

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Pope celebrates Christmas, remembers martyrs on feast of St. Stephen

BY JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI celebrated his first Christmas as pope, warning of the “spiritual barrenness” of modern times and asking people to open their hearts to Jesus.

The pope celebrated midnight Mass in a packed St. Peter's Basilica and delivered a Christmas Day blessing to the city of Rome and to the world — “urbi et orbi.”

On Dec. 26, the feast of St. Stephen, he paid tribute to ancient and modern martyrs.

After his Christmas blessing, broadcast to 68 countries, he gave multilingual greetings, saying in English: “May the birth of the Prince of Peace remind the world where its true happiness lies; and may your hearts be filled with hope and joy, for the Savior has been born for us.”

He said “Merry Christmas” in 33 languages, fewer than the 60 or so languages typically used by Pope John Paul II in his later years. Gone were many of the Slavic and African idioms employed by the Polish pope.

Pope Benedict began the Christmas events by continuing another tradition of Pope John Paul. On Christmas Eve, he stood at his apartment window and lit a candle for peace as the Vatican's oversized manger scene was unveiled below in St. Peter's Square.

A few hours later, the pope processed into the basilica, brilliantly illuminated at midnight to reflect the joy of Christmas. The foot of the altar was decorated with a garland of pine boughs, berries, red roses and other flowers.



CNS PHOTO FROM L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

Pope Benedict XVI, looking over St. Peter's Square, gives his blessing “urbi et orbi” (to the city of Rome and the world) at the Vatican Dec. 25. He urged humanity to unite against terrorism, poverty and environmental blight and called for a “new world order” to correct economic imbalances.

CELEBRATE, PAGE 3

SECOND GRADE CLASS DONATES BLANKETS



DON CLEMMER

Second graders from St. Vincent de Paul School in Fort Wayne carry blankets to Jeff Keplar of the Fort Wayne Rescue Mission. The second grade donated 89 blankets, which the students had either collected or made in class. Keplar spoke to the second grade classes about the work of the rescue mission in providing food for the hungry and beds for the homeless.

Celebrating our history

Cathedral Museum reopens in new location

BY DON CLEMMER

FORT WAYNE — Pope John XXIII once said that Catholics are not called to guard a museum. He, of course, was calling for a renewal of the church and probably had nothing against actual museums. After all, museums have the important mission of preserving precious pieces of our history and culture. This mission takes on even greater significance for a church as steeped in tradition as the Catholic Church. For Catholics, museums provide the vital context of historical time and place necessary to better understand the role and mission of the church today.

That is why the Cathedral Museum, under the care of director Father Phillip Widmann, is of such great value to the diocese. And in its new location on the lower level of the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center, the Cathedral Museum is in a better position than ever to carry out this work.

The Cathedral Museum's own history dates back to when Father Widmann was

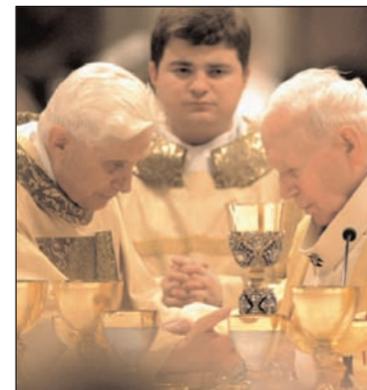
studying for the priesthood and became friends with Father Thomas Durkin, then rector of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, whose dream was always to start a museum for the diocese. While Father Durkin never did start a museum, he did save plenty of items — especially in the wake of the Second Vatican Council — that could be preserved in a museum.

The museum itself got off the ground in 1980 with the blessing of then Bishop William McManus and due largely to the efforts of Father Widmann. The original museum occupied a classroom in the old cathedral school building, where it remained until 1986, when it relocated to the basement of the MacDougal Chapel, a space it would occupy until 2005.

The museum's newest location offers plenty of space both for exhibits and storage, as well as a design and layout courtesy of Stanley Rowe of S.A. Rowe Interiors, for which Father Widmann offers much praise.

Walking around the new Cathedral

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Diocesan offices will be
closed Monday, Jan. 2, in
observance of the holiday

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PUBLISHER: Bishop John M. D'Arcy

EDITOR: Tim Johnson
ASSISTANT EDITOR: Don Clemmer
STAFF WRITER: Kay Cozad

Editorial Department

PAGE DESIGNER: Francie Hogan
FREELANCE WRITERS: Joan Bobay,
Ann Carey, Elmer J. Danch, Michelle
Donaghey, Bonnie Elbersson, Denise
Fedorow, Sr. Margie Lavonis, CSC,
Theresa Thomas, David A. Wemhoff

Business Department

BUSINESS MANAGER: Kathy Denice
AD GRAPHICS DIRECTOR: Mark Weber
BOOKKEEPING/CIRCULATION: Kathy Voirol

Advertising Sales

Carol Eifert (Fort Wayne area)
(260) 456-2824
Judy Kearns (South Bend area)
(574) 234-0687

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MAIN OFFICE: 915 S. Clinton St., Fort
Wayne, IN 46802. Telephone (260)
456-2824. Fax: (260) 744-1473.
BUREAU OFFICE: 114 W. Wayne St., South
Bend, IN 46601. Telephone (574) 234-
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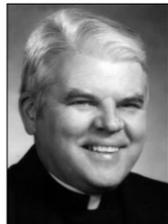
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Two families and the community rocked by tragedy and sadness



NEWS & NOTES

BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

Beyond sadness

How can one express the experience of two families, members of St. Patrick Parish, Fort Wayne? These terrible events, involving the killing of four children and, indeed, the mother of three of these children, have rocked the city of Fort Wayne and our diocese during the month of December.

I will not go over the terrible details, which have been reported in the press, but I will speak of the effort of the church to respond.

I celebrated Mass on Wednesday, Dec. 14, for three little children found dead by the most horrible of means, along with their mother, in a home only a mile or two from my own residence. I refer to the Rios family, three beautiful little girls dead along with their mother; while their father is charged with the crime.

On the evening of the terrible event, I joined Father Jack Overmyer, pastor of St. Patrick Parish, for the recitation of the rosary in Spanish in the presence of a full church. The next evening, Dec. 14, Father Overmyer, Father Manuel Evangelista and I concelebrated the Mass of Christian Burial.

Before celebrating the Mass, I went to the hall at St. Patrick next to the church. I was not prepared for the experience of seeing the two little girls in their Mexican dress in one casket and the mother with the youngest child in the other. The bald face of evil had come upon a lovely immigrant family trying only to survive. We celebrated the Mass of Christian Burial, and I presented some words in Spanish and then in English. We were very much helped by Father Daryl Rybicki. The oldest girl attended St. John the Baptist School, where Father Rybicki is the pastor. We all did our best to console the community. How encouraging it was to find St. Patrick Church nearly full. The bodies were to be brought home to Mexico for burial the next day.

Another tragedy

Some days before these bodies were found, a little girl, age 10, had been reported missing — Alejandra Gutierrez. She was a member of a large family with older brothers and sisters. She disappeared while walking to school. Her disappearance preceded the other event by many days. The whole community turned out to search for her. Alas, after burial of the Rios family, her frozen body was found many miles away from her family. The newspapers indicate that the same man is a suspect in her death.

So it was that the day after Christmas, the feast of St. Stephen, deacon and martyr, that I assembled again with Father

Overmyer to preside at the funeral Mass. Father Jack reminded me of the story of the Holy Innocents, the feast we were to observe in a few days.

So it was on Christmas Monday that we all gathered before an overflow crowd at St. Patrick Church, somber and quiet. Once again, there was the painful ritual of visiting St. Patrick Hall and seeing a little girl in her Mexican dress laid out for burial.

The Mass was beautiful, and Father Jack gave a stirring homily. I added some words at the beginning and end of Mass, which are reprinted in a story on page 5.

What does it mean?

Philosophers and theologians have struggled over the centuries to understand the power of evil. We know that there is evil in the world. The Book of Genesis expresses it as the arrogance of man in the original and arch-typical sin: the sin of pride and arrogance — “You will be like gods. You will know good and evil.” In other words, you and not God will determine what is good and what is evil. This terrible tendency lurks in humanity. The grace of baptism and the Eucharist has helped humanity to overcome this, as does our natural instinct to avoid violence.

How does one explain violence in the killing of a child so loving and innocent? Surely, they must have tried to cry out when the evil came upon them. So many mothers came up to me during the week around Christmas. After midnight Mass, one lady, not a relative and not of the same national heritage but of the same religious

As I looked around the packed church of St. Patrick and saw young and old, I realized the goodness, warmth and empathy of the community. Most people respect human life and love children. Children are our most precious heritage.

faith, said to me, “Bishop, I have been crying about this all week long. I can think of nothing else.” She was a mother, probably even a grandmother. Women know, mothers know, and they understand.

Pope John Paul II wrote that God “entrusted the future of humanity to the woman.” Indeed, he has entrusted each child to the mother. What can we think of the pain experienced by the mother who survived and by the other mother as she saw what was happening?

As I looked around the packed church of St. Patrick and saw young and old, I realized the goodness, warmth and empathy of the community. Most people respect human life and love children. Children are our most precious heritage. We are all terribly impoverished at what was done to these four children and to the mother of three of them.

I was able to accompany Father Overmyer on his visit to the Gutierrez family. Indeed, he had been to the home previ-

ously.

I thank Enid Roman-de Jesus for her help in translating my remarks into Spanish, which she did from Puerto Rico where she was visiting her family. Through the miracle of e-mail, she was able to return them to me. I also thank Maria Corona of St. Patrick Parish and Fred Everett of our Family Life Office for helping me with pronunciation. We must study Spanish, those of us in service to our diocese, so that our welcome to the beloved Hispanic people in our midst may be seen by them as ever more genuine and truly Catholic. Their numbers are increasing, and our obligation to them increases as well.

St. Patrick Church has welcomed immigrants for a long time. On this day, it belonged to our beloved Hispanics, most of them from Mexico. It was a privilege to be with them in this hour of great sorrow.

Christmas painful for you then, bishop?

Not really. It is times like this when one is especially grateful to be a priest and to know the depths of the priestly life. It is not just that you are representing Christ at such moments in the celebration of Mass. Rather, it is true what the church says of the priest — he acts and lives “in persona Christi.” When the priest or bishop presides at such moments, Christ is presiding and acting. The words are his. What happens in the Eucharist is from him. The words preached are his. He is the one who is active through the priest.

I celebrated the Christmas Eve Mass at St. Matthew Cathedral before one of the largest crowds ever, estimated at perhaps as many as 1,200. Back through the night, this time with Jim Fitzpatrick as pilot, to a beautiful standing-room-only crowd at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne.

Coffee and cake then with Father Robert Schulte, rector of the cathedral, and his very able and effective associate, Father James Stoyke, who is carrying out a solid ministry at the cathedral parish. A little too much cake, five hours of sleep and then a wonderful Christmas morning Mass on television from

the University of Saint Francis Chapel. A full crowd and the chapel beautifully decorated. Afterward, I was sorry to hear that the broadcast did not reach South Bend, as was intended; but we will work on that.

On the Fourth Sunday of Advent, I was privileged to drive early in the morning to Blessed Sacrament Parish, Albion, for the installation of Father Joachim Quadros as pastor. Albion is always special. More about that later.

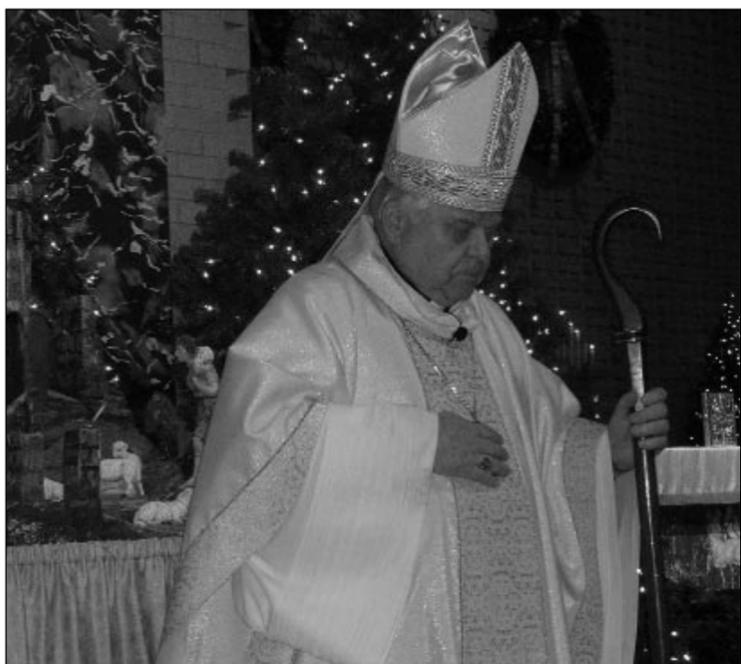
So, although there was much sadness and pain, the reality of the birth of Christ and the ability to be in good health and celebrate it with our people was, as always, a source of wonderful joy to me.

Johnny Damon — how could you do it — and to the Yankees?

Prediction — Notre Dame 24, Ohio State 21.

See you all next week on the feast of the Epiphany.

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS EVE AROUND THE DIOCESE



MAY LEE JOHNSON

Bishop John M. D'Arcy, after blessing the Nativity scene at St. Matthew Cathedral on Christmas Eve, prepares to bless the congregation. Bishop D'Arcy celebrated the midnight Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne and the television Mass on Christmas day in Fort Wayne.

A brass quartet, joined by music minister Fred Rothert on piano, play at Christmas Eve Mass at St. Mary Church in Fort Wayne.

Accompanying the choir, these musicians provided a lively musical backdrop for the solemnity.



DON CLEMMER

CELEBRATE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

As the Gloria was sung, children from several continents brought more flowers and laid them around a small statue of the baby Jesus in front of the altar. In his sermon, the pope said it was significant that the all-powerful God had "come to us as a defenseless child." He said the splendor of Jesus' birth still shines on every child, "even on those still unborn" — a reference to the church's teaching against abortion. The pope also focused on the figure of the shepherds who heard the angel's announcement of Christ's birth. They were simple souls, but watchful and ready, "waiting for a light which would show them the way," he said. "That is what is important for God. He loves everyone, because everyone is his creature. But some persons have closed their hearts; there is no door by which his love can enter. They think that they do not need God, nor do they want him," the pope said. Others realize they need God's goodness, even if they have no idea of what this means, he said. "Into their expectant hearts God's light can enter, and with it, his peace," he said. At noon on Christmas Day, the

pope gave his blessing from the central balcony of the basilica facade — the same place he had appeared shortly after his election as pope eight months earlier. About 40,000 people stood in the rain to listen, and his words were carried to millions more via live or delayed TV broadcast. The pope asked people around the world to let Christ enter "their homes, their cities, their nations, everywhere on earth." He said Christ asks people to examine the way they live, something that cannot be done only with the light of reason or through scientific advances. "In the millennium just past, and especially in the last centuries, immense progress was made in the areas of technology and science. Today we can dispose of vast material resources," he said. "But the men and women in our technological age risk becoming victims of their own intellectual and technical achievements, ending up in spiritual barrenness and emptiness of heart." The pope said Christ's birth calls all people to build a world order based on justice and to strengthen the awareness that humanity forms a family. A united humanity, he said, will be able to face the wide array of modern problems, including terrorism, the "humiliating poverty" in which millions of people live, weapons proliferation, pandemics and envi-

ronmental destruction. He singled out some specific places around the globe, praying for the end of fratricidal conflicts in Africa and the humanitarian crisis in places like Darfur, in western Sudan, where he said refugees need protection of their most elemental rights. He asked that dangerous disputes be settled in Asia, specifically between the two Koreas. In the Holy Land, Iraq and Lebanon, he said, there are signs of hope, but they "need to be confirmed by actions inspired by fairness and wisdom." On Dec. 26, the pope prayed the Angelus from his apartment window and spoke about St. Stephen, the first martyr, to a big crowd in St. Peter's Square. He said that recalling martyrdom the day after Christmas was an appropriate reminder that Jesus, once he became an adult, asked his disciples to follow him with total trust and fidelity. Many of the early Christians gave their lives for this faith, he said. "After the first martyrs, others followed through the centuries right up to our own days. How can we fail to recognize that even in our time, in various parts of the world, professing the Christian faith requires the heroism of martyrs?" he said. Even in places where there is no religious persecution, he said, "to live the Gospel coherently brings a high price to pay."



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Colombian paramilitaries stand in line in front of an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe during a ceremony where they surrendered their weapons in Remedios, Colombia, Dec. 12. More than 2,000 paramilitary fighters surrendered their weapons and delivered two armored helicopters as part of a peace process with the Colombian government.

Human rights must be respected, pope says in World Peace Day message

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Even in the midst of war, basic human rights must be respected and all parties involved must work to end hostilities, Pope Benedict XVI said in his message for World Peace Day 2006. International humanitarian law is "binding on all peoples" even in times of war, he said in his message for the Jan. 1 day of prayer. Pope Benedict's message, "In Truth, Peace," was released Dec. 13 at the Vatican. The pope began his message, which is distributed to heads of state around the world, by offering his best wishes to all people of good will, "especially those who are suffering as a result of violence and armed conflict." "My greeting is one filled with hope for a more serene world, a world in which more and more individuals and communities are committed to the paths of justice and peace," Pope

Benedict wrote. The message focused on truth as the foundation for peace — the truth that all people are created in the image and likeness of God with equal dignity, that God has a plan for humanity, and that good and evil exist and can be recognized by all people. Pope Benedict quoted the Second Vatican Council, which said, "Not everything automatically becomes permissible between hostile parties once war has regrettably commenced." The body of international humanitarian law was developed to limit the devastating consequences of war, and its precepts are binding on all nations, the pope said. In fact, humanitarian law must be brought up to date to respond to "the changing scenarios of today's armed conflicts and the use of ever newer and more sophisticated weapons," he said. Cardinal Renato Martino, president of the Pontifical

PEACE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Council for Justice and Peace, presented the pope's message at a Dec. 13 Vatican press conference.

He said the Catholic Church absolutely condemns the use of torture in all circumstances, including interrogations aimed at preventing further violence.

"Torture is a humiliation of the human person" and there is no excuse for using it, he said. Other methods exist for gaining information, assessing threats and stopping potential terrorists.

Asked specifically if Pope Benedict was condemning the United States for its prisons at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and allegedly in Eastern Europe for suspected terrorists, Cardinal Martino said the

pope "is not condemning anybody, but is inviting them to follow the Geneva Conventions.

All those states that are parties to the convention have an obligation to observe it."

The pope thanked international organizations committed to negotiations and peacemaking, but also

"the many soldiers engaged in the delicate work of resolving conflicts and restoring the necessary conditions for peace."

Peace is the result of "an order planned and willed by God," he said. It is a gift that must be sought through prayer, but also through a commitment to justice.

Falsehood is the enemy of peace, he said.

Nazism and communism demonstrated that ideological and political systems can twist the truth, bringing about "the exploitation and murder of an appalling number of men and women, wiping out entire families and communities," the German-born pope wrote.

"After experiences like these, how can we fail to be seriously concerned about lies in our own time, lies which are the framework for menacing scenarios of death in many parts of the world," he said.

Truth is attacked both by those who deny it exists and by

those who think they can impose their conception of truth on others, Pope Benedict said.

"The nihilist denies the very existence of truth, while the fundamentalist claims to be able to impose it by force," he said.

"Both show a dangerous contempt for human beings and human life and ultimately for God himself."

"Fanatical fundamentalism," the pope said, does not contribute to spreading the truth about God, but "disfigures his loving and merciful countenance, replacing him with idols made in its own image."

Pope Benedict said, "God is love which saves, a loving father who wants to see his children look upon one another as brothers and sisters, working responsibly to place their various talents at the service of the common good of the human family."

In the message, released three days after Mohamed ElBaradei

and the International Atomic Energy Agency were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, Pope Benedict also pleaded for a renewed international effort for nuclear disarmament.

"The truth of peace requires that all — whether those governments which openly or secretly possess nuclear arms or those

planning to acquire them — agree to change their course by clear and firm decisions and strive for a progressive and concerted nuclear disarmament," he said.

Pope Benedict decried the increasing amount of money governments spend on their military and on armaments while the process "for disarmament is bogged down in indifference."

Cardinal Martino told reporters, "In 2004 the military spending of nations surpassed the sum of \$1 trillion, about \$160 for every inhabitant on the planet."

Addressing Catholics specifically, Pope Benedict said, "When we hear the Gospel, dear brothers and sisters, we learn to build peace on the truth of a daily life inspired by the commandment of love."

"If peace is to be authentic and lasting," he said, "it must be built on the bedrock of the truth about God and the truth about man."

Peace is the result of 'an order planned and willed by God. It is a gift that must be sought through prayer, but also through a commitment to justice.'

POPE BENEDICT XVI



PHOTOS BY DON CLEMMER

A statue of Pope St. Pius X stands in the foreground amid the display cases and exhibits in the Cathedral Museum's new location in the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center in Fort Wayne. The museum reopens Jan. 3.

MUSEUM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Museum space, a visitor cannot help but find numerous items of great Catholic historical interest and value, especially from the standpoint of the diocese. Items on display include a kneeler used by Bishop John Henry Luers, a writing desk that belonged to Msgr. Julian Benoit, a Mass kit issued to chaplains from World War II through Vietnam, croziers used by different bishops of the diocese, various relics of saints, old manuscripts, the tabernacle from the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception from the 1950s till its 1998 renovation, and even a collection of dolls depicting the style of habits worn by different religious orders within the diocese prior to Vatican II.

In the way of statues, the museum features a statue of Pope St. Pius X, "the pope of the Eucharist," standing so that he gestures to a nearby display case that focuses on the Eucharist. Another statue — the most notorious in the museum — depicts a rather flayed and bloody Christ after the scourge. While the statue is definitely not for children or the queasy, Father Widmann notes that the most complaints the museum ever received came after once taking this piece off display. Another statue, the infant of Prague, is a Daprato, a now-defunct make of statue that Father Widmann describes as "the Cadillac" of reli-

gious statue work. This statue is also noteworthy because it was salvaged from St. Paul Catholic Church prior to its demolition. A few stain glass windows from St. Paul are also on display in the museum.

Another fascinating piece is the pictorial timeline of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception throughout the years, which documents the various changes to the building — both interior and exterior — that have occurred since the mid 1800s.

One interesting dynamic of the Cathedral Museum as a whole is that it not only tells

some of the history of this diocese, but also provides a glimpse into the church in the years preceding Vatican II, displaying old "fiddle-back" vestments and items once used at Masses for the dead. These items illustrate the foresight of Father Durkin in preserving an era in the church that, while still relatively recent, becomes more a part of history with each generation.

The museum reopens at its new location on Jan. 3. Its hours will be Tuesdays through Fridays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free parking is available in the garage of the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center.



A stain glass image of Archbishop Noll peers out from a wall of the Cathedral Museum, now located in the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center. This image is part of a stain glass portrait of the first five bishops of the diocese that used to hang in the bishops' home.

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St. Patrick Parish mourns two families' loss to tragedy

BY TIM JOHNSON AND DON CLEMMER

FORT WAYNE — The Latino community and all of Fort Wayne were shocked and grieved by the tragic deaths of four family members at the hands of their father and a 10-year-old Fort Wayne girl who was found strangled to death north of Muncie. All attended St. Patrick Parish in Fort Wayne, which opened its doors as a center of prayer and mourning to the community.

On Dec. 13, Simon Rios, 33, contacted Fort Wayne Police, and he has since been charged with killing his wife, Ana Casas-Rios, 28, and three young daughters, Liliana Karen, 10, Katherinne, 4, and Thannya Karolinna, 20 months. Liliana was a fourth grade student at St. John the Baptist School in Fort Wayne.

This occurred while the community was reeling with the disappearance of another 10-year-old girl, Alejandra Gutierrez. The girl did not report to Maplewood Elementary School on Dec. 8. Her body was recovered Dec. 19 in Delaware County.

The cause of death was strangulation in all the cases.

Simon Rios is the main suspect in the Gutierrez death although he had not been charged at press time. Police are also investigating what role Juan Rosales, 17, may have played.

Both the Rios and Gutierrez families attend St. Patrick Parish in Fort Wayne. The community gathered at the church on Dec. 14 to mourn the loss of the Rios family and again on Dec. 26 for the Gutierrez funeral.

Bishop John M. D'Arcy, Father Jack Overmyer, pastor of St. Patrick, and Father Manuel Evangelista officiated the Rios funeral and the Gutierrez funeral.

"To the beloved Latino community. Be assured the Catholic Church is your home," Bishop D'Arcy told those gathered for the Rios funeral. "We love you. We will be with you in joy and in sorrow. We love you. The church is your home — forever."

In his homily, delivered in Spanish, Bishop D'Arcy said, "Our hearts rise up to God full of mercy and love, the God who is the author of life, who knows us in our mothers womb and knits us together; the God who has watched over these three young children and their mother from the first moment of life; the God who opposes violence in all its forms; the God who is the father of Jesus Christ, who said, 'suffer the little children to come unto me.'"



DON CLEMMER

Bishop John M. D'Arcy speaks at the funeral of Alejandra Gutierrez on Dec. 26. The 10-year-old girl had been missing since Dec. 13. Her body was found in Delaware County on Dec. 19. Bishop D'Arcy also celebrated the funeral Mass of Ana Casas-Rios and her three daughters, Liliana Karen, 10, Katherinne, 4, and Thannya Karolinna, 20 months, on Dec. 14. The Journal Gazette reported Dec. 27, that Simon Rios, 33, has been charged with four counts of murder and two counts of moving a body in connection with deaths of his wife and daughters. At press time, he was also the main suspect of the Gutierrez case but had not been charged.

The bishop added, "We know that God wants little girls to grow up, maybe fall in love and marry and have children of their own and grandchildren too. And after a long life, go to see God in heaven. We know that God opposes evil in all its forms. We know that God's own Son was also killed and offered himself on the cross of forgiveness. We think of the wife, a good woman who after working all night, arrived home in the early morning to find that evil had taken over her home."

Bishop D'Arcy spoke of Our Lady of Guadalupe, whose feast was celebrated the previous weekend. He said Our Lady of Guadalupe "came to Mexico to give light and direction to a people who were suffering. We turn to her for consolation and help and courage in this dark hour."

He added, "We also know and proclaim with all our hearts that good is more powerful than evil and grace is stronger than sin and God is more powerful than satan and we know that evil will never have the last word."

"On the very night of this crime, the church of St. Patrick was filled with the Hispanic/Latino community — who came out of love, came to

pray and usher the little children and their mother to heaven. From this terrible deed — this good mother coming home at 1 a.m., we resolve to love and serve our community, especially the Hispanic/Latino community with all our hearts. We pray and know that the Merciful One will take these four loved ones home, and we resolve to do everything we can to overcome the violence in our midst by love and goodness; for we know that only love can cast out fear," he said.

The bishop also prayed for the Gutierrez family as they searched for their missing daughter.

Hundreds attended the Dec. 26 funeral for Gutierrez at St. Patrick Church in Fort Wayne. As the community gathered to mourn, Father Jack Overmyer, pastor of St. Patrick, reflected on how the community has dealt with the tragedy.

"One of the great difficulties with this particular circumstance is the hope that so many people have had," said Father Overmyer. "The beauty of it is so many people sharing with this family their grief ... The biggest thing with respect to the family is being there. Only God can heal souls."

At the funeral Mass itself,

"We join with the Gutierrez family in mourning," Bishop D'Arcy said before the Mass. "At this holy season of the year when we honor the Christ Child who comes into our midst, we are in mourning over this beautiful child given by God — to her parents and to the world. We mourn that she is gone from among us. We join our hearts to her family with love and compassion and sympathy. While we know she is with God, we mourn the loss of this beautiful child, and we pray for her family."

In closing remarks the bishop added, "This life was taken away from this child in the most brutal way. We know, too, that the Christ Child suffered. What this mother suffers, Mary the mother of the Savior suffered when she saw her son, still young, wounded and crucified. Although he was just, he suffered for our sins, killed by unjust men."

"Alejandra suffered and was killed, and we sorrow with her parents," Bishop D'Arcy said. "We know, however, that God is stronger than Satan, and good is more powerful than evil and grace stronger than sin, and that evil will never have the last word."

"Sin was seen early in the Bible when man, with the greatest arrogance, chose to decide what was good and what was evil. The Christ Child came to teach us love and goodness. Let us mourn today and promise to always be good and tender, to protect children and keep them from evil. I say to the Gutierrez family that we will always honor and love dear Alejandra and we will keep her in our hearts and we love and stand with you today, and we know Jesus Christ is with you. We know that Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe, whose own son was killed while still young, understands what you are going through and she is with you and we are with you also."

Warm wishes...



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St. Adalbert sponsors justice workshop

SOUTH BEND — St. Adalbert Parish will host a workshop, "Let Justice Roll Down: Economics Where People Matter." Conducted in cooperation with the national office of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD), Transforming Action Through Power (a local CCHD-funded organization), University of Notre Dame's Center for Social Concerns and the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, the workshop will be held Jan. 28, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Adalbert Parish, 2420 Huron St., in South Bend.

The presentation's sessions will be conducted by United for a Fair Economy, a national independent nonpartisan organization that puts a spotlight on the dangers of growing income, wage and wealth disparities. Community leaders of CCHD will also be involved in the sessions.

The format connects biblical justice and social teaching to economic life and forces within society. The day will reflect on how changes in the economy affect families, communities and society and find opportunities for action.

Participants are requested to register by Jan. 25 to Bill Purcell at the Center for Social Concerns, (574) 631-9473 or e-mail at wpurcell@nd.edu.

Eric Genuis to perform for St. Philomena Birthday Celebration

FORT WAYNE — The St. Philomena Birthday Celebration presented by Amici di Santa Filomena Indiana Archconfraternity will feature concert pianist Eric Genuis, returning from his recent recording with the Slovakian National Symphony Orchestra. The benefit concert will be held at the Performing Arts Center, 303 East Main St., Fort Wayne, on Tuesday, Jan. 10, at 7:30 p.m. Proceeds benefit the St. Philomena College Scholarship Fund.

Advance purchase tickets are \$15 for adults and \$7.50 for children 12 and under.

Tickets are available at Coffee, Sweets and More, 2319 Spy Run Ave. in Fort Wayne (in Nature's Corner Plaza).

For more information, call (260) 422-7763 or visit the Web site at www.philomena-indiana.org.

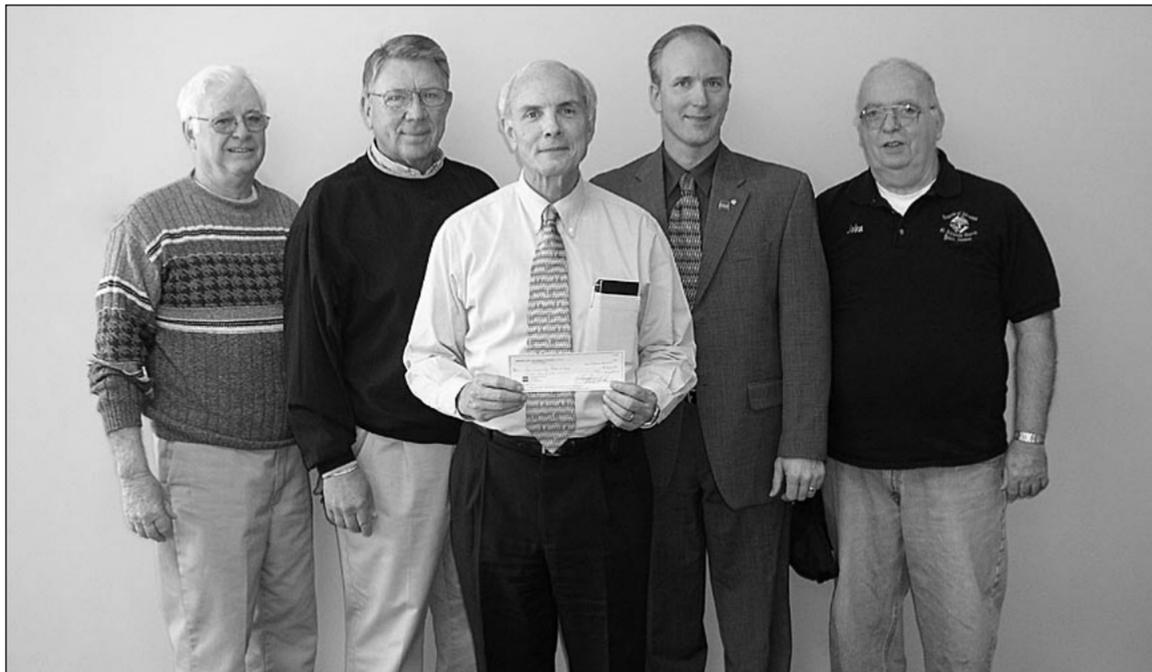
USF celebrates Martin Luther King, Jr. with day of service

FORT WAYNE — On Jan. 16, students, faculty, alumni and staff of the University of Saint Francis will volunteer at various community and religious organizations in the Fort Wayne area to honor the life, ideas and values of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as part of an annual event, "Acting on the Dream."

Events on campus to which the

AROUND THE DIOCESE

KNIGHTS MAKE CONTRIBUTION TO BI-COUNTY SERVICES



PROVIDED BY THE BLUFFTON NEWS-BANNER, GEOFF FRANK

John Whicker, center, president of Bi-County Services at Bluffton, holds a \$2,500 check presented by the Knights of Columbus council from St. Aloysius Church at Yoder. The Dec. 15 contribution was from proceeds of the knights' major fundraisers including an Aug. 28 golf outing and this year's Tootsie Roll sales. The council is starting its fourth year of contributing funds to Bi-County, which provide services to about 175 people with disabilities in Adams and Wells counties. From left to right are Russell Sorg, Jim Cole, Whicker, Alan Gunkel and John Fosnight.

public is invited include Mass at 9:30 a.m. at the USF Chapel, lecture and discussion from 10:30 a.m. to noon, Room 156 in the Doermer Center on the corner of Leesburg Road and Spring Street and cards and crafts from 1 to 4 p.m. The cards are sent to children at area hospitals and community members residing in various nursing homes.

Events off campus will include volunteers from USF working from 1 to 4 p.m. at these locations:

- Franciscan Center (4643 Gaywood Dr.)
- Lutheran Hospital Children's Wing (7900 W. Jefferson Blvd.)
- Fort Wayne Rescue Mission (301 W. Jefferson Blvd.)
- Vincent House (2827 Holton Ave.)
- Children's Hope Hospitality House (7922 W. Jefferson Blvd.)

Throughout the week at Doermer Center and Trinity Hall, the public is invited to sign petitions for social justice and environmental concerns and register for blood and/or organ donation. Donations of food, warm clothing, eyeglasses, and Campbell's Soup labels or General Mills box tops will be accepted at these locations. Also on campus during the week is the creation of "food sculptures," artwork, consisting of donated food.

For more information, contact Dr. Ann Hernandez at (260) 434-3254, ahernandez@sf.edu, or Dr. Matt Smith at (260) 434-7720. View the complete schedule of events on the Web site at www.sf.edu/mlk.

St. Matthew students collect toys for hospitalized children

SOUTH BEND — St. Matthew School second graders of 2A have been busy working on their Advent project. This year, Kara Cullen's class decided to collect toys for the children who would be spending the holiday season at Memorial Hospital.

This project helped the class learn that not all children will be able to spend Christmas in the comfort of their own homes and open presents with their families. The children collected toys and stuffed animals for newborns, children in the intensive care unit and any child who will come into the emergency room over the holidays.

The second graders worked hard over the past few weeks collecting boxes and boxes of items for the children at Memorial Hospital.

On Dec. 15, the class had a special visit from Santa Claus to thank them for their hard work. While the children were very excited to see Santa, this project also taught them the importance of giving to those in need.

USF hosts African art lecture

FORT WAYNE — Gambian native Rev. John Loum and his wife Hannah will discuss "African Art and the Influence of the

Immigrant" on Thursday, Jan. 19, at 7:30 p.m. in the Rolland Center on the University of Saint Francis (USF) campus.

Loum will address the diversity of African art and the cultural challenges of immigrant life. He will have representative examples of art from his personal collection, including traditional dress from his native country.

Dr. Kristin Fedders, assistant professor of art history at USF, will also briefly discuss the influence of African art on modern and contemporary art.

The lecture, in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., is free to the public and made possible in part by the Community Partnership Grant from Arts United of Greater Fort Wayne, the Indiana Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts.

For more information, contact the School of Creative Arts at (260) 434-7591 or visit www.sf.edu/art.

Victory Noll sister protests Fort Benning, Ga., school

HUNTINGTON — This year on Nov. 19 at the "School of the Americas" (now called "Western Hemispheric Institute for Security Cooperation") at Fort Benning, Ga., 16,000 veterans, students, teachers, priests and religious women gathered to protest the terrorism, torture and killing taught

there.

Victory Noll Sister Angeline Walczyk of Fort Wayne, who joins the protest each year, was blessed by members of her congregation at Victory Noll in Huntington. They sent with her a statement signed by 42 sisters, with the quote by Pope John Paul II: "We are artisans of peace." The sisters added, "We commit ourselves to work for justice, human rights and the good of all people. We support the closing of SOA/WHINSEC."

Sister Angeline, while there, worked at the local Catholic Worker Hospitality House, which provided food and shelter for the protesters. She attended one of the workshops entitled, "Undoing Imperialism from Within." The presenter was Sara Koopman, whose masters thesis involves an assessment of how effective the current protest approach is as Fort Benning. Koopman challenged all to "stay in touch with your own attitudes and not be over or above others. Work for justice to restore the balance of this world's goods."

Traditionally, at this rally, people demonstrate their protest by "crossing the line" and entering the compound. This year the main gate was barricaded by large rolls of barbed wire. However, one protester made it over.

The Victory Noll Sisters are grateful to be able to participate in these kinds of struggles to bring about the reign of God in our world so wracked with violence and war.

Redeemer Radio to host open house Jan. 3

FORT WAYNE — Redeemer Radio, WLYV, AM 1450, Fort Wayne's new Catholic radio station, will hold an open house on Tuesday, Jan. 3, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Located next to Jefferson Pointe at 4705 Illinois Rd., the new 24-hour Catholic programming has been brought to the Fort Wayne area by Redeemer Radio, a not-for-profit organization of lay Catholics. A dedication ceremony will be followed by a studio tour and refreshments.

Chris Langford, president of Redeemer Radio, says, "This is a most appropriate time to officially launch — we're still in the Christmas season until the feast of the Epiphany. We hope our broadcasts will help to bring about an 'epiphany' of faith for those who listen." The WLYV line up will include the Stations of the Cross, daily Mass, EWTN programs and Spanish language programming overnight.

WLYV Executive Director Kris Billingsley notes that Pope John Paul II called for Catholics to use mass media to spread the Gospel. "He wrote, 'We must integrate the message of salvation into the new culture...'" Billingsley continues, "The intimacy of radio is designed for the ear, but we hope to bless hearts and minds." Billingsley is a Fort Wayne native and responsible for day-to-day operations for the station.

WLYV Redeemer Radio can be reached at info@redeemerradio.com or more information can be found at www.redeemerradio.com.

Jubilee cross continues journey across diocese

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — Morning dawned bright and crisp on Saturday, Dec. 17. After several days of gray skies and snow showers, the sun was a welcome relief to the parishioners of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Fort Wayne who gathered to welcome the Sesquicentennial Jubilee Pilgrim Cross. More than 150 parishioners braved the freezing temperatures to participate in the receiving ceremony and pilgrimage to St. Elizabeth Church.

The Pilgrim Cross was commissioned by Bishop John M. D'Arcy at the Diocesan World Youth Day event held in August at the Sacred Heart Parish Center in South Bend as a unifying symbol in preparation for the diocesan's upcoming 150th jubilee celebration. It began what will be a two-year journey across the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne and will finish its tour in August of 2007 at the Eucharistic Congress held at Notre Dame. Each of the 84 parishes across the diocese will have (or had) the opportunity to receive and display the traveling cross in their parish for a week with suggested activities. Parishioners, both young and old, have been invited to publicly pass the cross from parish to parish as an evangelizing tool for their community.

The simple 8x5-foot hollow, wooden cross bearing the inscription, "His Steadfast Love Endures Forever," has made its way to well over a dozen parishes and selected sites from the cathedral to Ss. Peter and Paul in Huntington to St. Patrick in Arcola, who delivered it to St. Elizabeth parishioners Dec. 17. The cross was the focal point in St. Patrick's previous week's activities, including Mass, recitation of the rosary and veneration.

Father Cyril Fernandes, pastor of St. Patrick, says of the cross, "It brings a unity to the parishes and an excitement for the jubilee."



ANDY ECKERT

Parishioners from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church braved near freezing temperatures as they carried the Jubilee Pilgrim Cross on a prayerful journey down Scott, Covington and Homestead roads. The pilgrimage, escorted by an Aboite Township fire truck and an Allen County Sheriff's patrol car, included recitation of the Stations of the Cross, hymns and prayers.

The Arcola fire truck topped with the cross led a procession of cars and an open wagon filled with St. Patrick parishioners to Woodside Middle School parking lot where the hand-off took place. Father Fernandes and St. Elizabeth associate pastor, Father Dave Ruppert, then led a prayer service where the passing of the cross from St. Patrick's senior parishioners to St. Elizabeth's youth symbolized the passing of faith from one generation to the next.

The cross was then transported to another site where exuberant St. Elizabeth parishioners, bundled up against the cold, gathered to begin the pilgrimage some miles from their church. Families, including small children, parish groups and individual pilgrims, shared the experience of carrying the cross on foot over a designated distance, stopping at each cross-shaped marker to recite the Stations of the Cross. Prayers and hymns from Lenten booklets were recited in community fashion, led by Father Ruppert. Following each station, the cross reverently passed to the hands of a new group, and as the solemn pilgrimage progressed, the passersby slowed to view the scene.

The prayerful group was escorted by an Aboite Township fire truck driven by Bill Davies and three firefighters and an Allen County Sheriff's patrol car ordered by Steve Stone. Busses were available for those needing to escape the freezing temperatures.

During the recitation of the sixth station at the site of the new city fire station located at Scott and Covington roads, it was suggested that the stations be completed there and the parishioners and cross be transported by bus back to the church due to the bitter cold. But the devoted pilgrims refused and continued their trek. The cold and weary travelers finally delivered the cross to their parish sanctuary where it was displayed in its base in front of the altar.

Father Ruppert led the inspired group in prayer, concluding the

Kasper Home pets enjoy Christmas party together with residents

BY IDA CHIPMAN

DONALDSON — It was a Christmas party all right!

On Dec. 13 morning, Sister Melanie Rauh brought her 7-year-old housebroken Albino and Cocoa Chocolate Velvet rabbit to the sitting room of the Catherine Kasper nursing center.

A crowd of residents, some in wheelchairs, others sitting around the room, were waiting to greet him, decked out in his Christmas finery, a big red bow around his neck.

Sister Carmeline brought Pretty Boy, her parakeet, to the gathering. She's had him for six years.

"I've always had a bird," she said. "He and I talk together and sometimes he gives me a kiss."

He bit her once, but, like a good Christian lady, she forgave him.

"That's the thing about pets, you know," she said, "They give you unconditional love and forgiveness."

And Max, the dog, dressed in his Santa outfit, played the host. Max was frisking around the room, wagging his tail and greeting everyone.

Sister Julia looks after him, but he really belongs to everyone in the house.

"We've had him since he was eight months old," she explained. "He will be six on July 7."

The dog is given free access on the second floor, but downstairs, if not monitored carefully, he will run out of the automatic swinging doors.

A West Highland Terrier, Max sleeps in a cage in Sister Julia's room. "Before he goes to bed at night," she said, "he makes the rounds of the residents that he knows will give him a goodnight treat."

On his birthday, the sisters



IDA CHIPMAN

Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ Sisters enjoy their pets and held a pet Christmas gathering on Dec. 13 at the Kasper Home in Donaldson. In the photos are Sister Clarence with her black guinea pig Midnight, Sister Julia with Max, the resident dog, and Sister Carmeline with her parakeet, Pretty Boy. Standing behind her is Sister Melanie.

throw him a party: birthday cake and all. Father Krason, a retired priest and resident of the home, never forgets to send him a birthday card.

Midnight is Sister Clarence's all-black guinea pig. Even he reluctantly wore a red ribbon.

"I've had him for two years," she said. "A Plymouth lady called Sister Melanie. The woman had given her grandchildren the animal and they weren't taking care of him properly. He needed a good loving home. And I'm it," she added.

She takes Midnight for walks, carrying him — much as you would a baby — wrapped in a clean hand towel.

Actually, he takes her for walks. She walks: he rides. She sings "Old Mac Donald Had a Farm" to him, which, apparently, is the small, furry animal's favorite song.

"We go out to the flower gar-

den when it is nice," she said, "and walk the halls when it isn't."

Midnight isn't Sister Clarence's only responsibility.

She frequently visits the Marshall County Humane Shelter on U.S. 31 South to bless the animals there as well as those in a shelter in Quincy, Ill.

One of her prized possessions is a 1978 St. Francis of Assisi religious medal from Rome.

A nurse for 45 years, Sister Clarence, retired for the past seven years, also takes care of the large aviary in the Kasper Home. In addition, she says special prayers for all neglected and abandoned animals.

"When I bless the pets," she said, "I pray that they have good health, a long life and bring joy to other people."

A sweet prayer — appropriate not only for animals, but for human beings as well.

stations before gathering to share hot chocolate and cookies at a reception held in the parish hall.

Among the pilgrims, Dan Krach felt uplifted by the many parishioners participating in the solemn pilgrimage and was happy to have his family there during this Advent time. "It helps us be mindful of what Christ came for."

Tony Iott hopes that the pilgrimage and displayed cross will inspire others to become more familiar with the history of the diocese. "This is a great way to express our faith," he said.

St. Elizabeth youth group member, Adam McCarty said, apart from the extreme cold, "It was good. We got to carry the cross, pray and show everyone we have faith."

The Jubilee Pilgrim Cross will grace the sanctuary of St. Elizabeth Parish for three weeks as a sign of Christian unity. Plans for several parish-wide activities include veneration, student Stations of the Cross and prayer services.

Of the cross pilgrimage, Father Ruppert says, "There was a real



KAY COZAD

Father Dave Ruppert, left, associate pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, recites prayers from the Stations of the Cross with members of the parish who joined the pilgrimage to welcome the Jubilee Pilgrim Cross. The cross was received from St. Patrick Parish, Arcola, on Dec. 17. It will remain at St. Elizabeth until Jan 4.

sense of anticipation here, which is part of this (Advent) season. It is our connection with the Nativity. The cross reminds us of why Christ was born."

January 4 is the scheduled date when the cross will travel once again, this time to St. Joseph

Parish on Brooklyn Ave. Father Ruppert says due to the annexation of Aboite Township after the first of the year, the city of Fort Wayne Fire Department and Sheriff's Department will be invited to participate in the pilgrimage to St. Joseph.

The joy of learning never ends

BY SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

SOUTH BEND — None of us are ever too old to learn something new. That is the philosophy of the Forever Learning Institute, located at 308 South Scott Street in South Bend. This was the belief of Father Louis Putz, CSC, who, in 1974, at the age of 63, retired from the University of Notre Dame and founded the Forever Learning Institute as part of the educational arm of the harvest house movement.

Joan Loranger, present executive director of the institute, says, "The mission of Forever Learning Institute is to improve the quality and dignity of senior adult life through continuing intellectual challenge, spiritual reflection and social integration."

New at Forever Learning in September, Loranger find her

new job very fulfilling. "I enjoy the conversations and discussions, which I have with both teachers and students. It is a very happy place. The people are very welcoming and friendly. They want to be here, and this makes my job a lot easier than at any other place I have ever been. Educating the seniors is really an avocation because it is so fulfilling to see them enjoying the moment."

Forever Learning offers a wide variety of courses for people 50 years old and over. They include everything from languages to Hawaiian hula dancing. There is something for everyone. Over 50 courses were offered the first semester, and on Dec. 9 the institute had a festival and open house to celebrate some of the learnings and accomplishments of the students. Despite seven inches of snow, the show went on.

To keep the interest of its students, new courses are offered every semester. Some for next semester are beginning golf, the history of the big bands, travel around the world and global feminism.

Forever Learning depends on the generosity of its many instructors. Many are retired teachers like Margaret Junkiewicz who teaches paper art. Junkiewicz taught home economics, now called consumer science, at Penn High School where she retired in 1983. Besides Forever Learning she teaches at the Senior Center and library in Plymouth.

Loranger wants the public to know that "we are welcoming to new students and teachers of any race, creed, nationality, color or religion. The only restriction is that they must be over 50 years old."

A bulletin of classes for the new semester will come out the second week in January. Fifteen new classes will be offered. For more information call (574) 282-1901.



SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

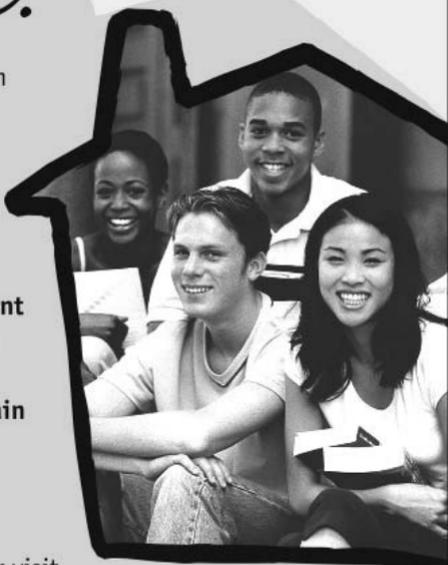
Instructor Margaret Junkiewicz displays some of the paper art done by her students at the Forever Learning Institute festival.

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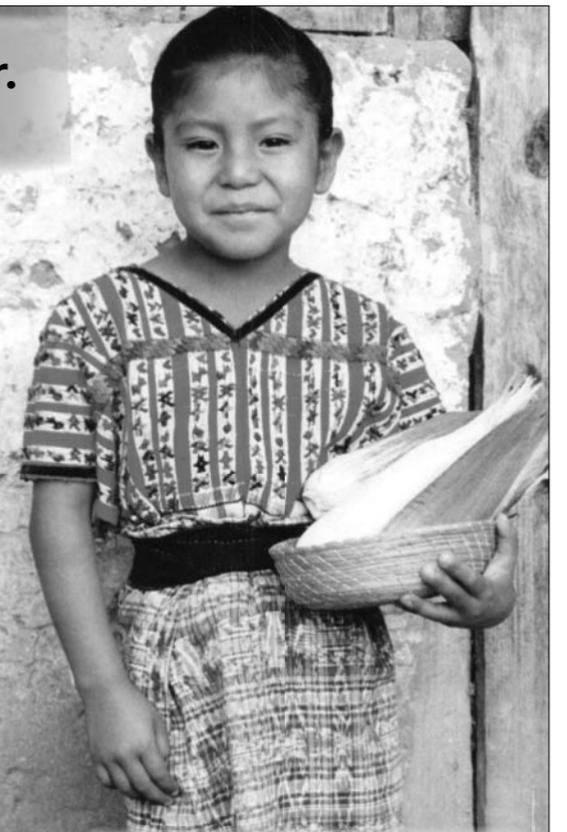
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Discipleship: Journey of ongoing discernment

BY GINNY KOHRMAN AND LINDA FURGE

Opening prayer:

O Lord, I truly desire to follow you and do what is right, but often I fail to trust in your love and dreams for me. Help me to sift through my emotions, attitudes and behaviors and let you direct my day. Remove any doubt and show me how to place myself in your hands. Send your Holy Spirit upon me so I can recognize God's gentle guidance in my life. Stay with me, Lord, I pray. Amen.

Scripture reading: Ps.139

Commentary

Over time, I have become increasingly aware that my life is not really my own. Life is an integration of all my experiences and relationships and my awareness of God's collaborative presence within them and me. Lord, "where can I hide from your spirit? From your presence, where can I flee?" — Ps. 139:7. Yet, there are days when I seem to forget all about the one who shepherds me, who knows me and who loves me beyond all imagining. I wittingly or unwittingly try to be my own shepherd and stray away from the Good Shepherd — even as I know in my heart that being a disciple of Christ involves an ongoing commitment and attention to him, regardless of occupation or vocation.

Jesus: Model for discernment

In the New Testament Scriptures, we see Jesus deeply connected with God the Father and the Holy Spirit. Jesus, both human and divine, prays that he will choose God's ways. Jesus sifts through the events of his ministry and life and ultimately chooses God's will in his human

struggles ... struggles that are very similar to our own. As disciples of Jesus we are called to imitate Christ's faithfulness to God, even when our lives become difficult. Jesus always turned to prayer when he had important decisions to make. We too will be ready to make important life decisions if we turn to the Lord in prayer.

Taking it all to God in prayer

Discerning God's will is a continual process, one that sifts and separates both large and small choices before us as we listen to his voice and gentle guidance from within. There are always many voices that call us in various directions. Discernment involves discovering which voices will lead us to — rather than away from — God. The first step in making a decision with God requires that we reflect on what is going on within us. What feelings, thoughts and beliefs might be directing our behaviors? Are our feelings, thoughts and behaviors a part of the Holy Spirit's movement within ... in what way ... or are they drawing us away from God? Where is God leading us through this fear, anger, joy or sadness? Often by acknowledging and releasing these thoughts or emotions, we are able to make some sense of what is hidden beneath them. Seeking spiritual guidance or journaling can provide a means through which feelings can be expressed. Physical activity or exercise can help reduce negative feelings such as frustration and anger.

But, as a disciple of Christ, we must also remember how very essential prayer is in the discernment process. Through our personal prayer we freely present all that we are to God, trusting that we are loved, chosen and precious in God's eyes. In prayer we unload all of our emotions and

concerns before a God who knows us better than we know ourselves. In the quietness of prayer we can freely open ourselves to receive God's words, often spoken in a whisper. With prayer and time God gently reveals whatever is holding us back, blocking our spiritual progress and hiding the spirit of truth and life while, at the same time, opening the door to self-knowledge and God's presence in all of life.

Self control and resistance

Decision-making with God is grounded in the realization that part of our self-control must give way to trust in God. We, as rational-thinking adults, have the ability to recognize the pros and cons of our choices; but, until we allow God into the process, we fall short of making the best decisions for our lives. "Your eyes foresaw my actions; in your book all are written down; my days were shaped, before one came to be." — verse 16. God desires only goodness and life for us, despite any resistance on our part.

Resistance in and of itself may actually reveal the working of God within. God often seems to "stir the pot" of our hearts to get us to move forward. Our initial response may be to cling to what seems comfortable and safe. We hold onto the status quo, to busyness, anxiety, loneliness, hurt or emptiness because we are afraid to step forward in faith. At other times we may actually be quite happy and contented — and unwilling to acknowledge that God is pointing us in a new or different direction. All of these responses draw attention to the God's active voice within. It is all part of our spiritual journey and the process of discernment. "You understand my thoughts from afar." — verse. 2b. Loosening our grip of complete self-control

allows us to open our hands to a life that is partnered with God and full of inner freedom and joy.

Supporting other Disciples in Mission

Many times we think we are alone as we try to make good Christian decisions in an increasingly secular society. Perhaps this is part of our individualistic culture, a leftover from the days of the rugged pioneers who were admired for their determination to "go it alone." We wonder what has happened to Christian morals and values. Are these even considered anymore? Are money, fame and "toys" really the only criteria for success these days? Where can we find help to make good decisions, decisions that draw us closer to God and allow us to discern our role in bringing about God's kingdom on earth?

As members of various Catholic communities, we are fortunate to have access to wonderfully rich spiritual resources and support systems: Christ's words and example in the Scriptures; the word of God in the tradition of our church; the advice of trusted family members, peers and others who know us well; personal and vocational inventories of strengths and weaknesses; spiritual counseling and mentoring; small faith communities; sacraments, retreats and other prayer opportunities. Each of these can offer us important personal insights into the ways we are uniquely called to be Disciples in Mission for Christ and into the lifelong process of surrendering our lives to his will for us and of drawing us ever more closer to himself, the Good Shepherd. "Probe me, God, know my heart; try me, know my concerns. See if my way is crooked, then lead me in the ancient paths." — verses 23-24.

Reflection and connection

- The goal of discernment is to find God and, in finding God, to find ourselves and know God's will. For many the process is reversed. Time and energy are spent seeking to know what God wants rather than to first know God. Where are you?

- Thinking back on important decisions in your life, was God present in your decision-making process? Why or why not? Did these decisions lead you to, or draw you away from, God?

- What or who affects and influences your discernment process? How do you presently go about discerning God's will for you?

- How ready are you to accept what God reveals to you through prayer, feelings and emotions, trusted advisors, scripture, etc.? How willing are you to change

and grow into the person God is calling you to become?

Evangelizing action items

For interior renewal

Reflect on an upcoming decision, using the steps suggested in today's commentary, so that God becomes an active partner in your discernment process. (For a set of helpful worksheets, go to: http://diocesefwsb.org/CYAM/decision_making_with_god.htm.)

For reaching out to others

Often it is through others that God gives valuable input for decision-making. Reach out to someone who needs a listening ear and offer to act as a sounding board. Sometimes all that's needed for discernment and clarity is to hear the pros and cons stated out loud.

For transforming society

Carefully pay attention to decisions made by local, state and national lawmakers. Discern if these decisions draw us closer — or further away from — the kingdom of God on earth. Express your opinion and stand up for what's right and just in our world.

Closing Prayer:

Ps. 139 (verses 1-10, 13-14, 23-24)
O LORD, you have probed me, you know me:
You know when I sit and stand; you understand my thoughts from afar.
My travels and my rest you mark; with all my ways you are familiar.
Even before a word is on my tongue, Lord, you know it all.

Behind and before you encircle me and rest your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is beyond me, far too lofty for me to reach.

Where can I hide from your spirit? From your presence, where can I flee?

If I ascend to the heavens, you are there; if I lie down in Sheol, you are there too.

If I fly with the wings of dawn and alight beyond the sea, Even there your hand will guide me, your right hand hold me fast.

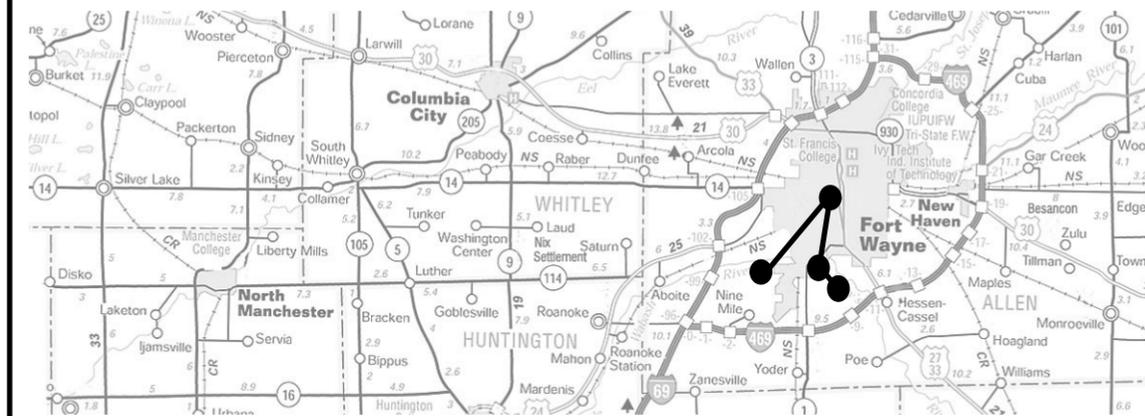
You formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb.

I praise you, so wonderfully you made me; wonderful are your works!

Probe me, God, know my heart; try me, know my concerns.

See if my way is crooked, then lead me in the ancient paths. Amen.

Jubilee Pilgrim Cross



Dec. 16-Jan. 6	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	Fort Wayne
Jan. 6-13	St. Joseph	Fort Wayne
Jan. 13-20	St. Patrick	Fort Wayne
Jan. 27- Feb. 3	St. John the Baptist/Bishop Luers	Fort Wayne

Pope raises status of Romanian Catholic Church to major archbishopric

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Recognizing the rebirth and vitality of the once-persecuted Romanian Catholic Church, Pope Benedict XVI has elevated its status to that of a major archbishopric. Raising the Eastern-rite church's status and granting it greater autonomy, the pope also promoted Archbishop Lucian Muresan of Fagaras and Alba Julia to the rank of major archbishop. The papal decision, announced Dec. 16 at the Vatican, makes the Romanian Catholic Church the fourth major archbishopric in the Catholic Church. The Ukrainian Catholic Church gained the status in 1963; India's Syro-Malabar Catholic Church was granted the status in 1992; and the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church, also based in India, was made a major archbishopric in February. A major archbishop has authority similar to that of the Eastern Catholic patriarchs and the key decisions of their churches, including the election of bishops in their home territories, is made by their synods of bishops.

Taize founder wrote about death shortly before fatal stabbing

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a message prepared shortly before he was fatally stabbed, Brother Roger Schutz spoke about the special suffering caused by the death of inspirational figures. Rather than lose heart at such a loss, he said, believers should try to use it as an opportunity to understand God's healing powers. Brother Roger, the renowned founder of the ecumenical monastic community of Taize, France, was killed during a prayer service by a deranged woman last August. His death shocked and saddened Christians around the world. Brother Roger's unfinished last message, intended to be read at a meeting of European youths in Milan, Italy, at the end of December, was published by the Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, Dec. 21. It was also made available in several languages on the Taize community Web site.

Vatican official calls comments in Iran on Holocaust shocking

ROME (CNS) — A leading Vatican official said he was shocked at Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's suggestion that the Holocaust was a myth. German Cardinal Walter Kasper made the comments Dec. 15 as he accepted an award from the Anti-Defamation League in Rome. "It is shocking to hear from the mouth of the president of a nation with an ancient and venerable culture — as the Iranian nation is — expressions of anti-Semitism which for every human being are unacceptable," Cardinal Kasper said. "To call the Holocaust a myth is a new injustice to the victims of this unprecedented genocide," he said. Cardinal Kasper, as president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and

NEWS BRIEFS

PALESTINIAN GUNMEN MARCH IN BETHLEHEM



CNS PHOTO BY DEBBIE HILL

Militant Palestinian gunmen from the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade march past Christmas decorations after leaving the rooftop of Bethlehem City Hall in Manger Square, West Bank, near the Church of the Nativity, Dec. 20. The gunmen seized the building, demanding jobs and pay. The Church of the Nativity, traditionally believed to be the birthplace of Jesus, was temporarily closed during the standoff with Palestinian police.

the Commission for Religious Relations With the Jews, coordinates the church's dialogue with Jewish groups worldwide. The Iranian president, who earlier this year called for Israel to be "wiped off the map," said in mid-December that the Holocaust was a fabricated legend that is now held higher than religion itself. Ahmadinejad's comments drew condemnation from countries all over the world.

Chancellor of Marquette Diocese named bishop; Bishop Garland retires

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Father Alexander K. Sample, chancellor of the Diocese of Marquette, Mich., has been appointed bishop of the diocese by Pope Benedict XVI. The pope also accepted the resignation of Marquette Bishop James H. Garland, 74, who has headed the diocese since 1992. The changes were announced in Washington Dec. 13 by Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, apostolic nuncio to the United States. Bishop-designate Sample is to be ordained Jan. 25 in ceremonies at St. Peter Cathedral in Marquette. At age 45, he will be the youngest bishop in the country. Born Nov. 7, 1960, in Kalispell, Mont., he was ordained a priest June 1, 1990, following studies at St. John Vianney Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., and the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio. Before entering the seminary he earned bachelor's and master's degrees in metallurgical engineering from Michigan Technological University in Houghton.

Nashville diocesan administrator named bishop

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has named Father David R. Choby, administrator of the Diocese of Nashville since November 2004, to head the Tennessee diocese. Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, apostolic nuncio to the United States, made the announcement in Washington Dec. 20. Bishop-designate Choby, a 58-year-old Nashville native, succeeds Bishop Edward U. Kmiec, who was named bishop of Buffalo, N.Y., in August 2004. "I came to know Father Choby well during my tenure as bishop of Nashville," Bishop Kmiec said in a statement. "He has done an excellent job as diocesan administrator and will shepherd a great diocese of faith-filled people who will continue to work with him in fulfilling the mission of the church."

Bishop Niederauer of Salt Lake City named archbishop of San Francisco

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has named Bishop George H. Niederauer of Salt Lake City as the new archbishop of San Francisco. Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, apostolic nuncio to the United States, announced the appointment in Washington Dec. 15. Archbishop Niederauer, 69, succeeds Archbishop William J. Levada, who headed the San Francisco Archdiocese for 10 years before his appointment this past

summer as prefect of the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. The new San Francisco archbishop has headed the Salt Lake City Diocese since 1995. In his seminary days he was a classmate of Archbishop Levada and of Los Angeles Cardinal Roger M. Mahony. Cardinal Mahony praised the appointment. He described Archbishop Niederauer as an avid and discerning reader and a highly effective homilist and teacher.

Pope names veteran Vatican diplomat as new U.S. papal nuncio

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI named a veteran Vatican diplomat, Italian Archbishop Pietro Sambi, to be the new papal nuncio to the United States. Archbishop Sambi, 67, has served as the Vatican's representative to Israel and Palestine, where he helped arrange Pope John Paul II's historic pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2000. He replaces Colombian Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, who was retiring at age 75 after serving as nuncio in Washington since 1998. The Vatican announced the appointment Dec. 17. Archbishop Sambi is known in church circles as an energetic and gregarious man with an ability to bring the human touch to diplomatic challenges. He speaks Italian, English, French and Spanish. In a statement welcoming the appointment, Bishop William S. Skylstad, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said the pope had honored the United States by appointing such an experienced prelate.

New John Paul the Great university to open in San Diego next fall

SAN DIEGO (CNS) — A new Catholic university in San Diego County, scheduled to open in 2006, is recruiting its inaugural class of 60 students. John Paul the Great Catholic University received temporary approval to operate as a degree-granting institution in California from the state's Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education this fall. The university is in the final stages of lease negotiations on classroom and dorm facilities. The accreditation process, which can last up to six years, will begin one year after the university opens. Next fall, John Paul the Great Catholic University will offer degree programs in communications media and business. Technology degree programs will be added in the near future. In all academic disciplines, its goal will be to foster an entrepreneurial spirit and encourage leadership, creativity and innovation, guided by the teachings of the Catholic Church and its magisterium.

Iraqi bishop says majority of dead were innocent civilians

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The vast majority of Iraqis killed in the 1,000 days since the U.S.-led invasion of their country were innocent civilians, a Baghdad bishop said. "There are very many dead from the conflict, from car bombs and kamikaze attacks as well as kidnapped people who later were killed," Chaldean Auxiliary Bishop Shlemon Warduni of Baghdad told Vatican Radio. "Unfortunately, there have been very many deaths, and the absolute majority of them were innocents," he said Dec. 13 after Vatican Radio asked him to comment on the death toll given by U.S. President George W. Bush. Responding to questions Dec. 12, Bush said, "30,000 Iraqis, more or less, have died as a result of the initial incursion and the ongoing violence against Iraqis. We've lost about 2,140 of our troops in Iraq."

Influential Jesuit says bad driving is sin, should be confessed

ROME (CNS) — Driving inattentively, after drinking or when one is tired is a sin that should be confessed, said the Jesuit director of an influential magazine. Poor driving "places at great risk one's own life and the lives of others, certainly much more than seeing a provocative film, something people confess much more easily because they feel more at fault," wrote Father GianPaolo Salvini in mid-December. The priest is director of *La Civiltà Cattolica*, a magazine reviewed by the Vatican Secretariat of State. Father Salvini noted that in late November, Pope Benedict XVI publicly asked people to drive more carefully in order to save lives. While much of his article looked at statistics about driving habits and accidents in Italy, the Jesuit also looked at the moral, psychological and social issues involved in more and more people driving cars, mopeds and motorcycles.

The Traveling Jubilee Pilgrim Cross



The Jubilee Pilgrim Cross has been traveling to parishes on the southeastern portion of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Commissioned at the World Youth Day event in August, a scene shown above, the cross traveled to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Most recently, it has been at St. Patrick Arcola and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. The Arcola and Aboite Township Fire Departments are shown in the exchange at the top photo. Across the center row of photos, parishioners and students from St. Louis Besancon take the cross by wagon to St. Rose Monroeville Parish. St. Joseph Hessen Cassel students process the cross to St. Mary of the Annunciation in Decatur. At right, Jason Chandler, a member of the St. Aloysius, Yoder, Squires, carries the cross after receiving it from St. Mary Church in Huntington. The cross will visit every parish and conclude its journey at the Eucharistic Congress at the University of Notre Dame in August, 2007.

MOMENTS OF 2005 CAPTURED THROUGH

Joy and sadness mingle in memories of



CNS PHOTO BY PAUL HARING

The day after Christmas 2004, a massive earthquake off the coast of the Indonesian island of Sumatra spawned tsunamis that struck southern Asia, killing more than 180,000 people. The world responded with overwhelming generosity, with Catholic relief efforts reaching record levels. In this photo on the Indonesian island of Nias, farmer Thaliia Gulo sits near the remains of his tsunami-destroyed home Jan. 29. The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend responded with a generous outpouring of concern and made the collection the largest ever collected until the hurricane relief collection later in the year in September.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

The death of Pope John Paul II was a global event watched by countless people around the world. The man who had traveled the world touching the hearts of millions made his final dramatic journey through a packed St. Peter's Square April 4. A young girl, above, expresses her affection by blowing a kiss.



CNS PHOTO BY BOB ROLLER

Church leaders from the U.S. and the Vatican look over the destruction inside St. Michael Church in Biloxi, Miss., Sept. 12. From left are Bishop Thomas J. Rodi of Biloxi; Archbishop Paul Cordes, the Vatican's top humanitarian aid official; Bishop Robert W. Muench of Baton Rouge, La.; and Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick of Washington. Archbishop Cordes toured areas struck by Hurricane Katrina Aug. 29.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Terri Schiavo's grave site is located in Sylvan Abbey Memorial Park in Clearwater, Fla. Her family's legal wrangling over the removal of her feeding tube early in 2005 brought public scrutiny to end-of-life issues.



CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIECHEC

The new pope called himself "a simple, humble worker in the vineyard of the Lord" when he addressed the world from the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica April 18. Upon his election German Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger took the name Pope Benedict XVI.



CNS PHOTO FROM KNA

Father Joseph Ratzinger, right, talks with an unidentified prelate in this photo taken in 1962 during the Second Vatican Council. The future Pope Benedict XVI attended all four sessions of the council as a theological adviser to German Cardinal Joseph Frings of Cologne. 2005 would see both the 40th anniversary of the council and the election of Ratzinger as pope.



2005 was celebrated as the Year of the Eucharist, which continues into 2006 in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

ROUGH CAMERA LENS

of historic year



TIM JOHNSON

On Oct. 29, Bishop John M. D'Arcy ordained Father David Ruppert to the priesthood. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, where Father Ruppert served as a deacon, offered a weeklong novena of prayer for the new priest.



Bishop John M. D'Arcy met with members of the press in Fort Wayne and South Bend in February to discuss the vitality and success of the Legacy of Faith. More than \$48.5 million was pledged. The success, bishop said, "shows how people love their Catholic faith. It also shows how our priests have forged beautiful, trusting relationships with their people and finally, how much Catholic education means to our people."



TIM JOHNSON

Father Paul Bueter, pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church and Diocesan Shrine in Warsaw accepts the key to the new church in Oct. 23. The church, part of the Year of the Great Jubilee 2000 celebration, honors the patroness of the Americas and is central to the diocese and its growing Latino population.



KAY COZAD

The Fort Wayne diocesan offices relocated to the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center in downtown. Grants through Our Sunday Visitor, Inc., in Huntington and an anonymous donor made the purchase of the building possible. The facility was blessed Dec. 11 and the public was invited to an open house.



TIM JOHNSON

On April 7, Bishop John M. D'Arcy welcomed leaders of other faiths and dignitaries at a memorial Mass for Pope John Paul II. In the evening Mass, Bishop D'Arcy reminded all that the ministry of the priesthood is one of love and service — to make a gift of oneself.

Marian High School identifies educational needs

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

MISHAWAKA — Marian High School, like its counterparts around the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, is struggling to meet the current requirements of its burgeoning student population while planning for its future needs.

Director of development Laura Worcester points out that enrollment has doubled in the past 20 years and now stands at approximately 815 students, making updates to the aging facility a must in order to maintain and improve the learning environment. And so last spring, Bishop John M. D'Arcy gave his approval to a \$4.6 million plan to address the academic, spiritual and physical needs of Marian High School students.

Major physical needs were addressed first, as some benefactors came forward early to fund construction of a separate athletic complex, which is nearing completion across the street from the high school. The yet-to-be-named facility was utilized for fall soccer, says Worcester, and will also house the tennis and softball programs and host rugby practice. Of special significance is that, besides serving Marian High School, the athletic complex will be used by more than 400 Catholic grade school students through the Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL).

Principal Carl Loesch says, "It is certainly an exciting time to be at Marian. Thanks to the generosity of several key benefactors, we are blessed with a beautiful new athletic facility that is a gift to both current and future Marian students. It is a joy to see hundreds of ICCL students using the facility each Sunday."

But Loesch also looks ahead. "Now we are turning our attention to planning for the future academic and spiritual needs of our students by continuing the modernization of our other facilities that began with previous campaigns," he says.

Worcester also points out, "We wanted to be responsive to their (benefactors') interests, but the athletic complex is only a portion of the total goal."

Other needs that have been defined include modernization of the heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC)



PROVIDED BY MARIAN HIGH SCHOOL

Students utilize the new soccer facility that opened last fall at Marian High School in Mishawaka.

system for energy efficiency, window and plumbing upgrades, parking and security lighting. And esthetic enhancements to improve the learning environment will accompany those essential improvements to the infrastructure.

Worcester emphasizes that the next phase of the capital campaign is still in the planning stages, and the school board and administration are busy recruiting the leadership team and identifying major prospects. The steering committee is expected to be comprised of board members, parents, alumni, friends and corporate representatives. Once the important

groundwork is laid, the campaign will formally be "launched" and solicitations will begin.

Dubbed "Challenging Minds, Strengthening Spirits," the campaign will define and represent the mission of the venerable, 40-year-old institution.

After all, she points out, Marian High School has been identified as one of the top 50 Catholic schools (as well as Bishop Luers High School in Fort Wayne) in the country and she is confident that the Marian community will want to help maintain that ranking for generations of students to come.

Bishop Dwenger prepares strategic plan

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Dwenger High School, long-time bastion of Catholic higher education in the city, has recently completed a strategic plan to assess the need for future additions and improvements on its campus.

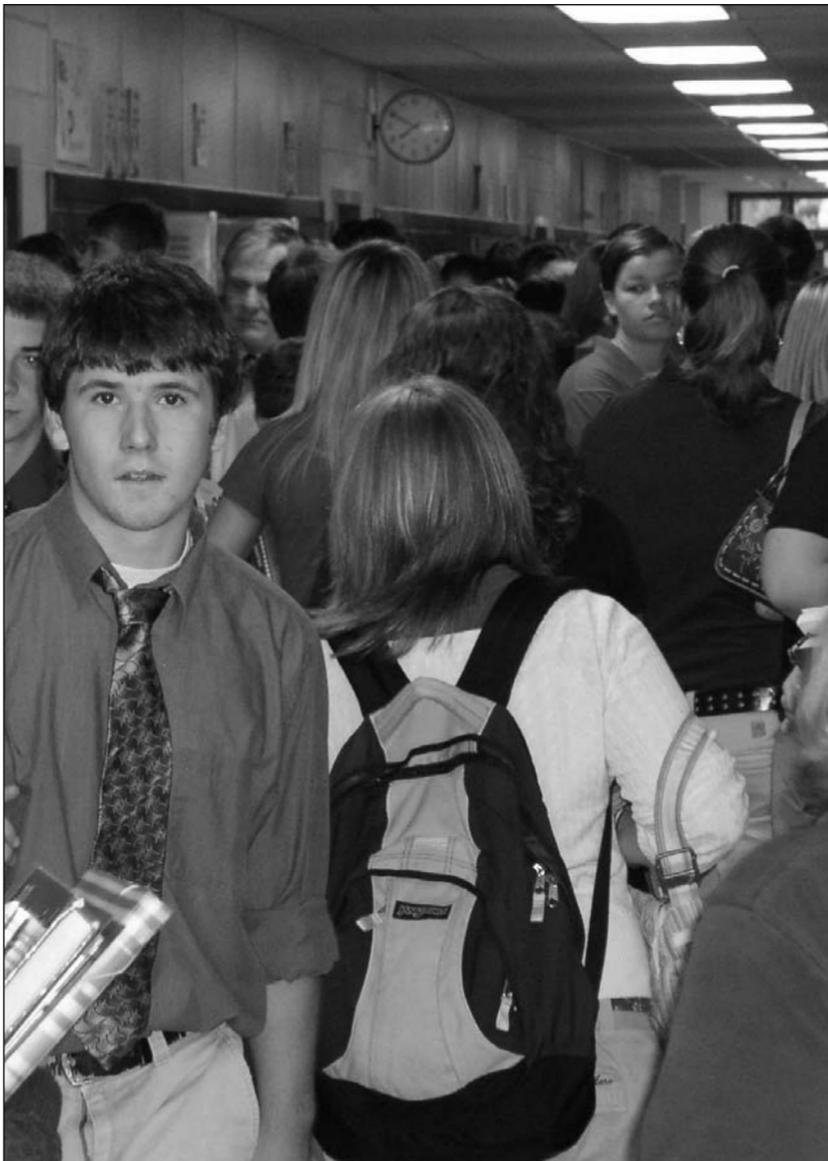
Principal Fred Tone says the administration began to realize three years ago as the demands of education continued to change and the student population continued to increase — up from 715 to 1,090 in the past decade — that there was a need to expand their facilities.

"We're seeing a 'tremendous growth in enrollment and interest in key programs such as fine arts,'" says director of development Dennis Fech in agreement. "Our goal is to meet the needs of students, faculty and staff for many years to come." To that end, a five- to 10-year strategic plan for orderly expansion of the Dwenger facilities is currently being distributed.

Fully 60 percent of graduating seniors earn an academic honors diploma. But since one of the requirements of such a program is two semesters of fine arts classes, either music or visual arts, the school is struggling to meet student needs. Currently, a single music room is utilized by the band, choir and other music groups. It "puts a strain on what you have," admits Fech. Due to a shortage of classrooms, some teachers are required to "float," or move from room to room during the school day. In addition, the school needs to expand its guidance and special services departments, says Tone.

Bishop Dwenger High School is presently educating students, faculty, parents, alumni and friends about its needs and seeking input on its plans. Those who are interested may log onto the school's Web site, www.bishopdwenger.com, to participate in a planning survey. Hundreds of responses have been received, says Fech. "We are inviting them to take ownership of the school," he adds. "This input is critical." By engaging the entire Dwenger community in the process, the administration hopes to gain a better idea of what may be done.

A Strategic Plan Summary 2005 identifies immediate priorities for capital investment as 13 new classrooms at a cost of \$2.1 million, and visual and performing arts



PROVIDED BY BISHOP DWENGER HIGH SCHOOL

instructional spaces at \$2.9 million, to accommodate the burgeoning school population and its need for an expanded fine arts curriculum. Tone would also like a new, redesigned, "significantly Catholic" front entrance. And a new fine arts auditorium, which could also be utilized by area elementary schools and the community at large, would surely "cap it off."

It should be pointed out, says Tone, that "not one penny" of Legacy of Faith funds slated for Catholic education may be used for building projects like this one. Those monies were placed in an endowment fund whose investment income is earmarked for teachers' salaries and student scholarships.

The longtime principal will have a chance to promote his dream since he will play a "pivotal role" in the effort, Fech points out. Tone has been at the school in various roles since 1968, the past 11 as its administrative leader.

An investment in capital projects is sorely needed to ready Bishop Dwenger High School for many years to come, says Fech, and he is confident that the recently completed strategic plan will adequately and convincingly summarize those requirements. "We're very encouraged about the future of Catholic secondary education here in Fort Wayne."

Tone agrees. "We want to serve all families who want Catholic education" ... and this effort will be "wonderful, visible proof of the strength of the Dwenger family."

Growth in the student population has made expansion of classroom space a priority at Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne.

Major fundraiser to benefit Bishop Luers High

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

FORT WAYNE — Principal Mary Keefer is candid about the needs at Bishop Luers High School. The nearly half-century-old building should be updated, she says, and soon. Keefer quickly ticks off a list of necessary improvements. She says the original boiler should be replaced. The school's old single-pane windows are drafty and inefficient and must be insulated. Air conditioning should be installed to improve the learning environment.

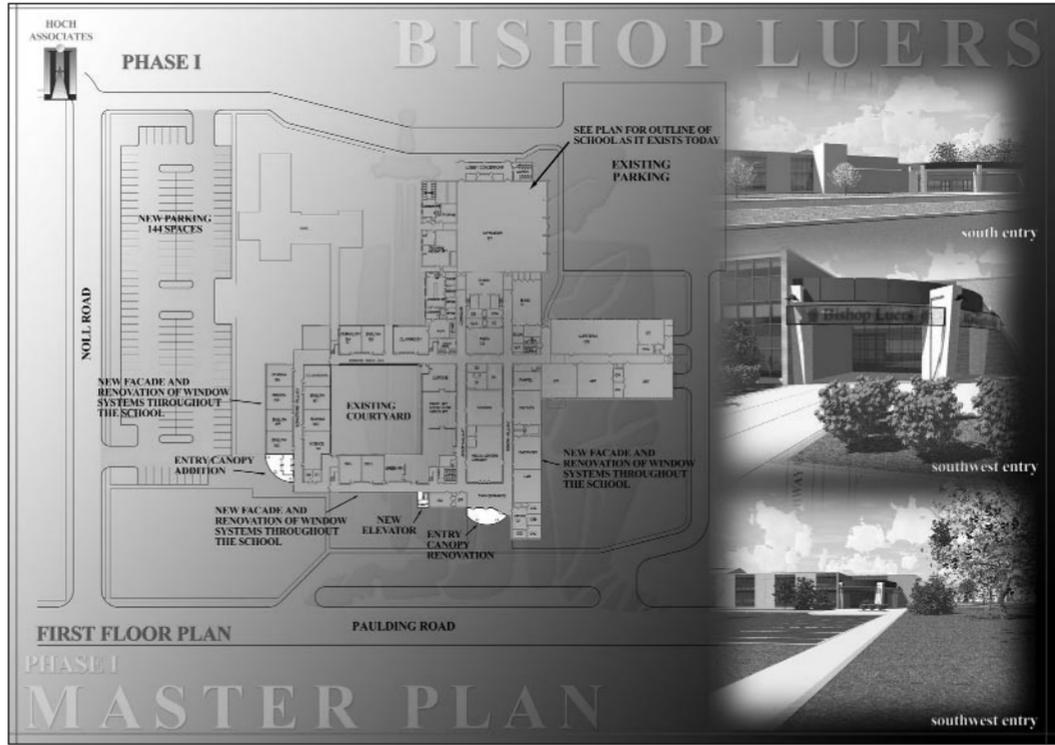
"These are not frills," she says emphatically. The heating and cooling system is estimated to cost \$2.1 million. The window project, which includes adding a little "curb appeal" by covering some windows and shoring up others, along with ceiling work and new lighting, is priced at \$4 million. Additional staff and student parking is a must, at a projected cost of \$400,000.

To date, the school has been unable to accommodate wheelchair-bound students. But this is the 21st century, says Keefer, and "we want to meet everyone's needs," so a \$120,000 elevator is required for handicapped access to the entire building.

Other big-ticket items found wanting by a study done earlier this year are a fine arts center, projected to cost \$3 million, and a new gymnasium with an additional \$3 million price tag. But Keefer says, "We concluded that we must go with our needs first" and delay those "wants" for the campaign's second phase.

The major gift portion of the first phase fund-raising effort took place during the summer months, with a core committee working hard to secure those advance contributions. The committee members are Jim Nill, Jim Hoch, Jerry Henry, Dave and Joni Kuhn, Dr. John and Lona Pritchard, Matt and Mary Till, Mark and Jennifer Andorfer, Jason Draper, Matt and Susan Schenkel, Teresa Dirig, Tim Blomeke, Kathy Carrier and Karlene Krouse.

Director of development Benjamin Wagner, newly hired in mid-September, says he was concerned at first about his late arrival to a campaign that had begun months



An aging facility in need of renovation has put Bishop Luers High School in Fort Wayne in the midst of a capital campaign. The photo, provided by Hoch Associates shows the rendering of the new facade.

PROVIDED BY JIM HOCH

earlier. "How far behind am I?" he wondered, then says he found he had a "fantastic core committee of volunteers," who quickly eased his worry. Then, too, he has high praise for Bishop John M. D'Arcy who "has everything under his thumb."

"Bishop is so supportive of our school," adds Keefer, that local gift-gathering was suspended while the Annual Bishop's Appeal was underway and only out-of-town donations were solicited at that time. Now a Luers alumni appeal will begin in earnest with a letter-writing effort, followed up with phone calls. The next phase of the cam-

paign will solicit funds from foundations and corporations. Donations may also be made online by visiting the school's Web site, www.bishopluers.org, says the principal.

Depending on the campaign's success, reconstruction is slated to begin next summer. "Our budget just doesn't cover capital improvements," says Keefer. But she is optimistic that the extended Luers family will understand their beloved school's need and come to the aid of the aging facility.

Saint Joseph's High School prepares master plan

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

SOUTH BEND — Saint Joseph's High School is in the process of preparing a five-year strategic plan and facility evaluation in order to "speak to the vision" of the venerable institution for decades to come, says Susan Lightcap, director of public relations at the school.

And they are grateful to Jim Schellinger, a class of 1978 graduate and president of CSO Architects of Indianapolis. "This facility plan is a gift to Saint Joseph's High School from Mr. Schellinger," says Lightcap.

The architectural firm's personnel recently spent several days at the school conducting interviews with staff members and administrators, who all had the opportunity to evaluate the current facility and outline their personal and departmental "wish lists." Lightcap confides that, as an English teacher, her personal wish list includes a computer lab reserved for writing. Among long-range needs are another gym and a theater. Now those and scores of other ideas are being compiled for discussion and thorough evaluation.

"We have such an excellent program," says Lightcap, "and keep up with technology and curriculum at an extremely high level ... we have outstanding students winning national recognition, which is a tribute to the school, the faculty and the students themselves."

But "we're an old building" with both cosmetic and educational needs, and the utilization of the current space should be examined as well, she says.

Director of development Jeff Boetticher points out that Saint Joseph's High School is still collecting money pledged for the recently completed Edward Nicholas Kalamaros Fine Arts Center and that any additional facilities updates would require approval at several levels, including that of Bishop John M. D'Arcy, before any action could be taken.

Whether the development of a strategic plan will result in a capital campaign remains to be seen. In the past, Saint Joseph's has reacted to specific needs as they arose, says Boetticher. Now, he says, a realistic game plan is being developed which anticipates those needs so that Saint Joseph's High School can continue to be a fine Catholic educational institution for future generations of students.



PROVIDED BY SAINT JOSEPH'S HIGH SCHOOL

The Edward Nicholas Kalamaros Fine Arts Center at Saint Joseph's High School was recently dedicated. Earlier in the fall of 2005, the computer laboratory, a part of the center, was blessed and dedicated.

EDITORIAL

Keep Christmas spirit throughout the year

In the offices of *Today's Catholic*, the editor keeps a creche up all year. It serves as a reminder that the spirit of Christmas does not hold to a season or a few days out of the year, but rather is a spirit that should pervade the whole year.

When we see those who are hurting, cold, without shelter, hungry, we are reminded that we too need to bring our gifts to the manger. It is in the poor that we see the face of Christ — Christ in the manger.

So many times, charities receive a generous outpouring of gifts in the Advent and Christmas season. But after Christmas, there remains suffering that needs attention. Many, this new year, will need assistance with utility and heating bills. Food banks will need food. The American Red Cross will need blood donations. These are all means that ask charitable giving throughout the year.

We also need to remember that charity begins at home. Let us keep in mind that kindness should be extended to family members. So often we show more kindness toward strangers than we do our own family members. When we treat others as we would like to be treated, we are living by the golden rule — a rule that makes the Christmas spirit alive throughout the year.

Looking ahead

As we look ahead to the new year, you will notice some additions and changes to the commentary section of *Today's Catholic*.

Msgr. Owen Campion, associate publisher of *Our Sunday Visitor* in Huntington, provides the Sunday readings reflections beginning with this issue. Msgr. Campion, who also assists at St. Joseph Hessen Cassel Parish, is from Nashville, Tenn. His career as a Catholic journalist began in 1969. He served as the editor-in-chief of *The Tennessee Register* from 1971-1988 and joined *Our Sunday Visitor* in 1988. Among his many honors, Msgr. Campion has served on the board of directors of the Catholic Press Association and was appointed by Pope John Paul II as a member of the Synod of Bishops for the Americas. Pope John Paul II also named Msgr. Campion a Prelate of Honor with the title of "Reverend Monsignor" on Oct. 9, 1995, complimenting his service in church communications.

Also, commentary writer Theresa Thomas, who lives in the diocese, will offer her insights once a month in the Everyday Catholic column. Already, her column and spiritual reflections from Advent have received praise from our readers. Thomas is a cancer survivor and a mother of nine children.

Tim Prister, who writes for *The Blue and The Gold*, will author a sports column in *Today's Catholic* once a month. Prister will provide a behind the scenes look at Notre Dame athletics and his coaching perspective from the high school level.

Bioethicist Father Tad Pacholczyk will continue his "Making Sense out of Bioethics" column. Featured every other week through February and then once a month thereafter, this area needs clarification and strong church backing as the stem-cell issue is continually discussed. We hope that Father Pacholczyk's column will provide the knowledge and background needed to understand this field.

Rosie Lahrman will also continue a series on the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Ethical and Religious Directives (ERD) for Catholic Health Care. This column has been a good resource for difficult decisions about end-of-life considerations.

The "Ask Father" column will take on an added dimension this year. Father Richard Hire, Father Michael Heintz and Father Mark Gurtner will be contributing. We encourage readers to e-mail their questions to us.

Father Hire, who has a great love for church history, will also write a column twice a month examining the Old and New Testaments and church tradition.

The Office of Worship is sponsoring a five-part series on the Eucharistic Prayer, beginning this week. They also plan to write a short question-and-answer column about liturgy and prayer.

Our parish histories will continue to be updated with *Today's Catholic's* Mark Weber taking the writing duties; all parishes will be featured through 2007 as part of the sesquicentennial preparation.

Beginning in February, we will present a column in the family section to help families budget their money. This series, offering a Catholic perspective mixed with being a good steward of our financial resources, will be written by Elisa Smith and Keith Davis, both of Star Wealth Management. Smith is also the director of planned giving for the diocese.

And finally, to help our readers become more acquainted with the priests who serve the diocese, *Today's Catholic* will be featuring a "Meet the Priest" series. We plan to take you behind the pulpit and discover the interesting lives of our priests.

Have a blessed 2006.

Today's Catholic editorial board consists of Bishop John M. D'Arcy, Ann Carey, Don Clemmer, Father Mark Gurtner, Father Michael Heintz, Tim Johnson, Vince LaBarbera and Msgr. J. William Lester.

COMMENTARY

TODAY'S CATHOLIC welcomes letters from readers. All letters must be signed and include a phone number and address for verification. Today's Catholic reserves the right to edit for clarity and length. Address letters to: Today's Catholic • P.O. Box 11169 • Fort Wayne, IN • 46856-1169 or e-mail to: editor@fw.diocesefwsb.org

What is different about Christmas this year?

Less than five months ago I almost died. I am alive today because of prayers, Masses said and anointing of the sick. Words will never express my gratitude for prayers, visits, meals and financial help.

When you are dying, priorities change. You don't worry about the car being dirty. You don't worry about the small things in life.

What you care about is God and your relationship with God.

I believe whatever happens is allowed from God, and God can take something hard and turn it good.

This is like being able to have a first Christmas.

You know how important first things in life are? Do you remember your first holy Communion? Do you remember your first date with your wife? Do you know where it was, what she looked like? Do you remember your first car? Do you remember your first grade teacher? Firsts are important. Firsts create what some call a SEE or better known as Significant Emotional Events. These are emotional mile posts. SEE also includes memories of Christmas' at your grandma's, the smell of food, the sound of music, and the talks around the table of the adults. Can you think of Christmases in your life that created SEEs?

I remember a SEE in my life about Christmas. I remember going to the courthouse when there was a huge Nativity; how cold it was; the crunch of the straw when I walked on it; the statues of Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. As I enter this Christmas, I know this year will be a SEE. I will remember the kisses and hugs from my kids. I will remember many of you coming to the hospital. I will remember the cards sent.

As I think about this Christmas I know it is not about me. Christmas is about Jesus. It is remembering the first Christmas. It is about us opening our hearts to this small child who wants to be part of our life so that he can save us to have us part of his heavenly family.

This year I invite and challenge you to make this Christmas a SEE. Thank God for all your problems he has trusted you with, for the relationships, for your family most of all, though remember to thank God for your life.

Christmas is different because I have the most wonderful gift: life. I won't ever take my life for granted. Make each Christmas like it was your first Christmas, make it a SEE.

Rick Copenhagen
Granger

Stem-cell act will help cure many

Recently, Father Tad Pacholczyk of the National Catholic Bioethics Center spoke to the Fort Wayne medical community about the ethics and efficacy of stem-cell therapy. Unlike embryonic stem-cell therapy,

which has cured no one and always destroys a human embryo, adult stem-cell therapy has effected cures in many diseases and harms no one ("Ethics of stem cell research explored in forum," *News Sentinel*, Dec. 5, 2005).

Therapies using adult stem cells derived from umbilical cord blood have cured leukemia, sickle cell anemia and other blood disorders. But until recently, hospitals had no infrastructure for collecting and storing it. Yearly, millions of cords were thrown away. Now, thanks to the leadership of Rep. Chris Smith, and Sens. Sam Brownback and Bill Frist, that will change. Congress just passed the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act, and President Bush signed it into law on Dec. 20.

The measure provides \$79 million for the collection and storage of umbilical cord blood with the goal of reaching a total inventory of 150,000 units, making matched stem cells available to treat more than 90 percent of patients.

Rep. Mark Souder, who cosponsored the bill, commented: "Adult stem cells ... are being used to treat human patients for more than 58 different diseases ... not a single human patient has been treated (successfully) by embryonic-stem cells."

Passage of this law promises tremendous advancement in the treatment of leukemia and other blood diseases. And it signals a great victory for pre-born babies.

Annemarie S. Muth
Bluffton

Thanks offered for the Peter's Pence collection

Dear Bishop D'Arcy,

The Holy Father has asked me to acknowledge the offering of \$50,892.76, which you sent from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend as Peter's Pence for the year 2005.

His Holiness wishes me to thank you for this gift, which will help him in the exercise of his universal ministry. He is aware of the devotion, which motivated your people's contribution, and he is deeply appreciative of this testimony to the bond of charity uniting the local churches with the See of Peter.

Commending you and the clergy, religious and laity of the diocese to the loving protection of Mary, Mother of the church, the Holy Father cordially imparts his apostolic blessing as a pledge of joy and peace in the Lord.

With fraternal good wishes, I remain

Yours sincerely in Christ,
Cardinal Angelo Sodano
Secretary of State



Year-end wrap-up: Pope reflects on a historic 2005

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — By any measure, it was an extraordinary year for Pope Benedict XVI. Most of the world has followed the highlights through the lens of the mass media — his election in the April conclave, his visit to Germany in August, his growing popularity and even his fashionable ecclesial clothing.

On Dec. 22, the pope offered a personal look at the year in review. Although he spoke for nearly an hour, he barely mentioned his own election — a demonstration of the humility he has shown from the beginning of his pontificate.

Instead, he focused on the death of his predecessor, World Youth Day, the closing of the eucharistic year and the commemoration of the Second Vatican Council.

And, of course, on Jesus. Born in a manger, the pope said, Jesus has a power “completely different from the destructive power of violence,” and far more effective.

The occasion was the pope’s annual pre-Christmas encounter with the Roman Curia. The pope wore his red velvet cape trimmed with ermine, the Clementine Hall was decorated with poinsettias, and a Christmas tree was bedecked with lights.

The idea was to exchange season’s greetings with Vatican officials; Pope Benedict gave them a nine-page speech.

He began by paying tribute to Pope John Paul II, saying the late pope’s fame as a world traveler and communicator only made his final days of suffering and silence more powerful.

Interestingly, it was a TV image that stuck out in Pope Benedict’s mind: when the late pope was shown in his apartment the week before his death, gripping a cross as he watched the Way of the Cross broadcast from Rome’s Colosseum.

Pope Benedict recalled his own first papal trip, a visit to Germany to preside over World Youth Day. But his biggest memory was not the cheering and chanting that greeted him from the immense crowd. Instead, he said, it was the sound of silence — the “intense silence of those million young people” as they prayed together in a field before the exposed Eucharist.

The pope said the rediscovery of adoration in the church was also evident at the world Synod of Bishops in October, which closed

THE VATICAN LETTER

JOHN THAVIS

the Year of the Eucharist. He said eucharistic adoration and the Mass were once seen in opposition, but that seems to have been overcome in the modern church.

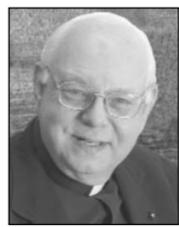
The pope saved his most detailed analysis for Vatican II, which ended 40 years ago. It’s a subject that has generated decades of debate within the church, including some critical comments by the pope when he was Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger.

The pope said there was no denying that the reception of Vatican II has been difficult for the church. In explaining why, he said there was a right way and a wrong way to understand the council.

The wrong way, he said, sees the council as a break with the past — a view that often has the sym-

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Mary reminds us that we can reach God



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

This day, the first day of the year, also is observed as New Year’s Day and the World Day of Peace.

Celebrating the day as a feast dedicated to Mary, the Mother of God, is relatively new in the liturgical calendar. For many years, Jan. 1 was observed as the feast of the Circumcision of Jesus, commemorating the event when the Lord formally and ritually was admitted to the ranks of God’s chosen people and identified with the chosen people’s covenant with God.

Throughout the year, the church celebrates many feasts of the Blessed Mother, such as the feast of the Annunciation on March 25, the Assumption on Aug. 15, the Nativity of Mary on Sept. 8 and the Immaculate Conception on Dec. 8.

These feasts all refer to privileges given to Mary because she was the Mother of God, a title long ago adopted by the church to reflect the Blessed Virgin’s unique role in the Incarnation and, consequently, salvation.

Today’s feast draws attention and devotion to Mary under this most fundamental of her titles.

The first reading is from the Book of Numbers. This book of

the Old Testament is the third book in sequence in the Pentateuch, or to use the Jewish term, the Torah. This series of books contains the law given the people by Moses.

Moses and his brother, Aaron, appear in this reading from Numbers. It is a blessing from God. Generous and loving, it expresses God’s pledge to care for, and protect, the people, come what may, forever.

For its second reading, the church offers a lesson from the Epistle to the Galatians. This reading contains a succinct, but very profound, revelation of the Incarnation. Its teaching is clear. Jesus is the Son of God, with and in all the power found in this title, but Jesus also is a human, born of a woman.

Linking with Jesus, the Son of God, for humans is possible because Jesus also was a human.

St. Luke’s Gospel is the source of the last reading. It is the story of the adoration of the shepherds at Bethlehem, of Mary’s reactions to these events and finally of the circumcision of the infant.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph are prominent in the reading. The divine character of Jesus is clear. The shepherds come to pay homage to Jesus, recently born. They are in a humble and non-threatening occupation. They have nothing personally to gain. In a sense, they symbolize humanity in its limitations and humanity in the peace that should be its characteristic. Later, the name of the Lord is attributed to the angel mentioned earlier in Luke’s story of the Annunciation.

Mary and Joseph find the shepherds’ homage puzzling. Humans themselves, they cannot fully grasp the meaning of the infant’s identity.

Yet, they arranged for the infant’s circumcision. This action testifies to their religious fidelity. It also joined him not only to humankind itself but to the chosen people.

Reflection

This feast, invoking such an ancient and basic privilege of Mary, obviously refers to, and celebrates, the holy mother of Jesus, the Mother of God.

However, by extension, and necessarily, this feast focuses upon the Incarnation, the mystery celebrated a week ago at Christmas. The Incarnation is the theological term long used to describe the reality so well presented this week in Galatians. Jesus is God. Jesus also is a human, because Jesus was the son of Mary. Through and in the Incarnation, we humans can reach God and unite with God.

Our model is Mary, whose devotion to God, and whose willingness to join in God’s plan, were firm and resolute despite her questions and wonder. Throughout Luke’s infancy narrative, Mary’s great faith is abundantly clear.

READINGS

Second week of Christmas

Monday: 1 Jn 2:22-28 Ps 98:1-4 Jn 1:19-28

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:29-3:6 Ps 98:1-3,6 Jn 1:29-34

Wednesday: 1 Jn 3:7-10 Ps 98:1,7-9 Jn 1:35-42

Thursday: 1 Jn 3:11-21 Ps 100:1-5 Jn 1:43-51

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13 Ps 147:12-15, 19-20 Mk 1:7-11

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21 Ps 149:1-6a, 9b Jn 2:1-11

CATEQUIZ'EM

By Dominic Camplisson

This quiz looks at a figure who features prominently in the Nativity story, but much less later on — St. Joseph.

- Why is the unusual “husband of Mary” used as a descriptor for Joseph?**
 - Because in his tribe the Danites, women inherited the property.
 - Because he was thought to have been married successively to two Marys.
 - Because he was not Jesus’ father, so this is an accurate descriptor.
- What was his occupation?**
 - A maker of weapons
 - A carpenter or builder
 - A tax collector or publican
- Joseph is described as of the House of David. Why is that significant?**
 - David had been a shepherd, so this was prerequisite to Jesus being the Good Shepherd.
 - The Messiah was expected to be from the House of (King) David.
 - The association with David meant that his family was protected by the Romans.
- What is unusual about Joseph’s father’s name?**
 - He is called “Jacob” in one Gospel and “Heli” in another.
 - He was called Antipas, which is an entirely Greek and non-Jewish name.
 - He was also called Joseph, even though custom demanded a son have a different name from his father.
- Where did Joseph live when he was betrothed to Mary?**
 - Nazareth
 - Bethlehem
 - Jerusalem
- According to Matthew’s Gospel, when Joseph discovered Mary was pregnant, what was he reluctant to do?**
 - Shame her by reporting it
 - Bring her to the temple
 - Divorce her
- In fact, under Jewish law, Mary might have been subject to:**
 - criticism
 - death by stoning
 - banishment
- What changed Joseph’s mind?**
 - He saw the Oprah show.
 - He reread Deuteronomy and thought the Law did not apply.
 - He was visited by an angel.
- Why did Joseph take his pregnant wife to Bethlehem?**
 - To get her away from the neighbors so they would not know when the child was born
 - To start a new job as a builder in the temple of the nativity
 - To enroll in a census demanded by the Romans
- After 40 days, Joseph and Mary went to the Temple and offered a sacrifice of two doves. What does the nature of this offering tell us?**
 - The family was poor.
 - Joseph hated birds.
 - Mary could not get Joseph to spring for a lamb as the child was not his.
- Where did Joseph flee with his wife and her son?**
 - Jerusalem
 - Egypt
 - Edom
- Why did Joseph take them there?**
 - He could not afford the bill for rent of the cave.
 - He wanted to stash the gold, frankincense and myrrh.
 - He knew Herod was out to kill the child.
- We know Joseph was still with Jesus when Jesus was 12. It is described how, as part of the Passover festival, they**
 - went to Jerusalem.
 - built a commemorative copy of the Ark.
 - sailed across the Sea of Galilee.
- When Jesus preached near his home, the neighbors were amazed and asked, “Is he not the carpenter’s son?” What can we infer from this?**
 - That Joseph was probably still alive, and people assumed Jesus was his son.
 - That Joseph had disowned Jesus, and he should not have returned.
 - That Jesus would have had more credibility if he had used a hammer on them.

ANSWERS:

1.c, 2.b, 3.b, 4.a, 5.a, 6.a, 7.b, 8.c, 9.c, 10.a, 11.b, 12.c, 13.a, 14.a.

Evil: an absence that good seeks to fill

Why would God, being perfect, create evil, unless it was always present?
T. H., Roanoke

Dear T. H.,

In the ancient world, some religions posited two gods: a god responsible for the good and a god responsible for evil. For example, Zoroastrianism, that became dominant in Iran from A.D. 211-640, said that the world was made by a good God with the help of his Holy Spirit and six other divine spirits. These spirits work against the evil spirit, who is also helped by six other spirits that tempt the human person to do wrong.

In Christian teaching, however, there are not two gods, but only one God. This one God consists of the three divine persons or subsistent relations called Father, Son and Spirit. This perfect Godhead does only good. God does not perform evil or sin. This good God is eternal, namely, he always was, is and will be. There is no eternal

evil god.

Evil is not a positive reality God created. Evil is an absence of the good that should be there. Evil is a privation, a lack of being. Physical evil, such as blindness or sickness, is a lack of the sight and health that should be present. Moral evil, such as hatred or war, is a lack of the love or peace that should exist. The human person was created by God to do good. Before the fall, Adam lived in harmony with the beasts and God.

When God created the angels and human persons, he created beings with a free will. These beings were good, but not perfect. In other words, they were either angelic or human, but not divine. Because of their free will, angels and humans were able to freely love God and freely do good, but they were also capable of freely hating God and freely committing evil deeds. God respects the gift of freedom he gave to angels and human beings. But there is an



FATHER RICHARD HIRE

ASK FATHER

inherent danger here that angels and humans could misuse their gift of freedom by doing evil. Thus God does not cause evil, but rather he permits it.

Father John Hardon remarks that evil is not so much a problem as a great marvel. The wonderment arises from God's incredible reverence for the natures he created. What bears emphasis is that his permission of evil does not derogate from his goodness.

When evil does happen through the misuse of human freedom, God can step in and restore the integrity of things. Thus the sin of

Adam, the first human person, occasioned the coming of Jesus Christ our Savior who made up for the sin of Adam by dying on the cross and rising from the dead, thereby reopening the gates of heaven for human beings.

But people ask why God did not create a world so perfect that no evil could exist in it. St. Thomas Aquinas (d. 1274), quoted by the new catechism from Rome, says that God freely willed to create a world in a state of journeying toward its ultimate perfection. In God's plan, this process of becoming involves the appearance of certain beings and the disappearance of others, the existence of the more perfect alongside the less perfect, both constructive and destructive forces of nature. With physical good, there exists also physical evil as long as creation has not reached perfection. As Jesus says in the Gospel, "God lets his sun rise on the just and the unjust."

Even though there is evil in the

world, God can still make good come from it. St. Augustine writes that God, because he is supremely good, "would never allow any evil whatsoever to exist in his works, if he were not so all-powerful and good as to cause good to emerge from evil itself." Father Hardon gives some specific examples: "Take away all evil and much good would go with it, e.g., the patience of the just supposes persecution from the unjust; and the charity of those who have presumes there are others in need."

If you have a question for Father Hire, send your question to *Today's Catholic* • P.O. Box 11169 • Fort Wayne, IN • 46856-1169. Unsigned questions will not be considered. Anonymity will be preserved upon request.

Exaggerated love

Ten years ago, on the evening of Dec. 6, 1995, Pope John Paul II changed my life.

In May of that year, I had begun talking with his press spokesman, Joaquin Navarro-Valls, about the necessity of a reliable papal biography — and the possibility that I might take on such a project. Over dinner on Dec. 6, and after Father Richard John Neuhaus had raised the point, it was John Paul himself who made it rather vigorously clear that he thought I should write the story of his life and pontificate. He thus set me off on the 10-year adventure that has continued beyond "Witness to Hope" to the recently-published "God's Choice," which tells the story of John Paul's death and the election of Joseph Ratzinger as his successor.

"What struck you most about John Paul II?" is a question I've been asked innumerable times. Every year, Christmastime reminds me of

the late pope's profound faith in the Incarnation. Karol Wojtyla loved the Christmas season and made it last as long as possible — according to Polish custom, the decorations stayed up and the carols were sung right through to Feb.

2, the liturgical feast of the Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple. This affection for Christmas was far more than ethnic habit, though. It grew from John Paul's deep-set conviction that, in the birth of Christ, we meet, in the flesh, the exaggerated infinity of God's love.

Creation displays the boundlessness of that love — that's what Christians see, that's the "design" we perceive, when we look at the natural world. The Incarnation

both confirms and takes us far beyond that perception: here, in the child born to Mary of Nazareth, we see the measureless love of God in the flesh, as one of us. Like the Magi, we come to understand that God's love is not just (just!) infinite; its infinity is exaggerated, spilling beyond the Infinite to embrace the finite, so that what is flesh and finitude is drawn up into the infinite life of love itself. It's because of the manger that we can say, with the apostle John, "God is Love."

Like John Paul II's, Benedict XVI's pontificate will be Christ-centered. Pope Benedict may stress the "scandal" of the Incarnation — the "stumbling block" and "folly" that some find in the claim that the Creator God entered the world in the person of his son, so that the son, through his obedient death, might reconcile the world to love itself. Yet Pope Benedict will also insist that this



GEORGE WEIGEL

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

teries of the faith are not puzzles to be solved, in the manner of P.D. James's Adam Dalgliesh. The "mysteries" (as the early Church Fathers called the truths into which the newly baptized were initiated) are truths beyond reason — like the truth of Christ's real presence in the holy Eucharist. And beyond reason is not, as some 21st century thinkers insist, the realm of the irrational; beyond reason, although not against reason, is the realm of love, in which, as St. Paul reminded those boisterous Corinthians, we know even as we are known.

That is the truth on which John Paul II staked his life. That is why every encounter of his papacy, from meetings with Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev to an audience for the Italian Union of Hairdressers, was an expression of his com-

mitment to invite everyone to St. Paul's "more excellent way:" the way of divine love — a love of exaggerated infinity. That's what I remember about John Paul II at Christmas. That's the great message he took to the world — as his worthy successor now does in his turn, and in his distinctive way.

George Weigel is a senior fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.

Like the Magi, we come to understand that God's love is not just (just!) infinite; its infinity is exaggerated, spilling beyond the Infinite to embrace the finite, so that what is flesh and finitude is drawn up into the infinite life of love itself.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

By Patricia Kasten

Gospel for January 1, 2006

Luke 2:16-21

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, Cycle B: Luke's story of Jesus' first days. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

FOUND	MARY	MANGER
MADE KNOWN	TOLD THEM	CHILD
ALL WHO	HEARD	AMAZED
HER HEART	RETURNED	GLORIFYING
PRAISING	FOR ALL	SEEN
EIGHT DAYS	JESUS	THE NAME
GIVEN	ANGEL	CONCEIVED

AMAZED

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

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LETTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

pathy of the mass media. Its proponents think the council's documents are imperfect, and so "one should follow not the texts of the council but its spirit," he said.

At this point, the pope went off into a lengthy and complex reflection on the church's relationship with the modern world. He said the council's great task was to help heal the rift between the church and modernity, in three specific

problematic relationships: faith and science, church and state, and Christianity and other religions.

Given the bold statements that came out of the council on these relationships, it was natural that some would see only the apparent discontinuity with church tradition, instead of understanding them as an evolution of core Christian beliefs, he said.

But that would be to misconstrue the council's intent, he said.

"The church is, before and after the council, the same one, holy, catholic and apostolic church, moving forward through the times," he said.

The morality of vaccinating our children explored

This is the second column of the series where we look at some of the hot new topics in bioethics, attempting to simplify the jargon and sort through some of the latest controversies.

There were lots of headlines recently after a summary document was released from the Pontifical Academy for Life in Rome dealing with a topic of practical importance to many parents. The question addressed by the document was this: is it okay for parents to vaccinate their children if the vaccines were made by a process that uses cells derived from an abortion performed 30 or 40 years ago?

To make a vaccine, it is often necessary to use a cell line; these are special cells that can be grown endlessly in the lab. Cell lines are different from regular body cells that may grow for a total of 70 or 80 doublings during a person's lifetime before they run out of steam and die. Because cell lines grow practically forever, they are widely used in many research labs around the world. These lines can be obtained in morally acceptable ways or in immoral ways.

In most cases, the use of these cells is not controversial. As a graduate student, I used a cell line obtained from a cancer that had been surgically removed from a 4-year-old girl in 1970. The use of these cells did not raise any moral red flags, since the cancer had been removed for medical reasons, and since informed consent could be obtained from the girl's parents to use the cells for research.

On the other hand, using cell lines derived from fetuses after an induced abortion raises vexing moral problems. Informed consent cannot be validly obtained. It's clearly not possible to ask fetuses themselves whether their tissues may be used after they are terminated, and the parents cannot give valid consent either.

Parental consent given on behalf of a child always implies that parents have the best interests of that child in mind. Parents who choose abortion prove by that very fact that they no longer have the best interests of their child in mind, and they consequently lose the ability to give valid informed consent for the use of their own child's organs or mortal remains.

Thus it is not morally permissible to procure organs from intentionally aborted fetuses for transplant purposes, and

similarly, cell lines can never be morally derived from such fetuses. Vaccines should also never be prepared using cell lines from aborted fetuses. Nevertheless, a number of vaccines have been prepared in this way by various pharmaceutical companies, using cell lines from abortions that happened 30 or 40 years ago. In some cases, these vaccines are the only ones available to inoculate against particular diseases, for example, chicken pox and rubella.

Some parents worry that it seems immoral to vaccinate their children using vaccines made in this way. If a school district has a policy requiring vaccinations for enrollment, some parents have gone so far as to suggest that their children should be exempt from the requirement as a matter of conscience.

The Pontifical Academy of Life document reaches a different conclusion, namely, that even when a vaccine is made from aborted material, and when no other form of that vaccine exists, parents may indeed vaccinate their children. In fact, in many instances, parents should feel a strong obligation to do so, considering the gravity and severity of the diseases involved.

The document also stresses that parents and others must vigorously and persistently apply pressure to pharmaceutical companies to reformulate their vaccines in lines from non-objectionable sources. If such alternatives already exist, parents should request that their doctors use those vaccines instead. What, then,

are some of the reasons it is permissible (and advisable) for parents to vaccinate their children with vaccines derived from aborted material if this is the only source available?

1. Parents may vaccinate their children because by doing so, they are not involved in any illicit form of cooperation with the original abortion. Many Catholic experts concur that cooperation today is not really possible in an event that was over and done with many years ago. Because the abortion occurred long ago, and for reasons completely unrelated to vaccines, it is untenable to conclude that vaccine recipients today somehow cooperate in the original abortive event.

Moreover, there is no ongoing use of recently aborted material for vaccine preparation; the lines obtained 30 or 40 years ago are the only abortion-derived lines being used currently for vaccine production. In summary, then, by vacci-



MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

BY FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK

nating their children, parents do not illicitly cooperate in evil, nor otherwise engage in wrongdoing. If pharmaceutical companies or other agencies derive fetal cell lines from elective abortions, those companies or agencies, not the parents, are guilty of immoral cooperation in the evil of abortion.

2. Parents may vaccinate their children because any risk of scandal that may arise when Catholics use these vaccines can be reasonably minimized by various steps. Even without any danger of cooperation in the original abortion, there is another danger that can arise from vaccinating one's child, namely giving scandal. Scandal can be caused by doing something, which has the appearance of evil, even if it is not in fact evil. Those who choose to be vaccinated may provide the appearance of evil because of the remote abortion link, and others may take scandal from their decision. Traditionally, the remedy for this has involved educating those who might take scandal. Such education could involve explaining:

- The facts about vaccines.
- The lack of any illicit cooperation on the part of the parents.
- The parents' frustration (even anger) regarding the lack of alternative, morally-derived vaccines.
- The upright intentions of the parents and their concern for their children's health.

When this education is coupled with efforts to pressure pharmaceutical companies to reformulate their problematic vaccines in morally acceptable ways, the issue of scandal diminishes and moves into the background.

3. Parents may vaccinate their children because vaccinations are critical to preventing very serious, life-threatening diseases, and to safeguarding large segments of the population from cataclysmic disease outbreaks and epidemics.

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, Mass. and serves as the director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.

The document also stresses that parents and others must vigorously apply pressure to pharmaceutical companies to reformulate their vaccines in lines from non-objectionable sources.

Give God thanks and praise

Do you remember the first prayer you ever learned? Perhaps it was:

Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here. Ever this day be at my side, to light and guard and rule and guide.

Or

Now I lay me down to sleep. I pray thee, Lord, my soul to keep. If I should die before I wake, I pray, thee, Lord, my soul to take.

Do you notice all the personal pronouns, the "my's" and "I's" and "me's"? We learned this and other childhood prayers at a time when we were, each of us, the center of a very small world. But, at the same time, we were learning these bedtime prayers, we were also being taught to give thanks together at mealtimes:

Bless us, O Lord, and these thy gifts, which we are about to receive, from thy bounty, through Christ our Lord.

Our parents were teaching us to look beyond ourselves and our needs — our natural focus — and to see others. We learned about the "we" beyond the "I." We learned in our petitions to pray for our parents and siblings and friends. We learned to pray for people we had

never met and might never know. We learned at table to give thanks for the gifts laid out before us. We learned at table to bless.

To bless a person or a thing is to acknowledge its true identity and its true source. When we bless a meal we acknowledge that it is a gift from God. We are not more deserving than the hungry people of Haiti; we simply accept our bounty as a gift, something we neither deserve nor earn. When we bless a child, we acknowledge that she is not our property, but a gift from God, from whom she came and to whom she belongs. Blessing teaches us to loosen our grip on all we believe to be ours — our families and friends, our husbands and wives, our health — and to return it to God, to whom all life belongs and from whom all life comes.

Blessing teaches us to turn our eyes from ourselves and to turn them to the source of all that lives and moves and has being. Blessing teaches us to look to God for each day, whatever it may bring. Blessing, acknowledging the world as gift, leads us to thanksgiving, acknowledging the giver of the gift. Thanksgiving leads us to praise. Praise is beyond thanks for gifts given and received. Praise is a

love song, a hymn to God. Like any lover gazing upon the beloved, we simply acknowledge who God is, in beauty, in wonder, in mercy, in might.

We hear this hymn of praise every time we gather to celebrate the eucharist. The preface, the opening movement of our Eucharistic Prayers, always begins with praise:

Father in heaven, it is right that we should give you thanks and glory: You are the one God, living and true. Through all eternity you live in unapproachable light.

And ends by joining our thanks and praise to that of the angels and saints as we sing:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

We sing this praise Sunday after Sunday. We sing this praise when our children have run away from home, when our health has failed, when our houses have been foreclosed. We sing this praise at weddings and at funerals, in good times and in bad. And when our tears will not allow the words to form, the community sings God's praise for us and with us, lifting us up with their praise.

What we learn in praising God is what we first learned as children: Thanking God for the food on the table doesn't depend on the menu. We thank God for lentil soup as we thank God for beef tenderloin and chocolate cake. And we praise God not because of our circumstances, but because God is. God is — is eternal, is strong to save, is loving, is forgiving. Because "countless hosts of angels look upon God's splendor" even when we cannot see.

Praise shapes our lives. Like water running over a rock, the praise of God sculpts us, forms us and turns us from a people looking in the mirror to a people looking at God and God's world, at God's creatures. It transforms us into a people whose very lives are a daily acknowledgment of God's glory. Our tradition calls this "doxology" from the Greek meaning a word (logos) about glory (doxa).

Seeing this glory, praising this glory, living and moving and having our being within this glory is the goal of all our prayer, indeed, of our very lives. This is why our highest form of prayer, the Eucharistic Prayer, always ends in doxology:

Through him (Jesus Christ),

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

A GUIDE TO PARTICIPATION

with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

During the Year of the Eucharist, the Office of Worship is sponsoring a five-part series of articles distributed by the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions (FDLC). Comments or questions can be e-mailed to brieger@fw.diocesefwsb.org FDLC #44680, Part I of 5. Authors: Andrew Cifemi and Melissa Musick Nussbaum Art: Jane Pitz @ FDLC. 415 Michigan Ave. N.E., Washington DC 20017. www.fdlc.org

Sports

USF QUARTERBACK RECEIVES MAGNOLIA CLASSIC INVITATION University of Saint Francis quarterback Chris Bramell was invited to play in the first Magnolia Gridiron All-Star Classic on Saturday, Dec. 24, in Jackson, Miss. Bramell quarterbacked the Cougars to two consecutive NAIA Football Championship Series National Championship Games and was named the 2005 Mid-States Football Association Mideast League Player-of-the-Year. He finished his career at USF No. 2 in total offense and No. 3 in the MSFA with 9,074 yards. He passed for 7,256 yards.

ICCL basketball action takes Christmas break, action resumes Jan. 8

Dec. 18 games reported

BY ELMER J. DANCH

SOUTH BEND — Four boys basketball teams remained unbeaten for the 2005 portion of the season and will resume play on Jan. 8.

The four unbeaten squads are St. Jude, St. Martin de Porres West, St. Bavo, St. Martin de Porres East, Corpus Christi in St. John Bosco Division West and St. Thomas of Elkhart in the St. John Bosco Division East.

Michael Kendicky of Corpus Christi staged a spectacular 31-point individual performance of the day to lead his team to a 52-43 victory over Holy Family. Pat Borlik of Holy Family tossed in 14 points in another fine performance.

St. Thomas of Elkhart downed St. Matthew, 56-24, leading from start to finish and with Josh Riikonen pumping in 20 points for the victors. Blake Talos collected 11 for the losers.

St. Jude beat St. Adalbert, 48-

22, by jumping into an early 10-point lead and never trailing. DeAngelo Boyd tossed in 14 points for St. Adalbert.

St. Bavo of Mishawaka beat St. Monica of Mishawaka, 47-21, with Jordan Milligan pumping in 17 and teammate Nick Moskolis adding 16. Jordan McMannas tallied 11 for St. Monica.

In other games, St. Joseph of Mishawaka defeated St. Pius of Granger, 34-30. Tim Wilson scored 17 points for the St. Joseph team. St. John the Baptist beat St. Michael of Plymouth, 32-19; St. Joseph of South Bend beat St. Anthony, 31-20; and Christ the King downed Holy Cross, 45-13.

In the Colors Division, St. Anthony Maroon tipped St. Matthew Black, 34-17; Christ the King White defeated St. Jude Green, 44-12; Christ the King Blue beat Corpus Christi Red, 35-21; Holy Family Blue nipped St. Thomas White, 47-21; and St. Thomas Gold topped St. Thomas Maroon, 21-12.

Fort Wayne sports legend loses battle with cancer

Honored with achievement award in February

BY JOAN BOBAY

FORT WAYNE — Fort Wayne lost its primary champion of the growth of women's sports when Larry Westendorf lost his long battle with cancer recently. The 67-year-old father of five died Dec. 1 but not before learning that he had been voted to join the prestigious Sports Corporation Lifetime Achievement Hall where Hilliard Gates, Rod Woodson and other locals are enshrined. His name will be added posthumously at the February ceremonies.

Other honors bestowed on him include Coach of the Year in softball at USF (University of Saint Francis), Unsung Hero Award in 1996 from USF, Distinguished Alumni award (USF) 1999 and induction into the USF Hall of Fame in April 2005.

His association with women's sports began when his wife, Mary Jane, had no place to continue playing women's softball. Because they were a part of the New

Haven community where they owned Ricardo's Sports Bar, Westendorf used his ability to organize sponsors and soon formed the Tuesday Night Women's Softball League for women 28 and over. It was open to all and took the lead in forming other teams like it in the Fort Wayne area.

Because of that success Westendorf was in demand to start or save many women's sports including badminton, tennis, basketball, track and bow and arrow classes. He helped start the girls gymnastics program at Bishop Dwenger High School, became the first male coach of a women's CYO (Catholic Youth Organization) team while at St. Charles Parish and wound up at the USF as a volunteer assistant women's basketball coach in 1989.

From there, he became the head coach the next year and by 1995 took the team to the NAIA national tournament for the first of eight appearances there. In 1992

Weather wreaks havoc with CYO practices and games

BY JOAN BOBAY

FORT WAYNE — With weather delays and closings all week and gym time at a premium for many junior high school teams, coaches and players are having problems getting a solid impression of the status of their CYO (Catholic Youth Organization) basketball teams. Some games scheduled for Dec. 17 were canceled. So extra no-count games were picked up by those teams.

On the weekend the Colts ended their 13-game winning streak and the University of Saint Francis Cougars lost their bid for a national title, some CYO teams shared the same feelings with losses of their own.

Grade 8 girls

The Sts. Joseph/Elizabeth Panthers girls lost to the St. Jude Eagles, but no one was certain of the score. With only eight on the grade 8 Panthers team, their coach, Dan Gabrek, said, "In a way, it's good to have so few players because those we do have get a lot of playing time." They usually get the gym only two times a week for practices, so there isn't much time for the coaches to teach more complicated defenses such as the press and traps.

"But we enjoy the time we have," Gabrek said. "The girls are a great group and are a joy to be around." Some of the girls attend the open gym Sunday evenings at Bishop Luers and the coaches also try to schedule no-count games with other teams looking for more playing time. To date, the team has a 1-2 record.

Assistants are Dave Derloshon

and Bishop Luers senior Erika Geise who "brings new defensive and offensive moves for the team to try," Gabrek said. She played for the Knights for several years and is a "welcome addition to our staff," the coach added.

Grade 7 girls

Most of the games scheduled at Queen of Angels on Dec. 17 were rescheduled, so the Sts.

Joseph/Elizabeth Panther girls and St. John 7 Eagles scheduled a weeknight practice game in its place. To date, the Panthers have played one White League game and are 0-1.

Of the 11 team members two are new to the game but are learning, with the help of the experienced players. Coach Kim Gillie said, "These are great kids and are coming along as a team. The two freshman coaches at Bishop Luers are great at helping the girls work at perfecting what they know about offenses and defenses." She also added, "Coaches often get a lot in return and right now we're having fun with the team."

Plans are for the girls to play in the Saint Francis tournament during Christmas break.

The other coaches are Julie McNamara and Luers coaches Phil and Dave Schultheis.

Grade 8 boys

This Panther team lost to St. Jude eight 39-20 Dec. 17. There are 12 Panther players, one of whom is new. They now have a 1-1 Gold League record and have some no-count games scheduled.

In the Thanksgiving Holiday Tournament they finished in second place and plan to play in the Christmas tourney.

Head coach John Rang said, "We're a deep team with a good balance between height and team effort. They are talented and just need to get motivated to be more competitive. The potential is there so we tell them to keep their heads up and to keep trying."

Because some want to play in high school next year Rang added that "We owe it to them to prepare them for the next level."

The assistant coach is Chris Yaney.

Grade 7 boys

This Panther team also fell victim to the canceled games Dec. 17. However, it was possible to schedule a no-count game with the Most Precious Blood Reds, which the Panthers won 37-27.

In that game forward Jacob Torkeo scored 27 points for the Panthers and Alex Fletcher was the contributing leader on defense, coach Gary Torkeo said.

There are 16 on the team so one has to sit out during conference games because of the 15 players CYO rule. With that many players, Torkeo said, "We can always put someone with fresh legs into the game." He added that this is a transitional year in which goals are "to work hard, improve weekly and peak by tournament time." They work on fundamentals and like using a pressure defense.

Because so many are going away with families, the team will not play in the Christmas tournament.

The assistant coach is Jodi Jump.

Coming up

After the four day tournament between Dec. 26 and 30, regular CYO conference games will resume at all five sites on Jan. 7.

he was named athletic director at USF and during his total years there his efforts helped build the softball field, and then coached the team at night after coaching the tennis team in the mornings and basketball in the early evenings. He also had his own contracting business at the time. After leaving USF in 1999 and taking a year off, he reentered sports, coaching Indiana Tech's women's basketball team for two years.

Westendorf was quick to praise those who helped on his various projects, especially when he had teams progressing into playoffs. Longtime associates were Tim Pedro, now at Bishop Luers as assistant girls varsity basketball coach, and Dennis Jamison, both of whom worked with Westendorf in the contracting business. Jamison said one year he and

Pedro handled post season softball games in Florida while Westendorf went to the nationals with the USF basketball team.

Pedro added that, "Larry believed in 'don't talk — do' and proved it by working with Tony Davis to raise funds for all athletics."

Westendorf enjoyed bow and arrow hunting, basketball and other sports and also helped the men's fast pitch league in New Haven. His wife said he was willing to help out with any sport.

Jamison said, "He was a real good guy who, in his quiet way, influenced so many sports and the people who were in them." That influence continued beyond his coaching duties in the form of friendships with players and their families.

Hundreds of cards, visits and calls from numerous people have

helped the family accept its loss, and his wife said, "It's comforting to realize how many people care and how many lives he touched."

The number of former players and associates who now coach or are in some way involved in sports for women and men, are testimony to his influence as they continue to promote their coach's values of enjoying sports but putting God and academics before winning.

Besides his wife Mary Jane, he leaves five children, Pam, Susan, Kathy, Larry and Jenny who are involved in various sports. He also has a toddler granddaughter, Alyssa.

Services for Westendorf were at Our Lady of Good Hope Catholic Church on St. Joe Road, Fort Wayne.

Despite loss in NAIA final, University of Saint Francis coach tells Cougars to be proud of achievements, keep heads up

BY BILL SCOTT

SAVANNAH, Tenn. — Surrounded by families and fans, the University of Saint Francis (USF) football team circled in close around Coach Kevin Donley near midfield at Jim Carroll Stadium. The circle was silent as Donley carefully offered words of consolation to his team after Carroll College (CC) ended the Cougars' dreams of an NAIA National Championship 27-10 on Saturday, Dec. 17.

"Keep your heads up; we have nothing to be ashamed of," Donley said, looking players surrounding him directly in the eye. "I am so proud of you and what you have accomplished here (at USF). We played hard; we made them earn their championship."

Combining talent and good fortune, the top-ranked Fighting Saints made the most of enough opportunities to win their fourth consecutive NAIA Football Championship Series title. In the process, CC ended second-ranked USF's season for the third consecutive season with a loss.

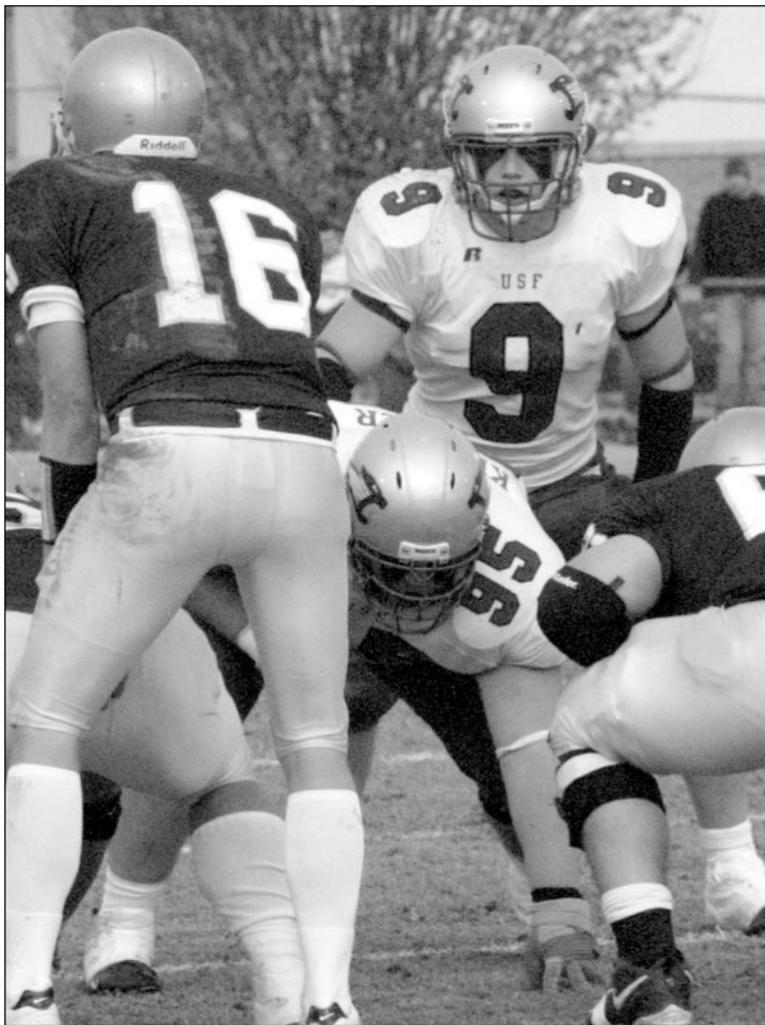
"We're all hurting and will take time to get past it," Donley said. "But you will. It is part of becoming a man. You'll go on to more success in your life because of all that you've learned and accomplished. Things aren't always as bad as they seem nor are they as good as they seem. You've given us so many memories and great moments that we'll never forget."

Unfortunately for the Cougars' and 19 seniors, they couldn't produce enough special moments against a team led by quarterback Tyler Emmert, the 2005 Rawlings NAIA Player-of-the-Year. The CC senior eluded a furious Cougar rush as if he was related to former NFL quarterback/magician Fran Tarkenton. Emmert connected on 20-of-36 passes without an interception for 278 yards and three touchdowns. He completed his career with an NAIA record 13,980 yards total offense and 12,770 of that passing.

"Tyler is the best and it showed," said Van Diest. "He hasn't had to scramble much this year, but they came after us pretty good. His ability to avoid the rush was a big key."

"Tyler Emmert showed why he is the national player of the year," Donley said later during the post-game media conference. "He turned a lot of broken plays into big plays."

USF took the opening kickoff and drove 68 yards in 17 plays. Freshman kicker Cale Grzych capped the drive with a 30-yard field goal to give the Cougars a 3-0 advantage. It would be the only lead of the afternoon for the Cougars as Emmert helped the Fighting Saints answer on their opening drive. Emmert threw his first touchdown pass of the day, an 18 yarder to senior wide receiver Tyler Peterson. Sophomore Marcus Miller added the point after to give a 7-3 lead.



PROVIDED BY UNIVERSITY OF SAINT FRANCIS

At the NAIA final, the University of Saint Francis Cougars lost to Carroll College in Montana. The game was played in Savannah, Tenn.

Miller added a 26-yard field goal late in the second quarter before Emmert tossed a 32-yard scoring strike to junior Bryce Doak on the final play of the first half to extend the Carroll's lead to 17-3. USF rallied to within 17-10 midway through the third quarter on an 18-yard touchdown pass from senior quarterback Chris Bramell to junior wide receiver Bo Thompson. But USF couldn't sustain another offensive threat the rest of the game while CC made the big play when it had to.

Emmert threw his final touch-

down pass of the day, a 17 yarder to freshman tight end Marshall McEwen, late in the third quarter, and Miller booted a 33-yard field goal with just under five minutes remaining to seal the Fighting Saints' fourth consecutive NAIA title.

Junior halfback Ryan Grosulak led a balanced rushing attack for Carroll with 83 yards on 17 carries. Senior Dustin Michaelis had a team-high six receptions for 83 yards for the Fighting Saints. Thomas, who was named the game's Outstanding Defensive Player, had one tackle and broke

up a potential USF touchdown pass late in the second quarter.

USF, which was ranked No. 2 in every NAIA poll this season, ended the year with a 13-1 record. Carroll edged USF in the 2004 national championship game, 15-13. The Cougars, who lost three of their last 41 games — all to Carroll — moved into position to tie the score late in the half. The Cougars ran a reverse pass, a flea-flicker with receiver Andy Papagiannis attempting to hit quarterback Chris Bramell on a 37-yard scoring strike.

The pass was perfect at the goal line, but Carroll defender Matt Thomas got a hand in to deflect the pass and it fell incomplete. Bramell felt it was pass interference, but his appeal to officials was fruitless.

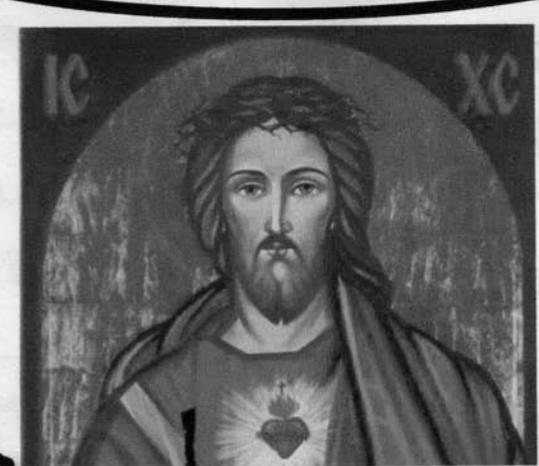
"That play was more of a mistake," said Thomas. "They ran a reverse, and I over-pursued. When I looked up and saw Bramell running, I just put my head down and ran after him as fast as I could. I was lucky enough to make a play on it." Bramell led USF rushing with 72 yards on 15 attempts. Luers graduate Michael Ledo added 44 yards on 12 carries to finish with a USF career rushing record 3,776 yards, No. 5 on the Mid-States Football Association career list. Bramell finished with 56 yards passing while Eric Hooks

came off the bench to throw for 77 yards on 6-of-11 passing in the fourth quarter. Cory Jacquay, 2004 NAIA Player-of-the-Year, finished with 43 yards on four receptions to lead the Cougars while Andy Papagiannis added 39 yards on three receptions. Redshirt freshman defensive end Tim Farrell led the USF defense with five solo tackles and five assists, 10 total, one tackle-for-loss for two yards, one pass broken up and several quarterback hurries. Vincent Price, Cody Van Duersen and William Knepper all contributed six tackles each and all three will return for USF in 2006. Carroll out gained USF in total offense 459 yards to 277 yards. USF loses seven starters on offense — Bramell, Jacquay, Ledo, offensive linemen Jarod Leasure, Adam Jacobowitz and Nick Krinn, and wide receiver Andy Papagiannis. USF loses four starters on defense including Jamie Holman, John Brinkley, Keidron Johnson and Clarence Ellington. They also lose four-year punter Cam Smith, who averaged 48.5 yards a punt against CC including a 64-yard moon launch that was just five yards short of the championship game record because he punted from the back of the USF end zone.




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Rice historical novel on Jesus is a fine effort

REVIEWED BY YORK YOUNG

Historical novels can be quite enlightening, though many readers scoff at them if they are focused on a particularly famous historical figure, worried about the mixing of fact and fiction. But if done with care and accuracy, a specific time frame can become clearer through a novel than straight non-fiction history. There already is plenty of scoffing, despite the care and accuracy taken by author Anne Rice, about "Christ the Lord: Out of Egypt" (Knopf, \$25.95).

You may know Rice from her "vampire" books ("Interview with a Vampire," et al), but after a reconversion to the Catholic faith in the late 1990s, she found herself drawn to write about Jesus Christ in the most historically accurate fashion possible. Years of studying New Testament scholarship, Jewish traditions and first-century life led her to believe that much of the presentations of what scholars like to think is a look at the "historical" Jesus fail on many accounts. A lengthy author's note after her novel details her methods to come to a better understanding of what she wanted to convey in her novel, and she references numerous historical texts and writers.

Set around the time Jesus is eight years old, Rice focuses on the

extended family of Jesus and what life would have been like for observant Jews of the first century living under Roman rule and various Herods (the Great, Antipas, Archelaus). Joseph and Mary, along with siblings, cousins, etc., return to Nazareth from several years' exile in Egypt. Important moments in the New Testament accounts are key points, but nothing Rice presents can be construed as heretical, despite the protestations of many writers in the blog world (that's short for weblog, a new forum that allows anyone to post their personal writings, thoughts, feelings, etc., on the Internet).

Rice does focus on the emerging understanding the youthful Christ is undergoing, but this fits right in line with Catholic teaching that

things that go on around him, and part of learning what it means to be God's Son is understanding what happened at his birth. Imagine how tales of wise men, shepherds bowing at his crib and baby boys being massacred while you were an infant fleeing the land would strike you when you heard the tales.

While there is a faction of readers frothing with disregard at Rice's literary license — and isn't this a subtle disbelief in her conversion story — there is another group of critics who think Rice is showing her talents with fine writing and engaging characters, but are aghast that she would choose Jesus as the main topic — an obvious prejudice again Christianity.

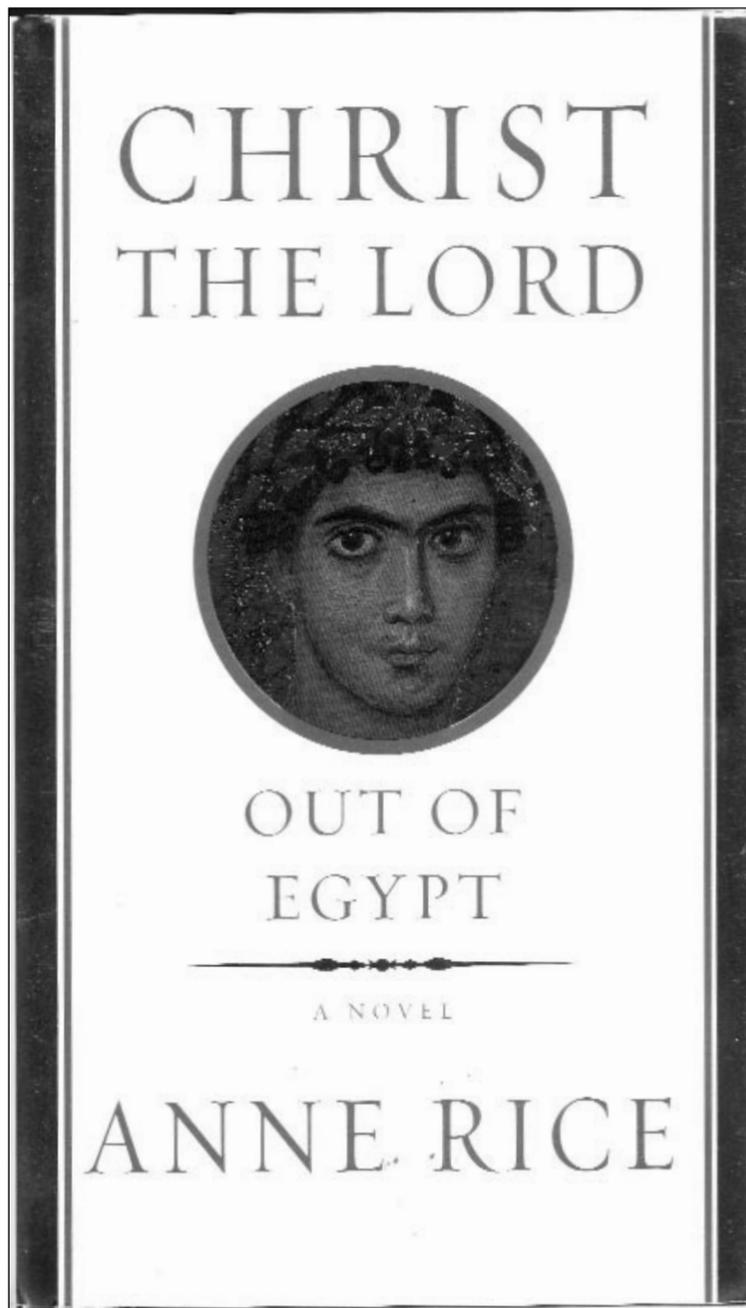
Ultimately, this is a book that is going to get strong reaction on both sides. If you love historical novels and are drawn to feel more in touch with Jesus' life, you will really enjoy this book. If any attempt at discussing Jesus outside of the Gospels strikes you as heresy, steer clear. Publishing rumor has it that this is just the beginning of a series of novels on Jesus by Rice. If so, those scoffers and prejudiced critics will have more to write about in the coming years.

At face value, Rice's conversion seems genuine, and a reading of this novel might give some fallen-away Christians or skeptics something to think about. A fine effort.

Imagine how tales of wise men, shepherds bowing at your crib and baby boys being massacred while you were an infant fleeing the land would strike you when you heard the tales.

Jesus, although divine, grew experientially (he didn't know everything the moment he was conceived). Yes, Rice pulls on some stories that are in the proto-Gospels (The Gospel of Thomas, most notably), but she is not using them to undermine the centrality of Jesus' Godhood.

Here, Jesus is grappling with



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WHAT'S HAPPENING carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. Send in your announcement at least two weeks prior to the event. Mail to: Today's Catholic, P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne 46856; or e-mail: fhogan@fw.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 to purchase space.

DEVOTION

First Sunday Rosary

Fort Wayne — The first Sunday rosary for families, especially families with difficulties, will be starting at MacDougal Chapel on Sunday, Jan. 1, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. with Bishop D'Arcy attending.

Little Flower Holy Hour

Fort Wayne — Father Adam Schmitt will celebrate the Holy Hour at MacDougal Chapel on Tuesday, Dec. 20, at 7:15 p.m. Father Schmitt is retired and in residence at St. Joseph Parish. Bring a friend and join in prayer with the special intention to pray for priests and vocations.

Prayer group meets weekly

South Bend — A contemplative prayer group meets every Tuesday from 4 to 5 p.m. at the Little Flower Parish chapel. For information call (574) 232-5547.

Christmas music concert

South Bend — St. Adalbert's St. Cecelia choir, together with the Chopin choir of St. Mary's Polish National Catholic Church will present a concert of Christmas music on Sunday, Jan. 8, at 4 p.m. at St. Adalbert. Free admission.

MISC. HAPPENINGS

Notre Dame fundraiser planned by the St. Vincent de Paul men's club

Fort Wayne — The St. Vincent Notre Dame athletics fundraiser and casino night will be held Saturday, Jan. 28, from 6 to 11 p.m. at the St. Vincent de Paul Parish hall. Admission includes food by Casa. Tickets are \$20 single, \$30 couple at the door or \$15 single, \$25 couple in advance. Refreshments available. Must be 21. Contact

svnd@saintv.org for information or tickets.

Hand in Hand adoptions informational meeting held

Albion — An orientation meeting on international adoption will be Monday, Jan. 16, from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Mark Lutheran Church, 210A N. Orange St. Call (260) 636-3566 for information.

Knights plan fish fry

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on Friday, Jan. 6, from 5 to 7 p.m. The cost is \$7 for adults, \$3 for children 5-12. Dinner includes baked potato or french fries, cole slaw, bread and coffee. Also available are portions of chicken strips for \$7 and shrimp for \$8. Carry-out available.

Knights plan fish fry

Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 451, 601 Reed Rd., will have a fish fry on Friday, Jan. 6, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$6 for adults, \$3 for children 12 and under. Fish, two sides and beverage are included.

Justice Forum continues at St. Jude

Fort Wayne — The Justice Forum will resume on Thursday, Jan. 5, at 6:30 p.m. in Room B of the St. Jude Parish Center. The series will cover issues of a consistent ethic of life, the dignity of work, the death penalty and peacekeeping. For information call (260) 484-6609.

Bishop Dwenger High School announces winter events

Fort Wayne — The Saints Alive committee will have a Women's Dinner on Thursday, Jan. 12, at 6:15 in the SAC. Tickets are \$15

for students seventh grade and up and \$20 for adults. Registrations are needed by Jan. 9. The music boosters will host "Winter Fantasy" on Saturday, Jan. 28, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the gymnasium. The winter guard show will feature schools from throughout Indiana. Tickets are \$5 at the door. Registration dates for incoming freshman are Jan. 23-25 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and on Saturday, Feb. 4, from 9 to 11 a.m. For information on any of these events call (260) 496-4700.

Luers Knights give award swords

FORT WAYNE — The public relations committee at Bishop Luers High School will give away 125 foam swords to students in grades 5-8 who attend the boys varsity basketball game on Jan. 13. They will give away 125 more swords to students in grades 5-8 who attend the girls varsity basketball game on Jan. 20.

DONATIONS ACCEPTED

St. Vincent de Paul needs your help

South Bend — The St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Joseph County is in need of donations and monetary contributions. Large items will be picked up. Call the office at (574) 234-6000 for information.

St. Vincent de Paul needs your help

Fort Wayne — The St. Vincent de Paul Society of Allen County is in need of donations. Monetary contributions are always appreciated. The St. Vincent de Paul Society accepts cars, trucks and vans. Donations can be dropped off Monday through Friday at 1600 S. Calhoun from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call (260) 456-3561 for pick-up information. Large items will be picked up.

REST IN PEACE

Churubusco

Evelyn G. Geiger, 70, St. John Bosco

Decatur

Betty A. Roussey, 63, St. Mary of the Assumption

Donaldson

Sister Ethel Yuhn, PHJC, 89, Catherine Kasper Home

Elkhart

Flor Carolina Trinidad, 11, St. Vincent de Paul

Mark C. Van De Sompele, 51, St. Vincent de Paul

Lillian M. Iemma, 96, St. Vincent de Paul

Thomas C. Naquin, 78, St. Thomas the Apostle

Hallie L. Mowery, 69, St. Vincent de Paul

Carolyn Crook, 60, St. Thomas the Apostle

Fort Wayne

Steven J. Berghoff, 74, St. Jude

Velma Zuber Douglas, 91, St. Therese

James M. Sternberger, 83, Sacred Heart

John G. Stinger Jr., 56, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

Ceaser A. Stravinski Sr., 88, St. Charles Borromeo

Jean Morsey Cary, 75, St. Jude

Barabara Beerman Nichter, 73, St. Joseph Hessen Cassel

Debbie L. Jur, 47, Sacred Heart

Robert G. Kramer, 74, St. Peter

Ana Casas Rios, 28, St. Patrick

Kathy Rios, 4, St. Patrick

Thannya Rios, 1, St. Patrick

Liliana Karen Rios, 10, St. Patrick

Philogone D. (DeGroote) Baeten, 85, St. Jude

William J. Kehoe, 75, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Walter C. Recht Jr., 88, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Casper E. Hagedorn, 88, VA Medical Center Chapel

Christian Taylor Padilla, 6, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Virginia A. Goebel, 83, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Melden E. Tracey, 84, St. Patrick

Alejandra Guitierrez, 10, St. Patrick

Patricia E. Jones, 56, Cathedral of Immaculate Conception

Marie A. Riemen, 93, St. Jude

Barbara J. Thompson, 76, St. Jude

Jesse E. Muncey, 58, St. Patrick

Granger

Frank Schmidt, 85, St. Pius X

Huntington

G. Bernard Eckert, 87, Ss. Peter and Paul

Lakeville

Gerald D. Nicks Sr., 77, Sacred Heart of Jesus

Mishawaka

Bernard A. Gerstbauer, 80, St. Bavo

Margaret Perkins, 81, St. Bavo

Charles H. Lemak Sr., 69, Queen of Peace

John D. Moen, 59, St. Joseph

Marie A. Dhoore, 85, St. Bavo

Nancy Jermano, 94, St. Monica

New Haven

Mary Louise Larson, 53, St. John the Baptist

Notre Dame

Andrew J. Egendoerfer, 44, Sacred Heart Basilica

James A. Swerneman, 78, St. Joseph Chapel

Father Gordon J. Brady, 72, Sacred Heart Basilica

Plymouth

David V. Houin, 58, St. Michael

South Bend

Waneta M. Garvey, 87, St. Matthew Cathedral

Albert R. DeMeyer, 87, Holy Family

Earl H. Cervin, 78, St. Joseph

Greg E. Fujawa, 38, St. Casimir

Kathleen Plough, 58, St. Patrick

Maureen M. Vargo, 68, Our Lady of Hungary

Thomas F. Fifer, 78, St. John the Baptist

Anna B. Sarka, 91, St. Matthew Cathedral

Helen J. Pinkowski, 96, St. Hedwig

Roy W. Lee, 82, St. John the Baptist

Mary J. Grubesich, 97, Our Lady of Hungary

Lokadia Paczkowski, 80, St. Casimir

Mary I. Toth, 96, Holy Cross

Valentine J. Klota Jr., 47, St. Casimir

Robert E. Hatfield, 72, St. Matthew Cathedral

Joseph S. Fragomeni, 81, St. Anthony de Padua

Beverly O'Day, 80, St. Anthony de Padua

Lottie M. Tomaszewski, 93, St. Adalbert

Yolanda Hanley, 91, St. Joseph

Waterloo

Fred C. Maxwell, 68, St. Michael the Archangel

Yoder

Freida Vonette Dunn, 90, St. Aloysius

TV MASS GUIDE FOR JANUARY

DATE	FEAST	FORT WAYNE		"Catholic Comment" airs every Sunday at 7:05 a.m. on WOWO 1190 AM in Fort Wayne and at 7:30 a.m. on WSBT 960 AM in South Bend
		CHANNEL 33 - WISE 10:30 A.M.	SOUTH BEND CHANNEL 16 - WNDU 10:30 A.M.	
Jan. 1	Blessed Virgin Mary, mother of God	Msgr. J. William Lester, P.A. Most Precious Blood Fort Wayne	Msgr. J. William Lester, P.A. Most Precious Blood Fort Wayne - Live from FW	"Radio Rosary" airs Sundays at 8:30 a.m. on WGL 1250 AM
Jan. 8	Epiphany of the Lord	Father David Voors St. Mary Decatur	Father Michael Winkowski retired Walkerton	
Jan. 15	2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	Father Dominique Carboneau St. Aloysius, Yoder	Father Michael Wurtz, CSC Holy Cross/St. Stanislaus South Bend	
Jan. 22	3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	Father James Stoyle Cathedral of Immaculate Conception	Father Andre Levielle, CSC Little Flower South Bend	
Jan. 29	4th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Bishop John M. D'Arcy Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend	Father Michael Heintz St. Matthew Cathedral South Bend	

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1857  2007

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEARS SESQUICENTENNIAL

THE DIOCESE OF FORT WAYNE-SOUTH BEND

BY MARK WEBER

St. Patrick, South Bend, Est. 1858

Although the names of Touhey, Cooney, Quinlan and Clifford appear as charter members of this parish, and its first pastor, Father Thomas Carroll, CSC, was from Andagh, Ireland, St. Patrick's, in its early days was not a solid Irish parish.

With the development of the area, other nationalities arrived in South Bend; Germans, Poles, Hungarians and Belgians first worshiped at St. Patrick before spinning off to form their own parishes based on language and cultural preferences. Thus St. Patrick is known as the Mother Church of South Bend.

Considering what those settlers did to provide a house of worship for themselves, by hauling stone and timber by ox cart and digging in with pick and shovel for the foundation, their determination and devotion seems unmatched. Moreover, this was done by men who had spent the day building a railroad and worked for 75 cents a day. As they dug and lugged in the evenings, their children stood by with lanterns lighting the scene.

St. Patrick School, for boys only, was founded in 1866, taught by the Sisters of the Holy Cross, and became co-educational in 1950. In 1961, the old

school was replaced by a multipurpose building, complete with five more classrooms, a gymnasium, kitchen and dining room. Unfortunately, this school was forced to close in 1974, after 108 years of faithful service.

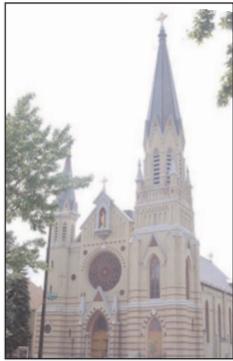
As regrettable as the school closing was, it gave new life to St. Patrick Parish. Because it is such a splendid facility with loads of parking in a convenient location, it is in

constant use for parish activities such as religious education and tutoring by Notre Dame students for children referred by the South Bend Housing Authority.

St. Patrick School is also the meeting place for the Serra Club of South Bend, and the Celtic Heritage Society, which teaches Irish music and dancing. The building's main tenant is the Forever Learning Institute, which provides continuing-ed classes on more than 60 subjects for "folks over fifty."

After serving the faithful for more than a century, the inevitable happened. Faced with the shortage of priests, the Congregation of the Holy Cross was forced to withdraw from St. Patrick and its neighboring parish, St. Hedwig, and the two were consolidated under one pastor but without either parish losing its identity.

It is almost romantic to muse about something that happened just recently at St. Patrick; when its first pastor, Father Thomas Carroll set about to build the church. Money was needed and it simply was not to be found in South Bend. So he went elsewhere; he went to New Orleans and got money from the good folks there. One-hundred-forty-seven years later, responding to the Katrina disaster, parishioners from St. Patrick's / St. Hedwig opened their hearts and sent a very generous amount to New Orleans. Are the two needs connected? One likes to think that by a thin wistful thread they are, but any way you look at it, you see the spirit of St. Patrick.



MARK WEBER

Small brass cross candleholders on the walls signify that St. Patrick is a consecrated church. It is the only consecrated church in South Bend.

St. Joseph, South Bend, Est. 1853

Initially called St. Alexis Chapel, St. Joseph Church is South Bend's oldest Catholic worshipping community, and in its early days it was part of the diocese of Vincennes.

St. Joseph was established by Father Edward Sorin, CSC, as a mission chapel of Notre Dame. The first small building, which served as a chapel and a school, was erected in 1853, in the community of Lowell, at what is now the intersection of Hill and LaSalle streets. An early parish census shows 46 families, predominately French from Canada.

In 1857, the Diocese of Fort Wayne was established, with John Henry Luers as its first bishop. The congregation's growth at St. Alexis required a new church. It was built in 1868 and called the

Church of the Assumption.

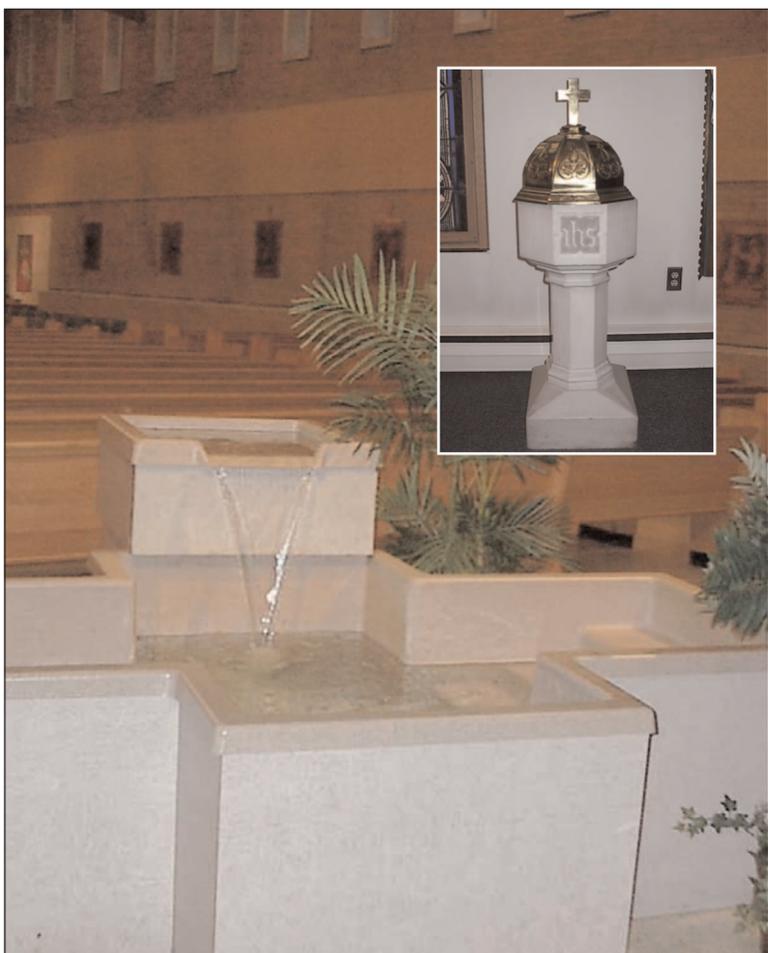
On the day after Christmas in 1872, this church was destroyed by an arson fire set by a member of Know-Nothing party, an anti-Catholic hate group, and the congregation returned to the old St. Alexis chapel.

A third church, again

called Church of the Assumption, was built at the present site of the St. Joseph Medical Center. This church could not accommodate its growing numbers, and in 1880, the cornerstone for a fourth church was laid. Although the first three were under the patronage of St. Joseph, this one finally bore his name.

At St. Joseph School, which began by serving the children of 20 families 152 years ago, now has an enrollment of more than 430 and is the oldest continuously operating school in the city of South Bend. In addition to its classrooms, it has computer labs, a library, an art classroom, music classroom, gym, social hall and kitchen facilities. One of its former students, Suzanne Wiwi is now its principal. The goals of the faculty are to fulfill the vision of Father Basil Moreau, CSC, founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross who understood the education of children as: "... the formation of the very heart of the child, and the full development of his or her particular capacity and understanding of life in relation to God."

Today, as in its beginning, the school and parish embrace multiple races and cultures. Now in the heart of South Bend, St. Joseph continues to reach out to the community, fulfilling the principles on which the Congregation of Holy Cross is built — worship, service and education.



MARK WEBER

A baptismal font (now a museum piece) from one of the early St. Joseph churches, and the present font, just inside the entrance of St. Joseph church.