This ruling is a major victory for religious liberty and women's health," said a statement signed by several professors at Catholic universities and other religious leaders including Sister Simone Campbell, a Sister of Social Service who leads Network, the Catholic social justice lobby.

In San Francisco, a group of Catholics planned to protest the HHS contraception mandate with a demonstration across the street from an auditorium where Obama was to attend a fundraiser Feb. 16.

In Michigan, the Catholic conference of the state's bishops applauded the state House of Representatives for passing a resolution that calls on the Obama administration to rescind the HHS mandate, highlights the administration's "attack on religious freedom" and urges the U.S. House and Senate to pass the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act.

RETURN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Bishop Rhoades, accompanied by Bishop John M. D'Arcy, bishop emeritus of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, joined close to 30 bishops from Wisconsin, Illinois and Indiana. The pope, he said, held meetings for each of the three U.S. states, during which he met with each bishop individually and then as a group.

"We each got to greet him and speak with him a little bit privately. But then as a group he called on each of us to tell him about whatever we wanted to talk about. ... So I talked about our Catholic schools, I talked about the diocese, and our Catholic universities and vocations. ... What was interesting was he asked me a number of questions. He didn't do that with the other bishops — I don't know why," chuckled Bishop Rhoades, adding that the pope was so gentle and kind that he put everyone at ease.

At the end of his meeting with the Holy Father, Bishop Rhoades said the pope gave the bishops a blessing and blessed all the people of this diocese and specifically mentioned the youth here.

In addition to celebrating Mass together in a variety of Roman basilicas, each day the bishops visited the various dicasteries employing the bishops and cardinals in Rome, who he said, received them with warmth. He mentioned, as chair of the U.S. Bishops' Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth, he gave a presentation on the state of the institution of marriage in the U.S. and the challenges of family life the country faces.

Bishop Rhoades found it interesting that Catholics in Western Europe face similar challenges with the secular culture, but also some of the same hopes for the future with the new evangelization that Pope Benedict encourages.

Bishop Rhoades commented on the fraternity with the other bishops during the trip, saying, "It was a great opportunity to get to know the other bishops of the region." And the bishop, who had lived in Rome for seven years as a student, was pleased to visit some of his favorite places and eat "a lot of great pasta," in his free time.

During the question-answer period, Bishop Rhoades proclaimed that he felt renewed in his episcopal ministry "especially feeling supported and uplifted by Pope Benedict and my brother bishops and all the officials at the Vatican."

He said he looks forward to the new Year of Faith declared by the pope, which begins in October, and has many ideas on how to celebrate as a diocese.

"We need a reinvigoration of the faith. ... We need to be able to present the faith with new vigor, new energy, new methods

and expressions. And I feel that's going to be my priority," he said.

The exchange then switched to the topic of religious liberty, conscience rights and the mandate issued recently by HHS.

Bishop Rhoades was clear that the Church must remain strong in the fight against the contraception and abortive health care mandate. He said the "accommodation" the Obama administration set forth following the concentrated reaction did in no way change the fundamental issues, such as non-exemption for Catholic institutions and services.

He went on to include the individual in this mandate, saying, "This isn't just about the Church as an institution. What about people of faith who believe in their conscience that some of these things are wrong? If they are employers, they should not be forced to provide health insurance for their employees that includes these things they find objectionable. ... And employees as well."

He said the larger issue of violation of religious liberty is critical and that the Vatican supports the U.S. bishops' stand.

Bishop Rhoades believes that the next step in the fight for religious liberties and conscience rights is the legislative route, backing the "Respect for Rights of Conscience Act" both in the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Bishop Rhoades said, "Contacting our congressman and our senators and really working hard," is the current call. He also believes that for a substantial change to occur the judicial branch of the government might have to be included.

What can parishioners around the diocese do to join the fight for religious freedom? "I call upon the people to pray, because I do believe in the power of prayer," said Bishop Rhoades, who cautioned that religious liberty is not simply about freedom to worship, but also about living "our faith in the public square."

"Make this an important issue when they're voting," instructed Bishop Rhoades, adding, "and when they're electing those who are running for office on whatever level, state or federal levels, especially. We have to keep this before the public."

Following a blessing on those gathered the bishop spoke privately with the media reiterating that "health care is regarding sickness or disease. Pregnancy is not a disease." Contraception, though readily available, is not part of the Catholic Church's belief in natural conception and birth.

Commenting on the "accommodation" the administration offered, the bishop said there was no change in the mandate because the Catholic institutions are paying the premiums for the coverage even when the insurance companies take responsibility for the mandate. But if the legislature fails to enact the conscience rights act, Bishop Rhoades feels optimistic that the Supreme Court system will overturn the mandate.

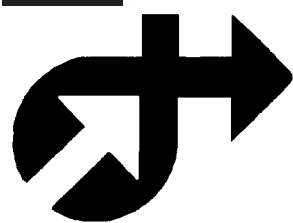
Scholarship Tax Credit expansion clears Senate, faces House hurdles

INDIANAPOLIS — Catholic families struggling to pay school tuition may see a light at the end of the tunnel if a bill providing additional entry points to the Scholarship Tax Credit (STC) program passes this year.

"The good news is it passed the Senate. The bad news is it will be a struggle in the House," said Glenn Tebbe, Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC) executive director who serves as the official spokesperson for the Catholic Church in Indiana on public policy matters. "We are supportive of helping income eligible non-public school families gain access to the tax credit scholarship for their children," said Tebbe.

The proposal, Senate Bill 296, authored by Sen. Jean Leising, R-Oldenburg, would give students, who are currently enrolled in a Catholic school or non-public school, an opportunity to qualify for the tax credit scholarship in grade 8. Once eligible, they could receive a scholarship during high school.

The Scholarship Tax Credit (STC) program is privately funded by charitable donations to Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGO's). The SGO awards scholarships to eligible students. Families whose incomes fall under 200 percent of the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch qualifying amount are eligible for a tax credit scholarship. This is about \$80,000 for a family of four.



INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BY BRIGID CURTIS AYER

Leising explained that under the current STC guidelines, there are two entry points for students to receive the scholarship. A student may apply for a scholarship in kindergarten. If awarded a scholarship in kindergarten, the student is eligible to apply for a voucher for first grade provided the family still meets the income guidelines. The second entry point is for students who are enrolled in a public school.

Tebbe said, "The second entry point is not really a viable option for non-public school students in first grade through 12th grade, because to become eligible, their parents would have to pull them out of the non-public school for one year in order to get the scholarship."

Leising said that with all the education reform that passed last year, there was very little direct relief for the families already attending a non-public school.

"SB 296 is an effort to provide relief for some of those families that are making the sacrifices to

send their child to a non-public school," said Leising.

Leising said, "St. Louis Catholic School in Batesville, has a Scholarship Tax Credit program, set-up for kindergarten and about half of their kindergarten kids were financially eligible for the tax credit scholarship. So all of those kids next year, if they remain eligible under the income guidelines, they will be eligible for a state-funded voucher for first grade.

"So what I'm trying to do is allow eighth graders to be eligible for a tax credit scholarship, which could allow them to be eligible potentially to receive a school voucher for ninth grade and the rest of their high school years," said Leising.

Tebbe said that while a conversion of the tax credit scholarship to a voucher for high school was the original intent of the bill, SB 296 was amended in the Senate Education committee where they removed the conversion of the tax credit scholarship to a voucher for students who

receive a scholarship in grade 8.

Despite the change, Tebbe said the tax credit scholarship will provide some financial assistance for families who want to send their child to a non-public high school and who are eligible for a scholarship through a Scholarship Granting Organization.

Legislative Service Agency, a non-partisan agency that provides legal and fiscal analysis to the General Assembly, estimated that last year there were about 26,630 students attending non-public schools who meet the income guidelines to be eligible for a voucher. These students would also meet the income guidelines to receive a tax credit scholarship, but are ineligible primarily because they currently attend a non-public school.

"Right now, the concern is I've got to get it through the process," said Leising.

School choice advocate, Rep. Bob Behning, R-Indianapolis, House sponsor of the SB 296, will be carrying the bill in the House. Behning, who also chairs the House Education Committee, where SB 296 is assigned, plans to amend the bill to improve the STC program.

Behning explains that current law governing scholarships granted through the Scholarship Tax Credit program does not provide flexibility for families whose incomes fluctuate from year to year. For example, the only entry points for the STC are for kinder-

garteners entering either a public or non-public school or any student who attends a public school.

Behning said that non-public school students in grades first through 12th who lose eligibility to the STC program, due to a family's income fluctuation, cannot gain access again unless they were to leave the non-public school and attend a public school for two semesters, even though the family meets the income guidelines.

"What I'm trying to accomplish here is a once eligible, always eligible for the tax credit scholarship, provided the family meets the income guidelines," said Behning. "For families whose income fluctuates from year to year, they could remain eligible for the tax credit scholarship even though their income goes up in some years."

Scholarship Tax Credit Program — How it works?

Individual or corporate donors who make a contribution to an approved Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) are eligible for a 50 percent credit against their state tax liability. The SGO awards scholarships to eligible students. Families whose incomes fall under 200 percent of the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch qualifying amount are eligible for a tax credit scholarship. This is about \$80,000 for a family of four.

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Gov. Christie vetoes same-sex marriage bill, wants issue put to voters

TRENTON, N.J. (CNS) — New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie Feb. 17 made good on his pledge to veto a bill legalizing same-sex marriage passed by the state Legislature but at the same time said he might name an ombudsman to make sure the state's current law recognizing civil unions is respected. The state Assembly passed the bill Feb. 16 with a 42-33 vote. The state Senate approved it, 24-16, Feb. 13. When the bill reached his desk and he vetoed it, Christie said in a statement that "same-sex couples in a civil union deserve the very same rights and benefits enjoyed by married couples — as well as the strict enforcement of those rights and benefits. Discrimination should not be tolerated and any complaint alleging a violation of a citizen's right should be investigated and, if appropriate, remedied," the Republican governor said, suggesting an ombudsman be appointed. As the same-sex marriage measure moved through the Legislature, Christie, a Catholic, said legalizing marriage for same-sex couples should be put on the November ballot for voters to decide the issue. In testimony at a Jan. 24 hearing, the executive director of the New Jersey Catholic Conference urged state lawmakers "to continue to recognize marriage as a union between one man and one woman. This is critical as marriage is the foundation of the family. The family, in turn, is the basic unit of society." Said Patrick Brannigan, executive director of the conference, which is the public policy arm of the state's Catholic bishops: "Marriage as a union of one man and one woman has its roots not only in human tradition and history, but also in natural law, which transcends all man-made law. Marriage is a natural institution. New Jersey, like other states, has from the beginning recognized marriage, honored it, and sought to support and protect it."

Archdiocese reaches final decision on future of several grade schools

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — Forty-nine Catholic schools in the Philadelphia Archdiocese will form 23 regional schools and 10 schools will close outright, according to a Feb. 17 announcement by Philadelphia Auxiliary Bishop Michael J. Fitzgerald, who oversees the Secretariat for Catholic Education. At a press briefing the bishop released the final decision on closings or consolidations of elementary schools as recommended by the Blue Ribbon Commission, which was formed about a year ago. The decision represents modifications to the commission's original recommendation that were reached through an appeals process ordered by Philadelphia Archbishop Charles J. Chaput. The appeals followed the panel's Jan. 6 recommendation that one school would close outright and 81 schools would form 37 regional schools. "These changes are occur-

NEWS BRIEFS

WOMAN BUYS FRUIT FROM VENDER IN OLD HAVANA



CNS PHOTO/NANCY PHELAN WIECHEC

A woman purchases fruit from a street vender in Old Havana, Cuba, Feb. 8. Such small private business ventures have only recently been permitted by Cuba's communist government. Pope Benedict XVI visits Cuba March 26-28.

ring for a number of reasons," Bishop Fitzgerald said. "Some schools will remain free-standing parish schools because they have demonstrated that they are poised for long-term viability. Some schools are closing outright to allow welcoming schools to retain their identity. Other schools may still form a regional school but at a different location that may be better." A decision on the future of four archdiocesan high schools recommended for closure was postponed for a week because of the emergence of potential donors working to keep them open. "I recognize how anxious all of those affected by this decision are to hear the final outcome," Archbishop Chaput said in a statement. "I want to see this resolved too, but this decision is too important to be made without considering absolutely every fact and all serious, substantive proposals even if they don't fit the time frame originally set. We owe it to our teachers, administrators, students and school families."

'Faithful Citizenship' gives Catholics a chance to seek the common good

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Despite all the headlines lately, concern over the contraceptive mandate and the related issue of religious freedom is not the only thing on the minds of the U.S. bishops. This being an election year, the bishops' Department of Justice,

Peace and Human Development has undertaken an intensive effort to bring the quadrennial document "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship" to as many Catholics as possible. The bishops want people in the pews to better understand their political responsibility not just at the polls come November but also as they consider any number of social issues locally or nationally on any given day. The department's staff has established a website — www.faithfulcitizenship.org — with numerous resources, prayer guides, teaching tools and school activities in English and Spanish. The document was discussed during the annual Catholic Social Ministry Gathering in the nation's capital Feb. 12-15 as much if not more than the religious liberty implications of the controversial rules governing the implementation of health care reform. The gathering's theme — "Faithful Citizenship: Protecting Human Life and Dignity, Promoting the Common Good" — reflected the focus of daily programs. "Faithful Citizenship" traditionally has been released a year before a presidential election as a teaching document on the role of faith and conscience in political life. This time around the bishops reissued their 2007 document but added a new introductory note explaining that the document reflects their teaching and their guidance for Catholics as they exercise their rights and duties under American democracy.

Hearing examines contraceptive mandate's impact on religious liberty

WASHINGTON (CNS) — During a nearly five-hour congressional hearing Feb. 16, religious leaders explained how the contraceptive mandate in the U.S. health reform plan is an affront to their religious liberty rights. Bishop William E. Lori of Bridgeport, Conn., chairman of the bishops' Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, and two Catholic college presidents were among 10 panelists who addressed the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. Panel members included an Orthodox rabbi, a Baptist minister, the president of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and officials from Christian universities. The hearing took place nearly a week after President Barack Obama revised a federal contraceptive mandate, saying religious employers could decline to cover contraceptives and sterilization if they were morally opposed to them, but the health insurers that provide their health plans would be required to offer contraceptives free of charge to women who requested such coverage. The revision came after three weeks of intensive criticism that Department of Health and Human Services' contracep-

tion mandate would require most religious institutions to pay for coverage they find morally objectionable, despite a limited religious exemption. The religious leaders at the hearing said the change still violated their religious freedoms because it involved the government requiring their participation, even indirectly, in practices they disagreed with on moral grounds. Democrats at the hearing were highly critical of the lack of female panelists and two of them walked out after expressing concern that women were not able to discuss the importance of free access to contraception. There were no women on the first panel and two on the second. None of the witnesses spoke in favor of the contraceptive mandate in the health reform law.

Mexican Catholics: Religiosity with disconnect between faith, practice

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (CNS) — President Felipe Calderon came to this border city to boast of improvements in public safety and witness the destruction of a cache of illegal guns, grenades and ammunition, which he blamed for contributing to more than 10,000 deaths in Ciudad Juarez since 2008. He also received an inadvertent reminder of some of the extreme expressions of faith in Mexico when an army colonel showed him a sample of the assembled arsenal: pistols plated in gold and silver and engraved with images of saints and Our Lady of Guadalupe. Professions of piety are common and diverse in Mexico, where a quasi-religious drug cartel teaches from its own text, the downtrodden venerate pseudo-saints such as Santa Muerte (St. Death), and Our Lady of Guadalupe and her role in Mexican life and history form part of the national identity — even in a country with an official secular ethos and government. In a country where 84 percent of 2010 census respondents identified themselves as Catholic, questions arise over the commitment of Mexicans to a faith that has played a defining role throughout their nation's history — from the Spanish conquest and evangelization to the independence movement promoted by Father Miguel Hidalgo to the 1920s Cristero Rebellion against anti-clerical laws. Auxiliary Bishop Victor Rodriguez Gomez of Texcoco, secretary-general of the Mexican bishops' conference, told Catholic News Service dioceses across the country have worked to promote catechism classes and ministries with a missionary focus. He estimates between 10 percent and 20 percent of Catholics are committed church-goers and involved in parish life. "There's a large group of people that participate sporadically in Church life," he said, even though they bring "a great religiosity."

Belles Against Violence Office offers sexual assault and stalking awareness Programming

NOTRE DAME — The Belles Against Violence Office (BAVO) at Saint Mary's College invites the public to three upcoming events designed to educate and empower young people on the subjects of sexual violence and stalking. College-aged women and high school seniors may benefit the most from the programming.

"Saint Mary's College is committed to reducing the incidence and impact of violence and abuse," said Connie Adams, assistant director of BAVO. "Educational and prevention programming remains a core component to comprehensively address these issues."

Upcoming events include:

- Monday, Feb. 27: "An Overview of Medical and Forensic Examinations." Francine Henley and Carrie Higgins, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) co-coordinators, St. Joseph Regional Medical Center, will offer this presentation at 7 p.m. in Stapleton Lounge, Le Mans Hall. Henley and Higgins will discuss procedures that take place when a sexual assault victim arrives at the hospital. They will show the kit that is used for evidence collection and walk through the process as well as discuss issues like the cost (free), the time frame in which evidence should be collected, etc.

- Monday, March 5: "Recognizing and Responding to Stalking." Michelle Garcia, director of the Stalking Resource Center (SRC) of the National Center for Victims of Crime will offer this lecture at 7 p.m. in Carroll Auditorium, Madeleva Hall. The SRC is the leading organization on stalking issues in the U.S.

- Tuesday, April 24: "Beat the Blame Game." This interactive presentation by Catharsis Productions helps the audience better recognize forms of sexual violence and discover ways to promote a violence-free community. Audience members will learn how to use humor to respond to victim-blaming statements and jokes. This presentation, which falls during Sexual Assault Activism Week, will take place at 7 p.m. in Carroll Auditorium, Madeleva Hall.

BAVO was established in the fall of 2010 after the college received grant funding from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women to initiate an on-campus program that addresses and educates students on domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking (www.ovw.usdoj.gov/campus_desc.htm). BAVO offers programming that ranges from support services, to self-defense classes, to speakers and programs on power-based personal violence, criminal justice and victim advocacy.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

CHRIST THE KING HOSTS YOUTH RETREAT



PROVIDED BY CHRIST THE KING PARISH

"Live it, Love it, Do IT! FAITH!" was the title for the youth retreat sponsored by Christ the King Parish in South Bend. Over 20 teens and adults got a jumpstart on the Year of Faith set by Pope Benedict XVI. The teens from Christ the King came together for a weekend at Camp Eberhart to reflect upon the meaning of faith and how it plays a role in their lives. The retreat began with Adoration. The teens had a chance to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation, Mass with Holy Cross Father Neil Wack and engage in morning and evening prayer along with breaking open the Word within "lectio divina." Team building exercises provided plenty of fun. Topics for the gathering included, Faith within a Community of Believers, Faith is a Journey, The Leap of Faith, and Faith Means Getting Your Feet Wet.

Bishop Dwenger recognizes 2012 National Merit Finalists

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne recognizes seniors Meghan Gludemans and Danielle Messman, who have been named 2012 National Merit Finalists. They were initially selected as semi-finalists by scoring in the top one percent of all students nationwide on the PSAT test taken in October of 2010. Based on their outstanding academic performances in high school and their subsequent SAT scores, these students are being recognized for their potential for future academic accomplishment at the college level and are now being considered for college and corporate sponsored scholarship opportunities.

Diocese offers evenings of adult faith formation

FORT WAYNE — The Archbishop Noll Catholic Center in Fort Wayne will host three evenings with Sister M. Anita Holzmer, a Sister of St. Francis of

Perpetual Adoration, titled, "Meet St. Clare of Assisi," on Thursday evenings, March 1, 8 and 15 from 7-9 p.m.

Participants will be introduced to the medieval context in which Clare lived, discover why she accompanied Francis in a life of poverty and humility and learn about her courageous innovations for women religious.

The evenings are free to attend, however, registration is required by contacting Janice Martin at (260) 399-1411 or emailing, jmartin@diocesefwsb.org.

USF impacts local refugee populations

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Along with colleges and universities across the nation, the University of Saint Francis (USF) submitted mid-year reports to mark the half-way point in "Better Together," its project for President Obama's Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge.

Since beginning the project in fall semester 2011, USF has hosted public films, photography exhibits and lectures explaining the history and traumatic displacement of resettled Fort Wayne

refugee groups. As part of their course work, USF students have read books and performed projects on issues facing displaced populations. A large campus contingent joined other local university groups and community officials and residents for a Better Together Day of Service, in which they tended and planted gardens, created raised bed gardens and painted apartment building walls in a resettled refugee neighborhood. After completing the tasks, the groups joined for a potluck of international foods hosted by the Fort Wayne resettled refugee residents.

In March 2011, President Obama extended an invitation to college and university presidents across the country to take up an initiative to bring together diverse religious groups on campus for a year of interfaith cooperation and community service programming. USF joined the program, which challenges students and administrators to serve together on projects that strengthen their communities and unite people of diverse religious backgrounds.

At the end of the year, campuses will be invited to Washington, D.C., to be recognized by the White House for their commitment.

Text messaging number correction

The text number reported in the Feb. 19, 2012 issue of *Today's Catholic* for the first 2,500 subscribers to receive free Lenten messages of Franciscan Father David Mary Engo should be 20300 and then text "Go Catholic" from the cell phone of the subscriber.

FATHER STEINACKER PRESENTED WITH ST. GEORGE AWARD



PROVIDED BY THERESA DIRIG

Father Tony Steinacker, center, parochial vicar of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Fort Wayne, was presented with the St. George Award, which recognizes an individual who works unceasingly to lead Scouts to a better relationship with God. Father Steinacker attends the annual Catholic Camporee and celebrates Mass for the Scouts at Boy Scouts summer camp during the week.

Vulnerability and its place in relationships

Edith Stein conference explores personal and gender failures, gives blueprint for success

BY JODI MAGALLANES

NOTRE DAME — Presenters delved deeply into human strength and weakness as they pertain to a person's self view, and to how we view others, during the 2012 Edith Stein conference at the University of Notre Dame Feb. 10-11.

The theme of this year's conference, which is put on by the student club Identity Project of Notre Dame, was, "Encountering Vulnerability: Courage, Hope and Trust in the 21st Century." According to co-chairman Rebecca Roden, the theme was an application of a C.S. Lewis quote: "To love at all is to be vulnerable." Roden said organizers hoped the theme would take the conference back to its roots.

"It relates to romantic relationships, it relates to friend relationships and issues that affect women. Who to love, dating violence — a lot of those topics fall under the theme," she said.

Keynote speaker Sarah Borden Sharkey, associate professor of philosophy at Wheaton College, opened a discussion about vulnerability and loss by focusing on how Stein dealt with failure in her life. Stein thought that the distinctively human trait of vulnerability is inti-

mately tied to our human calling in the world, Sharkey asserted.

Edith Stein was a Jew born into a powerful but peaceful German state in 1891. Highly educated in philosophy, she was discriminated against in academic circles on the basis of her gender. Stein took action against the systems of injustice, Borden Sharkey noted, but not against the individuals participating in those systems.

During a series of additional disappointing career developments, Stein converted to Catholicism and acquired a love of monastic life that led her to become a cloistered nun. As a nun, she was given the opportunity to finally display her profound academic skills. But the Nazis refused to allow her opus on the study of Thomas and Husserl to be printed, and she was killed at Auschwitz concentration camp in 1942. She was canonized in 1998 and is known as St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross.

Margaret Kennedy, co-chairperson of the conference, estimated that 200 attended. Both men and women absorbed presentations by and asked questions of a distinguished lineup of speakers that included Holy Cross Father Wilson Miscamble, Pamela Fitzpatrick of the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, author Erica Bachiochi and others.

One of the well-attended sessions was led by Amelia Ruggaber, a University of Notre Dame alumnus whose presentation used Girard, pop superstar Lady Gaga and Ghandi as examples of the pain humans live with and the solutions for transform-



KEVIN HAGGENJOS

John Van Epp, above, and other presenters delved deeply into human strength and weakness as they pertain to a person's self view, and to how we view others, during the 2012 Edith Stein conference at the University of Notre Dame Feb. 10-11.

ing personal vulnerability into a healthy way of perceiving one's self and others.

Dysfunctional relationships are based on fear and the desire for power, Ruggaber said. Cultural misrepresentations of how men and women should regard and treat each other lead both genders to primarily express themselves physically and to regard dominance of the other as the goal. That thinking naturally leads to sexual violence.

Worst of all, the temptation to do

so is very subtle.

"Sexual violence isn't the disease, but the symptom of a problem" that has its roots in the devil's temptation, she said.

John Van Epp, the author of "How to Avoid Falling in Love with a Jerk," also drew a large audience to an explanation of how both men and women become involved in relationships that fall apart. Epp utilized a large visual aid of five thermometer-style scales. Each represented a key bond that occurs,

or should occur, in any relationship: knowledge of the other, trust, reliance, commitment and touch, including sexual relations. A "jerk," for the purpose of discussion, is anyone who demonstrates a pattern of bad behavior.

The problem, he explained, is that in a healthy relationship all five progress at the same level. But, for example, a couple who knows a lot about each other — including enough to not trust him or her, say — is in a relationship that is likely to fail or be fraught with problems. He gave another example of a child who had overwhelming trust in his mother. That trust that was betrayed, and the child's perceptions had to be brought into line with his knowledge of her in order to lower his vulnerability as an adult.

"It is within the framework of secure and safe relationships ... that we grow in character and maturity and find ultimate fulfillment," Epp said. Vulnerability is minimized when the (five) dynamic bonds are in balance.

In Philippians 1:9, he noted, Paul says, "May your love abound more and more in real knowledge and discernment," not just "may your love abound."

"That means you don't have to have a lobotomy to love like Christ. That makes us vulnerable," Epps concluded.

HOLY FAMILY CELEBRATES 100 DAYS OF SCHOOL



PROVIDED BY HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL

Students of Holy Family School in South Bend celebrated the 100th day of school during Catholic Schools Week with a visit by Alice Duffy, who recently celebrated her 100th birthday. She shared stories of the past and participated in a question-answer period. The students and staff participated in a school-wide paper prayer chain that hung in the gym and a diaper collection for the Women's Care Center.



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What a 'treasure' the elderly are to the Church

Bishop Rhoades visits Sanctuary at St. Paul's

BY ANN CAREY

SOUTH BEND — Over 100 residents of Sanctuary at St. Paul's senior living community gathered in their chapel for Mass with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades on Feb. 1 and then visited with him at a reception afterwards.

Before Mass, Bishop Rhoades explained to the residents that his visit was part of his two-year effort to visit the parishes, schools and retirement communities in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

In his homily, the bishop talked about the Gospels for the week that told the stories of the faith of many of the people who encountered Jesus, like the woman with the hemorrhage who had faith that touching the garment of Jesus would cure her. But in the Feb. 1 Gospel for that day, the people of Nazareth refused to listen to Jesus because

is preparing a place for us in his Father's house."

Bishop Rhoades also reminded the residents about what a "treasure" the elderly are to the Church.

"You are such an important part of the Church, especially for your prayers. I count on your prayers for the Church, for me, for all of our priests," Bishop Rhoades said, going on to thank Holy Cross Father Herb Yost, who is chaplain at St. Paul's and who concelebrated the Mass.

The residents reacted warmly to the bishop's visit and to his readiness to talk with them individually. One resident even told him at the conclusion of Mass that she had been having trouble hearing, so she

At a reception after the Mass Bishop Rhoades an opportunity to visit individually with St. Paul's residents. Here, he talks with Julius Farkas and Rita Bland.



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades visited with St. Paul's resident Mary Ellen Madigan as she left the chapel after Mass. She is assisted by Sherry Jorczak, a St. Paul's staff member.

PHOTOS BY ANN CAREY



A reception after the Mass gave Bishop Rhoades an opportunity to visit individually with the St. Paul's residents. Here, he talks with Frank and Mary Kay Eder.

they lacked faith.

Bishop Rhoades noted that the seniors attending Mass obviously have faith and believe in the word and teaching of Jesus, who came to save us from sin and give us eternal life.

"We know that Jesus Himself is our Savior who is always with us," he said. "He is especially with us in times of sorrow and suffering."

Everyone has a cross to carry as part of our journey on earth, Bishop Rhoades noted, citing some of the difficulties of aging such as sickness, illness or loneliness.

"What gives us the strength to continue on? It is our faith. Our faith in Jesus is always with us. He is by our side. His love is greater than we can even imagine," he said.

"This is what gives meaning to our life," he continued. "This is what gives us hope for the future. The Lord is always with us and

had been praying that she would be able to hear the bishop at Mass, and indeed she was able to hear everything he said.

Adelaide Gramps, who resides in an independent living apartment at St. Paul's, told *Today's Catholic* that the residents have been looking forward to the bishop's visit for several weeks, and their expectations were more than fulfilled. She said that it was her first time to see Bishop Rhoades, which was true for most of the residents.

"People were very impressed with him," Gramps said.

Gramps said she also was impressed that the bishop distributed Communion to every one of the considerable number of residents who were in wheelchairs and could not walk to the front of the chapel to receive. Likewise, Gramps said the people were very grateful that Bishop Rhoades took the time to

move about the reception room to speak to the residents at each table.

According to Father Yost, about half of the approximately 400 residents in the retirement community are Catholic, so he was not surprised at the big turnout. The Sanctuary at St. Paul's has a wide range of living options, including independent living, assisted living, memory care, nursing care and rehabilitation services. Thus, not all the Catholics in residence were able to attend the Mass.

Father Yost has celebrated daily Mass for the residents since he moved to St. Paul's last summer. He told *Today's Catholic* that previously he and other Holy Cross priests celebrate Mass at St. Paul's at least once a week, but he "grew to love the place," so he decided to move in, and now is chaplain in residence, as several other Holy Cross priests have been in the past.

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RETIREMENT? WHO SAID RETIRE ...

Bugert's retirement 'far 'n away' from boring

BY VINCE LABARBERA

OSSIAN — "I'm a volunteer kind of guy and not one of those people who sits in an aluminum chair in the driveway watching the cars go by. I'll be darned if I'm gonna get bored," quipped Jim Bugert.

In retirement he lives by a quote from RoseAnn McCarthy, a high-school classmate: "We should approach this period of our lives with no regrets and the prospect of new discoveries and hidden talents."

In fact, with no background in music, Bugert recently taught himself to play the harmonica. He practices with local blues bands and weekly joins them in performance.

In April, he and another high-school classmate, who with Bugert turns 66 this year, will travel Route 66 from Chicago to the western edge of Santa Monica Pier.

"Following a 'bon voyage' party in Chicago, we'll drive 100 miles a day," Bugert said, "visiting friends and classmates along the way."

A graduate of Central Catholic High School, Fort Wayne, Bugert then earned an engineering degree from Purdue University. He and his wife, Kathy, reside in Ossian and belong to St. Therese Parish, Fort Wayne. They are the parents of four children, have seven grandchildren and will observe their 40th wedding anniversary on June 17. They do some traveling, visiting big cities to enjoy the architecture, Bugert said. Two of their children and five grandchildren live in Denver and Houston.

Bugert began planning for retirement long before he left International Harvester in Fort Wayne on Aug. 4, 2005, at age 60 following a 40-year engineering career. He already volunteered at the Red Cross, Big Brothers-Big Sisters and with C.A.S.A. (Court Appointed Special Advocates).

He spent a week in Haiti in 2004 with about 24 volunteers from The Chapel, whom he met while spelunking in southern Indiana with an adventure group from Fort Wayne.

When you're cave exploring, Bugert related, you carry almost nothing with you. "But here's this guy who pulls out a four-pound Bible and a candle to read Scripture and lead us in prayer. I inquired where he was from and was told about their trips to Haiti. I asked could a Catholic kid join you? I was 60 and they were 30," Bugert said.

In ministering to the Haitian people — sharing the Christian faith — a volunteer can develop

a deep connection with the country and its people, resulting in a desire to continue serving, Bugert explained.

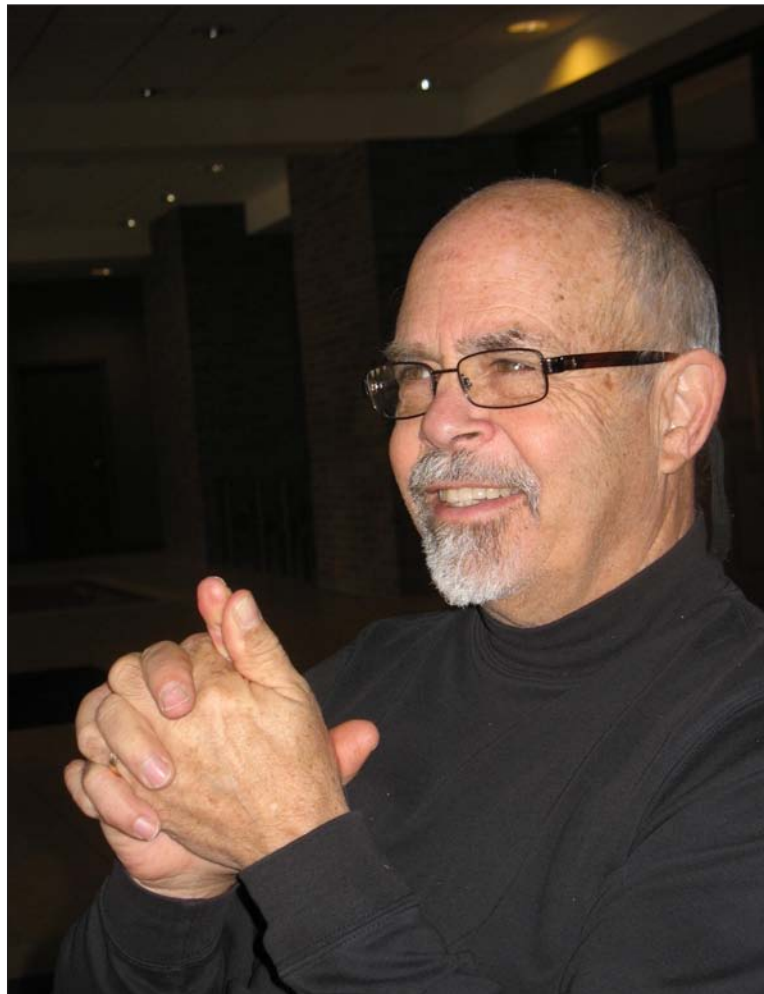
"I vowed I was not going to fall in love with anybody," he said.

But then he met Sadrac Innocent, a bright, high school junior or senior, serving as an interpreter with the Mission of Hope at Port-au-Prince, the capital and largest city of the Caribbean country.

The Haitians are not materially oriented, Bugert related. "If you give someone a Tootsie Roll they will break it in half and share it," he mused.

Bugert came home with the intention of paying for Sadrac's secondary schooling — about \$900 a semester. In 2006, a year after deadly Hurricane Katrina struck Haiti, displacing tens of thousands of citizens, Bugert returned to the Mission of Hope on his own for six weeks to study the schools and get to know more about Sadrac, his family and village. Sadrac was 21 and still a senior in high school.

"When the bullets start flying (from a military coup d'état) the schools shut down," Bugert



VINCE LABARBERA

Jim Bugert of Ossian has approached retirement as "this period of our lives with no regrets and the prospect of new discoveries and hidden talents."

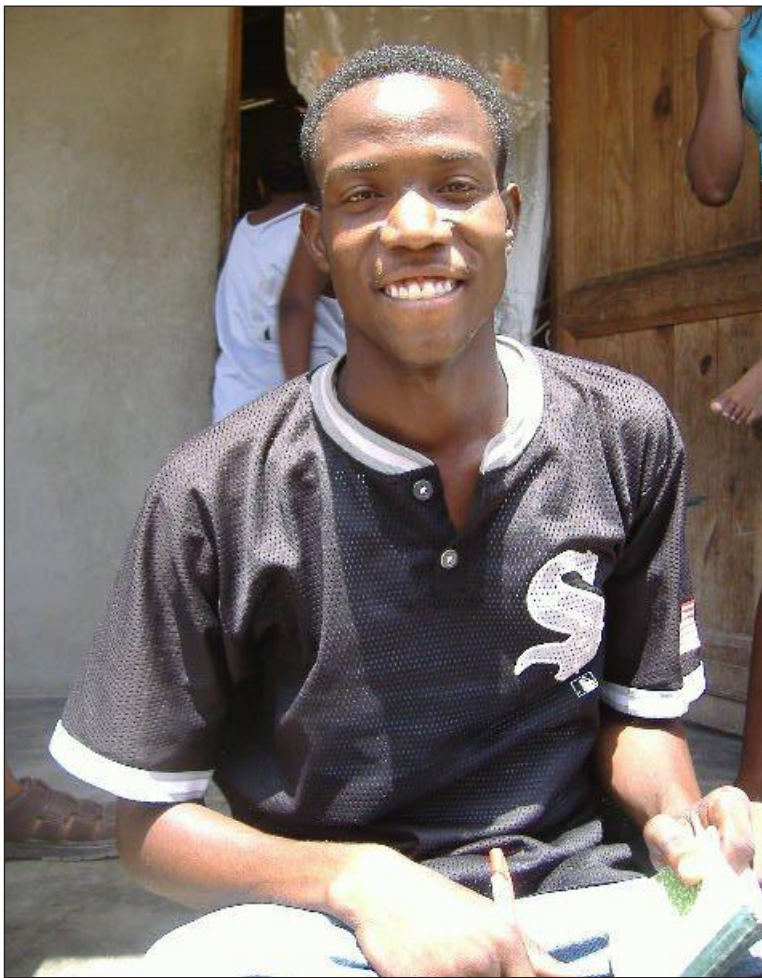
put a kid through college (in Haiti)," Bugert said proudly.

Sadrac began his college courses near Port-au-Prince, majoring in business administration. On Jan. 12, 2010, his hand was on the doorknob of the classroom building when the area was struck by a catastrophic earthquake, damaging or destroying large numbers of structures, including the building he was about to enter. Nearly all of the professors and students in the building were killed, Bugert said. The earthquake destroyed almost the entire city of Port-au-Prince, leaving nearly 100 percent of the city's population homeless.

To complete college, last year Sadrac moved and transferred across the border to a university at Puerto Plata in the Dominican Republic, where they only speak Spanish, Bugert said. Even though he spoke three languages — Creole, English and French — Sadrac didn't know Spanish. Also, his race was considered "the scum of the earth," said Bugert. Sadrac changed his major to tourism and travel.

Last year the Bugerts traveled to Ontario, Canada, to visit Sadrac and his fiancée Leeann. The couple met in Haiti when she worked there in 2011. They'll marry in Haiti next April and in May return to her home in Ontario for a reception where Bugert will serve as "papi-Sadrac," the "father of the groom," since Sadrac's father is deceased.

Reflecting on the Haitian experience, Bugert said he has come to realize how important and rewarding people are. "The material things simply make the 'world go round' so we can help others who are lacking in the material things."



PROVIDED BY JIM BUGERT

Thanks to the financial support of Jim Bugert, Sadrac Innocent has been able to continue his schooling despite many severe hardships in Haiti including Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and a devastating earthquake in 2010. In his senior year in college in the Dominican Republic, he's earning mostly A's and B's in a Spanish-speaking country where the Haitian race is hated by many.

explained. The students may miss a semester or two before schools open again.

During his visit, Bugert decided to volunteer on a medical team, even though he had no real experience. Following some training, he learned to take temperature, pulse and breathing rates, meeting 950 Haitians who were sick.

"In Haiti, a family consists of grandparents, parents, children and a pig or goat," Bugert reported. "But if the baby and the pig both get sick, guess who gets the medicine?" he asked. "That pig is supporting the whole family!"

Again, upon returning home, Bugert vowed to put Sadrac through college. To meet the expense, he began working part-time at a hardware store in Bluffton, then at an Ossian grocery and finally at Fox Island County Park Nature Center, Fort Wayne, in maintenance for more than four years.

"You know, working two-to-three days a week for a minimum wage of \$8.32 an hour you can

"In Haiti, a family consists of grandparents, parents, children and a pig or goat. But if the baby and the pig both get sick, guess who gets the medicine?"

I'M JUST GETTING STARTED

Heidenreich retiring as organist — for the second time!

BY VINCE LABARBERA

FORT WAYNE — When Bob Heidenreich “retires” on Feb. 26 as organist at St. Peter Parish for the second time, he’s just calling it “a semi-retirement.”

That’s because when he initially retired on Nov. 23, 1997, the parish still needed his help, Heidenreich explained. And that’s going to be the case now as he continues to play for Masses a couple weekends a month and for funerals at St. Peter, and maybe at nearby St. Patrick Parish on occasion.

Parishioners attending Mass and other liturgies at the majestic St. Peter Church at 518 E. DeWald St., Fort Wayne, have heard and enjoyed his music one day short of 50 years.

“I started playing at St. Peter’s on Tuesday, Feb. 27, 1962,” Heidenreich said, “when Msgr. John Bapst was pastor. He told me if you want the job you had better come and get it!”

Actually, Heidenreich has been playing a church organ somewhere in his hometown of Fort Wayne for 57 years, beginning with weekday Masses at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in 1955 and then transferring his musical talent to Most Precious Blood Parish. He began taking piano and organ lessons at age 16 from Louis Peil, organist at St. Jude Parish at the time and the father of Father William Peil, retired from the Gary Diocese and residing in this diocese, and Father Daniel Peil, deceased, of this diocese. At about 18, Heidenreich began studying and playing organ under Neil Thompson, former organist at St. Patrick Parish.

“In the early 1960s, St. Peter’s had three priests,” Heidenreich said. “There were three Masses every day and at least three or maybe four Masses on Sundays.” In addition, he played for a Holy Hour twice a week and, of course, for weddings and funerals.

Heidenreich’s inspiration to play the organ in church goes back to the third and fourth grade at the former St. Hyacinth School and Parish on Holton Avenue — now the site of Vincent Village, Inc. — where he observed Sister Cecil Marie, a School Sister of Notre Dame, playing the organ for Mass.

“She’s still living and driving a car,” Heidenreich exclaimed. “When I visit her by train at her community in Elmgrove, Wis., she picks me up at the station!”

As a youngster, Heidenreich served Mass but could not sing in the children’s choir at St. Hyacinth’s because it was only for girls. Ironically, when he began playing the organ at St. Peter he had to depend on the children’s choir for Forty Hours devotion, weddings and funerals because there was no adult choir. In fact, part of his job responsibilities included teaching the boys and girls in fifth to eighth grade to sing, something he enjoyed immensely, he said, until the school closed in 1972.

And speaking of weddings, Heidenreich has played for 635 of them. He’s kept the couples’ names and occasionally runs into someone he played for — recently this month, in fact, at the cathedral’s St. Mother Theodore Guérin Chapel where he’s played for the noon Mass on Fridays and Saturdays since organist Bob Ort died a few years ago.



VINCE LABARBERA

For 50 years, Organist Bob Heidenreich has “stayed in shape” climbing the 38 circular stairs to the choir loft at St. Peter Church, Fort Wayne. His cherished instrument all those years is a 1958 Aeolian-Skinner Opus 1337 pipe organ. Currently, work is underway on the organ and includes refurbishing and restoring several key components the parish hopes to have completed for the beginning of Holy Week and Easter in early April.

From 1990 to 2004 Heidenreich also played the organ for Latin Masses at Sacred Heart Parish. Before Vatican II in the mid-1960s, his organ experience, of course, was only for Masses in Latin. When he was asked how he feels about the recent changes in the Church’s music and liturgy earlier this year he said, “I love the new changes!”

Heidenreich has a small the-

ater organ at home so he won’t have to give up playing altogether. He’s one of those rare musicians who can both play by ear and read music. He also enjoys traveling when he can and says he’s visited nearly all of eastern and western Europe as well as the Holy Land.

Heidenreich will receive a special blessing at the 9:15 a.m. Mass on Sunday, Feb. 26, at St.

Peter. Following the Mass, cake and coffee will be served in nearby Dow Pavilion.

“I have enjoyed these many years playing for the Church,” said Heidenreich. “St. Peter’s is a great parish and I’ve been very blessed to have played here for 50 years. I hope to continue as long as I can — it’s a big part of my life!”

Long-time church secretary retires

BY DENISE FEDOROW

GOSHEN — For 15 years, visitors to the office of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Goshen were greeted warmly with a friendly smile by former church secretary Veronica Gouker. And visitors or callers would soon find out what a wealth of information she was as she swiftly and efficiently handled requests.

Gouker retired at the end of the year and a special retirement reception and open house was recently held in the Deacon Art Bleau Parish Center to honor her.

St. John’s pastor, Father Christopher Smith, spoke warmly of his former secretary. “She’s been indispensable to the parish for 15 years. Obviously we wish her well on her retirement,” he

said. “But she has been the heart and soul around here and she will be greatly missed.”

Gouker recently returned from a cruise with her husband and said her plans for retirement include enjoying time with her grandchildren and traveling with her husband Don. She has a project in mind to keep her busy, too.

“One big project I want to do is write the church history from 1990 to present,” she said. Apparently there is an early church history, but it ends at 1990.

One accomplishment that Gouker is most proud of during her tenure as church secretary is bringing the Hispanic Ministry to St. John. “I was fortunate to be on the committee to find someone to come to St. John’s. We found Deacon Ricardo (who has since



DENISE FEDOROW

Former St. John the Evangelist, Goshen, secretary Veronica Gouker was honored at a reception recently celebrating her retirement at the end of 2011. Pictured from left are Gouker’s husband, Don, Gouker and St. John the Evangelist pastor, Father Christopher Smith.

moved to Texas) and that was the beginning of our Hispanic Ministry,” she said.

Gouker said that occurred approximately 14 years ago, and St. John now has about 500-600 Hispanic families and a Hispanic priest to serve them along with Father Smith.

“That was, to me, one of the most fulfilling,” she said.

Gouker may have retired from her nine to five duties in the office but she still plans to serve her parish in a number of ways. Along with the ministries she and her husband already serve, she recently volunteered to become a greeter, and said, “I’ll help at the parish any way I can and I’ll still help Father Smith out. I’ll still have him to dinner, and plan to do a lot of cooking and baking.”

Pawnshop saw creates lasting business

BY MARK WEBER

FORT WAYNE — Panama hats, starter jackets, checkered slacks for men, and dresses, blouses and women's hats and slacks are found on the first floor of the St. Vincent de Paul thrift store in Fort Wayne. The clickety-clack of trains on track is heard, while book browsing occurs on the second floor.

What is not heard here is the roar of power saws and other woodworking equipment nearby in a separate building where volunteers turn finish lumber into new beds, dressers and bookshelves at affordable prices, or no price at all, depending on circumstances of those involved.

Eleven years ago, with no space and no money, the decision was made to build dressers at the thrift store at 1600 S. Calhoun St.

In a separate warehouse, space was partitioned off and a cast off pawnshop saw was installed and production on dressers began. Eventually, more equipment and tools were added, and beds, bunk beds and book

shelves were added to the line of furniture made by volunteers on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays each week.

Out of 450 St. Vincent de Paul thrift stores in the U.S., only two produce furniture; one is in Eugene, Ore, the first to do so, and the Fort Wayne store, founded 60 years ago as Fort Wayne's first thrift store.

The demand is there. Dressers and bunk beds move out at the average of one a week.

The bunk beds, which are stacked twins, sell for \$95, or \$235 with new mattresses. Four drawer dressers are \$75, and four drawer bookshelves are \$45.

While some customers have the cash, every day there are others who have nothing. When this is the case, an inquiry is made as to where the family lives, and if they belong to a parish, or are close to one.

Regardless of religious affiliation, the person in need is asked to call the nearest parish to request assistance. Then one or two members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society visit the individual or family, and if the need is justified, provides a referral slip, which the client takes to the St. Vincent de Paul store to receive new bunk beds or a dresser or bookshelves. This also applies to the store's supply of used furniture and used refrigerators, stoves, washers, dryers and clothing.

No deserving individual is ever refused; and other needs are not overlooked. If the society's



MARK WEBER

Volunteer woodworkers who work Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at Fort Wayne's St. Vincent de Paul cabinet shop producing dressers, bunk beds and bookshelves for the St. Vincent thrift store are, from left, William Mahocker, Jim Zehner, Pat Doyle and Cletus Rumschlag.

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representatives observe that a refrigerator holds only milk and peanut butter, they return promptly with several bags of groceries and provide advice on nearby food banks or how to obtain food stamps.

At the end of the month, the St. Vincent de Paul Conference of the assisting parish is billed, and the St. Vincent de Paul store is reimbursed for its charges.

Steve App, of St. Jude Parish, Fort Wayne, is the store manager. Twenty-three years on the job have sharpened his powers of judgment, which must be balanced between shrewdness and gentle consideration, and when it comes to a toss-up, Steve App applies the 'hole in the shoe' rule; "if a guy has a hole in his sneaker" says Steve, "he needs help."

Help is there. Some who call have no beds at all and are in distress because of a broken home, unemployment, or have just landed in town looking for better days. Last year help was in the form of \$30,000 of free family clothing from infants to adults. Help also comes as a paycheck for some of the store's workers. Working with the office of the Township Trustee, deserving individuals find temporary employment at the St. Vincent de Paul store. Others, including high school students working on Saturdays, fulfill community service obligations at the store.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society was formed in Paris in 1833 by seven Catholic University activists who sought to put into practice the words of Christ to help His children in need. Today, the work is carried on in 132 countries worldwide.

The society was established in the United States in 1845 in St. Louis, which is still national headquarters for a membership of 172,000 in 4,600 communities. Dedicated to the protection of the privacy and dignity of those they serve, the society's programs

include home visits, housing assistance, disaster relief, food pantries, clothing, transportation, and utility costs, care for the elderly and medicine.

In the society's system, each parish unit is known as a conference, and each conference has membership in a district. Fort Wayne's district has 21 conferences, which includes about 250 active members, plus some who are inactive.

Donna Brooke, of St. Patrick Parish, Fort Wayne, found her way, in 1996, into the St. Vincent de Paul Society when she volunteered to sort clothing and do odds and ends in an independent goodwill endeavor founded by altruist Dottie Carpenter. Dottie's charity was known simply as St. Patrick's Closet and operated out of the former St. Patrick School building providing used clothing, used furniture, and new mattresses with a big Christmas giveaway for kids.

Brooke's interest in this kind of assistance to those in need grew to the point when in 2000 she reestablished the latent St. Vincent de Paul conference of St. Patrick's and through home visits, assumed responsibility for providing used furniture and other needs through the St. Vincent de Paul thrift store.

Brooke has served as conference treasurer and secretary and is currently president of St. Patrick-St. John the Baptist merged conference. She has served as district president and is currently district secretary.

After years of face-to-face experience with "real people" who are facing real trouble, "The poor you will always have with you" could be her mantra, but it is not one of discouragement; instead, it is one of discovery. Discovery of the gratitude and recovered hope of those who are served ... and the inspiration found in what is accomplished by those who serve.

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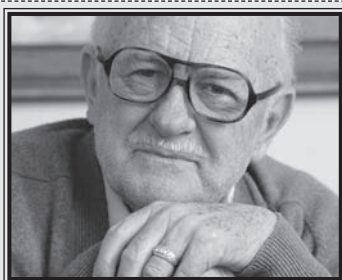
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Our spiritual journey to the empty tomb

Prayer

Now that the penitential season of Lent has begun I find myself overjoyed (yes, that's right, overjoyed) with the prospect of yet another opportunity to deepen my prayer life and increase my service to God and His people. Lent is, by far, my favorite season of the Church's liturgical calendar, which may seem a bit self-abasing with its penitential tone and austere traditions. But it's a special time of year when the Church invites us to slow down and really make time to reflect on our faith lives and work toward a change of heart that will lead us closer to God.

When I was a little girl, my perception of Lent was not quite as rich, what with the notion of praying and abstaining from or "giving up" something of value to me. Though the significance of developing my

self-discipline was not lost on me, even as a child, what has increased in me as I have grown into adulthood is the awareness of where these practices lead me — straight into the arms of Jesus.

Just as I developed my aplomb in the physical realm as a maturing adult, I had the good fortune to learn confidence in my faith life as well. So as I settle into the practice of Lent this year I am drawn into the tradition of season.

Beginning with the solemn service of Ash Wednesday when we symbolically face our own mortality by receiving an ashen cross upon our foreheads, Lent promises a time of reflection and renewal. What more can we ask for in our search for the joy of Eastertide?

As these 40 days stretch out before us the Church faithful unite in preparation for the celebration of our Lord's Resurrection on Easter

OUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

KAY COZAD

Sunday. But the journey takes a solitary turn here and there where each must find the personal practice that will lead to the goal — a deeper relationship with Christ.

Interestingly, the number 40 (as in 40 days of Lent) has been associated with several events found in the Bible. However, the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness recorded in Matthew 4:1 — those 40 days preceding the undertaking of His ministry in

JOURNEY, PAGE 15

Concentrate on God during Lent



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

1st Sunday in Lent Mk 1:12-15

The Book of Genesis provides the first biblical reading for this first Sunday of Lent.

The first rule to remember in reading Genesis is that it is a religious book, and it was designed to be a religious book. It is to teach us about God.

This weekend's story is familiar. It is about the great flood, and about Noah. Not read in this reading, but essential to understanding this passage and indeed the entire narrative, is the fact that sin and human wickedness drastically disordered creation. Sin brought death, from a force as powerful as a flood.

God, however, did not leave the people, or creation itself, hopelessly doomed in the face of this flood. God instructed Noah, telling Noah how to survive by taking his own family into a specially constructed vessel, and also to take partners of all living creatures. These partners were to be male and female, so that they could reproduce.

(An important message here is that in all these processes of reproduction, parenting figures are instruments of God's might creative power.)

Noah obeys. The world lives. The second reading is from the First Epistle of Peter. The Church always has highly venerated

this Epistle, and its companion, as somehow expressing the teaching of Peter, the chief of the Apostles.

The reading this weekend is rich in its message and in its symbolism. First, it proclaims Christ as Savior. He died to reconcile humankind with God. He died in the wake of human sin. Just as God saved creation and humanity through Noah, God saves humanity through Jesus.

Then, the reading compares the flood to baptism. All aboard the ark, humans and animals, kept their lives. Through them, earthly life endured.

The genuinely holy endure the waters of Baptism. Indeed, in Baptism, they attain everlasting life. The Church will refer to this symbolic link between Noah and Christ, between flood and Baptism, during its splendid Holy Saturday Easter Vigil liturgy.

St. Mark's Gospel is the source of the third reading. It is brief, but its message is stark and direct. John has been arrested. The last of the great prophets preceding Jesus has been silenced.

All was not lost, however. Jesus went into the desert, presumably the Judean desert located between Jerusalem and the Jordan River, to pray for a long period of time. Then, Jesus emerged from this solitude and went to Galilee to call people to repentance and to belief in the Gospel. Redemption had come!

Reflection

The readings offer us a contrast, death or life. Baptism is essential to this story of contrast.

Across the country, many people at this time are in the final stages of preparation for Baptism. At the Easter Vigil, they will be baptized, becoming members of the Church. In this union with

the Church will be their union with Jesus, the Son of God, the Messiah so eloquently described in First Peter.

Also very much included are believers already baptized. At the Vigil, they will repeat original baptismal promises. They will renew the pledges spoken perhaps long ago.

The Church calls us all to the waters of Baptism, there not to die, but rather to rise from them to true life.

This weekend, the Church begins Lent in earnest. Lent prepares us for Holy Saturday.

If we authentically restate our baptismal promises, we must forsake everything and humbly turn to God. We must concentrate on God, as Jesus turned to God and God alone in the desert.

All sinners, we must repent. Among the contemporaries of Jesus, repentance had a very demanding meaning. This meaning summons us. It is the absolute and total change of mind, heart and soul, so that we offer everything in our very being to God. Nothing less is sufficient.

READINGS

Sunday: Gn 9:8-15 Ps 25:4-9 1 Pt 3:18-22 Mk 1:12-15

Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18 Ps 19:8-10, 15 Mt 25:31-46

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

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

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

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

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

Lent: A retreat opportunity

Over the years I have heard people say that they wish they had the time to make a retreat or find a way to deepen their spirituality. Many yearn to get closer to God. Lent provides this.

Every year our Church gives us 40 days to reflect on our spiritual lives and to examine and deepen our relationships with God. Like a retreat, Lent can provide us with an opportunity to slow down and take stock of how well we are living our baptismal commitment as disciples of Christ.

The Church suggests that we focus on the traditional Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving to renew our spiritual lives.

I have found that a good way to examine our prayer is to look at how much quality time we give to developing our friendship with the Lord. Maybe our prayer life is limited to Mass on Sunday and a rote prayer before meals, when we remember. Perhaps we pray mostly when we want or need a favor from God. Let this Lent be different.

No relationship can deepen and grow unless we are willing to listen and share ourselves with the other person. God is no exception. During Lent, if you don't already, set aside at least 15-20 minutes each day to be with God. Go to a quiet place, slow down and remember that God loves you. Read and reflect upon some Scripture each day and get to know the Lord better. Some find it helpful to use the Mass readings for each day. In fact, it would be good to try to go to Mass more than just on Sunday. Add another day.

The second discipline is fasting. For many of us, the first thing we think about when it comes to fasting is to give up some kind of food, like candy or ice cream. Abstaining from food is definitely a way to fast, but there are other, and sometimes more meaningful, ways. It could be more beneficial to fast from gossip or negative words about others or to leave conversations that engage in negativity or in tearing down someone's reputation. Another suggestion is to try to talk less and become a better listener, both to God and to people who could use



THE CUTTING EDGE

SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

some attention. It can be a real discipline to stop and focus on the other person, to really listen to what he or she says instead of waiting to jump in with what you want to say. We should choose the type of fasting that would best benefit our spiritual lives.

The other traditional Lenten discipline is to give alms. When I was in elementary school we were given mite boxes to save money for a good cause. That is an important part of it, but it is often easier to give our loose change to the poor than to share the precious gifts of our time and talents to those who need them. Lent calls us to give of ourselves, not just our financial and material resources. During Lent we might choose a particular person or cause that could use some of our time. In what ways can we get out of ourselves and think of others?

Besides our time, another thing we may be called to give during Lent is forgiveness. Who are the people in our lives — whether living or dead — that we need to forgive? Or from whom do we need to ask forgiveness? It is not easy to be reconciled with someone we hurt or who hurt us, but it can bring a lot of peace to our hearts.

Hopefully we will take advantage of this annual opportunity to deepen our life of faith. Classes, papers, jobs, committees, projects, spring breaks, etc., will pass away, but our relationship with God is forever. Let us get to know and serve God better during these days as we prepare for Easter. Don't let this be just another 40 days of the year. Make each day count.

Sister Margie Lavonis, CSC, works for the Sisters of the Holy Cross communications department.

SAINT OF THE WEEK



Blessed Francisco and Blessed Jacinta Marto

20th century
February 20

Two of the three Fatima visionaries, this sister and brother were beatified in 2000. With their cousin, Lucia dos Santos, they had monthly visions of Mary at Fatima, Portugal, from May to October 1917. Mary asked the shepherd children to promote devotion to her Immaculate Heart and pray the rosary daily. Both Martos died of influenza, Francisco at age 10 in 1919, and Jacinta at age 9 in 1920. Their cousin, who became a Carmelite nun, died in 2005 at age 97. Fatima is among the world's great Marian shrines and pilgrimage sites.

Nickels, dimes and family size

A few years ago, I spoke with a young man preparing to get married. His aunt told him that she thought he and his fiancée were too financially-strapped to have a child, and that it wouldn't be fair to bring up a baby in poverty. Keenly aware of his joblessness and his minuscule bank account, he concluded she was probably right.

The young man and his fiancée were ready to tie the knot in a few months and they expected that she would be at the infertile phase of her cycle around the time of their honeymoon, so they would be able to consummate the marriage while avoiding bringing a child into the world. They agreed they would use Natural Family Planning (NFP) after that to avoid a pregnancy. A few years later when they felt financially secure, he told me, they would have their first child. He admitted, however, that he was conflicted about whether they were really being "open to life" in their marriage if they were going into it with this kind of forethought and intention of avoiding children.

In marriage, it can certainly be challenging to harmonize spousal love with the responsible transmission of life. Janet Smith and Christopher Kaczor, in an illuminating passage from one of their recent books, acknowledge this challenge and point to the need for a "spirit of generosity" when it comes to procreation:

"Pope John Paul II spoke of 'responsible parenthood,' in which a couple uses practical wisdom, prayer and a spirit of generosity in determining how many children they should have. Some Catholics believe that the Church permits the use of NFP only for reasons that verge on the truly desperate, such as a situation where a pregnancy would threaten a woman's life or a family is living in dire poverty. Magisterial documents, however, state that spouses may

have physical, psychological, economic or social reasons for needing to limit family size, using several different adjectives to describe those reasons: One can have 'just' reasons, 'worthy' reasons, 'defensible' reasons, 'serious' reasons and 'weighty' reasons. In short, the Magisterium teaches that spouses must have unselfish reasons for using NFP and limiting their family size."

At times, then, our justifications for avoiding a pregnancy may merit further reflection and scrutiny on our part. When it comes to "poverty," for example, would our poverty, in the true sense of the word, mean that the child would be malnourished and without warm clothing, or would it simply mean that he or she would forego some of the latest hi-tech gadgets that other children in the neighborhood might be enjoying?

I recall what a father of seven children on a tight budget once told me in a conversation: "Honestly, there's always room around the table for one more, and with 'hand me down' clothing we always manage. And my goodness, isn't it a momentous thing to receive that trust of preparing another soul for an eternal destiny with God?" His wife pointed out how the older children ended up helping with raising the younger ones, lessening the burdens on mom and dad, and turning it into a "team effort."

The ancient Christian teaching on the two-fold purpose of marriage, namely, the "procreation and education of children," and the "mutual help and sanctification of the spouses," accurately summarizes the inner order of marriage. As the future John Paul II wrote in his great 1960 book "Love and Responsibility," radical personal openness to both of these purposes is essential to the success and meaning of any marriage. We should never enter into marriage with active opposi-



FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK

MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

tion to the very ends for which it exists. If a couple is preparing to embark upon marriage with the immediate intention of avoiding offspring (even if they are using morally acceptable means such as NFP), they perhaps ought to consider delaying the exchange of their vows until they have resolved the various impediments, whether financial, career-related, or personal, that are leading them to be closed to the idea of having children.

I recall hearing about another family that had six children. They didn't have two nickels to rub together. After the father came down with mental illness, the mother had to support the family single-handedly. A clear-thinking woman with an unflinching faith, now elderly and reflecting on her past, she memorably remarked to her neighbor: "I've never seen the Lord send a child without also sending a lunch pail." God, who is the very source of the immortal souls of our children, is a provident God who invites us to examine the heart of our marriages. He invites us to entrust ourselves to Him, so that we might be courageous and authentically open to the gift of life He sends us in the midst of the marital embrace.

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

prayer. Then my prayers were those of innocent petition. Now after living a few years in the school of hard knocks I have learned to pray on a deeper level where God is not only my savior, but also my friend and confidante.

I try always to begin my prayer with the sign of the cross to remind myself in whose presence I enter — the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. It is a gesture that roots me in my baptism and marks me as a follower of Christ.

The joy of God's presence leads me to praise and thanksgiving and, of course, contrition. During the 40 days of Lent I recommit to daily self-examination, asking God to shine His light on the darkness of my heart. It's only when I can see my hardheartedness that I can commit to changing my thoughts and behaviors to serve Him better.

When we pray we acknowledge our natural dependence on God and I'm so grateful that there are so many deeply moving ways to pray. We pray with our bodies, with

folded hands on bended knee. We pray with our minds with praise and supplication, and with our spirits when we sit in silence to hear God's whisper in our hearts.

We can pray the traditional Catholic prayers, such as the Lord's Prayer or the recitation of the rosary. Silent prayer in Eucharistic Adoration or communal prayer at Mass or the Stations of the Cross may fill our hearts during Lent. I could go on and on. But what is most important is that we find a prayer practice that works to bring us closer to God.

I've learned that God doesn't need my prayer, though He desires it — but I do. Communication is the way to deepen any relationship. Prayer strengthens my faith connection and those disciplines that bring me closer to Him. So let's begin our Lenten prayer today by asking God to show us how He would like us to go about making this Lent a meaningful journey to Him.

JOURNEY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

which our Lord fasted and prayed — resonates most within my heart. So much symbolism speaks of my daily search for holiness.

The vast and intimidating nature of Lent lends itself to inner turmoil for many but thankfully the Catholic Church has traditionally upheld three pillars of Lent to assist us with our pursuit. We are to look to prayer, fasting and almsgiving, to guide us on our journey to God. Each pillar, I have learned, provides a wealth of symbolic and material instruction on making a meaningful Lent.

Take prayer for instance. As a Catholic how can we draw nearer to God as we live out our lives in this somewhat confusing secular world? As a child I learned to "stay in touch" with my Creator through

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for February 26, 2012

Mark 1:(9-12-15

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for First Sunday of Lent, Cycle B: the beginning of Jesus' ministry. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

JESUS	NAZARETH	GALILEE
JORDAN	COMING (UP)	OUT OF
WATER	HE SAW	TORN OPEN
DESCENDING	UPON	MY SON
PLEASED	FORTY DAYS	SATAN
WILD	ANGELS	JOHN
KINGDOM	REPENT	BELIEVE

PREPARED

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

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Simple Meal Recipes for Lent Lent: Week 2 Vegetable Spring Rolls from Vietnam

Fresh herbs and vegetables rolled in thin rice paper wrappers. The garlic and wine vinegar dipping sauce is the perfect topping for this tangy and tasty meal.



Sauce

- ¼ cup water
- 1 tsp corn starch
- 2 Tbsp rice wine vinegar
- 2 cloves garlic, minced and crushed
- 2 Tbsp sugar

Spring Rolls

- 1 cup cooked thin rice noodles
- ½ cup bean sprouts
- 1/3 head of green cabbage, chopped
- 5 green onions, chopped
- ¼ cup carrots, grated or julienned
- ¼ cup fresh herbs (cilantro, basil or mint)
- 1 package rice paper wrappers

Directions

Combine all sauce ingredients in small saucepan and simmer for 3-5 minutes, stirring until sugar dissolves and mixture begins to thicken. Cool before serving. Cook rice noodles as described on package. Lightly steam cabbage, green onions, and carrots together until slightly tender. Toss noodles, vegetables, and herbs in large bowl. Quickly submerge a rice paper wrapper in warm water and lay on a smooth surface. Place about 2 tablespoons of mix on each wrapper and fold wrapper into shape.

Makes 6 - 8 servings

Sports

Mishawaka Catholic Saints win ICCL tournament crown

BY MATT SOBIERALSKI

SOUTH BEND, MISHAWAKA — The Inter-City Catholic League's post season tournament came to a thrilling end this past weekend. It saw a rematch of the two teams that squared off in the Holiday Tournament championship only a month and a half ago. The Mishawaka Catholic Saints beat an upstart Christ the King foe to get to the championship, while the Holy Cross Crusaders knocked off the St. Joseph, South Bend, Eagles for their berth into the championship game. Not only was it a rematch from the Holiday Tournament finals, but it was also a matchup of the two division winners.

The adrenaline was pumping before the game and continued into the opening tip as neither team was able to control the pace of the game and a plethora of turnovers plagued the Saints and the Crusaders. After a few minutes both teams settled down and Holy Cross hit the boards hard as Mark Madden put in a rebound basket for the first bucket of the game.

Mishawaka Catholic's big bruiser Patrick Coulter took the boards himself as he got a rebound goal. The first quarter however, belonged to that of Saints' guard Jake Whitfield. He poured in nine first quarter points and set the tone for Mishawaka Catholic as they held onto a 13-7 lead.

The second quarter was a lot of the same for both teams. Holy Cross used Peter Wiegand's defense to shut down the inside game of Coulter. When getting the ball to Coulter became grim, the Saints called upon Anthony Blum who picked up the scoring and rebounding for the purple- and-gold clad. Connor Gentry hit a fast break lay up to cut into the Saints lead at half as Mishawaka Catholic led, 21-16.

The Holy Cross Crusaders came out from the locker room at half with no motivation as they hit the boards hard in the third quarter, and a three pointer by Gabe Brooks would cut the Saints' lead to two points. Whitfield though would not be denied as he penetrated the Crusaders' defense and would get to the free throw line to increase the Saints' advantage.

The Saints also got big minutes from Gus Horvath. With guard Joe Ravotto on the bench with foul trou-

ble, Horvath made an impressive steal at the end of the third quarter and put in a lay-up just before the buzzer sounded to give the Saints their largest lead of the night at 33-25.

Madden and the Crusaders would not back down as they would make a game of it. Madden put the team on his back and scored nine straight points for the Crusaders that culminated with a rebound put back as he was fouled. Madden would hit the free throw to cut the deficit to three points with 2:50 left in the game.

After a Brendan Chappell free throw, the Crusaders put on a heavy man-to-man backcourt press that turned the Saints over and led to a break away Connor Gentry lay-up that tied the game at 37. The Saints' big man Coulter had trouble all game long getting shots, but he came through when it counted as he got an open look in the paint and knocked it down giving the Saints the lead back and forced Holy Cross to call a time out with 22 seconds left.

The Crusaders came out and charged down the court and got the ball inside to Wiegand whose potential game tying shot fell off the backboard and Madden had a chance at a put back tip in that fell short as well. Holy Cross was forced to foul with eight seconds left in the game. The Crusaders fouled the Saints' unsung hero Horvath and sent him to the line to potentially put the game away for the Saints. Horvath seemed to have ice water running through his veins as he sealed the championship for the Saints by swishing both foul shots as the Saints won, 41-37.

Madden finished with a double-double for the Crusaders as he poured in 17 points and 10 rebounds. Connor Gentry also chipped in 10 for the John Bosco division champs. The triumphant Saints of Mishawaka Catholic were led by Jake Whitfield's 17 points, eight rebounds and five assists. Anthony Blum also tossed in 10 points and eight rebounds for the Saints.

In the third place game the Eagles of Saint Joseph handled the pressure put on by the Christ the King Kings as they pulled away late for a 28-19 victory.

These four teams will compete next weekend at Mishawaka Marian High School against teams from the Fort Wayne part of the diocese.

BISHOP DWENGER WRESTLING TEAM HOSTS CYO WRESTLING CAMP The Bishop Dwenger Wrestling Team will host a CYO Wrestling Camp that will run Monday through Thursday evenings for three weeks beginning March 5 and concluding with the CYO/South Bend tournament held at Bishop Dwenger on Saturday March 24. All boys in grades 1-8 are welcome to participate. Grades 1-4 camp will be held from 6-7 p.m. and grades 5-8 from 7-8:30 p.m. Registration will be \$25 on the first night, March 5, at Bishop Dwenger. Contact John Tone with questions at (260) 496-4701 or jtone2@comcast.net.

Three CYO girls' basketball teams claim championship titles

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — The Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) league girls' season will close their record books and log three new champions for 2012.

In the small school division, St. Therese came from the third-place spot and knocked off the No. 1 and No. 2 seeds to take the top honors.

The Crusaders battled hard all week to execute their game plan which required outsmarting, outplaying and out hustling their opponents. "I told each player I was asking for more than 100 percent. They played just awesome," detailed an elated Coach Linda Luegring.

In the semifinals, St. Therese got by a tough group from Huntington Catholic, which led to the championship showdown against the defending champions, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel.

The Crusaders had lost to the Squires by 17 points during the regular season match up just last month, but for the championship, St. Therese won, 27-16.

The victors list eight players on the winning roster: four eighth graders, two seventh graders and two sixth graders. Sarah Braun led all scorers with 18 points.

In the seventh-grade league, St. Joseph, Decatur, had a huge week of wins avenging one point regular season losses to both St. Charles and St. Vincent to win it all as the fourth-place seed.

"We told the girls that controlling the ball and defense would be key during the tournament and that what happened during the regular season doesn't matter in the post season," explained Coach Pam Girod.

Girod's Commodores held the Cardinals to 13 points in the semifinals winning, 14-13, then the Panthers to 17 in the 21-17 championship victory.

St. Vincent and Decatur have a long history of close games. For the third straight year, the two have met in the championship. The past two years, St. Vincent came out on top after not one, but two overtimes and squeaked by with one-point wins.

Girod truly feels a key factor for the team was when their home room teacher walked into the gym and how so many of their classmates came to support them at the game. Morgan Ellsworth led the winners with 10 points in the contest. St. Joe went to dinner for wings to celebrate and



MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

The St. Joseph, Decatur, Commodores won the seventh-grade CYO championship title. In the photo are, in the front row from left, players Morgan Ellsworth, Ryan Velez, Liza Okoniewski and Claudia Hebble; and back row, Coach Kayla Girod, Karly Girod, Head Coach Pam Girod, Megan Tracey, Madison Macklin and Coach John Macklin.



The eighth-grade St. Charles Cardinals won the CYO Gold League crown.

finished off their special afternoon together at Mass.

For the Gold League, Kurt Patterson's calm, cool and collected eighth graders from St. Charles won their fourth and final CYO championship. The Cardinals finished their careers with an impressive 26-4 overall record and went 5-0 against their "large school" foes earning them a top seed in the tournament.

"It was a fun group of kids and a great team effort. They were very relaxed," explained Patterson.

"We controlled the boards on both ends," added Patterson.

In the championship, St. Charles downed St. Jude, 41-22. Kristina Burkhardt and Rose Tippmann each had a dozen points and Alex Seigel was key in shutting down the Eagle offense.

Bishop Dwenger rifle team raises funds

FORT WAYNE — The new Bishop Dwenger Rifle Team embarked on a fundraising endeavor last December. With big dreams for the future and corporate matching monies to motivate them, team representatives began pounding the pavement and building relationships that would help the team develop in both skill and resources.

In the end, the team saw outstanding results. Partnerships were established with The Sniper Company and the Fort Wayne

Rifle and Revolver Club. These partnerships will allow for not only financial support but also for more and varying opportunities to practice and compete.

Midway USA Foundation and Larry and Brenda Potterfield, the owners of Midway USA, matched all monies that were raised. With this match, a trust was set up on behalf of the Bishop Dwenger Rifle Team. The trust balance after only a few weeks of fundraising has reached \$72,020.

Each year the team is able to use 5 percent of the trust balance to help fund the needs of the team.

Only six rifle teams — four high schools and two colleges — in the state took advantage of the generous matching program that was offered in December.

Bishop Dwenger was second in the amount of funds raised.

Midway has demonstrated their intent to provide continued support by donating a four rifle set to be raffled in March.



DANIELLE COLLINS

The Bishop Dwenger Rifle Team is shown with Coach Gregg Rice and Principal Jason Schiffler receiving a donation from Sniper Company.

'A Bluegrass Mass' offers unique experience of bluegrass and choral music

NOTRE DAME — The South Bend Chamber Singers, the Shaheen/Duggan Performing Arts Series, and the Office of Special Events at Saint Mary's College will bring "A Bluegrass Mass and More" to the stage at O'Laughlin Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 4.

Monroe Crossing, a bluegrass band from Minnesota, will join the South Bend Chamber Singers in the performance, which brings American composer Carol Barnett's "The World Beloved: A Bluegrass Mass" to South Bend for the first time. Monroe Crossing will also perform with the South Bend Chamber Children's Choir.

"A Bluegrass Mass" combines the text of a traditional Catholic Mass, contemporary choral music, poetry and bluegrass instruments into a unique musical experience.

"To bring the solemnity of the classical choir-based Mass together with the down home sparkle of bluegrass — now there's an assignment for a com-

poser," Barnett said.

Saint Mary's College music professor Nancy Menk, director of the South Bend Chamber Singers, has collaborated with Barnett in the past and "A Bluegrass Mass" appealed to her.

"A Bluegrass Mass" is an outstanding musical piece. It is tough and the rhythm is complicated," said Menk. "Monroe Crossing played the premiere of this unique Mass; it was written for them. The group knows the piece better than anyone. It was in our best interest to bring them here."

Half of "A Bluegrass Mass and More" is the Mass and the other half will be traditional bluegrass music played by Monroe Crossing. While in South Bend, Monroe Crossing will host music workshops for students of Saint Mary's College and Stanley Clark School.

Monroe Crossing is known for its mix of classic bluegrass, bluegrass gospel and heartfelt personal pieces. Critics rave about the group's airtight harmonies, razor sharp arrangements and on-

stage presence. The South Bend Chamber Singers have performed many Masses in the past, but none with bluegrass flair.

"My highest hope is that listeners coming from one tradition — classical or bluegrass — and perhaps dubious about the other might discover something new and wonderful in the combination, as I have," said Barnett.

After the performance at Saint Mary's, the performers will bring "A Bluegrass Mass" to Fort Wayne to participate in the American Choral Directors Association Central Division Conference on March 7.

Tickets for the Saint Mary's performance can be purchased at MoreauCenter.com or by calling the box office at (574) 284-4626. Ticket prices are: adults, \$16; senior citizens, \$13; Saint Mary's College, University of Notre Dame and Holy Cross College faculty and staff, \$11; and Saint Mary's College, University of Notre Dame and Holy Cross College students, \$6.

America's Top Model star bringing Catholic message to USF

FORT WAYNE — America's Next Top Model star and Catholic Answers apologist Leah Darrow will deliver "From Top Model to Role Model," her story of conversion, courage and fortitude, to Fort Wayne-area residents on March 7 at 7 p.m. in Gunderson Auditorium in Achatz Hall of Science at the University of Saint Francis.

Darrow hit the media spotlight as a contestant on the television reality show America's Next Top Model and worked as a professional model for a number of years before becoming a full-time apologist for Catholic Answers in El Cajon, Calif., one of the largest lay-run apostolates of Catholic apologetics and evangelization in the United States.

Before her TV debut and modeling career, Darrow earned a bachelor's degree in psychology

from the University of Missouri-St. Louis, where she graduated magna cum laude and presided over Psi Chi, the psychology honor society. She is pursuing a master's degree in pastoral theology at Ave Maria University in Naples, Fla.

Darrow brings her experience of the fashion world and the Catholic world to the masses through Catholic Answers. She has appeared on numerous secular and non-secular television and radio programs, and spoke on behalf of international youth at the United Nations' panel discussion in 2011. She addresses the topics of mercy, conversion, human dignity, modesty and chastity, and inspires and challenges her audiences to accept the mercy of Christ, embrace true love and welcome conversion.

During her University of Saint

Francis appearance, she will draw upon her experiences in fashion, reality TV and the moments during and after her re-conversion to emphasize the call to greatness within us all. For more information, contact Campus Ministry Director Josh Stagni at jstagni@sf.edu or (260) 399-8010.

Darrow will also deliver her message in an all-school assembly at Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne at 8:35 a.m. the same day. Parents are invited to attend. For more information, contact Communications Coordinator Danielle Collins at dcollins@bish-opdwenger.com.

The program is underwritten by a friend of Bishop Dwenger High School and the University of Saint Francis. It is free and open to the public.

Father John Riccardo



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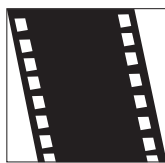
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MOVIE CAPSULES

NEW YORK (CNS) – Following are capsule reviews by the Office for Film & Broadcasting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

“The Secret World of Arrietty” (Disney)

Poignant animated fable, based on Mary Norton’s 1952 novel “The Borrowers,” in which a sickly 14-year-old boy (voice of David Henrie) accidentally discovers a family of miniature people living unobserved in the secluded country house to which he has been sent to prepare for a risky operation. Despite his best intentions, his insistence on befriending the daughter (voice of Bridgit Mendler) of the diminutive clan — and trying to help her parents (voices of Amy Poehler and Will Arnett) — imperils the little trio’s previously happy life together. Beautifully crafted visuals and a tone of gentle melancholy characterize this English-language version of a 2010 Japanese film, directed by Hiromasa Yonebayashi, which also features voice work by Carol Burnett as the manse’s meddlesome housekeeper. The materialism of the protagonist’s unseen parents is contrasted with the deep bonds and traditional values that unite his newfound pal and her devoted folks. Brief mild peril. The Catholic News Service classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences. All ages admitted.

“This Means War” (Fox)

Director McG’s ill-conceived blend of action flick and romantic comedy tracks the rivalry between two CIA agents and best friends (Chris Pine and Tom Hardy) after both fall for a perky consumer goods tester (Reese Witherspoon). While they bring the resources of the spy world to bear in a frantic effort to thwart each other, she turns for advice to her closest pal (Chelsea Handler) whose pointers, meant to be comic, are more often low-minded. The occasional one-liner aside, the humor rarely works, while the path to a generally moral — though not unmixed — wrap-up is strewn with explosions, gunplay and hand-to-hand combat. Considerable action violence, skewed sexual values, brief semi-graphic premarital sexual activity, a few instances of profanity, some adult humor and references, at least one use of the F-word and about a dozen crude or crass terms. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

“Chronicle” (Fox)

Reasonably original, curiously dark exploration of the troubling results that ensue when mere mortals obtain godlike powers. After stumbling on a mysterious object, a trio of Seattle teens (Dane DeHaan, Alex Russell and Michael B. Jordan) find themselves endowed with telekinesis and the ability to fly. Though initially they do no more with their newfound gifts than goof around and play pranks, darker emotions and more serious consequences soon come to the fore, especially for DeHaan’s character, who’s struggling to cope with an alcoholic father (Michael Kelly) and a dying mother (Bo Petersen). Director Josh Trank conveys all this in the pseudo-found footage style of “The Blair Witch Project.” Though it feels more than a little overused, that conceit nonetheless contributes to an atmosphere of realism and lends urgency to the moral debates in which the principals engage — discussions which, for viewers of faith, will likely represent the film’s main appeal. Limited action violence, scenes of physical abuse, an implied premarital encounter, a scattering of profanity, at least one rough term, pervasive crude language and an obscene gesture. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III — adults. The Motion

Picture Association of America rating is PG-13.

“The Vow” (Screen Gems)

Stricken with partial amnesia as the result of a car accident, a Chicago artist (Rachel McAdams) awakens from a coma with no memory of her romance with, or marriage to, her husband (Channing Tatum). So he sets out to win her heart all over again, despite the opposition of her controlling parents (Sam Neill and Jessica Lange) who would prefer to see her reunite with her more conventionally respectable ex-fiance (Scott Speedman). Based on real events, director and co-writer Michael Sucasny’s well-intentioned but flawed love story celebrates the extraordinarily determined marital fidelity of Tatum’s character, and strikes a generally amiable tone as it does so. But shallow characterizations — mildly bohemian hubby takes on conniving 1-percenters in-laws — and an initial relationship too cute to be credible undercut its impact. Brief nongraphic marital lovemaking, a premarital situation, fleeting rear nudity, adultery theme, numerous sexual references and jokes, at least one use of profanity, a couple of rough and about a half-dozen crude terms. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13.

“Journey 2: The Mysterious Island” (Warner Bros.)

Leaden adventure — improbably sourced from books by Jules Verne, Robert Louis Stevenson and Jonathan Swift — follows an intrepid teenager (Josh Hutcherson) and his stepfather (Dwayne Johnson) to a South Pacific island crawling with natural anomalies and opportunities for derring-do. Joined by a helicopter pilot (Luis Guzman) and his daughter (Vanessa Hudgens), the pair encounter the young hero’s explorer grandfather (Michael Caine). Director Brad Peyton helms a mostly wholesome sequel to 2008’s “Journey to the Center of the Earth,” though one marred by a somewhat casual attitude toward youthful sexuality as well as by a few potty jokes. With its merely serviceable visuals, logically suspect script and lame expository dialogue, the project fails to evoke significant awe or wonderment. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG.

KNIGHTS SELECT LUMEN DEI AWARDS



02.14.2012 20:30
PROVIDED BY JACK LIMBERG

Six high school seniors were selected to receive the 2012 Lumen Dei Awards from the Knights of Columbus Council 4263 at St. Pius X Church. Shown in the photo, from left, are Patrick Bueneel, Kayla O’Connor, Melanie Williams, Robert Giggie, Sean Myers and Erika Herman.

BARANOWSKI STEPS DOWN AT CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE



PROVIDED BY LOURDES SILVA

Diocesan staff at the Blessed John Paul II Center, Mishawaka, said farewell to Joyce Baranowski, who will be stepping down from her duties as administrative assistant for Catholic Schools. Baranowski has worked with the Catholic Schools Office for the last eight years on the South Bend side of the diocese. On Feb. 16, coworkers shared feelings of warmth and love for her service and gratitude for being a sincere friend. “On any given occasion Joyce has been there for us and for our diocese,” noted Lourdes Silva, who works with the Hispanic Ministry Office. “Mrs. Baranowski helped everyone she came in contact with and the hundreds of students, teachers, principals and families she served,” Silva said. In the photo are from left, Enid Roman-DeJesus, Catholic Schools’ nurse Maureen VerVaet, Carolyn Strutner, Joyce Baranowski, Catholic Schools’ nurse Beth Kirk and Lourdes Silva. Other diocesan department employees of the Blessed John Paul II Center also offered their best wishes.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

FISH FRIES

St. Jude fish fry

Fort Wayne — St. Jude Parish will have a fish fry, Friday, Feb. 24, from 5-8 p.m. Adults \$7, children 6-8 \$5 and children 5 and under free. Carry-out available.

Holy Name Society fish fry

New Haven — The Holy Name Society of St. John the Baptist Parish will have a fish fry Friday, Feb. 24, from 4-7 p.m. Adults \$7.50, children 5-12 \$4 and children under 5 free.

Lenten fish fry

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 553 will have a fish fry Feb. 24 and March 2, from 5-7:30 p.m. at the Knights hall, 553 E. Washington St. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$4 for children under 12 and children under 5 free.

Knights plan fish fries

Granger — The Knights Council 4263 will have fish fries Friday, March 2, 16 and 30, from 4-7 p.m. in the St. Pius X gymnasium. Adults \$8, children 6-11 \$3.50 and children under 6 free.

St. Charles fish fry

Fort Wayne — St. Charles Parish will have a Dan's fish fry Friday, March 2, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria, door 9. Tickets are \$8.50 for adults, \$4.50 for children 6-12 and free for children 5 and under. Grilled cheese sandwich dinners available for \$4. Carry-out available. Proceeds benefit the athletic program.

Fish fry

Fort Wayne — A Forbing fish fry will be at Queen of Angels Parish Friday, March 2, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8.50 for adults, \$4 for children 6-10 and free for children 5 and under.

Jonah fish fry

South Bend — Corpus Christi Parish will have a Jonah fish fry on Friday, March 9, from 4-7 p.m. in the school gym. Tickets are \$9 for adults, \$4 for children ages 6-12 and free for children under six. Carry-out available.

AYCE fish fry

Bremen — St. Dominic Parish will have an AYCE fish fry on

Friday, March 9, from 4-7 p.m. in St. Isidore Hall, 803 W. Bike St. Tickets are \$7.50 presale, \$8 at the door and \$4 for children 12 and under.

St. Patrick fish fry

Arcola — St. Patrick Parish will have a fish fry on Friday, March 9, from 4-7 p.m. in the parish hall. Peanut butter and jelly for children. Tickets are \$8.50 for adults, \$4 for children 6-10 and children under 6 free. Seniors 60 and up \$7.50. Drive through and carry-out available.

K of C Lenten fish fry

Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 12417 will have a fish fry at Our Lady of Good Hope Parish, 7215 St. Joe Road, on Friday, March 9, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$5 for children 6-12 and children 5 and under free. Carry out available. Proceeds benefit seminarians.

Knights plan fish fry

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on Friday, March 2, from 5-7 p.m. Adults \$8, children (5-12) \$3. Chicken strips for \$8 and shrimp for \$8.50 will be available.

MISC. HAPPENINGS

VNHH offers grief workshop

Fort Wayne — Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home, 5910 Homestead Rd., will offer a grief education workshop titled, "Learning to Live After the Death of a Spouse," Tuesday, Feb. 28, from 5-7 p.m. with speaker Kay Cozad, MS, a certified grief and loss educator and author of "Prayer Book for Widows." A light supper will be served. Reservations are required at (260) 435-3222.

Las Vegas Night

South Bend — Holy Family Ushers Club will have a Las Vegas night on Saturday March 3, at the parish center from 6-11 p.m. Tickets are \$8 and include food and drink and a chance for a \$1,000 prize. Games of chance, tip boards at this non-smoking event. Tickets available at the door or rectory. For information call (574) 282-2317.

Knights plan spaghetti dinner

Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 451, 601 Reed Rd., will have a spaghetti dinner on Wednesday, Feb. 29, from 5-6:30 p.m. All proceeds will benefit the Down Syndrome Association of NE Indiana.

Smoker planned

Fort Wayne — St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel, 11521 US 27 South, will have a Notre Dame Smoker Sunday, Feb. 26, from 12:30 to 5:30 p.m. Food, drinks, casino and Notre Dame players will be present. Admission is \$18 pre-sale or \$20 day of event. Stag only.

Trivia Night

South Bend — Our Lady of Hungary School, 35 W. Calvert St., will have a trivia night, Saturday, March 3, in the gym. Doors open at 6 p.m., game begins at 7 p.m. Tables of 10 are \$100. Bring your own food to share. Winning table receives \$250 cash. Call (574) 289-3272 to reserve a table.

Open house announced

Wabash — St. Bernard School with students pre-K through grade 6, will have an open house on Tuesday, Feb. 28, from 5-7 p.m. Tour the school, meet the teachers, hear what the school offers and learn about the state funded voucher program for the 2012-13 school year. Registration will also be available. For information, contact the school office at (260) 563-5746.

Catholic Business Network meets

Fort Wayne — The Catholic Business Network Group will meet Friday, March 2, beginning with Mass at 7 a.m. in the St. Mother Theodore Guérin Chapel. Mass will be followed in the Cathedral Center by guest speaker Sean McBride, communications director for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Refreshments will be provided by Catholic Foresters Insurance.

Gorzkie Zale

South Bend — St. Adalbert Parish will have Polish Lenten devotions, Gorzkie Zale (Sorrowful Lamentations), every Wednesday in Lent at 5 p.m. in church. English translations available.

REST IN PEACE

Churubusco

Virginia A. Browning, 84, St. John Bosco

Decatur

Elizabeth M. Miller, 80, St. Mary/Assumption

Bobby E. Heller, 79, St. Mary/Assumption

Elkhart

Elfriede T. Andabaka, 81, St. Vincent de Paul

Fort Wayne

Helen M. Ables, 98, St. John the Baptist

Edward C. Ryan, 81, St. Vincent de Paul

Frances Rys Samrita, 94, St. Jude

Patria Artuz Kintanar, 88, St. Vincent de Paul

Bernice Baldwin, 86, St. Charles Borromeo

Colleen Hake Boyd, 87, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Lawrence David Goetz, 75, St. Jude

Granger

Joseph C. Clemmons, 26, St. Pius X

Frank Felinski Jr., 65, St. Pius X

Patrick B. Laake, 59, St. Pius X

Huntington

Cheryl R. Foster, 60, Ss. Peter and Paul

Sister Marlene Wolf, OLVN, 90, Victory Noll

Lillian F. Karst, 87, Ss. Peter and Paul

Mishawaka

Elena M. Salaiz, 56, St. Joseph

New Haven

Robert C. Carney, 63, St. Louis Besancon

Rick P. Isenbarger, 52, St. John the Baptist

Notre Dame

Father Robert M. Hoffman, CSC, 90, Basilica/Sacred Heart

Josie Mae Jeffries, 64, Basilica/Sacred Heart

Roanoke

Margaret K. Quickery, 70, St. Joseph

South Bend

Margie G. Christianson, 85, Little Flower

Marilyn R. Lawton, 85, Corpus Christi

Armando Mancini, 77, St. Matthew Cathedral

Walter C. Ruskowski, 98, Our Lady of Hungary

Jonathan A. Bajdek, 27, Holy Cross

Ardenia Kingsberry-Rodgers, 79, St. Augustine

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CARDINALS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

who served there before going to Hawaii.

"As grateful as I am for being a cardinal," he told reporters later, "I really want to be a saint. I mean that, but I have a long way to go."

St. Peter's Basilica was filled to overflowing for the ceremony, and several thousand people sat in a sunny St. Peter's Square watching on large video screens. Choirs from New York and from several Italian dioceses provided music for the service.

At the end of the ceremony, the College of Cardinals had 213 members, 125 of whom were under the age of 80 and, therefore, eligible to vote in a conclave to elect a new pope.

The consistory took the form of a prayer service. After the Gospel reading, in what the Vatican described as an allocution, not a homily, the pope told the cardinals that love and service, not an air of greatness, are to mark their lives as cardinals.

"Dominion and service, egoism and altruism, possession and gift, self-interest and gratuitousness: These profoundly contrasting approaches confront each other in every age and place," Pope Benedict said, but the cardinals must model their lives on that of Jesus, loving others to the point of giving up his life for them.

Cardinal O'Brien told reporters afterward that the ceremony and the pope's remarks underlined that becoming a cardinal "is not a reward, it brings on greater responsibilities — something the pope experiences every day."

He said that when he knelt before the pope, "I thanked him; I said I'd serve him completely with my whole heart."

Cardinal Dolan, who delivered



CNS PHOTOS BY PAUL HARING

U.S. Cardinal Edwin F. O'Brien, grand master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem, receives a red biretta from Pope Benedict XVI during a consistory in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Feb. 18. The pope created 22 new cardinals from 13 countries — including two from the United States and one from Canada.

the main address on evangelization at a meeting of the College of Cardinals the day before, said that when he knelt before the pope, the pope thanked him again for his presentation. "I said thank you, for this, I'm the one who is grateful," he said.

"The Gospel and the homily were very sobering," he said, because they recalled the words of Jesus that "we're not in it for the prestige, we're not in it for the honor, we're not in it for the glory. We're in it to serve."

In all things, Pope Benedict had told them, "the new cardinals are entrusted with the service of love: love for God, love for His Church, an absolute and unconditional love for his brothers and sisters, even unto shedding their blood, if necessary," a fact underlined by the red color of the biretta — a three-cornered hat — and the red cardinal's robes.

"He is servant inasmuch as he welcomes within himself the fate of the suffering and sin of all humanity. His service is realized

in total faithfulness and complete responsibility toward mankind," the pope said.

"The free acceptance of his violent death becomes the price of freedom for many," he told the new cardinals, praying that "Christ's total gift of self on the cross" would be "the foundation, stimulus and strength" of their faith and that it would be reflected in their love and charity toward others.

During the ceremony, Pope Benedict placed rings on the fingers of the 22 new cardinals and assigned them a "titular church" in Rome, making them full members of the Rome clergy and closer collaborators of the pope in governing the universal Church.

Cardinal O'Brien's titular church is the historic Church of St. Sebastian on the Palatine Hill. Cardinal Collins was assigned the Church of St. Patrick in the Via Veneto neighborhood, where an English-speaking congregation worships; and Cardinal Dolan became the titular cardinal of the Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe in the Monte Mario neighborhood.

The new cardinals, the pope said, "will be called to consider and evaluate the events, the problems and the pastoral criteria, which concern the mission of the entire Church."

The pope asked the new cardinals "to serve the Church with love and vigor, with the transparency and wisdom of teachers, with the energy and strength of shepherds, with the fidelity and courage of martyrs."

The Bible reading at the service was taken from the Gospel of Mark and recounted how the disciples were tempted by the idea of honor, but Jesus told them that greatness means becoming the servant of all.

"Serving God and others, self-giving: This is the logic which authentic faith imparts and develops in our daily lives and which is not the type of power and glory which belongs to this world," the pope told them.



Cardinal Edwin F. O'Brien, grand master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem, smiles at the Pontifical North American College in Rome after he received his red hat from Pope Benedict XVI.



Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York responds to questions during a press conference at the Pontifical North American College in Rome after he received his red hat from Pope Benedict XVI Feb. 16.

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