



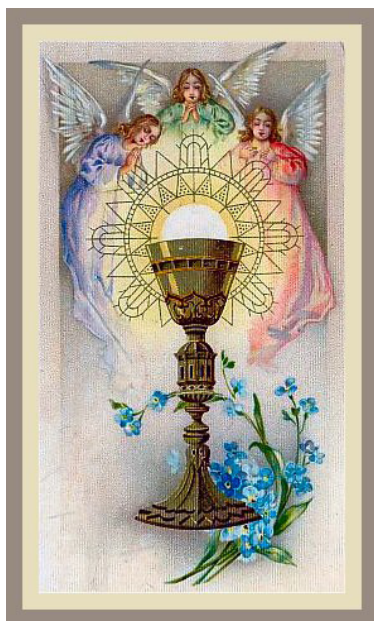
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March 18, 2012

Serving the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

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Volume 86, No. 11
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First Communion

The treasures of the tradition

Pages 8-9

Tireless defense of religious freedom

Bishop Rhoades offers encouragement

Page 2

New evangelization

Begins with Confession

Page 3

Leah Darrow

Model shares message of re-conversion

Page 10

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Catholics give aid to tornado victims

BY SEAN GALLAGHER

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) — Catholics from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend have asked how they can assist those displaced by tornadoes that ravaged southern Indiana on March 2, particularly Henryville.

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend has taken several “how can I help inquiries,” reported Sean McBride, director of communications for the diocese. He has been in contact with Catholic Charities for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

Information to send donations that will assist the tornado victims is available at www.archindy.org/cc/index.html or at the disaster response page at www.archindy.org/cc/disaster/index.html, which has information on material needs and volunteers.

Checks may be sent to the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, c/o Catholic Charities Disaster Relief, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367.

Fort Wayne Bishop Luers High School Show Choir, en route to national competition in Florida, stopped at Henryville to drop off supplies at St. Francis Xavier Church, which has become a hub for collecting supplies. The students at the school held a “dress down day” on March 7 where they could bring in \$1 or supplies. The supplies were loaded on the bus and delivered that same day with the monetary donations to Henryville.

Sacred Heart School in Warsaw, which won \$200 at a recent Fort Wayne Komets hockey game, planned to split the prize money between Operation Rice Bowl and the tornado victims.

Tammy Becht and her family sought shelter in the basement of their Floyd County home March 2 when



CNS PHOTO/JOHN SOMMERS II, REUTERS

A sign is seen in Henryville, Ind., March 5 outside St. Francis Xavier Church, which has become the main center for tornado victims to get help after tornadoes moved through the small community. A chain of tornadoes cut a swath of destruction March 2 from the Midwest to the Gulf of Mexico, killing at least 39 people in five states.

AID, PAGE 16

CHILD BAPTIZED IN CUBA



CNS PHOTO/DESMOND BOYLAN, REUTERS

A child is baptized in a Catholic church in the village of Marti, Cuba, outside Havana, March 10. Pope Benedict XVI will visit Cuba March 26-28. See story on page 3.

Church must better explain teaching on sexuality, pope tells US bishops

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Permissive attitudes toward sex, cohabitation before marriage and acceptance of same-sex marriage can damage individuals and are harmful for society, Pope Benedict XVI told a group of U.S. bishops at the Vatican.

“It is in fact increasingly evident that a weakened appreciation of the indissolubility of the marriage covenant, and the widespread rejection of a responsible, mature sexual ethic grounded in the practice of chastity, have led to grave societal problems bearing an immense human and economic cost,” the pope said March 9.

Meeting the bishops of Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota, who were making

their “ad limina” visits to report on the status of their dioceses, the pope said ignorance of or challenges to Church teaching on marriage and sexuality were part of the “intellectual and ethical challenges” to evangelization in the United States today.

The pope did not focus on current tensions between the U.S. bishops and the Obama administration, particularly over health care coverage of contraception and other practices that violate Church teaching. But at the beginning of his speech, Pope Benedict reiterated his concern about “threats to freedom of conscience, religion and worship which need to be addressed urgently so that all men and women of faith, and the institutions they inspire, can act in accordance with their deep-

TEACH, PAGE 4

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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

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

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

Today's Catholic may be reached at:

Today's Catholic,
P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne, IN
46856-1169; or email:
editor@diocesefwsb.org

ISSN 0891-1533
USPS 403630



We must be tireless in defending religious freedom



IN TRUTH
AND
CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

I wish to begin this column by thanking so many people of our diocese who have expressed their strong support for the Church's efforts these past few months to protect our religious freedom from the unjust intrusion of a government agency, the Department of Health and Human Services. I am deeply grateful for the prayers and actions of so many of our Catholic faithful, united in opposing the government's invasive attempt to curtail the freedom we cherish as Catholics and as Americans. I am also very grateful to people of other faith communities who are standing with us in this important matter. I mention, in particular, the Missouri Synod Lutheran communities in Fort Wayne.

I write this column as an update on this issue since I addressed it several weeks ago. I ask for your continued support.

The United States Senate voted 51-48 on March 1st to table the bipartisan Respect for Rights of Conscience Act. Though disappointed by this vote, we must not be disheartened. As Bishop William Lori, the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Religious Liberty of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, stated after the vote: "We will continue our strong defense of conscience rights through all available legal means. Religious freedom is at the heart of democracy and rooted in the dignity of every human person. We will not rest until the protection of conscience rights is restored and the First Amendment is returned to its place of respect in the Bill of Rights." Bishop Lori explained that "we will build on this base of support as we pursue legislation in the House of Representatives, urge the Administration to change its course on this issue, and explore our legal rights under the Constitution and the Religious Freedom Restoration Act."

This week, I am in Washington, D.C., for several meetings of Committees of the USCCB of which I am a member or chair. At our Administrative Committee meetings, we will be discussing this important issue and our efforts as we move forward to protect our religious freedom. Be assured that we will not stop speaking out until our religious freedom is restored.

Why is this issue so important? It is about our most cherished freedom: religious liberty. Religious liberty is more than freedom of worship. It includes the freedom to do the works that our faith calls us to do, without compromising that faith. These works include education, health care, and social services. The government has no right to force our Catholic institutions to act contrary to Catholic beliefs by covering in our health plans abortion-inducing drugs, sterilizations, and contraception. The unjust HHS mandate strikes at the heart of our fundamental right to religious liberty.



CNS PHOTO/BOB ROLLER

Bishop William E. Lori of Bridgeport, Conn., chairman of the bishops' Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, the Rev. Matthew Harrison, Ben Mitchell, Rabbi Meir Soloveichik and Craig Mitchell are sworn in before testifying at a hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington Feb. 16. The hearing of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee was on religious liberty, prompted by debate over a federal mandate on contraceptive coverage.

The so-called "accommodation" announced by President Obama last month has not rescinded or curtailed the unjust mandate. The mandate to provide the illicit services remains. It still compels coverage, though the President "conceded" that the insurance providers would have to pay the bill. Besides, many, if not most, of our ministries are "self-insured," so we are still asking how we would be protected from this mandate. This is not to mention all individual believers, not just our Church institutions, who would be forced to pay for what violates their religious freedom and conscience. Many Catholic business owners and other faith-filled Catholics have shared with me the terrible position they are being placed in.

During the debate in the Senate, our opponents tried to obscure the truth that this is an issue of religious freedom by insisting that abortion-inducing drugs, sterilization, and contraception are a "woman's health issue." As we hear the Church being lectured to about women's health, it would be good to remind these opponents that the Catholic Church is the largest private provider of health care for women and their babies in the United States! Truth seems to be distorted, ignored, or denied in a climate of relativism.

It is also important to note that President Obama's "accommodation" last month did not change the narrow definition of "religious employers" that are exempt from the mandate. It is terribly offensive to have the government telling us which of our ministries are "religious enough" and which are not. As I have written before, the Church should not be penalized for employing and for serving people who are not Catholic. Our institutions serve the common good and should not be threatened by government coercion to act contrary to our religious beliefs because we employ and serve non-Catholics.

My focus has been on the HHS mandate for contraception, sterilization, and abortion-

inducing drugs. But there are many other examples of the erosion of religious freedom in the United States. Last year in Alabama, a law was passed that makes it illegal to provide charity and pastoral care for undocumented immigrants. Just imagine: illegal for a priest to baptize or hear the confession of an undocumented immigrant! And illegal to administer the Anointing of the Sick to a sick or dying Catholic who is undocumented!

Another example from two years ago: perhaps you remember the attempt of the Senate in Connecticut to force Catholic parishes to be restructured according to a congregational model. Thankfully, this intrusion on the Church's freedom was not successful.

Sadly, Catholic Charities in the Archdioceses of Boston, San Francisco, Washington, D.C. and several dioceses in Illinois were forced to stop providing adoption or foster care services because those agencies would not place children with cohabitating same-sex or unmarried opposite-sex couples.

I think everyone is probably aware of the discrimination against our USCCB Migration and Refugee Services. Even though we received the highest performance rating in administering services for victims of human trafficking, the federal government disqualified MRS from a contract because we would not provide or refer for contraception and abortion. Similar discrimination has disqualified Catholic Relief Services from contracts in its work for the poor in the Third World.

There is an urgent need that we impress upon our elected representatives the great importance of religious liberty and that, in voting, we consider the positions of those running for public office on this issue. We must stand fast in defending the right of religious freedom. And we must pray fervently for the protection of this liberty.

May Mary Immaculate, the patroness of our diocese and of our country, intercede for us!



PUBLIC SCHEDULE OF BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

- Sunday, March 18, 10:30 a.m. — Celebration of Washington Archdiocese Rose Mass at Little Flower Church, Bethesda, Md.
- Monday, March 19, 9 a.m. — Mass and Pastoral Visit, Saint Joseph's High School, South Bend
- Tuesday, March 20, 10 a.m. — Meeting of Bishop's Cabinet, Archbishop Noll Center, Fort Wayne
- Wednesday, March 21, 12 p.m. — Presentation of Father Thomas O'Connor Light of Christ Award, Saint Mary's Church, Fort Wayne
- Wednesday, March 21, 7:30 p.m. — Speech at Jewish Federation of Saint Joseph Valley, South Bend
- Thursday, March 22, 11 a.m. — Mass at Parkview North Hospital, Fort Wayne
- Friday, March 23, 7 p.m. — Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Warsaw
- Saturday, March 24, 9:30 a.m. — Morning Prayer at Diocesan Marriage and Family Conference, University of Notre Dame
- Saturday, March 24, 6 p.m. — Saint Joseph's High School Dinner and Auction, South Bend

New evangelization also begins with Confession, pope says

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Confession can help Catholics build lives filled with hope and holiness, which are needed for effective evangelization, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"New evangelization, therefore, also starts from the confessional," he told confessors and other participants attending a course sponsored by the Apostolic Penitentiary — a Vatican court that handles issues related to the absolution of sin.

New evangelization "draws its life blood from the holiness of the children of the Church, from the daily journey of personal and communal conversion to adhere ever more deeply to Christ, he said in his address March 9.

There is a strong link between holiness and the sacrament of Reconciliation, he said.

The true conversion of a person's heart that has opened itself to God's transformative power of renewal "is the driving force of every reform and it translates into a true evangelizing force," the pope said.

The sacrament of Reconciliation reminds people of God's limitless capacity to "transform, illuminate all the dark corners and continually open up new horizons," he said.

Through Confession and God's mercy, the repentant sinner becomes a new person who is "justified, pardoned and sanctified," who can become a grace-filled and more authentic witness to God's love, he said.

"Only he who lets himself be deeply renewed by divine grace can carry in himself, and therefore proclaim, the Gospel news," he said.

"Thus each Confession, from which each Christian will emerge renewed, will represent a step forward for new evangelization," he said.

Given the "educational emergency" in today's world, in which relativism has eradicated any sense that people can gradually come to know the truth and experience the truth of God, "Christians are called



CNS PHOTO/FELIX ORDONEZ, REUTERS

A priest hears confession from a man in 2011 in Burgos, Spain. Confession can help Catholics build lives filled with hope and holiness, which are needed for effective evangelization, Pope Benedict XVI said.

to proclaim with vigor the possibility of an encounter between people of today and Jesus Christ."

God became human precisely to be able to be close to all people so that they could see and hear Him, he said.

That is why the sacrament of Reconciliation helps a person open his or her heart and let God in. The certainty that Christ is near and will be there for humanity even when burdened by sin "is always the light of hope for the world," said the pope.

In his address to the pope, Portuguese Cardinal Manuel Monteiro de Castro, major penitentiary of the Apostolic Penitentiary,

said priests play a major role in making sure people understand the enormous value of Confession and they should be aware that they hold a "precious and irreplaceable" ministry.

The pope echoed that sentiment urging priests to see themselves as key to helping people meet God and usher in a new beginning in their lives.

Yet priests, too, "must be the first to renew an awareness of themselves as sinners, and of their need to seek sacramental forgiveness in order to renew their encounter with Christ" and promote evangelization, he said.



CNS PHOTO/NANCY PHELAN WIECHEC

Pilgrims make their way to and from the sanctuary of Our Lady of Charity in El Cobre, Cuba, Feb. 11. The shrine to Cuba's patroness draws people from around the island nation as well as overseas visitors. Pope Benedict XVI will visit the shrine during his March 26-28 stay in Cuba.

U.S. bishops to attend papal visit in Mexico, Cuba; website created

WASHINGTON — Cuban-American Bishop Octavio Cisneros, an auxiliary bishop of Brooklyn, New York, will represent the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in Mexico during the visit of Pope Benedict XVI. Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, USCCB president, appointed Bishop Cisneros to represent the bishops' conference at the Apostolic Mass that Pope Benedict XVI will celebrate in Leon, Guanajuato, during the pope's apostolic visit to Mexico and Cuba, March 23-29.

Bishop Cisneros, a member of the USCCB Subcommittee for the Church in Latin America, along with Bishop Gerald Kicanas, chairman of Catholic Relief Services, Bishop Richard Pates, chairman of the USCCB Committee on International Justice and Peace, and Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, also a member of the USCCB Subcommittee for the Church in Latin America, will be among other U.S. bishops traveling to Cuba to greet Pope Benedict.

The pope will celebrate an open-air Mass in Leon, Mexico the morning of March 25 at Foro Bicentenario, near the national monument to Christ the King on the mountaintop of Cerro del Cubilete. On the same day, the pope will also hold an evening meeting in the Cathedral of Leon with the bishops of Mexico and representatives of the American Continent.

"It will be a joy to represent the Catholic bishops of the United States as the Holy Father visits Mexico," said Bishop Cisneros. "We pray that the Holy Father's visit to Mexico and Cuba brings peace, reconciliation, and many blessings to both countries."

In Cuba the pope will cel-

ebate Masses in Santiago and Havana, and will visit the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Charity, in the mining town of El Cobre, to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the discovery of her statue in the Bay of Nipe.

Bishop Elizondo, who is in the delegation going to Cuba, noted the importance of the occasion. "The Holy Father's apostolic visit to Cuba will be an historic moment as the people of Cuba renew their faith in Christ and celebrate that faith with Catholics around the world," Bishop Elizondo said.

People of faith in the United States can follow the pope's pilgrimage to Mexico and Cuba and related news and content, in English and Spanish, through the USCCB website pages dedicated to the apostolic journey at www.usccb.org.

During the visit Catholic News Service (CNS) reporters will be utilizing social media, also in English and Spanish. People can follow them at twitter.com/catholicnewssvc or www.facebook.com/CatholicNewsService. USCCB will also be following the event on its Facebook page at www.facebook.com/usccb. CNS' full coverage is also available at <http://www.usccb.org/about/leadership/holy-see/pope-benedict-xvi/2012-apostolic-journey-mexico-cuba.cfm>.

The USCCB Subcommittee on the Church in Latin America helps fund numerous pastoral programs throughout Latin America and the Caribbean region. The USCCB Committee on International Justice and Peace shapes USCCB policy on international issues. More information on both can be found at www.usccb.org; search "Church in Latin America" and "International Justice and Peace."

TEACH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

est moral convictions.”

Concentrating his remarks on the need to promote and explain Church teaching on sexuality, the pope said the Church's key concern is “the good of children, who have a fundamental right to grow up with a healthy understanding of sexuality and its proper place in human relationships.”

Acknowledging the clerical sexual abuse scandal, the pope said, “It is my hope that the Church in the United States, however chastened by the events of the past decade, will persevere in its historic mission of educating the young and thus contribute to the consolidation of that sound family life, which is the surest guarantee of intergenerational solidarity and the health of society as a whole.”

The moral virtues espoused in the Church's teaching on sexuality are “the key to human fulfillment,” he said, because they promote sexuality as “a source of genuine freedom, happiness and the fulfillment of our fundamental and innate human vocation to love.”

One of the first steps, he said, must be to help Catholics “recover an appreciation of the virtue of chastity,” which forms the human heart to love in the most authentic way.

Pope Benedict told the bishops he was aware of “the powerful political and cultural currents seeking to alter the legal definition of marriage” so that it would include same-sex couples.

“Sexual differences cannot be dismissed as irrelevant to the definition of marriage,” the pope said.



CNS PHOTO/L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

Pope Benedict XVI greets Archbishop John C. Nienstedt of St. Paul and Minneapolis during a March 8 meeting with bishops from Minnesota on their “ad limina” visits to the Vatican.

Defending traditional marriage is not simply a matter of Church teaching, he said; it is a matter of “justice, since it entails safeguarding the good of the entire human community and the rights of parents and children alike.”

Pope Benedict praised the U.S. bishops' 2009 letter, “Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan,” and he asked them to continue reviewing and strengthening both religious education materials and marriage preparation programs.

In conversations with the bishops during the “ad limina” visits, he said, some of the bishops have expressed concern about how difficult it is to communicate the Church's teaching effectively and some have told the pope there are decreasing numbers of young people in their dioceses asking to be married in the Church.

Pope Benedict did not suggest specific norms or provide guidance on how insistent priests should be that cohabitating couples live separately before a Church wedding.

The Church itself “must acknowledge deficiencies in the catechesis of recent decades, which failed at times to communicate the rich heritage of Catholic teaching on marriage as a natural institution elevated by Christ to the dignity of a sacrament, the vocation of Christian spouses in society and in the Church, and the practice of marital chastity,” he said.

Archbishop John C. Nienstedt of St. Paul and Minneapolis, speaking on behalf of the bishops, thanked Pope Benedict for announcing a special Year of Faith, which will begin in October.

“There is a profound crisis of faith affecting large numbers of people in today's society,” the archbishop said. “Secular values have taken hold in many minds and hearts, causing a rejection of the very notion that true human happiness is found in conforming our lives to the will of God.”

He thanked Pope Benedict for “the extraordinary leadership that you are providing in these turbulent times.”

Vatican says number of Catholics, priests, bishops worldwide increased

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The number of Catholics in the world and the number of deacons, priests and bishops all increased in 2010, while the number of women in religious orders continued to decline, according to Vatican statistics.

At the end of 2010, the worldwide Catholic population reached 1.196 billion, an increase of 15 million or 1.3 percent, slightly outpacing the global population growth rate, which was estimated at 1.1 percent, said a statement published March 10 by the Vatican press office.

Catholics as a percentage of the global population “remained stable at around 17.5 percent,” it said.

The statement reported a handful of the statistics contained in the 2012 “Annuario Pontificio,” a yearbook containing information about every Vatican office, as well as every diocese and religious order in the world.

Officials of the Vatican Secretariat of State and its Central

Office of Church Statistics presented the first copy of the 2012 yearbook to Pope Benedict XVI during an audience March 10.

Detailed statistics in the yearbook are based on reports from dioceses and religious orders as of Dec. 31, 2010.

The percentage of Catholics declined slightly in South America from 28.54 percent to 28.34 percent of the regional population, and dropped considerably in Europe from 24.05 percent to 23.83 percent. The percentage of Catholics increased in 2010 by just under half a percentage point in Southeast Asia and Africa.

The Vatican said the number of bishops in the world increased from 5,065 to 5,104; the number of priests went from 410,593 to 412,236, increasing everywhere except Europe.

The number of women in religious orders fell by more than 7,000 in 2010, despite showing a 2 percent increase in both Asia and Africa. At the end of the year, Catholic women's orders had 721,935 members.

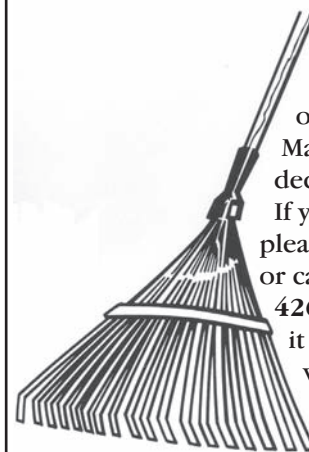
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The Catholic Cemetery of Fort Wayne will conduct their ANNUAL CLEANUP of decorations from March 15 thru March 31. Please do NOT place any decorations during this entire time.

If you wish to save your decoration, please have it removed BEFORE March 15, or call the Catholic Cemetery Office, 426-2044, by March 12, and we will hold it for you no more than 30 days, after which it will be discarded. Decorations may be placed AFTER MARCH 31.

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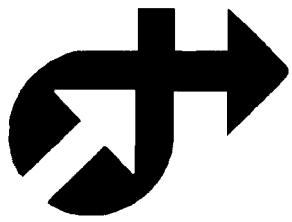
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Human trafficking and home energy assistance among legislation to promote human dignity



INDIANA
CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE

BY BRIGID CURTIS AYER

School choice expansion, efforts to curb chemical abortion failed

INDIANAPOLIS — March 9 marked the close of another session of the Indiana General Assembly. Adjournment came with mixed results.

Legislation to curb human trafficking, assist low income families with home energy and improve access to the scholarship tax credit were among the legislative accomplishments supported by the Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC) that passed this year. Yet measures to address chemical abortion and expand school choice for current non-public school families failed.

"I'm pleased with the actions taken by the Indiana General Assembly to address the issue of human trafficking," said Glenn Tebbe, ICC executive director. "The Church supports clarifying the law and making it easier to convict people who commit the crime of human trafficking."

In early January, Indiana's attorney general Greg Zoeller began pushing for the Indiana General Assembly to act quickly to put more limits on the crime of human trafficking especially with the venue of the Super Bowl coming to town. Zoeller said, "Human trafficking is a problem that has been ignored until recently. It's one that's growing, I think, primarily fueled by the same energy that brings drugs to the United States."

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children estimates that 10,000 prostitutes were brought to the 2010 Super Bowl in Miami.

State Sen. Greg Walker, R-Columbus, who co-authored the legislation with State Sen. Randy Head, R-Logansport, said he did so to clear-up ambiguities within Indiana's current human trafficking statutes. "Experts agree human trafficking is a grim epidemic worldwide, and is certainly prevalent in the United States," Walker said. "In fact, roughly 4 million people fall victim to human trafficking every year. What's more, Indiana recently received a 'D grade' for its related laws. This is simply unacceptable."

Under the newly passed human trafficking legislation, Senate Bill 4, it is illegal for any person to arrange for any person to participate in any forced sex act. Prior to SB 4, Indiana law only prohibited forced marriage and prostitution. SB 4 also makes it easier to prosecute for human trafficking because the burden of proof

is not on the prosecutor to show coercion, as it was prior to SB 4 passing.

A measure to help low-to-moderate income families receive assistance for home energy costs also passed. House Bill 1141, authored by State Rep. Peggy Welch, D-Bloomington, provides additional assistance to the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). It does so by restoring the sales tax exemption for energy consumption paid for through federal assistance. The legislation will utilize all federal funds for the purpose for which they were granted instead of taking a 7 percent sales tax. The sales tax exemption will be extended to 2020.

"Again, the Church applauds the efforts of lawmakers who passed the home heating legislation which will assist low income families struggling with home energy costs by passing the home energy bill," said Tebbe.

"There were some disappointments this year, including the fact that the chemical abortion legislation and school choice expansion for current non-public school families did not become law," said Tebbe. "The right-to-work issue not only dominated the early part of the year, but because of the heated controversy in the House, it contributed to the failure of passing other controversial issues including putting limits on chemical abortion," he said.

Senate Bill 72, authored by State Sen. Travis Holdman, R-Markle, was an attempt to prohibit "telemed" abortions by requiring the doctor to do a physical exam before and after prescribing RU 486. In some states, prescriptions for RU 486 are provided by doctors via a computer screen from a remote location. The bill is also limited only to physicians who could prescribe RU486. While the bill passed the Senate 36-0, the bill did not receive a hearing in the House.

"While I am disappointed the chemical abortion legislation did not move in the House, there was a lot of good testimony and discussion about the issue," said Tebbe. "It raised awareness that chemical abortions happen in Indiana and can not be taken lightly. Awareness and education are the first steps toward getting effective informed consent legislation passed," he said. "I expect informed consent for abortion to be revisited next year, and the Church will continue to work toward better informed consent laws and work toward life-affirming legislation."

Three proposals to expand access to a school choice scholarship voucher for students currently enrolled in a non-public school failed

this year. However a minor provision to allow a "once in, always in," to the scholarship tax credit program did pass. The proposal, Senate Bill 296, authored by State Sen. Jean Leising,

R-Oldenburg, will allow non-public school families who qualify for a scholarship tax credit to remain eligible as long as their family meets the income requirements.

"Access to a school choice scholarship for non-public school students will continue to be an effort the Indiana Catholic Conference works toward," said Tebbe.

Red River Lenten Menu

Soup du Jour: Clam Chowder

Entrees:

Each Entree served with soup or salad, rolls and choice of one side.

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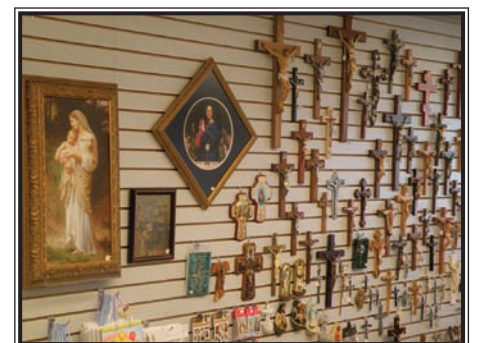
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Bishops urge Congress to remember the poor in budget-making decisions

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Congress should base all federal budget decisions on how they provide for those in need, whether they protect or threaten human life and dignity, and if they promote the common good of “workers and families who struggle to live in dignity in difficult economic times,” said the chairmen of two U.S. bishops’ committees in a letter to Congress. “In the past year, Congress and the administration have taken significant action to reduce the federal deficit, while attempting to protect programs that serve poor and vulnerable people,” said Bishops Stephen E. Blaire of Stockton, Calif., and Richard E. Pates of Des Moines, Iowa. The letter was dated March 6 and released March 7. Bishop Blaire is chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development and Bishop Pates is chairman of their Committee on International Justice and Peace. “Congress will continue to face difficult choices about how to allocate burdens and sacrifices and balance resources and needs,” the bishops said. “We fear the pressure to cut vital programs that protect the lives and dignity of the poor and vulnerable will increase. As Catholic bishops, we have tried to remind Congress that these choices are economic, political, and moral.” The bishops said they joined other Christian leaders in calling for a “circle of protection” around the poor and vulnerable, both “at home and abroad,” as members of Congress craft and debate a budget resolution and spending bills for the next fiscal year. The bishops said access to “affordable, life-affirming health care that respects religious freedom” is an urgent national priority and warned against shifting rising health care costs to vulnerable seniors, people with disabilities and the poor. They voiced support for programs that help low-income people such as Pell grants, offered to needy college students to defray tuition expenses at the college of their choice, and improved workforce training and development. They also pushed for efforts to restore funding cut from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as food stamps, and to make permanent an expansion of low-income tax credits.

Christians unite in opposition to HHS contraceptive mandate

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (CNS) — The new federal mandate that employers provide free insurance coverage for contraceptives that can be abortifacients, sterilizations and other services has united Christians across denominational lines, said a lawyer for the American Center for Law and Justice during a panel discussion at Aquinas College in Nashville. “They understand it’s not about contraceptives but religious liberty and abortion,” said David French, senior counsel for the center who lives in Columbia, south of Nashville. Although Catholic bishops have been fighting increasing attacks on religious freedom for

WOMEN RUN FROM CATHOLIC CHURCH AFTER DEADLY BOMBING IN NIGERIA



CNS PHOTO/REUTERS

Women run from the scene of a bombing at St. Finbar Catholic Church in the Rayfield suburb of the Nigerian city of Jos March 11. The bomb detonated as worshippers attended the final Mass of the day, killing at least 10 people at the church in Jos, a city where thousands have died in the last decade in religious and ethnic violence.

a while, “it is heartening to see the outrage with which the Protestant community has met the mandate,” French said. “The unanimity of the bishops has given the Protestant community a spinal transplant.” French was joined in the discussion Feb. 28 by Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Convention’s Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission since 1988, and Geoffrey Surtees and Francis J. Manion, both Catholics living in Bardstown, Ky., and serving as staff attorneys for the center. The Washington-based center, founded in 1990 by the Rev. Pat Robertson, focuses on pro-life and religious liberty issues. The discussion on “Current Threats to Religious Liberty: The Right of Conscience Under Attack” was part of Aquinas College’s spring lecture series. The threat to religious freedom represented by the contraceptive mandate “is as serious as any threat we’ve faced in my lifetime,” said Land. “This regulation ... is just the first swing of the club.”

Catholic leaders: Farm bill can help hungry, farmers, rural US

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Five U.S. Catholic clergy and lay leaders said they want to work with lawmakers for a new farm bill that “provides for poor and hungry people both at home and abroad, offers effective support for those who grow our food, ensures fair-

ness to family farmers and ranchers, and promotes stewardship of the land. The farm bill affects us all, but most significantly, those who are hungry, living in poverty and struggling to keep farming a viable way of life,” they said in a March 6 letter to key members of a Senate committee that works on agricultural issues. The farm bill is a reauthorization package that generally comes up for renewal every five or six years. “The 2012 Farm Bill is an opportunity to address our nation’s broken and outdated agricultural policies. This is a crucial time to build a more just framework that puts poor and hungry people first, serves small and moderate-sized family farms, promotes sustainable stewardship of the land and helps vulnerable farmers and rural communities both at home and in developing countries,” the letter said. The letter was signed by Bishop Stephen E. Blaire of Stockton, Calif., chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development; Bishop Richard E. Pates of Des Moines, Iowa, chairman of the bishops’ Committee on International Justice and Peace; Father Larry Snyder, president of Catholic Charities USA; Carolyn Woo, president of Catholic Relief Services; and James F. Ennis, executive director of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference. It was addressed to Sens. Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., and Pat Roberts, R-Kan., chairwoman and ranking member, respectively, of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry.

Vatican congregation says 13 Cleveland parishes must reopen

CLEVELAND (CNS) — A Vatican congregation has overturned the closing of 13 parishes in the Diocese of Cleveland and said the churches must be restored for worship, a person involved with the cases said. The ruling reverses some of the closings ordered by Bishop Richard G. Lennon since 2009 under a diocesan-wide reconfiguration plan. The Congregation for Clergy’s ruling in support of parishioners who appealed the closings is a rare instance, explained Peter Borre, a leader with the Council of Parishes in Boston, who has been advising parish groups nationwide on their appeals. Bishop Lennon can appeal the rulings to the Apostolic Signature, the Vatican’s highest court. Decrees released by parishioners of two parishes March 8 cited Canons 515 and 1222 and the procedural and substantive steps that were not followed under them. Both canons require a bishop to consult with his diocesan council of priests prior to taking any action to suppress a parish or close a Church building. The congregation ruled that Bishop Lennon did not adhere to those requirements. “It is evident, therefore, that the requirements of law for the licit and valid relegation of a Church to secular but not unbecoming use have not been met, and that St. Patrick

Church (one of the parishes in the decision) has not been lawfully and validly relegated to secular but not unbecoming use,” said the decree for one of the parishes in Cleveland. Borre said other decrees that were read to him by people familiar with the case included the same language.

Recognizing gay unions devalues marriage, official tells UN council

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Catholic Church condemns violence and discrimination against homosexual persons, but recognizing same-sex unions as a marriage devalues the unique identity and social contributions of the union of a man and a woman, a Vatican official told the U.N. Human Rights Council. Archbishop Silvano Tomasi, Vatican observer at U.N. agencies in Geneva, told the council March 9 that the Vatican “condemns discrimination and violence against any human person, including those who are so targeted because of perceived sexual differences.” The Human Rights Council was discussing a report on “Discriminatory Laws and Practices and Acts of Violence against Individuals Based on their Sexual Orientation.” While the report noted international law does not require states to recognize same-sex unions, Archbishop Tomasi said Navi Pillay, the U.N. high commissioner for human rights, proposed that states have an obligation to “ensure that unmarried same-sex couples are treated in the same way and entitled to the same benefits as unmarried opposite-sex couples.” The archbishop said, “The Holy See expresses grave concern that, under the guise of ‘protecting’ people from discrimination and violence on the basis of perceived sexual differences, this council may be running the risk of demeaning the sacred and time-honored legal institution of marriage between man and woman.” Traditional marriage has “enjoyed special protection from time immemorial within legal, cultural and religious traditions and within the modern human rights instruments, starting with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,” he said. Marriage was afforded special recognition because the relationship between a man and woman, who commit to staying together for life and are open to having and raising children, benefits all the individuals involved, and “makes a unique and essential contribution to the public good,” the archbishop said.

Catholic Charities, women’s center team up to help pregnant women

HAMMOND, Ind. (CNS) — Thanks to a collaboration of agencies, a foundation and other funding sources, the first Women’s Care Center opened March 1 in the Diocese of Gary. The 19th such facility to open in Indiana, Wisconsin, Ohio and Michigan, the center serves young pregnant women who lack resources and support. “This ministry is very much needed in Northwest Indiana,” Gary Bishop Dale J. Melczek said at the dedication ceremony.

Diocesan representatives to speak at religious freedom rally

Stand Up for Religious Freedom Nationwide Rally will be held in Fort Wayne and South Bend on Friday, March 23, from 12-1 p.m.

In Fort Wayne, the event is being organized by Cathie Humbarger of the Allen County Right to Life. Sean McBride, director of the communications for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend will be one of nine speakers from many faith denominations.

The Fort Wayne event will be held on the Allen County Courthouse Lawn.

In South Bend, the rally will be held from 12-1 p.m. at the Jon R. Hunt Plaza, 211 N. Michigan — between LaSalle and Colfax — across from the Morris Performing Arts Center.

Lisa Everett, co-director of the Office of Family Life, will make one of the presentations.

South Bend organizers say, "Thousands of faithful citizens will gather in prayer and public witness in 80 cities and towns across the U.S. to oppose the Health and Human Services Mandate attack on religious liberty."

Additional information is available by linking to <http://standupforreligiousfreedom.com>. For more information, in South Bend contact SouthBend@StandUpForReligiousFreedom.com; in Fort Wayne contact (260) 471-1849 or Cathie.humbarger@ichooselife.org.

St. Peter, St. Mary parishes offer mission

FORT WAYNE — St. Peter and St. Mary parishes of Fort Wayne will hold a combined parish Lenten mission from Sunday, March 25, to Tuesday, March 27, at 6:30 p.m. each evening. Franciscan Father David Mary Engo will preside at all three services with the topic of "Reconciliation." The March 25 session will focus on "Reconciliation with God" and will be held at St. Mary Parish. The March 26 session will be held at St. Peter's and will focus on "Reconciliation with Others" with the sacrament of Reconciliation to follow. On March 27 at St. Mary's the topic will be "Reconciliation with Self." Refreshments will be served following Sunday and Tuesday services in St. Mary's Oechtering Hall.

Serra Club of South Bend promotes faith connection in college

SOUTH BEND — The Serra Club of South Bend is sponsoring the College Connections for Catholics (CCC), a program that provides high school students with information about Catholic organizations at the college of their choice as well as providing campus ministries with the

AROUND THE DIOCESE

MINSTRELS PERFORM GLEEFUL PROGRAM



FRANCIE HOGAN

The Bishop Luers Minstrels, the mixed show choir for the high school, performed their routine for the student body Friday, March 2. The school hosted six middle school and 19 high school choirs at the 38th annual show choir competition. It is the longest running show choir competition in the nation.

students' information so that they can receive invitations to events and liturgies. Research shows that young Catholics who practice their faith in college attend Mass more often, become leaders in their parish and are more likely to consider a religious vocation.

Saint Joseph's and Marian high schools participated in the program last year. This year the Serra Club of South Bend is broadening the program to cover not only the two Catholic high schools but also Catholic students not attending Saint Joseph's or Marian. The Serra Club of South Bend is contacting parishes in the western end of the diocese. For more information, call your parish or contact Stephen Elek, Jr. at (574) 291-0550.

The Serra mission is to pray, foster and support vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Rockne Mass and breakfast offered

NOTRE DAME — The Notre Dame Club of St. Joseph Valley will hold its 81st Annual Rockne Mass and Breakfast on Sunday, March 25. Mass will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the Dillon Hall Chapel, with breakfast to follow at 10:30 a.m. in McKenna Hall, the Center for Continuing Education.

Guests will honor the legacy of Knute Rockne with members of the Rockne family and

Ernest Jones, director of Player Development for the Notre Dame Football Team as speaker. Jones is in his first year on the coaching staff of the Irish.

Reservations are required by March 21, by calling the Notre Dame Alumni Office at (574) 631-6000. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 under the age of 18 and may be purchased at the door.

Applications being accepted for Providence Associates

SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS — The Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods are currently accepting applications from persons interested in becoming Providence Associates for the 2012-2013 year. Providence Associates are women and men, at least 18 years of age, of diverse faith traditions who seek a formal relationship with the Sisters of Providence.

Associates are drawn to this relationship with the Sisters of Providence primarily to deepen their spiritual life and they see themselves as being called to respond to the Providence vision through their own particular way of life.

Some suggested ways for associates to participate in the life and mission are mutual and intentional prayer; appropriate community gatherings, reflection and prayer

groups; Sisters of Providence retreats and spiritual enrichment programs; social justice activities; eco-justice projects; and/or other Sisters of Providence ministries.

Participation as an associate is an individual's response to the call depending on one's particular gifts, interest and ability. The associate makes a commitment for one year.

Applications for the next fiscal year will be accepted through June 30. For more information contact Debbie Dillow, assistant director of Providence Associates, at (317) 994-6821, ddillow@spsmw.org or visit www.ProvidenceAssociates.org. Applications are also available from Vicki Layton, administrative assistant, at vlayton@spsmw.org or (812) 535-2862.

Saint Joseph's High School musicians bring home gold

SOUTH BEND — Saint Joseph's High School students Alissa Plenzler and Sebastian Giraldo received gold ratings in the ISSMA State Competition this year. Plenzler is a senior competing in voice, and Giraldo is a sophomore violinist. Although not competing on the state level, Giovanni Stroik is a freshman trumpet player who received a gold rating at the district competition.

Order of Malta will host forum on end of life decisions

SOUTH BEND — The Order of Malta will host a Malta Forum on Saturday, March 24, beginning at 9 a.m. and concluding with noon Mass, at the Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center in South Bend, in Education Center A, B and C on the Garden level.

Society of Jesus Jesuit Father Joseph Koterski will speak on end-of-life decisions. Father Koterski is the associate professor of philosophy at Fordham University and editor-in-chief of the *International Philosophical Quarterly*. He is the author of "An Introduction to Medieval Philosophy: Some Basic Concepts." The forum will include prayer, talks, table discussions and Mass. For more information contact Chris Godfrey at (574) 237-9000 or Chris@GodfreyLawOffices.com.

Local children welcomed to Easter carnival

NOTRE DAME — Students at Holy Cross College will welcome local children and their parents to campus on Sunday, March 25, for its annual Easter Eggstravaganza event sponsored by the college's Social Concerns Committee. Children ages 3-8 years are invited to bring their Easter baskets to the Pfeil Center at Holy Cross to take part in activities including an egg hunt, potato sack races, and many other exciting crafts and games. There will be plenty of opportunities to win prizes, munch on delicious snacks and treats and meet the Easter Bunny. Admission is free to the public.

Festivities will take place from 1-3 p.m. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Holy Cross College is located across from the University of Notre Dame on State Road 933 North. For more information, please contact Social Concerns President Molly White at mwhite@hcc-nd.edu.

Bishop Rhoades to speak at Jewish Federation

SOUTH BEND — The Jewish Federation of St. Joseph County has invited Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades to give a keynote address. Bishop Rhoades will speak on "The Challenge of Secularization to the Future of Faith-Based Communities" at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 21. The talk, which will be followed by a question and answer session, will be held at the Jewish Federation, 3202 Shalom Way, South Bend. The Ecumenical Office of the Diocese of Ft. Wayne-South Bend and the Community Relations Committee of the federation will cohost a dessert reception following the talk. An RSVP is appreciated but not required at (574) 233-1164. Ample parking is available.

First Communion unites the body of Christ

BY KAY COZAD

Children from all over the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend have been preparing for months to receive the sacrament of first Communion. The Eucharist, instituted by Jesus at the last supper, is the very heart of the Catholic faith and according to the Catechism of the Catholic Church is "the source and summit of the Christian life." CCC 1324

The rich and fruitful history of this sacrament of initiation dates back, of course, to the last supper, when Jesus invited His Apostles to share in His eternal presence by remembering Him throughout all time by receiving His own sacrificial body and blood under the species of bread and wine.

The early Christians shared special meals in their homes in remembrance of their Savior on the first day of the week, Sunday, the day of Christ's resurrection. Gradually the structure of the Eucharistic celebration was formed with the addition of the Liturgy of the Word. And by the year 155 St. Justin Martyr wrote on the structure of what is now the modern Mass.

Children typically receive their first Communion around the age of seven or eight, as that is considered the age of reason. Catholic children prepare for the reception of the sacrament with a year or two of religious education within their school curriculum or through their parish program. They come to understand as best they can the changing of the bread and wine into the body and blood of Jesus Christ, called Transubstantiation.

They learn that "Eucharist" means "thanksgiving" and it is in the act of receiving the real presence of Christ that they give thanks to God for the sacrificial gift of His only begotten Son. It is in the sharing of the risen Lord that they become part of the earthly community in which He dwells.

Traditionally a child's first Communion is celebrated with special clothing. Often the clothing is white symbolizing purity, with decorative dresses and special veils or floral wreaths for

the girls, who are now brides of Christ. Many times these dresses are heirlooms that have been passed down from generation to generation or from sister to sister.

Boys dress in dark slacks with white shirt and tie. Many wear special suits for the occasion.

The sacrament of first Communion is a festive celebration calling for large family gatherings with religious gifts such as prayer books, Bibles, rosaries, and religious statues. It is considered a rite of passage into the sharing of the life of the Church, which was begun at Baptism.

St. Mary of the Assumption, in Decatur, second graders have been excitedly preparing for this special sacramental day with their teachers Michelle Miller and Nicole Selking, with much class time spent on reading from their regular text, discussing the sacrament, coloring and filling in worksheets.

Miller says, "We are making our own scrapbooks," for which parents have sent in Baptismal pictures with memories of the day for the Baptism page, Reconciliation photos, and personal anecdotes written by the students themselves on what this process means to them.

"And we spend a lot of time practicing," says Miller, whose students will sit as a class for their first Communion, while other parishes have students receive with their parents. "We practice walking down the aisle and using first Communion hands," she reports, adding the students practice in the classroom and in the church.

Second-grader Sara Bechinski is anticipating her first Communion with joy and says, "In second grade it is special to receive Communion because in your whole life you never ate the body and blood from Jesus' body!"

Fellow student Paige Busick couldn't agree more saying, "I can receive the body and blood of Jesus Christ. I will be so proud of myself when I am done and I'm sure my friends will be too."

While Catholic children around the diocese are joyfully preparing for their special first Communion ceremony, 502 adults will be received into full communion of the Catholic Church during the Easter Triduum and have been preparing to receive their first Communion through a special program called the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults or RCIA.

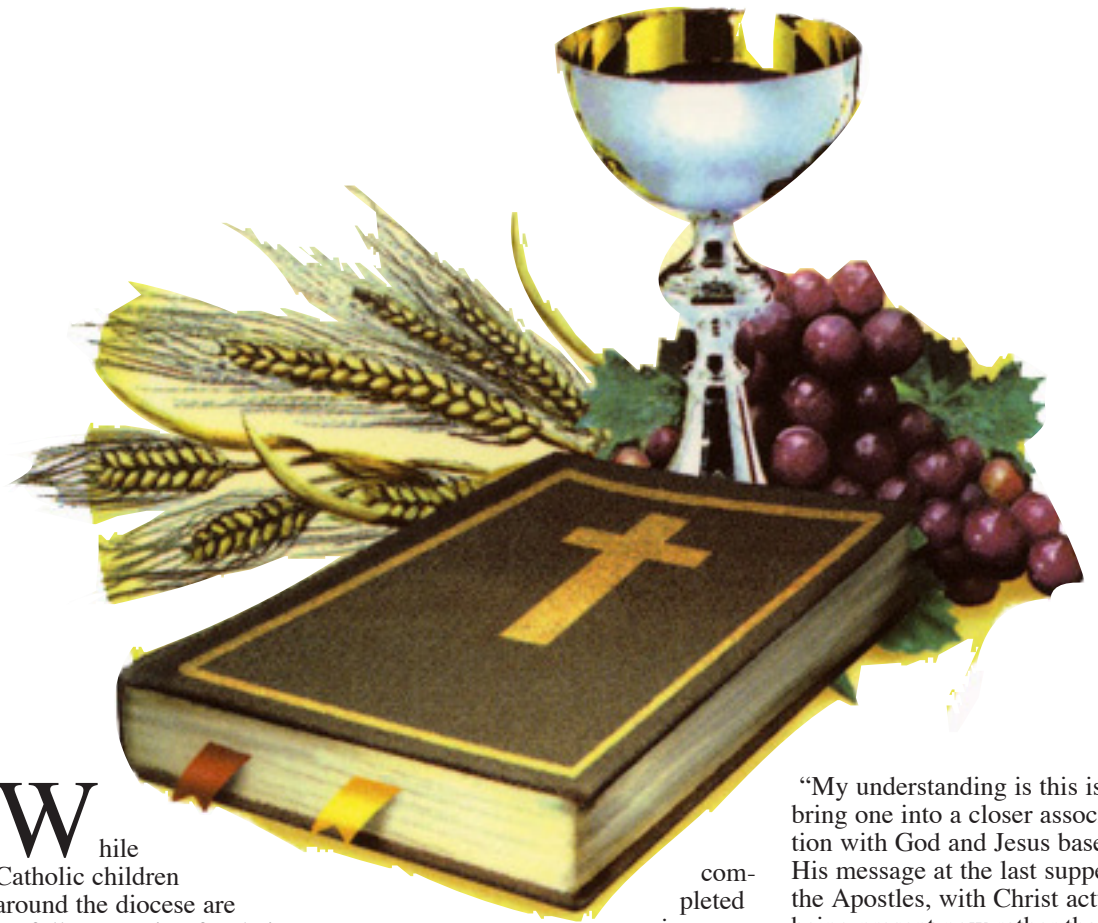
The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend recently signed 227 names of catechumens, who are preparing for Baptism, Confirmation and the reception of first Communion, and 275 candidates, who have already been baptized but will be confirmed and receive their first Communion, into the book of the elect at the Rite of Election. The catechumens are now called "the elect."

Bev Zollinger, who will be received into the Church at the Easter vigil at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Fort Wayne, believes the RCIA process has been life changing. As a candidate she looks forward to the "new feeling of being included in one of the most important moments of the Eucharistic celebration," and says, "I will have

completed nine months of RCIA class, along with experiencing my first Reconciliation. My heart and soul are both ready for my first Eucharistic experience and I am looking forward to the Easter Vigil and becoming Catholic." Fellow Candidate Troy Cozad has completed three years of Catechism lessons and eight months of RCIA instruction and feels he is ready to be part of the mystical Body of Christ. He says, "Since I have been attending a Catholic Church for a number of years already, I very much look forward to being able to finally fully participate in the Mass, so I expect to feel a greater sense of being part of the Communion." Cozad's newly formed understanding of the Eucharistic celebration has brought new meaning to his life. He reports,

"My understanding is this is to bring one into a closer association with God and Jesus based on His message at the last supper to the Apostles, with Christ actually being present now rather than just symbolically reflecting His actions at an event 2,000 years ago. To me this also has special meaning through the line "do this in remembrance of me" that I believe not only refers to His sacrifices of the Passion to provide mankind a deliverance from sin, but also to remember His teachings of how to live a morally just life to prepare now for the kingdom of Heaven. ... Therefore, taking the Eucharist is both a powerful reminder about what your relationship to God should be and also what your relationship with your fellow beings should be. ... I am right now going through a lot of personal self-examination of how I wish to live my life from now on."

First Communion truly does unite the body of Christ.



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Home producer recalls stint as Communion wine supplier

BY JODI MAGALLANES

ELKHART — The year might have been 1980 something, Frank and Kay Lucchese figure, when they were given an opportunity that's probably rare for someone living in Northern Indiana.

Longtime parishioners of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Elkhart, the couple run a very Italian homestead. Sunday family dinner is a part of their tradition, and consists of plates full of pasta accompanied by a red Cabernet or Zinfandel that they make themselves, every fall, in their garage and basement.

Homemade Lucchese wine was first made back in the Italian town of Volturara Appula, and continued after Frank's parents immigrated to Elkhart in the 1920s.

Father Marty Hunckler, who formerly served as the pastor of St. Thomas, was a frequent guest in the Lucchese home and became a fan of their wine. Once, he invited Frank to give his product a trial run as the parish's communion wine. Frank was honored, and saw to it that the parish quickly received a 53-gallon barrel.

"I was so excited. I thought, wow, I'm making what people are going to be taking for Communion," he recalled.

After a few days, however, the couple was informed that there seemed to be a problem with their contribution.

"They said it was too strong. ... I don't know how it could be, though, unless you were drinking a lot of it. It's only a sip," Frank said.

Although their days of providing Communion wine were short lived, the family's winemaking tradition lives on. Each fall, Frank and Kay, along with their children, grandchildren, several of Frank's brothers and a couple other Italian families in town, receive Zinfandel and Cabernet grapes that are trucked in from California vineyards. Those grapes, his parents discovered, have a much higher sugar content than local grapes and therefore make better wine.

Over the weekend, crews lift 50 36-pound boxes of the grapes into a grinder/destemmer, then into a 100-year-old presser that Frank brought over from the old country. Lastly, the liquid



BY JODI MAGALLANES

St. Thomas the Apostle parishioners Frank and Kay Lucchese of Elkhart show off their home wine cellar. The family makes their own wines, a Cabernet and a Zinfandel, each fall, in the tradition of Frank's Italian heritage.

is gathered into barrels where it undergoes a two-step fermenting process before being tapped for the dinner table between three months to two years later.

"The kids love it. They get so excited when it's time to make the wine," Kay said. "I'm in charge of cooking and the cleanup, which is just the way I like it."

"We have a system," Frank explains, in a small but fragrant wine cellar carved out of the basement. "The wine we're drinking now was made — see here," he says, pointing to the vat. "In 2009. The Zinfandel, though, you can drink after just a few months."

"And mine is all natural. No chemicals," he adds. "It's a little heavier than some, but it's a good, dry wine." He's tested the alcohol content with a vinometer and says it comes out to 15 percent, only three percent higher than most table wines.

Kay, although not Italian by birth, embraced her husband's rich culture many years ago. That culture is complemented by a steadfast commitment to the

Catholic faith and to their long-time parish.

Frank grew up attending St. Vincent de Paul Parish in downtown Elkhart. At the time, St. Vincent's was the only Catholic parish in the city. It was also nearby to what developed during the first half of the 1900s as a

local Italian enclave.

During high school, in the days before RCIA, a friend who was converting to Catholicism asked if Kay, who was not Catholic, would like to accompany her to preparation classes. She did, and felt called to embrace the faith. In 1965, after she and Frank

were married, a second Elkhart parish — St. Thomas the Apostle — was built on the north side of town by their new home.

Even though they came to it by different routes, the couple's dedication to the faith has not wavered during almost 50 years of marriage.

All four of their children, and all of their eight grandchildren, are students or alumni of St. Thomas School as well. As for Frank and Kay, both are averse to looking for reasons to miss weekend Mass. Frank is also a member of the parish's Knights of Columbus council.

Enjoying part-time retirement, Frank still maintains his profession as a barber for longtime clients. He also serves as one of Elkhart County's three county commissioners. But the couple's Catholic faith is what buoys them and serves as a compass.

In fact, the Luccheses wish that more people would recognize the richness of the faith.

"That Catholics Come Home campaign they're doing now — that's the greatest thing ever. I hope people listen to it," Frank said.

They also share an exciting religious memory borrowed from the life of Frank's mother, which happened back in Volturara. She once walked to a nearby town for confession, the story goes, and found herself confessing to none other than Padre Pio.

"That just gives me goose bumps," said Kay. "Can you imagine?"

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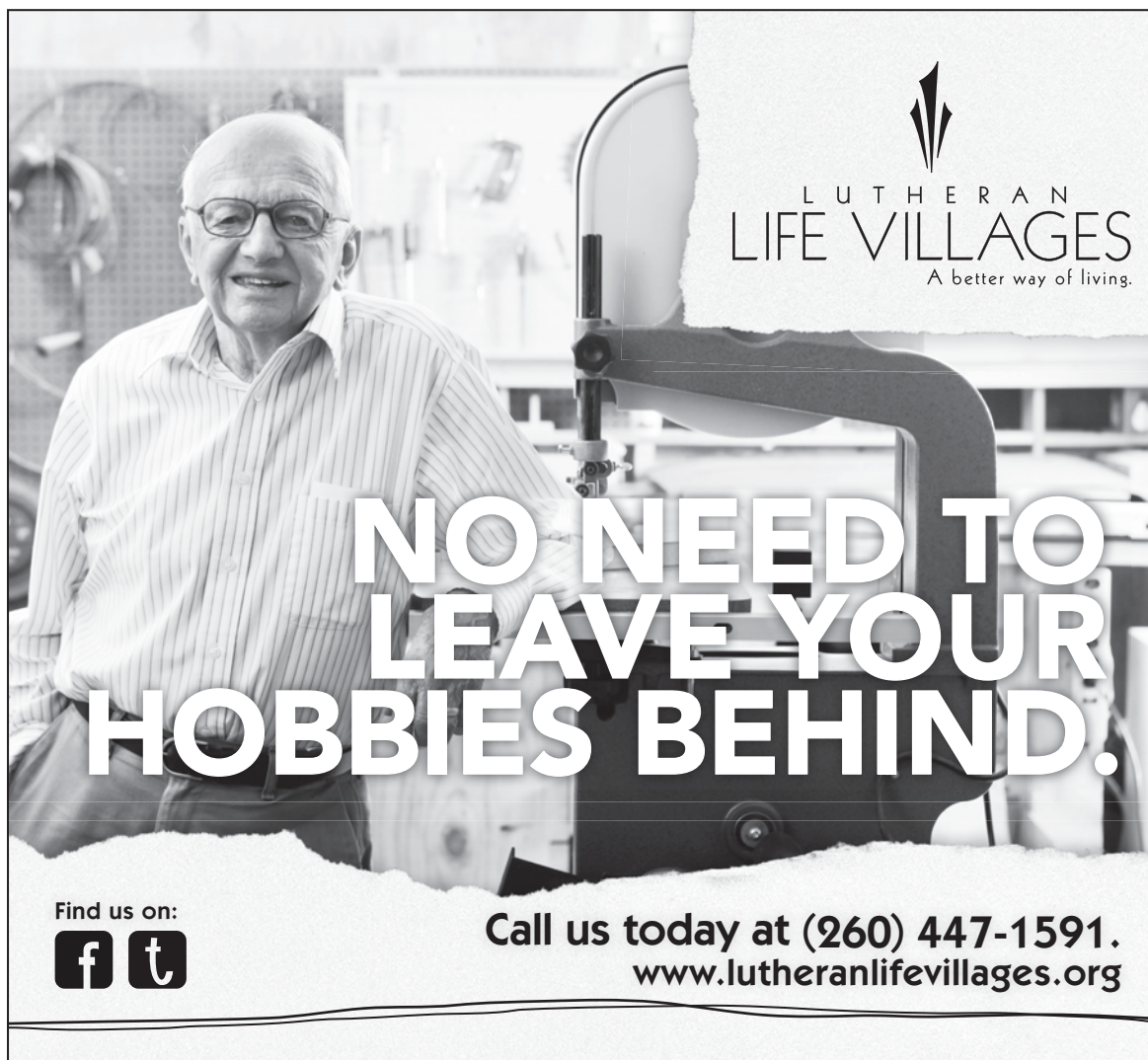
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Former 'Next Top Model' brings moral message

BY VINCE LABARBERA

FORT WAYNE — Former fashion model celebrity and current Catholic Answers apologist Leah Darrow delivered her story of conversion, courage and fortitude to a mixed audience of faculty, students, parents and religious sisters Wednesday evening, March 7, at the University of Saint Francis. She also spoke to an all-school assembly at Bishop Dwenger High School that same morning.

Darrow drew upon her experiences in fashion, reality TV and the moments during and after her re-conversion to Catholicism, emphasizing the call to greatness within everyone in a talk titled, "From Top Model to Role Model."

"I didn't always have a 'halo,'" she quipped. "And I didn't grow 'horns' overnight either," she added.

The oldest of six children, Darrow was born in Oklahoma, raised Catholic and "loved it." Even though she recited the rosary nightly with her family, Darrow thought, "I'm a good person. But I'll be holy later, when I'm older," especially after the family moved to St. Louis and she strove to "fit in" in a new high school by "going along with the group."

"I'm embarrassed to admit I lost my virginity at age 15," she said choking back tears. "I didn't know how good I was. It was a precious gift to give away," she stressed. "Now I was damaged goods. That one moment changed everything for me; so I kept doing it, lowering my self esteem even further ... in a 10-year fade from everything I knew."

Darrow earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Missouri-St. Louis, graduating with magna cum laude honors and serving as president of the Psychology Honor Society, Psi Chi. She moved to New York where she pursued a professional modeling career. Eventually, the media spotlight shown on her as a contestant on the television reality show, "America's Next Top Model."

"We should not be entertainment for others," Darrow emphasized as she described the many humiliating circumstances of working in reality TV, and the fashion and beauty industries. "They tell us (models) they have to film everything. We're asked to reveal our imperfections, break ourselves down so they can build us up with their products," she added.

"But everything suddenly came together in the middle of a photo shoot," she said. Darrow described how she saw herself with empty hands looking up at a shadowy profile of a man who seemed to bow his head because she had nothing — no gifts — to offer.

"I vowed right then to quit sin — and walked out!" The crew yelled, "You're gonna be a nobody!" She added, "Do you promise I'll be a nobody!" thinking "I had made Jesus and my faith a nobody for years!"



PHOTO BY VINCE LABARBERA

Speaker Leah Darrow answers a question following a talk on "From Top Model to Role Model."

Darrow called her dad, Patrick, and said, "If you don't come and get me I'm going to lose my soul!"

He drove from St. Louis to New York, but she said she had no idea how she was going to change. But since she wanted to come home, the first thing her dad had her do was go to Confession, "because the Church is home," he said.

There was quiet laughter throughout the USF audience as Darrow described the experience of unloading everything to a very understanding priest in the confessional.

"I can still feel that peace," she stressed. "It's over!" She now realizes the hurt and worry she put her parents through, as well as the things her brothers and sisters did because of her example.

Darrow began "rehabilitating herself" by attending Mass, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, engaging in spiritual reading and even dating, emphasizing her clothes "stayed on!" And she assumed a full-time position with Catholic Answers in El Cajon, Calif., one of the largest lay-run apostolates of Catholic apologetics and evangelization in the United States.

"I have to share my story," bringing her experiences of the fashion world and Catholicism to others through talks and Catholic Answers. Darrow has appeared on numerous secular and non-secular television and radio programs, including EWTN, and spoken on behalf of international youth at the United Nations' panel discussion in July 2011. She addresses the topics of mercy, conversion, human dignity, modesty and chastity, and inspires and challenges people of all ages to accept the mercy of Christ, embrace true love and welcome conversion.

She's also pursuing a master's degree in pastoral theology at Ave Maria University, Naples, Fla.

About a month ago she accepted a marriage proposal at sunrise on the rim of the Grand Canyon from Rick, who said he forgives her past and wants to share his love with her forever.

Darrow said in conclusion, "There's one Man who gave us His Forever Love on a Cross. We're all being proposed to by Christ. Will we say 'yes' to His proposal?"

Past tense to present need

I recently met a newly bereaved widow who confided that she was struggling with the curious and overwhelming process of remembering her husband as the young man she first met and courted. Initially I was overjoyed that she would allow herself those precious memories to override the intense pain that typically accompanied thoughts of her beloved husband's particularly debilitating and arduous illness and subsequent death, after 43 years of marital bliss.

So I was surprised to hear that she found no joy in these distant memories coming of their own volition to dominate her days. Why, she asked, would she be immersed in those carefree but long ago days when the people she and her husband were then are so far removed from the person she is now.

It was confusing, she said, to

catch herself humming a Beatle's tune while recalling a pleasant personal experience with her husband that occurred long ago. The feelings she experienced were ones of happiness and contentment, a sharp contrast to the deep sorrow of her loss.

Many who are mourning the loss of a loved one find that they are initially bombarded with images of the ravages of physical illness recently experienced or the devastating sight of accidental tragedies. These memories play like a player piano, over and over, immersing us in our story of grief. So why were these long past memories so troubling to my new friend?

I have learned that to mourn well and rediscover hope for the future, we must listen to the love stories of our hearts and give them voice. And sometimes, that means we have to look way



KAY COZAD

HOPE IN THE MOURNING

back — in past tense — to what began this march to the place we are now, before we can move forward. Of course we can recall with blinding accuracy the details of the darkest moments surrounding our loved one's death. But we must also remember the days of joy and challenge that brought us to this present moment.

My new friend was unwittingly participating in a life review — a natural but systematic recall

HOPE, PAGE 12

Farewell to a double standard

Some time ago the Committee on Doctrine of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops critiqued a published work by a university professor. The book was being used as a college-level religion text.

The bishops did not censure or prohibit the professor from teaching or publishing or even ask that the errors in the book be corrected. The bishops simply exercised their responsibility as authentic teachers in the Church.

A small group raised the concern that the bishops had somehow acted improperly. The bishops were told they should have remained silent until they had entered into private dialogue with the professor before critiquing the work. One can see the need for some dialogical process if a teacher is to be removed from teaching or prohibited from publishing. In fact, procedures do exist for such cases.

The bishops pointed out that they have an obligation — a moral and ecclesial one — to teach, correct, convince, reprimand, encourage whether it is convenient or inconvenient (cf. 2 Timothy 4:2).

The bishops also noted that any writer on theological themes can initiate dialogue with the bishop through the imprimatur process. In this way the writer can take responsibility for a personal dialogue. However, at the heart of the complaint directed to the bishops was the claim that they should not have spoken until after they had engaged in a personal dialogue. New Ways Ministry, for example, issued a statement criticizing the bishops' critique of its book supporting same-sex relationships and so-called same-sex marriage, chiding the bishops for having made public their position "without dialogue with its author."

Now comes the March 5 issue of *America* magazine. This publication is a ministry of The Society of Jesus in the United States and without any previous invitation to dialogue with the bishops, the magazine's long editorial (March 5, 2012) offered a harsh criticism of the teaching and pastoral position of the bishops and particularly the Conference of Bishops. *America*'s editorial criticized the bishops' continued opposition to the United States Department of Health and Human Services' mandate, which the bishops see as containing a radical redefining of Church and ecclesial ministry, as well as requiring that religious institutions, if self insured, pay for health insurance coverage of abortion-producing drugs, sterilization and contraceptives. The bishops have stated that the "accommodation" announced by the administration still presents grave moral concerns and continues to violate the Catholic

GUEST EDITORIAL

THE CATHOLIC STANDARD

Church's constitutionally protected religious liberty.

The magazine's editorial articulated an alternate course that can only be interpreted as a challenge to the leadership and teaching role of the bishops in the Church in the United States.

There was no consultation, dialogue or previous discussion by *America* magazine to learn if it had the facts right and was actually presenting the position and teaching of the Catholic bishops and the Conference of Bishops. No, it simply exerted its freedom to publish its views.

The Conference of Bishops did not insist that the editors of *America* magazine were obliged to remain silent and initiate a dialogue before publishing, even though a strong case can be made that one would have thought that the magazine published by the Society of Jesus should have shown more respect for the teaching and leadership role of the bishops before lambasting it. After all, the voice of the bishops is not just one more among many.

While we disagree with just about everything in the *America* magazine editorial and agree with the assessment of it by Professor Robert George of Princeton University in "Public Discourse: Ethics, Law, and the Common Good," an online publication of The Witherspoon Institute, there is a positive note. The editorial and the action of its publishers have pulled back the curtain to reveal in bright daylight what can be aptly described as a double standard.

America magazine's editorial simply makes evident that on a level playing field if one is free to critique the work of the bishops, then the bishops are free to critique the works of others. Farewell to the double standard.

Using the label "theologian," there are some who have attempted to require silence from the bishops on matters of faith and morals until the bishops have entered into a private, personal dialogue with the theologian who, in turn, is considered academically free to write what he or she wishes. *America*, through its unfortunate editorial, has simply exposed this double standard for what it is.

But there is much more than just basic fairness that obliges us to move beyond the double standard. We are in the age of the

GUEST, PAGE 12

God loves us with an everlasting love



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

4th Sunday of Lent Jn 3:14-21

The Second Book of Chronicles provides this Lenten weekend with its first reading. Chronicles was written about 1,000 years before Jesus. The identity of its author is unknown. As the title of this book implies, its purpose is to record the history of God's people, but the most important aspect of their history always was religious.

A constant refrain, and source of grief, among the prophets and the devout of ancient Israel was the people's sinfulness of the people and most particularly that of the kings. God caused no distress or hardship. Rather, by disobeying God the people themselves upset the order of life and brought trouble upon themselves.

This reading insists that God again and again has sent messengers to call the people to piety. Inevitably, these messengers met rebuke.

As an example of all this, Babylonia overtook the Holy Land because sin had weakened the Hebrew kingdoms. The conquerors took many Hebrews to Babylon where the Hebrews' lives were miserable.

A pagan king, Cyrus, of Persia, freed these sad people when in turn he overcame Babylon. The devout saw Cyrus as an instrument of God's mercy.

The Epistle to the Ephesians furnishes the second reading. It teaches critical facts about God, the source of unending mercy. Salvation is God's merciful gift. We do not deserve it. God lavishly extends it to us, however, as an expression of eternal, divine love.

St. John's Gospel gives this Liturgy of the Word its final reading. In this reading, Jesus is speaking to Nicodemus, a prominent and religious Jew from Jerusalem. The Lord refers to an event that occurred during the Exodus when Moses lifted high a serpent. All who looked upon this serpent were rescued from death.

Serpents were important in ancient iconography, although more important among pagans than among Jews. Serpents symbolized eternal life, since they shed their hides and seemingly were re-born to new lives.

Jesus predicts being lifted up, as Moses lifted up the serpent. All who would look upon Jesus would have everlasting life.

Even as bearer of life, Jesus was not a conqueror. People must freely choose to follow Jesus by renouncing their own sin. Still, renouncing sin is worth it. Life is the consequence.

This is important. God "so loved the world." God desires life for us and therefore sent Jesus to lead us to life, even if we on occasion have preferred darkness.

Reflection

This weekend often is called "Laetare Sunday," taking its name from the Latin word, *laetare*, to rejoice. This is the first word of the Entrance Antiphon, which in the Roman Rite for centuries was in Latin.

In the liturgies of this weekend, priests have the option of wearing pink, or to be precise,

rose vestments. Rose is not the toning down of a stricter purple. Rather, it is the subdued purple brightened by the golden light of the Resurrection. Easter lies just a few weeks ahead.

The Church calls us to rejoice, even if we are in the fourth week of Lent, the season of austerity and penance.

We rejoice because although life can be hard and dark, in Christ we have hope and peace. The Lord won life and peace for us on the cross. The Gospel reading alludes to the crucifixion.

Beyond Calvary, Jesus, victorious over death, stands before us, the "Light of the World." For humanity, the blessed fact is that any who turn only to Jesus, and in Jesus are obedient to God, will share in the wondrous victory Jesus won over death and sin.

We can share in this victory because God has given us the Lord. God gave us Jesus so that we might live. God loves us with an everlasting love. It is a productive, active and forthcoming love.

READINGS

Sunday: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23

Ps 137:1-6 Eph 2:4-10 Jn 3:14-21

Monday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16 Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29 Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22 Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a

Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12 Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9 Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday: Is 49:8-15 Ps 145:8-9, 13c-14, 17-18 Jn 5:17-30

Thursday: Ex 32:7-14 Ps 106:19-23 Jn 5:31-47

Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22 Ps 34:17-21, 23 Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday: Jer 11:18-20 Ps 7:2-3, 9b-12 Jn 7:40-53

Contraception: What's a Catholic to think?

In the first article in this series, we saw how the love-giving and life-giving dimensions of sexuality are intimately linked, like two sides of the same coin. This intimate link reflects the inner life of the Holy Trinity, in which the love between the Father and Son is so real it is actually another person — the Holy Spirit.

Because God has inscribed in sexual intercourse an inseparable connection between its love-giving purpose and its life-giving potential, married couples must respect the integrity of this act whenever they chose to engage in it. In other words, the Church teaches about these two dimensions of sex what Christ Himself taught about the bond between husband and wife: we must not separate what God has joined.

Pope Paul VI put it this way in "Humanae vitae": "Each and every marital act must of necessity retain its intrinsic relationship to the procreation of human life." This moral norm, the pope pointed out, is based on "the inseparable connection, established by God, which man on his own initiative may not break, between the unitive significance and the procreative significance which are both inherent to the marriage act."

Any acts, which attempt to separate these two dimensions by deliberately suppressing the life-giving potential of sex, are prohibited from a moral point of view. This includes "direct sterilization, whether of the man or of the woman, whether permanent or temporary. Similarly excluded is any action which either before, at the moment of, or after sexual intercourse, is specifically intended to prevent procreation — whether as an end or as a means." "Humanae vitae," 14-16

The Catechism of the Catholic Church describes contraception and sterilization as "intrinsically evil" (No. 2370), meaning that their use is always seriously wrong in freely chosen acts of sexual intercourse. It is important to clarify here that we are not talking about taking synthetic hormones to treat a medical con-

dition or to restore the proper functioning of the reproductive system — that is morally acceptable. We are instead referring to the use of drugs, devices, surgical procedures, etc. ... for the purpose of preventing pregnancy. The only time that the Church permits the use of contraception is when a woman has been raped, and the possibility still exists of preventing the sperm from fertilizing an egg. In this situation, because the woman did not freely choose to engage in sex, she has the right to defend herself from a possible pregnancy. However, if conception has already occurred, nothing may be done to prevent the implantation of the embryo in the woman's womb, or to otherwise disrupt the pregnancy. In this regard, it is crucial to point out that the most popular and effective forms of birth control available today, such as the Pill, the Patch, Depo-Provera, Norplant, etc. ..., are based on different delivery methods of powerful synthetic hormones. These hormonal contraceptives work not only by attempting to suppress ovulation; they also achieve their effectiveness by altering the lining of the uterus to prevent the implantation of a newly conceived child should conception occur, and therefore can cause a very early abortion. This obviously aggravates the moral evil involved.

Blessed John Paul II deepened our understanding of the Church's teaching on this matter by demonstrating that the love-giving and life-giving dimensions of sex are truly inseparable. This is because contraception and sterilization not only imply a positive refusal to be open to the possibility of new life, but they also contradict the meaning of sexual union as a sign of total self-giving. I am not giving myself totally to my spouse in sexual intercourse if, at the same time, I am withholding from him or her my fertility, a gift which has the potential to unite us in the most profound way possible, and through which we are privileged to participate in the creative love of God. In the same way, I am not completely accepting my

when she and I would meet for lunch or shopping — those grand adventures, girlfriend-style.

As I reel at the thought that an entire year has flown by since last she and I spoke, I know that remembering her as she was all those years ago allows me to move across our personal time line at my own pace, moving through my grief toward healing. Of course I remember the drain on her life that insidious disease had. But for now, my heart knows that our story of friendship, written in past tense, is more what I need to get me through this first anniversary date.

Many of us wish only to remain in those pleasant memo-



LISA EVERETT

GUEST
COMMENTARY

spouse as a gift, loving him or her in the fullness of his masculinity or her femininity, as he or she was created by God, if I ask, or even demand, that he or she do something to his or her body to diminish or destroy its capacity to create new life.

What Blessed John Paul II was saying, in summary, is that God has so intimately linked the love-giving and life-giving meanings of sex that when this sacred act is deliberately deprived of its procreative capacity, it also ceases, however implicitly, to be an act of love. Here it is in his own words:

"When couples, by recourse to contraception, separate these two meanings that God the creator has inscribed in the being of man and woman and in the dynamism of their sexual communion, they act as arbiters of the divine plan and they manipulate and degrade human sexuality and with it themselves and their married partners by altering its value of total self-giving. Thus the innate language that expresses the total reciprocal self-giving of husband and wife is overlaid, through contraception, by an objectively contradictory language, namely, that of not giving oneself totally to the other. This leads not only to a positive refusal to be open to life, but also to a falsification of the inner truth of conjugal love, which is called upon to give itself in personal totality." "Familiaris consortio," 32.

Lisa Everett is the co-director of the Office of Family Life.

ries of days gone by, escaping the present pain of living in loss. And the past certainly has much to teach us. But to move toward the future with hope and healing, we must presently give voice to our memories, whether distant or more recent, and then gently allow them to find their rightful place in our newly unfolding life.

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

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for March 18, 2012

John 3:14-21

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for Fourth Sunday of Lent, Cycle B: how a serpent foretold the salvation of the cross. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

LIFTED UP	SERPENT	SON OF MAN
LIFE	SO LOVED	WORLD
HE GAVE	ONLY SON	BELIEVE
PERISH	SEND	CONDEMN
THE NAME	VERDICT	LIGHT
PEOPLE	DARKNESS	EVIL
HATES	EXPOSED	TRUTH

EXPOSED

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

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HOPE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

of all that had made her life so rich. This organic and necessary process would help shape the landscape of her grief journey.

My dear friend Denise, who died of leukemia a year ago this month, is foremost on my mind these days as her death anniversary approaches. I have, through the past 11 months, traversed flashbacks of her illness and funeral, but more recently the majority of my memories are of finer days

GUEST

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

New Evangelization. The call of the Church today is to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to this contemporary, very secular world.

Almost everyone, especially those engaged in Catholic education and certainly pastors, realize that we are dealing with several generations of poorly catechized or miscatechized Catholics, many of whom attended Catholic colleges and universities and have now simply drifted away from the faith.

There is a profound need — at every level of Catholic education — to present clearly and convincingly the core message of the faith. It is the responsibility of the bishops to ensure that each generation receives the faith unblemished and unchanged. The Good News, forgotten by many and ignored by others, proclaims that God has sent His Son among us, that His words are the words of eternal life, that He died and rose for our salvation, that the encounter with that mystery is

found in the Church today, particularly in her sacraments and especially in the Eucharist, and that the Church, guided by the successors to the Apostles, continues the authentic proclamation of the revelation.

A welcome sign of renewal in the life of the Church and a source of evangelizers for the New Evangelization is the number of young people coming along today who do not reflect the theological discontinuity of the '60s, '70s and '80s, but rather see themselves as heirs to the renewal of Blessed John Paul II continuing in Pope Benedict XVI.

As the double standard is put aside, we recognize that bishops simply have to "proclaim the word; be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient; convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching" (2 Timothy 4:2).

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Sports

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PARTNERS WITH QUALITY DINING FOR YOU CAN LEND A HAND DAY Catholic school students saw the University of Notre Dame women's basketball team take on University of South Florida during the Quality Dining sponsored You Can Lend A Hand Day, at the Purcell Pavilion on Feb. 25 at Notre Dame. Over 100 Catholic elementary school students joined the Notre Dame cheerleaders to perform two group cheers during a time-out. Abby Felix, an eighth-grade student from Mishawaka Catholic School, Mishawaka, and the winner of the 2012 student poster design contest, was presented with a framed copy along with certificates from Papa Vino's Italian Kitchen, Chili's and Burger King.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FREE THROW REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP



PROVIDED BY THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Knights of Columbus Free Throw Challenge 2012 Indiana Regional Championship was held at the St. Vincent de Paul gym on Sunday, March 4. From left, the division champions, who are all from St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel School in Fort Wayne, are Madison Parsenow, age 10, Alexis Sweeney, age 12, Abby Ulman, age 13, Jessica Dodane, age 11. The girls moved on to the state championship Saturday, March 10, where they competed along with five other shooters in each of their age groups.

Marian wins boys' basketball regional

BY CHUCK FREEBY

PLYMOUTH — In the television series, Star Trek, every episode began with the crew "boldly going where no man has gone before."

Marian basketball coach Robb Berger may not be Captain James T. Kirk, but he is doing the same thing with the Knights program. His Marian squad won a regional for the first time in school history here Saturday night, downing Andean, 82-62, in the championship game.

"This is something we've been working on for two years," said a jubilant Berger afterwards. "We've been taking it step-by-step, and by golly, we're getting it done."

It has been a team effort all year for the Knights, and that certainly was the case in the win over the 59ers. Diminutive junior guard Michael Whitfield used his speed and athleticism to cut

through seams in the Andean defense, tallying a season-high 23 points to go with six rebounds. His backcourt mate, Demetrius Jackson, drove and dished for 20 points, breaking the school's all-time single-season scoring record with 551 for the year.

"We love each other and we play for each other," said senior Robert Mischler, who had 14 points himself. "No person on this team wants to let any of their teammates down."

The Knights looked like a well-oiled machine throughout the night against the talented Andean bunch. Marian connected on 60 percent of its shots, while making just six turnovers.

"In the locker room before the game, I knew the guys were going to give their best effort, but I never thought we'd shoot this well," admitted Berger.

Still, with all the hot shooting,

Andean stayed close throughout the first three quarters. Collin Wojcki's three-pointer late in the third quarter brought the 59ers within five at 55-50. Whitfield's buzzer-beating bank shot ended the stanza, and any hopes of an Andean comeback.

"That's a good basketball team," remarked Andean coach Carson Cunningham. "They shoot the apple and move the ball real well."



Marian will play its first basketball semistate ever Saturday afternoon against Norwell. The game tips off at 4 p.m. at Huntington North High School and will be televised by WHME-TV in South Bend and shown on tape delay later that evening.



Seeking Part-time Administrative Assistant

Redeemer Radio, a non-profit, Catholic Radio Group is seeking a Part-time Administrative Assistant to support the station in operating

more efficiently and effectively. This position is planned for 20-25 hours per week operating Monday – Friday, but may need to increase during peak times.

The candidate must have a passion for the Catholic Faith, will love being part of a team while contributing to the success of something larger than him/herself.

The chosen candidate will work with the Business Administrator in handling day-to-day decision-making and problem solving as relates to the station and working with staff, volunteers and the general public. This person must be skilled at managing multiple projects simultaneously, possess excellent computer skills, and have a can-do attitude.

Responsibilities include:

- Perform secretarial duties including: first contact for the public via phone, email and mail and coordination of workload for administrative volunteers
- Extensive computer related responsibilities

including daily station log preparation, and maintaining membership database

- Administrative coordination of promotional functions
- Administrative support of additional staff

Requirements:

- Practicing Catholic in full communion with the church
- Strong background with Microsoft Office and a variety software systems

Please send resume, references, and salary requirements (necessary for consideration) to:

Redeemer Radio
Attn: Business Administrator
4618 East State Blvd. Ste 200
Fort Wayne, IN 46815

Or email to: jobs@RedeemerRadio.com

For more complete information visit: www.RedeemerRadio.com

As a religious broadcaster, Fort Wayne Catholic Radio Group has established a religious qualification for all employee positions at WLYV. In accordance with all FCC rules and EEO Program compliance measures, WLYV makes reasonable, good faith efforts to recruit and hire applicants without regard to race, color, national origin or gender, among those who are qualified for employment based on their religious belief or affiliation.

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Successful candidates meet the following:

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For more information, contact Rhonda Scher at the Catholic Schools Office at 260-422-4611 X3335.

Applications on the web at:
www.diocesefwsb.org/cso.

Applications will be reviewed upon completion.



Jars of Clay to perform during USF Spring Fling

FORT WAYNE — Grammy-winning Christian rock band Jars of Clay will perform in a multi-band venue at the University of Saint Francis Performing Arts Center at 431 W. Berry St., the former Scottish Rite, in downtown Fort Wayne on Wednesday, April 18 as part of Spring Fling Week.

Jars of Clay's performance will blend alternative rock, folk, acoustic and rhythm and blues styles in a musical celebration of God. Deriving its name from II Cor. 4:7 in the New International Version translation of the Bible, the band has sold millions of recordings from its song collections, including the latest, "The Shelter."

Performing with them will be special guests Leagues and Matthew Perryman Jones. Two local bands, State Line City and The Good Confession will also play.

Doors will open at 5:30 p.m., and the local bands will begin the concert at around 6 p.m., followed by Leagues, Perryman Jones and then Jars of Clay. General admission tickets for this Campus Ministry sponsored event are \$10 through itickets.com or \$15 at the door. USF faculty, staff and students are free with university identification.

For more information, visit usfpac.com/events/jars-of-clay or contact Campus Ministry Director Josh Stagni at (260) 399-7700, ext. 6703 or jstagni@sf.edu.

'Steel Magnolias' first USF Performing Arts Center production

FORT WAYNE — The School of Creative Arts at the University of Saint Francis will present the university's first stage play in the new USF Performing Arts Center during the spring semester. "Steel Magnolias," a Robert

Harling play directed by Brad Beauchamp, will focus on love, friendship, sadness and the strength of women as it follows a group of friends who gather each week at a salon in Chinquapin, La. Tough as steel and fragile as the blossoms of magnolia trees, the characters in the heartwarming true story gossip, tease, laugh, fight, cajole and comfort each other as they experience life's big joys and challenges.

Performances are Fridays through Sundays on March 23-25 and March 30-April 1, with show times at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and 2 p.m. on Sundays. Admission is \$10. Group discounts are available. Doors will open 30 minutes before show time for general seating. The USF Performing Arts Center, the former Scottish Rite Center, is located at 431 W. Berry St. in Fort Wayne.

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- Core curriculum enhanced with Art, Music, Band, Computer Lab and Athletic program.
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- Practicing Roman Catholic
- At least 5 years experience in Catholic schools as teacher or administrator.

• Holds or is pursuing an Indiana Administrative License
For more information, contact Rhonda Scher at Catholic Schools Office at 260-422-4611
APPLICATIONS ON THE WEB AT:
www.diocesefwsb.org/cso
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WHAT'S HAPPENING carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. Send in your announcement at least two weeks prior to the event. Mail to: Today's Catholic, P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne 46856; or 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.

MISC. HAPPENINGS

A magical evening planned

Mishawaka — Marian High School will have a St. Patrick's Day evening Saturday, March 17, at Marian High School. Mass will be held at 4:30 p.m. prior to the dinner and auction at the St. Francis Convent Chapel, celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. The evening continues with cocktails, silent auction, dinner, live auction and dancing to DJ, Rufus Ayres. For information visit <http://bit.ly/MarianAuction> or call (574) 258-7676.

Acies ceremony celebrated

New Carlisle — The Legion of Mary will celebrate their 68th Acies ceremony on Sunday, March 25, at 3 p.m. at St. Stanislaus Kostha, 55756 Tulip Rd. All active and auxiliary members are encouraged to attend. This is a time to reaffirm the commitment to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Refreshments will be served after the service. Call (574) 654-3781 for information.

World Down Syndrome Day

Notre Dame — The University of Notre Dame will mark World Down Syndrome Day on Wednesday, March 21, with Mass at 5:15 p.m. in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, followed by a reception in Carole Sandner Hall, located behind the Basilica. The free event is provided by the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) and the Jacques Maritain Center. March 21 is the seventh anniversary of World Down Syndrome Day but is officially observed by the United Nations this year.

Day of Reflection

Mishawaka — A day of reflection will be held at St. Francis Convent (across from Marian High School) Wednesday, March 28, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The theme for the day is "The Samaritan Woman." Bring a Bible. The cost of the day is \$20 and includes lunch. Register by March 23 to Sister Barbara Anne Hallman at (574) 259-5427.

Broasted chicken dinner planned

New Haven — St. Louis Academy, 15535 E. Lincoln Highway, will have a broasted chicken drive-through dinner Sunday, March 18, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the parish hall. Dinners prepared by the Country Chef are \$7.50. Proceeds benefit the 7/8th grade class trip. For information call (260) 749-5818.

Square dance planned

Roanoke — St. Catherine Parish will have a square dance Saturday, March 24, from 7-10 p.m. with music by Bill Werling and Breakaway. Cost is \$10 per person.

Pancake and sausage breakfast

New Haven — St. Louis Besancon will have a pancake and sausage breakfast Sunday March 25, from 8:30 a.m. until noon. Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$4 for children ages 5-13, and children under 5 are free.

Knights plan Sunday breakfast at Queen of Angels

Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 11043 will have a breakfast on Sunday, March 18, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Msgr. Faber Activities Center at Queen of Angels, 1500 W. State Blvd. Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$3 for children 6-12 and \$20 per family.

Sisters' bake sale announced

Fort Wayne — St. Adalbert Sisters' Auxiliary bake sale will be Saturday, March 31, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Heritage Center. Sweet-sour cabbage, Polish noodles and all kinds baked goods for Easter will be available. This year lamb cakes will be on a \$15 pre-paid, pre-order basis only by Friday, March 23. No lamb cakes will be available at the sale. Call Linda at (574) 288-5708, ext. 203 for information.

Knights plan St. Patrick's Day event

Mishawaka — The Knights of Columbus Council 1878, 114 W. 1st St., will host a St. Patrick's Day celebration on Saturday March 17, with dinner from 5-7 p.m. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for children 12 and under. Enjoy the Caledonia Kilty Band and the World Academy of Irish Dancers starting at 7 p.m. Advance reservations available by calling (574) 255-2218.

Spaghetti dinner planned

Granger — St. Pius X will host a spaghetti dinner on Friday, March 23, from 4-7 p.m., catered by Papa Vino's Italian Kitchen. Cost is \$8 for adults, \$4 for children 6-11, five and under are free. Carry out will be available.

Lenten seafood and pasta on menu

Fort Wayne — Our Lady of Good Hope Parish will have a Lenten seafood pasta dinner

Friday, March 23, from 5-7 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for adults for seafood pasta, \$5 for marinara pasta, \$4 for children 11-6 and children 6 and under free.

Cemetery cleanup

South Bend — The Sacred Heart Cemetery, corner of Western Avenue and Pine Roads, will begin spring cleanup on Monday, April 2. All Christmas and winter decorations should be removed from the graves by this time.

FISH FRIES

St. Matthew Cathedral fish fry

South Bend — St. Matthew Cathedral will have a fish fry Friday, March 23, from 4-7 p.m. in the school gym. Tickets at the door are \$7 for adult, \$6 for senior, \$4 for children 5-12 and children 5 and under free. Families can dine in for \$20. Tickets can also be purchased in advance at a reduced price by calling (574) 289-5539.

Fish fry at St. Joseph

Roanoke — St. Joseph Parish will have a fish fry on Friday, March 16, from 5-7 p.m. at the

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Bremen Barbara E. Washnock, 66, St. Dominic	Mishawaka Sandra Hayes, 74, Queen of Peace Dorothy A. DiGann, 87, St. Monica C. Maxine Schnapp, 78, Queen of Peace Stephen J. Burns, 69, St. Monica	New Haven Lynn L. Pritchard, 76, St. John the Baptist Frieda B. Kruyer, 91, St. Joseph John Patrick Riordan, 80, Christ the King
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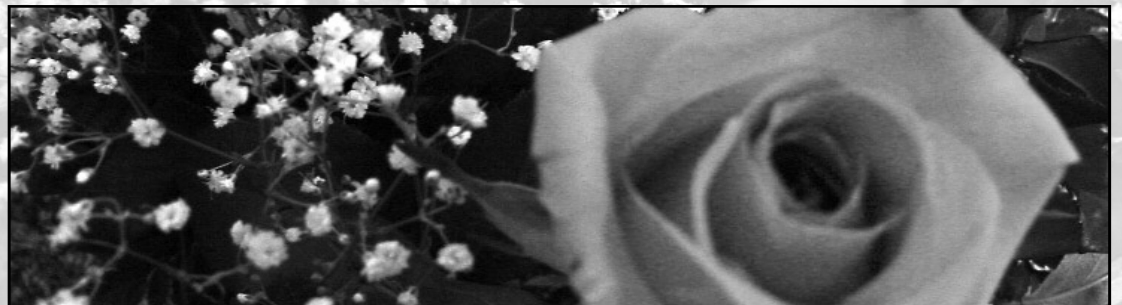
American Legion, 1122 N. Main St. Adults \$8, children 4-12 \$4 and those 3 and under free.

Mishawaka Catholic School to host

Jonah fish fry

Mishawaka — Mishawaka Catholic School Home and School Association will host a Jonah fish fry at the St. Bavo campus gymnasium on Friday, March 16,

from 4-8 p.m. Tickets prior to the event available after all Masses are \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors, \$5 for K-8 and preschoolers are free. Tickets at the door are \$9 for adults and seniors, \$5 for grades K-8 and free for preschoolers. Carryout is available. Beer and wine will also be served.



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AID

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tornadoes ravaged small towns across southern Indiana. About an hour later, she began seeing the devastation through live TV reports from the affected towns.

"I realized that we were dealing with a massive amount of destruction," said Becht, a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in New Albany during a March 4 telephone interview with *The Criterion*, newspaper of the Indianapolis Archdiocese. "And that meant that people were going to want to respond."

Becht soon sent a message through the Internet social networking website Facebook to her pastor, Father Eric Augenstein.

Becht was ready to help in large part because of her experience more than five years ago in leading four relief trips to the Gulf Coast in the months immediately after Hurricane Katrina ravaged that region.

"(Helping after Katrina) impacted me in so many ways," she said. "I realized how much power we have as a faith community to be able to reach out to other people. It doesn't matter if they're in our backyard or not. If we feel called to help in some way, then God is going to enable us to be able to do something with it if we're faithful to it."

Approximately 50 Catholics

across the New Albany Deanery felt that call and attended a meeting at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church about 18 hours after the tornadoes to begin organizing relief efforts.

Many of those in attendance learned about the meeting on Facebook. Father Augenstein was amazed at how effective that website was in getting the relief effort off the ground.

"Social media can be used for so much great communication these days," he said. "It can be used well to mobilize people. If we, as a church, can take advantage of that to be able to bring people together, that will really harness the power of social media."

Bishop Christopher J. Coyne, the archdiocese's apostolic administra-



MONICA ZWICK

Bishop Luers High School students in show choir collected supplies and monetary donations for those displaced by tornadoes that hit southern Indiana March 2. Traveling to national competition in Florida on March 7, the show choir dropped off the donations at St. Francis Xavier Church in Henryville, where the students were greeted by Charles Adams of the Clark County Sheriff's Office and Father Steve Schafflein, pastor.

tor, echoed Father Augenstein's sentiments.

"The thought, prayers, and helping hands of the people of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis go out to all the victims of Friday's tornadoes in southern Indiana, especially to the families of those killed in the storms," Bishop Coyne said in a statement. "Catholic Charities is ready to respond with immediate aid, and we will work with the local Catholic communities and other aid agencies to coordinate future efforts to repair and rebuild homes and businesses."

Jane Crady, coordinator of disaster preparedness and response for Catholic Charities in the archdiocese, has visited various places in southern Indiana that experienced tornado damage, and began organizing relief efforts in the region. She was impressed by the number of people who have contacted her to show their willingness to help.

"It's been overwhelming already," Crady said. "I've received e-mails from hundreds of people saying, 'What can I do?' 'Everybody has been in our prayers,' 'When do you need me? Let me know.'"

Over the past two years, Crady has helped train disaster response teams in a number of parishes across central and southern Indiana.

Their response to the relief efforts in the wake of the tornadoes that struck the state March 2 is the first chance to see them in action in a situation marked by significant and widespread need.

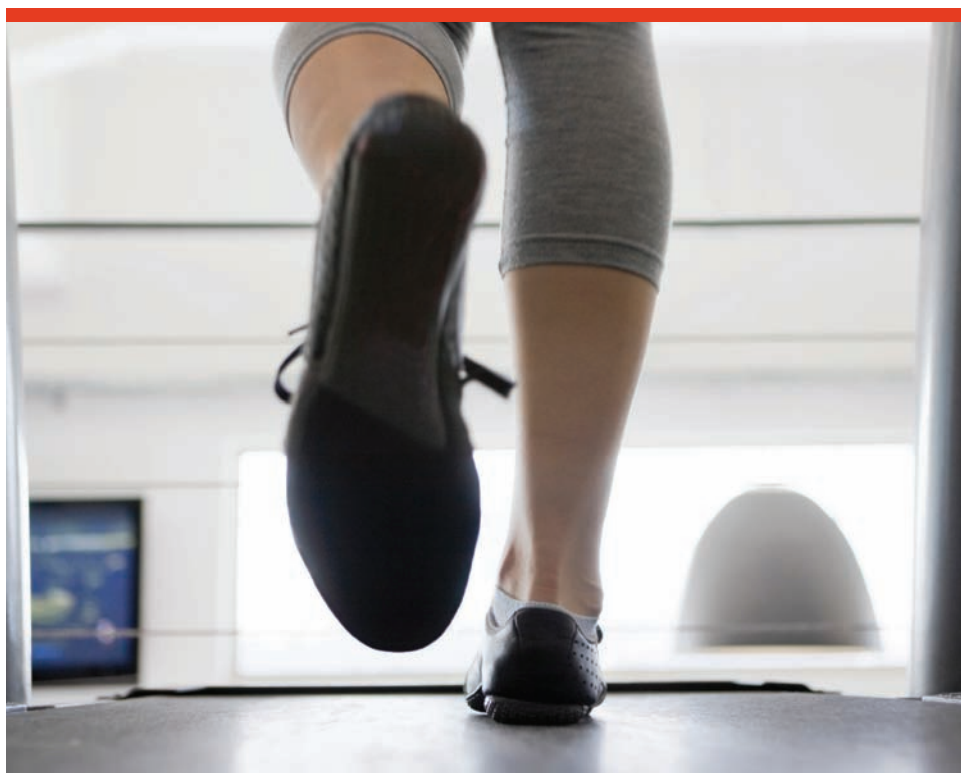
Although the response to provide help to those people affected by the tornadoes has been significant, sustaining that outreach over the course of several months will be vital, according to Father Steven Schafflein, pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Henryville, a town severely affected by a tornado.

"Many people come in immediately, but the long haul is where the full rebirth will happen here," he said.

Crady is well aware of the need for long-term relief aid after having, like Becht, worked in relief efforts after Katrina.

"In the long term, families often get lost as these disasters start to progress," Crady said. "They find that they have an aunt or an uncle, say, in Indianapolis that they can go and live with. And then we lose track of them until the last minute when it's time to fix their houses. That's why it's important to stay in touch during all of this."

Mark Weber and Tim Johnson from *Today's Catholic* contributed to this story.



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