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.

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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 Philip 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, is of such great value to the diocese.

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SECOND GRADE CLASS DONATES BLANKETS

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.
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 present ed some words in Spanish and 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 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.

Church nearly full. The bodies were to be brought home to Mexico for burial the next day.

I was able to accompany 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 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, men 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.

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. During the miracle of e-mail, she was able to return them to me. I also thank Maria Corona of St. Patrick Parish and Margaret Skarzynski of 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 those of us 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.

St. Patrick Church has welcomed immigrants for a long time. On this day, it belonged to our beloved Hispanics, most of whom speak Spanish, and to the Yankees.

I was able to accompany Father Overmyer on his visit to the Gutierrez family. The oldest girl attended 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.

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CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS EVE AROUND THE DIOCESE

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 Rohtert 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.

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS EVE AROUND THE DIOCESE - 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.

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.

“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 environmental 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.

“At the first martyr, 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.”

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 peoples 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


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," he said.

The pope thanked international organizations and peace-makings, 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. 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.

Naziism 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," he said.

"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 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 word of the truth about God and the truth about man."
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 Munice. 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, Katherine, 4, and Thannya Karolinnia, 20 months. Liliana was a fourth grade student at St. John the Baptist School in Fort Wayne.

This occurred while the community was grieving 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, 38, 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.


“The beauty of it is so many people sharing with this family their grief,” said Father Overmyer.

In his homily delivered in Spanish, Bishop D’Arcy said, “Our hearts rise up to God full of respect to the family is being mourned. We turn our hearts to our Lord who was suffering. We turn to him for consolation and help and courage in this dark hour.”

He added, “We also know and proclaim with all our hearts that God is more powerful than evil and grace is stronger than sin, and that good is more powerful than evil. We know, however, that God is more powerful 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 today pray 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 us. 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.”

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, Katherine, 4, and Thannya Karolinnia, 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 God 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, Father Overmyer gave an impassioned homily in both Spanish and English in which he said that Jesus Christ was the sign of hope in this time of darkness. He also drew on the example of Mary as one who endured the suffering of her son, waiting faithfully till its meaning was made clear. He then prayed with the congregation for Mary’s intercession that they might keep hope alive while walking in darkness.

Bishop John D’Arcy also spoke at the Mass.

“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 with those who are suffering 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 emaciated. 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.

“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 today pray 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 us. 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.”

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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 by Bill Parcell 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 presents Amici di San Filomena Indiana Archconfraternity will feature concert pianist Eric Genuis, returning from his recent record- ing 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 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 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 at area hospitals and community centers and any child who will come into Memorial Children’s Hospital to receive the gifts of love shown by our students.

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 provides 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.

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 Children’s 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 will discuss “African art and the cultural challenges of immigrant life.”

The lecture, in honor of Dr. Kristin Fedders, assistant professor of art history at USF, will also help students understand the distinct nature of African art and the cultural awareness required when creating art. The presentation will highlight the specific culture’s history and ways of life and reflect on how Dr. Fedders has been able to spend Christmas in the comfort of their own homes and open presents with their families.

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.usf.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 Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation”) at Fort Benning, Ga., 16,000 veterans, students, teachers, priests and religious women gathered to protest the terror- ism, 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 her with a special letter 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 Sister Koopman, whose masters thesis involves an assessment of how effective the current protest approach is at 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 Thursday, Jan. 3, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Located next to Jefferson Pointe at 4705 Illinois Rd., the new 24-hour Catholic program- ming has been brought to the Fort Wayne area by Redeemer Radio, a not-for-profit arm 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 momentous day especially launch — we’re still in the Christmas season until the feast of the Epiphany. We hope our broad- casts will help to bring about an ‘epiphany’ of faith for those who listen.” The WLYV line up will include four hours of Spanish language programming over the weekend.

WLYV Executive Director Kris Billingsley notes that Pope John Paul II called for Catholics to use the media to spread the Gospel. “He wrote, ‘We must inte- grate the message of salvation into the new culture...’” Billingsley continues, “The intimate nature 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 dew and bright sunshine greeted the third Saturday in December, 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 Jubiliee 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 diocese’s upcoming 150th jubilee celebration. It began what will be a two-year journey across the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend to 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 of both young and old, have been invited to publicly pass the cross from parish to parish as a tool to evangelize for our community.

“The simple 8x5-foot hollow, wooden cross bearing the inscription, “His Suffering Love Endures Forever,” has made its way to well over a dozen parishes and selected sites from the cathedral in South Bend to 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 diocese’s upcoming 150th jubilee celebration. It began what will be a two-year journey across the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend to 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.”

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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 integration and social integration.”

New at Forever Learning in September, Loranger finds 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.

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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.

Foster a Brighter Future.

Many children in North Central Indiana are in need of a nurturing, loving place to call home.

The Villages is hosting a foster parent information night on Thursday, January 5, 6:30 p.m., at 300 Main Street, Suite 201 in Lafayette.

For more information, call 765-420-7711 or visit www.villageskids.org.

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Provena Health, a Catholic health system, builds communities of healing and hope by compassionately responding to human need in the spirit of Jesus Christ.

One child. One sponsor. One hope.

Nutritious food, a good education, clothes and medical care, children need these essential things to grow and reach their potential. They also need love, encouragement and hope, gifts of the heart.

When you sponsor through Christian Foundation for Children and Aging, you give your support and your heart to a child, youth or aging person in a developing country. Your sponsored friend will benefit from the chance to overcome the obstacles of poverty and from the knowledge that someone cares.

You’ll be blessed with an ongoing relationship as you get to know your sponsored friend through letters and photos. And you’ll also be able to write your new friend to share your prayers and encouragement.

CFCA sponsorship is grounded in Catholic teaching, and offers a way for people of good will to actively participate in the call to walk with the poor and vulnerable in our world.

Make a difference in the life of a child, youth or aging person by becoming a sponsor today. Simply complete the form below and mail it to CFCA, call us toll-free at (800) 875-6564 or sponsor online at www.cfcausa.org.

YES, I’ll sponsor: □ Boy □ Girl □ Teenager □ Aging □ Most in need □ 24401

I’ll contribute: □ Monthly $30 □ Quarterly $90 □ Semi-annually $180 □ Annually $360

Payment method:
□ Enclosed is my first contribution of $________ (Payable to CFCA)
□ I authorize CFCA to charge my credit card: ___Monthly ___Semi-annually ___Annually ___One time only

Choose credit card: ___MasterCard ___Discover ___Visa ___Amex

Amount $________

Card # ____________________________ Exp. date ______ / ______

Cardholder Name ___________________ Signature ____________________

Address

City State/Zip

Email ____________________________ Phone (________ ) _______

□ Please send me more information about sponsorship.

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P.O. Box 805105
Kansas City, MO 64190-5105
800-875-6564
www.cfcausa.org
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 sit quietly with the truths of God 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 times when I seem to forget all about the one who shepherds me, who knows me and who loves me beyond all imagination. I unwittingly and unwillingly 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

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 not 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 think and pray. Time and energy are allotted. Time and energy are needed for discernment and clarity is not always given. God desires to know our thoughts and actions, our strength and weaknesses; he wants us to pray and to invite him into our lives. But, God also wants us to make decisions. 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 drawing us ever more closely to himself, the Good Shepherd. “Probe me, God, know my heart; test me by what I say and how I act.” — Ps. 139:23-24.

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 draws you away from God?

• How and where 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://dioceseofwab.org/ACYM/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 is a listeners ear and this is a wonderful way for us as disciples to try to discern our vocations and talents. With the help of trusted advisors, scripture, etc.?” — verse 23-24.

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

The complete series of Disciples in Mission Literature can be found at www.catholicwab.org/DIM

Today’s Catholic

January 1, 2006
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 Montalvo, 63, of El Salvador, who heads the Syro-Alta 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 decision-making role in choosing 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 Taizé, France, was killed during a 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 youth in Milan, Italy, at the end of December, was published by the Vatican newspaper, L’Osservatore Romano.

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 such a rich and venerable culture — as the Iranian nation is — expressions of anti-Semitism, who 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 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.

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.

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, papal 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.

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 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 allow the university to open. 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, the university will be to foster an entrepreneurial spirit and encourage leadership, creativity and innovation, guided by the teaching 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 were innocent civilians, a Baghdad bishop said. “There have been very many deaths from the conflict, from car bombs and attacks, but mostly it was just 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 innocent civilians.” Warduni, 66, was ordained Dec. 13 after Vatican Radio asked him to comment on the death toll given by U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. 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 drivers “place 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 in La Civilta Cattolica, a magazine reviewed by the Vatican Secretariat of State. Father Salvini noted that in November Pope Benedict XVI publicly asked people to drive more carefully in order to save lives. While worried about statistics 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 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.
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 Thalia 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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."

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.

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.

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.

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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) system for energy efficiency, window and plumbing upgrades, parking and security lighting. And aesthetic 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 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 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

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 Carrrier 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 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 sought 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 campaign 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

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.
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 permeate the whole year.

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 a need that requires attention. Many, this new year, will need assistance with utilities and heating bills. Food bank, who all need food. The American Red Cross will need blood donations. These are all means that ask charitable giving throughout the year.

We 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 with our own family members. When we treat others as we would like to be treated, we are obeying 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 and a writer for the Daily Visitor in Huntington, will offer her insights once a month in the Everyday Catholic column in the family section. She will consist of Bishop John M. D’Arcy, Father Richard Hire, Father Michael Heintz and Father Mark Weber taking the writing duties; all parishes will be featured through 2007 as part of the sesquicentennial preparation. This year I invite and challenge our parish histories will continue to be updated with information 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, Ohio

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,
JANUARY 1, 2006

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — By any measure, it was an extraordinary year for Pope Benedict XVI.

Most of the world has followed the history-making journey of the lens of the media mass — his election in the April conclave, his visit to Germany in August, his growing popularity and even his fashionable ecclesiastical 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. The 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 ecumenical year and the commemoration of the Second Vatican Council.

And, of course, on Jesus. Born in a manger, the pope said, Jesus has a unique position 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.

Mary reminds us that we can reach God

Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

This day, the first day of the year, also 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 body of God 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. The reading is clear. Jesus is the Son of God, 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.

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 to lose, 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 evident at the world Synod of Bishops in October, which closed 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 synod.

Yet, they arranged for the infant's circumcision. This action testifies to their religious fidelity. It also joined them 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 used to describe the reality so well presented this week in Galatians. Jesus is God. Jesus is also 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 account of Mary's great faith is abundantly clear.

readings

Second week of Christmas


Catequiz'em

By Dominic Camplisson

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

1. Why is the unusual “husband of Mary” used as a descriptor for Joseph?
   a. Because in his tribe the Danites, women inherited the property.
   b. Because he was thought to have been married successively to two Marys.
   c. Because he was not Jesus’ father, so this is an accurate descriptor.

2. What was his occupation?
   a. A maker of weapons
   b. A carpenter or builder
   c. A tax collector or publican

3. Joseph is described as of the House of David. Why is that significant?
   a. David had been a shepherd, so this was prerequisite to Jesus being the Good Shepherd.
   b. The Messiah was expected be from the House of (King) David.
   c. The association with David meant that his family was protected by the Romans.

4. What is unusual about Joseph’s father’s name?
   a. He is called “Jacob” in one Gospel and “Heli” in another.
   b. He was called Antipas, which is an entirely Greek and non-Jewish name.
   c. He was also called Joseph, even though custom demanded a son have a different name from his father.

5. Where did Joseph live when he was betrothed to Mary?
   a. Nazareth
   b. Bethlehem
   c. Jerusalem

6. According to Matthew’s Gospel, when Joseph discovered Mary was pregnant, what was he reluctant to do?
   a. Shame her by reporting it
   b. Bring her to the temple
   c. Divorce her

7. In fact, under Jewish law, Mary might have been subjected to:
   a. criticism
   b. death by stoning
   c. banishment

8. What changed Joseph’s mind?
   a. He saw the Ophra show.
   b. He reread Deuteronomy and thought the Law did not apply.
   c. He was visited by an angel.

9. Why did Joseph take his pregnant wife to Bethlehem?
   a. To get her away from the neighbors so they would not know when the child was born
   b. To start a new job as a builder in the temple of the nativity
   c. To enroll in a census demanded by the Romans

10. 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?
   a. The family was poor.
   b. Joseph hated birds.
   c. Mary could not get Joseph to spring for a lamb as the child was not his.

11. Where did Joseph flee with his wife and her son?
   a. Jerusalem
   b. Egypt
   c. Edom

12. Why did Joseph take them there?
   a. He could not afford the bill for rent of the cave.
   b. He wanted to stash the gold, frankincense and myrrh.
   c. He knew Herod was out to kill the child.

13. We know Joseph was still with Jesus when Jesus was 12. It is described how, as part of the Passover festival, they:
   a. went to Jerusalem.
   b. built a commemorative copy of the Ark.
   c. sailed across the Sea of Galilee.

14. 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?
   a. That Joseph was probably still alive, and people assumed Jesus was his son.
   b. That Joseph had disowned Jesus, and he should not have returned.
   c. That Jesus would have 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.a, 10.a, 11.b, 12.c, 13.a, 14.a.
Evil: an absence that good seeks to fill

T
en 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 possibility 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 it was John Paul himself who would 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 a Papal 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 Woytyla loved the Christmas season and encouraged it 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 no more than a measure of the unmeasurable 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 Incarnation 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 magnitude of the love 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 “stubborn 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 both confirms and takes us far beyond that perception: here, in the child born to Mary of Nazareth, we see the unmeasurable 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 Incarnation 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 magnitude of the love that we can say, with the apostle John, “God is Love.”

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EXAGGERATED LOVE

In the ancient world, some religions posited two gods: a god responsible for the good and a god responsible for the evil. For example, Zoroastrianism, that became dominant in Iran 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 spoke against the evil spirit, who is also helped by six other spirits that tempt the human will 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 not 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 and 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 inherent danger here that angels and humans could misuse their gift of freedom by doing evil. Thus God does not cause evil, but rather 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 Saviour 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 perfectly 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 angels and of those who can handle 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 presumed there are others in need.”
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: “If it’s 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 only a few cell divisions 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 cell lines 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 because they had been removed for medical reasons, and since informed consent could be obtained from the parents, I was able 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 for the use of their own child’s organs or tissues is not always obtainable. It’s clearly not possible to ask fetuses themselves whether their tissues may be used after they are terminated, and the parents cannot give 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 do not 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 tissues.

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 using a reported morally problematic cell line, 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-objectible 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?

First, the parents may vaccine 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 act.

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 vaccinating 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 by being seen 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 lines in morally acceptable ways, the issue of scandal diminishes and moves into the background.

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

Father Tadeusz Pajcholczyk, Ph.D., earned his doctorate in neuro-science 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.
ICCL basketball action takes Christmas break, action resumes Jan. 8

Dec. 18 games reported

BY ELMER J. BARCH

Fort Wayne sports legend loses battle with cancer
Honored with achievement award in February

BY JOAN ROBY

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 26 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

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


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.

Weather wreaks havoc with CYO practices and games

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 15-game winning streak and the University of Saint Francis Cougars lost their bid for a national title, some CYO teams showed a little bit of feelings with losses of their own.

Grade 7 girls

The St. Joseph/Elizabeth Panthers girls lost to the St. Jude Eagles, but no one was certain of the score. With only eight on the grade 7 Panther 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.

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

Assistants are Dave Derlodon and Bishop Luers senior Erik Geise who “brings new defensive and offensive moves for the team to try.”

Grade 7 boys

Most of the games scheduled at Queen of Angels on Dec. 17 were rescheduled to the Sts. Joseph/Elizabeth Panther girls and St. John 7 Eagles scheduled a week for a 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 seniors, how to play.

Plans are for the girls to play in the Saint Francis tournament during Christmas break. The other coaches are Julie McNamara and assistant 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 won 44-35 in second place and plan to play in the Christmas tournament.

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 the team.”

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.

Jimison 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 will be beyond his coaching duties in the form of friendships with players and their families.

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 “We’re going to try 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. Head coach Larry Westendorf 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 goal is to win games, move weekly and peak by tournament time. They work on fundamentals and “just enjoy a good sense.”

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.

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.

South Bend — Fort Wayne sports legend Larry Jamison said one year he and his wife, Mary, had no place to continue playing women’s softball. Because they were a part of the New
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 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 teams plays 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 for 278 yards and three touchdowns. He completed his career with an NAIA record 13,980 yards total offense and 12,770 of that pass late in the second quarter.

Muller 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-yard to freshman tight end Marshall McEwen late in the third quarter, and Miller booted a 23-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 Michaels 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.

The game was played in Savannah, Tenn.
Rice historical novel on Jesus is a fine effort

H eight years old, Rice focuses on the historical texts and writers. After the novel details her methods to come to a better understanding of accounts. A lengthy author’s note at the “historical” Jesus fail on many what scholars like to think is a look at the presentations of traditions and first-century Jews. 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.

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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.
WHAT'S HAPPENING?

WHAT'S HAPPENING carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. Send in your announcement at least two weeks prior to the event. Mail to: Today's Catholic, PO. Box 11169, Fort Wayne 46856; or e-mail: ftnagan@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 children, 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 Schmitz will celebrate the Holy Hour at MacDougal Chapel on Tuesday, Dec. 20, at 7:15 p.m. Father Schmitz 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@saints.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, 6153 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) 484-6699.

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.

TV MASS GUIDE FOR JANUARY

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Catholic Comment: airs every Sunday at 7:30 a.m. on WWOI 1190 AM in Fort Wayne and at 7:30 a.m. on WSBT 960 AM in South Bend

Radio Rosary: airs Sundays at 9:00 a.m. on WBOI 1230 AM in South Bend

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William J. Kehoe, 75, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
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Thomas F. Filer, 78, St. John the Baptist
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Roy W. Lee, 82, St. John the Baptist
Mary J. Grubesich, 97, Our Lady of Hungary
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Yolanda Hanley, 91, Holy Cross
Fred C. Maxwell, 68, St. Michael the Archangel
Yoder Freida Vonette Dunn, 90, St. Aloysius
A lighting the scene.

the evenings, their children stood by with lanterns devotion seems unmatched. Moreover, this was done

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house of worship for themselves, by hauling stone is known at the Mother Church of South Bend.

on language and cultural preferences. Thus St. Patrick

Hungarians and Belgians first worshiped at St. Patrick before spinning off to form their own parishes based

Thomas Carroll, CSC, was from Andagh, Ireland, St.

the entrance of St. Joseph church.

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.

1857 2007

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEARS

SESQUICENTENNIAL

THE DIOCESE OF FORT WAYNE-SOUTH BEND

St. Patrick, South Bend, Est. 1858

A

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 at 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 dugged 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-education 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.

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 worshiping 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 1865 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 Wosi 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.