



BISHOP JOHN MICHAEL D'ARCY 1932-2013

February 17, 2013

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Mourners pay tribute to beloved Bishop D'Arcy



JOE ROMIE

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrates the Funeral Mass of Bishop John M. D'Arcy at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne on Feb. 8.

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne was overflowing with family, friends, dignitaries, Catholics and non-Catholics alike from across the area mourning the death of the man who had shepherded them in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend for nearly 25 years as bishop. The noon Funeral Mass for Bishop John M. D'Arcy on Feb. 8 was the culmination of the three-day funeral service event for the beloved bishop that began in South Bend on Wednesday, Feb. 6, at St. Matthew Cathedral.

Bishop D'Arcy, who was diagnosed with a rare form of lung/brain cancer over the Christmas holiday in his hometown of Brighton, Mass., at the age of 80, died Feb. 3, the 56th anniversary of his first Mass.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades was the celebrant of the Funeral Mass. Other bishops from across the country and state who concelebrated were Archbishop Joseph Tobin of Indianapolis, Archbishop Emeritus Alfred Hughes of New Orleans and Bishop Daniel Jenky of Peoria, Ill, a former auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

As the congregation raised their voices in unison for the entrance hymn "For All the Saints" the magnificent procession of gold and white robed deacons, priests and bishops, along with many seminarians, some who were accepted by Bishop D'Arcy for seminary, proceeded to the sanctuary for the opening of Mass. Bishop Rhoades began by

More photos available at www.diocesefwsb.org



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CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Pope Benedict XVI greets the faithful after delivering a talk at the conclusion of a Mass for the Knights of Malta in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Feb. 9. The pope announced Feb. 11 that he will resign at the end of the month. The 85-year-old pontiff said he no longer has the energy to exercise his ministry over the universal Church.

Pope Benedict XVI to resign

BY CAROL GLATZ AND CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Saying he no longer has the strength to exercise ministry over the universal Church, Pope Benedict XVI announced Feb. 11 that he would be resigning at the end of the month after an eight-year pontificate.

"After having repeatedly examined my conscience before God, I have come to the certainty that my strengths, due to an advanced age, are no longer suited to an adequate exercise of the Petrine ministry," the pope told cardinals gathered for an ordinary public consistory to approve the canonization of new saints.

Pope Benedict, who was elected in April 2005, will be the first pope to resign in more than 600 years.

He told the cardinals, "In today's world, subject to so many rapid changes and shaken by questions of deep relevance for the life of faith, in order to govern the bark of St. Peter and proclaim the Gospel, both strength of mind and body are necessary, strength which in the last few months, has deteriorated in me to the extent that I have had to recognize my incapacity to adequately fulfill the ministry entrusted to me."

Jesuit Father Lombardi, Vatican

spokesman, told journalists at a briefing that the pope's decision was not prompted by any medical illness, but was due to a natural "decline of strength" associated with old age.

Even though the announcement had caught almost everybody by surprise, it was not a snap decision, but rather one that "had matured over the past few months," Father Lombardi said.

The pope made his announcement in Latin from a pre-written text during a morning ordinary public consistory where a large number of cardinals were present.

When he delivered his announcement, the pope seemed very "composed, concentrated" and read "in a solemn manner" in keeping with the importance of what he was saying, Father Lombardi said.

Fulfilling the canonical requirement, Pope Benedict solemnly declared to the cardinals, "Well aware of the seriousness of this act, with full freedom I declare that I renounce the ministry of Bishop of Rome, Successor of St. Peter, entrusted to me by the cardinals on 19 April 2005, in such a way, that as from 28 February 2013, at 20:00

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P.O. Box 11169
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PUBLISHER: Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

EDITOR: Tim Johnson

NEWS EDITOR and STAFF WRITER: Kay Cozad

Editorial Department

PAGE DESIGNER: Francie Hogan

FREELANCE WRITERS: Michelle Castleman,
Karen Clifford, Bonnie Elbersson, Denise
Fedorow, Diane Freeby, May Lee
Johnson, Sister Margie Lavonis, CSC,
Jodi Magallanes, Joe Kozinski, Vince
LaBarbera and Deb Wagner

Business Department

BUSINESS MANAGER: Sean McBride

AD GRAPHICS DIRECTOR: Mark Weber

BOOKKEEPING/CIRCULATION: Kathy Voirol
kvoirol@diocesefwsb.org

Advertising Sales

Tess Steffen (Fort Wayne area)

(260) 456-2824

Jeanette Simon (South Bend area)

(574) 234-0687

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kvoirol@diocesefwsb.org.

MAIN OFFICE: 915 S. Clinton St., Fort
Wayne, IN 46802. Telephone (260)
456-2824. Fax: (260) 744-1473.

BUREAU OFFICE: 1328 Dragoon Trail,
Mishawaka, IN 46544. Telephone (574)
234-0687. Fax (574) 830-1042.

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'A man of God, a holy bishop'



IN TRUTH
AND
CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

*(Remarks of Bishop Rhoades at Funeral
Mass of Bishop John M. D'Arcy)*

I'm going to follow my beloved prede-
cessor's example. At this point after
Communion, Bishop D'Arcy would
often get up to speak and say "you're now
getting two homilies for the price of one!"

This really isn't a second homily.
Monsignor Heintz already preached a beau-
tiful homily. Thank you, Monsignor Mike!

On behalf of the clergy, religious, and
lay faithful of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-
South Bend, I extend sincere sympathy,
our love and prayers, to Bishop D'Arcy's
sisters, Sister Anne and Joan, Joan's hus-
band Hugh and their children Darcy, John,
and Patrick, and Bishop D'Arcy's niece
Jacinta. Sister Anne and Joan, 28 years ago
your brother left home to follow the Lord's
call to serve as a shepherd here in Indiana.
We are so very thankful for this gift from
the Lord and for the loving sacrifice this
required of your family and of Bishop
D'Arcy's many friends in Boston. We pray
that your brother John is now reunited with
your beloved parents and sister Mary in the
communion of saints in heaven.

I wish to extend deep gratitude to the
communities of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-
South Bend for the tremendous outpour-
ing of love, support, and prayers during
these days. I thank the bishops who are
here today: your presence brings us much
consolation. I thank all the priests who are
concelebrating this Mass, many ordained by
Bishop D'Arcy, the many religious sisters
and brothers, our deacons and seminarians,
and all our wonderful lay people here to
pray for our beloved Bishop
Emeritus.

I wish to extend particu-
lar gratitude to Maureen
Schott, Bishop D'Arcy's
administrative assistant,
who took such beautiful
care of Bishop D'Arcy
these final weeks of his
life and served him and
our diocese with such great
devotion for many years. And to Deacon
Jim Fitzpatrick, who faithfully served for
many years as Bishop D'Arcy's liturgical
master of ceremonies.

I wish to share with you now a mes-
sage I received this week from the Vatican
Secretary of State, Cardinal Tarcisio
Bertone:

*The Holy Father was saddened to learn
of the death of the Most Reverend John M.
D'Arcy, Bishop Emeritus of Fort Wayne-
South Bend, and he sends prayerful con-
dolences to all the clergy, religious and
lay faithful of the Diocese. He joins those
gathered for the solemn funeral rite in
commending Bishop D'Arcy's soul to our
Heavenly Father's merciful love. Mindful of
the deceased's long and devoted ministry as
priest and bishop, His Holiness prays that
the bishop's memory will inspire the com-
munity he served to respond ever more gen-
erously to the call to proclaim the Gospel*



JOE ROMIE

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades shares words of condolences at the end of the Funeral Mass of Bishop John M. D'Arcy at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Friday, Feb. 8.

*through lives of faithful discipleship. As a
pledge of spiritual strength and comfort, the
Holy Father imparts his Apostolic Blessing
to all who mourn in the hope of resurrec-
tion to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.*

We will all miss Bishop D'Arcy.
He touched all of us in manifold ways.
Personally, I will deeply miss Bishop
D'Arcy's friendship, his wise counsel, and
his generous help in ministering through-
out our diocese during his retirement. When I
first came to Fort Wayne three years ago,
Bishop D'Arcy shared many things with
me. At one point, he shared with me his
avid support for the Boston Red Sox. I will
never forget the look on his face when I
told him rather sheepishly
that I was a New York
Yankees fan. I thought:
there goes our relation-
ship! But after the initial
shock that his successor
was a Yankees fan, he
welcomed me with the
warmest kindness.

In his homily,
Monsignor Heintz men-
tioned Bishop D'Arcy's fondness for writ-
ing memos. I received many the past three
years! Bishop D'Arcy kindly shared with
me his insights on various diocesan mat-
ters, on parishes, schools, etc. He was eager
to help me to get to know the diocese. A
week before he died, Bishop D'Arcy sent
me a three-page memo on Bishop Luers
High School since he knew I was visiting
there the next day. I couldn't believe it, a
week before he died Bishop D'Arcy was
still writing memos! But it showed that his
loving concern for the flock that had been
entrusted to his pastoral care continued until
the end.

When a priest is ordained a bishop, he
receives three symbols of his episcopal
office after his head is anointed with the
holy chrism: a ring, a miter, and a crosier.

Msgr. Heintz spoke about the bishop's
ring. The ordaining bishop places the ring
on the newly ordained bishop's ring fin-

ger of the right hand and says: "Receive
this ring, the seal of fidelity: adorned with
undefiled faith, preserve unblemished the
bride of God, the holy Church." Bishop
D'Arcy's fidelity to his spouse, the Church,
was unflinching. He loved the people of this
diocese with all his heart and poured out
his life in self-giving service of his spouse,
in imitation of Jesus, the Bridegroom who
gave his life for His Bride, the Church.
During these past several weeks, Bishop
D'Arcy told me often he was offering his
prayers and sufferings for the people of our
diocese.

At an episcopal ordination, the ordain-
ing bishop gives the crosier to the newly
ordained bishop and says: "Receive the
crosier, the sign of your pastoral office: and
keep watch over the whole flock in which
the Holy Spirit has placed you as Bishop to
govern the Church of God." With courage
and love, Bishop D'Arcy kept watch as a
good shepherd over this flock in the diocese
of Fort Wayne-South Bend. He sought the
glory of God and the salvation of souls. He
was unafraid to teach the saving truth of the
Gospel. He made decisions prayerfully, not
seeking personal popularity, but seeking to
do the will of God.

The ordaining bishop also places the
miter on the head of the new ordained
bishop, saying: "Receive the miter, and may
the splendor of holiness shine forth in you,
so that when the chief shepherd appears you
may deserve to receive from him an unfad-
ing crown of glory." Bishop D'Arcy was
truly "a man of God," a holy bishop. May
he now receive from the Lord, not another
miter, but an unfading crown of glory
among the saints in heaven!

I wish to conclude with words that
Bishop D'Arcy would often say at the end
of a funeral homily: "Safe home, John, safe
home."

RESIGN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

hours, the See of Rome, the See of St. Peter, will be vacant and a conclave to elect the new supreme pontiff will have to be convoked by those whose competence it is."

It is up to the dean of the College of Cardinals, Cardinal Angelo Sodano, to make preparations for a conclave to elect a new pope.

Father Lombardi said after the pope steps down, he will move to the papal villa in Castel Gandolfo outside of Rome. He will stay there until the renovation is completed of a cloister, set up by Blessed John Paul II, which is located inside the Vatican Gardens, he said.

The pope will then live in the cloister, called the Mater Ecclesia monastery, and dedicate his time to prayer and reflection, the Vatican spokesman said.

It was likely the pope would keep writing, he added, since the pope has mentioned many times that he has wanted to spend more time dedicated to study and prayer.

When asked if there would be any confusion over leadership or a schism were a possibility, Father Lombardi said he believes the pope "had no fear of this" happening because he clearly demonstrated his desire to step down and no longer be pope or retain any papal authority.

"I think in no way is there any risk of confusion or division" in this respect, he said.

The pope, who is past the age allowed a cardinal to vote for a new pope, will obviously not be part of the conclave that will convene to elect his successor, he added.

He is not likely to play any role in the "interregnum" or time between popes because "there is no role for a predecessor pope" during this period, the priest said.

The Jesuit priest said a "sede vacante" usually lasts less than a month, and that it was more than likely a new pope would be elected in time to lead the full schedule of Holy Week and Easter liturgies.

Cardinal Sodano, who was one of the many cardinals present during the pope's announcement, addressed the pope, telling him the news left them with "a sense of loss, almost completely incredulous."

However, it was obvious that his decision was based on a "great affection" for the well-being of the Church, the cardinal said.

Father Lombardi said being a pope today is "much more fast-moving, more demanding" than it was in the past with an almost nonstop full schedule of public and private events and liturgical celebrations.

When asked why the pope chose Feb. 11, the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, as the day to announce his stepping down, Father Lombardi said most likely the date was a coincidence, and that the pope instead chose an event — the ordinary public consistory — where a large number of cardinals would be present.

"The pope chose this significant occasion with the gathered car-

Pope Benedict XVI's resignation announcement

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Here is the Vatican's English translation of Pope Benedict XVI's resignation remarks, delivered in Latin, during an ordinary public consistory to approve the canonization of new saints Feb. 11.

Dear brothers,

I have convoked you to this consistory, not only for the three canonizations, but also to communicate to you a decision of great importance for the life of the Church. After having repeatedly examined my conscience before God, I have come to the certainty that my strengths, due to an advanced age, are no longer suited to an adequate exercise of the Petrine ministry. I am well aware that this ministry, due to its essential spiritual nature, must be carried out not only with words and deeds, but no less with prayer and suffering. However, in today's world, subject to so many rapid changes and shaken by questions of deep relevance for the life of faith, in order to govern the bark of Saint Peter and proclaim the Gospel, both strength of mind and body are necessary, strength which in the last few months, has deteriorated in me to the extent that I have had to recognize my incapacity to adequately fulfill the ministry entrusted to me. For this reason, and well aware of the seriousness of this act, with full freedom I declare that I renounce the ministry of bishop of Rome, successor of Saint Peter, entrusted to me by the cardinals on 19 April 2005, in such a way, that as from 28 February 2013, at 20:00 hours, the See of Rome, the See of Saint Peter, will be vacant and a conclave to elect the new supreme pontiff will have to be convoked by those whose competence it is.

Dear brothers, I thank you most sincerely for all the love and work with which you have supported me in my ministry and I ask pardon for all my defects. And now, let us entrust the holy Church to the care of our supreme pastor, Our Lord Jesus Christ, and implore his holy Mother Mary, so that she may assist the cardinal fathers with her maternal solicitude, in electing a new supreme pontiff. With regard to myself, I wish to also devotedly serve the holy Church of God in the future through a life dedicated to prayer.

From the Vatican,
Feb. 11, 2013
Pope Benedict XVI

dinals" as the best moment to announce his plans, the Vatican spokesman said.

When asked whether the pope had any medical illnesses or bouts of depression that may have prompted his resignation, Father Lombardi said the pope was "absolutely not" depressed and possessed a remarkable "spiritual serenity" and composure despite the many difficult moments he has had to face as pope.

The Vatican spokesman also said he was not aware of any medical illness that would have caused the pope to step down, rather it was due to a "normal" deterioration of physical and mental strength that comes with old age.

The pope has increasingly had trouble walking in the past year, often using a cane and always being assisted getting up and down steps. However, the Vatican has never released medical information that would make it appear the pope suffers from anything other than joint pain connected to his age.

The option of a pope to resign is explicitly written into the Code of Canon Law. It says a pope may step down, but stipulates that the decision must be made freely and "duly manifested." No one needs to formally accept a pope's resignation for it to be valid.

The last pope to resign was Pope Gregory XII in 1415.

Pope Benedict had long said it would be appropriate for a pope to resign for the good of the Church if the pontiff felt he were unable to physically bear the burden of the papacy.

In his book-length interview, "The Light of the World," with German journalist Peter Seewald,

the pope said, "If a pope clearly realizes that he is no longer physically, psychologically and spiritually capable of handling the duties of his office, then he has a right and, under some circumstances, also an obligation to resign."

The pope told the author that it was important, however, that the pope "must not run away" and "must stand fast and endure" any difficult situations that are facing the Church. For that reason, he was not thinking of resigning in 2010 — the year the interviews were conducted.

"One can resign at a peaceful moment or when one simply cannot go on," the pope had said.

Before ending his remarks during the consistory, Pope Benedict told the cardinals: "I thank you most sincerely for all the love and work with which you have supported me in my ministry and I ask pardon for all my defects. And now, let us entrust the holy Church to the care of our supreme pastor, our Lord Jesus Christ, and implore his holy Mother Mary, so that she may assist the cardinal fathers with her maternal solicitude, in electing a new supreme pontiff."

The pope said, "I wish to also devotedly serve the holy Church of God in the future through a life dedicated to prayer."

Father Lombardi said he felt "great admiration" for the pope's "great courage" and "freedom of spirit" in making this decision. The spokesman said it shows the pope is not only fully aware of the great responsibilities involved in leading the universal Church, but his hopes that "the ministry of the Church be carried out the best way" possible.

STATEMENT OF BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES



On the announcement of the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI

Feb. 11, 2013

Early this morning, we heard the news that our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, will resign from his duties as Pope on February 28th. In prayer, our Holy Father discerned that due to his "advanced age" and "diminished strength," he has freely decided to resign and to serve the Church in the future "through a life dedicated to prayer."

The Church and the world have been greatly blessed by the extraordinary ministry and beautiful teachings of Pope Benedict these past nearly eight years. In His providential care, the Lord blessed us with a great shepherd. Amid the sadness of today's news, I am also filled with gratitude for the faithful and fruitful ministry of our beloved Holy Father. I invite all to pray for Pope Benedict, that the Lord will bless him during these days and bestow upon him His abundant grace and peace.

It was just one year ago, on February 9, 2012, that Bishop D'Arcy, I, and the other bishops of Indiana met with Pope Benedict during our ad limina visit to Rome. I recall with joy and gratitude that meeting and the warmth and kindness of our Holy Father. His words to us were words of brotherly love. I was moved by the Pope's evident wisdom and holiness.

I invite all the faithful also to pray for the Cardinals as they prepare in the coming weeks to meet in Conclave for the election of a new Successor to the Apostle Peter. I repeat the words of our Holy Father in today's announcement: "let us entrust the Holy Church to the care of Our Supreme Pastor, Our Lord Jesus Christ, and implore his holy Mother Mary, so that she may assist the Cardinal Fathers with her maternal solicitude, in electing a new Supreme Pontiff."

The holy season of Lent begins this Wednesday, Ash Wednesday. Let us especially remember the above intentions in our prayers during the Lenten season.

Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades
Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend

+ Kevin C. Rhoades



PUBLIC SCHEDULE OF BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

- Sunday, Feb. 17, 2 p.m. — Rite of Election, Saint Matthew Cathedral, South Bend
- Tuesday, Feb. 19, 10:30 a.m. — Meeting of Presbyteral Council, Sacred Heart Rectory, Warsaw
- Tuesday, Feb. 19, 5:05 p.m. — Mass and Dinner at Moreau Seminary, University of Notre Dame
- Wednesday, Feb. 20, noon — Luncheon Meeting with Priests of South Bend, St. Hedwig, South Bend
- Thursday, Feb. 21, 10 a.m. — Meeting of Diocesan Finance Council, Holiday Inn, Warsaw
- Friday, Feb. 22, 9 a.m. — Mass and Pastoral Visit, Marian High School, Mishawaka
- Friday, Feb. 22, 7 p.m. — Enshrinement of Relic of Saint Gianna Beretta Molla, Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center, Mishawaka
- Saturday, Feb. 23, 11:15 a.m. — Mass at Lady's Chapel, Basilica of Sacred Heart, University of Notre Dame

D'ARCY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

welcoming all in attendance and offering his gratitude for the many priests and bishops, and dignitaries including U.S. Sen. Joe Donnelly, several state senators, Fort Wayne Mayor Tom Henry, university presidents including Holy Cross Father John Jenkins, president of the University of Notre Dame, school principals, Our Sunday Visitor board members and ecumenical church leaders who came to celebrate the life of Bishop D'Arcy.

As the Mass commenced on that overcast Friday, the sun came out and blazed a beam on the altar of the cathedral just as Bishop Rhoades incensed it, as if the heavens were opening to the celebration.

Msgr. Michael Heintz, rector of St. Matthew Cathedral, was the homilist for the Funeral Mass.

He spoke about how Bishop D'Arcy celebrated his first Mass at Our Lady of the Presentation Church in Brighton, Mass., "the church where he had been brought by his immigrant parents for Baptism, where he was plunged into the mystery of Christ's dying and rising, a mystery that every celebration of the Eucharist makes present and tangible," Msgr. Heintz said.

"This central act of his daily life as a priest was to format his every duty and pastoral task. Whether at St Mary, Star of the Sea in Beverly, his first assignment, or as a spiritual director at St John's Seminary in Brighton, as auxiliary and regional bishop in Lowell and, beginning in 1985, as bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, at the center of his priestly life was the Mass, that unparalleled encounter with Christ in Word and Sacrament, the basic contours of which were first manifest to Cleopas and his unnamed companion on the road to Emmaus: a dialogue, an opening up the Scriptures, and the breaking of the bread. For two millennia, the triad of dialogue, Word and Eucharist has comprised the pattern of Catholic worship."

Msgr. Heintz recalled the intimate moments Bishop D'Arcy found to be in prayer with God. "Prayer, daily, intimate conversation and communion with the Lord Jesus, the heart of the life of any believer, was central to Bishop's preaching, his work as a spiritual director, and his devotion to spiritual development and parish mission work. How many times, at the end of a long day, would he come over from his office to this beautiful cathedral he restored, to spend some quiet moments in prayer, alone, in silence, finding here, in the presence of the One he knew loved him, both solace and strength? At the core of his priestly heart was the intimate dialogue that is the life of prayer."

He shared a personal encounter with Bishop D'Arcy in his final hours. "On Friday, when I was privileged to celebrate Mass with him at his home, while in his bed, he clutched a crucifix, and numerous times brought it to his lips, renewing his faith, expressing the intimacy



JERRY KESSENS



JOE ROMIE

Bishop John M. D'Arcy's family is shown at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

he shared with his Crucified Lord. I could only think of St. Paul's words to the Galatians, now preached by Bishop D'Arcy in a wordless act of love and devotion: 'I have been crucified with Christ; the life I now live is no longer my own; Christ lives in me.' That Word became flesh before my eyes, as I witnessed the profound love with which Bishop was bearing his own pain and suffering, and offering it, or more correctly, offering himself, for all of us: for the bishop, priests and people he loved so deeply, so steadfastly."

He said, "But exercising to the end the 'munus propheticum' entrusted to the successors of the Apostles, even from his sickbed, Bishop was teaching us, like Blessed John Paul II, the meaning of the Mass, the meaning of our Baptism; he was teaching us how to die. A priest of Jesus Christ to the end, he offered himself back to God and he died with the same love and generosity with which he exercised his ministry."

After 28 years of serving the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend as a priest himself, Msgr. Heintz had observed, "two fundamental traits of his character ... First, he had a profound understanding of and reverence for the office of bishop — rooted in his deep and obvious love for the priesthood — as a sacred, indeed spousal, trust. And second, he was simultaneously and almost singularly devoid of pretense about or ambition for that office."

He added with a chuckle, "He

loved muffins. Maureen would call and say, 'Bishop would like to see you; he will stop by this morning at such and such a time; and he would love a cup of coffee and a muffin.' And I would hang up and think to myself, 'Well sure, Bishop, I'll run right out back and pluck a couple fresh ones off the muffin tree.'"

Msgr. Heintz spoke of how bishop was "genuinely interested in every person he met; he had an incredible memory for detail and a command of names. He began every diocesan meeting with the same three words: 'Sorry I'm late.' And he was always the last to leave any gathering or reception; the last car to wheel out of the parking lot after any event was a black Chrysler, in whose trunk could be found, at any particular moment, a collection of miters and a crozier, CDs of Irish music, the Confirmation Ritual, a baseball glove, several baseball hats, a volume or two of the breviary, tennis shoes and a hockey stick (his trunk was the perfect blend of EWTN and ESPN)."

Bishop D'Arcy was known to be a good conversationalist and was fond of sending memos. Msgr. Heintz recalled in his homily, "During his July vacation each summer, I noticed we would receive missives from him even while we knew he was on the back porch in Brighton; so one day I called Maureen and asked if these were time-release letters. The consummate professional and completely loyal, she declined comment."

Football captains from Bishop Luers and Bishop Dwenger high schools' football teams were pallbearers for Bishop John M. D'Arcy at the Fort Wayne visitation on Feb. 7.

On the lighter side on life Msgr. Heintz emphasized that the good bishop had "not only a deep Irish faith, but also a quick Irish wit. At one gathering, a rather enthusiastic speaker proclaimed, 'I've never met a priest I didn't like,' and Bishop leaned over and whispered, 'He hasn't met 'em all yet.' He had boundless pastoral energy driven by truly admirable pastoral charity. He was a priest's priest. In his retirement he helped regularly with Mass and Confessions as a chaplain at Bishop Luers High School, and also in his 'home parish,' St. John the Baptist, just down the street from his house. Even when he disagreed with someone ... he always loved the person he disagreed with."

He added, "As each of us here has no doubt witnessed, he regularly and repeatedly placed the good of the souls entrusted to his care before his own comfort, desires or personal interest, and in that he has truly been a model, not only for his flock, but perhaps especially for us who are priests."

Bishop D'Arcy, said Msgr. Heintz, lived a spousal love for his diocese with "every fiber of his being." And "as much as he dearly loved Brighton, his dear sisters, Anne and Joan, his beloved nephews and his niece, his back porch, and his Red Sox, this was now his home. He knew he was dying, and he wanted to come home, to die in the arms of his spouse, here in Fort Wayne, with and among the people for whom he had laid down his life," he said.

Concluding his homily Msgr. Heintz said reverently, "Michael D'Arcy began his priestly life with a first Mass, celebrated on Feb. 3, 1957. And on Feb. 3, 2013, his earthly life came to an end, when he entered fully into the death of Christ, an act of faith, hope and love he had anticipated and experienced countless times before sacramentally at the altar, a life and a priesthood now, as it were, come full circle."

"It is our prayer that John Michael D'Arcy, a priest forever and a successor of the apostles, is now reunited with his parents and his sister in the company of the angels and saints at that Eternal Eucharist of the Lamb where he sees his Lord, no more veiled in sacrament, but face to face. *Requiescat in pace.*"

At the close of the Funeral Mass Bishop Rhoades performed

the Incensation of the Body as the congregation sang the Song of Farewell, "Come to His Aid," their voices rising to the heavens with the scented cloud of incense. Following the final commendation Bishop Rhoades extended sympathy to Bishop D'Arcy family saying, "I extend sincere sympathy, our love and prayers, to Bishop D'Arcy's sisters, Sister Anne and Joan, Joan's husband Hugh and their children Darcy, John and Patrick, and Bishop D'Arcy's niece Jacinta." The bishop also expressed gratitude for the outpouring of love and prayers for Bishop D'Arcy and for the great care he received from Maureen Schott, Bishop D'Arcy's administrative assistant, in his final days. During his remarks the bishop read a message from the Vatican Secretary of State, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, which shared the condolences of Pope Benedict XVI at the death of Bishop D'Arcy. Repeating the words heard spoken by Bishop D'Arcy at many past funeral Masses celebrated in the diocese, Bishop Rhoades concluded saying, "Safe home, John, Safe home." Following a spontaneous burst of applause, the traditional "Salve Regina" hymn was sung in Bishop D'Arcy's final send off.

A reception was open to the public at the Grand Wayne following the Funeral Mass. Bishop D'Arcy's sister, Sister Anne D'Arcy, remarked that Msgr. Heintz "captured him (Bishop D'Arcy) perfectly" in his homily. Her long-time friend from Boston Peg Brett McCobb simply said of the solemn Mass, "It can never be repeated."

Lee Will, parishioner of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Fort Wayne agreed saying, "The service was a wonderful send off." He appreciated Bishop D'Arcy's leadership in the diocese and added, "I liked him a lot and knew he loved the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. We talked about the trips he must have made between here and South Bend!"

Micki Evans of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception said of the bishop who had become her spiritual director, "He was a saint."

Our Lady of Victory Noll Sister Mary Jo Nelson had a great respect for Bishop D'Arcy's intense care of his diocese and ability to remember names and faces. She said, "I think he was very attentive to my community, especially the older sisters. I was struck by the fact that he remembered names and faces. ... I found him to be very open to the issues of the Church. He was a great listener. Even if he didn't agree he still listened and had respect for the person who had a different viewpoint. He wanted people to share what they were really thinking. That gift is so needed in the Church and he gave it."

Shirley Vorndran, who was Bishop D'Arcy's secretary for 15 years, told *Today's Catholic*, "What I found in Bishop D'Arcy was whatever he did, his sole motive was for the souls of the diocese. He never made a decision that wasn't for the good of the souls of the diocese."

The Rite of Committal was conducted privately with the family in the crypt of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

South Bend honors Bishop D'Arcy

BY DIANE FREEBY

SOUTH BEND — Hundreds filled the pews at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend Wednesday night to pray for the man who led the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend for nearly 25 years, Bishop John M. D'Arcy.

The day began with reception of the body and Morning Prayer at 10 a.m. Lisa Everett, co-director of the Office of Family Life and long-time friend of Bishop D'Arcy, held back tears as she read from Sacred Scripture.

Msgr. William Schooler, pastor of St. Pius X Parish, Granger, was the homilist at Morning Prayer.

Msgr. Schooler spoke of St. Paul's struggles while imprisoned and awaiting execution. In a letter to Timothy, St. Paul writes that he "is being poured out like a libation, much as the finest wine would be wasted and poured over ancient sacrifices in the Temple." Still Paul was assured the Lord was with him.

"Like St. Paul, Bishop D'Arcy was not one to sit around," noted Msgr. Schooler. "For almost 25 years, he poured himself out in the loving service of our diocese."

"It is not much of a secret that he found retirement difficult, feeling that he was being poured out like a libation. He felt the same about his short illness," Msgr. Schooler said.

He added, "As we spend this week remembering him and entrusting him to the Lord's eternal life, we give thanks to God for the ways and time in which he truly poured out himself out of love for us. He knew that the Lord was with him through those years. He knew that the Lord was with him in his final illness. We pray for him, asking the Father to recognize the ways in which he poured himself out, especially in union with the Lord's perfect Sacrifice."

A daylong visitation followed with a steady stream of people filing past the casket and offering their prayers. A rosary was prayed at 5 p.m., followed by the Mass of Transferral.

As the Cathedral Choir sang "Lift High the Cross," a seemingly endless line of deacons, priests and fellow bishops processed toward the altar. Among them was Father Edward O'Brien, dear friend and a seminary classmate of Bishop D'Arcy.

"Bishop John and I have been friends for 60 years," said Father O'Brien as he began a homily that was laced with both heartfelt sentiment and humor. "We were waiters at the Last Supper!"

Father O'Brien wasted no time extolling the courage and moral certitude Bishop D'Arcy embodied from the earliest days of his priesthood and as an auxiliary bishop in Boston.

"When the scandals broke in Boston," recalled Father O'Brien, "he was almost a single voice



DIANE FREEBY

Priests from across the diocese gather around the altar at St. Matthew Cathedral during the Mass of Transferral, celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades on Feb. 6.

crying in the wilderness, writing very honest direct letters to the cardinal that under no circumstances should these men be reassigned. ... When these letters resurfaced under the Freedom of Information Act, Bishop D'Arcy emerged as a hero across the country for taking a courageous stand almost alone."

Father O'Brien said Bishop D'Arcy became "a hero to the media" because he was so open and honest, often calling press conferences before anybody else called him.

Remembering him as a "marvelous bishop," Father O'Brien recalled the 10 years Bishop D'Arcy spent as a parish priest and how well that prepared him to lead a diocese.

"He experienced Baptisms, first Communion, weddings, troubled kids and families in crisis," said Father O'Brien. "What a pastoral sense he had. What an ability to reach out to the hurts and needs of families, for he had been there."

Both men found it difficult to slow down and face the prospect of retiring. With a twinkle in his eye, Father O'Brien revealed what he called a little-known fact about Bishop D'Arcy.

"I don't know if he would want me to share this with you," teased Father O'Brien, nodding toward the casket standing before the altar, "... but there's not a blessed thing he can do about it!" As the laughter died down, Father O'Brien went on to explain how many of those who knew Bishop D'Arcy in his younger years believed he was destined for even higher ranking within the Church.

"He had enormous rapport with his priests," continued Father O'Brien, "The diocese was functioning beautifully, his reputation went across the nation. And so, because he loved it here,



Father Ed O'Brien, a longtime Boston priest-friend of Bishop John M. D'Arcy, provides the homily at the Mass of Transferral at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend on Feb. 6.

Rhoades, and to all the priests, deacons and religious for their friendship to Bishop D'Arcy over the years. He had special words for the bishop's long-time secretary, Maureen Schott.

"I know this will embarrass her, but what can she do ... I fly home to Connecticut tomorrow!" quipped Father O'Brien.

He continued, "I have never seen the dedication, the love, the commitment to anybody, let alone a bishop, that I saw in the heart and mind of Maureen Schott ... constantly helping, constantly serving, far beyond a secretary to a caregiver, whose ministry was to make the last days of this remarkable bishop as filled with joy and peace and prayer and love as possible. God love you, Maureen. May any of us have half the dedication you did."

Following Mass, Bishop Rhoades addressed the people, thanking them on behalf of Bishop D'Arcy's family. He said he would miss Bishop D'Arcy's friendship, wise counsel and his generous help in ministering throughout the diocese.

"Bishop D'Arcy's love to his spouse, the Church, was unfailing," said Bishop Rhoades. "He loved the people of our diocese with all his heart and poured out his life in self-giving service to the Church, his spouse, in imitation of Jesus, the bridegroom who gave His life for His bride, the Church."

Stephen Jagla, a teacher at Marian High School in Mishawaka, is one of many

who remember being confirmed by Bishop D'Arcy and how he worked the Red Sox into his homilies.

"Even at that age I could tell this was a man of prayer and of gentleness, of great love for his people, because of his joyful, calm spiritual demeanor," said Jagla.

Seminarian Tom Scheibelhut is in his first pastoral year at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Elkhart. He credits Bishop D'Arcy for helping him realize his vocation.

"He was an amazing shepherd," said Scheibelhut, recalling experiences during his more formative years while attending Masses celebrated by Bishop D'Arcy. "I was very struck by his love for the people and for us, and for his love for the Priesthood, and especially his love for Our Lord in the Eucharist. He really impacted me in high school and drew me to Our Lord in the Eucharist and that, I think, was a great seed for my vocation, God willing, as a priest one day."

Jagla added, "He commanded respect, but was so approachable. That's truly a gift and not many people have that ability."

Father Daryl Rybicki, pastor of Corpus Christi Parish in South Bend, worked for Bishop D'Arcy for nearly a quarter of a century and said there are a flood of thoughts and emotions. He agreed people felt comfortable talking to Bishop D'Arcy, a father figure to many and in later years, a grandfather figure. Yet he never lost sight of his mission in life.

"More than anything else, he was a priest," said Rybicki. "He took that vocation seriously. He never felt worthy of the call, but since it was his he was going to do it to the best of his ability and be a true shepherd and a true pastor. I think everything boils down to that."

Joanne Verhiley, whose husband worked for Bishop D'Arcy for 10 years, appreciated the kindness he showed her family.

"What a beautiful man," she smiled, "very holy, a great example for my children. He was a generous man who always had time for people."

Father O'Brien admitted it was always hard for him to call his friend "Bishop John."

"I never called him that," he smiled. "We called each other a lot of things! But to me it was always 'D'Arcy.'"

Recalling the Mass he recently concelebrated with Bishop D'Arcy in his home, when both men knew it would be their last earthly meeting, Father O'Brien closed with the familiar Irish Blessing he gave his friend that day:

"May the road rise up to meet you, the sun shine warm upon your face, the wind be always at your back, the rain fall softly on your fields, and dear D'Arcy, until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand."

Farewell to Bishop John M. D'Arcy

BY VINCE LABARBERA AND KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — The second day of the three-day funeral service for Bishop John M. D'Arcy began in Fort Wayne on Feb. 7 with the reception of the body and Morning Prayer from the Office of the Dead at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Family, friends, diocesan employees and others gathered in reverence during the Rite of Reception as Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades blessed the oaken casket with holy water at the entrance of the cathedral. Auxiliary Bishop Peter Uglietto from the Archdiocese of Boston was in attendance.

The casket was solemnly escorted to the front of the cathedral by captains of the Bishop Luers and Bishop Dwenger high schools' football teams as the Rite of Reception continued.

The rich traditional service was replete with hymns of homecoming and the congregational turn taking recitation of Psalms and the Cantic: The Song of Hezekiah. Father Tom Shoemaker, pastor of St. Jude Parish in Fort Wayne, spoke of Bishop D'Arcy, following a reading from sacred Scripture. He spoke of how Bishop D'Arcy came in 1985 to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and was the bishop who accepted him into the seminary.

He was sent to St. John Seminary in Boston where Bishop D'Arcy had attended. "He was a bit of a celebrity there," said Father Shoemaker.

He reminded the congregation that Bishop D'Arcy was well read, reading about the saints and his favorite Pope John Paul. And he said, "His was a simple faith. He looked upon Jesus, trusted Him that He would take care of us. That's the faith that he brought to the diocese." In farewell, Father Shoemaker offered, "Thank you Bishop D'Arcy, we love you."

Following the recitation of the Cantic of Zechariah, the intercessions and the Lord's Prayer, Bishop Rhoades offered a blessing and closing prayer. The cathedral was open for a daylong visitation that afforded a continuous flow of mourners who came to offer prayers for their beloved bishop as the Knights of Columbus stood guard.

That evening the recitation of the rosary, led by Father David Voors, pastor of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Decatur, began at 5 p.m. with Evening Prayer to follow at 7 p.m.

"O God, our help in ages past..." sang a near capacity crowd from the hymn of the same name in the cathedral as Evening Prayer from the Office for the Dead began.

"...our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home," the verse continued, a testament to the life



JOE ROMIE

Mourners pay their respects to Bishop John M. D'Arcy during visitation at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Feb. 7.

of Bishop D'Arcy.

Priests, deacons, seminarians and devoted lay faithful recited Evening Prayer, also called Vespers, presided by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. At this time, the ministry of the Church is one of gently accompanying the mourners in their initial adjustment to the fact of death and to the sorrow this entails. The casket remained open, beneath the Paschal Candle. Bishop D'Arcy's chalice stood alone on a pedestal near the head of the casket, next to his coat of arms.

The words of the psalms were a source of faith and hope, as light and life in the face of the darkness of death. Both new and old friends of Bishop D'Arcy gathered to give thanks to God for the blessings received by and through the beloved bishop and to ask God's mercy on his soul. Each mourner had his/her own special memory of Bishop D'Arcy expressed in manifold ways:

"I've sung in many churches in the diocese," said Tim Didier, "and oftentimes Bishop D'Arcy was there celebrating the liturgy. We grew close. I guess he liked my singing."

"He confirmed my son, who later served Mass for him," recalled Karen (Noll) Schafbuch.

"I loved the way he strived

to learn Spanish and minister to the Hispanic community," added Enid Roman-DeJesus.

Following the Psalmody and a reading from the Gospel of Matthew — "The Sermon on the Mount" — Father Cyril Fernandes, pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish, Fort Wayne — near to Bishop D'Arcy's residence — gave a meaningful homily.

"Bishop D'Arcy always introduced himself at the parish as the associate pastor when he came to celebrate weekend and weekday Masses. He introduced me as his pastor," he said.

"Death always is a very painful time and we ask why the person whom we love dies. Death always scares us and makes us aware of facing our own death," he continued. Referring to the beatitudes just read in the Gospel and that all children of the kingdom of God will live, he said, "Death will only be a step to reward and resurrection in Christ."

"Tonight we mourn the death of Bishop D'Arcy who dedicated his life to the Priesthood and the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Bishop D'Arcy lived in the spirit of all the beatitudes throughout the main roads of his priestly life. I'm sure everyone who knew him has a story to tell that shows his love and commitment to the people of our diocese.



JERRY KESSENS

Mary Ellen Moss, receptionist at the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center, offers a memorial for Bishop John M. D'Arcy.



JERRY KESSENS

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades offers sympathy to Joan Sheridan, sister of Bishop John M. D'Arcy.

ocese. Bishop D'Arcy would do anything to keep his diocese safe and certainly knew his role as the shepherd of our diocese.

"He joked that a young lady had told him that his homilies had gotten better since his retirement. And from the twinkle in his eyes you knew he enjoyed telling that story," related Father Fernandes, "because he knew he was enjoying his priestly ministry again. He was a man who continually lived his faith in whatever capacity God called him. He took special delight at my parish in talking to the schoolchildren in a grandfatherly way, teaching them prayers.

"He always showed genuine concern, not only for all the people but also the clergy whom he supervised, asking them to make sure they took a day off every week.

"He was one who truly lived his faith. He proclaimed the

Gospel with his life to all he encountered. Throughout his life he met many challenges. He was a dedicated priest, an excellent teacher, a wise administrator and a loving shepherd to his flock. He enjoyed being with the people, being kind to them, urging them to prayer and teaching them with pastoral care. And through all those roles he showed us his unshakable faith in God. He lived his life in the beatitudes and in the new Spirit of the kingdom of God," Father Fernandes said.

He concluded, "Goodbye Bishop D'Arcy. Goodbye my associate pastor. Goodbye my dear friend. We will miss you, but our faith assures us that we will be one day face to face in the kingdom of Heaven."

"Bishop John D'Arcy: May the angels lead you into paradise; may the martyrs come to welcome you and take you to the holy city, Jerusalem."

Bishop D'Arcy's body committed in crypt of cathedral

BY JOE ROMIE

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, assisted by Msgr. Robert Schulte, vicar general of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, led the Rite of Committal entombing the body of Bishop John M. D'Arcy in the crypt of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception late in the afternoon on Feb. 8.

From the other tombstones in the crypt, it was concluded that the last time a body had been added to the cathedral's crypt was in 1924. With Bishop D'Arcy's committal, only one more tomb of nine will remain unoccupied in the current configuration of the crypt.

Bishop D'Arcy's casket had been placed in an open slot in the wall, with about two feet's length of the casket resting outside for the service. Care had been taken to orient the body with the head nearest to the wall opening, where a headstone marker will eventually be installed.

The private Rite of Committal included Bishop Rhoades, Msgr. Schulte, Deacon Jim Fitzpatrick,

family of Bishop D'Arcy, Maureen Schott and the funeral director.

The rite included prayers, reading from Scripture, intercessions and sprinkling the casket with holy water. Near the conclusion of the rite, Bishop Rhoades offered an Irish blessing to those present.

After the committal service, the cathedral engineering firm, Schenkel and Sons, pushed the casket into its slot in the wall, about a foot recessed from the front wall surface. The Schenkel associates proceeded to add internal wood framing, and a temporary plywood panel to the front opening. The perimeter of the opening was sealed.

Short-term plans for the front of the wall slot include the placement of Bishop D'Arcy's coat of arms, which had been displayed during the funeral events. Long-term plans for the front of the wall include placing a stone or marble block with Bishop D'Arcy's name and important dates from his life. It will be manufactured and set into the wall at the opening, similar to the headstones for the other tombs.



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades offers prayers during the Rite of Committal that took place late in the afternoon of Feb. 8 in the crypt of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne.

JOE ROMIE

Archbishop Alfred Hughes recalls his good friend, Bishop D'Arcy

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — They were friends for 63 years, supportive of one another through good times and struggles. Bishop John M. D'Arcy and Archbishop Alfred Hughes, bishop emeritus of New Orleans, became friends when the archbishop entered seminary college in September of 1950. Bishop D'Arcy was a year ahead of the archbishop, but their friendship developed when they both served as spiritual directors at St. John Seminary in Brighton, Mass.

Both friends became bishops and would get together every time they would return home to Boston — at Christmastime, summers — and at bishops' meetings.

Archbishop Hughes spoke with *Today's Catholic* in an interview at the St. Mother Theodore Guérin Chapel after the Funeral Mass of Bishop D'Arcy on Feb. 8 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

He recalled their Dec. 28 luncheon in Boston.

"It was the first day that (Bishop D'Arcy) had a symptom of the disease that he ultimately died of," noted Archbishop Hughes. "He had double vision that morning. It was a few days later, when it persisted, that he called his doctor. His doctor told him to go get tests."

The archbishop quipped, "When the diagnosis was made (Bishop D'Arcy) told his sisters, 'I was a healthy man until I had lunch with Al Hughes.'"

Archbishop Hughes described

Bishop D'Arcy as "a man's man. He was just a wonderful human being. He was very manly. He wanted to make sure that candidates were accepted in the seminary were manly."

The archbishop mentioned Bishop D'Arcy's great interest in sports, especially his love for the Boston Red Sox. "He was elated in 2004 and then again in 2007 when they won the (World Series) Championship," Archbishop Hughes noted. "And he loved Notre Dame football."

Archbishop Hughes said Bishop D'Arcy "treated women with great respect and drew them into very collaborative relationships, whether it was as he served as regional bishop in Boston or here in Fort Wayne-South Bend."

Archbishop Hughes spoke of Bishop D'Arcy as a "man of great faith."

"(Bishop D'Arcy) always built upon the faith he grew up with in his home," Archbishop Hughes said. "His parents were deeply Catholic and devotional people. He absorbed that growing up."

Because Bishop D'Arcy saw himself as "being deeply rooted in faith," the archbishop said Bishop D'Arcy wanted to "help other people experience that."

Bishop D'Arcy was a priest and a bishop at heart.

"I remember he once remarking the fact that Pope John Paul II commented that more important than his ordination as a bishop or appointment as archbishop or his election as pope was the day he celebrated his first Mass," Archbishop Hughes said.

And Bishop D'Arcy would tell Archbishop Hughes, "For me, that too has been the center of the most important privilege."

Archbishop Hughes noted that Bishop D'Arcy took very seriously what the Church, what the Lord, asks of a bishop.

Bishop D'Arcy wanted to be very careful about the candidates for discernment for the Priesthood. He had a deep appreciation for religious life and wanted to promote it.

Bishop D'Arcy "gave himself to seeking the salvation and sanctification of those he served," Archbishop Hughes said. "He saw that at the heart of his ministry as a bishop. It's why he wanted to promote spiritual development in the parishes. It's why he was delighted to be able in retirement to move out among the parishes and continue preaching and offer sacramental ministry."

Bishop D'Arcy had a great commitment to the sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation and "wanted to do anything to help people really appreciate that sacrament."

The friends would share their joys as well as their struggles.

"He went through a great deal with the University of Notre Dame," Archbishop Hughes said. Bishop D'Arcy had worked closely with the University of Notre Dame, "and his efforts to strengthen the theology department bore extraordinary fruit," Archbishop Hughes noted. "I think Dr. John Cavadini brought to the theology of Notre Dame a very responsible way of teaching, not only the undergraduates, but the gradu-

ate candidates as well."

"Bishop D'Arcy anguished over issues (at the University of Notre Dame) like the 'Vagina Monologues' and then the awarding of recognition, honorary degree, to our president."

The archbishop was referring to the University of Notre Dame's invitation to President Barack Obama to be the commencement speaker and to receive an honorary degree.

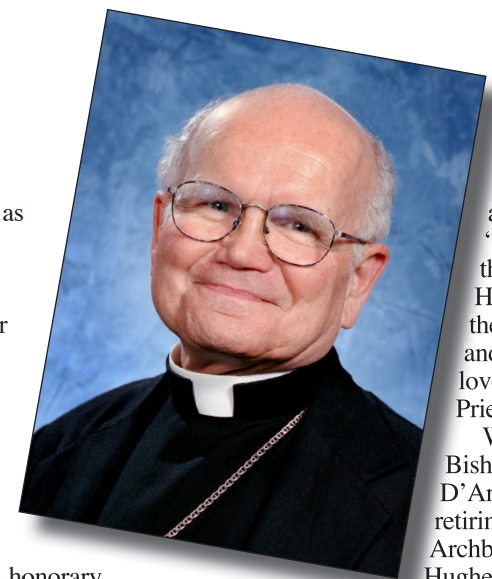
Bishop D'Arcy and others who said Obama's support of legal abortion and embryonic stem-cell research made him an inappropriate choice to be commencement speaker at a Catholic university.

Bishop D'Arcy refused to attend the university's commencement but he celebrated a baccalaureate Mass.

Archbishop Hughes noted Bishop D'Arcy never made any decision like that without extended prayer and reflection.

"I really came to appreciate that the strength of conviction and his desire to do the right thing even when it was not always that popular and when it was going to experience opposition of resistance," Archbishop Hughes said. "He was a model for that kind of courage."

I personally have to say that he was a source of great inspiration to me," Archbishop Hughes



added. "He loved the Lord. He loved the Church, and he loved the Priesthood."

When Bishop D'Arcy was retiring, he told Archbishop Hughes, "You know what I am

going to miss the most is the good that you can do as a bishop."

That good — those privileges — according to the archbishop included making sure that there was good religious education being offered, that there was a good family life office, that there were good chaplains in the high schools, that there were good candidates being prepared to be priests and the good of promoting young women to enter religious life.

Archbishop Hughes said that Bishop D'Arcy found it difficult to let go when he moved into retirement.

"But in our conversations together, he came to appreciate the possibility of continuing his espousal commitment to the Church here in Fort Wayne focusing now all his energies on the spiritual dimension of priestly and episcopal ministry," Archbishop Hughes said. "Once he was able to realize that a whole new life in retirement opened up for him. I thank God for that and I thank God for the witness that he gave."

US Church leaders express surprise, admiration for pope's decision

BY KAY COZAD AND
CAROL ZIMMERMANN

FORT WAYNE, WASHINGTON (CNS) — U.S. Catholic Church leaders who awoke to the news of Pope Benedict XVI's announcement that he will retire at the end of February said they were surprised by the news but admired the pontiff's courage and humility for making the decision.

In a press conference held in the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center in Fort Wayne, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades read his statement on the pope's resignation to the local media saying, "Amid the sadness of today's news, I am also filled with gratitude for the faithful and fruitful ministry of our beloved Holy Father."

During the conference Bishop Rhoades, who received information on the pope via text, invited all the faithful to pray for not only Pope Benedict in his retirement but also the College of Cardinals who will meet in conclave for the election of the new successor to the Apostle Peter.

Bishop Rhoades shared memories of the several times he met with Pope Benedict. "There was a certain awe — he was the successor of St. Peter. I was struck by his gentleness. He is a gentle man and soft spoken. Very warm and kind."

As a newly appointed young bishop in 2005, Bishop Rhoades said the pope was very encouraging to him. "I saw him as a spiritual father," he said.



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades speaks at a press conference at the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center in Fort Wayne on Feb. 11 at 11:30 a.m. in response to the news of the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI.

He also expressed his sadness at the pope's announcement, saying, "Every week I read his homilies and some of his speeches, which were very helpful to me. ... I trust in the Holy Father's discernment ... He knows what's best for the Church." And to the faithful he exhorted, "Trust in the Lord. ... I invite the people to offer their prayers and sacrifices for the Church in this transition."

Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said in a statement that the pope's announcement "is but another sign of his great care for the Church."

"The Holy Father brought the tender heart of a pastor, the

incisive mind of a scholar and the confidence of a soul united with his God in all he did," the cardinal said, adding: "We are sad that he will be resigning but grateful for his eight years of selfless leadership as successor of St. Peter."

"The occasion of his resignation stands as an important moment in our lives as citizens of the world. Our experience impels us to thank God for the gift of Pope Benedict," he continued. "Our hope impels us to pray that the College of Cardinals under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit choose a worthy successor to meet the challenges present in today's world."

Cardinal Dolan was inter-

viewed on the NBC's "Today" show early Feb. 11 where he said he was as "startled as the rest of you" about the news.

Washington Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl was similarly talking about the pope's decision on local news radio WTOP before 8 a.m.

The cardinal said he was "very much surprised" by the announcement, noting that he had seen the pope less than a month ago and there was no indication of a possible resignation.

He said he was "just stunned" when he heard the news in the morning and when he "got a call very early from Rome confirming this."

What does not surprise the cardinal, though, is that the pope was able to make such a decision.

"I don't think we should be surprised," he said, that when the pope realized he didn't "have the strength to continue" his role he had "the humility and courage" to act on it.

Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond of New Orleans also expressed his "great deal of admiration" for the pope, said he appreciated the pontiff's "recognition of the health issues he is facing" and admired "his humility in asking the cardinals to come together in prayer to select his successor."

In Chicago, Cardinal Francis E. George echoed his fellow U.S. prelates in saying the pontiff always has put "the will of God for the good of the Church before every other consideration" and "that same resoluteness of purpose" is evident in his decision to

resign.

Pope Benedict "has taught with clarity and charity what God has revealed to the world in Christ; he has handed on the apostolic faith; he has loved all of God's people with all his heart," the cardinal said in a statement. "He has now shown great courage in deciding, after prayer and soul-searching, to resign his office."

Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron of Detroit said that he, "like most of my fellow Catholics, woke up to the very surprising news" that the pope was resigning.

The surprise, he noted, was followed by sadness — "a sense of grief at losing his fatherly care for all us, bishops, clergy and faithful. We have come to love him very much and will miss him."

The archbishop likened the news to what many people experience in their families when they witness a parent "grow old and decline in ability."

"That is the sense we bring to this announcement. Our spiritual father has determined, by the best light given to him in prayer, that for the good of us all he must lay down his office," he added.

Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Ky., said he, too, was surprised "along with the rest of the world" about the resignation and was "touched by his humble admission of the strength necessary to carry on this ministry of Christ."

"This is a decision that reflects Pope Benedict's stewardship of his office and is a sign of his deep humility," he said.

Pope Benedict's resignation will set in motion period of transition

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — While the surprise resignation of Pope Benedict XVI is a first for the Church in centuries, it also leads to a complicated period of transition that ends in the election of a new pope.

Regulated by ancient traditions and recent rules, the period between popes — known by the Latin term "interregnum" — will begin exactly at 8 p.m. Rome time Feb. 28, a date and time Pope Benedict stipulated in a declaration he made Feb. 11 for when the See of Rome and the See of St. Peter will be vacant.

Normally the interregnum begins with a pope's death and is followed by a period of mourning.

This time the pope will resign from his ministry and spend a short period of prayer and reflection at the papal summer villa in Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome, before moving to a monastery at the Vatican.

The rules governing the interregnum are matters of Church law, not dogma.

The apostolic constitution "Universi Dominici Gregis" confirms that as long as the Holy See

is vacant, the universal Church is governed by the College of Cardinals, which cannot, however, make decisions normally reserved to the pope. Such matters must be postponed until the new pope is elected.

Until there is a pope, the Roman Curia — the Vatican's network of administrative offices — loses most of its cardinal supervisors and cannot handle any new business.

The College of Cardinals is to deal solely with "ordinary business and matters which cannot be postponed." At present, there are 209 cardinals, and all of them are asked to meet in Rome to help administer the transition period.

The College of Cardinals does this through two structures: a general congregation, in which all the cardinals are to meet daily; and a particular four-member congregation, consisting of the chamberlain of the Holy Roman Church, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, and a rotating team of three cardinal assistants.

Only those cardinals under age 80 will be eligible to vote in the coming conclave. Cardinals who are age 80 or over by the time the

"sede vacante" begins Feb. 28 are excluded from the closed door proceedings. There will be 117 cardinal-electors on that date.

As chamberlain, Cardinal Bertone is to administer the goods and temporal rights of the Holy See until the election of a new pope.

Meanwhile, the dean of the College of Cardinals, Cardinal Angelo Sodano, is charged with making preparations for a conclave to elect a new pope, and the cardinals must set the time for the conclave to start.

The word conclave comes from Latin, meaning literally "with key," and reflects the previous tradition of locking the cardinals in an area where they would spend day and night until the new pope's election.

On the day set for entry into the conclave, the cardinal-electors assemble in St. Peter's Basilica to attend morning Mass. In the afternoon, they walk in procession to the Sistine Chapel, located just to the north of St. Peter's.

The voting may begin that afternoon with one ballot; on following days, normally two ballots are held in the morning and two in the afternoon.



A television reporter does a standup in front of St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Feb. 11 after the announcement that Pope Benedict XVI will resign Feb. 28. The 85-year-old pontiff said he no longer has the energy to exercise his ministry over the universal Church.

A pope is elected when he obtains a two-thirds majority, reflecting a change Pope Benedict established in 2007 that effectively undid a more flexible procedure introduced by Blessed John Paul.

According to the new rule, the two-thirds-majority rule cannot be set aside even when cardinal-electors are at an impasse.

If the cardinals are deadlocked after 13 days, the cardinals pause for a day of prayer, reflection and dialogue, then move to runoff ballots between the two leading candidates. A papal election will

continue to require a majority of two-thirds of the voting cardinals.

After each morning and afternoon round of voting, the ballots are burned.

By tradition but not by rule, they are burned with special chemicals to produce the black smoke signifying an inconclusive vote, or white smoke if a new pope was elected. Due to confusion in the past as people in St. Peter's Square tried to determine what color smoke was coming out of the Sistine Chapel smokestack, the basilica's bell is also rung.



CNS PHOTOS/NANCY PHELAN WIECHEC AND PAUL HARING

Pope Benedict XVI is shown in side-by-side images from 2005 and 2013. At left is the pope in a photo taken May 4, 2005, about two weeks after his election. At right is an image taken Feb. 9 at the Vatican.

Pope Benedict shows signs of aging, but Vatican reports no illness

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — From the moment he was elected pope at the age of 78 in 2005, Pope Benedict XVI has kept a schedule that appeared light compared to that of Blessed John Paul II, but busy for a man who had wanted to retire to study, write and pray when he turned 75.

Announcing Feb. 11 that he would resign at the end of the month, Pope Benedict said, "I have come to the certainty that my strengths, due to an advanced age, are no longer suited to an adequate exercise of the Petrine ministry."

Speaking to reporters after the pope's announcement, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, told reporters the pope was not ill, but made the decision because of his declining strength due to his age.

The pope recognized his limits with "a lucidity and courage and sincerity that are absolutely admirable," Father Lombardi said.

Meeting reporters again Feb. 12, Father Lombardi confirmed that Pope Benedict had gone to a private health clinic in Rome about three months ago to have the batteries changed on his pacemaker. It was a simple, routine procedure and had no influence on the pope's decision to resign.

Father Lombardi said the pope had had the pacemaker put in several years before his election.

Pope Benedict often has seemed tired, with large, dark circles under his eyes during especially busy periods of public liturgies and audiences.

In October 2011, Pope Benedict began riding a mobile platform in liturgical processions. At the time, Father Lombardi said it was "solely to lighten the burden" of processions, although he acknowledged the pope had been experiencing the kind of joint pain normal for a man his age. Just a few months later, the pope began using a cane to walk, although it often looks like he is carrying it, not relying on it, for support.

However, just in the past few

months when celebrating Mass in St. Peter's Basilica, the pope no longer walks all the way around the altar when using incense at the beginning of Mass; instead he raises the thurible only from the back of the altar. And at the end of a Mass Feb. 2, the pope lost his grip on his crozier; as it fell, Msgr. Guido Marini, the papal master of liturgical ceremonies, caught it.

When he was elected in 2005, he was said to have told his fellow cardinals that his would not be a long papacy like that of his predecessor, who held the office for more than 26 years.

The German author and journalist Peter Seewald asked Pope Benedict in the summer of 2010 whether he was considering resigning then, a time when new reports of clerical sexual abuse were being published in several European countries.

"When the danger is great, one must not run away. For that reason, now is certainly not the time to resign," he told Seewald, who published the remarks in the book, "Light of the World: The Pope, the Church and the Signs of the Times."

The pope did tell him, though, "one can resign at a peaceful moment or when one simply cannot go on. But one must not run away from danger and say that someone else should do it."

In another section of the book, the pope told Seewald: "If a pope clearly realizes that he is no longer physically, psychologically and spiritually capable of handling the duties of his office, then he has a right and, under some circumstances, also an obligation to resign."

While no pope has resigned since Pope Gregory XII in 1415, even as a cardinal Pope Benedict did not rule out the possibility.

Even before Blessed John Paul's health became critical, reporters asked the then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger whether he thought Pope John Paul could resign. "If he were to see that he absolutely could not (continue), then he certainly would resign," he said.

In hindsight, Pope Benedict's resignation seems almost predictable

BY FRANCIS X. ROCCA

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As much as he astonished the world when he announced his resignation Feb. 11, Pope Benedict XVI's decision seems almost predictable in hindsight. Given his previous statements on the subject and his recent signs of aging, one might say that people should have seen it coming.

The real mystery now is not why Pope Benedict chose to step down, it is how this almost-unprecedented action will affect the papacy and the Church.

In 2010, Pope Benedict told the German journalist Peter Seewald that "if a pope clearly realizes that he is no longer physically, psychologically, and spiritually capable of handling the duties of office, then he has a right and, under some circumstances, also an obligation to resign."

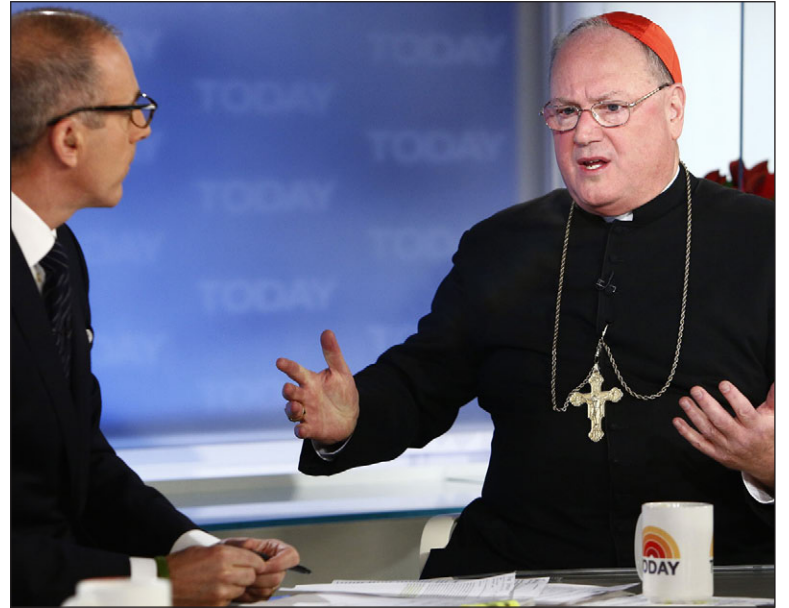
The signs of fatigue and difficulty walking that have struck most papal observers in recent months led him to conclude, as he told an assembly of cardinals two days before Ash Wednesday, that "strength of mind and body ... has deteriorated in me to the extent that I have had to recognize my incapacity to adequately fulfill the ministry entrusted to me."

Many people today associate unexpected resignations with scandal or crisis. In the immediate aftermath of Pope Benedict's announcement there was predictable speculation that he might be stepping down under pressure of some grave problem in the Church, perhaps one yet to be revealed.

But if Pope Benedict declined to resign at the height of the controversy over clerical sex abuse in late winter and early spring of 2010, when some accused him of personally mishandling cases of pedophile priests in Germany and the U.S., it is hard to imagine what sort of crisis he might deem disturbing enough to resign over now.

As he told Seewald later that same year: "When the danger is great one must not run away. For that reason, now is certainly not the time to resign. Precisely at a time like this one must stand fast and endure the difficult situation. That is my view. One can resign at a peaceful moment or when one simply cannot go on. But one must not run away from danger and say that someone else should do it."

Pope Benedict may have judged the eve of Lent a



CNS PHOTO/PETER KRAMER, NBC VIA REUTERS

Matt Lauer and New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan appear on NBC's "Today" show in New York in this handout photo taken Feb. 11. The cardinal talked about Pope Benedict XVI's announcement earlier that morning that he will resign as pope at the end of the month. The 85-year-old pontiff said he no longer has the energy to exercise his ministry over the universal church.

particularly good moment to announce his resignation since, as the Vatican spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, told reporters at a briefing shortly afterward, the timing practically ensures that the Church will have a new pope by Easter.

It is probably no coincidence, and certainly fitting, that Pope Benedict waited to resign until after he had observed the 50th anniversary of the opening of Second Vatican Council, last October. If his papacy has had a single unifying project, it has been his effort to correct interpretations of Vatican II as a radical break with the past, in favor of readings that stress the continuity of the council's teachings with the Church's millennial traditions.

Now, Pope Benedict has made his own dramatic innovation in Church tradition. Of the several men, perhaps as many as 10, who have resigned the papacy in the history of the office, only one other did so freely: Pope Celestine V, in 1294. Given how much the papacy and the world have changed in the seven centuries since, there is practically no precedent for Pope Benedict's new role.

Father Lombardi told reporters that Pope Benedict will retire to a monastery inside the walls of Vatican City, where he will dedicate himself to study and prayer. The Vatican spokesman said he expected the former professor and prolific author to continue writing and communicating with the outside world.

Asked whether the presence of a living former pope would present any danger of division within the Church, Father Lombardi replied that it would be entirely out of character for Pope Benedict to say or do anything that might undermine his successor.

That assumption seems more than fair, but Pope Benedict's humility and discretion may be beside the point. In the age of the Internet, it is not hard to imagine critics excitedly claiming, on the authority of anonymous sources, that the former pope privately disapproves of this or that among his successor's decisions. Father Lombardi might find himself busy debunking such assertions, and even soliciting the occasional disclaimer from Pope Benedict himself.

Even if the presence of a living former pope poses no threat to the new pope's leadership or teaching authority, it will add complexity to the emotional and spiritual bonds that millions of Catholics enjoy with the successor of Peter. After all, the special devotion that many of the faithful feel for Pope Benedict today will surely not cease the moment a new pope is elected. That attachment would be a liability for Pope Benedict's successor, if the papacy were a secular political office. By the lights of faith, however, the prayers of a former pope and all those united with him ought to make the papacy that much stronger.

Judge stays Louisiana execution; bishops plea for life without parole

NEW ORLEANS (CNS) — A federal judge in Baton Rouge issued a stay of execution Feb. 7 for death-row inmate Christopher Sepulvado, who had been scheduled to be executed at the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 13. The seven Catholic bishops of Louisiana had urged that the inmate be given a life sentence without possibility of parole. U.S. District Judge James Brady imposed the stay because the Louisiana Department of Corrections, whose personnel would administer a lethal injection of pentobarbital, did not provide a written protocol of its "single-drug" method. His ruling could be appealed to the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans. At a prayer service at the Notre Dame Seminary chapel in New Orleans Feb. 7, Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond of New Orleans told 150 laypeople and seminarians that while he was pleased to hear of the stay of execution, Sepulvado's fate appeared to rest on "technicalities. The execution of Christopher Sepulvado by the state has been postponed because of some technicalities regarding the drug and the information about the drug that will be used to put him to sleep — to execute him, to take his life," Archbishop Aymond said. "We ask God to speak loudly and clearly. We as Catholics cannot accept and can never accept the death penalty." Sepulvado, 69, was convicted 20 years ago in the horrific death of his 6-year-old stepson, Wesley Allen Mercer, who was tortured in the days leading up to his death. Sepulvado has spent the past 20 years on death row.

Catholics, four Reformed bodies reaffirm common agreement on Baptism

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Representatives of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and four Protestant denominations in the Reformed tradition have publicly reaffirmed a mutual agreement in effect since the Second Vatican Council that recognizes the validity of each other's baptisms. The four Protestant bodies are the Presbyterian Church (USA), the Christian Reformed Church in North America, the Reformed Church in America and the United Church of Christ. The signing took place Jan. 29 at St. Mary Cathedral in Austin, Texas, during a prayer service at the opening of the annual meeting of the ecumenical association Christian Churches Together, which includes over 40 Christian denominations and groups. It marked the first time the Catholic Church in the United States has ever signed on to such an agreement, although Catholic bishops' conferences elsewhere in the world have done so. The USCCB in Washington announced the signing Feb. 1 and released the text of the agreement. The signing in Austin comes amid a trend that has developed over the past 20 or so years to

WOMEN SELL FISH AT A MARKET IN MALI



CNS PHOTO/ALAIN AMONTCHI, REUTERS

Women sell fish at a market in Mopti, Mali, Feb. 6. After French troops helped liberate Malian towns, a bishops' conference official said people must not confuse ethnicity with rebellion.

introduce nontraditional baptismal rites in which Protestant pastors, and sometimes priests, use a formula other than the traditional Trinitarian formula of "Father, Son and Holy Spirit," according to the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs. A common example of this nontraditional formula is "Creator, Sustainer and Redeemer," which the Catholic Church cannot accept as the proper form of Baptism.

Legal path uncertain for for-profits fighting HHS mandate

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The latest round of proposed federal rules covering religious institutions that want an exemption from the requirement to provide contraceptive coverage in health insurance make it clear that there's no inclination at the Department of Health and Human Services to accommodate for-profit secular corporations the same way as nonprofit religious institutions. For-profit secular entities that object to this requirement on moral grounds may find their only option is to push their case in court, where the history of accommodating a business owner's religious interests diverts significantly from how a church's religious rights have been treated. An updated version of the HHS rules published

Feb. 1 redefined the criteria by which nonprofit religious institutions may be either "exempt" or "accommodated" in opting out of providing to coverage that goes against the teachings of the faith. The Affordable Care Act requires all health care insurance plans to include coverage — at no cost to the employees — of contraception, sterilization and drugs some consider to be abortifacients. The new proposal is the latest HHS effort to define who qualifies to opt out of that requirement on religious grounds. More than 30 lawsuits challenging the previous round of the rules have been filed by nonprofits including Catholic dioceses, universities and the Eternal Word Television Network. Most of those cases await decisions. About a dozen have been set aside in procedural rulings or pending action by the Obama administration, according to a scorecard kept by the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, a nonprofit, public interest law firm.

Vatican official says his defense of gays' rights was misunderstood

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The president of the Pontifical Council for the Family said his defense of the dignity of homosexual persons and their individual rights was misinterpreted, perhaps intentionally. "It

is one thing to verify whether in existing laws one can find norms that would safeguard individual rights. It's another thing to approve certain expectations," Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, council president, told Vatican Radio Feb. 6. At a Vatican news conference Feb. 4, Archbishop Paglia had insisted that only a lifelong union of a man and a woman could be termed a marriage. The archbishop also said the Church's affirmation of the full dignity of all human beings led him to oppose laws that outlaw homosexuality. In addition, he said that "to promote justice and to protect the weak," greater efforts were needed to ensure legal protection and inheritance rights for people living together, though not married. "But do not call it marriage," he said. His remarks from the news conference were reported around the world under headlines such as "Vatican recognizes the rights of gay couples. Obviously, I was very surprised by how some media reported" those comments, he told Vatican Radio. "Not only were my words not understood," he said, "they were derailed, perhaps even knowingly." While reaffirming his opposition to so-called "gay marriage" and his full support of the British and French bishops currently fighting proposed legal recognition of homosexual unions, in the interview he also reiterated Church teaching against unjust discrimination toward homosexual persons.

Assisted-suicide bill passes first committee vote in N.J. Assembly

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A bill that would allow assisted suicide in New Jersey, subject to voter approval, was passed out of a legislative committee and will be taken up by the state Assembly. The New Jersey Death with Dignity Act was approved 7-2 vote with two abstentions by members of the Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee Feb. 7. It now moves to the full Assembly. A hearing on a companion bill in the state Senate was yet to be scheduled as of Feb. 7, said an assistant to State Sen. Joseph F. Vitale, who chairs the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee. If passed by both legislative chambers and signed by Gov. Chris Christie, provisions in the bill call it to be placed before voters who would decide whether to allow assisted suicide in the state. The bill faced opposition from individual doctors and several organizations including the New Jersey Catholic Conference, the New Jersey Council of the Knights of Columbus, New Jersey Right to Life, Medical Society of New Jersey and New Jersey Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. Despite the vote, Patrick R. Brannigan, executive director of the New Jersey Catholic Conference, told Catholic News Service he remained optimistic that the bill would not pass the full Assembly or the Senate. Brannigan was among about a dozen people urging the committee to defeat the bill. Fewer than five people testified in support of the bill.

Decline in participation, Brussels Archdiocese to close churches

OXFORD, England (CNS) — Belgium's Mechelen-Brussels Archdiocese has become Europe's latest to plan church closures in the face of declining Catholic participation. An archdiocesan official told the German Catholic news agency KNA that "dozens of churches" faced closing and that the city's largest Catholic landmark, St. Catherine Church, was expected to be turned into a fruit and vegetable market. However, the archdiocesan spokesman, Jesuit Father Tommy Scholtes, told Catholic News Service Feb. 6 that final decisions on which of the Brussels deanery's 108 churches to decommission would take account of maintenance costs, but also reflect community needs. He said it was "not just a question of closing them, but also of knowing what to do with the communities attached to them. All of this is being discussed with the city authorities." The Mechelen-Brussels Archdiocese, which since February 2010 has been headed by Archbishop Andre Leonard, covers the Belgian capital and province of Brabant. The planned church closures follow a fall in practicing Catholics to around 1.5 percent of the city population, with average Sunday Mass attendance of around 100 people per parish, according to a 2010 survey from the University of Leuven.

Jason Evert, chastity speaker, addresses diocesan teens

FORT WAYNE-SOUTH BEND

— Jason Evert, internationally renowned chastity speaker, is coming to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Evert's talks are titled "Romance without Regret." In his seminar, which has been delivered to more than one million teens on five continents, Evert reveals the compelling vision of God's plan for human sexuality and present an uplifting case for practicing the virtue of chastity.

By addressing the issues that teens struggle with most, such as sexual pressure, pornography, modesty and starting over, Evert offers encouragement for teens to maintain their purity or begin again if they've made mistakes in the past.

His speaking engagements include: Wednesday, March 6, at 7 p.m. at Holy Cross College (free and open to the public); Thursday, March 7, at 9:30 a.m. at Marian High School in Mishawaka; Thursday, March 7, at 1:30 p.m. at Saint Joseph High School; Thursday, March 7, at 7 p.m. at University of Saint Francis North Auditorium (free and open to the public); and Friday, March 8, at 12 p.m. at Bishop Dwenger High School.

Local advisors earn membership in Million Dollar Round Table

PARK RIDGE, ILLINOIS

— Outstanding product knowledge and client service have enabled Phillip J Stackowicz and Keith C Praski of the Knights of Columbus, John J Stackowicz Agency in South Bend, to earn membership in the prestigious Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT).

MDRT is the Premier Association of Financial Professionals. Founded in 1927, MDRT is an international, independent association of nearly 33,000, or less than one percent, of the world's best life insurance and financial services professionals. With membership from 77 nations and territories, MDRT members demonstrate exceptional professional knowledge, strict ethical conduct and outstanding client service. MDRT membership is recognized internationally as the standard of sales excellence in the life insurance and financial services business.



KEITH C PRASKI



PHILLIP J STACKOWICZ

AROUND THE DIOCESE

BISHOP CELEBRATES LUNAR NEW YEAR AT ST. PATRICK



MARK WEBER

Firecrackers, gongs and cymbals and a large choir expressed sounds of joy celebrating the arrival of the Lunar New Year at St. Patrick Parish, spiritual home of Vietnamese Catholics in Fort Wayne. In remarks translated into Vietnamese, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades spoke of his admiration for the strong faith of the Vietnamese, even in the face of the Church's persecution in Vietnam. Following Mass, Bishop Rhoades posed for pictures and enjoyed Vietnamese food and conversation with those celebrating the year of the serpent.

Knights name family of the month

MISHAWAKA — The Knights of Columbus Supreme Office has chosen the family of Norm and Jeannie Burggraf of Queen of Peace Council located in Mishawaka as a recipient of the Family of the Month. The Burggrafs were nominated by the local council and selected from many nominees throughout the 72 jurisdictions of the order based upon their service to Church and community exemplifying the principles of charity, unity and fraternity of the Knights of Columbus.

Lampen Lecture series: Saint as teacher

DONALDSON — Father William Kummer, pastor of St. Michael Parish in Plymouth, came back to Ancilla on Wednesday, Feb. 6, for his third Lampen Lecture with his excellent presentation on "Saint as Teacher."

He explored the life and influence of three great thinkers and philosophers of the Catholic Church: St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Robert Bellarmine and Blessed John Newman. Each was highly

intellectual and brilliant. Thomas Aquinas devoted his life in the search for truth through faith and reason. Robert Bellarmine loved to study and said that in finding the truth one is led to God. John Newman explored the benefits of a liberal education in his great writing "The Idea of a University." Sister Carleen commented, "Father Kummer's presentation helped us realize again we need not fear what science discovers as truth in creation because we have faith and trust in God our Creator."

The next lecture will be on God's work being done in the city of East St. Louis, IL.

Ancilla College (www.ancilla.edu) is a Catholic, two-year, co-educational, liberal arts college in Donaldson, sponsored by the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ.

Institute for Church Life will host Cardinal Angelo Scola

NOTRE DAME — The Institute for Church Life (ICL) at the University of Notre Dame will host Cardinal Angelo Scola, Archbishop of Milan, who will give the annual Human Dignity

lecture on Saturday, Feb. 23, at 3 p.m. in the Hesburgh Center Auditorium on the University of Notre Dame campus.

Cardinal Scola's lecture, "The Nature and the Scope of Religious Freedom in Our Contemporary Culture," will be followed by a reception for all participants and is open to the public.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and Cardinal Scola will celebrate Mass at 11:15 a.m. in the Lady Chapel of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. All are welcome.

Cardinal Scola is a philosopher and theologian who holds doctoral degrees from the Catholic University of Milan and the University of Fribourg in Switzerland. The author of numerous theological and pedagogical works on topics such as bio-medical ethics, theological anthropology, human sexuality, and marriage and the family, Scola was appointed Archbishop of Milan in 2011 and is a member of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

The Human Dignity lecture is part of the ICL's Project on Human Dignity, which aims to take up the challenge of making the idea of human dignity accessible to persons of all faiths or no faith, and to exhort students, faculty, and all others in the Notre Dame community and beyond to recognize their own human dignity and respect that of others.

FATHER FRED LINK HONORED AT LUERS' HOMECOMING



TESS STEFFEN

Franciscan Father Fred Link visits with Bishop Luers alumna Deb Wagner and a friend during Winter Homecoming on Friday, Feb. 1. Father Fred was recognized for his achievements in his years as a principal at Bishop Luers during halftime of the boys' basketball game. He directed the Minstrel Show Choir and Minstrel alumni in a special performance of "Minstrel Song."

All Schools Mass celebrates vocations, remembers Bi

BY DIANE FREEBY

SOUTH BEND — The Catholic All Schools Mass, a celebration always near and dear to Bishop John M. D'Arcy, deceased bishop emeritus, brought children from the South Bend area together at Notre Dame's Joyce Center Feb. 5. Along with their teachers and 18 concelebrating priests, they joined Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades in prayer, remembering the man who served as bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend for nearly 25 years.

"That sadness is also mixed with joy," said Bishop Rhoades, "because we know Bishop D'Arcy was such a good and holy bishop. So we also have that joyful hope that the Lord Jesus welcomes him into the Communion of Saints in heaven."

Bishop Rhoades welcomed the area grade schools along with students from Saint Joseph and Marian high schools who served as altar servers and extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist. Three schools from the Kalamazoo diocese were also on hand.

The All Schools Mass is traditionally a time to celebrate religious vocations. In his homily, Bishop Rhoades explained that the word "vocation" is from the Latin "vocare," which means "calling."

"A vocation is a calling from God," said Bishop Rhoades. "God has a loving plan for every one of us and it's up to us to try to figure out what that plan is."

That is done in prayer, and by listening. A common vocation is being called by God to be His disciple.

"Following Jesus Christ is the most important thing we do," said Bishop Rhoades, going on to explain another level of vocation called "state in life." Many are called to the vocation of marriage.

"It's not too early to think about if God might be calling you to be a husband or a wife, a father or a mother," smiled Bishop Rhoades. "It's a very holy vocation and we need good, strong, holy marriages, because the family is the Church of the home, the domestic Church."

Another state in life is God's call to men for the priesthood. Bishop Rhoades turned and pointed to his brother priests on the altar.

"You see, our priests up here answered the call to give their whole lives in service to God and the Church as priests of Jesus Christ," he continued. "And what a beautiful vocation that is, to continue the ministry of Jesus on earth, to preach the Gospel, to celebrate the sacraments and to lead and shepherd God's people like Jesus did."

Bishop Rhoades encouraged the boys and young men to pray and ask God if He is asking them to share in the mission of His Son

as priests of the Church, pointing out the two deacons now preparing for ordination to the priesthood after years of discernment and formation.

Eric Murillo, a seventh grader at St. Adalbert School in South Bend, said he is open to that calling.

"I think Jesus has kind of shown me some signs," said Murillo. "I'm not sure but maybe He wants me to be a priest. Then the teacher asked me if I wanted to be an altar server and maybe that was not just a coincidence."

Bishop Rhoades said others may be called to be consecrated religious brothers or sisters.

"That's another beautiful vocation," said Bishop Rhoades. "Men and women called to follow Jesus in a very close way, in poverty, chastity and obedience. Making those vows and giving their lives totally to imitating Jesus who was poor, chaste and obedient."

The Mass readings reflected two different answers to God's call, with Samuel in the Old Testament and the rich young man described in the Gospel. Samuel didn't know his vocation but heard God's call while he was sleeping. He opened his mind and his heart and said, "Speak Lord, your servant is listening." In the other vocation story, the young man chose worldly riches and didn't say "yes" to God's call.

"Jesus had a special vocation for this young man ... Jesus wanted him to follow Him completely, but the young man was too attached to his material things," explained Bishop Rhoades. "If he had followed Jesus he would have been happy and joyful the rest of his life. He thought he would only be happy and fulfilled if he kept all his possessions. He made money more important than his faith."

Bishop Rhoades told the children he hoped their response will be like Samuel and not like the rich young man because it is in doing what God calls each to do that great joy, peace and happiness is found.

Brielle Wilkins, a sixth grader at Holy Cross School in South Bend, summed it up: "Everyone has a job to do. If you pray, you

can find that job!"

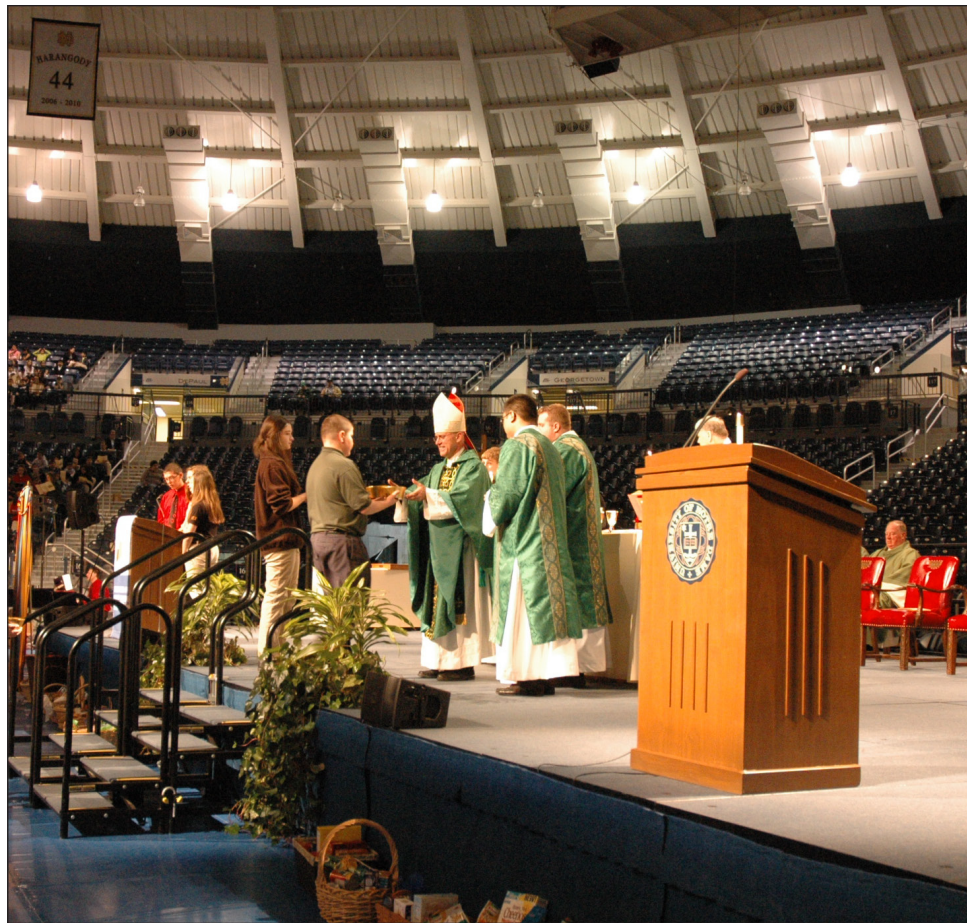
"We should always ask God for help," added her classmate, Elizabeth Mellor, "and God will help us. God is calling us to do something and we need to go do it!"

Prayers were offered throughout the Mass for Bishop D'Arcy, a man remembered well by the older children for his encouragement of vocations.

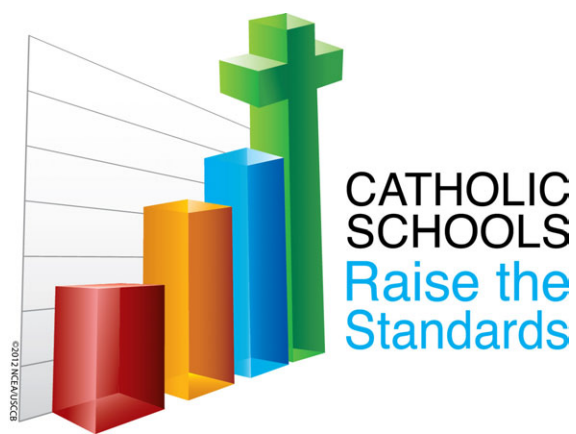
"It was really touching," said

St. Adalbert seventh-grader Jesus Ortiz. "I felt really sad about Bishop D'Arcy passing away, but it was nice we were able to pray for him at Mass."

"I always remember the vocation prayer he would teach us," added Saint Joseph High School senior Therese Taylor. "I would go home and pray it, asking the Lord to teach me my vocation in life."

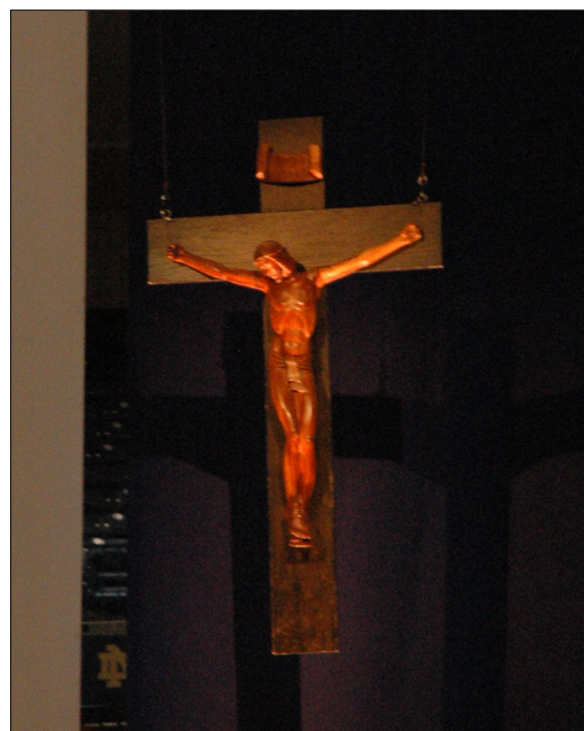
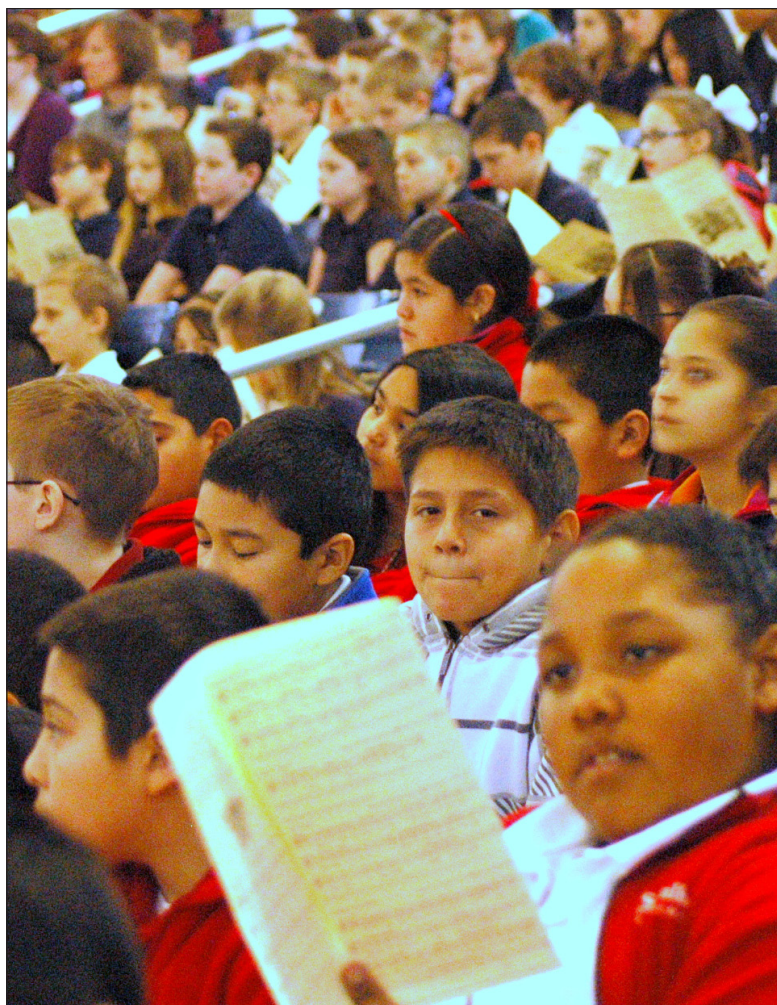


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PHOTOS BY KEVIN HAGGENJOS

Schools from the South Bend area of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and three schools from the Kalamazoo Diocese gathered for an All-Schools Mass Feb. 5 at the Joyce Athletic Center at the University of Notre Dame. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated the Mass.



Lack of faith can hurt marriage, may affect validity, pope says

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A lack of faith in God can damage marriage, even to the point of affecting its validity, Pope Benedict XVI said.

“Faith in God, sustained by divine grace, is therefore a very important element for living in mutual dedication and conjugal fidelity,” he said.

The pope said he was not suggesting there was a simple, automatic link “between the lack of faith and the invalidity of marriage.”

Rather, he hoped “to draw attention to how such a lack may, although not necessarily, also hurt the goods of marriage,” given that referring to God’s plan “is inherent in the covenant of marriage.”

The pope made his comments Jan. 26 during a meeting with members of the Roman Rota, a Vatican-based tribunal that deals mainly with marriage cases.

The current crisis of faith has brought with it a state of crisis for the Christian vision of marriage as an indissoluble bond between a man and a woman, the pope said.

“The indissoluble covenant between man and woman does not require, for the purpose of sacramentality, the personal faith of those to be married,” he said. “What is required, as the minimum condition, is the intention of doing what the Church does” when it declares a marriage is a

sacrament.

While the question of intent should not be confused with the question of the individuals’ personal faith, “it is not always possible to completely separate them,” he said.

The pope quoted Blessed John Paul II’s speech to the Vatican court in 2003 in which he said, “an attitude on the part of those getting married that does not take into account the supernatural dimension of marriage can render it null and void only if it undermines its validity on the natural level on which the sacramental sign itself takes place.”

“The Catholic Church has always recognized marriages between the non-baptized that become a Christian sacrament through the baptism of the spouses,” and it does not doubt “the validity of the marriage of a Catholic with a non-baptized person if it is celebrated with the necessary dispensation,” the late pope had said.

Pope Benedict said such considerations need further reflection, especially in a secularized culture that puts little faith in a person’s ability to make a lifelong commitment and fosters an incorrect understanding of freedom and fulfillment.

Humanity is incapable of achieving what is truly good without God, the pope said, and refusing God’s invitation “leads to a deep imbalance in all human relationships,” including mar-



CNS PHOTO/L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO VIA REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI shakes hands with a member of the Roman Rota to mark the start of the judicial year at the Vatican Jan. 26. The Rota is a Vatican-based tribunal that deals mainly with marriage cases.

riage.

While faith in God is “a very important” part of a marriage lived with commitment and loyalty, it does not mean that “loyalty and other (conjugal) properties are not possible in natural marriage between non-baptized” spouses, who still receive the graces that come from God.

“However, closing oneself off from God or refusing the sacred dimension of the conjugal union and its value in the order of grace certainly makes it more difficult to realize concretely the highest

model of marriage as envisioned by the Church according to God’s plan, possibly going so far as to undermine the actual validity of the covenant” if the tribunal determines it amounts to a refusal of fidelity, procreativity, exclusivity and permanence.

Faith, therefore, “is important in the realization of the authentic conjugal good, which consists simply in always wanting the good for the other, no matter what,” together with a true and indissoluble partnership for life, he said.

Faith without charity, which is love, “bears no fruit, while charity without faith would be a sentiment constantly at the mercy of doubt. Faith and charity each require the other, in such a way that each allows the other to set out along its respective path,” the pope said, citing his 2011 apostolic letter “Porta Fidei” (“The Door of Faith”).

In addition to the three goods of procreation, marital fidelity and its indissolubility, “one must not exclude the possibility of cases in which, exactly because of the absence of faith, the good of the spouses ends up compromised and, therefore, there is a lack of consent,” the pope said.

It’s not the first time Pope Benedict has called for a closer reflection on the impact of an absence of faith in determining marriage annulments.

During an unscripted question-and-answer session with priests in northern Italy in 2005, the pope noted the problem of people who married in the Church not because they were believers but because they wanted a traditional ceremony.

He said that when he was prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, he asked several bishops’ conferences and experts to study the problem, which in effect was “a sacrament celebrated without faith.”

He said he had thought that the Church marriage could be considered invalid because the faith of the couple celebrating the sacrament was lacking. “But from the discussions we had, I understood that the problem was very difficult” and that further study was necessary, he said.

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WHY defending the TRUTH about marriage is so IMPORTANT

BY FREDERICK EVERETT

In Hans Christian Anderson's version of "The Emperor's New Clothes," it is only a child who, in his innocence, is able to speak the truth about what everyone else was too afraid to acknowledge — that is, the emperor had none. Apparently, Anderson only thought of adding this element to the story at the last minute and it was based upon an event in his own childhood. The story goes that when his mother pointed out King Frederick VI to him in the midst of an excited crowd, the young Anderson, in seeing the king and having expected more, exclaimed, "Oh, he's nothing more than a man!" His mother was not pleased.

The Anderson story can be seen as a skewering of what we today would call "political correctness." Sometimes, people are afraid of acknowledging the obvious when they do not think it will be well received by those around them. In fact, this fear can sometimes be joined by a misguided

love that thinks we should never make people feel bad — even if it is for their own good or the good of society.

So it is today with the truth about marriage. What has been patently obvious for thousands of years is suddenly politically incorrect to say. To claim that marriage has an objective meaning that extends over time and among cultures is now looked upon as intolerant and judgmental.

For example, it is truly amazing to see how, in four short years, a U.S. president can go from stating his conviction that marriage has a certain meaning that limits it to one man and one woman, to now actually denouncing those who hold such a view. The institution of marriage — an institution that is grounded in the truth of our human nature as designed by God — is now in serious peril. Those who blithely claim that marriage should be open to any two people who love each other seem to be completely unaware of the implications of what they claim.

What about a father-in-law

and his daughter-in-law? Should they have the right to divorce their spouses and to marry each other? What about a mother and her stepson? What about a brother and a sister? Now, if such issues are raised, advocates of same-sex unions will often make a face and say, "Of course not." Still, they have no real principle to guide them or to explain just why this should not be the case. If we keep going in this direction, why should society say no to a man who wants multiple wives? Why should we limit marriage to only two people who love each other?

Once marriage is untethered from the truth that keeps it grounded, it can become anything anyone wants it to be. What about a five-year marriage contract with an option to renew? If not renewed by both parties, the marriage can automatically cease to exist without the necessity of going through a divorce proceeding. There can also be an option to add a third party after 10 years with the consent of both parties. There can also be an agreement that any child conceived may

only be brought to term with the consent of all the marriage partners. The possibilities are endless.

None of these arrangements express what marriage really is. If society no longer knows what it is, how can marriage possibly be cherished and promoted? If it is no longer commonly understood as the exclusive and lifelong union of a man and a woman that is ordered to the procreation and education of children, then marriage has no future. If current trends continue, within another generation, society will largely have degenerated into a hook-up culture that little values giving children the security of a home with a loving mom and dad. Children will invariably pay the highest price for this state of affairs. Research, for example, has repeatedly shown that children growing up in single parent or same-sex union households do not fare nearly as well as children who grow up with a mom and a dad. Yet, facts like these are routinely buried by the mainstream media.

The reason this happens is that too many people have become

more interested in justifying doing whatever they want, instead of doing what is right for children and for the well being of society. It also happens because too many people of faith are failing to stand up and be counted in this important hour of decision. Like the candid child in "The Emperor's New Clothes," it is time for the Christian faithful to tirelessly proclaim the truth about marriage in our homes, in our schools, in our churches and in the public square. This is too critical a moment to remain silent.

To help equip the lay faithful for this cultural battle, the bishops of the United States have developed a website with videos and other resource materials on the truth of marriage as between a man and a woman that can be viewed online. It is Marriage: Unique for a Reason and can be found at www.marriageuniqueforareason.org. There is also a page highlighting the bishops' Call to Prayer for Life, Marriage and Religious Liberty at www.usccb.org/life-marriage-liberty.

Before mortal remains of St. Valentine, couples pledge unending love

BY CINDY WOODEN

TERNI, Italy (CNS) — Holding hands as they processed into church, 101 couples approached the mortal remains of St. Valentine, invoking his protection and promising that their upcoming weddings would bind them to one another forever.

The couples, all of whom live in Italy and have scheduled a church wedding in the coming year, gathered Feb. 10 in the Basilica of St. Valentine for the annual "promise Mass," celebrated the Sunday before the feast of St. Valentine, the third-century martyred bishop of Terni.

Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, president of the Pontifical Council for the Family, presided over the Mass and told the couples that "in a world that no longer understands love and marriage and family," their promises are an affirmation that true love is forever and that marriage

involves an openness to having children.

After the homily, all of the men, then all of the women said to each other: "I promise to give myself in love to you and ask you to give yourself to me, promising me your love, because we are about to celebrate and live the sacrament of matrimony in the name of the Lord."

Maria and Pasquale, two 33-year-olds from Rome, said they heard about the promise Mass late last year when their parish priest, who was leading their marriage preparation class, brought the whole class to the basilica for their final session.

"It's beautiful to make a promise here, before St. Valentine," said Pasquale, who, like many Italians, identified himself only with his first name.

But Vincenzo, 36, and Patrizia, 30, drove four hours to Terni from their home in Benevento "more for ourselves than for a religious thing.

It's like a good luck wish for our wedding," Vincenzo said.

Virginia Theresa Yim, 32, of Toronto, and Emanuele Masci, a 29-year-old from Terni, were also among the couples crowded into the tiny basilica.

"It's a promise, something sweet, to strengthen our marriage," Masci said.

Yim said she never liked "the commercial side of Valentine's Day. ... I'm not the type of girl who wants chocolates and gifts. Here it is about love, not gifts."

The bride-to-be said that for her and Masci, marriage is sacred, and the sacrament is important both for them and their families.

Masci said, "It's not easy to find someone with the same values in a small town; I had to go across the ocean." The two met in Greece.

The ages of the engaged couples participating in the Mass approximated the general statistics for Italy, with very few under 30 and several

over 40. The average age for marriage in Italy is 34 years for men and 31 years for women, according to figures released late in 2012 by Istat, the government's national statistics office.

As the couples sipped coffee in the frigid morning air waiting for Mass to begin, Archbishop Paglia greeted them, one by one, asking where they were from and thanking them for coming.

He told reporters, "St. Valentine is celebrated from Cairo to Tokyo" and, even if most people exchanging flowers, cards and chocolates don't understand love the way the church does, "it is important to recognize this spark of love and make it stronger."

In his homily, he told the young couples that if they — like many of their peers — thought it really was impossible for a man and woman to be married and love each other for life, then they would not have come to the promise Mass. But the fact

that they are asking St. Valentine's protection and assistance, he said, means they recognize how difficult it may be to be faithful and loving forever.

"I see the affection in your eyes," he told the couples, "but I also see an awareness that it won't always be easy."

Archbishop Paglia told them the key to marriage and family life is to spend time together, to talk, to try to understand each other and, especially, to be willing to forgive one another.

"Do not forget to go to Mass on Sundays," he told them, "because if you are connected to others, your love will be stronger and your children will be stronger."

The archbishop ended his homily by telling the couples, "The choice to marry and love each other forever seems like an empty promise to many people, but you know that is the meaning of real love."

Sons of Philip Neri place emphasis on family, New Evangelization

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — St. Philip Neri was a 16th-century saint who founded The Congregation of the Oratory. The saint was known for his missionary and evangelization work in Rome, care for the sick, emphasis on family and encouragement of “Just do good. Just do good. Be joyful.”

That is the spirit that Father James Bromwich and Father Daniel Whelan, known as the Sons of St. Philip Neri, brought to Fort Wayne last spring and continue to pursue. The Sons of St. Philip Neri is a private association of the faithful with a juridic personality with intentions of someday becoming an oratory recognized by the pope.

There are eight oratories throughout the United States, with communities in formation in Fort Wayne and Cincinnati.

“We’re not an oratory yet,” emphasized Father James, the association’s moderator, “that only happens when Rome says you are an oratory.”

In August, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades issued a decree and approved them “officially as a community to be working toward an oratory,” noted Father James.

Both priests were ordained diocesan priests for the Archdiocese of Louisville, Ky. Father James was ordained in 2003, Father Daniel in 2004.

Father Daniel, who is the treasurer of the association, said both priests loved being diocesan priests and parish life.

“Independent of each other, both of us felt as if we were called to

something more — not that we were unhappy,” said Father Daniel.

“There was this push to do something more, and maybe in a different way,” added Father James, who felt, at first, that maybe it was a call for him to join a religious community.

“As we researched it, researched St. Philip Neri, and visited oratories in New Jersey and Pittsburgh, and talked to a couple others by phone,” Father James said, “we realized ‘this is it!’”

Father James explained that the oratory is like a cross — Blessed John Henry Newman was an Oratorian — and he called it a bridge between religious life and diocesan priesthood.

Father Daniel said the Sons of St. Philip Neri models the religious life aspects.

“We live in community,” he said. “We pray every evening in what’s called an ‘oratory.’ We pray vespers together. We meditate on Scripture. We eat a meal together.”

“The oratory remains the most important thing that we do as a community,” said Father James.

“Thursday nights are our family time together where we have recreation,” Father Bromwich said. “That is supposed to be modeling for the laity in a certain respect. We hear a lot today that families should be eating and praying together. Well, we do. . . .”

“We wanted to make sure that there was a strong emphasis on family,” Father Daniel added. “Families are under great attack right now. When we came across the oratory and what St. Philip said about the oratory: ‘We are a family. We live as a family.’ That’s why an oratory



Father Daniel Whelan, left, and Father James Bromwich, right, the Sons of St. Philip Neri, are shown in their chapel located in Providence House at St. John the Baptist Parish in Fort Wayne.

stays very, very small.” Most oratories have 15 to 16 men at the most.

And that leads to the Third Order or the Secular Oratory. Besides priests and brothers who make up the oratory, laity is also welcomed through a Secular Oratory.

“Once you work on that holiness within your own community, then you can go out and work with the holiness of the laity and with other families,” Father James said.

The Secular Oratory, Father James said, would meet once a month for prayer, a meal and formation.

St. Philip Neri emphasized the community as a family, and the “way to holiness is through the Oratory itself,” said Father James. “Through

the community of men living in the oratory and praying together, eating together and supporting one another, so that the inner-life within that community would be a key.”

The Sons of St. Philip Neri have many apostolic works in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Both Father James and Father Daniel share chaplaincy work at St. Joseph Hospital.

They both believe that a college presence is important as well. Father Daniel is the chaplain of the Newman Catholic Fellowship at Indiana University-Purdue University at Fort Wayne. Father James is an adjunct professor at the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne.

Father James also founded the

Neri Institute that does research — using the tools from natural law, Catholic social doctrine, etc. — and produces papers, film and radio documentaries that promote the dignity of life. These findings are shared with legislators and the media. They also incorporate new media such as blogs and Twitter to share their message. The institute draws college students in a role of research and scholars as interns, fellows and volunteers. More information may be found at www.neriinstitute.com.

Many who participated in the Eucharistic Procession through the neighborhoods of Fort Wayne last June may have seen the two priests going door-to-door explaining the meaning of the procession to the people. This door-to-door activity is another apostolate of the Sons of St. Philip Neri.

“Oratorians can be doing different things,” noted Father Daniel.

“Everybody comes with their own gifts and they contribute them as priests and brothers too,” Father Daniel said. “There is great opportunity for variety and ministry.”

Oratorians serve the “family” as priests and brothers. When accepted, new men serve a “guestship” to discern if the life is right for them, and then a novitiate. After one year, those interested in the Priesthood would attend seminary, and those interested in religious life as a brother continue their novitiate and studies.

For more information about the Sons of St. Philip Neri, their apostolates and the Secular Oratory, visit www.sonsofphilip.com.

Indiana House expected to pass comprehensive school choice expansion, Church supports expansion

INDIANAPOLIS — When Karinya Chrisler learned her son could receive a school scholarship voucher to attend the school of her choice she was “surprised and elated,” because she “never qualifies for anything.”

Chrisler, who supports a new school choice expansion bill, testified before the House Select Committee on Education during a Feb. 5 hearing, said she made the decision to search for another school for her son, because the school Chrisler’s son was attending was not meeting his needs.

Chrisler told the House panel that her son, Nicholas, who now attends St. Joan of Arc in Indianapolis, with a school scholarship voucher, is thriving. Chrisler says her son Nicholas is “bright, happy and safe.” Chrisler, who is not Catholic, told the House panel, “I wanted the morals and values that St. Joan of Arc teaches for my son too.”

A bill expanding school choice options for more Hoosier families is one step closer to becoming a reality as the Indiana House of Representatives moves toward passing it. The Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC) supports the

expansion.

Rep. Bob Behning, R-Indianapolis, author of the school choice bill, HB 1003, outlined the details of his proposal before the House panel. He explained that HB 1003 provides access to school choice options for current nonpublic school families who meet the income guidelines. Current law requires children to attend a public school for two semesters prior receiving a school scholarship voucher. However, HB 1003 removes this obstacle for current nonpublic school families and also for students entering kindergarten who could receive a choice voucher to attend a nonpublic school provided the family meets income guidelines.

“In House Bill 1003, we are creating a preschool education tax credit program. We are now creating a Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) for the exclusive use of preschool to help with early childhood development,” said Behning. Those who wish to donate to an SGO will get tax credits for their donations.

Behning’s plan also raises the scholarship cap for elementary school tuition. The scholarship cap

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BRIGID CURTIS AYER

for elementary school tuition is currently \$4,500 per year per child. “Under HB 1003, we are increasing the scholarship cap to \$5,500 the first year, and \$6,500 the second year,” said Behning.

“House Bill 1003 contains the provisions outlined by Gov. Pence, which provides access to a school choice voucher for children of military families, special needs children, adopted children and children in foster care. We are adding an income cap at 300 percent of free and reduced lunch for these categories.”

Under the plan, the family income threshold is much higher for these children in one of the four new categories. The family income could be nearly \$130,000 and still be able to use a school scholarship to send their child to the school of

the parent’s choice. “To truly have a special education voucher we also need all the special education dollars to follow the student to the nonpublic school,” said Behning.

The House panel heard several hours of testimony on the bill from school choice advocates and opponents. Advocates including Glenn Tebbe, Indiana Catholic Conference executive director, who testified in support of the bill on behalf of the Catholic Church said, “The Church supports HB 1003 primarily because it provides the opportunity for parents to decide what’s in the best interest of their children and provides a more level playing field between families who have resources to make a choice and families who do not. We have been educating children in Indiana for a long, long time from all socio-economic groups and in doing so believe we are contributing to the common good,” said Tebbe.

Mary McCoy, principal of St. Philip Neri Catholic School in Indianapolis, also testified in support of the bill thanked lawmakers for passing the original scholarship legislation because it is helping many parents choose a quality education

for their children. McCoy called the new school choice expansion legislation “win-win situation,” for students and families especially because it will include access to a school voucher for siblings.

Opponents of HB 1003 including public school advocates raised concerns about the drain of money from the public school and going to the nonpublic school. John O’Neal, Indiana State Teachers’ Association (ISTA) testified against the legislation, saying the measure will divert the funding stream from public schools to nonpublic schools. O’Neal also raised questions whether Indiana could afford an expansion. Sally Sloan, representing the Indiana Federation of Teachers, testified in opposition to the bill, expressed concerns about what kind of impact the legislation would have on public schools that are currently underfunded.

House Bill 1003 passed the House Select Committee on Education and is headed to the House Ways and Means Committee for lawmakers to review the fiscal impact the plan could have on the state.

Speakers encourage men to 'put out into the deep' at diocesan men's conference

BY CHUCK FREEBY

SOUTH BEND — “Duc in Altum” may not be the most popular Latin phrase in today’s culture. However, that expression, which means “put out into the deep,” was the message of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades at Saturday’s Rekindle the Fire Diocesan Men’s Conference at Century Center.

Over 1,100 men from a variety of states, but primarily the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, attended a Mass celebrated by Bishop Rhoades to conclude the day’s activities.

The New Evangelization was a constant theme from the day’s speakers, echoed in Bishop Rhoades’ homily.

“I wish to encourage you this evening, first and foremost, to be men of prayer, to set your gaze firmly on the face of the Lord Jesus,” exhorted the bishop. “We are called to help others to see the true face of God in Jesus Christ — isn’t that what evangelization is all about? But first we need to gaze on that face.”

Bishop Rhoades continued his encouragement, saying “Catholic men who pray, who enter into the knowledge of Jesus and friendship with Him, who witness to Him in the family, in the workplace, in the parish and in the world: what a tremendous force for the New Evangelization!”

Best-selling author Matthew Kelly was one of the keynote speakers, challenging his audience to be “game changers” in 2013 by doing something transformational.

“Jesus was a radical,” noted Kelly. “His teachings were radical 2,000 years ago and they are radical today. God wants to turn your life upside-down, which turns out to be right-side up.”

Kelly encouraged the men to choose one of three options:

- Read the Gospel 15 minutes a day over and over for a whole year
- Go to Confession once a month for a year
- Use a Mass journal to find one way in the Mass you can be a better person each week for a year

In his second session, Kelly encouraged the men to be “dynamic Catholics,” saying research has found dynamic Catholics are people who pray, study the faith, practice generosity and evangelize. Unfortunately, that only comprises 7 percent of American Catholics. While Kelly notes most Catholics haven’t been taught to do many of these — if any — they aren’t beyond anyone’s reach.

“What would happen to your parish if each person there prayed 10 minutes a day, read five pages of a good Catholic book each day, gave 1 percent more in the offering and did one thing to evan-

gelize each week?” asked Kelly. “It’s doable.”

Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers riveted the crowd with his entertaining and energetic address. The University of Notre Dame alumnus challenged men to become more active as the spiritual heads of their households.

“When the serpent was tricking Eve, Adam just stood there and did nothing,” chided Burke-Sivers. “Our job is to be the chief servants of our wives and children. Give an example of Christ in the way you treat you wife and children.”

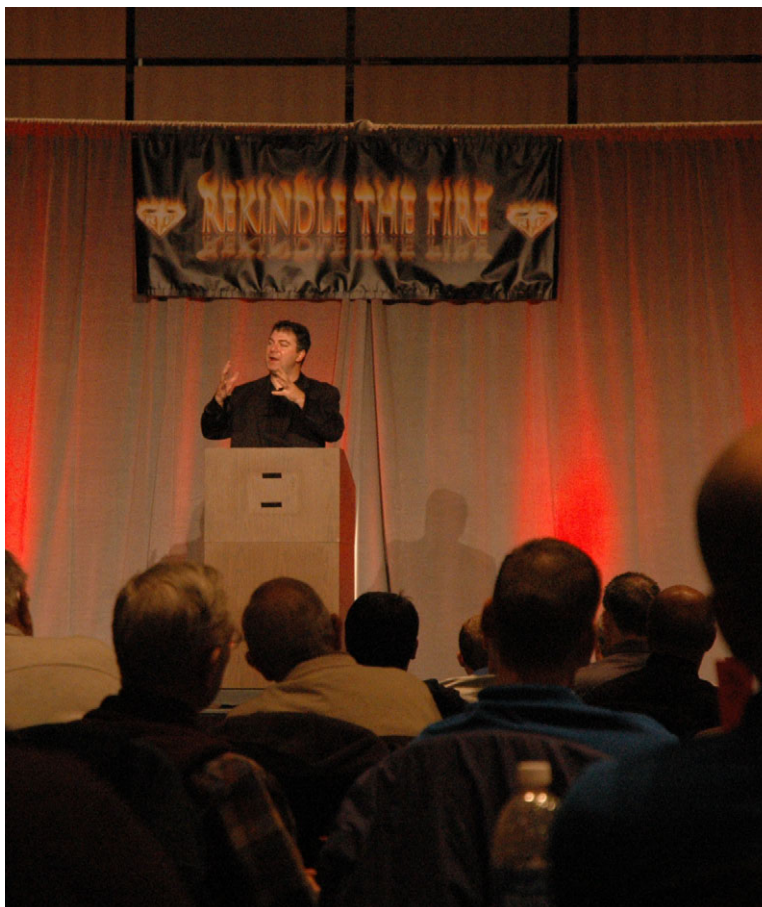
He also cited statistics that reveal twice as many young adults continue to practice the faith when their father attends Mass with them while they are young.

Deacon Burke-Sivers gripped a rosary made of bullets and shells that he was given by a member of special forces in Afghanistan. As he clutched it, the deacon warned that Satan is still working in the world today, and still trying to break up families.

“Use the rosary as a weapon against Satan,” he roared. “We have to make ourselves harder targets. The two best weapons we have are the rosary and adoration. If you’re struggling with issues, that’s okay. Growth comes through struggling. To win the struggle, we must be men of prayer.”

Franciscan Father David Mary Engo also addressed the crowd, noting these are challenging times for Catholic men.

“We need to stand in the face of great opportunity and believe in what the Church teaches in how we live our lives every day,” remarked Father Engo. “The New Evangelization has to begin with us allowing the faith to take hold of our lives.”



KEVIN HAGGENJOS

Speaker Matthew Kelly addresses over 1,100 men gathered for the diocesan Rekindle the Fire Men’s Conference on Feb. 9 in South Bend.

Father Engo advised the men they could do this by understanding Christ’s love for them and developing a love for everyone, praying for people encountered throughout the day and listening for openings to speak the faith.

The message was hammered home once more in the closing words of Bishop Rhoades’ homily.

“If the New Evangelization is going to bear fruit, it must be rooted in Christ, our relationship with Him and our faithful witness to Him,” remarked Bishop Rhoades. “So my brothers, let us all heed the words of Jesus in today’s Gospel: ‘Put out into the deep’ and ‘Do not be afraid.’”



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Dismas House: Helping residents with jobs, clothes, food, a warm bed

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

SOUTH BEND — “Regina asked bishop if he would pray with her at the end of the evening so they went into my office and prayed together. He blessed her and then she turned to him and said it was time for her to pray for him,” said Maria Kaczmarek, executive director of Dismas House of South Bend about a memorable moment during a recent visit by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades for dinner.

Kaczmarek met the bishop over the summer at the National Black Catholic Conference in Indianapolis where she invited him for dinner. There was an opening in Bishop Rhoades’ schedule recently and he was able to break bread with residents of Dismas House. Dinner was provided by volunteers from Christ the King Parish.

“Dismas House is a transitional home for men and women returning from incarceration. We have been in operation since 1986. In a family setting, our residents receive the support and programs they need to successfully reenter the community as productive citizens. On average we serve 14 residents with an average stay of six months. Residents learn to live, work and learn together as they create a positive living environment. Ideally the residents share the house with area college students,” said Kaczmarek. “Leah Coming, a senior from Notre Dame, just completed her stay with us.”

Four nights a week, Monday through Thursday, they have volunteers come to the house to prepare the evening meal then dine with the residents. “I always remind people if Jesus was walking the earth today he would be at Dismas House breaking bread with our residents,” said Kaczmarek.

Residents were honored by Bishop Rhoades’ visit and made an extra effort to dress up for the event.



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY DISMAS HOUSE OF SOUTH BEND

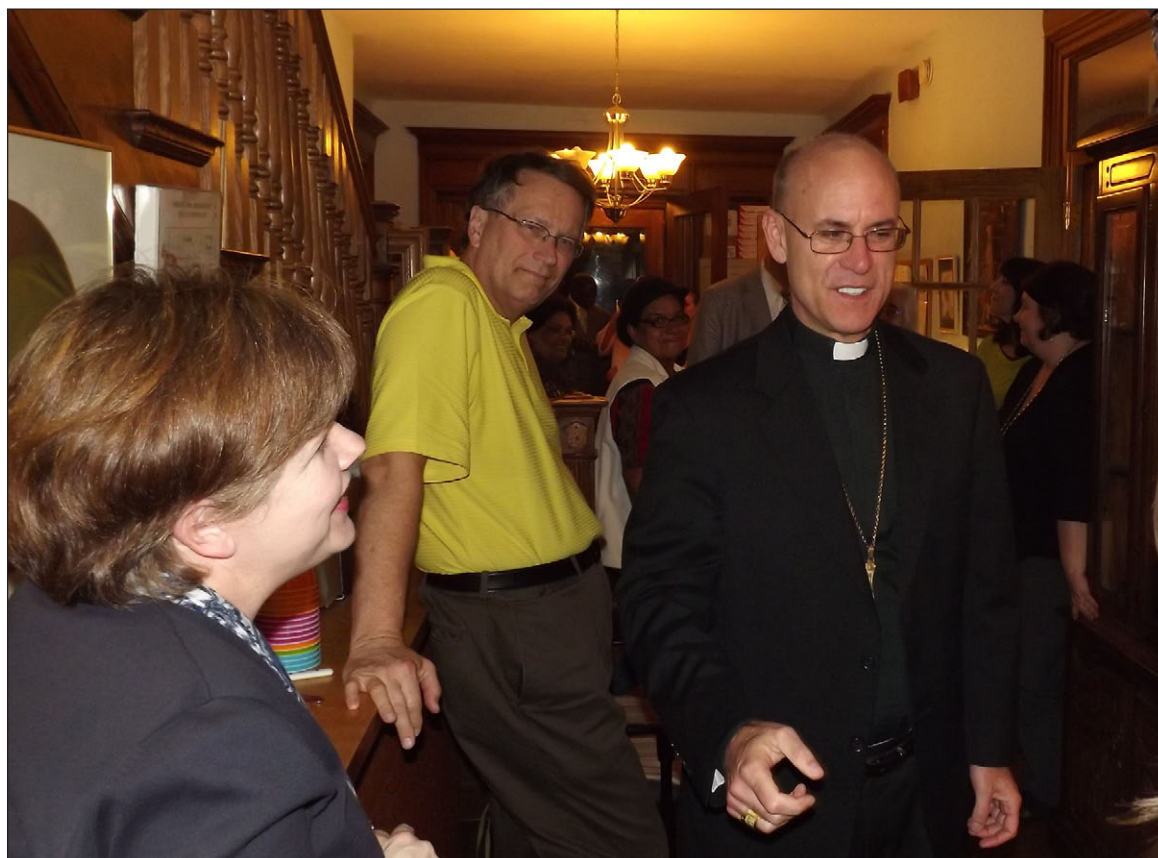
Pictured is Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades having dinner with residents at Dismas House of South Bend.

“It was just a really nice evening,” said Kaczmarek. “The bishop was really great with the residents. I think God was present here.”

Father Jack Hickey founded Dismas House in 1974 in Nashville along with a group of students as part of the Vanderbilt Prison Project. According to their website, seven houses owe their origins to Dismas. The program has been recognized nationally for its success and has been used as a model for similar organizations throughout the U.S. and overseas. South Bend has 13 residents with the capacity for 18.

The name Dismas is the “repentant” or “good thief” crucified with Christ on Calvary and offers a testament to the power of forgiveness.

“If you want to really help people not reoffend their basic needs have to be met,” said Kaczmarek. That is what Dismas House does for their residents. They help people get a job, give them clothes, food and a warm bed to sleep in at night. There is a television room, computers available, tutoring from



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades tours Dismas House of South Bend on a pastoral visit Wednesday, Jan. 30.

Notre Dame students, workshops and support groups for those with substance abuse. All residents are required to do volunteer work within the community. “We want them to be able to move forward and become upstanding members of the community.”

Dismas House is always in need of supplies like clothing, fresh vegetables, personal hygiene items, offsite activity tickets, car donations for residents to get to jobs, bus passes, haircuts, dental services and bedding. They also appreciate the chance for community members to join them for dinner or to volunteer their time at the house.

For more information about getting involved contact Dismas House of South Bend at (574) 233-8522 or by email at dissouth-bend@sbcglobal.net.



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Ethical wills embrace Catholic life

In the story, "A Good Day for Soup," Barbara, a 48-year-old successful businesswoman, found herself weary with day-to-day life demands. She began reflecting on simpler times when she was a young girl. Her Gram would stand in her kitchen, endlessly stirring a pot of soup, and sharing her wisdom on life's lessons. Almost smelling the aroma, Barbara decided to lock her briefcase, turn off her cell phone and make soup. That is when she found her grandmother's legacy — a note taped under the lid of Gram's soup pot with loving words from the past.

"My darling Barbara, I know you will find this many years from now ... remember how much I loved you, for I'll be with the angels then. ... you were always so much in a hurry to grow up. ... When it's time for you to slow down, take out your

Gram's old soup pot and make your house a home. ... Love is forever. ... Gram."

Gram's note is often termed an ethical or spiritual will as it communicates one's wisdom, life lessons and stories from generation to generation. Gram shared that soup comforts the soul and encouraged Barbara to take time in her busy life to nourish her emotional well-being.

Most ethical wills are written at the end of life as an aid to estate planning, in health care and hospice, and as a spiritual healing tool. Whereas a last will and testament transfers one's valuables to loved ones, an ethical will passes down one's values. The origin for the ethical will came from Genesis 49:1-33 when a dying Jacob gathered his sons together to offer them his blessing. Another example is found in John 15-18, where Jesus



ELISA SMITH

GUEST
COMMENTARY

taught His disciples after the Last Supper.

Bishop John M. D'Arcy understood the importance of ethical wills. However, as he shared with me during lunch in Fort Wayne on Jan. 20, 2012, his focus was on the concept of a Catholic spiritual will. Since Bishop D'Arcy believed in having an estate plan, he valued the design of a written spiritual will

ETHICAL, PAGE 20

Holiness requires discipline, focus



THE
SUNDAY
GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

First Sunday of Lent Lk 4:1-13

The Book of Deuteronomy provides the first reading for this first Sunday of Lent. Deuteronomy looks to the days when the Hebrews were fleeing from Egyptian slavery and making an uncertain way across the treacherous Sinai Peninsula.

Even so, Deuteronomy is not a story of doom and gloom. It is hopeful. All will be well for God's people if they simply love God and follow the commandments. God already had proven to be merciful and protective. He would not change.

The decision to obey God, however, and truly to be God's faithful people rested solely with the people themselves.

For its second reading this weekend, the Church provides us with a reading from Paul's powerful Epistle to the Romans. The Apostle wrote this epistle, or letter, to the Christians living in Rome, the imperial capital and the center of the Mediterranean world in the first century AD.

As was the case with the other communities to which Paul sent letters, the Christian community of Rome was living in a culture that was utterly at odds with the letter and the spirit of the Gospel. Surely many of the Christian Romans had doubts. Surely many were afraid since, after all,

the popular mood and indeed the political order were against Christians.

Paul urged these people to be strong by uniting themselves to God through faith in Jesus. Paul expressly mentions the Resurrection, the miracle by which Jesus, crucified and dead, rose again to life.

Reassuringly, and strong with his own determined faith, Paul tells the Romans that if they trust in the Lord, none will be put to shame.

Finally, Paul insists, God's mercy and life, given in Christ, are available to all, Greeks, or foreigners, as well as to Jews, who were part of the chosen people.

St. Luke's Gospel gives us a scene also seen in Mark and Matthew, namely a story of the temptation of Christ by the devil. The identity of Jesus is made clear. The Gospel says that Jesus is "full of the Holy Spirit." He is the Son of God. He also is human, because the devil used food to tempt Jesus. Fasting was a discipline for Jesus.

In the exchange, the devil, so often depicted in myth as so very powerful, as indeed the devil is powerful, comes across as indecisive and struggling. The devil cannot grasp the full meaning of Christ's identity. The devil foolishly seeks to tempt Jesus not to be faithful to God but rather to worship Satan.

Jesus, by contrast, is serene and strong. He is in control.

Nevertheless, although defeated for the moment, the devil does not relent, but only lies in wait for another opportunity.

Reflection

On Ash Wednesday, the Church invited us to use the season of Lent as a means to our

great holiness.

Never deluding us by implying that the path to holiness is a walk along an imagined primrose path, the Church frankly tells us that holiness requires discipline, focus and unfailing faithfulness to God despite difficulties and the forces, very real in the world, that are absolutely at odds with the Gospel of Jesus.

In so many ways we are similar to the Hebrews as they fled from Egypt and slavery to the land of prosperity and peace God had promised them. We are in flight from the slavery and hopelessness of sin.

The first to hear this reading from Romans, and the reading from Luke, also were in flight from sin and death. They were weak. We are weak, because selfishness attracts us. They could not see. Neither can we.

God alone gives strength and insight. Lent gives us the opportunity to strengthen our own resolves to resist sin, to be with God, and in God to find our way.

READINGS

Sunday: Dt 26:4-10 Ps 91:1-2, 10-15 Rom 10:8-13 Lk 4:1-13

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

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

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

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

Friday: 1 Pt 5:1-4 Ps 23:1-6 Mt 16:13-19

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

'One does not live on bread alone'

Burkina Faso is a landlocked country in the heart of the Sahel, just south of the Sahara Desert. With most of the economy engaged in agriculture, especially growing and producing cotton, Burkina Faso's economy is highly susceptible to fluctuations in world commodity prices and natural disasters. Since most of the farmers engage in subsistence farming, recurring prolonged droughts and recent severe floods have led to widespread food shortages. Such shortages, when coupled with limited access to health care and education, make it difficult for most Burkinabé to meet even their most basic needs.

Pray and Fast

The desert seems like a strange place to commence new spiritual awareness. However, following His baptism in the Jordan, Jesus embarks on a journey to this dry lonely place of temptation because the desert is the battleground where the grace and gifts of Baptism and the presence of the Holy Spirit are essential. In Sunday's Gospel from Luke, Jesus begins His mission by facing a series of temptations: the lure of appetites, the desire for glory, the false invincibility that comes with pride.

In your prayer this week, ask Jesus to show you the areas that most tempt you to follow your own agenda over God's plan for you. Ask for the grace to break the hold these temptations have over you. Make this the work of your Lenten fast.

Learn

In the face of extreme loss and daily suffering, despair can be a great temptation, especially during the lean season. In Burkina Faso, small farms can typically feed their families for only about seven or eight months because

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

MELISSA WHEELER

poor rainfall, insects and other problems limit their production.

For Moussa Ouedraogo and his family, hope came in the form of an irrigation system that Catholic Relief Services helped to build in his community on shared land. The community divided the land into small gardens for different farmers in the village. They formed committees to take responsibility for the irrigation system and keep it in repair and to manage water and seed supplies. Now Moussa and his neighbors produce enough food to help them through the lean season. They often have enough produce left over to sell at the market and earn extra income.

Give

How often do you have fresh vegetables and produce for your dinner table — even during the bleak winter months? Consider that, for many of the world's poor, food that they do not grow themselves is too expensive to purchase. Take stock of the fresh items in your refrigerator, and make a donation to your Rice Bowl for each type of produce you find.

To order free materials for CRS Rice Bowl, visit crsricebowl.org or crsplatearroz.org, or call (800) 222-0025. For more information about Catholic Relief Services contact Melissa Wheeler at mwheeler@bishopdwenger.com or (260) 496-4700, ext. 323.



Saint of the Week

Anne Line

c. 1565-1601
February 27

Anne is one of three laywomen among the Forty Martyrs of England and Wales canonized in 1970 by Pope Paul VI. Anne Heigham and her brother were disowned by their Protestant father for converting to Catholicism. She married another disinherited convert, Roger Line, who died in exile in Flanders in 1594. Left penniless and always in poor health, Anne began working with Jesuits in London, where she organized and operated safe houses for priests and embroidered vestments. She took voluntary vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. Within one month, February 1601, she was arrested, tried at the Old Bailey, convicted of hiding a priest, and hanged at Tyburn. Anne is a patron of the childless, widows and converts.

Reputation and the Hall of Fame

Not one baseball player was inducted into the Hall of Fame this year. It was a shutout, only the second one in 40 years. Perhaps it was to be expected. There was little appetite for celebration when so many of the newly eligible candidates were tarnished by the steroid scandal of the last decade.

"After what has been written and said over the last few years I'm not overly surprised," tweeted pitcher Roger Clemens, who, along with Sammy Sosa and Barry Bonds, was among those turned down.

I found myself thinking of Cassio, whose drunkenness cost him his job as Othello's chief lieutenant: "Reputation, reputation, reputation! O, I have lost my reputation! I have lost the immortal part of myself, and what remains is bestial."

In sports, reputation really is everything. Dopers, who spent years enjoying terrific reputations, based on achievements, we now see as tainted. They have fallen in our esteem and ruined our memories of their glory days.

The summer of 1998, when Sosa and Mark McGwire duelled to set a new single-season home run record, seems like a bad 3-D movie with styrofoam monsters and heroes with lifts in their shoes. Lance Armstrong's story of surviving cancer and winning

the Tour de France seven times has lost its ability to inspire.

Abraham Lincoln once said, "Perhaps a man's character was like a tree, and his reputation like its shadow; the shadow is what we think of it, the tree is the real thing." The dopers' problem was that they lost sight of the real point. The reputation and adulation that come with victory are only worth having for those who earn them. Those who pursue them unworthily are just chasing shadows.

That's why the opprobrium that the dopers now face is deserved punishment. The pursuit of fame is no crime. But it's wrong and pointless to gain it by cheating. It is a shame that those who cheat may, even briefly, eclipse players such as baseball great Hank Aaron, who won our admiration honestly.

A good reputation is a desirable thing, but the downfall of these sports heroes helps put it in proper perspective. Reputation is only a shadow. Character is the real thing. Consider the case of St. Jeanne Jugan, who founded the Little Sisters of the Poor. She lived a life of heroic virtue, caring for hundreds of elderly poor people and founding an order that still does that work today.

In 1852, a priest who was appointed superior general of her order directed her to retire into



JOHN GARVEY

INTELLECT AND VIRTUE

a life of obscurity. When she died 27 years later, the younger members of the order didn't even know she was its foundress.

Most of us would resent such treatment. It's the kind of injustice that inspires people nowadays to sue and write tell-all books. And who among us would not sympathize with her?

But St. Jeanne was an extraordinary person and a good example for people who care about fame. She did what she did for the poor and for Christ, not for popular acclaim. When you know as clearly as she did where you stand, the shadow you cast is not so important.

John Garvey is president of The Catholic University of America in Washington and an expert on constitutional law, religious liberty and the First Amendment.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for February 17, 2013

Luke 4:1-13

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for First Sunday of Lent, Cycle C: Jesus and Satan in the wilderness. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

SPIRIT	JESUS	JORDAN
FORTY DAYS	TEMPTED	ATE NOTHING
HUNGRY	SON OF GOD	STONE
BECOME	BREAD	WRITTEN
SHOWED	KINGDOMS	WORSHIP ME
THE LORD	SERVE	TEMPLE
ANGELS	GUARD YOU	AGAINST

WILDERNESS

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

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ETHICAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

as well, but one which would pass down Catholic values to future generations.

Based on my conversations with Bishop D'Arcy regarding this topic, had bishop completed his written Catholic spiritual will, it may very well have read like this ...

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Scriptures tell us that when they had finished eating, Christ asked Peter three times, "Simon, Son of John, do you love me?" and after each affirmative response, Jesus said, "Feed my lambs. Take care of my sheep. Feed my sheep." (Jn 21:15-17) Our Catholic faith is nourishment for our soul. The joy of a bishop — the shepherd — is to feed his sheep nourishment for their souls. "I thank God with all my heart that I was appointed by Christ through the Church as shepherd of our beloved diocese." (from statement by Bishop John M. D'Arcy, Jan. 9, 2013.) What greater nourishment for the soul than the Eucharist — the Body and Blood of our Lord. This is the core of our Catholic faith.

Gratitude for the Catholic faith is food for our soul. "I thank God for my family and that I was born in the Catholic faith, which has always defended and defends in these troubled times the dignity of life and of the human person and the

nature, which God has given us." (from statement by Bishop John M. D'Arcy, Jan. 9, 2013)

In our Catholic faith, we have the examples of Mary, the Apostles and the saints who answered "Yes" and fed their souls with prayer and the will of God. "Pray that (our) 'YES' to God and His Will, be full and wholehearted and never begrudging, but a strong 'YES.'" (from statement to the faithful, Jan. 24, 2013).

Truth nourishes the soul and guides us to love. Jesus showed us His truth ... so that we may know Him in order to love Him and in turn, love others. "It is important, through faith, that we recognize the face of Jesus in the least of our brothers and sisters." (from A Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving, Nov. 14, 2012)

"I give thanks to God for you and for your faith lived in charity." (from A Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving, Nov. 14, 2012). "I send you all my love and gratitude." (from statement to the faithful, Jan. 24, 2013) I leave to you my motto ... "His Steadfast Love Endures Forever."

Bishop John M. D'Arcy,
bishop emeritus

Elisa M. Smith, CPA/PFS is a certified ethical will facilitator and an estate and charitable planning manager with The Romine Group, CPAs in Columbia City, Ind.

An Alaskan cruise, a path to priesthood

Matthew Bearth was 17 when he set out on an Alaskan cruise that changed the course of his life and led him to the seminary. Today the 20-year-old college junior loves to recount that northern voyage.

Matthew didn't have a passport when his family decided to take an Alaska cruise the August before his senior year. It was a time when an onslaught of questions was beginning to come from every direction. What college are you going to attend? What kind of career are you planning?

He didn't know the answers.

As a young boy, he'd considered being an astronaut or an NFL punter. Now the Burnsville, Minn., teen was thinking practical: a business degree from a college where he'd have good odds of meeting a nice Catholic girl.

"I was definitely assuming marriage," Matthew told me.

The Alaskan landscape stunned him — soaring mountains, calving glaciers, gliding eagles. He saw brown bears snatching salmon and whales engaged in bubble netting, a feeding technique in which a dozen humpbacks surfaced with mouths full of flopping fish. To Matthew, it was all a vibrant reflection of the Creator.

The cruise also provided a close encounter with Scripture, providing him time to study the Gospel of Matthew and glean new insights.

Most significant, the cruise introduced him to Father Mike Schmitz, a

young priest from another Minnesota diocese with a magnetic personality, enough athleticism to complete an Ironman and movie-star looks — dark hair and dark tan, searing blue eyes and dimples.

"He's ripped," Matthew said.

Here was a man who could've scored any job or wooed any woman and he chose to sacrifice it all for Priesthood. And he wasn't just coping or content. He was happy. He had chosen this vocation above all others, recognizing its nobility, adventure and joy.

Matthew was intrigued.

He could see there was no ego at work; Father Mike drew people in only to point them to Christ. He made deft references to "The Simpsons," "Twilight" and Miley Cyrus in his homilies, yet when it came time for consecration, he demonstrated a reverence Matthew had never before witnessed. "He celebrates the Mass as if he was in heaven," Matthew said. "It's as if he's talking to God — and you know he is."

The teenager resolved right then and there that, no matter what vocation he pursued, he would lead the same kind of life: totally centered on Christ, directing others to Him. After seeing such an amazing example, why aim any lower?

"I knew I could live an excellent life," he said.

Back home, Matthew downloaded all of Father Mike's homilies



CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

TWENTY SOMETHING

onto his iPod and quickly devoured them. Senior year started, bringing other changes. He cut back on pizza and dessert and reduced his portions, shedding 30 pounds over the course of the school year. He began praying a decade of the rosary every day, logging it in a notebook he kept by his bed. He wanted to be a better man.

Time passed, and faith remained the center of Matthew's life. A year ago he decided to enter St. John Vianney College Seminary in St. Paul, Minn. He met Father Mike at his parents' cabin up north, where the two men had a heart-to-heart talk in the garage about priesthood. Now half way through his first year as a seminarian, Matthew still keeps in touch with his mentor, texting back and forth and getting together when Father Mike is in town.

"God placed him in my life for a reason."

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

Sports

NOTED HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER PLAYERS TO CONTINUE TO COLLEGIATE LEVEL Three Bishop Luers High School soccer players recently signed letters of intent to continue their careers at the college level. Forward Adam Perolio will be playing for Concordia University-Chicago next fall. Midfielder Jacob Murphy has been enlisted by the Jaguars soccer program at Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis while Brenden Gonzales, also a midfielder, will continue at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne. All three young men were first team all-conference selections in Fort Wayne's Summit Athletic Conference (SAC) and led the Knights to both a 2012 SAC title and IHSAA sectional crown.

CYO lady Twins capture title, Rams capture boys' title

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

NEW HAVEN — The St. Rose-St. Louis Twins captured the girls' 2013 fifth-sixth grade Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) tournament crown on Monday evening, Feb. 4, but not without a fierce battle from the young, runner-up, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel. After a fairly uneventful, 2-2 first quarter, the Squires' Madeline Rauner went on a scoring rampage hitting not one, but three three-pointers in a row in the final minutes of the second quarter to take a 15-10 lead into the locker room.

Down at half time, Twins Coach Jerry Feasby admitted there was not much his team could do (about the scoring surge), but encouraged them, "Keep playing as hard as you can. Push the ball up the floor, look for good shots and get back on defense." The Twins did as instructed, re-gained the lead and were able to hold off the scrappy Squires to pull off a 29-19 victory.

In the win, Abby Sheehan and Lillie Platter scored a bucket each, Taylor Zelt added four and Maggie Castleman had seven points for the Twins, while teammate Nevaeh Feasby led all scorers with 14. Rauner finished with 11 points for Hessen Cassel. Feasby and his assistant, Corey Sheehan, were very pleased with their team's performance. They set three goals at the beginning of the season: have fun, improve their skills and win the CYO. "The



PROVIDED BY HUNTINGTON CATHOLIC

The Huntington Catholic fifth-and-sixth-grade boys' basketball teams are CYO Champions for the second year in a row. They defeated the Twins of St. Rose/St. Louis, 45-23, in the championship game. In team photo are the following: front row, from left, Dylan Hasty, Reid Johnson, Nicolas Mickley and Martin Harold; middle row, Samuel Mickley, Justin Albertson, Graham Scher and Gage Swada; and in back, Coach Rich Swada.

girls put in a lot of hard work and dedication this year. We learned a lot and had a lot of fun doing it," summarized Feasby.

In the boys' contest, the Twins from St. Rose-St. Louis also made it to the championship game, but it was Huntington Catholic who came out on top by a score of

45-23, thanks to the amazing sharp shooting of Gage Swada.

Swada scored 33 points in the contest, which included eight treys. Martin Harold added 12 for Huntington, while Dirk Herschberger led the Twins with eight points.

This marks the second year in

a row the Rams have claimed the top spot. In their opener, they got by a tough squad from St. Therese, 49-45, and in the semi-finals Huntington defeated Queen of Angels, 44-30. St. Rose-St. Louis Coach Mike Hoffman explained, "Huntington played outstanding basketball and were led by a couple of very talented guards. Their frenetic pace was ultimately too much to overcome."

He continued, "It was quite an end to the season. Although we got outplayed by a superior team in the championship, it was a great joy to see this group of 11

young men come together from the beginning to the end of the season and carry a three-game win streak into the tournament. Everyday in practice we (Hoffman and Coach Mindy Castle) pushed them and they responded willingly. The leaders of the team led like mature young men and the lesser-experienced players wanted to learn every day. Even though our record did not show it in the won/loss column our season was quite a success in terms of team play, learning the game and how to play, and how to be your brother's keeper."



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ICCL teams look forward to finals competition

BY JOE KOZINSKI

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY — Saint Joseph and Marian high schools played host to the Inter-City Catholic League's version of March Madness as all 13 teams fought in the February Frenzy to play in the final four this weekend.

Saturday's contests had the following results: Queen of Peace won its first game of the season against St. Jude and then were displaced by the Eagles of St. Joseph; Corpus Christi upended Holy Cross; the Saints of Mishawaka Catholic slipped past St. Anthony; and finally, the Trojans of Holy Family defeated Our Lady of Hungary.

The second round league champion, St. Pius X faced off against a confident and much-improved

Corpus Christi team that lost by 38 points in week one to the Lions.

Corpus Christi battled to a tie at intermission, however, the Lions sprinted out of the locker room and never looked back as they prevailed, 52-31, behind Tony Carmola's 10. Alex Francoeur paced the Cougars with 11.

The Lions will face St. Joseph in the semifinals as the Eagles eked out an overtime victory against the Spartan of St. Thomas, 58-49. The battle inside the game saw two big men duke it out as the Eagle's Josh De St. Jean scored 20 in the victory despite the best efforts and 23 points dropped in by Gunner Sadawey.

Michael Manion and Christ the King soared past the Saints of Mishawaka Catholic, 39-18, to set up half of the other semifinal.

The Kings will face the Blazers

of St. Matthew as they trounced Holy Family, 42-12, as Justin DeClark netted 14.

So the final four is set. Regular season champion St. Pius X will face the upstart Eagles, who they did not play during the season, at Saint Joseph High School at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 16.

The game to follow will be a couple of teams that were separated by a mere five points during this year's campaign as Christ the King hopes to be triumphant again against the Blazers of St. Matthew who shot a mere one for 11 from the charity stripe during that contest.

The finals will directly follow the Colors Championship game that begins at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 17 at Marian High School.

A CLOSER, CATHOLIC LOOK



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'Bible' miniseries aims to make 'emotional connection' with audience

BY MARK PATTISON

WASHINGTON (CNS) — It took the combined clout of an actress best known for playing an angel and her big-ratings executive-producer husband, but Roma Downey and Mark Burnett have pulled off the making of a 10-hour miniseries, "The Bible," that gets its premiere Sunday, March 3, on the History cable channel.

The miniseries runs 8-10 p.m. Eastern time each Sunday in March through March 31, Easter Sunday.

Downey's career role was playing the angel Monica for nine seasons in the TV drama "Touched by an Angel." Husband Burnett, whose U.S. TV hits include "Survivor," "The Voice," "The Apprentice," "Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader?" and "Shark Tank," added his Hollywood muscle.

"He doesn't take no for an answer. When he hears 'no,' he just thinks of a new opportunity. When it was a tough sell, he just persevered," Downey said of her husband. "He's just like (St.) Paul, very courageous."

Unlike other biblical films and TV miniseries, "The Bible" splits its 10 hours evenly between the Old and New Testaments.

Another difference, according to Burnett: "For example, in a lot



CNS PHOTO/JOE ALBLAS, COURTESY LIGHTWORKERS MEDIA

of older biblical films, it looks like a lot of the disciples, Jesus, the Romans, stepped right out of a dry cleaner. Not a speck of dust on them. And the lighting didn't feel real."

He surmised that such films were made "over the years (by) people with great hearts for service and faith, but with very little budget and very little experience, and sometimes the result isn't optimal, and it's not the best movie or show. ... History Channel provided us with a great budget, and I knew we wanted to make this emotionally connective, and very real for today's audiences."

Burnett and Downey were interviewed by Catholic News Service prior to an invitation-only screening Feb. 5 in Washington.

Roma Downey portrays Mary in a scene from the television miniseries "The Bible." Downey and her husband, Mark Burnett, produced the miniseries that will run on cable's History Channel 8-10 p.m. Eastern time each Sunday in March through March 31, Easter Sunday.

The day before, they were in Dallas, showing a 45-minute grouping of miniseries scenes to about 60 U.S. Catholic bishops.

Downey singled out "Cardinal (Donald W.) Wuerl (of Washington), who has been a great supporter and adviser to us for the last year or so," said Downey. She and Burnett added later there were about 40 theological and biblical advisers who helped before and during filming.

"We had a very great and warm reception," Downey said, adding she had told the bishops that, while growing up in Derry, in Northern Ireland, "I went to a convent school and was educated by the Sisters of Mercy; the girls fondly named them the 'Sisters of No Mercy,' and it got a big laugh in the room."

"I certainly tried in my career to make choices that would be pleasing to God," Downey said. "One of our central intentions in making this series was to make something that would glorify God."

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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

Fish fry

Walkerton — St. Patrick Church, 807 Tyler St., will host a fish fry on Friday, March 1, from 4:30-7 p.m. Dinners are \$8 for adults, \$4 for children 6-10 years, and children under 6 are free. Drive-thru carryouts are available. Fish prepared by Tyner IOOF Lodge.

Fish fry

New Haven — St. Louis Besancon will have a fish and tenderloin fry Friday, Feb. 15, from 4-7 p.m. at St. Louis Besancon Hall, four miles east of US 30 and the I-469 interchange on Lincoln

Highway East (Old Highway 30) Tickets are \$8.50 for adults, \$4.50 for children 6-11 and children 5 and under free. Carry-out available.

Holy Name Society Lenten fish fry

New Haven — The Holy Name Society of St. John the Baptist Parish will have a Lenten fish fry Friday, Feb. 15, from 4-7 p.m. Adults \$7.50, children 5-12 \$4 and children under 5 free.

Knights plan fish fry

Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 12417 will

have a fish fry on Friday, Feb. 22, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Good Hope. Adults \$8, children (6-12) \$5, and 5 and under are free.

Jonah Fish Fry at Christ the King

South Bend — Christ the King Parish, 52473 State Route 933, will have a fish fry on Friday, March 1, from 4-7 p.m. Adults \$9, children \$5. Fish, coleslaw, salad, roll, beverage and dessert. Mac and cheese available for children. Dine in or drive-through.

Knights plan fish fry

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on Friday, Feb. 22, from 5-7 p.m. Adults \$8, children (5-12) \$3. Chicken strips for \$8 and shrimp for \$8.50 will be available.

Lenten retreat

South Bend — St. Jude Rosary Sodality will have a Lenten Retreat "Walking Through the Valley," on Saturday, March 2, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at The Oaks at South Paw Farm, 16323 Roosevelt Rd., Mishawaka. Guest speaker is Jim Murphy. Cost is \$25 per person which includes lunch and snacks. Mass at 8 a.m. at St. Jude Church, 19704 Johnson Rd. is followed by the retreat at The Oaks at 9 a.m. RSVP to the St. Jude Parish Office at (574) 291-0570.

Knights plan spaghetti dinner

Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 451, 601 Reed Rd., will have a spaghetti dinner on Wednesday, Feb. 20, from 5-6:30 p.m. All proceeds will benefit the Downs Syndrome

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Adeline Fuentes, 90, St. Mary of the Assumption

Fort Wayne

Robert M. Bishop, 79, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Bishop John M. D'Arcy, 80, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

Emil Walter Milker Sr., 91, St. Jude

Felix T. Braun, 86, St. Therese

Doris F. Byanski, 95, St. Jude

James N. Davis Sr., 72, Our Lady of Good Hope

Kenneth L. DeBrosse, 89, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

Magdalene A. Giese, 89, St. Therese

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Kendallville

Rose Walsh, Immaculate Conception

Mishawaka

Paul E. Myers, 84, St. Joseph

Notre Dame

Stella K. Niemier, 75, St. Joseph Chapel

Patrick D. Donahue, 88, St. Joseph Chapel

South Bend

Kirsten A. Howard, 47, St. Anthony de Padua

Leo R. Zmudzinski, 85, St. Anthony de Padua

Martin A. Steinhofner, 85, St. Jude

Ruth M. O'Brien, 83, St. Matthew Cathedral

Graham Henry, 92, St. Joseph

Mary Logan Snellgrove, 89, Holy Family

Edith I. Lansford, 84, Little Flower

Bobbie Marie Nyari, 17, Holy Family

Mary C. Wilson, 91, St. Adalbert

James Alexander, 63, Holy Family

Leo J. Sobieralski, 91, St. Hedwig

Virginia M. Coliner, 90, Little Flower

PRINCIPAL Catholic High School

St. Theodore Guerin High School, in Noblesville, Indiana, is accepting applications for a Principal.

Guerin Catholic, nationally recognized for Catholic identity, is a diocesan (Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana), college preparatory school dedicated to its mission of serving students (over 700) from diverse backgrounds and preparing them to be servant leaders through authentic faith formation, academic excellence and student life opportunities.

The Principal at Guerin Catholic reports to the President and provides direct supervision to the Academic and Athletic Directors, as well as the Dean of Students. The Principal also works collaboratively with other directors of the school including Campus Ministry, Catholic Mission, Advancement, Technology, Admissions, Finance and Communications.

Guerin Catholic, founded in 2004, is committed to offering courses inspired and taught from a Catholic worldview, based on the Christian concept of the human person, and in communion with the Magisterium of the Church.

Thus, the successful candidate will:

- Be an active, practicing Catholic, in good standing with the Church.
- Have the ability to assume spiritual and academic leadership in a Catholic school.
- Be forward and imaginative in thinking.
- Have knowledge and openness to technological advances in the classroom.
- Have an inclusive philosophy and ability and commitment to work with internal and external communities.
- Have budgeting and financial management experience.

The candidate will also have achieved at least a Masters Degree in Education, hold or be eligible for an Indiana Administrative license and have 3-5 years of classroom teaching experience. Administrative experience is preferred.

Qualified candidates should email a current resume, cover letter and three reference letters, plus a pastor reference, to:

Paul Lunsford, President of Guerin Catholic, at principalsearch@guerincatholic.org.

Preference will be given to applications submitted prior to February 28, 2013.

EOE

www.guerincatholic.org

Association of NE Indiana.

Café con Brio at St. Henry's

Fort Wayne — Enjoy refreshments, entertainment and visit with friends Saturday, Feb. 16, at the Parish Center, 5711 St. Henry Lane, from 6:30-8 p.m. Canned goods, boxed noodles and pasta for Father Solanus Food Basket accepted for admission.

Day of Reflection

Mishawaka — A day of reflection will be held at St. Francis Convent (across from Marian High School) Wednesday, Feb. 27, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The theme for the day is "Our Lenten Journey." Bring a Bible.

The cost of the day is \$20 and includes lunch. Register by Feb. 22 to Sister Barbara Anne Hallman at (574) 259-5427.

Holy Family Vegas Night

South Bend — Holy Family Parish will have a Vegas night Saturday, March 2, from 6-11 p.m. in the parish center. Food and refreshments are free. Must be 21 and admission is \$8 at the door.

Catholic trivia night planned

South Bend — Our Lady of Hungary will have a Catholic trivia night Saturday, Feb. 16, at Our Lady of Hungary School, 735 W. Calvert St. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., game starts at 7 p.m. \$10 per person, bring snacks to share with your table. Drinks available for purchase. Proceeds benefit the OLH Youth Group. Call the Pastoral Center at (574) 287-1700 to reserve a table.

Trivia Night! and silent auction

Notre Dame — Trivia night and silent auction to benefit the scholarship fund of the Saint Mary's College South Bend Alumnae Club will be Saturday, March 9, in the Student Center Lounge at 6 p.m. for dinner and silent auction and trivia from 7-10 p.m. Cash bar. \$200 first prize. \$150 for 10-person team includes dinner. Reservations needed by Feb. 28 to Erin at (574) 339-4929 or vcserin@gmail.com.



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- 2 Mt. Calvary Lutheran 1819 Reservation Drive, Fort Wayne
- 8 St. Joseph Hessen Cassel US Hwy 27 South of 469 (drive thru only)
- 15 Cornerstone Youth Center 19819 Monroeville Rd., Monroeville
- 22 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Ch. 10700 Aboite Ctr Rd, Fort Wayne

