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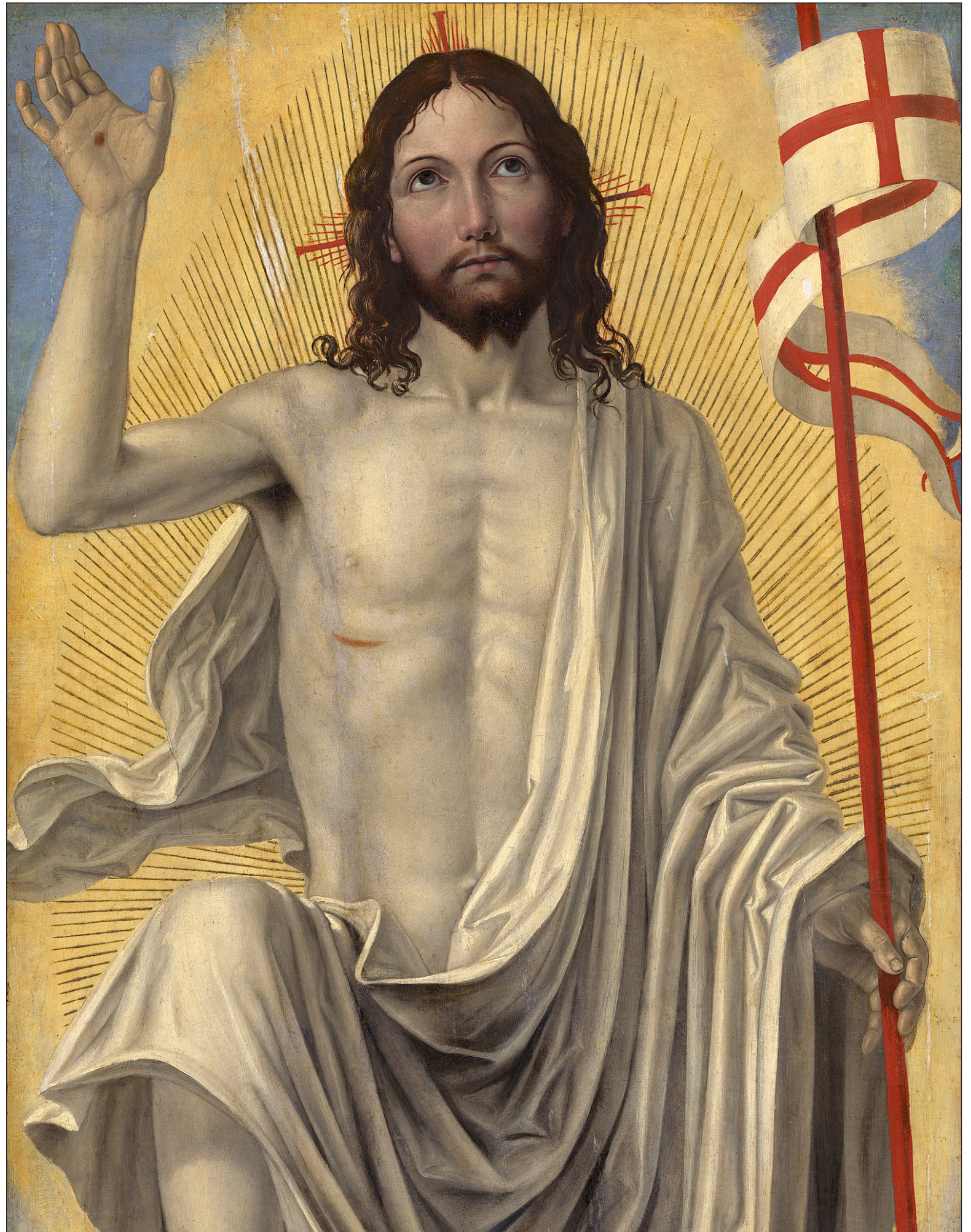
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CNS PHOTO/COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

The Resurrection is depicted in "Christ Risen from the Tomb," a painting by Italian Renaissance artist Bergognone. The artwork is from the Samuel H. Kress Collection at the National Gallery of Art in Washington. Easter, the feast of the Resurrection, is April 8 in the Latin-rite Church this year.

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The Lord is truly risen, Alleluia!



IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

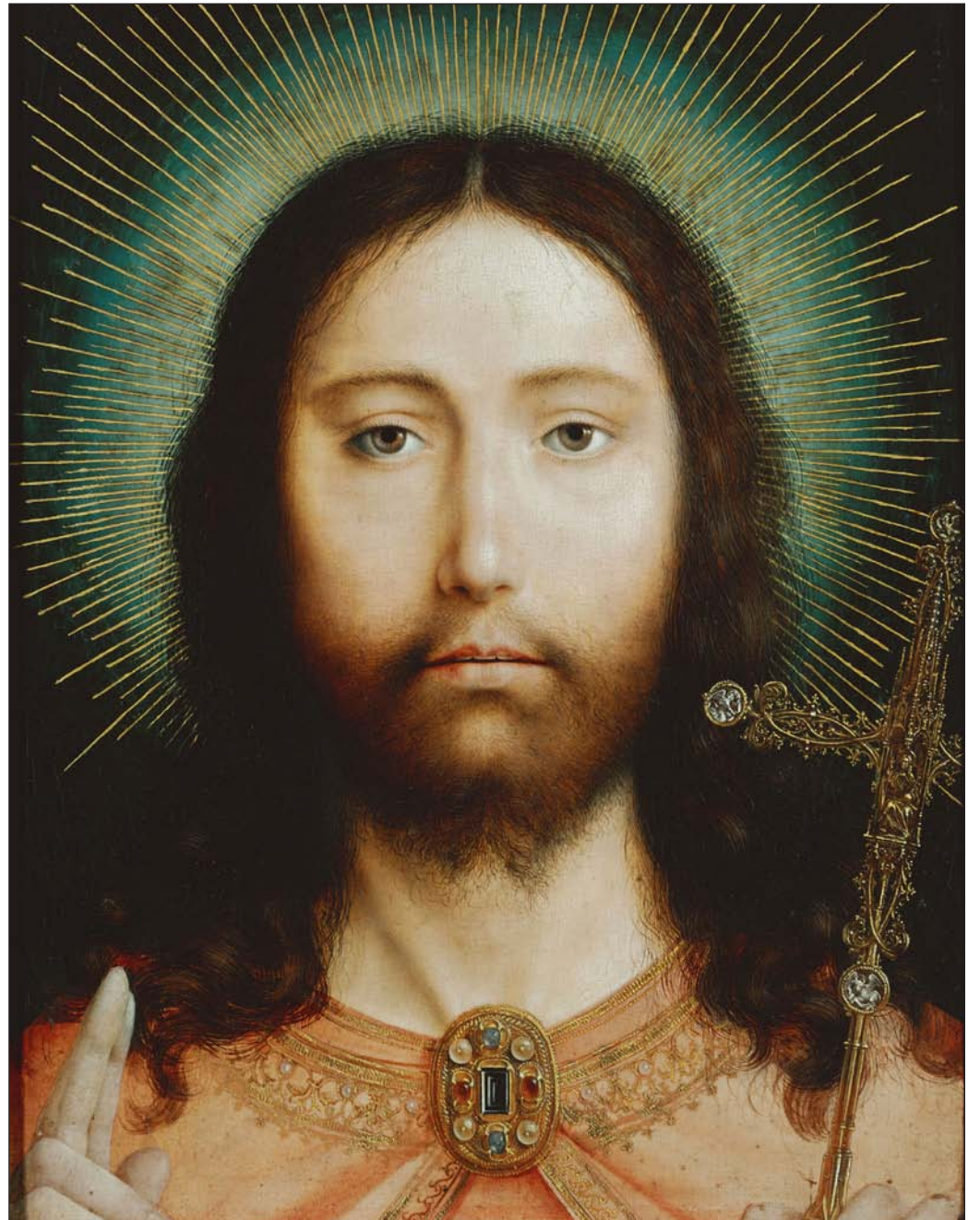
Easter is the greatest feast of the Church's liturgical year. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that "Easter is not simply one feast among others, but the *Feast of feasts*, the *Solemnity of solemnities*." This is because the Resurrection of Jesus is the basis of our faith. As Saint Paul wrote in his first letter to the Corinthians: "If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain." There would be no Christianity and the Church would not exist if Jesus had not risen from the dead.

Jesus Christ has crushed the power of death. This is what we celebrate at Easter. Jesus' resurrection is not some mythological or symbolic story. It was an historical event. The mystery of Christ's resurrection is a real event, with manifestations that were historically verified. The empty tomb is one sign. Its discovery by Mary Magdalen and the apostles was the first step toward recognizing the very fact of the resurrection. The disciple whom Jesus loved realized when he saw the empty tomb that the absence of Jesus' body pointed to his resurrection from the dead. In fact, the Gospel of John tells us that when he went into the empty tomb after Peter, "he saw and believed." But the empty tomb was just the first sign of the truth of the resurrection.

The appearances of the Risen Jesus convinced Mary Magdalen, Saint Peter, and the other apostles and disciples that Jesus had truly risen from the dead. They only believed when they saw Jesus Himself and not just the empty tomb. Imagine the unspeakable emotion they felt when they saw the Risen Jesus and heard his words: *Peace be with you*. They had been devastated by the events of Good Friday. Their hopes had been dashed. They probably thought Jesus' mission was a failure and that His message may not have been true. But the resurrection confirmed their faith in all that Jesus had said and done while He was with them in His public ministry.

The Catechism teaches us that the resurrection of Jesus is the crowning truth of our faith in Christ. It reveals to us that Jesus is truly the Son of God. All His works and teachings are confirmed. His divine authority is proven. His resurrection is the fulfillment of the promises both of the Old Testament and of Jesus Himself during His earthly life.

Yes, the resurrection of Jesus was a real, historical event, but it was also an event that transcends and surpasses history. As the Catechism teaches: "No one can say how it came about physically. Still less was its innermost essence, his passing over to another life, perceptible to the senses. Although the resurrection was an historical event that could be verified by the sign of the empty tomb and by the reality of the apostles' encounters with the risen Christ, still it remains at the very heart of the mystery of faith as something that transcends and surpasses history. . . . Christ's resurrection is an object of faith in that it is a transcendent intervention of God himself in



CNS PHOTO/COURTESY OF SCALA, ART RESOURCE

Jesus is depicted in a painting titled "Christ Salvator Mundi" ("Christ Savior of the World") by Flemish artist Quentin Metsys. Easter, the feast of the Resurrection, is April 8 in the Latin-rite Church this year.

creation and history."

The Church is based on the extraordinary experience of the witnesses of the Risen Jesus. Our lives as Christians are based on our faith in the resurrection of Jesus because His resurrection opens for us the way to a new life. This new life began when we were baptized and received a share in the divine life. Pope Benedict has said that by Baptism, we have been seized by "the explosion of the Resurrection."

Jesus is alive today and walks before us, showing us the path of life. We never walk alone along the path of life. Jesus is with us always and holds us firmly, even when our hands grow weak. We walk with Him along the way of the cross on a journey towards true and lasting joy. We journey in hope because of the resurrection, in the sure hope that we and our loved ones who follow Christ in faith and love will one day rise with Him.

On this journey, we are nourished by the Holy Eucharist, the bread of life, the flesh of the Risen Christ which gives us life. Jesus promised: "he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life and I will raise him up on the last day." The new life we received at Baptism, the life of grace, is increased and renewed every time we receive Holy Communion, the food of eternal life. "The

most holy Body and Blood of the Lord fills us with every grace and heavenly blessing" (Roman Canon). In the words of the martyr, Saint Ignatius of Antioch, the Eucharist is "the medicine of immortality, the antidote for death, and the food that makes us live forever in Jesus Christ."

Jesus Christ is no longer in the tomb. He is alive! He accompanies us on our journey through this life, strengthens us with the sacraments, and leads us to the house of His Father.

Easter is truly the greatest feast of the liturgical year because the Resurrection of Jesus is the crowning truth of our faith. May the Risen Lord bless you with Easter joy! May the Blessed Virgin Mary, whose heart was filled with joy beyond all telling at the resurrection of her Son, intercede for you always!

During the Easter season, I invite you to pray the *Regina Caeli*, the joyful Marian antiphon of the Easter season, dating back to the 10th century:

*Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia.
The Son whom you merited to bear, alleluia,
has risen as he said, alleluia.
Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia!
For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.*

Patience, progress: Differing opinions on dealing with Cuba's regime

BY FRANCIS X. ROCCA

HAVANA (CNS) — The Cuba that Pope Benedict XVI visited March 26-28 is a country where the Catholic Church enjoys significantly more freedom and official recognition than it did when Blessed John Paul II made the first papal visit to the island in 1998.

Since that time, the communist regime has made Christmas a national holiday, and it now allows Communist Party members to identify themselves as practicing Catholics. In preparation for this year's 400th anniversary of the Virgin of Charity of El Cobre, the venerated statue was allowed to circulate on a pilgrimage throughout the country, an event that President Raul Castro said "brought our people together, believers and nonbelievers."

Such progress in religious freedom is what Cuban Church leaders and Pope Benedict himself have said they hope to build on in the aftermath of his visit. But in other dimensions of human rights, the reform record of the Cuban regime has been less encouraging.

"People should be able to express their opinions without fear and without punishment," said Msgr. Jose Felix Perez Riera, assistant secretary of the Cuban bishops' conference. "When somebody thinks or expresses a different idea, they accuse him of being paid by the United States, of being a traitor. Little (reforms), such as permitting someone to buy a cellular phone — those don't seem significant to me."

Pope Benedict, in his public statements during and just prior to his Cuba visit, affirmed the value of freedom.

"The Church is always on the side of freedom: freedom of conscience, freedom of religion," he told reporters March 23, in response to a question about Cuba.

"God not only respects human freedom: He almost seems to require it," the pope said in his homily during a Mass in Santiago de Cuba March 26.

But addressing those frustrated by the pace of change in Cuba after half a century of communism, the pope said that the "path of collaboration and constructive dialogue" between Church and regime there is long and "demands patience."

Msgr. Perez said Pope Benedict was not saying that Cubans should remain passive in the face of oppression.

"I think that when the Holy Father asks patience it does not mean inactivity ... it does not mean crossing your arms and letting things happen without taking any responsibility," Msgr. Perez said. "Perhaps he is thinking of



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Pope Benedict XVI carries his pastoral staff after celebrating Mass in Revolution Square in Havana March 28. During the service the pope called for full religious freedom and greater respect for human rights in Cuba.

the gradualness (that is) normal to human and social processes."

Msgr. Perez is the pastor of Havana's Church of St. Rita of Cascia, where the Ladies in White — "Damas de Blanco" — attend Mass every Sunday, then march down the avenue in front, protesting human rights violations by the regime.

The Ladies in White are relatives of Cubans who were imprisoned in 2003 for advocating free elections and other political reforms. The prisoners were released in 2011 under a deal brokered by Havana Cardinal Jaime Ortega Alamino. Most of those former political prisoners went into exile abroad.

The Ladies have continued protesting on behalf of other prisoners of conscience who they say are still inside Cuban prisons. Members of the group are frequently arrested and released in less than 24 hours. They also have been attacked by what they say are government-controlled mobs.

For one of the Ladies, Alejandrina Garcia de la Rivas, 46, the pope's counsel is comprehensible yet hard to accept.

"As Catholics we understand the word patience ... anger, impatience, desperation are sins," she said. "But we are afraid. We have to do something."

Garcia voiced gratitude for the welcome that Msgr. Perez offers the Ladies at his church and for the support they have received from other members of the Cuban hierarchy.

Bishop Manuel de Cespedes Garcia-Menocal of Matanzas was still a parish priest when he ministered to Garcia's husband in prison and has remained a family friend, she said. She noted that Archbishop Dionisio Garcia Ibanez of Santiago de Cuba

forcefully defended the Ladies from the threat of mob violence earlier this year, and Garcia said she remains thankful for Cardinal Ortega's work to obtain the release of the group that included her husband.

Garcia also said she appreciates the principles behind the bishops' nonconfrontational strategy of dialogue with the regime.

"I think (the bishops) have the right idea, of reconciling all Cubans, of helping all Cubans without exception, even those who oppress us," she said. "But they are also afraid; they are afraid because they, too, suffer, they are threatened."

What the Ladies want, Garcia said, is for the Cuban bishops to insist that their dialogue with the regime also include representatives of the political opposition. In Garcia's view, such representation would mean real progress toward lasting political reform.

Prior to Pope Benedict's arrival in Cuba, the Ladies publicly appealed to him for a brief meeting during his visit. By the eve of his last day in the country, when Garcia and another member of the group, Laura Maria Labrada Pollan, met for an interview with Catholic News Service, it seemed all but certain that the pope would not grant their request. Nonetheless, the two were eagerly waiting to join other Ladies in White the next day at a Mass celebrated by the pope in Havana's Revolution Square.

They did not get the chance. The two were arrested before 6 a.m. March 28, Garcia said, then taken to a military prison outside of Havana, where they were photographed, fingerprinted and weighed. The police returned them to Labrada's home at 3 p.m., four hours after the end of the pope's Mass.



PUBLIC SCHEDULE OF BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

- Sunday, April 8, 1 p.m. — Mass at Saint Joseph County Jail
- Monday, April 9, 11 a.m. — Speech to Priests at Easter Seminar, Shellbourne Conference Center, Valparaiso, Ind.
- Wednesday, April 11, 7 p.m. — Confirmation Mass, Ss. Peter and Paul Church, Huntington
- Thursday, April 12, 12 p.m. — Meeting of Advisory Board of *Today's Catholic*, Archbishop Noll Center
- Friday, April 13, 7 p.m. — Confirmation Mass, St. Michael the Archangel Church, Plymouth
- Saturday, April 14, 10 a.m. — Confirmation Mass, St. Jude Church, South Bend
- Saturday, April 14, 2 p.m. — Holy Cross Priesthood Ordination Mass, Basilica of the Sacred Heart, University of Notre Dame

After papal request, Cuba makes Good Friday 2012 a national holiday

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican spokesman praised Cuba's decision to accept Pope Benedict XVI's request to make Good Friday a national holiday this year.

"It is certainly a very positive sign," Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the Vatican spokesman, said April 1.

Good Friday, the commemoration of Jesus' passion and death, falls on April 6 this year.

During the pope's private meeting with Cuban President Raul Castro in Havana March 27, the pope asked for further freedoms for the Catholic Church in the communist nation, including the declaration of Good Friday as a holiday.

The Cuban government accepted the proposal March 31 after the pope's March 29 return to the Vatican.

Father Lombardi said the Vatican

hopes that the holiday will enable people to attend religious services and have "happy Easter celebrations."

The Vatican hopes Pope Benedict's March 26-28 visit to Cuba "continues to bring the desired fruits for the good of the Church and all Cubans," the spokesman added.

Only Good Friday 2012 has been made a public holiday; the government hasn't decided whether it will become a permanent celebration, news reports said.

Blessed John Paul II's trip to Cuba in 1998 led to Cuba recognizing Christmas as a recurring public holiday.

Though the Church estimates 60-70 percent of Cubans are Catholic, Church officials estimate that only about 2.5 percent of Cuba's population of 11 million can be considered practicing Catholics today, a fraction of the proportion prior to the revolution, though it represents a significant rise since Pope John Paul's visit 14 years ago.



CNS PHOTO/GREGORY L. TRACY, THE PILOT

The statue of Our Lady of Charity of El Cobre, patroness of Cuba, is venerated on the altar in Revolution Square during Mass with Pope Benedict XVI in Havana March 28.

Holy Cross deacon assists at papal Mass in Silao

GUADALUPE, Nuevo León, Mexico — Holy Cross Deacon Matthew Kuczora had an opportunity of a lifetime when he attended the papal Mass at Silao, Mexico, during Pope Benedict XVI's visit last week. This was the first time Deacon Kuczora had seen the pope and, as a deacon, he assisted at the Mass.

A native of Marion, Deacon Kuczora, who graduated from the University of Notre Dame's Master of Divinity program in May 2011, is serving his diaconate at the Holy Cross parish of Nuestra Madre Santísima de La Luz in Guadalupe, Nuevo León, Mexico, and serves as the director of the Holy Cross Candidate Program for first-year seminarians and is director of vocation promotion for Holy Cross in Mexico.

Guadalupe, Nuevo León is an industrial suburb of Monterrey.

Deacon Kuczora said, "We took a 10-hour bus ride from Monterrey to Silao on one of 18 buses that traveled there from the Archdiocese's Youth Ministry Office."

Unfortunately, he did not get very close to the pope. At the Mass, the deacon was in one of the front sections, but off to the side. A big hill separated the altar from the crowds.

"The Mass had a solemn, yet excited atmosphere," he told *Today's Catholic*. "People had waited all night to be at the Mass. They sang and cheered as the pope arrived. There was a lot of energy in the air."

"Still, people were very quiet

when the pope spoke," the deacon added. "They strained to hear everything he said. Nobody wanted to miss a thing."

Deacon Kuczora said that before he left Monterrey on the bus in the afternoon, he did his normal morning visits with the sick at his parish.

"Many of our homebound parishioners lit up when I told them where I was going later that day," Deacon Kuczora said. "They asked me to carry them with me in my heart and to pray for them at the Mass with the pope."

"The whole Mass, I was praying for them, for my family and for all my friends," he said. "It was a beautiful connection between all the people who love and support me, together with our Holy Father."

He added, "Since I've been back, I've been able to share the pope's message of hope, to take comfort in Our Blessed Mother and to cling to Christ in these difficult times of violence, poverty and corruption in Mexico."

Deacon Kuczora said there were many people receiving Reconciliation before the papal Mass.

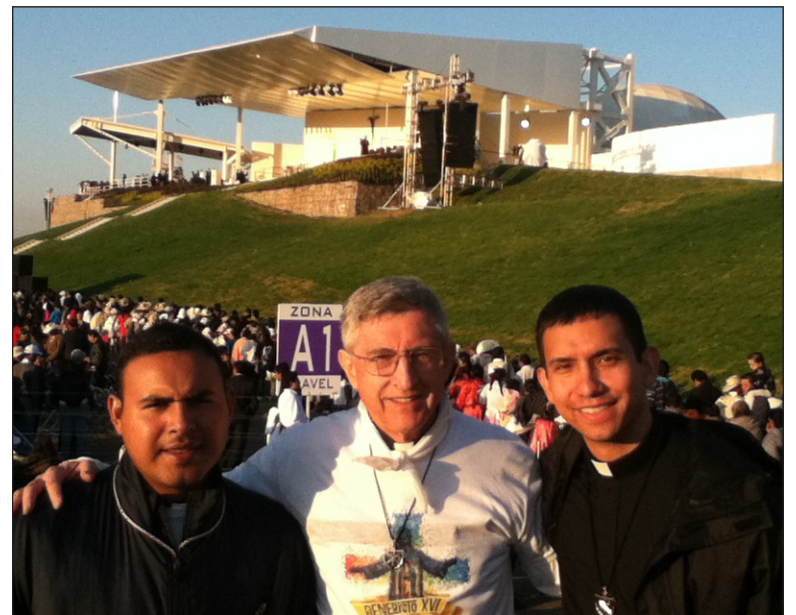
"Priests stood in the hot sun as long, spontaneous lines formed and to receive God's forgiveness," he said. "I wanted to jump in and help, but I knew I still had a few days to wait." Deacon Kuczora will be ordained to the priesthood at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at the University of Notre Dame by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades on April 14.



PROVIDED BY HOLY CROSS DEACON MATTHEW KUCZORA

Holy Cross Deacon Matthew Kuczora is shown near the altar before the Papal Mass.

"In all those people and in the thousands gathered for Mass, I saw what a tremendous need there is for priests and what a beautiful role it is," Deacon Kuczora said. "I feel very blessed to be so close to fulfilling such an opportunity."



Holy Cross Father Alfredo Olvera Ladesma, Holy Cross Father Tom Zurcher and Holy Cross Deacon Matthew Kuczora, are shown just before they celebrated and assisted the Mass on March 25 with Pope Benedict XVI.



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1:00 p.m. April 6, Holy Cross Church
 1050 Wilber Street, South Bend

Taizé Prayer Service
7:00 p.m. April 6, Holy Cross Church

Holy Saturday Easter Vigil
8:30 p.m. April 7, St. Stanislaus Church

Easter Sunday, April 8
8:00 & 11:00 a.m. Holy Cross Church
9:30 a.m. St. Stanislaus Church



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Pope Benedict XVI watches from the obelisk in St. Peter's Square as the Palm Sunday procession makes its way to the altar for Mass at the Vatican April 1.

Pope, bishop mark Palm Sunday, Christ's Passion

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The truly Christian response to Christ's death and Resurrection must be the dedication of one's life and one's time to building a relationship with Jesus and being grateful for the gift of salvation, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"In this Holy Week, the Lord Jesus will renew the greatest gift we could possibly imagine: He will give us His life, His body and His blood, His love," the pope said April 1, celebrating Palm Sunday in St. Peter's Square.

"We must respond worthily to so great a gift, that is to say, with the gift of ourselves, our time, our prayer, our entering into a profound communion of love with Christ who suffered, died and rose for us," Pope Benedict said.

Tens of thousands of people gathered for the Mass under overcast skies. Pope Benedict arrived in an open popemobile behind a procession of young people carrying whole palm fronds, priests carrying olive branches — the traditional Palm Sunday symbol in Italy — and bishops and cardinals carrying tall, braided palms.

In his homily, Pope Benedict said the disciples and crowds who followed Jesus to Jerusalem had their own idea of who Jesus was and what difference He would make in their lives and the life of Israel.

In fact, he said, the vast majority of them were disappointed He did not live up to their expectations and they went — in a space of a few days — from acclaiming Him as Messiah as He entered Jerusalem to calling for His crucifixion or running away frightened.

In the same way, Christians today must ask themselves, "Who is

Jesus of Nazareth for us? What idea do we have of the Messiah, what idea do we have of God?" the pope said.

The question is key at the beginning of Holy Week, when "we are called to follow our King who chooses the cross as His throne," he said.

"We are called to follow a Messiah who promises us, not a facile earthly happiness, but the happiness of heaven," the pope said.

Directing his remarks particularly to young people marking the diocesan-level celebration of World Youth Day, Pope Benedict said Palm Sunday should be a day for making a clear decision, "the decision to say 'yes' to the Lord and to follow Him all the way, the decision to make His Passover, death and Resurrection the very focus of your Christian lives."

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated the 11:30 a.m. Palm Sunday Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne.

In his homily, Bishop Rhoades talked about the cross in the church's sanctuary, "the tree of life," and said, "The cross not only reminds us of the infinite love of Jesus, it teaches us that we find the truth about life in humble, self-giving love. What is true love? It is the gift of oneself. Such love requires courage — one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit."

"This is the powerful lesson Jesus teaches us from the cross," Bishop Rhoades added. "In His Passion and death, Jesus teaches us that we can only overcome evil with good and that love is stronger even than death."

Tim Johnson contributed to this story.

Pope urges young people to find joy in Christ, not prestige or power

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI called on young people to not pursue power, money and prestige, but to find true joy in Christ and live a life of generous service to others.

In his message for World Youth Day 2012, he told the world's young Catholics to start making the world a better, more just and humane place right now, even while they continue to pursue their studies, talents and interests.

Do not be content in giving the minimum, he said.

"The world needs men and women who are competent and generous, willing to be at the service of the common good," the pope said.

The Vatican and many dioceses around the world marked World Youth Day on Palm Sunday, April 1. International celebrations of World Youth Day are normally held every two-three years.

In the message, released by the Vatican in English, Spanish, Italian and French March 27, the pope chose the theme from St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians: "Rejoice in the Lord always."

"Joy is at the heart of the Christian experience," the pope said. In a world marked by so much sorrow and anxiety, "joy is an important witness to the beauty and reliability of the Christian faith."

He told young people to recognize that the many temptations and false promises of modern-day culture veer people away from true and lasting happiness.

People are often pressured "to seek immediate goals, achievements and pleasures" as the dominant culture "fosters fickleness more than perseverance, hard work and fidelity to commitments," he said.

"May your entire life be guided by a spirit of service and not by the pursuit of power, material success and money," he said.

God loves His children so much, He sent His only Son to be with them and He gave people specific directions — the Ten Commandments — for following the right path in life, Pope Benedict said.

While the commandments may seem like just "a list of prohibitions and an obstacle to our freedom," in light of Christ's message, they are "a set of essential and valuable rules leading to a happy life," he said.

"Christianity is sometimes depicted as a way of life that stifles our freedom and goes against our desires for happiness and joy," he said.

Rather, faith in Christ, who is truly present for everyone, brings real joy, he said, because Christians recognize they are not alone and that Christ is always near, especially during times of great difficulty.

"Christian joy is not a flight from reality, but a supernatural power that helps us to deal with the challenges of daily life."

The pope told young people, "Learn to see how God is working in your lives and discover Him hidden within the events of daily life."

always offers sinners the possibility of redemption.

"If the way Christians live at times appears dull and boring, you should be the first to show the joyful and happy side of faith," he said, as he urged young people to share the good news of Christ with everyone.

The text of the pope's message in English is posted online at: http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/messages/youth/documents/hf_ben-xvi_mes_20120315_youth_en.html.

'Learn to see how God is working in your lives and discover Him hidden within the events of daily life.'

POPE BENEDICT XVI

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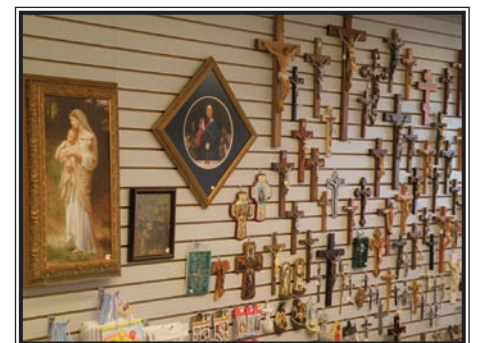
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Judge says government violated Constitution in contract with USCCB

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Religiously based restrictions on reproductive health services for victims of human trafficking cannot be imposed by the Department of Health and Human Services, a federal judge has ruled. By delegating to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops the decision on which services to offer or not offer to trafficking victims, HHS violated the Establishment Clause of the Constitution, Judge Richard G. Stearns ruled March 23 in the case filed by the American Civil Liberties Union in federal court in Massachusetts. A USCCB spokeswoman called the ruling a disappointment March 26. “The decision seems to ignore the right of free expression of one’s religious beliefs,” said Mercy Sister Mary Ann Walsh, USCCB director of media relations. “It’s very likely that we would appeal,” she said, adding that the conference’s general counsel continued to review the ruling March 26. Jennifer Dalven, director of the ACLU’s Reproductive Freedom Project, welcomed Stearns’ decision. “We all have the right to our own religious beliefs, but under the Constitution an organization can’t use federal funds to impose those beliefs on others,” Dalven told Catholic News Service March 27. The government was wrong to authorize the USCCB to deliver only those services it deemed appropriate under Catholic teaching, she added. “In this case, the court said that an organization administering a taxpayer-funded program to help human trafficking victims can’t deny this vulnerable population critical health services based on the organization’s religious beliefs,” Dalven said.

Country’s emerging budget debate points to wide divide in election year

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The budget debates are just starting on Capitol Hill and in a highly polarized political climate that means they’ll be going right through the Nov. 6 elections — and most likely beyond. It’s how Washington works these days. No matter what form the 2013 budget finally takes later this year or early next year, spending on some programs is expected to fall. It comes down to how deep those cuts will be, where they will be focused and whether new tax revenues are part of the picture. The Republican-controlled House of Representatives approved a budget resolution written by Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., the House Budget Committee chairman, who admitted he is taking dead aim on the country’s \$15 trillion debt. Ryan’s \$3.5 trillion plan — with a \$600 billion deficit — calls for massive spending cuts in nonmilitary programs, turning Medicaid into a block grant program administered by the states, reshaping Medicare over the next decade and simplifying the tax code by closing loopholes and lowering individual and corporate tax rates. Ryan, who is Catholic,

VENERATION OF RELICS OF ST. JOHN NEUMANN



CNS PHOTO/BOB ROLLER

A young girl looks up at a Knight of Columbus as people pray during the veneration of the relics of St. John Neumann at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington March 28. The visitation was part of the 200th anniversary celebration of the birth of the first male U.S. saint and the founder of the Catholic parochial school system.

told Catholic News Service March 27 that he believes addressing the country’s debt is essential to head off a future crisis. “We have a moral and legal responsibility to do everything we can here,” he said. “The debt will literally overtake the economy like it is in Europe.” He reserved his main concerns for Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security and said his plan will ensure their future without bankrupting the government. The real work on the budget will come over the summer and into the fall as House subcommittees begin to consider specific appropriations. The Senate is not a player in the budget debate. Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., Senate majority leader, said in February that Democrats do not plan to introduce a formal budget because guidelines under the debt-ceiling agreement reached in December are sufficient.

Bishop continues to weigh options on 13 church closings in Cleveland

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Bishop Richard G. Lennon of Cleveland said he has not decided whether to appeal a series of Vatican decrees that reversed the closings of 13 par-

ishes. In a letter sent March 27 to be distributed at Masses the weekend of March 31-April 1, Bishop Lennon said he was continuing to study the decrees from the Congregation for Clergy in an effort to “fully understand” them. The letter was made public on the diocesan website March 28, two weeks after Bishop Lennon was informed of the congregation’s actions. “As I hope you can appreciate, this is a very complex matter with no easy or perfect solution,” Bishop Lennon wrote. “With the help of a number of advisers — including members of the clergy, laity and experts in Church law — I am carefully studying and seeking to fully understand the decrees. I can assure you that this is not nearly as clear-cut as it may appear on the surface. Although the decrees are brief in length, they are deep in underlying meaning and I continue to receive significant input and clarification.” The bishop promised to explain his rationale for the decision he finally reaches. “Be assured that I will act fully in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church and with the utmost respect for its governance and authority. I pray that God will guide me and I ask for your prayers,” he said. Parishioners who had hoped their churches would reopen in time for Easter, April 8,

expressed disappointment that the bishop has not yet acted in accordance with the decrees. “Again we’ll be shuttered out of our churches in the holiest time of the year,” said Patricia Schulte-Singleton, president of St. Patrick Church parish council when the west side Cleveland parish closed and formed the Save St. Pat’s Committee.

Welcome immigrants based on Gospel mandate, Cardinal Mahony says

ANAHEIM, Calif. (CNS) — In a wide-ranging presentation March 24 at the Los Angeles Religious Education Congress, Cardinal Roger M. Mahony said one has to go no further than the 25th chapter of Matthew to find this sacred mandate: “For I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” “All of us as disciples of the Lord are really called by Jesus to look at the strangers in our midst as looking at the face of Jesus,” said the retired archbishop of Los Angeles in his talk titled “Surprise: We All Employ Undocumented Workers.” Since retiring last year as archbishop of Los Angeles, Cardinal Mahony has devoted himself to advancing the

cause of comprehensive immigration reform in the nation. Specifically, he has headed an effort to organize Catholic college students, as well as college presidents, around the biblical and moral principles that are the foundation for the Church’s ongoing support for immigration reform. The cardinal said Adam and Eve were actually the first migrants in recorded history, noting also that Moses led his imprisoned Jewish people out of Egypt to the Promised Land and Mary and Joseph fled to Egypt to protect the life of their newborn son. During his PowerPoint presentation, Cardinal Mahony also went through the major historical waves of immigrants to the U.S., from the pilgrims in England fleeing religious persecution to today’s Hispanics seeking a better economic life. In addition, he spoke about the different backlash movements against immigrants, starting with the Know Nothing Party of the 1850s up to today’s border-guarding militiamen. “The so-called ‘flood of immigrants’ has always alarmed some native-born Americans,” he said. “Some feared job competition from foreigners. Others disliked the religion or politics of the newcomers. Has anyone heard that recently? We’re still hearing the same thing today.”

Pew survey: Chaplains say extremism, conversions common in prison

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A survey of about half of the nation’s state prison chaplains found a majority believes religious extremism among prisoners is fairly common, though they say that is related more to racial or religious intolerance than posing any threat to prison security. The study by the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life is apparently the first of its kind to question prison ministers about their work. The survey asked about the availability and type of ministry offered, the role of religious life in prisons, and how religion may play a part in rehabilitation and re-entry into society. The study based on interviews with 730 of 1,474 paid prison chaplains in all 50 states was released in Washington March 22. The study did not include chaplains at federal prisons. A majority of the chaplains who answered the survey are overwhelmingly male, middle-aged, white and evangelical Christian. They said they are highly satisfied with their jobs and think the correctional system works pretty well at maintaining order, meeting religious needs and providing self-improvement programs. Those chaplains also concluded that there’s a lot of switching religions among the inmates, with Islam the faith most likely to have converts. More participants said they saw high rates of conversion to become Muslims or Protestants. Other faiths stayed about the same size or were shrinking. For example, 51 percent said Islam is growing in their prison, while 37 percent said it’s staying about the same and 7 percent said it is shrinking. The chaplains thought some faiths are losing more adherents than others, notably Catholicism, Buddhism, Mormonism and those categorized as the “unaffiliated.”

Chronicle of Rwandan genocide speaking at USF

FORT WAYNE — Carl Wilkins, author of the book, "I'm Not Leaving," will chronicle the 1994 genocide of the Tutsi people in his presentation, "Witness to a Genocide: An American's Story," at the University of Saint Francis on Tuesday, April 17, from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. in Gunderson Auditorium, Achatz Hall.

Wilkins moved his young family to Rwanda in 1990 as a humanitarian aid worker for the Adventist Church. When the genocide of the Tutsis by the Hutu militia launched in 1994, he evacuated his family and remained behind to protect two Tutsi household workers, chronicling the blood-bath through tapes he then used to pen "I'm Not Leaving." He is credited with saving hundreds of lives by working his way through mortar fire and angry, machete-wielding mobs to take food, water and medicine to orphans trapped in his city.

Urged to leave by friends, church members and the U.S. government, he was the only American who stayed in Rwanda during the crisis. When he returned to America, he told his story on the 2004 PBS "Frontline" special, "Ghosts of Rwanda." That led to so many requests to present his story, he eventually left his job in Oregon and founded the non-profit organization, World Outside My Shoes, with his wife, Teresa, to inspire people to stand up against hatred, prejudice and genocide.

He travels regularly to Rwanda, and recently visited the Democratic Republic of Congo. By sharing stories and experiences of the 1994 genocide and giving a perspective on life in Rwanda today, his presentation aims to inspire listeners to stand up against racism, bullying and other forms of intolerance.

Admissions app revolutionizes the college application process

NOTRE DAME — A groundbreaking app released by Holy Cross College enables students, for the first time ever, to apply and be accepted to college simply by using an application for mobile devices. Developed for Holy Cross by South Bend-based Little i Apps, LLC, the Admissions App is an achievement application for iPhone and Android users that propels students through the admissions process on the devices they use daily.

According to a recent Pew Research study, 75 percent of teens in the United States own a mobile device. Next year, the number is expected to continue to grow. More than 54 percent of those teens use their device daily to communicate with friends, compared to only 11 percent who use email.

The Admissions App offers prospective Holy Cross College students a new and more natural

AROUND THE DIOCESE

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION FOR FATHER MICHAEL MATHEWS



PHOTO PROVIDED BY HOLY CROSS, ST. STANISLAUS PARISH

Over 500 parishioners and school families gathered at Holy Cross St. Stanislaus Parish in South Bend to celebrate the 40th birthday of their pastor, Holy Cross Father Michael Mathews, center, on March 23. Dinner, cake and dancing were on the night's agenda along with the third-grade music class, who sang a few specially written songs, and parishioner Mark McDonnell, who gave a tribute along with the cake presentation. In conjunction with the celebration, over \$40,000 was raised to add to Holy Cross School's endowment fund, which will generate additional school scholarships for students each year.

way to experience the admissions process.

"There is a strong national trend towards smart phones so it just made sense to integrate this technology into our admissions process," said Robert Kloska, vice-president for Mission Advancement. "The education we deliver keeps up to date, so why should our admissions process be any different?"

"We're excited to be able to offer this as an option to our prospective students. We want to do everything possible to be responsive to their preferred form of communication," added Marie Bensman, dean of Admissions and Enrollment Management. "It's just good business."

The free Holy Cross College Admissions App is now available for iPhones in the App Store. The Android version will be available soon.

The Admissions App is now available on the market for any interested institution. For more information about The Admissions App, please visit www.theadmissionsapp.com. To learn more about Little i Apps, visit www.littleiapps.com. Patrick Leinen, developer and co-founder, can be reached at patrick@littleiapps.com or (574) 387-2064.

Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center celebrates National Doctors' Day

MISHAWAKA — To celebrate National Doctors' Day, Joseph Regional Medical Center (SJRM) recognized and celebrated the contributions of all Saint Joseph physicians, and thanked them for their commitment to patient safety and clinical excellence on March 30.

The first Doctors' Day observance was March 30, 1933 in Winder, Ga., when Edutora Brown Almond, a physician's wife wished to set aside a day to honor her husband and other physicians. March 30 is also significant among the medical community because it marks the anniversary of the first surgery using anesthesia, performed by Crawford Long, M.D., in 1842.

Later, in 1958, Congress adopted a resolution commemorating National Doctors' Day, and in 1990, official legislation establishing March 30 as National Doctors' Day was passed and signed into law by President George H.W. Bush. He declared, "There is no greater reward than being entrusted with the care of others."

"Twenty-two years later, this day continues to recognize the role of physicians in promoting health, caring for the sick, and advancing medical knowledge," said Albert Gutierrez, president and CEO of Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center. "On behalf of our leadership team, nursing staff and entire Saint Joseph family, we thank our physicians for their dedication, call to excellence and commitment to service."

To honor its physicians and say "thank you," Saint Joseph hosted several appreciation activities throughout the day at the Mishawaka, Plymouth and Rehabilitation Institute campuses. In addition, SJRM hosted its annual Physician Longevity Recognition Dinner at Knollwood Country Club.

The evening's special appreciation thanked Dr. James E. Wack, a retiring family medicine physician and native of South Bend, for his 55 years of service to the Michiana community. An Air Force veteran, family practitioner, and physician at the Sister Maura Brannick Health Center on Chapin Street, Dr. Wack has considered his profession as a blessing, privilege and honor. In total, 29 physicians were acknowledged for

20-30 years of service, 17 were acknowledged for 30-40 years, two were granted emeritus status, and one was recognized for 55 years of service.

Freshman-sophomore quiz bowl team wins state

SOUTH BEND — The underclass Saint Joseph's High School quiz bowl team, led by top scorer Nolan Liu along with members Sophie Desch, Wilson Barrett, Davide Behr and Joey Sawyer won the state championship at North White High School in Monon with a win of 260-255 over Culver. The B-Team finished fourth with members Sophie Desch, Shenal Fernando and Jeremiah Van Auken.

Holy Cross College honors Professor Jeffery Langan

NOTRE DAME — Dr. Jeff Langan has been selected to receive Holy Cross College's Excellence in Teaching Award.

The award, which is presented every other year during the college's annual Honors Convocation, is a modest attempt to acknowledge the faculty member who exemplifies teaching in the best tradition of the Brothers and Congregation of Holy Cross.

Langan began teaching at Holy Cross College in 2008, he was already a well-known lecturer in the philosophy and political science departments at the University of Notre Dame. Langan's enthusiasm for philosophy and engaging teaching style would even from time to time lead to more than half of his Intro to Philosophy class declaring themselves philosophy majors by the end of the semester.

Having obtained his doctorate from the University of Notre Dame in 2001, Langan began his career at Holy Cross College teaching philosophy and theology courses. In 2009 Langan was appointed chairman of the Liberal Studies department.

Winters receives teaching accolade

WEBSTER, Texas — Jacob M. Winters, a first-year teacher in Houston, Texas, has been selected Clear View Education Centers 2011-2012 Teacher of the Year Candidate. Robert M. Branch, principal of Clear View Education Center, Webster, Texas, made the announcement March 19.

Winters, a high school Spanish teacher, will begin the work involved with being selected as his nomination moves to the district level.

Winters is a 2011 graduate of Purdue University, a 2005 graduate of Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne, and attended St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School, Fort Wayne.



JACOB WINTERS

Missionary priest receives Marmion Alumni Award

AURORA, Ill. — Marmion Academy honored alumnus Father Paul Bueter, a retired priest of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, as the seventh recipient of the Ad Regnum Dei Award. This award is given to an alumnus in recognition of exceptional public witness and service of Gospel values for the kingdom of God.

Father Bueter accepted his award on March 14 at an All-School Mass in the Marmion Abbey Church. Fellow Marmion graduate and Indiana native, Jerry Hammes and his wife Dorene, flew in for the Mass and awards presentation.

A native of Fort Wayne, Father Bueter is a 1951 graduate of Marmion Military Academy. In 1951 he entered into studies for the priesthood for his home diocese and was ordained to the priesthood at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne in 1959. His first few years of priesthood were spent teaching theology at Saint Joseph's High School in

South Bend and working as an associate pastor in that city.

In the summer of 1965, he was inspired by the call of Pope John XXIII to have North American priests provide assistance to the Catholic Church in Latin America and volunteered to go there as a missionary. From 1965-1981 he worked in the country of Panama as pastor for various mission parishes.

In the summer of 1981 he was called back to Indiana by his bishop to do parish work in his diocese. In 1987 he was named vicar of Hispanic Ministry and pastor of a Spanish-speaking parish in Milford. He later was assigned to serve as pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church and Diocesan Shrine in Warsaw.

Although he is now retired, Father Bueter continues to assist in his priestly ministry both the Hispanic and Anglo population of his diocese.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY MADELYN T. WEED

Father Paul Bueter, a priest of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, received Marmion Academy's Ad Regnum Dei Award during an All-School Mass on March 14. Fellow Marmion graduate and Indiana native, Jerry Hammes and his wife Dorene, flew in for the Mass and awards presentation.



Easter Blessings

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STUDENTS HANDLE 1,200 POUNDS OF PAPER PRODUCTS



MARK WEBER

As a Lenten and mathematics project at St. Therese Catholic School in Fort Wayne, students conducted a four-week paper products drive to assist the parish's St. Vincent de Paul Society Food Bank. Originally the goal was 500 pounds of paper, but the final result went past 1,200 pounds of paper towels, bathroom tissue and diapers. To cap off the closing of the project, St. Therese students formed an assembly line from the school to the food bank, allowing each student to handle the 1,200 pounds of paper products.

Jesus' love abounds in Divine Mercy devotions

Trust in God's divine mercy was central to the teaching of Pope John Paul II and should be central to the faith and prayer of every Christian. That is a summary of Pope Benedict XVI's words in April of 2006 when he spoke of Divine Mercy Sunday.

Blessed Pope John Paul II instituted Divine Mercy Sunday in 2000 and died April 2, 2005, the vigil of the day he called "the Sunday of thanksgiving for all goodness that God has shown us in the whole Easter mystery."

"In these times marked by growing insecurity and violent conflict, humanity needs so much to experience the effectiveness of God's mercy," Pope John Paul II said in an address April 18, 2004, from his apartment window to pilgrims gathered below in St. Peter's Square.

In 2000, Pope John Paul II proclaimed the second Sunday of Easter as Mercy Sunday after he canonized Sister Faustina Kowalska, the Polish nun whose visions gave rise to the Divine Mercy devotions.

Born Helen Kowalska to a poor farming family in central Poland in 1905, St. Faustina's religious contemplation began at a young age.

In her diary, published in English as "Divine Mercy in My Soul," she wrote that she experienced God's love for the first time at age 7, when He revealed to her divine things.

After only three years of school, the teen-aged Helen left her parents and nine brothers and sisters to find work as a maid, during which time she decided to join a convent.

But her parents, in need of money, refused her request.

Soon after, at a party she attended with one of her sisters, she had a vision of Christ, who told her to go to Warsaw and join a convent. She entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy as a postulant in 1925, taking the name of Maria Faustina.

Divine revelations continued, and six years later, she witnessed her most famous vision: Jesus dressed in white, one hand raised in benediction and the other resting on his breast, from which emanated two rays of light.

As she recorded in her diary several years later, Jesus asked her to paint the image she had seen and to have the painting blessed on the first Sunday after Easter, today sometimes known as Mercy Sunday.

Sister Faustina's diary contained Jesus's message on the Divine Mercy image: "The two rays denote Blood and Water. The pale ray stands for the Water, which makes souls righteous. The red ray stands for the Blood, which is the life of souls. These two rays issued forth from the depths of My tender

mercy when My agonized Heart was opened by a lance on the Cross. Happy is the one who will dwell in their shelter, for the just hand of God shall not lay hold of Him."

Another section of the diary says, "By means of this image I shall grant many graces to souls. It is to be a reminder of the demands of My mercy, because even the strongest faith is of no avail without works."

The bottom of the image invokes the prayer, "Jesus, I trust in You."

Sister Faustina wrote that Jesus told her, "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."

Also recorded in the diary, Jesus told St. Faustina, "On that day all the divine floodgates

through which graces flow are opened. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain the complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet."

Accounts in the diary noted that Jesus said, "When you approach the confessional, know this, that I Myself am waiting there for you. Never analyze what sort of a priest it is that I am making use of. ... I am only hidden by the priest, but I Myself act in your soul. Here the misery of the soul meets the God of mercy. The greater the sinner, the greater the right he has to My mercy."

Afflicted with respiratory ailments for much of her life, Sister Faustina died in the convent of tuberculosis Oct. 5, 1938, at age 33.

Divine Mercy Sunday

St. Mary of the Assumption Parish
414 Madison Street • Decatur, Indiana



Sunday, April 15, 2012
2:00 p.m.

- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
- Prayer seeking intercession of Blessed Pope John II
- Rosary
- Explanation of Divine Mercy Sunday
- Divine Mercy Chaplet
- Benediction • Reconciliation

Celebrate the Hour of Mercy!



MERCY SUNDAY

April 15, 2012

Holy Family Catholic Church
46405 Mayflower Road
South Bend

CLOSING MASS FOR
DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

Confessions: 1:30 - 3:00
Eucharistic Adoration: 2:00 - 3:00
The Chaplet of Divine Mercy
2:30 - 3:00

Novena Closing Mass: 3:00

**EVERYONE WELCOME
BIENVENIDOS A TODOS**

For more information, call
(574) 277-1400

**"Whoever approaches the fount of
life this day will be granted
remission of sin and punishment"**

(M.300)

It was only after the Polish nun's death that word of her visions spread throughout her homeland. During her lifetime, only her spiritual adviser and superior general were aware of her mystical experiences.

Since then, the image of Divine Mercy as seen by St. Faustina has inspired faithful around the world. Faustina Kowalska was canonized April 30, 2000, by Pope John Paul II.

Since 2000, the Divine Mercy devotion has spread throughout the world. Several parishes within the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend promote Divine Mercy Sunday. See advertisements below posted in this week's issue.

The Marians of the

Immaculate Conception have a national shrine devoted to Divine Mercy. Of the devotions, the website, www.thedivinemercy.org posted, "Through St. Faustina, the Merciful Savior has given the aching world new channels for the outpouring of His grace. These new channels include the Image of the Divine Mercy, the Feast of Mercy (Divine Mercy Sunday), the Chaplet, the Novena to the Divine Mercy, and prayer at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, the Hour of Great Mercy."

The novena, which begins on Good Friday, prayers and additional information can be found at the webpage, www.thedivinemercy.org.

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

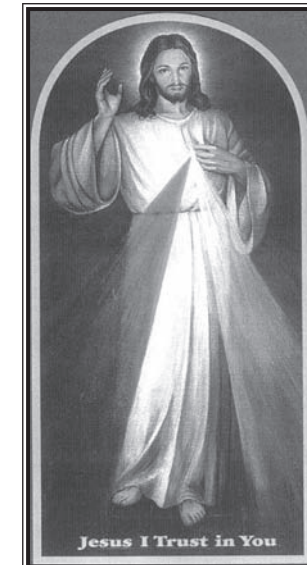
Immaculate Conception Church

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



Join Us!

NOVENA

Divine Mercy Chaplet

Good Friday

to Saturday, April 14

3 PM

in St. Jude Church

FORT WAYNE

Starts Good Friday, April 6

Twelfth Worldwide

Mercy Sunday

April 15, 2012 Divine Mercy Sunday Devotion

3:00 PM:

Exposition and Confessions: 1:00 - 3:00 PM

- Procession and Benediction
of the Blessed Sacrament

- Homilist Deacon Jim Tighe

- Presider Father Thomas Shoemaker

St. Jude Church

Randallia Drive at East State Blvd., Fort Wayne

www.stjudefw.org/adoration

Choir makes a joyful noise at Pueri Cantores Festival

BY TESS STEFFEN AND KAY COZAD

NOTRE DAME — With angelic voices raised, students from across the diocese joined at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at the University of Notre Dame to perform at the second Pueri Cantores Indiana Regional Mass and Choral Festival on March 26. The musically-gifted students, from 34 diocesan Catholic schools, and several who are homeschooled, combined as one choir and represented just a small part of the thousands of youth singers from around the world in the American Federation of Pueri Cantores Festival.

Pueri Cantores is a century-old practice established in France in 1907, when a special boys choir was formed to sing during the liturgy. Currently there are over 60,000 youth from 35 countries that sing in Pueri Cantores.

According to Brian MacMichael, director of the diocesan Office of Worship, though Pueri Cantores is an international program, the diocesan festival is part of the American Federation of Pueri Cantores that brings youth singers together in festivals across many different states. This diocese, he reported, is one of the largest choirs in the American Federation and is “unique in its use of the Catholic schools.” Though the Mass is the centerpiece of the festival, the students spend the entire day together in fellowship, song and prayer.

The program, which was conducted by Paul French from Chicago, began with a choral prelude showcasing the rich, traditional liturgical songs each choir had been practicing at their own schools and with other choirs in their feeder high schools for the past several months. The inspired vocalists, ages 10 to 18, were identified by their school directors last fall as committed and talented singers. Each school was allotted 10 seats in the special choir that gathered in three regional practices that occurred in both South Bend and Fort Wayne.

MacMichael said the regional practices were held in each of the four Catholic high schools with the final rehearsal held in both cathedrals to give the over 400-member choir experience singing with the organ in a solemn Church environment.

MacMichael was pleased that this year's festival showcased some new students, and said, “About half did it last year and the other half were new singers. We look for some new singers every year.”

The students were bussed in to the University of Notre Dame by 9 a.m. on March 26 and spent the day alternating between practice and breaks up until the Mass at 2:30 p.m.

Participating schools include: From Avilla, St. Mary of the Assumption School; Besancon-New Haven, St. Louis Academy; Decatur, St. Joseph School; Elkhart,

St. Vincent de Paul School; Fort Wayne, Bishop Dwenger High School, Bishop Luers High School, Most Precious Blood School, Queen of Angels School, St. Charles Borromeo School, St. John the Baptist School, St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel School, St. Jude School, St. Therese School, St. Vincent de Paul School; Garrett, St. Joseph School; Granger, St. Pius X School; Mishawaka, Marian High School, Mishawaka Catholic School, Queen of Peace School; Monroeville, St. Joseph School; New Haven, St. John the Baptist School; Plymouth, St. Michael School; South Bend, Saint Joseph's High School, Christ the King School, Corpus Christi School, Holy Cross School, Holy Family School, St. Anthony de Padua School, St. Joseph School, St. Jude School, St. Matthew School; Warsaw, Sacred Heart School; and Yoder, St. Aloysius School.

The Pueri Cantores Indiana Regional Mass followed the choral prelude — which included Michael Praetorius “Jubilate Deo” — and began with a procession of close to a dozen pastors from several of the participating schools and Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades as the celebrant.

In his opening remarks Bishop Rhoades said, “It is wonderful to be at the University of Notre Dame and to see the children of the diocese gathered here. How appropriate to be at the university of Our Lady on this wonderful feast of the Annunciation of the Lord.”

In his homily Bishop Rhoades reminded those gathered, “Today we celebrate a beautiful feast of the Church, the Annunciation of the Lord, in a beautiful church, the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. And we celebrate with beautiful music, sung by you, children and young people from throughout our diocese who are ‘Pueri Cantores,’ part of the international children's choral organization of the Catholic Church. Today's celebration is filled with beauty, the beauty of our Catholic faith.”

Bishop Rhoades spoke directly to the young people, saying, “Mary teaches us to believe in God's great love for us. . . . She teaches us to say ‘yes’ to our vocation — to answer God's call to be disciples of Jesus. She teaches you young people to open your hearts and say ‘yes’ if God is calling you to be a priest or a sister or to enter into holy marriage. . . . As disciples of Jesus, inspired by Mary's faith, let each of us say in our hearts, ‘Behold, I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to Your word.’”

The exquisitely sung sacred music was woven throughout the remainder of the Mass and Bishop Rhoades concluded by congratulating the student choir members, saying, “This is like a taste of the heavenly liturgy that we all hope to



PHOTOS BY JOE ROMIE

The musically-gifted students, from 34 diocesan Catholic schools, and several who are homeschooled, combined as one choir conducted by Catholic composer and conductor Paul French of Chicago.

enjoy. Your singing has lifted our spirits to the heavens.”

Family members who were able to attend the Pueri Cantores Mass festival were also gratified and deeply moved. Laura Furfaro, a parent from St. Joseph Parish in Mishawaka, remarked that “the singing was beautiful and enriching” and was proud that her fifth-grade son, Joseph, could be a part of it.

Betsy Magner, parishioner of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Fort Wayne, imagined that “this singing is as close to heaven as we can get.”

Fort Wayne, St. John the Baptist Parish parishioner Donna Weber, who had two grandchildren in the choir, commented that “having the children from all over the diocese come sing in a unified group represents our Catholic Church perfectly.”

Student participants were pleased with their performance as well. South Bend Saint Joseph's High School senior Alissa Plenzler delighted that “the tone was richer this year compared to last year.”

And Emily Sedestrom from Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne mentioned that it was “amazing being part of something huge and worldwide.”

The Mass was broadcast live on CatholicTV, based in Boston, and streamed live on catholiciv.com.

Michelle Castleman contributed to this story.





The diocesan contingency represented just a small part of the thousands of youth singers from around the world in the American Federation of Pueri Cantores Festival. The 400-members of the Pueri Cantores Choir who sang at the Indiana Regional Mass are shown above with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, who celebrated the Mass March 26.

At right, high school students cantored and added vocal support at the Pueri Cantores Indiana Regional Mass on March 26.

A recording of the Pueri Cantores Mass at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at the University of Notre Dame will be televised in its entirety by Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN) at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, April 10.

View the Mass online and see additional photos in the photo gallery at www.diocesefwsb.org.



South Bend council adds sexual orientation and gender identity to nondiscrimination code

SOUTH BEND — No amount of in depth legal analysis and critique, evidence or reasoned arguments could persuade the majority on the South Bend Common Council who voted 6-3 to add

sexual orientation and gender identity to the city's non-discrimination code.

Bryan Beauman, an attorney from the Alliance Defense Fund, exposed the lack of protection for individual

employers of faith.

Dr. Charles Rice, professor emeritus of law at the University of Notre Dame, detailed the vagueness in the law and how it will put the government in the position of determining

what the mission of a religious organization is and whether or not their beliefs are "good enough."

Rice continually challenged the authors of the bill to eliminate vagueness and that if they know what the vagueness is supposed to mean, then they ought to "put it in the bill." The professor concluded his remarks by stating the bill was not "a piece of legislation but an ideological manifesto."

In the course of his presentation Dr. Rice quoted the Catechism of the Catholic Church that states "homosexual acts are intrinsically disordered."

Dr. Fred Ferlic, a council member who voted for the bill objected to the statement and said that the catechism was wrong.

Jan Torma, a registered nurse, presented evidence of the medical and psychological harms of homosexuality.

Patrick Mangan, executive director of Citizens for Community Values of Indiana (CCV) presented the council a white paper report of heavily documented evidence citing over 150 incidents of the violation of the constitutional rights of freedom of speech, religion and assembly where homosexual rights are passed.

Mangan argued that the law was "unnecessary, unfair, unjust, unconstitutional and unenforceable." A father and husband, Mangan quoted from the Word of God on the sinfulness of homosexuality and said that while God is merciful He is also just, and warned of God's judgment. Mangan emphasized that this was the Word of God and not the word of man.

Richard Urda read a letter from Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades calling on the council to reject the measure and cited concerns about the indoctrination of children, which has happened in other localities.

Tom Uebbing, chairman of CCV's No Special Rights Task Force, said that "Everything the other side has said about all this sounds

great except for one thing — the hidden and unspoken premise that homosexual activity is good and harmless. False premises lead to false conclusions."

Uebbing quoted Pope Benedict XVI, who as Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger in 1992 said "the recognition of homosexuality as a factor on which basis it is illegal to discriminate can easily lead, if not automatically, to legislative protection and promotion of homosexuality. . . . This is all the more deleterious since there is no right to homosexuality, which should therefore not form the basis of judicial claims."

He cited cases of indoctrination of children in California, Massachusetts, across Canada and in Spain.

Kevin Mitschelen, who pastors a downtown South Bend church that often ministers to the homeless and other street people, said that everyone is broken inside including himself, but the government cannot heal the brokenness, only God.

The main advocate for the special rights legislation was Catherine Pittman, a professor of psychology at Saint Mary's College, and member of the gay rights organization South Bend Equality.

Councilman Gavin Ferlic, one of the bills sponsors, coordinated the presentation in favor of the bill, which addressed the issues of evidence of discrimination, whether a city has the authority to pass such a measure under state law, enforceability, and how the law impacts religious freedom.

The vote took place on March 27. South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg gave his enthusiastic support for the bill and promised to sign it. The legislation will go into effect on April 6.

Councilman Derek Dieter questioned how businesses could be prepared in such a short time.

In a media interview after the council meeting, Mangan said that if an opportunity presents itself, efforts will be made to overturn the law.



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9:00 am	Bishop Luers Hour	St. John – New Haven Fr. James Seculoff	St. Mary – Decatur Fr. Dave Voors
10:00 am	Bishop Dwenger Hour	The "Double Your Dollars" Tippmann Hour	St. Anthony of Padua Fr. Fred Pasche
11:00 am	Allen County Right To Life Cathie Humbarger, Steve Jones	Most Precious Blood Fr. Joe Gaughan	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Fr. Drew Curry
Noon	Northwest Ohio Kathleen Fogarty, Mike Kurivial	Our Lady of Good Hope Fr. Mark Gurtner	St. Charles Borromeo Fr. Tony Steinacker
1:00 pm	St. Catherine – St. Joseph Fr. Ken Sarrazine	St. Vincent de Paul Msgr. John Kuzmich	St. Joseph – Hessen Cassel Fr. Cornelius Ryan
2:00 pm	Christ Child Society Bishop Emeritus John D'Arcy	St. Jude Fr. Tom Shoemaker	Immaculate Conception Fr. Derrick Sneyd
3:00 pm	St. Henry Fr. Dan Durkin	The Huntington Hour Fr. Ron Rieder, Fr. John Pfister	St. Aloysius Msgr. Bernie Galic
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Students across the diocese support Holy Childhood Association

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — Catholic school students from across the diocese have been focused these past six weeks on sacrificial giving, one of the three pillars of Lent, by working to save money to donate to those who are less fortunate.

Many diocesan schools have held programs and events to further the formation of service-driven hearts with the proceeds earmarked for the Holy Childhood Association to benefit children in need around the globe.

The Holy Childhood Association, established in 1843 by Charles de Forbin-Janson, bishop of Nancy, France, is an international organization of students in Catholic elementary schools and religious education programs, dedicated to fostering children's awareness of the missionary nature of the Church. Through the financial contributions of the children it carries out educational, medical and welfare projects in the poorest areas of the world.

One Fort Wayne school, St. Jude, has been invested in the association for several decades. Each year since the 1970s St. Jude students' voluntary sacrificial giving has been a part of the school's Lenten legacy to the Holy Childhood Association, says Principal Sister Kathleen Knueven, a Sister of Notre Dame.

This year the donations were collected from each grade during the St. Jude's Agape service held March 29 in the school's lunchroom.

The solemn Agape service was a reenactment of the Last Supper during which there was song, Scripture reading and a homily by St. Jude pastor, Father Tom Shoemaker, who challenged the students gathered to "serve as Jesus served."

Following the homily the Holy Childhood Association boxes used by the students to retain their coins



KAY COZAD

Father Tom Shoemaker, pastor of St. Jude Parish in Fort Wayne, prays with St. Jude students at the school's Agape Prayer Service on March 29, where donations to the Holy Childhood Association were collected.

were gathered in baskets beneath the lunchroom crucifix. The teachers then washed the first- through eighth-grade students' hands, each partnered with a "spirit pal" from a different grade, to commemorate the washing of the disciples' feet by Jesus at the Last Supper.

Father Shoemaker blessed and broke the ceremonial bread, which was made for the special event by retired Sister of Notre Dame Sister Damian Meng and area senior citizens, and eaten in silence by the students. The event has been part of the school's observance of Holy Week for decades, but because spring break coincides with Holy Week this year, the school held the Agape service early.

Fourth-grade teacher Pat Frost, coordinator of the Holy Childhood Association for St. Jude said, "We never stress the amount to be given. It's whatever the student feels able to donate."

The students know the association is "under the watchful eye of the pope, who will send the money where it's needed most," Frost added. "It's about saving and sharing. ... There's an awful lot of pennies, nickels and dimes in the collection. That shows it truly is the children's money."

Of the importance of the Holy Childhood Association at St. Jude Father Shoemaker said, "It's a way for our students to recognize that there are children around the world in need of help. And that we need to help in any way we can."

He added, "It's a nice time to collect for the association with Holy Thursday, which is a reminder to us to serve others. Sometimes it's through washing others' feet, sometimes it's taking up a collection. It's about service."

Several other diocesan schools are active in the association as well. Principal Chad Barwick of St.

Anthony de Padua in South Bend reported that the school assembled for a Lenten prayer service that focused on prayer, fasting and almsgiving for the Holy Childhood Association. The students raised \$310 through their sacrifice.

Huntington Catholic School students have been saving money throughout Lent in their Holy Childhood boxes that will be collected soon and also promoted a dress down day where \$161 was collected for the association's needs.

St. John the Baptist, New Haven, students have been collecting money for the Holy Childhood Association through their "Coins for Christ" campaign. Principal Janice Comito reported that students also participate annually in the HCA National Week of Prayer, when they pray the HCA prayer at the end of each school day.

Most Precious Blood School, Fort Wayne, Principal Alexandria Bergman said students there participate in the Holy Childhood Association through collections during Advent and Lent as well as their print magazines in junior high religion classes.

St. Therese School, Fort Wayne, students used the coin collecting cards during Lent this year and will donate the proceeds to the Holy Childhood Association.

The students of St. John the Baptist School in Fort Wayne have raised over \$400 for the HCA since November. Principal Amanda Robinson reports that in addition to

collecting quarters and filling their boxes, students were challenged to earn the money they donate to HCA, as a way of fostering a "renewal of hearts through good deeds." As student filled their boxes with quarters, they decorated a paper doll outside their door.

St. Aloysius Principal Tina Voors was pleased with her students' response to the school's Lenten project focused on HCA. She said, "Our kids did jobs around home and for neighbors to 'earn' their money to put into the banks. ... They had to give of their abilities and time for the sake of other children." The children donated several pounds of coins that will be presented to their pastor, Msgr. Galic, on Easter Monday.

St. Thomas the Apostle School in Elkhart began their projects to support the needs of the Holy Childhood Association during Advent this year, which included prayers for the needy children and coin boxes placed at the prayer stations in each classroom and by the snack cart in the lunchroom. Principal Christopher Kolakovich reports that St. Thomas students also began each morning with a special prayer during HCA's National Week of Prayer.

The dedicated students of the diocese, along with the estimated 7 million other children currently enrolled in the Holy Childhood Association worldwide, are making a difference in the world by showcasing the heart of Jesus in their sacrificial endeavors.

Keynote Speakers:

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The Most Rev. Robert J. Carlson (Archbishop of Saint Louis and Chair of the USCCB Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations): "The Challenges Ahead for Catholic Preaching in the 21st Century"

Fr. Robert Barron (Francis Cardinal George Professor of Faith and Culture, Mundelein Seminary): "The Word in the World and the Electronic Media: New Challenges and Possibilities"

Mary Catherine Hilbert, O.P. (University of Notre Dame): "Feasting at the Table of the Word: From Dei Verbum to Verbum Domini"

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Jewish Federation welcomes Bishop Rhoades

BY BOB FEFERMAN

SOUTH BEND — “As Catholics and Jews, we share a common heritage through the parts of the sacred Scripture we hold in common. We pray to the same Lord. We share the belief in the Ten Commandments from the Torah of Moses that Pope Benedict XVI called, ‘a great ethical code for all humanity,’” Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades said as he spoke at the Jewish Federation of St. Joseph Valley in South Bend.

Bishop Rhoades spoke to an audience of more than 100 people — both Catholics and Jews — on the topic, “The Challenge of Secularization to the Future of Faith-Based Communities” on March 21 in South Bend.

In his opening remarks, Bishop Rhoades said, “I give thanks and praise to God for this opportunity to be here this evening, to share thoughts with you, my brothers and sisters of the local Catholic and Jewish communities. It is an honor to be here.”

“I recall the words Blessed John Paul II when he visited the synagogue of Rome in 1986,” Bishop Rhoades said. “I was a young priest studying in Rome at the time. Pope John Paul said on that historic occasion, ‘The Jewish religion is not extrinsic to us (the Catholic Church), but in a certain way is intrinsic to our own religion.’ With Judaism, therefore, we have a relationship, which we do not have with any other religion. You are our dearly beloved brothers and, in a certain way, (Blessed Pope John Paul said) it could be said that you are our elder brothers.”



KAREN DWYER

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades talks with a group of people who attended his talk at The Jewish Federation of St. Joseph Valley in South Bend.

In his remarks, Bishop Rhoades focused on explaining the position of the Catholic Church on the recent mandate of the U.S. Health and Human Services.

Bishop Rhoades said, “This issue is not just about sterilization, abortifacients and chemical contraception. It’s about religious freedom, our sacred right.”

Bishop Rhoades concluded, “We share a common respect for the sacred nature of our culture, we must stand united as brothers and sisters against forms of secularism that attempt to exclude religion from public life and in defense of religious liberty.”

The question-answer session provided an opportunity for both Catholics and Jews to engage in dialogue with the bishop on this and other issues.

The event also introduced many Catholics to the Jewish Federation

for the first time. The master of ceremonies reminded those attending that they are always welcome to events at the Jewish Federation.

Of special interest is the Michiana Jewish Film Festival at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center at the University of Notre Dame from May 15-18, and a screening of the film “Iranium” at the Federation May 31. The film details the threat of a nuclear-armed Iran.

Event chair Barbara Lerman said, “The evening offered an opportunity for Bishop Rhoades to get acquainted with the Jewish community, and for the Catholic and Jewish communities to share thoughts and have dialogue on some common concerns.”

Bob Feferman is the chairman of the Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation of St. Joseph Valley in South Bend.

Alumna Haley Scott DeMaria to deliver ND commencement address

NOTRE DAME — Haley Scott DeMaria, the University of Notre Dame alumna who made an inspiring recovery from critical injuries suffered in a tragic 1992 bus accident involving the Fighting Irish swimming team, will be the principal speaker and the recipient of an honorary degree at Notre Dame’s 167th Commencement Ceremony on May 20.

“The courage, perseverance and faith Haley has demonstrated over the past 20 years have been remarkable and are a shining example for us all,” said Holy Cross Father John I. Jenkins, Notre Dame’s president. “She has spoken to scores of groups across the country of the many challenges she faced in recovering from injuries suffered in the accident, always with a focus on God’s grace and the love and support she received from her family, friends and Notre Dame. I’m sure that her words will be as inspirational to our graduates as they have been to so many others.”

DeMaria suffered a broken back and was paralyzed after a bus returning the Irish women’s swimming team from a meet at Northwestern University slid off the Indiana Toll Road in a snowstorm about two miles from the Notre Dame exit shortly after midnight Jan. 24, 1992.

Meghan Beeler and Colleen Hipp, both freshmen, died in the accident, and most of the other swimmers, coaches and staff were injured, DeMaria the most seriously.

After two operations at Memorial Hospital in South Bend and several days without sensation in her legs, DeMaria and her family were told she likely was facing life in a wheelchair. But a week after the accident, she began to regain feeling and within a month she was able to stand and walk. She returned to classes at Notre Dame that spring, but there were many more challenges ahead.

In the summer of 1992, rods that had been inserted to keep her spine straight came loose and broke through the skin. She was rushed from her home in Phoenix to San Diego where she endured three more complex and risky surgical procedures — and once nearly died on the operating table.

Once again defying all odds, DeMaria returned to Notre Dame in the fall of ’92 to take classes and continue her rehabilitation. She gradually began to swim and a year later, on Oct. 29, 1993, she completed one of the most stirring comebacks in Notre Dame’s history by swimming in — and winning — her heat in a 50-yard race.

She has told her story in a



HALEY SCOTT DEMARIA

book, “What Though the Odds: Haley Scott’s Journey of Faith and Triumph,” and has plans for a feature film.

After earning her bachelor’s degree in history from Notre Dame in 1995 (she also has a master’s degree in education from USC), DeMaria served as an assistant dean of students, history teacher and assistant swimming coach at her high school alma mater, Xavier College Preparatory in Phoenix. She now lives in Annapolis, Md., with her husband, Jamie DeMaria, a 1995 Notre Dame graduate, and sons James and Edward, and she gives dozens of inspirational presentations annually across the country.

“It is moving, gratifying and inspiring to speak to people about my recovery,” she has said. “It is a gift to pass along hope.”

DeMaria has received numerous honors through the years for her courageous recovery and return to swimming, including the Spirit of Notre Dame Award, Honda Award for Inspiration, Woman of Courage Award from Xavier, and Gene Autry Courage in Sport Award. She was named Woman of the Year by the National Women’s Leadership Conference in 1994 and a fellow of the Institute for International Sport.

DeMaria is first vice president of the Notre Dame Monogram Club and will serve a two-year term as president from 2013 to 2015. She has chaired the ND Women Connect initiative in the Notre Dame Club of Washington, D.C., and also has been active in the alumni clubs in Maryland, Phoenix and Philadelphia. She is active in her parish, and the DeMarrias are a sponsor family with the U.S. Naval Academy, hosting midshipmen in their home several times monthly.

The 2012 university commencement ceremony will take place in Notre Dame Stadium beginning at 9 a.m.

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The Easter message

Most people would find it difficult to get through a day without reading or hearing about some violent or painful situation. It can be about people being beaten or killed for protesting an unjust situation in their countries, or about the threat of nuclear bombs being used by an unstable ruler.

There are stories about homes and lives being destroyed by natural disasters or of a company who has to lay off many of its employees due to the poor economy. A friend's only child is killed or our brother gets a brain tumor in his prime.

Often people wonder why there is so much suffering and why a merciful God does not intervene.

Our faith in the Resurrection means that we believe God brings good out of suffering and evil and that the way to conquer sin is by love. This, of course, is not a popular stance in today's environment where there is so much hatred and violence in our world and, sadly, sometimes in our homes.

As we wrap up this season of Lent and celebrate the feast of Easter, it may be good to reflect

on our own attitudes. Do we feel justified in wanting to punish hatred with more violence? What are our thoughts about the death penalty (which is what Jesus died under)? Do we ever pray for the conversion of our enemies, even cruel dictators and terrorists? Sometimes it can be easier to forgive people "out there," rather than those who have hurt us personally.

We must be willing to go deeper and discover the roots of evil and then use love to conquer it. On the feast of Easter we celebrate and proclaim that we believe, as in the case of Jesus, God can and does bring good out of suffering and that His life conquered sin and evil.

Just imagine what our lives would be like if every Christian in the world would really live the commandment of love. There would be much less war, hatred and violence. People would ask for and offer forgiveness. No one would be hungry because people would share with one another. The only news to report would be good news.

As Christians who believe in the Resurrection, we must strive to be models of love and hope.



THE CUTTING EDGE

SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

Our good works during Lent must continue throughout the rest of the year. We have a mission to make Christ known by our love. We must express our belief that, even in this gloomy, dark time, God will not abandon us — just like He did not abandon His Son, Jesus. Each of us is called to go out to all the people in our own little world and proclaim this good news.

And if current events sometimes make it hard for you to believe that God is still present in all of this, ask Him to deepen your faith and to help you to remember when He brought you out of difficulties in your life. Easter tells us that God never leaves us in our pain and often brings good out of evil.

Happy Easter season.

Celibacy and contraception

Recently I wrote a column here describing the spiritual and relational dangers which contraception imposes on marriage, especially upon the woman. An oft-used argument against this understanding asks the question of how it is possible that a celibate priest, without any personal experience of wife and children, can possibly understand such things.

At the heart of this argument is a misunderstanding of celibacy, a misunderstanding that would view celibacy as a kind of bachelorhood. However, celibacy for the kingdom of God is not bachelorhood. In fact, it is the opposite.

In the cultural understanding of bachelorhood, the bachelor is seen as a "free man," one who seemingly lives life indulging his whims, free from the "shackles" of wife and children. One who has committed himself (or herself) to celibacy for the kingdom, lives not for one's self, but for God and for love of others (see Mt 19:12 and 1 Cor 7:32-35). The living out of celibacy for the kingdom well depends on such things as self-sacrifice, self-denial, self-denial. Indeed, these are the very things necessary to live marriage well and to raise a family. Thus, far from having a lack of understanding about how family life should be lived, the celibate has a keen understanding because the very qualities and virtues, which must be cultivated to live marriage well, are the exact same qualities and virtues which must be cultivated to live celibacy well. In other words, in order to live celibacy well, one must be a true lover, a person who is willing to give his or her whole self to God and to all others, just as the married person must strive to give his or her whole self to God, spouse and children.

Regarding the Church's teaching on contraception and the celibate priest, I would propose two other thoughts. First, I would propose that the celibate priest understands well the dynamics involved with married love and contraception. There is something about celibacy that communicates to others "I live for you," and allows others the freedom to open themselves completely to the celibate.

In the sacrament of Confession,

GUEST EDITORIAL

FATHER MARK GURTNER

through counseling, and in other ways, many married people feel free and unrestricted to open their hearts to the celibate, to share their hopes, their dreams, their struggles, their sins, their pains and their wounds. Thus, the priest is able to become an "expert in humanity" as Blessed Pope John Paul II stated. Again, far from having no understanding of the dynamics of married and family life, celibate priests have a vivid, real and profound understanding of married and family life. To this end, my observations about contraception, as well as those of many priests, are based on years of listening to and helping married people.

However, the teaching on contraception is more than just my own understanding or that of any individual priest. It must be remembered that the teaching that the celibate priest delivers regarding contraception is not his own word, but the word of the Church, a word that, inspired by the Holy Spirit, we as Catholics believe comes from God.

The Church, in fact, encourages responsible family planning. The Church only condemns those means of family planning that are immoral, such as contraception. The Holy Spirit has cultivated in the Church this truth of the evil of contraception for centuries, indeed, from the very beginning of the life of the Church. In fact, until recent times, every Christian denomination recognized the evil of contraception. If I were preaching and teaching my own word regarding contraception, I agree that that word would not be worth much, but the word that we preach is the Word of God.

Father Mark Gurtner, pastor of Our Lady of Good Hope Catholic Church, Fort Wayne.

He lives!



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Easter Jn 20:1-9

Actually, a variety of biblical readings occurs in the course of liturgical celebrations for Easter. For instance, the Liturgy of the Word for the Easter Vigil is unsurpassed among all the feasts of the year.

These reflections center upon the readings for the Eucharist celebrated during the day on Easter itself.

The first reading is from the Acts of the Apostles. As this season continues, most often the Church will draw from Acts its first Scriptural reading. In this reading, Peter addresses a crowd. His sermon, one of several in the early chapters of Acts, capsulized the Gospel message. Jesus is Lord. John the Baptist foretold the coming of Jesus. Jesus was the gift and representative of God. Jesus died on Calvary for the sins of all humanity.

After dying on Calvary, Jesus rose and was seen by witnesses. The Lord commissioned the surviving Apostles to proclaim the Gospel as they went into places far and near.

The reading, while crisp and not too long, focuses attention upon the Lord. The Crucifixion redeemed the world. Then, Jesus rose from the dead. The Resurrection is more than a pious assertion of some vague, unearthly way to say that

the Lord's power endures from age to age through Christianity and its adherents.

Jesus rose from the dead in time and space. Witnesses actually saw the Risen Lord.

St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians provides the second reading. Paul calls the Corinthian Christians to turn to Jesus. They are with the Lord. The Lord is with them. Such is the effect of the Incarnation, of the Redemption and of the personal decision to turn to God.

The Gospel of John furnishes the last reading. It is a triumphant story, and any reading of this Gospel passage reveals the excitement in which it was written, as well as the sense that the Resurrection of Jesus was an event utterly unique in earthly history.

Mary Magdalene, forever faithful, discovered that the tomb is empty. She immediately alerted Peter and the other Apostles to her discovery.

Peter and the Beloved Disciple hurried to see for themselves. The Beloved Disciple saw the empty tomb and remembered the Lord's prophecy of rising from the dead.

Reflection

This weekend, in celebrating Easter, the Church rejoices in the greatest triumph of Jesus over death and evil. He lives!

The Church calls us to be joyful, telling us not to fear death. Death has been defeated. We can live eternally. The key to life eternal is in our love for God.

The second reading, that of Paul's first letter to Corinth, firmly and clearly reminds us that the Lord's Resurrection, a spectacular occurrence at a given moment in

history and at a particular place, has profound implications for each human being anywhere and at any time.

St. Paul was justifiably, and totally, taken with the realization that through the Incarnation, the fact that in the one person of Jesus the nature of God and human nature coexist, all we humans commune with God — if we turn ourselves to God willingly and truly.

These readings are very instructive for us. Jesus, of course, is central. His wondrous Resurrection is the great event proclaimed and celebrated.

Yet, references to human beings fill the story. Today, these human beings are seen in retrospect. Most are saints, highly venerated persons. In their humanity, however, they were as we are.

They present us with an image of great faith and of hope. Are we able to manifest the same? Do we hold dear in our hearts the faith that was so vivid among them?

Only if we are of the same strong faith can we too thrill with the Church in declaring, "He lives!"

READINGS

Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43 Ps 118:1-2, 16ab-17, 22-23 Col 3:1-4 Jn 20:1-9

Monday: Acts 2:14, 22-33 Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11 Mt 28:8-15

Tuesday: Acts 2:36-41 Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22 Jn 20:11-18

Wednesday: Acts 3:1-10 Ps 105:1-4, 6-9 Lk 24:13-35

Thursday: Acts 3:11-26 Ps 8:2a, 5-9 Lk 24:35-48

Friday: Acts 4:1-12 Ps 118:1-2, 4, 22-27a Jn 21:1-14

Saturday: Acts 4:13-21 Ps 118:1, 14-15, 16ab-21 Mk 16:9-15

SAINT OF THE WEEK



Casilda

11th century
April 9

Born in central Spain, Casilda was the daughter of the emir of Toledo. Though a Muslim, she had a reputation for being kind to Christian prisoners. After she became sick, she went on a pilgrimage to the shrine of San Vicenzo de Briviesca, which was famous for its healing waters. She was cured and became a Christian, embarking on a life of solitude and penance in a cell near the shrine. Her name eventually was added to the shrine's name, and she reputedly lived to the age of 100. In 1750 her remains were transferred to a new shrine.

Fasting may build better spiritual muscle

As I write this column, I am sitting in a hotel room in Santiago, Chile. I've been up all night because my flight was delayed and I missed a connection in Panama City. The airline also lost my bag, so I am without a change of clothes, my toothbrush and my computer.

Under these circumstances, it seems somewhat natural to think about the long-honored custom Catholics have of giving things up for Lent.

In my family we try to follow the Church's rules about Lenten fasting. They are at least an inconvenience for the faithful, even if they are not nearly as severe as in ages past.

At one time, nearly all Lenten days were designated for fasting (not just two of them), and the rules of each day's fast were much stricter — one meal, to be taken in the afternoon or evening. At one time, no dairy or wine was allowed on days of fast.

But even our lax modern rules present the average layman with enough privation that most of us look forward to Lent with just a little bit of dread.

To supplement the Church's prescribed mortifications, most Catholics give something up voluntarily — sweets, smoking and alcohol are typical choices. But I have also heard people say, "This year I'm not giving something up. Instead of focusing on all that negativity, I'm going to do something

positive every day."

And it's gotten me thinking about why we engage as a Church in "negative" activities like fasting and other mortifications.

The simple and scripturally correct answer is that Jesus did it himself during his 40 days in the desert. The Gospels also record his rejoinder to the followers of John the Baptist — that His followers would fast "when the bridegroom is taken away from them."

It also doesn't hurt that, by making sacrifices, we develop some spiritual muscles, which should lead to a better spiritual performance, the way weightlifting leads to better performance on the football field.

But as I sit here in this hotel room, writing out this draft by hand, I've been thinking that there is a much more targeted role in our spiritual lives to the concepts of fasting and of giving things up for Lent. Namely, voluntary sacrifices prepare us to bear, with a Christian spirit and without whining, the deprivations we will inevitably suffer in life without our own choosing.

And really, that is where we benefit most in life from offering God our sufferings — when they are imposed upon rather than chosen by us.

I really loved the suitcase that went missing. It held three days' belongings. It was leather, and beautiful. I bought it in Milan for a good price. Maybe I loved it a little too much. Come to think of it, don't 90



JOHN GARVEY

INTELLECT AND VIRTUE

percent of our sins begin with such attachments to earthly goods?

The seven deadly sins feature prominently the inordinate desire for things our flesh wants (lust, gluttony, sloth) and the desire to indulge ourselves more (covetousness, envy). That leaves only pride and anger, two forms of a more elevated and dangerous self-indulgence. The appeal of anger is the way it lets you feel.

Pride conveniently lets us indulge in irrational excuses for all of our other shortcomings and in an unjustified feeling of moral superiority that lets us stand in judgment of others.

This Lent, we should be fasting from a lot more than just food. But if we at least start with food, maybe it will prepare us for the other sacrifices we must make.

John Garvey is the president of The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for April 8, 2012

Mark 16:1-7

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Easter Vigil: the early morning visit of the women to the tomb. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

- | | | |
|---------|------------|------------|
| SABBATH | MAGDALENE | MARY |
| SALOME | ANOINT HIM | EARLY |
| TOMB | STONE | ENTRANCE |
| ROLLED | YOUNG MAN | WHITE ROBE |
| JESUS | NAZARETH | CRUCIFIED |
| RAISED | LAI D HIM | PETER |
| GOING | GALILEE | SEE HIM |

ROLLED BACK

E D H T E R A Z A N E D
 E A E N O T S A L O M E
 L Y N A G M A R Y A S I
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 A N E S E E H I M M I L
 E E B O R E T I H W W M
 D E S I A R O L L E D K

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Parading homes, tracking the Joneses

Spring is here and the sweet home-show season is upon us! Time to inspect the Joneses' mansion and discover just how far behind we've fallen.

This month we'll be allowed to try on bigger homes for size, drooling over the amenities on our wish lists and finding new ones to add. And you can linger a little — pull open the jewelry drawer, step inside the master-bathroom shower — because the Joneses haven't moved in yet.

Last fall my husband and I joined his parents for Minnesota's Parade of Homes. We seized one of those magical October afternoons when the slanted sun makes everything glow, piled into their Lincoln and pointed it west, toward Lake Minnetonka and Minneapolis' richest suburbs. It was time to see how the other half lives.

We started at a suburban community called Locust Hills, where an empty lot had been reduced from \$650,000 to \$480,000. My father-in-law, a farmer, crinkled his face at the price.

We ended our excursion with the most expensive: an 8,000-square-foot classical home in Edina that cost \$2.4 million. I read the description from the magazine as we pulled up to the corner lot: "This spectacular custom Dream Home will melt your heart and stir your soul."

Dream Home, an official Parade of Homes term that necessitates

capitalization, is code for costs-\$5-a-person-to-enter. That wasn't the only pretension awaiting us: Unlike other Parade homes, where you leave your shoes outside the front door, we were instructed to carry our shoes in a plastic bag while we toured the home.

My husband refused to be undignified by the mandate, so he stashed his sneakers in a bush.

He had the right idea. It's hard to be swept away by the make-believe Parade of Homes world and pretend this fortress is your own when you're carrying your shoes in a grocery sack.

I don't know that our souls were stirred, but we did get lost. About two-thirds of the way through it was hard to determine where we had come from, where we were headed and where my father-in-law had gone. (He was checking out the garage.)

The home was impressive, but not quite my style. A little cold.

Deep down, that's the response I was hoping for. You parade through the Joneses' home with the secret goal of spotting something, anything to critique.

You look for something that cost too much or not enough, something that would be hard to clean. So much Brazilian cherry you'd live in fear of scratching it, you'd long for a little carpet to warm your feet. So many amenities — wet bar, indoor gym — you'd never leave home,



CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

TWENTY SOMETHING

you'd become antisocial.

But parading through the Joneses' home can be risky business, at odds with the first commandment — making gods of granite — and the 10th, the prohibition against coveting a neighbor's goods. (That includes the kitchen and closet, pantry and porch.)

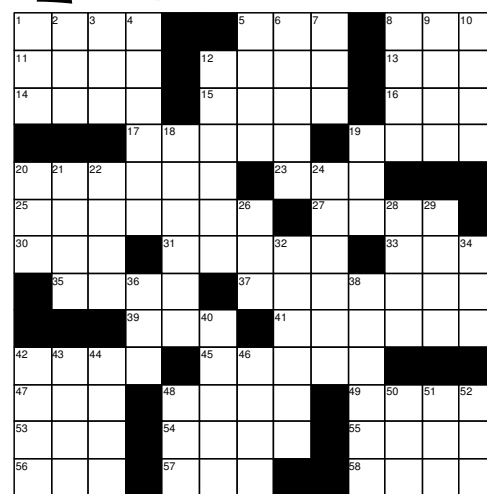
I want to be like my husband's aunt, who indulged neighbors in an in-depth tour of their big new home, then smiled and offered the heartfelt remark: "We're really happy for you!"

Life is a collaboration, not a competition, and Lent is the perfect time to fast from comparisons and focus on the many blessings we do have: good friends, warm homes and a reason to step outside every now and then.

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

The CrossWord

April 1, 8 and 15, 2012



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Based on these readings: Phil 2:6-11 and Acts 10: 43a, 37-42; Col 3:1-4; Jn 20: 1-9 and Acts 4:32-35; 1 Jn 5:1-6; Jn 20: 19-31

ACROSS

- 1 Salad
- 5 Horse and chariot cast into
- 8 Often poetically
- 11 Wine bottle
- 12 Jesus sent the _____ Spirit
- 13 Legume
- 14 Pitcher
- 15 Canal
- 16 Brain wave test
- 17 Compelled to go
- 19 _____ of the Apostles
- 20 Went to tomb with Mary Magdalene

DOWN

- 23 Escudo
- 25 Banishing
- 27 Heroic
- 30 Christ _____ the victory
- 31 Author of "The Inferno"
- 33 Ghost's greeting
- 35 "The Good _____" (Gospel)
- 37 Palm Sunday of the Lord's _____
- 39 School group
- 41 Paschal taper
- 42 Sunday before Easter
- 45 Harriet Beecher _____
- 47 Pride
- 48 Not who

- 49 "Rock of _____"
- 53 Congo language group
- 54 Second letter
- 55 "Every _____ shall bend"
- 56 Gloomy
- 57 Compass point
- 58 Christmas season

DOWN

- 1 Compass point
- 2 Not High Mass
- 3 "Who _____ & drank with him"
- 4 Artist Andy
- 5 Leper blemish
- 6 Omit
- 7 Yes
- 8 Oil cartel
- 9 Proceeds placed at apostles'
- 10 Labels
- 12 Constantine's sainted mother
- 18 In the middle
- 19 American College of Physicians (abbr.)

- 20 Fashion
- 21 Nerve fiber
- 22 Cover
- 24 Teeter
- 26 Gross National Product
- 28 Same cite as previous
- 29 Brisk
- 32 Washington city
- 34 "_____, true God"
- 36 Words per minute
- 38 Covert
- 40 Pallid
- 42 Wood nails
- 43 Water (Sp.)
- 44 "Jesus Christ is _____"
- 46 Lug
- 48 West by north
- 50 African antelope
- 51 Snake like fish
- 52 Bishop's area

Answer Key can be found on page 19

Sports

USF SENIOR, DWENGER GRAD, LEFT-HANDER NAMED MCC PITCHER OF THE WEEK University of Saint Francis senior pitcher Chris Howell has been named Mid-Central College Conference Pitcher of the Week after picking up two wins and helping the Cougars to their first ever 6-0 start in conference competition. Howell, a graduate of Bishop Dwenger High School, is the first USF pitcher to win four games before the end of March and did it with two complete-game wins last week. He is tied for the league lead in wins as well. This is the second time Howell has been named MCC Pitcher of the Week.

Undefeated Cougars wins girls' ICCL varsity championship

BY JOE KOZINSKI

MISHAWAKA — As the Marian High School parking lot slowly filled, a buzz was taking place inside the gym as the best two Inter-City Catholic League varsity girls' basketball teams squared off for the coveted championship.

The Mishawaka Catholic Saints entered the contest as the undefeated St. Martin DePorres Division champions. The Saints boasted the league's stingiest defense allowing a mere 13 points a game.

The Corpus Christi Cougars were enjoying their celebrity as the St. John Bosco Division Champions. Undefeated in the entire regular season, the offensive league juggernaut averaged more than 37 points a game.

The game would be a rematch of a battle of champions that took place just 17 days prior in which the Cougars outpaced the Saints, 35-20, and set the tone for a fierce contest.

The Saints got on the scoreboard first as lengthy guard Jasmine Rice raced down the floor for an opening layup that pumped up the purple-and-gold clad legions.

The game was on. Corpus Christi used dribble penetration as their main tactic on the offensive end, a full court man-to-man press and switched up defenses. The Saints would pass and look inside to their fantastic post player, Cameron Schultheis, and applied their own brand of defensive pressure throughout.

The simple formula for the game would be aggression versus aggression as the versatile players performed at a very high level — hustle and determination abounded.

The Cougars pushed into the



The Corpus Christi Cougars celebrate an undefeated season, winning both the ICCL league and tournament championships. Pictured are, from left, front row, Krissy John, Sami Jankowski and Sam Kambol; middle row, Baily Church, Paige Schreiber, Brooke Juday and Melissa Brooks; and top row, Jeanie Freeby and Rosie Freeby. The Cougars are coached by Corpus Christi and Saint Joseph's High School alum, Jamie (Megyese) Kelley.

lead and held a 9-5 margin after the first quarter as the Saints missed a couple from the charity stripe that could have cut into the lead.

The Cougars opened up an aerial attack in the second quarter as Jeanie Freeby knocked down a three pointer from downtown and pushed the lead to six.

With just 8.5 seconds on the clock, Cougar Sammy Jankowski stole a half court inbounds pass and raced to the basket, scoring at the horn giving Corpus Christi an eight-point lead and more importantly — momentum.

The defensive prowess of the Cougars continued into the second stanza as Brooke Juday seemed to cover the whole floor defensively, setting up teammates and the long range game of Freeby giving the red-wearing fans fodder and the third quarter advantage, 27-12.

The Saints continued to look inside for answers but the collapsing defense and ball pressure of the Cougars were too much to overcome as the game crowned its champion at the final horn, 35-15.

Freeby and Jankowski each net-

ted 10 and Sam Kambol added eight for the Cougars in the victory.

"It was a great season for our girls and a great year, the only team we lost to were the Cougars," commented Saints' head coach Tom Schultheis. "Corpus Christi was well coached, they passed and dribbled well, and they are a very good team. Our congratulations go to them."

"We are so excited right now, what a great feeling," exclaimed Cougar head coach Jamie Kelley. "We stayed with our strengths the whole season, which was our team speed and quickness."

"The girls on both teams really played their hearts out. Words can't explain how proud I am right now," remarked Kelley. "I am a little beside myself. My father and mentor (Lou Megyese) coached this team for years. To win the tournament means so much."

In the consolation game, a big block by Christ the King on a last second shot turned away St. Joseph, 23-22. Morgan Scott paced the Kings with 10 and Abbey O'Connor scored seven in defeat.

Hoosier basketball magazine tabs top 60 senior girls

SOUTH BEND — Saint Joseph's High School senior Alex Kubsch has been named one of the Top 60 girls' basketball players in Indiana.



ALEX KUBSCH

The Hoosier Basketball Magazine's Top 60 senior girls' basketball players for 2011-2012 was compiled by Garry H. Donna, publisher of *Hoosier Basketball Magazine*. These girls were selected from approximately 1,600 senior players statewide.

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Distance doesn't prevent practice of Corporal Works of Mercy

BY VINCE LABARBERA

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, with 80 percent of its 9.7 million residents living in poverty. Ninety-five percent are black with the median age at 21.4. The capital city of Port-au-Prince already was battling economic and social challenges when deadly Hurricane Katrina hit Haiti and the Gulf region in 2005. But after the massive earthquake struck just over two years ago on Jan. 12, 2010, the result was utter devastation.

It's estimated 300,000 were killed in the earthquake. Another 3 million people were affected through displacement, loss of family members and jobs. Deplorable living conditions, a surge in deadly diseases and countless abandoned and orphaned children have translated into an ongoing number of deaths.

In a hospital refrigerated storage unit in Tabarre, as well as in the city morgue in Port-au-Prince, decaying bodies are stacked several feet high, awaiting being hauled once a week on flatbed trucks where each person is wrapped in a burial pall, blessed and buried in a shallow, hand-dug grave in a garden overlooking the blue Caribbean Sea. Some 10,000 have been laid to rest. And the bodies keep coming.

The name of the burial area at Titanyen, outside Port-au-Prince,

translates to "Less Than Nothing." The site contains the bodies of those initially killed in the earthquake as well as 30,000 Haitians murdered during President François Duvalier's regime (1964-1971).

Even though they live nearly 2,000 miles away, for the last few months people in Chicago Heights, Ill., have joined with others from throughout the south suburban Chicago region in shipping everything from shoes, saxophones, supplies and even school buses to Haiti. It's a trail of goods, money and compassion to help a country in desperate need.

Sister Madonna Rougeah of the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration — whose Provincial House is in Mishawaka — is among the volunteers within the Archdiocese of Chicago. As vice president of mission integration at Franciscan St. James Hospital and Health Center in Chicago Heights, she not only assists the people of the social-economic depressed area known as East Heights, but also is trying to help the stricken Haitian people. Working recently with Elizabeth Wisnasky, affectionately called "Liz Wiz," who for 42 years has organized an annual collection of food packages, toys, bedding and clothing for the local poor at Thanksgiving and Christmas, Sister Madonna was overwhelmed when witnessing what Wisnasky also is doing to help "bury the dead" in Haiti.



VINCE LABARBERA

The edge of a pillow case decorated by a volunteer includes religious symbols and prayer petitions, and an attached holy card of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The make-shift pall will cover the body of a deceased child to be buried in a shallow grave outside Port-au-Prince Haiti.

"Liz is organizing burial-pall workshops, decorating them with Christian words, pictures and religious symbols for the many babies who are dying at the rate of about 80-100 per week," Sister Madonna said. Several volunteer workshops at Lutheran and Catholic churches throughout the region are creating burial palls for the hundreds of infants and children awaiting burial.

"From five to 25 children are placed in a single burial bag," said Sister Madonna. "Each child is covered with a burial pall, over his or her heart, created and decorated by volunteers in respect for the life of the little individual." Burial cloths

are made from Velcro diapers, girls' sundresses and pillow cases for the estimated 26,000 unclaimed dead. Volunteers sew or draw religious words and symbols on the make-shift palls to provide a prayerful petition on behalf of the deceased.

"If you are able to sit and sew, make a stencil, paint or draw something, or attach a Christmas card depicting Jesus or Mary, you can help," Sister Madonna stressed. "The need is there and it's spreading by word of mouth," she said. The people of Haiti, especially these little babies, capture your heart, she added.

Sister Agnes Marie Regan, a Sister of St. Francis of Perpetual

Adoration who is hostess of the TV Mass in South Bend for the diocese, is one of the volunteers.

"I got involved because I like to sew for relaxation and Sister Madonna asked if I'd like to help the women she knows in Chicago Heights who are working on this project," said Sister Agnes. She sewed several palls from little-girls' dresses, and recruited volunteers from St. Therese Parish, Fort Wayne, who designed about 35 pillow cases with Christian words and symbols using permanent felt-tip markers. Any group or individual in the diocese who would like to engage in this heartfelt project can contact Sister Agnes at (574) 259-5427.

Sister Duane Ankenbruck of the Mishawaka Provincialate, once met Father Rick Frechette, a Passionist priest in Haiti, who is spearheading the proper burial of each individual.

"I met him in Honduras," Sister Duane said. "He's a wonderful man and priest. He respects their souls."

A few people, some of them Haitian, reportedly have asked the priest why not just burn the bodies?

"If you think the dead are garbage, when your mother dies put her in the garbage at the curb!" Father Frechette is said to have replied.

Calling his burial crew, consisting of about 12 men, "The Grateful Dead," he added, "Nobody could do this alone. We take these poor souls from a horror to a world garden by the sea."

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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

MISC. HAPPENINGS

Children's carnival

Fort Wayne — St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel will have a children's carnival on Friday, April 13, from 6-8 p.m. in the Activity Center. There will be a raffle with wonderful items, games, moon walk, food and fun for all ages. Proceeds will help support the eighth-grade class trip.

Bookfair supports drama club

South Bend — Christ the King School's drama club will benefit from purchases made Saturday, April 14, at Barnes and Noble, 6501 N. Grape Rd. Use bookfair voucher available online at www.bn.com/bookfair. Proceeds will benefit the spring musical, "Willy Wonka Jr."

Series for Catholics Returning Home

Warsaw — Sacred Heart Parish will offer a series welcoming returning Catholics on Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8 p.m. in the parish office Living Well Center. The program begins April 10 and concludes May 1. For information call (574) 267-5842.

Spaghetti dinner planned

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

Care giver panel to speak

Fort Wayne — The Social Action Committee of St. Jude Parish will have a panel discussion for care givers Thursday, April 12, at 7 p.m. in the St. Jude Parish Hall. The theme is "The Theology, the Ethic, the Agony and the Art of Care Giving." Panelists will be Melissa Barille, regional director

of the Alzheimer's Association of Northern Indiana; Tom Weir, associate director of the Carriage House; Bonnie Davis, bereavement coordinator at Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home and individual caregivers. A question-and-answer period will follow the panel. Child care will be provided.

Little Flower Holy Hour

Fort Wayne — Father Andrew Budzinski will celebrate the Little Flower Holy Hour at St. Mother Theodore Guérin Chapel on Tuesday, April 10, at 7 p.m. to pray for priests and vocations. Father Budzinski is parochial vicar at St. Vincent de Paul, Fort Wayne.

Catholic Business Network meeting

Fort Wayne — The Catholic Business Network Group will meet Friday, April 13, beginning with Mass at 7 a.m. in the St. Mother Theodore Guérin Chapel. Mass will be followed in the Cathedral

Center by guest speaker Tom McGovern, host of the "Man Alive" program on Redeemer Radio. Dr. McGovern's talk is titled "Catholic Businessmen Influencing the Culture." Refreshments will be provided by Redeemer Radio.

Bus trip planned to Washington D.C.

Fort Wayne — The St. Vincent de Paul Society of Fort Wayne is sponsoring a bus trip to Washington, D.C., April 26 to May 1. Cost is \$525 per person for double occupancy. Contact Darrel Dodane at (260) 749-2740 for more information.

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.

REST IN PEACE

Avilla

Bertha J. Teders, 93, St. Mary of the Assumption

Bristol

Wayne E. Campbell, 92, St. Mary of the Annunciation

Charlotte Ann Stults, 83, St. Mary of the Annunciation

Culver

Juanita M. Rickman, 67, St. Mary of the Lake

Donaldson

Sister Cecile Wisman, PHJC, 95, Catherine Kaspar Chapel

Ege

Robert Koble, 74, Immaculate Conception

Fort Wayne

Wilma Jean Millhouse, 85, St. Therese

Joseph Michael Frantz, 69, Most Precious Blood

Hazel L. Smith, 99, St. Therese

Eugene F. Ashby, 78, St. Mary

Peter P. Piersant, 85, St. Charles Borromeo

Virginia M. Garner, 78, St. Vincent de Paul

Frank T. Leto Sr., 83, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

LaGrange

Helen J. Whited, 73, St. Joseph

Mishawaka

Edward Scott Hixenbaugh, 93, St. Joseph

Cyril Hugh Cole, 86, St. Bavo

South Bend

Patricia Ann McLaughlin, 81, St. Monica

Armando Bautista Jr., 46, St. Adalbert

Arthur Richard Leinen Sr., 87, Christ the King

Howard J. Muldoon, 89, St. Anthony de Padua

Clem M. Czyzewski, 93, St. Stanislaus

Walter W. Stachowicz, 87, Queen of Peace

Violet D. Bilinski, 96, St. Stanislaus

Antonio Chavez Jr., 52, St. Adalbert

Raymond H. Cukrowicz, 88, St. Stanislaus

Mary Ann Springer, 87, Holy Cross

Rita Van Namee, 79, Holy Family

Warsaw

Janice M. Lilly, 75, Sacred Heart

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 is \$15. Proceeds benefit orphanages in Haiti. Contact aobringer@sf.edu for information.

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.

Blood donations needed

The American Red Cross is in need of blood donations. To make an appointment call 1-800-GIVELIFE or 1-800-448-3543.

Spring craft show

South Bend — Little Flower Parish will have a spring craft show

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For details, itinerary, reservations & letter from YMT's chaplain with his phone number call 7 days a week:

The CrossWord

April 1, 8 and 15, 2012

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Colors and sounds abound in Living Stations of the Cross

BY KAREN CLIFFORD

SOUTH BEND — The vibrant colors of Jesus' purple robe and Roman guards' red capes, plus the sounds of a body falling to the ground and nails being driven into human flesh by a hammer, gave depth to the solemnity of Holy Family School's presentation of the Living Stations of the Cross on March 30.

Fifth-grade teacher Mary Dombos noted this is approximately the 15th year that the school has performed Living Stations of the Cross for the school, parents and parish in the Holy Family Church sanctuary.

"It is a very moving experience for the children," said Dombos. "It is a great way for the children to really understand the Passion of Christ and to reflect on His last hours on earth."

The fifth-grade production, under the direction of Dombos and fellow fifth-grade teacher Jeanne DuBois, was a combined effort between teachers, students and parents.

The entire fifth grade (49 students) participated in the Living Stations, said Dombos. "We have students reading the meditations for the stations, singing in the choir, helping with the props and acting in the Living Stations."

Sound effects, such as a hammer hitting a wooden surface, are used by students to reflect Jesus' agony of being nailed to the cross at the 11th station.

Through the artistic endeavor of Holy Family religion teacher Debbie Feece, a likeness of the face of Jesus was drawn on a sheet to show Veronica's wiping of His face at the sixth station.

Parental involvement has been crucial for the success of the yearly event. "Jesus' purple cloak, the Roman soldiers' clothes, and the women of Jerusalem's clothes have all been made by parents," said Dombos.

Parents were active in dress rehearsals and recorded the stations to be used during the school's religious classes. Extended family members, such as the uncle of a student who made the wooden cross that has been used in the Living Stations, add to the community effort of this event.

Daniel Compton, who portrayed Jesus in this year's Living Stations of the Cross, noted the excitement of participating in this school tradition: "It is a powerful story. Even though I already knew the story, I feel like I know it better now and it has made a good impression on me."

CHRISM MASS AT ST. MATTHEW CATHEDRAL



KEVIN HAGGENJOS

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades blesses the Oil of the Sick, the Oil of Catechumens and consecrates the Holy Chrism at the Chrism Mass held at St. Matthew Cathedral on April 2. At the Chrism Mass, the priests publicly renew their priestly promises as well.



KAREN CLIFFORD

At Holy Family School's presentation of Living Stations of the Cross, Jesus takes up the Cross at the second station.



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