

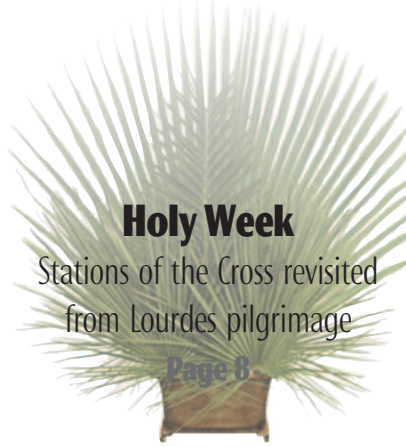


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Serving the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

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Holy Week

Stations of the Cross revisited
from Lourdes pilgrimage

Page 8

Papal trip coverage

Pope begins visit to Cuba

Pages 5-6

**Good Friday
Collection**

Serves to keep Christianity
alive in Holy Land

Page 3

**Rallies for
religious liberty**

Hundreds gather in Fort
Wayne, South Bend

Pages 3-4

Chapel blessing

New Parkview offers
Blessed Sacrament Chapel

Page 9

Pastoral visit

Bishop visits Saint Joseph's
High School

Page 16

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Trust in God to help change society, pope says in Mexico's heartland

BY FRANCIS X. ROCCA

SILAO, Mexico (CNS) — Celebrating Mass in the Catholic heartland of Mexico, Pope Benedict XVI told a nation and a continent suffering from poverty, corruption and violence, to trust in God and the intercession of Mary to help them bring about a "more just and fraternal society."

"When addressing the deeper dimension of personal and community life, human strategies will not suffice to save us," the pope said in his homily during the outdoor Mass at Guanajuato Bicentennial Park March 25, the second full day of his second papal visit to Latin America. "We must have recourse to the one who alone can give life in its fullness, because He is the essence of life and its author."

Citing the responsorial psalm for the day's Mass — "Create a clean heart in me, O God" — the pope said that evil can be overcome only through a divinely inspired change of the human heart.

The pope made note of the monument to Christ the King visible atop a nearby hill and observed that Christ's "kingdom does not stand on the power of His armies subduing others through force or violence. It rests on a higher power that wins over hearts: the love of God that He brought into the world with His sacrifice and the truth to which He bore witness."

That message was consistent with Pope Benedict's frequently stated objections to strategies for social progress that blend Christian social doctrine with Marxism or other secular ideologies.

"The Church is not a political power, it is not a party," the pope told reporters on his flight to Mexico March 23. "It is a moral reality, a moral power."

In his Silao homily, the pope did not specifically



CNS PHOTO/L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

Pope Benedict XVI, wearing a sombrero, arrives to celebrate Mass at Bicentennial Park in Silao, Mexico, March 25.

address any of Latin America's current social problems, but after praying the Angelus following the Mass, he recited a litany of ills plaguing Mexico and other countries in the region: "so many families are separated or forced to emigrate ... so many are suffering due to poverty, corruption, domestic violence, drug trafficking, the crisis of values and increased crime."

Speaking in the central Mexican state of Guanajuato, which was a stronghold of the 1920s Cristero Rebellion against an anti-clerical national regime, Pope Benedict recited the invocation that served as the Cristeros' rallying cry: "Long live Christ the King and Mary of Guadalupe."

MEXICO, PAGE 3

Spiritual commitment within Marriage and family

BY KAREN CLIFFORD

NOTRE DAME — Franciscan Father David Mary Engo explained to the audience at the Notre Dame Conference Center that marriage is not a 50-50 proposition. "God provides the beautiful holy sacrament of Matrimony so that we will have a place where one can love 100 percent, be received 100 percent, and receive the other person 100 percent."

Father Engo was among the speakers at the second Marriage and Family Conference held at the Notre Dame Conference Center on March 24. Sponsored by the diocesan Office of Family Life, the conference included Morning Prayer, two plenary sessions and three workshop sessions of four topics each to choose for those attending.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades quoted a pastoral letter written by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops two years ago about the importance of the sacrament of Marriage. "There is no greater love within a marriage and a family than for the spouses and children to lay down their lives for one another. This is the heart of the vocation of marriage, the heart of the call to become holy," Bishop Rhoades explained.

He spoke about the need for growing virtue in marriage. "True happiness is a virtuous happiness, a blessed happiness," Bishop Rhoades said. "Holiness, living in friendship with Christ, living with faith, hope and love, is what brings true happiness."

"It involves an increasingly Christ-like love



KAREN CLIFFORD

Members of the audience from the Marriage and Family Conference chuckle over some of the pictures used during Father Bob Lengerich's power point presentation.

MARRIAGE, PAGE 4

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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Observing Holy Week with faith and devotion



IN TRUTH
AND
CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

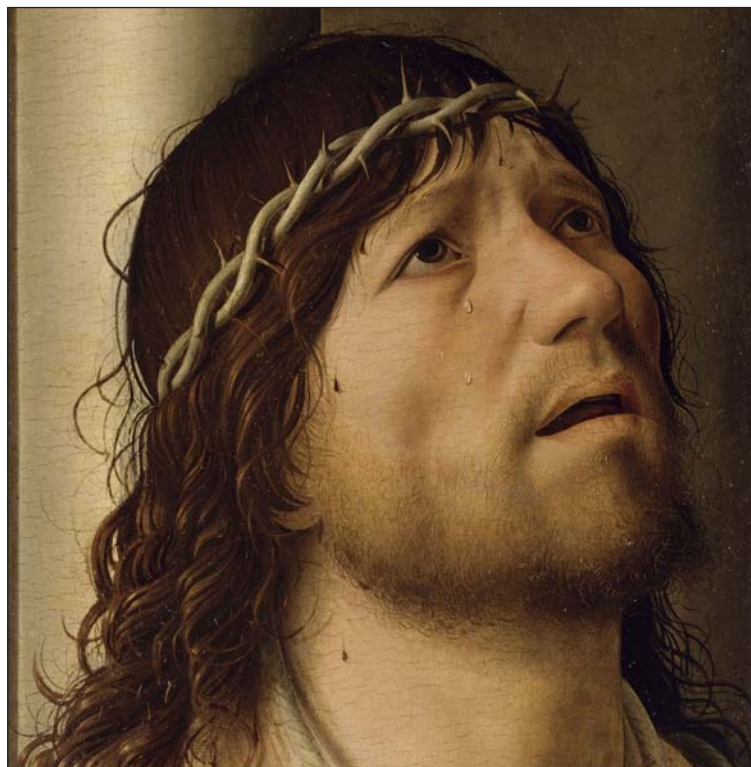
Throughout the forty days of Lent, we have been preparing for Easter which is fast approaching. We prepare in a special way during Holy Week, when we remember the last days of Christ on earth. I invite you to make this week truly holy in your individual and family lives through more fervent prayer and participation in the beautiful liturgies of Holy Week.

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday. We begin the Mass of Palm Sunday with the commemoration of the solemn entrance of the Lord into Jerusalem. We carry the blessed palms and sing *Hosanna* like the great crowd that welcomed Jesus into the holy city. As the liturgy continues, we focus more on the Passion of the Lord which is the Gospel read on Palm Sunday. This is why Palm Sunday is also called Passion Sunday. This year we will hear Saint Mark's account of the Passion. In your prayer, you may wish to use this Gospel (Mark 14:1-15:47) for your own meditation during Holy Week so as to enter more deeply into the mystery of our Lord's Passion and Death.

On Monday and Tuesday of Holy Week, we will celebrate the Chrism Masses in our cathedrals in South Bend and Fort Wayne. I invite all to attend these beautiful liturgies during which I will bless the Oil of the Sick and the Oil of Catechumens and consecrate the Holy Chrism. At these Masses, our priests will publicly renew their priestly promises. This Mass manifests our priests' communion with me, their bishop. I hope that many will come to celebrate with us the gift of the priesthood, instituted by Christ so that His priesthood would continue in the Church. Please pray for our priests who give their lives in the service of God and for the salvation of His people.

The Sacred Paschal Triduum begins with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday and ends with Vespers of Easter Sunday. We celebrate during these three days the passing of the Lord from this world to His Father. We celebrate the greatest mysteries of our redemption. I encourage all to participate in the liturgies of the Sacred Triduum.

The Entrance Antiphon for the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper reads: *We should glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom is our salvation, life and resurrection, through whom we are saved and delivered.* These words express well the meaning of the Paschal Triduum. At the Mass of the Lord's Supper, we especially commemorate the institution of the Holy Eucharist and of the priesthood. According to tradition, the washing of the feet is performed, representing the service and charity of Christ who came "not to be served, but to serve" (Matthew 20:28). At the end of



CNS PHOTO/COURTESY OF REUNION DES MUSEES NATIONAUX, ART RESOURCE

The Passion of Jesus is depicted in "Christ at the Pillory" by Italian Renaissance painter Antonello da Messina. Good Friday, April 6, in the Latin-rite Church this year, commemorates the passion and death of Jesus Christ.

this Mass, the Blessed Sacrament is carried through the church to the place of reservation. All are encouraged to spend some time during the night in the church in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. I always find this a special time to reflect on Our Lord's agony in the garden of Gethsemane on that first Holy Thursday night.

On Good Friday, the Church meditates on the passion and death of Our Lord. This is the only day of the year when the celebration of Holy Mass is prohibited. It is a day of Penance in which we are obliged to observe the laws of abstinence and fasting. In the afternoon, the celebration of the Lord's Passion takes place. It is composed of three parts: the Liturgy of the Word, the Adoration of the Cross, and Holy Communion (which was consecrated the evening before). The Chants or the Reproaches sung during the Adoration of the Cross help us to enter into the mystery of Christ's death on the cross, not only with our minds, but also in our hearts. Every Good Friday, we listen to the Passion according to the Gospel of John. Again, I recommend spending some quiet time in prayer reading and meditating upon the account of the Passion (John 18:1-19:42).

Some parishes also have other devotions on Good Friday, such as the Way of the Cross, processions of the passion, and commemorations of the sorrows of our Blessed Mother. These devotions, though secondary to the Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord, help us to observe Good Friday with special reverence. Though many people may have to work on Good Friday, I encourage all to try to spend time that day in prayer and to be observant of the sacred character of the day on which Our Lord died for us. We are all called to honor the death of the Lord on Good Friday.

On Holy Saturday, we are in a sense waiting at the Lord's tomb. It is a day to continue meditating on Christ's Passion and Death and especially his descent into hell. The Mass is not offered until nightfall when

the Church celebrates the Easter Vigil.

The Easter Vigil is "the greatest and most noble of all solemnities." Saint Augustine called it the "mother of all holy vigils." He wrote: *We keep vigil on that night because the Lord rose from the dead; that life... where there is no longer the sleep of death, began for us in his flesh; being thus risen, death will be no more nor have dominion... If we have kept vigil for the risen one, he will see that we shall reign with him forever.*

The Easter Vigil has four parts: the Lucernarium (the blessing of the new fire and lighting of the paschal candle, procession, and the singing of the Exsultet); the Liturgy of the Word; the Baptismal Liturgy; and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. On this holy night, the Church waits for the Resurrection and celebrates the sacraments of initiation. We celebrate the Christian initiation of the adults who have been preparing to receive the new life of Christ and enter into His Body, the Church. After their Baptism, they will be confirmed and receive their first Holy Communion at the Easter Vigil.

We celebrate Easter Sunday also with great solemnity. As we hear in the Collect of Easter Sunday Mass, on this day God, through His Only Begotten Son, *conquered death and unlocked for us the path to eternity.* We solemnly celebrate Easter for eight days: the Octave of Easter, ending with Divine Mercy Sunday, the Second Sunday of Easter. The Easter season continues for fifty days, until Pentecost Sunday.

As you look ahead to Holy Week, I invite you to plan to observe these days with faith and devotion. We have been preparing our hearts throughout Lent through penance and sacrifices. That penance continues during Holy Week. With the Sacred Paschal Triduum, we solemnly celebrate Our Lord, crucified, buried, and risen. May this truly be a holy time for all of us and for our families! May God bless you!



DIOCESE OF FORT WAYNE – SOUTH BEND
915 South Clinton Street · Post Office Box 390
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46801

Good Friday Collection
March 27, 2012

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The Gospel readings come to life in a special way as we gather to celebrate Holy Week. During our Lenten journey, we may well wonder what would we have done if we had been there on that first Palm Sunday? In the Garden of Gethsemane, would we have stayed awake? When Jesus was arrested and crucified, how would we have responded? What would we have done as followers of Christ in the Holy Land?

Today, Christians living in the Holy Land are called the “living stones” because they are descendants of those who first believed and lived the Christian faith. The challenges that Christians face in Holy Land every day make life there very difficult.

Each year, all Catholics are invited to support Christians in the Holy Land by making a donation to the Good Friday Collection. Keeping Christianity alive in the Holy Land is the urgent goal of the Church. We have an historical task to help the Christians there.

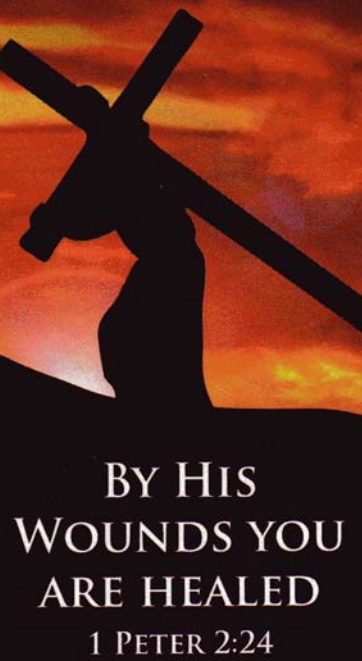
All Christians are called to assist our brothers and sisters who now live in the land that was sanctified by the Lord's life, death and resurrection. Today, schools and parishes are signs of peace and hope. Shrines in Bethlehem, Nazareth, Jerusalem and many other locations welcome Christian pilgrims. The church in the Holy Land provides housing and food for the poor.

This Good Friday our parishes will take up a special collection requested by Pope Benedict XVI. Please be as generous as your abundance allows. Holy Land Christians, along with all of the clergy and religious working there, deeply appreciate your help!

May God bless you during this Holy Week!

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades
+ Kevin C. Rhoades
Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend

**GOOD
FRIDAY**



PUBLIC SCHEDULE OF BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

- Sunday, April 1, 11:30 a.m. — Palm Sunday Mass, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne
- Monday, April 2, 7:30 p.m. — Chrism Mass, Saint Matthew's Cathedral, South Bend
- Tuesday, April 3, 7:30 p.m. — Chrism Mass, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne
- Thursday, April 5, 7:30 p.m. — Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper, Saint Matthew's Cathedral, South Bend
- Thursday, April 5, 11 p.m. — Tenebrae Service, Basilica of the Sacred Heart, University of Notre Dame
- Friday, April 6, 1 p.m. — Celebration of the Passion of the Lord, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne
- Saturday, April 7, 9 p.m. — Easter Vigil Mass, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne
- Sunday, April 8, 1 p.m. — Mass at Saint Joseph County Jail

MEXICO

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

But reaffirming his message of nonviolence, the pope prayed that Mary's influence would “promote fraternity, setting aside futile acts of revenge and banishing all divisive hatred.”

The presidential candidates from Mexico's three main political parties attended the Mass, along with President Felipe Calderon and his family.

The Vatican said 640,000 people attended the Mass. Some Mexicans took long trips just to see Pope Benedict on his first trip to the country since being elected in 2005.

The journey was not easy for many. Thousands of the faithful walked more than three miles from parking lots in the town of Silao, 220 miles northwest of Mexico City.

“This is nothing too difficult,” quipped Jose Trinidad Borja, 81, a retired hardware store owner from Queretaro who boasts of having participated in the annual eight-day diocesan pilgrimage to the Basilica of Guadalupe in Mexico City for 65 straight years.

An army of vendors hawked water, coffee and tamales along the route in addition to Vatican flags and photos of Pope Benedict and his predecessor, Blessed John Paul II, who, with his five visits, became one of the most beloved figures in an officially secular country.

“With Benedict, I feel something indescribable,” said Guadalupe Nambo Gutierrez, a retired secretary from Guanajuato City, who saw the pope in the colonial town March 24 and attended the Mass the following day.

Getting a ticket was another matter. Nambo won a raffle for some of the tickets the Archdiocese of Leon allotted to St. Joseph and St. James the Apostle Parish. Others simply decided to try their luck by showing up — and many could be seen outside the Mass site behind bar-

ricades guarded by federal police officers.

Bishop Raul Vera Lopez of Saltillo said his diocese only received its allotment of 2,500 tickets 10 days before the Mass, making it difficult for parishes to plan trips for churchgoers. Still, all the tickets were claimed and more than 6,500 requests were made.

Most of those coming from Saltillo, in northern Mexico, traveled overnight and were expected to return immediately after the Mass. Some parishes opted not to send people to the Mass because of concerns about security along the route.

“We hope that things calm a little after this visit,” said Silao resident Jorge Morales as he walked to the Mass.

The previous evening, after a brief appearance before a crowd in Guanajuato's main square, Pope Benedict privately greeted a group that included eight people who have lost relatives to violence, much of it drug-related, which has killed nearly 50,000 Mexicans over the last five years.

Addressing his remarks there particularly to local children, the pope called on “everyone to protect and care for children, so that nothing may extinguish their smile, but that they may live in peace and look to the future with confidence.”

On several previous international trips, Pope Benedict has met with local victims of clerical sex abuse, but no such meeting has been announced for this visit.

On March 24, sex abuse victims of the late Father Marciel Maciel Degollado, founder of the Legionaries of Christ, held a press conference to present a new book criticizing the Vatican's failure to act against Father Maciel, whom Pope Benedict eventually disciplined and posthumously repudiated.

Contributing to this story was David Agren.

Americans urged to stand up for religious freedom

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE, SOUTH BEND

— People of various faiths stood with Catholics in 134 rallies across the United States — including Fort Wayne and South Bend — on Friday, March 23, to protest the Health and Human Services mandate requiring all employer health plans to include free contraceptives, sterilizations and abortion-inducing drugs. The mandate allows no moral or religious objections, and thus is an assault on religious freedom.

A letter from Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades was read at the South Bend rally by Father Jacob Runyon, parochial vicar of St. Matthew Cathedral, and at the Fort Wayne rally by Sean McBride, diocesan director of communications.

“I want to offer a word of thanks and encouragement for all those who gather today to demonstrate their commitment to the freedom of religion and to freedom of conscience,” Bishop Rhoades wrote. “While these are among the most cherished of freedoms in our country, they are today — almost unbelievably — under attack.”

As the mandate stands, “almost all individuals will be forced to buy that coverage as a part of their policies,” wrote the bishop.

“Just last week,” Bishop Rhoades continued, “the Obama



ANN CAREY

In South Bend, Father Jacob Runyon, parochial vicar at St. Matthew Cathedral, reads the letter from Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades.

administration decided that all colleges and universities — including those that are religiously affiliated — would be required to provide these so-called services to their students as well. This still unfolding mandate is an unprecedented attack on this liberty since it coerces religious institutions and citizens to pay for actions that violate our moral teachings and religious beliefs.”

He added, “Our Founding Fathers recognized the innate right to religious liberty when they enshrined this right as our first freedom in the Bill of Rights. The author of the First Amendment, James Madison, wrote: ‘Conscience

is the most sacred of all property.’ Thomas Jefferson wrote: ‘No provision in our Constitution ought to be dearer to man than that which protects the rights of conscience against the enterprises of the civil authority.’”

Bishop Rhoades shared that the implication of the mandate for the Church and other religious groups in the United States are grave.

“In the coming months, we must focus our energies on fighting this unjust mandate and defending our religious liberty. I exhort everyone to be engaged on this issue. We

RALLY, PAGE 4

RALLY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

need to defend our cherished rights and resist violations of our first freedom," Bishop Rhoades wrote. "We must hold firm, be courageous in this matter and be united in our defense of the religious liberty granted us by God and protected in our nation's Constitution.

"Let us all commit ourselves to prayer and sacrifice so that truth and justice may prevail and religious liberty may be restored. Without God, we can do nothing. With God, nothing is impossible. May God guide us and strengthen us in these efforts!"

Several Catholic speakers and legislators, as well as Lutheran and Baptist Church representa-

tives spoke at the Fort Wayne rally hosted by the Allen County Right to Life.

After reading Bishop Rhoades' letter, Sean McBride closed the rally speeches. He traced the history of American freedoms through the Greatest Generation and Hitler's invasion of Poland.

"Our fathers and grandfathers took up arms to defend against these grave threats; the threats against life, liberty and their pursuits of happiness. My grandmother sent four sons off to war. By the grace of God, three returned to her. I wonder how my grandmother would look upon her dear nation today."

McBride said, "Flash forward roughly 70 years. The fight has come to us. Who knew the threat would originate from the oval office and our own commander-in-chief; a man that took an oath before God and country. And I quote: 'I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of

the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.'"

"I won't call him a liar," McBride said, "but I will offer it up for history to decide. But I can say this: that this administration is taking a sledgehammer to a cornerstone of our nation and it must be stopped!"

He quoted Ronald Reagan and said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

McBride asked those gathered at the rally, "What will our grandchildren say about us 75 years from now, as they tell their children



JOE ROMIE

A shot from atop Tower Bank shows those gathered on the Allen County Courthouse lawn who participated in a rally for religious freedom in Fort Wayne. Additional photos available at www.todayscatholicnews.org.

Medjugorje 2012 National Conference University of Notre Dame May 11, 12 and 13

Speakers include



Father Iozo Grbes, OFM was born in Bosnia-Herzegovina and was a young man when the Medjugorje visions started in 1981. Father Iozo has studied Our Lady's messages over the past thirty years and encourages all to respond to her urgent call to conversion and peace. He will give an update on Medjugorje at the conference and testimony to the tremendous good fruit that has come through Our Lady's apparitions.



Father Paul Nomellini served the Church as a religious brother for twenty years before his ordination to the priesthood in 1977. He went as a skeptic to Medjugorje in 1990. His experience there made him a believer and he has since led four pilgrimages to Medjugorje. Since his retirement as a pastor, he is busier than ever giving retreats and missions around the country. Father Nomellini's Medjugorje testimony is very inspiring.



Doctor Theodore Homa is a medical doctor from Chicago who was an atheist before his trip to Medjugorje. In 2008 he had a brush with eternity after lapsing into a coma while awaiting a heart transplant. His testimony about his near-death experience is powerful and inspiring. Doctor Homa says, "If this had happened before Medjugorje, I'd be in hell now."



Cathy Nolan is co-founder (with her husband Denis) of Mary TV, a lay apostolate dedicated to using modern communication technology to promote the call of Our Lady from Medjugorje. Cathy is co-host of the daily online rosary and writes a daily reflection on Our Lady's messages from Medjugorje. She is the mother of eight children and has the unique gift of both a scholar's intellect and a mother's heart.

Mark Forrest has filled concert halls and cathedrals worldwide with his beautiful tenor voice. His music inspires people everywhere to appreciate the importance of their faith and family. He has a number of top-selling albums of traditional Irish songs and classical hymns. Mark and his wife Muriel have eight children and are founders of the Faith and Family Foundation, established to support and encourage families with special needs.



Christine Watkins was a professional ballet dancer with the San Francisco Ballet and an avowed atheist before her miraculous conversion to Catholicism. Moving away from her previous life, she is now a well-known and very articulate speaker for the Catholic faith and the call of Our Lady. Christine is the author of a new book entitled *Full of Grace: Miraculous Stories of Healing and Conversion through Mary's Intercession*.



Father Ken Grabner, CSC is widely known for his wise and inspiring talks and homilies. His career as a monk, priest, scholar, and teacher spans over fifty years. Father Ken is the author of a number of prayer and meditation books including *Focus Your Day—Reflections on the Christian Experience* and *Gazing Into God's Open Heart—101 Pathways to Joy*.



Doctor Joseph Bagiackas has a Ph.D. in systematic theology from Catholic University of America. He is an expert on the theology of the laity and has written *Lay Person's Guides* to blessed John Paul's and Pope Benedict XVI's teachings. He will speak on the subject of loyalty to the Church and the importance of knowing our faith well and being ready to defend it.



Conference Schedule

Friday, May 11

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

Saturday, May 12

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

Sunday, May 13

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

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Phone: (574) 288-8777

web site: www.QueenofPeaceMinistries.com

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what happened during these dark days? Now is not the time to stay comfortable! Now is not the time to clap politely. Engage in the conversation. Make your voice heard! Make this cause a sacred, personal duty."

McBride concluded, "And do not, do not, stand behind your pastor, or your bishop. Stand in front of them!"

In South Bend, over 300 people filled downtown's Jon R. Hunt Plaza, where they prayed quietly as several faith leaders asked for God's blessings, and they applauded and cheered vigorously as other speakers exhorted them to resist the unjust HHS mandate.

Lisa Everett, co-director of the diocesan Office for Family Life, offered her perspective as a woman, a Catholic, a mother and someone employed by a religious organization.

The mandate is "particularly galling," she said, because "It flies in the face of the free exercise of religion guaranteed by our Constitution ... that necessarily includes the right to refuse to participate in activities that one consid-

ers to be very wrong."

Equal treatment under the law also is being flaunted by the mandate, Everett said, given that the Obama administration has granted an exemption from the entire health care reform law to the Amish and to Christian Care Ministry, but refuses to give a conscience exemption to Catholics.

She suggested that the Obama administration has taken this stand because it believes contraception, sterilization and abortion-inducing drugs are preventative services that enhance the health and well-being of women, so women should get those services free.

"It is precisely because the Catholic Church in particular has a clear and consistent moral code which characterizes contraception, sterilization and abortion as intrinsic evil, that the administration wants to 'stick it' to the Church," Everett said.

The South Bend rally was organized by Tom Uebbing of the Stand up for Religious Freedom coalition.

Ann Carey contributed to this story from South Bend.

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MARRIAGE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for one's spouse and one's children," Bishop Rhoades continued. "And a love for God above all else since He is the ultimate source of happiness in this life and in the life to come!"

In the first of the conference's two plenary sessions, Father Bob Lengerich, pastor of St. Dominic Church in Bremen, spoke on the topic, "What the Theology of the Body Means for Marriage." Father Lengerich noted that in any vocation a person chooses that there will be suffering.

"The good news of Christianity is suffering is not meaningless," Father Lengerich stressed. He offered a moment of levity on the subject of suffering when he spoke of the four rings of marriage; an engagement ring, two wedding bands, and a "suffer ring," which drew laughter from the audience.

Father Lengerich emphasized that the moment to embrace marriage begins now. "You reap eternal life not just at the end of time but the Resurrection starts now because Jesus is alive and He wants us now to experience the glory that is in store for us in heaven.

"In the Song of Songs it says 'Love is stronger than death.' God is teaching us that if we want to become a father it will demand everything you have to give," Father Lengerich added.

Father Lengerich noted the circular shape of the wedding ring also has added significance in the sacrament of Marriage. "A ring is round to remind us that love is forever. It has no beginning, it has no end. It is a participation in God's well being because God is love and like the Song of Song says love is like the fire of God Himself."

In the second plenary session, Father Engo, superior of the Franciscan Brothers Minor in Fort Wayne, presented "The Mission of the Christian Family," which spoke of marriage reflecting the interior life of the Trinity itself.

"Love is 100 percent self gift. You can't hold back anything of yourself or for yourself," said Father Engo.

The need to protect the family is

crucial in the current culture, Father Engo stressed. In addition to the roles of parents, grandparents also serve to influence children in their spiritual lives.

"Nobody really understands the power of grandparents. Kids will listen to grandparents, but maybe not their own parents," said Father Engo. "It is important as grandparents to take your grandchildren aside and to begin to really educate them in the faith. You teach them to pray, you take them to church, you show them the ways of God. Let them see in you living images of God."

Father Engo also touched on the impact of suffering in marriage and the family. "One of the most awesome things about being Catholic is that we understand the power of suffering. We understand its dignity. The beautiful gift of suffering is that we enter into it with joy knowing that we are hanging on the cross with our Lord Jesus Christ," he said.

Suzu Younger, a parishioner of St. Pius X, spoke at one of the morning workshop sessions entitled "Dealing with Infertility." Younger shared with those in attendance about her and husband Dave's journey through infertility for the past four years.

Younger explained that statistics show that one in six couples struggle with infertility. The grief that accompanies infertility usually follows five stages that include denial and isolation, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance.

Depression was one of the hardest stages of grieving during infertility for the Youngers. "In some ways infertility is like experiencing the death of a family member every month. It is not the death of someone who is living in flesh and blood; it is the death of someone who is living in hope," Younger explained.

Biblical Scripture helped Younger deal with depression. "Hannah and Elkanah in First Samuel taught me it was all right to cry. I think that tears are very holy. They are tears of surrender and abandonment to God saying I need You," she said.

"Hannah learns when it becomes too hard to stand in the Lord's presence and she kneels. The hours I spent before the tabernacle and the Blessed Sacrament showed me He is the author of life, He is the giver of strength, the provider of grace, the sustainer of hope and the Prince of Peace," she emphasized.

Pope arrives in Cuba, calls for greater freedom, respect for rights

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, Cuba (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI began his three days in Cuba with a call for greater freedom and human rights, including increased liberty for the Catholic Church to proclaim the Gospel and serve the Cuban people.

After flying from Mexico, the pope was greeted at the airport in Santiago de Cuba March 26 by President Raul Castro and a formal salute of 21 cannon blasts.

Crowds began arriving along the pope's motorcade route at around 10 a.m. By 11:30 many of the streets in Santiago de Cuba were human rivers.

At the arrival ceremony, the pope told the crowd, "I come to Cuba as a pilgrim of charity, to confirm my brothers and sisters in the faith and strengthen them in the hope which is born of the presence of God's love in our lives."

He said the visit in 1998 of Blessed John Paul II "left an indelible mark on the soul of all Cubans" and was "like a gentle breeze of fresh air, which gave new strength to the Church in Cuba."

After the visit 14 years ago, the government began granting concessions for public processions, gave the Church some access to media, eased the process for visas for foreign Church personnel and helped restore some older Church buildings.

Pope Benedict told Castro that Blessed John Paul's visit inaugurated "a new phase in the relationship in Cuba between Church and state in a new spirit of cooperation and



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Pope Benedict XVI walks with Cuba's President Raul Castro after the pope arrived in Santiago de Cuba from Mexico March 26. The pope was beginning a three-day visit on the communist island.

trust," but he also said, "many areas remain in which greater progress can and ought to be made, especially as regards the indispensable public contribution that religion is called to make in the life of society."

The Vatican has long asked the Cuban government for the freedom to run schools, to build new churches, to provide spiritual assistance to prisoners and for Church institutions, especially Catholic charities, to be given full legal recognition.

Speaking of the hopes and aspirations of island's people, the pope twice referred to "all Cubans, wherever they may be," a reference that included Cuban exiles and emigrants.

He said he carried in his heart

"their sufferings and their joys, their concerns and their noblest desires, those of the young and the elderly, of adolescents and children, of the sick and workers, of prisoners and their families, and of the poor and those in need."

Pope Benedict acknowledged the economic difficulties experienced by the vast majority of Cubans and the fact that the situation has worsened because of the global financial crisis, which has had a negative impact on tourism, a key source of income and employment on the island.

At the papal visit press center in Havana March 26, Alexis Trujillo, Cuba's vice minister of tourism, said

CUBA, PAGE 6



KAREN CLIFFORD

Father Bob Lengerich was one of the speakers at the Marriage and Family Conference at the University of Notre Dame campus on March 24.

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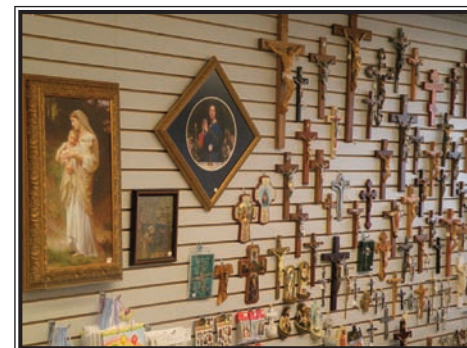
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CUBA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

the papal visit did not significantly increase the number of foreign visitors to the island. At this moment, he said, the number of tourists is "a bit more" than usual.

In talking about the economic challenges facing Cuba, Pope Benedict did not mention the U.S. economic embargo, which has been in place since 1962 and which the Vatican repeatedly has criticized as a measure that harms the Cuban people.

Instead, the pope spoke about the moral and ethical failures that he believes caused the global crisis.

The crisis is "part of a profound spiritual and moral crisis which has left humanity devoid of values and defenseless before the ambition and selfishness of certain powers which

take little account of the true good of individuals and families," he said.

The answer, the pope said, must be "an ethics which focuses on the human person and takes account of the most profound human needs, especially man's spiritual and religious dimension."

"The rebirth of society demands upright men and women of firm moral convictions, with noble and strong values who will not be manipulated by dubious interests and who are respectful of the unchanging and transcendent nature of the human person," the pope said.

Pope Benedict told Cuba's communist president and the nation's people that recovering their historic religious and cultural values was the key to building a future marked by freedom and prosperity.

The pope said he would kneel at the Shrine of Our Lady of Charity of El Cobre, Cuba's patroness, to thank Mary "for her concern for all her Cuban children, and to ask her to guide the future of this beloved nation in the ways of justice, peace,

freedom and reconciliation."

In his speech welcoming the pope, Castro railed against the United States and told the pope that his government shares many ideas with the Catholic Church, particularly regarding peace and the need for an economic system marked by solidarity.

He said the Cuban Constitution "guarantees full religious freedom for all citizens and, on that basis, the government keeps good relations with all religions and religious institutions in our country."

On the global economy, Castro said that "instead of solidarity, a systematic crisis is spreading, provoked by irrational consumption in affluent societies," where a few take all the wealth, depriving the "poor, the hungry, the untreated sick and the unemployed" of what they need.

Materialism, selfishness, the "corruption of politics and the lack of true democracy are evils in our time," he told the pope. "On these and other topics our ideas coincide with yours."

Castro told the pope that all Cubans, believers and nonbelievers alike, were celebrating the 400th anniversary of Our Lady of Charity and that the celebrations were a source of unity for the country.

After meeting Castro, the pope went by popemobile from the airport to the residence of Archbishop Dionisio Garcia Ibanez of Santiago de Cuba. Crowds, mainly children and teens, lined the six-mile route and cheered, clapped and waved Vatican and Cuba flags.

Father Vladimir Navarro of Santa Cruz del Sur Parish in Camaguey led a diocesan youth pilgrimage.

"This is a dream we had since December, and for which we raised the money to make it here," said Father Navarro. "It is Peter who comes to Cuba, and he fills us with hope and confirms us in the faith."

Some Cubans complained about the three-hour wait under the hot sun; temperatures were in the mid-80s. One lady fainted on a street corner, but no first aid stations were

along the popemobile route.

One woman who identified herself only as Natalia said, "A three-hour wait for a 15-second gaze of him ... but it was worth it."

Some people said they were assigned spots along the route; word was passed down to them through places of employment or their schools, etc. Most would not give their identities to reporters.

Manuel Correa, a projects engineer, acknowledged: "I'm an atheist and have been so for a long time. However, I respect all people's beliefs. I'm here because this is history; it's not every day that a pope comes to our country. I'm taking pictures for my grandchildren, so they can see that I was there when the pope came."

Contributing to this story were Francis X. Rocca and Wallace de la Vega in Santiago de Cuba and Cindy Wooden in Havana.

At Mass, pope recognizes Cubans' struggles, calls freedom a necessity

BY FRANCIS X. ROCCA

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, Cuba (CNS) — Celebrating an outdoor Mass on his first day in Cuba, Pope Benedict XVI acknowledged the struggles of the country's Catholics after half a century of communism and described human freedom as a necessity for both salvation and social justice.

The pope spoke March 26 in Antonio Maceo Revolution Square, in Cuba's second-largest city. He had arrived in the country a few hours earlier, after spending three days in Mexico.

The Vatican had said the square would hold 200,000 people and it was full; several thousand also filled the streets leading to the square. Cuban President Raul Castro, who welcomed the pope at the airport, sat in the front row for Mass.

Tens of thousands of those at the Mass were wearing white T-shirts welcoming the pope as the "pilgrim of charity"; many wore baseball caps to protect them from the hot sun.

Before the pope arrived in the popemobile, the original statue of Our Lady of Charity of El Cobre, Cuba's patroness, was driven atop a white truck through the cheering crowd. The statue then was enthroned near the papal altar.

In his homily, Pope Benedict recognized the "effort, daring and self-sacrifice" required of Cuban Catholics "in the concrete circumstances of your country and at this moment in history." Though now more tolerant of religious practice than in earlier decades, the communist state continues to prevent the construction of new churches and strictly limits Catholic access to state media.

In a possible allusion to reports that the regime had prevented political opponents from attending the Mass, Pope Benedict extended his customary mention of those absent for reasons of age or health

to include people who, "for other motives, are not able to join us."

The pope painted a dire picture of a society without faith.

"When God is set aside, the world becomes an inhospitable place for man," he said. "Apart from God, we are alienated from ourselves and are hurled into the void.

"Obedience to God is what opens the doors of the world to the truth, to salvation," the pope said. "Redemption is always this process of the lifting up of the human will to full communion with the divine will."

Taking his theme from the day's liturgical feast of the Annunciation, when Mary learned that she would conceive and bear the Son of God, the pope emphasized that fulfillment of the divine plan involved Mary's free acceptance of her role.

"Our God, coming into the world, wished to depend on the free consent of one of His creatures," Pope Benedict said. "It is touching to see how God not only respects human freedom: He almost seems to require it."

The most specific advice in the pope's homily regarded a topic familiar to his listeners in the prosperous capitalist countries of Western Europe and North America: the sanctity of the "family founded on matrimony" as the "fundamental cell of society and an authentic domestic church."

"You, dear husbands and wives, are called to be, especially for your children, a real and visible sign of the love of Christ for the Church," Pope Benedict said. "Cuba needs the witness of your fidelity, your unity, your capacity to welcome human life, especially that of the weakest and most needy."

According to the Center for Demographic Studies at the University of Havana, Cuba's divorce rate has almost tripled in four decades, rising from 22 divorces per 100 marriages in 1970 to 64 in 2009. The country's parliament is

scheduled later this year to consider the legal recognition of same-sex marriage, in response to a campaign led by Mariela Castro, daughter of President Raul Castro.

Despite his challenges to Cuban society, Pope Benedict concluded his homily by repeating an earlier call for patience with the Catholic Church's policy of dialogue and cooperation with the communist regime, a process initiated by Blessed John Paul II during his 1998 visit to Cuba.

"May we accept with patience and faith whatever opposition may come," the pope said. "Armed with peace, forgiveness and understanding ... strive to build a renewed and open society, a better society, one more worthy of humanity, and which better reflects the goodness of God."

A 30-year-old woman in a baseball cap who identified herself only as Xichel told Catholic News Service she and about 100 others traveled about 165 miles from Camaguey for the Mass, and she hoped to see the pope in Havana. Older pilgrims traveled by train or bus, she said.

"I came to see the pope because I am Catholic and he is the successor of Peter, who was the first pope," she said, adding that she saw Blessed John Paul in Camaguey in 1998.

She also expressed pride that a member of her parish was to read the second reading.

After the first reading, hundreds of people began leaving the Mass. Unlike large-scale papal Masses in other cities, this one had no Jumbotron screens and, to many, the pope looked like a small figure on the distant altar. Many who had been praying and singing seemed not to focus on the homily and began chatting or moving about.

Contributing to this story was Cindy Wooden in Havana.



CNS PHOTOS BY PAUL HARING

The sun sets as Pope Benedict XVI celebrates Mass in Antonio Maceo Revolution Square in Santiago de Cuba, Cuba, March 26. Celebrating the outdoor service on his first day in Cuba, the pope acknowledged the struggles of the country's Catholics after half a century of communism.



Pope Benedict XVI waves to the crowd as he arrives to celebrate Mass in Antonio Maceo Revolution Square in Santiago de Cuba, Cuba, March 26.

South Bend Museum of Art presents The Flowering Cross exhibit

SOUTH BEND — The South Bend Museum of Art presents "The Flowering Cross: Holy Week in an Andean Village," an exhibition of photography and bilingual commentary in the Jerome J. Crowley Community Gallery, Feb. 25 through April 15.

Photographer Robert Lisak and Jaime Lara, a specialist in the art, architecture and liturgy of Spanish-speaking colonial cultures, visited the town of San Pedro Andahuaylillas, Peru, during Holy Week 2008 to chronicle the rituals and celebration that take place at the "Sistine Chapel of the Americas," a 17th century Jesuit church.

Lisak's evocative photographs depict the religious customs of the Andahuaylillas, who have maintained aspects of the medieval and Tridentine piety that were once typical of all of Latin America. These rituals are most evident during Holy Week when the old practices, piety and music come to the fore.

The photographs are complemented by commentary by Jaime Lara, Ph.D., associate professor of Christian art and architecture, Program in Religion and the Arts at Yale University Divinity School. His work focuses on the intersection of the visual arts and religion through various media (architecture, painting, sculpture, prints). Trained as a medievalist, Dr. Lara examines hybrid artifacts and artistic creations at moments of culture contact, principally the contact that Aztecs and Incas had with a European Christian worldview.

Gallery hours are Wednesday through Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. Admission is free to members, with a suggested donation of \$5 for non-members.

Holy Cross' JusticeCraft seminar offered in June

NOTRE DAME — JusticeCraft, an intensive, weeklong seminar sponsored by the Sisters of the Holy Cross and the Holy Cross International Justice Office, will be held June 3-10. Participants will be engaged in a broad range of interactive sessions, from theology and spirituality of justice ministry, to ecological sustainability, to rituals that shape and sustain the work of justice. They will leave JusticeCraft ready to implement practical, proven models and strategies to use in the work of creating a peaceful, just and sustainable society.

Reservations will be accepted through May 11 by contacting Dana Taylor at dtaylor@cscsisters.org.

Vatican official visits Ancilla College

DONALDSON — Education and faith was the focus of a visit to Ancilla College by Archbishop Jean-Louis Brugues, March 21.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

REDEEMER RADIO TO BROADCAST HHS MANDATE INTERVIEWS



DAVE STEVENS

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, left, is interviewed by Redeemer Radio's Dr. Matthew Bunson, right, for a special hour long broadcast about the Health and Human Services mandate.

In the interview Bishop Rhoades shares his views about the mandate, details the positions of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and tells faithful Catholics how they can respond to this mandate. The 60-minute interview will be broadcast Wednesday, April 4, at 7 a.m. and again at 5 p.m. on Redeemer Radio, Catholic Radio AM 1450 in Fort Wayne, and also on Holy Radio Catholic Radio AM 1580 in South Bend at the same times. The broadcast will also be available on the Internet at RedeemerRadio.com.

Archbishop Brugues, a leader in the Church's educational efforts across the globe, came to Donaldson as part of a United States tour of universities and colleges including visits to Lewis University, Calumet College of Saint Joseph and Ancilla College near Plymouth.

Archbishop Jean-Louis Brugues is Secretary of the Congregation for Catholic Education. During his evening at Ancilla College, the archbishop met with representatives of the college and the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, the Catholic order that founded the college 75 years ago.

Archbishop Brugues toured the campus and asked about programs, activities and community connections to the college. One primary discussion topic was the campus-wide plan for an Intergenerational Living and Learning Center.

The Congregation for Catholic Education oversees most of the world's Catholic seminaries, universities and institutes. The archbishop's visit to Ancilla College was accompanied by the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities President Dr. Michael Galligan-Stierle.

"We are extremely pleased about the archbishop's visit," said Ancilla President Ron May. "He has an

incredible task and busy schedule so his time with us was focused on issues near and dear to us at a small college. He was able to hear about our connection to our community as well as the work of the Poor Handmaids."

"Archbishop Brugues was sincerely interested in Ancilla College and in the contributions made by the college to the local community and to the Catholic Church." Sister Carleen Wrasman said.

SMC students host annual Dance Marathon

NOTRE DAME — Hundreds of students from Saint Mary's College, Holy Cross College and the University of Notre Dame are expected to lace up their dancing shoes for the seventh annual Saint Mary's College Dance Marathon. The 12-hour event, which supports Riley Hospital for Children at Indiana University Health, will kick off at 12 p.m. on Saturday, March 31, in the Angela Athletic Facility.

This year's event has an animal kingdom theme. At 2 p.m. there will be a live animal show titled "Silly Safari," which may include anything from birds to

porcupines. From 5-8 p.m. lion or tiger cubs will be on site and visitors will be able to pet them. Michiana residents can visit www.smcancemarathon.org to sign up to participate or donate to the cause. The public is also invited to attend Dance Marathon and donations will be accepted at the event.

Since Saint Mary's students began the Dance Marathon in 2006, they have raised more than \$383,000 for the General Benefit Fund at Riley, which supports the areas of the hospital that have the greatest need.

Holy Cross College students to be honored

NOTRE DAME — Holy Cross College will publicly recognize four student award recipients during the college's annual Academic Honors Convocation, during which time it also acknowledges all students having achieved academic honors (3.5 GPA or above) during the spring 2011 and/or fall 2011 semesters. The ceremony will be held March 30 in the Driscoll Auditorium on the campus of Holy Cross. The public is invited to attend.

The 2012 recipient of the St. Thomas Aquinas Award is senior

Omar Rasheed of South Bend. Rasheed is a business major who has served on the Student Government Association's Commuter Student Committee and assisted with the student-run "Pizza Tuesday."

The 2012 recipient of the St. Joseph's Award is Amanda Cup of Bloomfield Hills, Mich. The 2012 recipient of the St. Sebastian Award is senior Valerie Patout of New Iberia, La. The 2012 recipient of the All Saints Award is senior Marie Louise Resweber of St. Martinville, La.

USF dance marathon raising Children's Hope House funds

FORT WAYNE — The Department of Education at the University of Saint Francis is sponsoring a dance marathon Friday, March 30, from 6 p.m.-midnight in the Hutzell Sports Center gymnasium to raise funds for Mad Anthony's Children's Hope House.

Admission to the dance marathon is free. Participants are asked to raise \$25 each in donations to be part of the evening of games, food and learning dances to perform at the end of the evening.

Mad Anthony's Children's Hope House provides overnight accommodations in a homelike, family-centered and supportive environment for families with children undergoing treatment in any Fort Wayne area hospital.

Run, Panther Run 5K run and walk slated April 14

SOUTH BEND — St. Anthony de Padua Catholic Church and School in South Bend will hold Run, Panther, Run on Saturday, April 14. The event will feature a 5K Run, a 5K and Stroller Walk along with a One Mile Fun Run. The event will begin at the large pavilion at Potawatomi Park, proceed south through Indiana University-South Bend, follow the St. Joseph River and return via the same route.

A post-race celebration will be at the St. Anthony School Gym, 2310 E. Jefferson Blvd. The celebration will feature awards, food, refreshments, music and massages.

Registrations may be submitted at the school or parish office or mailed to St. Anthony de Padua School, 2310 E. Jefferson Blvd., South Bend, IN 46615, Attn: Run, Panther, Run. All events are open to all ages. Late registration can be made up to the morning of the run beginning at 7:30 with the run beginning at 9 a.m.

Run, Panther, Run proceeds benefit tuition assistance for children in need. For more information email run@stanthonysb.org. Registration forms and other pertinent information are available at www.stanthonysb.org/new/run.htm.

Correction

In the Tax Credit Scholarships information published in the March 25, 2012 issue of *Today's Catholic*, the Tax Credit Scholarship amount should have been listed as \$300.

Stations of the Cross across the globe

BY KAY COZAD

Praying the Stations of the Cross, also known as the Way of the Cross, is a traditional devotional practice that dates back to the 4th century in the Holy Land and is considered a spiritual pilgrimage centered on a series of pictures, prayers and meditations of the 14 events that occurred during Christ's Passion and Death on Calvary.

Youth, young adult and adult religious and lay pilgrims who traveled with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades were deeply moved by the magnificence of the Stations of the Cross at Lourdes, France, during their pilgrimage to World Youth Day in Madrid in 2011. The 15 stations, identified in several languages, weaved their way up a steep mountainous path of over 1,500 meters of wooded and rocky terrain, each with larger-than-life sized, brightly painted, cast iron figures. The hillside stations, with 115 figures in all, were constructed by Raffl of Paris between 1898 and 1911. These photos, taken on the pilgrimage, illustrate the reverent prayerfulness of the solemn figures of Christ's Passion and Death and are accompanied here by personal reflections.

First Station:

Jesus is condemned to death.

You bore injustice with no complaint, Lord Jesus. Teach me meekness in all of life's adversity.

Second Station:

Jesus accepts the cross.

Jesus, You took the cross upon Yourself for my sake. Strengthen me to carry my own cross faithfully for You.

Third Station:

Jesus falls the first time.

Teach me, Lord, to pick myself up when I sin and find my way back to You.

Fourth Station:

Jesus meets His mother.

Jesus, You honored Your mother with Your life. Be my inspiration to honor my family members, even the most difficult ones.

Fifth Station:

Simon of Cyrene carries the cross.

Teach me, Lord, to graciously accept blessings from others, even as I strive to help those in need.

Sixth Station:

Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.
Jesus, You left Your features on Veronica's cloth as a legacy of love. Help me to imprint those same features on my good works.

Seventh Station:

Jesus falls the second time.
As I grow weary of life's burdens, Lord, please be my strength and hope.

Eighth Station:

Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem.
As You consoled those women, Lord, teach me to offer consolation to those in need.

Ninth Station:

Jesus falls the third time.
The burden of my sin causes You such pain Lord. Help me turn away from sin and repent.

10th Station:

Jesus is stripped of His garments.
As You were stripped naked, please clothe me with mercy that will restore my soul.

11th Station:

Jesus is nailed to the cross.
Jesus, teach me to forgive my enemies as You forgave those who crucified You on Calvary.

12th Station:

Jesus dies on the cross.
Jesus, teach me to die to self and live for You.

13th Station:

Jesus' body is removed from the cross.
Make me worthy, Lord, to receive You into my heart as Your sorrowful mother received You into her arms.

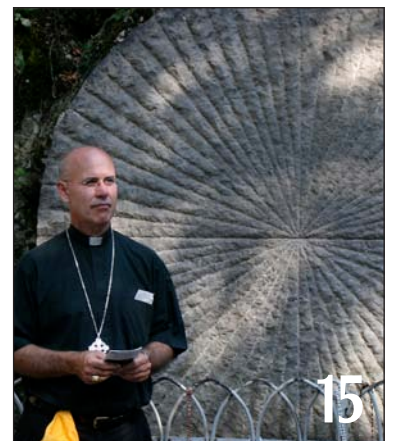
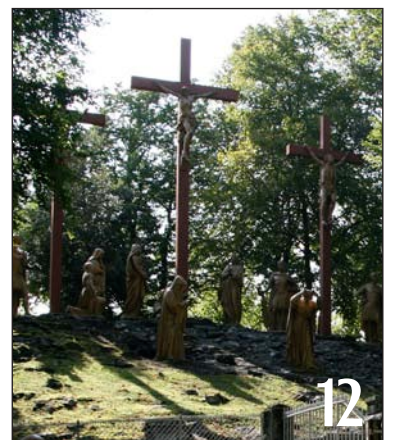
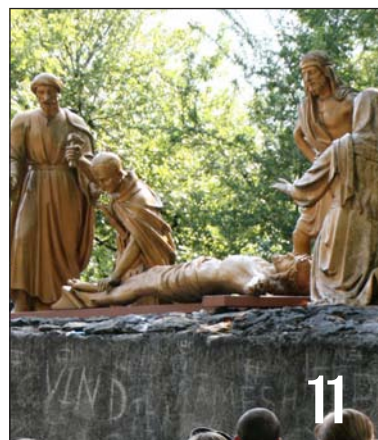
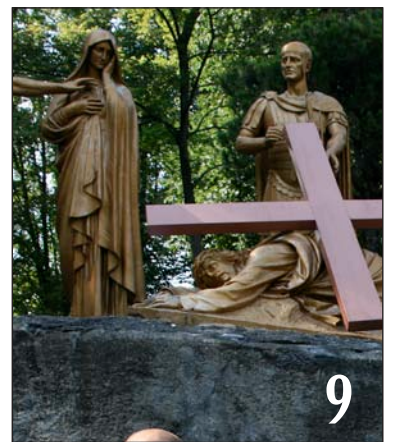
14th Station:

Jesus is laid in the tomb and covered in incense.
Jesus, as I repent of my sins wash my heart clean so that You may live in me more fully.

15th Station:

The Resurrection of Jesus.
Jesus, open my eyes that I may recognize Your everlasting glory, today and everyday, as I strive to serve You more faithfully.

Although not traditionally part of the Stations, the Resurrection of Jesus is sometimes included as a 15th station, as on the hillside of Lourdes, France.



Catholicism has presence in new Parkview Regional Medical Center

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — The new sprawling nine-story, 430 bed, Parkview Regional Medical Center in Fort Wayne boasts a facility focused on health and wellness, and that includes spiritual well-being.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated the first Catholic Mass in the facility's new chapel on March 22 and blessed the Catholic Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

"This chapel is a sign of the importance of the spiritual care of the sick who come here for medical care," Bishop Rhoades said in his homily. "There is a necessary connection between the physical, psychological and spiritual dimension of the person. I am very grateful to the Parkview administration and community for recognizing the importance of the spiritual life of the patients and for providing this chapel as a place of prayer for patients and their families and for hospital staff and employees."

The Blessed Sacrament will be in reserve in the chapel where chapel visitors may pray. Mass will be celebrated in the chapel — which also offers kneeling benches — on Thursdays.

"Today the Holy Eucharist, the true bread from heaven, will begin to be reserved here at Parkview Regional Medical Center, here in the

tabernacle of this chapel," Bishop Rhoades said in the homily.

"The Eucharist reserved here and also distributed to the Catholic patients is a wonderful gift," he said. "Patients here will be able to receive the bread of life, the new manna come down from heaven, the Lord Jesus Himself."

Bishop Rhoades added, "I am deeply grateful to the priests, deacons and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion who are so dedicated to this holy ministry of bringing the Eucharist to the sick here at Parkview."

"In bringing Holy Communion to the sick, the ministers represent the Church, the community of believers, in reaching out to those who cannot be present for Mass," Bishop Rhoades said. "The sick who receive the Eucharist become united with Christ and are also united with the Church. How important it is that they have the opportunity to receive the Bread of life while here at Parkview."

Although Parkview Regional

Medical Center is a Methodist Hospital, the facility serves a large number of Catholic patients.

Rev. Ann Steiner-Lantz, the director of chaplaincy services at Parkview Regional Medical Center, told *Today's Catholic*, "We are so excited to have this chapel and the commitment that Parkview has made to pastoral care and spiritual needs of our patients."

"So many hospitals around the country, in downsizing, are eliminating chaplaincy departments," she said. "And here, we've built this beautiful chapel. We have a beautiful office complex here in the core of the hospital."

Decorated glass dominates the wall behind the altar in the Parkview chapel. A large cross of combined colors is not a splash of paint, but a photograph of the texture of a flower magnified thousands of times. The image behind the altar is an iris. Another large window carries the image of a rose. Both state-of-the-art pieces were produced by Architectural Glass of Louisville, Ky.

Rev. Lantz said the focus of Mike

'How important it is that they have the opportunity to receive the Bread of life while here at Parkview.'

BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES



KAY COZAD

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades places the Eucharist in the tabernacle at the Catholic Blessed Sacrament Chapel in the newly-opened Parkview Regional Medical Center in Fort Wayne. Although the hospital is a Methodist Hospital, the Eucharist will be in reserve in the chapel for Catholic patients and visitors.

Packnett, president and CEO, and Sue Ehinger, chief operating officer who is a Catholic, "is not just on the physical healing of our patients, but the spiritual healing as well. And they're both tremendous persons of faith. It couldn't be any better than what we have here."

The Catholic Blessed Sacrament Chapel has been in the planning stages for years. The hospital has worked with Bishop John M. D'Arcy, bishop emeritus, and Bishop Rhoades after his instal-

lation as bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, as well as Brian MacMichael of the diocesan Office of Worship and Father Jason Freiburger from Bishop Rhoades' office.

Although Rev. Lantz is a United Methodist minister, she has been adamant about the Blessed Sacrament Chapel because "I have so many Catholic friends, coworkers and so many Catholic patients — and to be able to pray in front of the reserved Eucharist is so important."

Hospital ER visitors find healing through art

BY MARK WEBER

FORT WAYNE — One of the innovations at the new Parkview Regional Medical Center is found in the emergency department waiting area and could be described as a non-medicinal mood elevator.

Anxious visitors there may be calmed by viewing a large mural — which at first glance depicts a typical Indiana rural scene — but on closer inspection, reveals individual renderings combined to make "the big picture."

Each of smaller pieces of the mural is one square foot of canvas with the colors and graphics composing the general picture but includes a subtly blended overprint, hand painted, which actually is a separate piece of art.

Each small canvas honors an "Everyday Star" and in artistic imagery commemorates individuals, dead and alive, who have given of themselves to make the Fort Wayne community a better place.

By viewing an interactive kiosk, visitors see information on each Everyday Star and why he or she was selected.

There are 160 of these mosaic pieces, and combined, have been given the copyrighted title of Murocity; "a community-based art project reflecting generosity through a mosaic of images, that, when placed together, form a mural."

Working with the Parkview

Foundation, one of the lead artists heading up Murocity was Vicki Junk-Wright, a Bishop Dwenger graduate who now teaches fine art at Canterbury High School.

Junk-Wright painted the main scene of the mural before it was divided into the smaller squares. She was assisted by Santa Brink in planning Murocity. Other local artists Karen Moriarty, Teri Marquart, Penny French-Deal and Terry Ratliff served as art directors in more than 40 workshops producing the 160 individual squares, which were painted by professional artists, high school students, Parkview employees and area celebrities.

Catholics are well represented among the Everyday Stars and include Msgr. William Lester, Father Tom O'Connor, Franciscan Sister M. Elise Kriss and Bishop John M. D'Arcy, bishop emeritus.

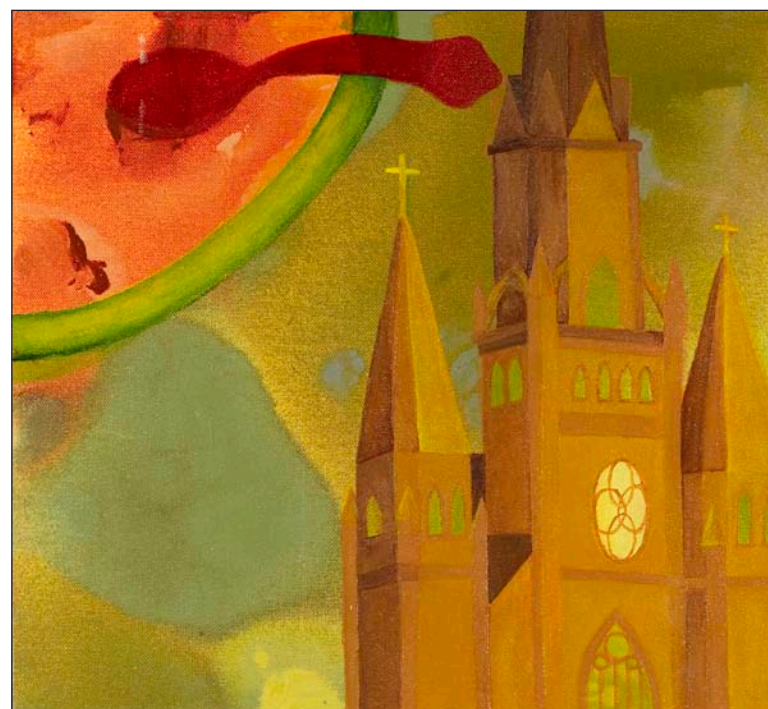
Visitors using the kiosk to select Canvas G-20 to read about Everyday Star Father Tom O'Connor will see that artist Taylor Firestine, who as a senior at Bishop Luers High School, painted church steeples and a bowl of soup, wrote: "As pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Fort Wayne, Father Thomas O'Connor was not only a hardworking caregiver to the parish he served, but an instrument of God's compassion for the community in which he lived. Father Tom, as he was fondly known, left an undeniable and far-reaching legacy in improving the lives of the region's needy. Among Father

Tom's charitable works, St. Mary's Soup Kitchen was one of his most cherished organizations. Opened in 1975, St. Mary's Soup Kitchen serves 300,000 meals annually to those struggling to make ends meet. Father Tom is also remembered for rallying the community in the wake of a fire that consumed the church in 1993, leading efforts to rebuild the parish, which opened on the site in 1999. Although Father Tom O'Connor passed away in 2003, his charity and service continues to touch the lives of thousands in our region that need a helping hand."

Considering the many new features at Parkview, such as robotic housekeepers, patient and medical data at fingertip control, "smartbeds" and so on, it is interesting to know that art, an ancient expression of human feelings, has such a prominent place in the healing process. No pill or practitioner needed — just look at it and feel better.

At top is the waiting room of the emergency department where the mural can be seen, and in the foreground is an interactive kiosk that visitors can touch to view individual squares about the artist and the "Everyday Star" portrayed.

The lower photo depicts tribute to Father Tom O'Connor, showing a bowl of soup and the spires of St. Mary Catholic Church in Fort Wayne painted by Taylor Firestine, a graduate of Bishop Luers High School.



PHOTOS SUPPLIED BY PARKVIEW REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER



20th Anniversary of Divine Mercy at our parish

SUNDAY, APRIL 15, 2012

2:00 - 2:45 pm: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Divine Mercy Chaplet and Reconciliation

3:00 pm: Holy Mass

Father Derrick Sneyd, Celebrant
Immaculate Conception Church
500 East Seventh Street, Auburn

Lunch served following Mass.

Divine Mercy Materials available for purchase.

Divine Mercy Chaplet and Novena
Good Friday, April 6 - Saturday, April 14

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Todays
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SCOUTS HOST FOOD COLLECTION FOR 100TH ANNIVERSARY



PROVIDED BY ST. THOMAS SCHOOL

The six Girl Scout Troops at St. Thomas the Apostle School in Elkhart hosted a food and personal care item collection during Girl Scout Week, March 12-16. The food drive was planned to show their Catholic faith in action while honoring the values of Girl Scouting. The girls made signs, encouraged donations and helped to deliver more than 200 items to the Elkhart St. Vincent de Paul food pantry. Pictured, with the donations, are the more than 60 Girl Scouts at St. Thomas the Apostle School — Daisy Troop 00216, Daisy Troop 00217, Brownie Troop 10022, Brownie Troop 10411, Junior Troop 10061, Cadette Troop 10074.



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EASTER TRIDUUM

THURSDAY 7:00 PM MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER
(ADORATION AFTER MASS UNTIL 10:00 PM)

FRIDAY - 1:30 PM GOOD FRIDAY LITURGY & COMMUNION

SATURDAY - 9:00 PM EASTER VIGIL MASS

EASTER SUNDAY - 8:00 & 10:15 AM MASSES

(REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE)

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The people of St. Jude Catholic Church
Randallia Drive at East State Blvd. in Fort Wayne
invite all to join in the celebration of the Paschal Triduum



Holy Thursday, April 5 - 7:00 PM
Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday, April 6 - 12:30 PM
Celebration of the Lord's Passion

Holy Saturday, April 7 - 9:00 PM
Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday, April 8
Masses - 7:00, 9:00 and 11:00 AM
Easter Egg Hunt - 4:45 PM

Contraception: What's a Catholic to think?

Catholic apologist Christopher West relates a moving incident about his late father-in-law, a man he never met but greatly admired. At Mass on the day after his wedding, having just consummated his marriage the night before, his father-in-law was in tears after receiving the Eucharist. When his new bride inquired, he responded: "For the first time in my life I understood the meaning of Christ's words, 'This is my body, given for you.'" This story is not only poignant; it is profound, for it captures the truth, beauty and goodness of the marital embrace as designed by God. As Blessed John Paul II expressed it: "Sexuality is an enrichment of the whole person — body, emotions and soul — and it manifests its inmost meaning in leading the person to the gift of self in love." — "Familiaris consortio," 37.

Perhaps we can now understand on a deeper level that the question of family planning is not peripheral

to our faith. On the contrary, how we handle our mutual fertility in marriage is a central and serious issue in our walk with God. Every Sunday when we recite the Creed at Mass, we profess our belief in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life. There is only one act that puts us in communion with God as the Lord and giver of life, and that act is the marital embrace.

How beautiful that He who is the bond of love between the Father and the Son should be the one who can make our love for each other in marriage so real that it actually becomes another person, the two of us in one flesh. When it comes to marriage, sexuality and procreation, therefore, we are standing on holy ground. God is present here in a mysterious but real way, and like Moses who approached the burning bush on Mount Horeb, we remove the sandals from our feet in profound reverence.

Only if we have a deep sense



LISA EVERETT

GUEST
COMMENTARY

of the sacredness of sex, can we appreciate the desecration that contraception and sterilization really are. To desecrate means "to violate the sanctity of" and when we use contraception or undergo a sterilization procedure, we have violated the sanctity of sex, even if we are not conscious of it. This desecration damages our relationship with God and with one another. But the beauty of the Christian life is that Christ came to redeem us from sin and to reconcile

THINK, PAGE 12

Why and how to fast: A family's guide

Have you heard?

March 30 was designated by our bishops to be as a day of fasting and prayer for religious freedom and conscience protection. If you are reading this after the fact, you can still designate your own day of fasting and prayer for this purpose. If you're reading this before the date (*Today's Catholic* is published just a bit ahead of the date on the masthead) there's still time to join in prayer with everybody else.

Why, though? You ask.

Why spend the time fasting and how?

Why fast?

The first reason to fast is because that is what God's people have historically done before a decision, grave situation or problem before them. In the Old Testament, Queen Esther fasted before approaching her husband, the king, when she was going to reveal that Haman, the king's advisor, had plans to annihilate the Jewish people. She said, "Go and gather together all the Jews of Susa and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will do the same. And then, though it is against the law, I will go in to see the king. If I must die, I must die." — Esther 4:16.

After Esther and the Jewish people fasted for three days, Esther approached her king, was received well, and revealed the evil plot of Haman, securing life for her people. Other ancient people of faith also fasted — Moses, the prophetess Anna (Luke 2:36) and Daniel (Daniel 9:3) fasted, to name just a few. Holy people in the Old Testament knew the value of fasting.

Second, Jesus fasted. Matthew 4:1-2 tells us that before His public ministry Jesus went in to the desert: "... Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for 40 days and 40 nights."

Third, when we fast, we eliminate attachments to food and open ourselves up spiritually to God. We empty ourselves of our desires for material things and become more open to hearing, obeying and loving God. We are also making reparation for sin and doing penance.

How to fast

Fasting can be absolute or partial, meaning fasting on water alone, or juices and water, or bread and water, or simply from "extras" like desserts, meat and wine, or taking one regular meal and two smaller ones. I once heard someone suggest that the time one normally spends eating on a fasting day, he replaces with prayer — the rosary, Mass or personal Scriptural mediation. This makes a lot of sense to me.

Jesus gave us guidelines for fasting as well. "And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces



THERESA A. THOMAS

EVERYDAY
CATHOLIC

that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have received their reward." — Matthew 6:16-18.

How to explain fasting to children

You know your child's maturity level and understanding. You can simply share biblical references of fasting and say that you are fasting for our nation and freedom of religion, and for God's protection over us as a country. Older children may be able to understand the exact political situation and you may want to explain that to them. Or you may not. Pray about it and discern the best path.

Should my children fast?

Children's prayers are powerful and children should be encouraged to make a small fast of their own — perhaps of sweets or a favorite snack. Children's bodies are different than adults and they have increased nutritional needs so the Church doesn't require young children to fast like adults do even on Good Friday or Ash Wednesday. In fact, it is probably unwise for them to do so.

Young children are often more willing to sacrifice a lot, and parents should be encouraged to guide them wisely, perhaps suggesting a fast from dessert and or meat, something that will not negatively affect their health. All children can be encouraged to fast from a favorite game or television program in lieu of substantial food.

Catholics, indeed people of all faith, are at a critical juncture in history. Our religious freedom is being threatened by secular government and like the faith-filled people of the Old and New Testaments, we must humble ourselves and pray, and fast.

Second Chronicles 7:14 states: "If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land." Amen.

Theresa Thomas is the wife of David and mother of nine children. Watch for her newest book "Big Hearted Families" (Scepter) and read more on her blog: <http://theresathomas.wordpress.com/>

God's will for humanity endures today



THE
SUNDAY
GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Palm Sunday Mk 14:1-15:47

This weekend the Church celebrates Palm Sunday, to use the older term, or the Sunday of the Lord's Passion. As the rite of the procession of the palms begins, a selection from the 11th chapter of Mark's Gospel is read.

These reflections will look at the readings in the Liturgy of the Word itself.

For the first of these readings, the Church presents a passage from the third part of the Book of Isaiah. It is one of the four Songs of the Suffering Servant, the four poetic and highly moving compositions that form one of the great glories of Third Isaiah.

Over the centuries, Christians have seen the image of Christ, the innocent Lamb of God, in these Suffering Servant Songs. Scholars debate the identity of the Suffering Servant. Was he the prophet himself? Was he a collective identity for the people of Israel? Did he represent the devout and faithful among the people? Was he someone else?

In any case, the message is clear. Despite outrages brought against him, the Suffering Servant is true.

The second reading is from one of the most eloquent sections in the New Testament. Scholars think that this reading had its origins in an ancient Christian liturgy dating from the times of the Apostles. It is appealing, and very instructive, in

its excited proclamation of faith in Jesus.

For this year's Palm Sunday liturgy, the Church presents the Passion Narrative of Mark's Gospel.

While all the Gospels go into considerable detail in telling the story of the Lord's trial and crucifixion, they differ from each other in certain insights and emphases. After all, each is the work of a distinct evangelist, and the imprint of the respective evangelist's sense of the meaning of what happened on the first Good Friday is clear.

Without doubt, the death of Jesus occurred as a result of a horrendous process of torture and humiliation. It loses sight of the Gospel's message, however, to see the awfulness of these events and nothing more.

The story ultimately is about the inevitability of God's will. In love, God willed that even sinful humanity should have the option of replacing disobedience with obedience, and God provided a way for this through the life and the sacrificial death of Jesus.

Another important lesson is in the reactions of others in the story, the Jewish officials with their intrigue, the impulsiveness and then the betrayal of Peter, the pragmatism of Pilate, and the uncompromising loyalty of Mary and the women with her. They all present an image of human nature and of how human nature differs as it is presented in one life and then in another.

Reflection

This Palm Sunday's profound reading from Mark calls us to the basic fact that, despite all the horror, and regardless of all the chaos and plotting, Jesus was unswerving in fulfilling God's holy will, and indeed God's will prevail. What was God's will? It was that all people be freed of the effects of sin

and be able to be at peace with God and in God to possess eternal life.

The first reading, the figure of the Suffering Servant, gives additional focus upon the obedience of Jesus.

A favorite literary technique employed by Mark is irony. It is so particularly ironic that humanity's only chance for freedom and for life is in Jesus, yet humans schemed and maneuvered to upset the mission of Jesus.

The most pious of the Jews, presumably, even allowed themselves to ally with the pagan Romans, their oppressors, to confound the Lord's work of salvation.

God's will for humanity endures today and for each of us. Ironically, do we, with our sinfulness and in our blindness, frustrate for ourselves the opportunity given us in Christ to be with God?

READINGS

Palm Sunday: Mk 11:1-10 (procession) Is 50:4-7 Ps 22:8-9, 17-18a, 19-20, 23-24 Phil 2:6-11 Mk 14:1-15:47

Monday: Is 42:1-7 Ps 27:1-3, 13-14 Jn 12:1-11

Tuesday: Is 49:1-6 Ps 71:1-4a, 5-6ab, 15, 17 Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

Wednesday: Is 50:4-9a Ps 69:8-10, 21bcd-22, 31, 33-34 Mt 26:14-25

Holy Thursday: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14 Ps 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18 1 Cor 11:23-26 Jn 13:1-15

Good Friday: Is 52:13—53:12 Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-17, 25 Heb 4:14-16, 5:7-9 Jn 18:1—19:42

Saturday: 1) Gn 1:1—2:2 Ps 104:1-2a, 5-6, 10, 12-14, 24, 35c 2) Gn 22:1-18 Ps 16:5, 8-11 3) Ex 14:15—15:1 (Ps) Ex 15:1-6, 18-18 4) Is 54:4-14 Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-12a, 13b 5) Is 55:1-11 (Ps) Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 6) Bar 3:9-15, 32—4:4 Pa 19:8-11 7) Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28 Pss 42:3, 5; 43:3-4 8) Rom 6:3-11 Ps 118:1-2, 16ab-17, 22-23 9) Mk 16:1-7

Cardinal Dolan and the new evangelization

The irrepressibly effervescent personality of Cardinal Timothy Dolan may tempt some to think of the archbishop of New York and president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops as the latest in a line of glad-handing Irish-American prelates, long on blarney and short on depth. Succumbing to that temptation would be a very serious mistake. For Cardinal Dolan is a man of formidable intelligence, a historian trained in the school of the late John Tracy Ellis, dean of the classic historians of Catholicism in the United States.

That historian's-eye view of the contemporary scene and its antecedents in the immediate past, linked to a deep insight into the meaning of Vatican II and the pontificates of John Paul II and Benedict XVI, produced a remarkable speech to the College of Cardinals on Feb. 17, the day before Dolan received his red hat. Like everything else Cardinal Dolan does, his speech that day was delivered with brio, and it was that bubbling energy that got most of the press attention. Yet Dolan's key proposal — that the Church is entering a new phase of its history — was a bold one, and may set the terms of discussion for the Church of the future:

“As John Paul II taught in ‘Redemptoris Missio,’ the Church does not ‘have a mission,’ as if ‘mission’ were one of many things the Church does.

“No, the Church is a mission, and each us of who names Jesus as Lord and Savior should measure ourselves by our mission-effectiveness.”

Over the 50 years since the convocation of the council, we have seen the Church pass through the last stages of the counter-reformation and rediscover itself as a missionary enterprise. In some venues, this has meant a new discovery of the Gospel. In once-catechized lands, it has meant a re-evangelization that sets out from the shallow waters of institutional maintenance, and as John Paul II instructed us in “Novo Millennio Ineunte,” puts out “into the deep for a catch. In many of the countries represented in this college, the ambient public culture once transmitted the Gospel, but does so no more. In those circumstances, the proclamation of the Gospel — the deliberate invitation to enter into friendship with the Lord Jesus — must be at the very center of the Catholic life of all of our people. But in all circumstances, the Second Vatican Council and the two great popes who have given it an authoritative interpretation are calling us to call our people to think of themselves as missionaries and evangelists.”

As we approach the 50th anniversary of the convocation of Vatican II, which will be marked on Oct. 11, the Church should remember that Blessed John XXIII wanted the Second Vatican Council to be a new Pentecost: a moment to re-experience the freshness of the Gospel and the burning desire to share the Good News that animated the first Christians.

Blessed John Paul II, a man of the Council, called the Church to a similar encounter with the fire of the Holy Spirit: he led the Church



THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

GEORGE WEIGEL

through the Pentecostal experience of the Great Jubilee of 2000 so that we might come to know ourselves again as a Church in mission, a Church for mission. By inviting us into friendship with Jesus Christ, who is always our contemporary, Benedict XVI, another man of the Council, has given that mission a personal and holy face: the face of the Lord, who reveals to us both the countenance of the Merciful Father and the truth about our humanity.

The Second Vatican Council, John Paul II and Benedict XVI have invited us to Galilee, that we might go out from there to the ends of the earth, bringing the Gospel of God's passionate love for humanity to a world yearning for truth. Cardinal Dolan's address to the college of cardinals was an extended and moving reminder that everyone in the Church must ask for the grace and strength to accept that invitation to Galilee: to be the witnesses to Christ that all of us were baptized to be.

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

less — than our complete gift of self in return. He *especially* wants our sins, for in a real sense that is the only thing that belongs exclusively to us and not to Him.

Father Joseph Langford, the co-founder of Mother Teresa's community of priests, speaks of His boundless love for each of us: “In His limitless humility, more than any service we can render Him, the Lord considers it a *gift* that we ‘allow’ Him to take away our sins. Why? Precisely because He thirsts for us, because He longs for union with us, and the only obstacle to that union is our sin — which in His eyes, then, becomes the most precious gift we can offer.”

Come now, let us set things right, we hear the Lord say to His people through the prophet Isaiah. Could the controversy occasioned by the HHS mandate be, among other things, an opportunity to re-evaluate our own conduct in this most serious matter — even, perhaps, a call to repent? “I want to grant a complete pardon to the souls that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion on the Feast of My Mercy,” the first Sunday after Easter, the Lord told St. Faustina, the young Polish nun to whom He confided the depths of His love and mercy for every person. Let us not let this Lent go by without giving Him our sins and letting Him set things right.

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

An open letter to Catholic women about contraception

According to some statistics, about 80 percent of Catholics have used birth control at one time or another. As a Catholic who used birth control at one time, I realize that I am a part of that statistic. But now I have completely changed my stance, and I want to share why. I now recognize the harm that artificial birth control did to my body and my marriage. What was interesting to me is that I came to this understanding without the teachings of the Church, but then found that the Church had it right all along.

When I was on the Pill, I could never find one that didn't send my hormones racing, my moods swinging, and a constant stream of blood flowing. When I used an IUD, I found that it did the complete opposite of the Pill — I never had a period. And my body always felt as if I would have one at any moment ... but it never came. That was equally disconcerting. I was tired of it all. It was at that point that I had my personal realization. I realized that these pills and devices were violating my womanhood. Yes, this freedom of choice was ruining my ability to fully feel and understand my womanhood. Quite honestly, I felt the difference when on contraception. It felt physically wrong, like some part of my womanhood was being denied.

But I wasn't just tired of the physical side effects that came with artificial contraceptives. I was tired of what it was doing to my marriage. You would think that since sexuality could be experienced without fear of conception, that it would all be easier, stress-free and more loving. I THOUGHT it would be that way; but it wasn't. I was denying potential life. When you have several children already whom you love, you can't help but think that you had the potential to say “no” to any one of them. Then, they wouldn't be a part of your life. That's hard to take. Although I was told that artificial contraceptives would make my sexual experience wonderful, it wasn't wonderful. It was planned and mundane.

It caused me to live in a marriage where we didn't have to work together or find unity in procreation. When not on a contraceptive device, sexuality involves the exercise of free will. It means controlling one's own desires ... and trusting that your spouse will do the same. *There's the big catch and probably the biggest problem of all. We didn't trust each other. We didn't trust that we could control ourselves or that we even had the choice to control ourselves. We never recognized the gift from a spouse when they are willing to hold back for the sake of regulating pregnancy. There is a real intimacy and unity in this approach to fertility. Artificial contraception created distrust between me and my spouse.*

I was motivated by fear. I was afraid to NOT be on birth control. I was tired of being afraid. I was tired of my body not being allowed to cycle, or the crazy hormonal feeling of the Pill. I was tired of feeling like I was not a woman. And I was tired of not trusting my husband enough to believe he would give of himself in such a way as to respect my need to not get pregnant. I was tired of the loss

of communication with my spouse.

Again, I came to this realization without the understanding of the Church's teaching. I was quite surprised when my own personal realizations were in line with the Church's rationale for the immorality of contraception. Contraception was not bad because men of the Church said so. It is bad because it is against our human nature, because contraception hinders the natural order and stops the way your body is supposed to work. It reduces the depth of relationship you are supposed to have with your spouse and robs you of the freedom in being a woman — being not just okay with it, but CELEBRATING it, and thereby celebrating the life that may come from it.

The world will tell you that you should take control of your fertility. It's called free will. Then why give it away to a pharmaceutical company? Is there control when you are using a contraceptive device so that you don't have to worry about controlling yourself? AND if you are married to the love of your life, why in the world would you want to hold back; be fearful, distrusting, and CONTROL something that is supposed to be a gift to the one you love?

And then came the most wonderful and unexpected gift of all. As my husband and I made the choice to walk away from contraception, our faith started to blossom and our understanding of God's love for us and the hope in Christ's sacrifice became more real. Suddenly the teachings of the Church became an extension of the love of God. I felt flooded with the grace that comes from a closer relationship with God. I had always sought that relationship, but I had not been sure of how to attain it. Now, through obedience to God's laws, a thankful heart for the blessings of my womanhood, and an unconditional love for my spouse, I was in a place to receive the wonderful virtues of greater faith and hope. We are told that charity (love) purifies and makes other virtues more attainable. I can say that this is absolutely the case.

I know now, after my experience, that the world's answers are not the answers. I have seen and felt it for myself. I wish it had been better explained to me when I was young. I wish I had not listened to the siren call of the world and the idea that giving in to personal desires at all costs was my RIGHT as a woman. There is certainly no freedom in being chained to an idea that compromises you physically and puts a wedge between you and your spouse. And there is certainly no freedom in forcing those who understand this to compromise their fundamental beliefs and promote the very thing, which they know to undermine women and families. I hope and pray that by sharing my experiences, others may have the courage to break free from the chains of this worldview and be grateful for the womanhood God has blessed us with. And I hope and pray that more women who have had this transformative experience might stand up and speak.

Jennifer Feeny (*Wife, Mother and Freed to Love*)

THINK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

us to the Father and to one another.

“An Open Letter to Catholic Women on Contraception” is a companion piece to this final article in the series, which chronicles one woman's conversion on this issue and how her relationship with God and with her husband were restored.

Blessed John Paul II, that great champion of human love, knew that the Church's teaching on sexuality and procreation is central to the holiness and the happiness of married couples. Years ago, in an address to young people, he spoke from the heart: “I want you to believe and to be convinced that your human ‘great mystery’ has its beginning in God who is the Creator, is rooted in Christ the Redeemer, who as the spouse ‘gave Himself,’ and who teaches all husbands and wives how to ‘give themselves’ in the full measure of each one's personal dignity. Christ teaches us married love. ... Do not be afraid of the love that places clear demands on people. These demands — as you find them in the constant teaching of the Church — are precisely capable of making your love a true love.”

There is no doubt that following the Church's teaching on procreation can be difficult at times, and what

G.K. Chesterton once said of Christianity is perhaps especially true of this teaching: it is not that it has been tried and found wanting — it has been found difficult and has not been tried. But there is also no doubt that following the teaching of the Church fosters the spiritual growth of spouses and strengthens their relationship with God.

As one husband and father of five, married 35 years reflected: “We see practicing NFP as another one of those opportunities that God gives us to grow in our trust in Him. Early in our married life, we accepted the Church's invitation to tithe. God has never failed us as we professed our trust in Him in this area of our family finances. Putting our trust in God with respect to our family size and sexual intimacy as husband and wife has also been a blessing. ... God has gently coaxed us with His gifts to let go of our lives little by little, and to put our trust in Him. Our NFP experiences ... have been gifts that have helped us to grow in our trust in our Triune God. Our cup has overflowed with His generosity.”

None of us knows the day nor the hour when we will meet the Lord face to face and have to render an account for the way we have followed, or refused to follow, the teachings of His bride, the Church. But we do know that the Lord is rich in mercy if we but bring our sins to Him. He has held nothing back in loving us, a love which led Him to the cross, and He wants nothing more — and nothing

Sports

DIOCESAN TEEN NAMED INDIANA MISS BASKETBALL Jessica Rupright, a senior at Norwell High School in Ossian, was announced as 2012 Miss Indiana Basketball. The award is sponsored by the *Indianapolis Star*, and Rupright received 41 votes out of 206 media members and coaches. The award is the state's top honor for a girls' basketball player. Charlie Hall, director of the Indiana All-Star Games, gave Rupright the news on March 21. Rupright, a 6-foot-2 center, holds the school single-game record of 35 points. She also toppled a school record with 1,591 points and 728 rebounds. Rupright is a member of St. Aloysius Church in Yoder.

Bishop Dwenger gymnastics team celebrates state win

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — Born in the middle of the Poinsatte dozen, Karen Trahin, Janet Shipper and Rose Nix came out on top as they led their Bishop Dwenger Saints to the 2012 IHSAA state gymnastics championship on Saturday, March 17.

Sisters by birth, the three have been involved in gymnastics since they were little girls and coaching together for the past three decades. Between them, the Bishop Dwenger alums have built an impressive resume — 26 children, seven runner-ups and five state titles.

The three were honored along with their talented team at an all-school assembly on Wednesday afternoon, March 21, in the gymnasium. It had been six long years since the Saints brought home a title; but as promised, the coaches delivered on their long-standing tradition of Trahin-Shipper-Nix back flips to celebrate. However, three special guests — their high school sons — came out of nowhere to perform the duties instead, surprising the student body.

Many teams boast a “family atmosphere,” but for the Saints it is literally true with the sister coaching staff and four first cousins on the roster. Over the years, many daughters and nieces have competed at Bishop Dwenger for their aunts and mothers, and this year was no exception.



PHOTOS BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

The motto of the 2012 state champion gymnastics team this season was “Dreams are Goals with Halos.”

Bishop Dwenger captains Carrie Brown and Brittany Trahin pose with the state trophy. At right is Bishop Dwenger Principal Jason Schiffli. At left is athletic director John Bennett.



Brittany Trahin, one of just two seniors on the squad, is No. 6 of Karen's eight children. Her second-place finish on the vault helped seal the deal for the Saints to edge Valparaiso 112.550 to 111.975.

“It was great to finally dethrone Valpo (which has won the last four years),” explained Trahin. “We have not won a title since 2006 when my sister was a senior,” she added.

Although still flying high from the weekend victory, Shipper was quick to recall the big picture and the added value of attending a Catholic high school. “Our girls are able to compete with their God-given talents for His greater honor and glory. We could even say the rosary together as a team the night before the meet in our hotel.”

An impressive video was presented to the tune of “We are the Champions” highlighting each event from twisting start to perfect finish landing at the state meet.


Finally, Bishop Dwenger High School Principal Jason Schiffli added his congratulations and pointed out not only the gymnasts' superior athleticism, but their critical thinking process and ability to focus tuning everything out in crucial moments.

“Pound for pound, we have the best in the state sitting here both in body and mind,” he summarized. Finally he thanked the coaches citing them as “precious commodities” at Bishop Dwenger.

Also honored while all students were gathered were the National champion cheerleader squad and the Future Business Leaders of America and their adviser of the year, Andrea Weadock. The assembly started and finished in Bishop Dwenger fashion with the playing of the school's fight song by the pep band.





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Youngpeter receives Father Tom O'Connor Light of Christ Award

BY VINCE LABARBERA

FORT WAYNE — Retired high-school administrator Leon A. Youngpeter received the 2012 Father Tom O'Connor Light of Christ Award at a ceremony on March 21 at St. Mary Catholic Church, Fort Wayne. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades presented Youngpeter with the prestigious award.

Sponsored by St. Mary Parish and the diocese, the award was created six years ago in memory of Father Thomas P. O'Connor, considered by many to be an icon of Catholic faith in action. Father Tom died on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 2004, after serving as pastor of St. Mary for more than 34 years.

In his remarks, Bishop Rhoades congratulated the four finalists and the recipient of this year's Father Tom O'Connor Light of Christ Award.

"May God bless all of you ... for your faith-filled service and your love of neighbor. That's what this is all about," he said.

"And when I was reading about Leon," Bishop Rhoades continued, "I immediately thought of the words of the Holy Father in an apostolic letter that he wrote months ago for the beginning of the Year of Faith, which will begin in October. ... In that letter, Pope Benedict wrote about the virtue of faith. And he explained that faith and charity each require the other. 'Faith without charity bears no fruit while charity without faith would be a sentiment constantly at the mercy of doubt,'" Bishop Rhoades quoted the pope.

"The Holy Father also reminded us of the words of St. James: 'What does it profit, my brethren, if a man says he has faith but has not works. Faith by itself if it has no works is dead. But someone will say, you have faith and I have works, show me



PHOTOS BY VINCE LABARBERA

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades presented Leon A. Youngpeter with the 2012 Father Tom O'Connor Light of Christ Award at St. Mary Catholic Church, Fort Wayne on March 21. (A portrait of Father Tom "overlooks" the presentation).

your faith apart from your works and I by my works will show you my faith' (Jas 2: 18)," Bishop Rhoades said. "Leon Youngpeter, by his works, has shown us his faith," Bishop Rhoades remarked. "This is what the Light of Christ Award is all about — it's what Father Tom O'Connor was all about — faith and action, putting our faith into practice!"

Youngpeter, well-known in the community for his administrative and classroom expertise, was selected for his work outside the classroom "encouraging the next generation of Father Toms." For 24 years he managed the St. Mary's Christmas Box distribution program, enlisting the help first of the Snider High School

concert band and homerooms, and then expanding the youth involvement to include North Side High School's Honors Program, Elmhurst High School, the Bishop Luers High School Key Club, South Side High School English classes, and the Wayne High School Tech program.

Youngpeter's work with teens provided resources to increase the Christmas distribution program from serving 75 families initially to serve more than 1,000 families each year. And, it has given young people the opportunity to learn how to give of themselves to help others.

"I said I would never seek recognition for what I was doing for myself because I felt strongly



Leon A. Youngpeter offers thank-you remarks after receiving the 2012 Father Tom O'Connor Light of Christ Award from Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades at St. Mary Catholic Church, Fort Wayne on March 21.

that a commitment to help the poor and the needy in this community had to come directly from your heart and not because you wanted anyone out there to recognize what you were doing," Youngpeter emphasized in his thank-you remarks.

The award carries with it a cash gift in the recipient's name to the project or charity of his/her choice. At Youngpeter's request, this year's stipend will be divided between Miss Virginia's Mission House in Fort Wayne and Francis Mustapha's school for girls and boys in Sierra Leone.

In a departure from past years, finalists for the 2012 award were recognized at the beginning of the ceremony and luncheon by Father Phillip A. Widmann, pastor of St. Mary. They included:

- Michael Floyd, a teacher at South Side High School, was nominated for providing unique volunteer student-learning opportunities through Windsong Pictures.

- Elizabeth Keen, school counselor at St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth

Ann Seton School, was nominated for her work with the Owing Up and Rachel's Challenge programs.

- Rev. Leonel and Sybel Pech were nominated for their work with Hispanic families in Fort Wayne through Hispanic Development, an English as a second language program, and for their advocacy on behalf of those learning to adapt to new lives in Fort Wayne.

- Michel Sturm, DDS, founder of Pathways, Inc., was nominated for his efforts among homeless teens aging out of most of the available social services.

According to Andrea S. Thomas, chairperson of the event, the Father Tom O'Connor Light of Christ Award is given annually to persons of faith in one of three categories: Peace and Justice, Diversity and Inclusiveness, and Education. In 2013 the committee will accept nominations for those whose efforts promote Peace and Justice. Nominations are open to persons of all faiths.



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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.

Formula for Life 5K announced

Fort Wayne — The Formula for Life 5K run/walk will be Sunday, April 15, at the University of Saint Francis. Registration fee - includes T shirt, complimentary lunch, music and silent auction is \$15. Proceeds benefit orphanages in Haiti. Contact Amy Obringer at aobringer@sf.edu for information.

Spring craft show

South Bend — Little Flower Parish will have a spring craft show Saturday, April 14, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Over 40 crafters, bake sale and food pantry drive. Call (574) 340-7555 or email Buddytyl@aol.com for information.

First Saturday devotions

The First Saturday Devotions on April 7, will be held at these locations: Fort Wayne, St. Charles — 8 a.m.; Sacred Heart — 7:30 a.m. (English Mass) and 11:30 a.m. (Latin Mass); Our Lady of the Angels Friary — 9 a.m.; Albion, Blessed Sacrament — 8 a.m.; Arcola, St. Patrick — 7:15 a.m.; Garrett, St. Joseph — 9 a.m.; New Haven, St.

John — 6:55 a.m.; Monroeville, St. Rose — 8:10 a.m.; Warsaw, Sacred Heart — 8 a.m.; North Manchester, St. Robert — 8 a.m. Check the church bulletin for Mass times.

Dyngus Day celebration

Granger — Knights of Columbus Council 4263 will have a Dyngus Day celebration Monday, April 9, from 5-10 p.m. in the St. Pius X gym. Admission \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. Children under 6 free. Dinner and entertainment by Will Smaka Band included.

Bake and rummage sale

South Bend — St. John the Baptist's Altar and Rosary Society will have a bake and rummage sale Saturday, March 31, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, April 1, from 9 a.m. to noon. Sunday includes a \$1 per bag sale.

Live chalk drawing

Fort Wayne — Mary Hilger will offer a live chalk drawing Good Friday, April 6, at 6 p.m. at Queen of Angels. Stations of the cross will follow at 7 p.m.

St. Adalbert Mass and dinner

South Bend — The friends of St. Adalbert School will celebrate 5 p.m. Mass followed by a potluck dinner in the school hall, 519 S. Olive St., Saturday, April 21. The Mass will feature a combined school/alumni choir and chime choir. For information contact Linda Cornett at (260) 637-6329 or SaintAdalbertAlumni@gmail.com.

FISH FRIES

Fish fry

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 553 will have a fish fry Friday, April 6, from 5-7:30 p.m. at the Knights hall, 553 E. Washington St. Tickets are \$9 for adults, \$4 for children under 12 and children under 5 free.

Queen of Peace

Mishawaka — Queen of Peace Parish will host the Knights of Columbus fish fry on Friday, March 30, from 5-7 p.m. Tickets are \$7.50 presale (\$8 at the door) or \$5 for children 6 to 12. Drive-through available.

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Jesusita M. Esquivel, 82, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

Kathleen Joyce Spisak, 63, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Marie A. Helmkamp, 104, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

Marcella D. Sweeney, 93, St. Vincent de Paul

Ruth M. Veerkamp, 77, St. Vincent de Paul

Cheryl A. Brainerd, 67, Most Precious Blood

Edith Madaline Burnos, 92, St. Jude

Wilma Jean Millhouser, 85, St. Therese

Joan Lahey Mount, 80, St. Henry

Antoinette M.

Backofen, 94, St. John the Baptist

Robert C. Steigmeyer, 84, Our Lady of Good Hope

Mishawaka

Guerino Giacomini, 93, St. Bavo

Sister M. Theresita Strasburger, OSF, 71, St. Francis Convent

John Mikulyuk, 94, St. Joseph

Notre Dame

Jaime Juan Jose Bellalta, 89, Basilica of the Sacred Heart

Sister M. Edward Ann Wetzell, CSC, 86, Our Lady of Loretto

South Bend

William E. Brown Sr., 92, St. Stanislaus

Eleonore B. DeLoof, 91, Corpus Christi

Virginia M. Micinski, 90, Corpus Christi

Eugene J. Szymczak, 84, Holy Family

Edward F. Vande Zande, 87, Christ the King

Knights plan fish fry

Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 451, 601 Reed Rd., will have a fish fry on Friday, April 6, from 5-7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$3 for children 12 and under.

Knights of Columbus host fish fry

Plymouth — The Knights of Columbus Council 1975 will have a fish dinner on Friday, March 30, at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 901 E. Jefferson from 4-7 p.m. Tickets are \$8.50 for adults, \$4 for children 5-10 and children under 4 are free. The fish will be prepared by Tyner Oddfellows. Proceeds benefit local charities.

Lenten fish fry

Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 11276 will have a fish fry Friday, March 30, from 5-8 p.m. in the cafeteria at

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, 10700 Aboite Center Rd. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$6.50 for children 6-11 and children five or under eat free. Carry-out available at adult price.

Knights plan fish fry

Mishawaka — The Knights of Columbus Council 1878, 114 W. 1st St., has a fish fry every Friday during Lent from 5-7 p.m. Adults \$8, children 12 and under \$5.

Knights plan fish fry

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on Friday, March 30 and April 6, from 5-7 p.m. Adults \$8, children (5-12) \$3. Chicken strips for \$8 and shrimp for \$8.50 will be available.

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Bishop visits Saint Joseph's High School on feast day

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

SOUTH BEND — The feast of St. Joseph is a special occasion at Saint Joseph's High School, but it took on an even deeper meaning this year. This was the last time a bishop would celebrate the Eucharist at the high school's 1441 N. Michigan St. location. Students are expected to resume the 2012-13 academic year this fall in the new building on Notre Dame Avenue.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated Mass in the Alumni Gymnasium with over 800 students, parents, faculty and staff on March 19. Concelebrants included Father Terry Coonan, Holy Cross Father Thomas Lemos and Father Daryl Rybicki. Holy Cross Brother John Paige, president of Holy Cross College at Notre Dame, also assisted.

"Happy St. Joseph's day," was the greeting given by Bishop Rhoades at the beginning of the celebration. "I can't think of a better place that I would want to be at today."

At the beginning of Mass, Bishop Rhoades talked about the new construction project, specifically the new chapel. He discussed with the students some of the parts of the new structure that he helped design and from where some of his ideas stemmed.

"I think it will be one of the most beautiful chapels in the United States. I encourage you to stop in there and pray a lot," Bishop Rhoades told the congregation. He talked in depth about the design of the sanctuary, the statues he chose and the stained glass windows that will be installed.

"The six beautiful stained glass windows are of the life of Joseph,"

Bishop Rhoades reported.

In his homily, Bishop Rhoades focused on the Gospel reading at the moment when Mary and Joseph left Jesus behind and found him in the temple preaching.

"Mary probably thought Jesus was with Joseph and Joseph thought Jesus was with Mary," noted

Bishop Rhoades. He talked about the relationship of parents and children and what this must have felt like to the Holy Family.

"His vocation was to become our Redeemer. What came first was not His obligation to His parents but this obligation to be Redeemer," said Bishop Rhoades during his homily.

"What's most important is doing God's will and following God's will," said Bishop Rhoades to the students as they begin to look at their own vocations in life. "Think of all the lessons you can learn from St. Luke's Gospel. Always keep the will of God as your number one and the top priority of your life."

After Mass, Bishop Rhoades had the chance to visit several classrooms and speak with the students. In one of the theology classes he spoke to the students about prayer and how he personally prays.

Saint Joseph's High School campus minister Tami Goy holds dear memories of the past and hope for the future of the school. "The liturgical celebration with Bishop Rhoades on Monday was bittersweet. It was the last Mass that he will celebrate with us in this building," she said, adding, "It is difficult to leave a building in which we have celebrated

More photos are available at www.diocesefwsb.org



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrates Mass March 19 at Saint Joseph's High School. The school will relocate to a new campus on Notre Dame Ave. in the fall.

Below, Bishop Rhoades visits classrooms after Mass.

so many liturgies and has such strong traditions associated with it. However as we move on to a new building we will take with us the spirit of all that we celebrate when we gather together for Mass. It is always a special day when the bishop visits and it will continue to be in the new building."

Saint Joseph's High School Principal Susan Richter agreed. "Our last celebration for the feast of Saint Joseph was a joyous one with Bishop Rhoades. Celebrating the Eucharist, the source and summit of our faith, on the feast of our patron, St. Joseph, as one school community in our gym seemed appropriate and fitting. Our school exists because of our faith, and being able to have Bishop Rhoades as our main celebrant for the last feast of St. Joseph in Alumni Gym was special and memorable," she said.

When asked what Saint Joseph's has to offer Principal Richter said confidently, "Saint Joseph's High School is a Catholic school dedicated to transforming the students in heart and mind. Creating a family environment with a dedicated and highly professional staff, the school encour-



PHOTOS BY KEVIN HAGGENJOS

ages all students to achieve success."

She continued, "Our school community strives to inspire students to promote justice, seek knowledge and attain goals set at the beginning of their high school career. Committed to achieving excellence in academics, faith and service, Saint Joseph's High School provides opportunities for students to share their passions in and out of the classroom and live their faith daily. Our students are exceptional young people who understand the importance of spreading the Gospel and living a life that honors Christ, the Master Teacher."

March 19 was a special day for the Saint Joseph's community and an event that the class of 2012 will never forget.

Principal Richter said of the day, "I hope Bishop Rhoades left Saint Joseph's High School believing that our students are grounded in their faith, prepared to live a life filled with compassion and love for those in need."

She added, "May our students feel Jesus in their hearts and understand their role in the building of the kingdom of God. I want Bishop Rhoades to believe that Saint Joe students understand the importance of protecting the dignity of life and supporting the belief that God is active because God is love. May the mission of Saint Joe continue to be fulfilled, and may God's work continue to sustain our faith community."

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