FORT WAYNE — Twelve pastors brought young men to the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center in Fort Wayne for the annual Andrew Dinner. With 50 in attendance, after dinner, Father Paul Bueter, Father Mark Gurtner and seminarians Jacob Runyon and Andrew Budzinski told their stories. Bishop John M. D’Arcy joined the conversation and asked the men what the diocese could do to promote vocations.

Many, who were Mass servers, said that they liked that their pastors would say “thank you” after they served Mass. That made an impression. Seminarian Matt Coonan suggested a weekend retreat for those considering the vocation to the priesthood. For those studying at the seminary, the Andrew Dinner seemed to be a good effort.

Father Paul Bueter, pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church and Diocesan Shrine in Warsaw, told those at the dinner that God was working naturally through him. His parents never pushed either way, but his family served as a good example of the faith. After attending a military high school, he went to seminary at Our Lady of the Lake in the diocese and then to St. Mary’s Seminary in Baltimore. He encouraged the men always to be open to God.

Father Bueter has had a special missions ministry. He spent 16 years in Panama. “It was a wonderful growing experience in my life,” Father Bueter said.

Father Mark Gurtner grew up in Auburn. His mother is Catholic; his father is Methodist but attends Mass with his wife. At 8, Father Gurtner learned to play the guitar. By 13, he was playing at Mass. In high school, Father Gurtner said he had his life planned out. He was going to attend Notre Dame, go to law school, get married, have children and join the country club.

But during midnight Mass in his senior year of high school, while the priest was incensing the altar, Father Gurtner said he had a very clear thought: “That (the priest...
Laypeople take a role in the new evangelization

The new evangelization: Not new in content, but new in ardent, method and expression

Those were the words of Pope John Paul II about the new evangelization. The original expression, I believe, comes from Pope Paul VI in his classical “Evangelii Nuntiandi.” I thought of this as I blessed the studio of the new Redeemer Radio, 1450 on the Fort Wayne dial, and the first effort of Catholic radio in our diocese.

At the same time, some explanation is required. This new venture is not under the diocese, nor under the bishop in the same way as our Religious Education or Catholic Schools Office. This is the way it has to be, and this is the way Catholic Radio is developed.

As far as those doing work in the diocese, all are chosen and sent by the bishop or their pastor, but we cannot be held responsible for those from other parts of the country who are making presentations. So I want to show my support of the exemplary laity; and my prayers go with them in the hope that we can use the airwaves, which have been taken over by members of many other faiths and also by the secular media. We hope to have a presence, and I hope to do my part to give talks and presentations if requested. I hope this is helpful to others who have questions. Also, in light of our recent Legacy of Faith and Annual Bishop’s Appeal, we have not approved any fundraising.

Andrew Dinner

Nothing more is important than the pastoral initiatives, which are going forward constantly and under the expert guidance of Father Bernard Galic, assisted by Fathers Glenn Kohrmann and Dave Voors, and in fact assisted by all the priests of the diocese and many laity. I am so grateful to all those who are praying rosaries and visiting the Blessed Sacrament and praying before exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Chapel at St. Jude, Fort Wayne, and Corpus Christi, South Bend.

Such adoration and prayer for vocations is also taking place at our cathedrals and various parishes, which have regular exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Many are also praying quietly for vocations from home.

I wish to share about our recent Andrew Dinner. We had about 18 young men come to the event in South Bend, while the next night in Fort Wayne, there was a group of 50, and I think 35 of them were young men interested in talking about the priesthood. Some are in high school, others in college and some have graduated from college.

Several of our seminarians were there. There were excellent presentations given by Father Paul Buerer, Jake Runyon and Andy Budzinski. I was impressed by some of their words. Indeed, it had been a long evening drive from South Bend to Fort Wayne before arriving at our wonderful new building in Fort Wayne, parking the car in the attached garage and going to this dinner. Imagine seeing the full hall with young men and a few seminarians and priests, who wanted to hear about the priesthood.

Excellent, practical questions were raised in both cities, “How does one resist the pressures of the time, so you hear the voice of Christ?” “How do you as a priest see your self, what do you see as your identity?” “How does one hear the voice of Christ, especially in today’s culture, and how did you get to be a priest?”

I remember when these Andrew Dinners started; I think there were about five or six people at St. Charles in Fort Wayne with Father Galic. I have grown the years. It was also special to hear what had prompted them to consider the priesthood and come to the gathering that evening. One young man said that he had the notion of the Monday after Father Tom Shoemaker, pastor at St. Jude, Fort Wayne, standing at the back of the church listening and greeting people, “There is always a long line,” he said, and also waits until the end so he can give Father Tom the question of the day. It is our priests, living their lives so devotedly who are drawing these young men, and it was a joy to be among them just before a little vacation.

Vacation

So, I am off to New England to visit my family and to check out the Red Sox. I expect that I will be contacted to pitch batting practice during spring training. It depends if they meet my price.

My prediction on the Fiesta Bowl was wrong, but my heart was in the right place. We look for great things at Notre Dame in the years ahead. I hope to see you next week. If not, two weeks from now. I hope to read a bit, visit my sisters and relax. What a beautiful Advent and Christmas.

BISHOP JOHN M. D’ARCY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“With a great life,” he told the guests.

Seminarian Jacob Runyon started to give serious concern to the priesthood when he was an RCA sponsor for his brother-in-law. With Father Glenn Kohrmann, pastor of St. Patrick Church in Fort Wayne at the time, Runyon said he learned a lot about the faith.

“I know the faith,” he said, “you’ve got to live it.”

Runyon had a fun job for five years traveling for Tippmann Pneumatics all over North America. He felt he wanted to do more. He started to pray about his career. Although priesthood kept coming up in his thoughts, he kept saying no.

During Lent one year, he decided to go to Mass every day and ask God, “What do you want me to do this year?”

He called Father Bernard Galic, anticipating a brochure about the priesthood, but instead received a dinner invitation.

Every day since has been amazing,” Runyon said. He is a first year theology student at Pontifical College Josephinum.

The gentle pastoral concern of Father Galic brought Andrew Budzinski to the seminary. Father Galic was Budzinski’s pastor at Holy Family Parish in South Bend for 20 years. He recalled, as a senior-year student at the University of Notre Dame, getting a call from Father Galic that Budzinski’s mother was near death from stomach cancer. He picked Budzinski up and took him to the hospital where Budzinski’s mother died surrounded by family. Father Galic’s concern and care made Budzinski think, “I’d like to do that.”

But first, Budzinski had other plans. With a great career in radio, he was making a lot of money and kept saying no to Father Galic. He kept saying no to an Andrew Dinner but he turned down the first invitation: “Absolutely not,” he said. The invitation “got me thinking,” he added. He became interested in Catholic radio in Fort Wayne and realized something in his life was missing. One day, he told Father Galic he was interested in attending an Andrew Dinner. Budzinski was a pre-theology seminarian at Pontifical College Josephinum.
Priesthood is ‘a wonderful, beautiful life, a life of love’

BY ANN CAREY

SOUTH BEND — Studies have found that young men are more inclined to consider a vocation to the priesthood if they are invited to do so by a priest. So, just like the disciple Andrew — who brought his brother, Simon, to meet Jesus — several local priests invited young men they believe would be good candidates for the priesthood to the annual “Andrew Dinner” in South Bend on Wednesday Jan. 4, at Holy Family Parish. In Fort Wayne, a dinner was held Thursday, Jan. 5.

The young men, the presider and conversation in the parish hall with Bishop John M. D’Arcy and several area priests and diocesan seminarians. After dinner, two priests told the stories of their vocations, and then the young men were invited to ask questions about the priesthood.

“The idea is just an awesome thing,” Father Glenn Kohrmam said after the gathering. Father Kohrmam, who was ordained in 1992, is pastor of St. Mary of the Lake in Culver and chaplain to the Catholic students at Culver Academy.

Father Kohrmam explained that he had attended public schools, including Purdue University, where he obtained bachelor’s and master’s degrees in mechanical engineering. He even had a serious girlfriend, but kept asking himself, “I’m not sure what I want to do.”

Father Glenn Kohrmam, pastor of St. Mary of the Lake at Culver and chaplain to the Culver Academy Catholic students, shared the story of his priestly vocation with young men attending the South Bend Andrew Dinner at Holy Family Parish on Jan. 4.

ANDREW DINNER IN FORT WAYNE

Father Bernard Galic, director of the diocesan Office of Vocation, greets dinner guests at the Andrew Dinner in Fort Wayne before inviting Father Paul Bueter, Father Mark Guttner and seminarians Jacob Runyon and Andrew Budzinski to discuss their journey to the seminary and priesthood.

PROTEST

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

does not require humanitarian groups to determine legal status of individuals prior to providing assistance.

However, in our view,” Bishop Barnes said in a statement, “the provisions in Section 202 of the legislation would place parish, diocesan and social service program staff at risk of criminal prosecution simply for performing their job. … It also could apply to health care personnel or U.S. citizens who provide urgent or lifesaving assistance to an undocumented individual.”

At the press conference, Father Cox also read a letter from Bishop John M. D’Arcy, who wrote that the presence of millions of people in the country who don’t have access to basic human rights and necessities is a great injustice.

“Surely such a great country can do better, and must do better, than the restrictive and harsh legislation contained in this act,” Bishop D’Arcy wrote.

Speaking for himself, Father Cox said he opposed the bill for many reasons. It expands expedited removal, mandates the detention of aliens, makes it more difficult for long-term residents to obtain citizenship, makes “unlawful presence” a criminal offense rather than the civil offense it currently is, bars refugees and asylum seekers from legal permanent residence and citizenship for relative minor offenses, and criminalizes service providers who assist the undocumented.

“People — physicians and clergy and social workers — will be sent to prison for doing their vocation,” Father Cox cautioned.

The present situation

We have 84 parishes in this diocese; 15 of them are under the pastoral care of exemplary priests who have come to us from across the world. There are 14 men studying to be priests for this diocese. Several more have made application to enter the seminary next year. This means that, although we are approaching our 150th anniversary, we have not been able to produce enough priests for this diocese. I believe that young people still want to live a life of goodness and beauty, a life of unselfish love.

Young people

Jesus puts this question to you also. “What are you looking for?” “Soon, I will begin my 50th year as a priest.” This has been a life of great meaning and joyfulness despite my own failures and unworthiness, of which I am always aware.

Christ is putting this question to you, but he is not forcing the answer. Still, he wants an answer. What are you looking for in life? Maybe your answer at this point to him is, “I am not sure.” Perhaps you can say, “I am looking for you. I am looking for a meaning in my life.” I hope you can say, “I am looking for my vocation. What is it, Lord? What do you want me to do?” Some might want to build a good Catholic family. “I want to be close to you. I want to resist the things that are demeaning.

Every young person (reading this newspaper) has a call from Christ to live in a certain way and be close to him. Have you heard that call? Have you begun to follow it? Will you follow it when you leave the surroundings of your home? Will you follow it all your life?

Some are being called to offer themselves out of love to be a priest or religious. I give thanks to God that I heard that call in the home of my parents, in my parish church and in my heart, and followed it. You can only hear that call if you pray and talk to him. He is waiting.

Prayer

In one year, we will begin the celebration of our 150th anniversary. I call upon everyone to pray for vocations. Beginning on the first Sunday of Lent, I will have a prayer for vocations sent to every parish and hope that it will be said at every Mass. Copies will be provided so you can pray it individually. This is a prayer the Lord will hear.

We shall be working on a pastoral plan for vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life. Central to that plan and, more important than other worthy initiatives, will be a church at prayer, the local church on its knees begging Christ to send forth laborers into the vineyard.

A blessed new year to you all.

Sincerely yours in our Lord,

Most Reverend John M. D’Arcy...
Pope John Paul II’s would-be assassin to be freed from prison

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Turkish terrorist who shot and seriously wounded Pope John Paul II in a failed 1981 assassination attempt was scheduled to be freed on parole from an Italian prison Jan. 12.

Since his extradition from Italy to Turkey in 2000, Mehmet Ali Agca served five years of a 10-year sentence for the 1979 murder of a Turkish journalist and two robberies the same year. But a Turkish court said Agca had completed his prison term and could be released, according to reports by the country’s semi-official Anatolia news agency.

Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls, commenting on “the news of the possible freedom of Ali Agca” in a Jan. 8 press release, said the decision to release Agca should be up to the Turkish courts.

Concerning issues of “a judicial nature,” the Vatican “submits to the decisions of the tribunals involved in this matter,” the statement said.

Pope Benedict XVI is expected to travel to Turkey this fall.

Agca, 48, had served 19 years in an Italian prison for his May 13, 1981, assassination attempt on Pope John Paul in St. Peter’s Square.

Just days after the near-fatal shooting, the Polish pope publicly forgave Agca, and in 1983 the pope embraced his would-be assassin in his Rome prison cell.

Though he was sentenced to life in prison for his May 13, 1981, assassination attempt, Agca was freed on parole from a Turkish prison Jan. 12.

Cardinal Martino also noted “the Holy Father had forgiven him from the very first moment, sincerely so, and then when he met him in jail he spoke to him like a brother,” he told the Italian daily Corriere della Sera Jan. 9.

Archbishop Dziezak said the pope had once asked, “How could we show ourselves before the Lord if we didn’t forgive each other?”

Some Vatican officials noted that Turkish authorities had not informed the Vatican that Agca was to be released.

New Turkish laws reduced Agca’s original punishment from life in prison, or 36 years under Turkish regulation, to a 10-year sentence. Additional penal code reforms led a Turkish court recently to further deduct the years Agca served in Italian prison, thereby completing his sentence, according to The Associated Press.

Cardinal Renato Martino, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, said his council did not want to interfere with the Turkish court’s decision that determined Agca had “paid his debt to justice.”

The cardinal said, however, that Scripture readings during this Christmas season have talked about Christ being sent “to proclaim liberty to captives.”

Christ, in his mercy, will not break “a bruised reed” nor snuff out “a smoldering wick,” he wrote in a statement sent to journalists Jan. 9.

Cardinal Martino also noted that “John Paul II, who immediately pardoned his attacker, titled one of his messages for the World Day of Peace: “There Is No Peace Without Justice, No Justice Without Forgiveness.””

Pope John Paul’s former secretary, Polish Archbishop Stanislaw Dziwisz of Krakow, said the late pope “would have celebrated” upon hearing the news of Agca’s scheduled release from prison.

“Without Forgiveness.’”

Without Justice, No Justice

Of Peace: ‘There Is No Peace Between Millenniums.”

The late pope had offered his own views of the assassination attempt in his book, “Memory and Identity: Conversations Between Millenniums.”

He expressed his belief that Agca was a professional assassin and that the assassination attempt was “not his initiative.” The pope did not say who he thought was behind the shooting, but described it as an “act of terrorism” in the “last convulsions of 20th-century ideologies of force.”

Pope John Paul long credited Mary with saving his life; he was shot May 13, the anniversary of the first of the apparitions at Fatima, Portugal. In 1984, he had the bullet fragment that was removed from his body placed in the crown of the Marian statue at the Fatima shrine.
Bishop celebrates Mass on ‘sad day’ as town remembers miners

BY COLLEEN ROWAN

PHILIPPI, W.Va. (CNS) — “Today is a very sad day for the church in West Virginia and for the people of West Virginia,” Bishop Michael J. Bransfield of Wheeling-Charleston said to those gathered for Mass Jan. 8 at St. Elizabeth Church in Philippi.

The community was remembering the 13 coal miners who lost their lives after the explosion at the Sago Coal Mine in Upshur County and were praying for miner Daniel McCloy Jr., the only survivor.

Philippi lost three of its residents in the incident, and Bishop Bransfield came to celebrate the Mass to help foster healing and to bring comfort to the community.

The bishop said the black ribbons that draped the front doors of St. Elizabeth “signify the sorrow of all of us for the miners who have perished, the one who remains ill and for their families who continue to suffer through these difficult days.”

Concelebrating the Mass with the bishop were Father Andy Krany, pastor of St. Elizabeth, and Msgr. Mark Ward, pastor of St. Zita Parish in Masontown.

During the Mass, Bishop Bransfield thanked Father Krany for being present to the families of the miners as they waited for news of their loved ones and for consoling them after they learned of their deaths.

“Holy is the best representation the church in West Virginia could have,” the bishop said, receiving a round of applause from Father Krany’s congregation in response.

During his homily, Bishop Bransfield said that not long after he became bishop of Wheeling-Charleston last February, his secretary, Father Paul Hudock, took him to Beckley to tour an area coal mine.

“In seeing this, I had to wonder how difficult it was for these men to work under such conditions,” he said. “I’m sure that everyone asks, the world asks and our American community asks why people work in these tough places. The answer is their families. These men work so hard to achieve a living — a good living — so that they can be good to their children, grandchil-

This is the culture of West Virginia, where family is valued and is given priority, he added. He also talked about the work ethic of the people of the Mountain State in providing for their families.

“I’m sure that when these 13 men went in there, their work ethic was clear,” Bishop Bransfield said.

“They were going to work very hard for the people they loved and for the achievement of the best life for them.

“When our prayers go out to them, we recognize that their vocation, their drive, their willingness to do this under such difficult conditions were not for themselves,” he added. “It was for the love of others, which Christ tells us is — with the love of God — the paramount reason that we live.”

Concern should now be focused on support for the families of the miners and helping them through their grief, he said.

DINNER SB

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

In all, the service filled three hours. Bishop Bransfield thanked Father Krany for his assistance in organizing the event.

He said that his experience in the seminary helped him discern his vocation, and he discovered the value of bringing Christ to other people.

Father Derrick Sneyd, pastor of St. Jude and St. Mary of the Assumption Parishes, was ordained in 1970 in his native India. He told the young men that he had thoroughly enjoyed his years as a priest. He acknowledged challenges in the priesthood, but said that Jesus, the church and the people give strength to a priest. He advised the young men to ask the Holy Spirit to direct their lives and to realize what it means to be a father to many people whose lives they touch.

When the culture stresses other values, he said, even if a man determines that he is not being called to the priesthood.

Father Bernard Galic, diocesan director of vocations, added that, just as a married man loves his family, a priest loves his people, and the people give back that love. After Bishop Bransfield’s homily, Father Galic said that God promises to everyone.

“It is a great moment,” he said, “for someone to be a priest.

One of the young men asked Bishop Bransfield to recognize a deep desire for marriage and a family with thoughts of a vocation to the priesthood. Father Kohrman replied that “If you’re not attracted to marriage, you’re probably not a good candidate for the priesthood.

He explained that priests come to realize what it means to be a father to many people whose lives they touch. The spiritual experience helps a man discern whether he has a vocation to marriage or to the priesthood, he continued. “The seminary is a gift for any human life,” he said, even if a man determines that he is not being called to the priesthood.

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Holy Cross Midwest Province has three brothers make final profession in Ghana

NOTRE DAME — The Midwest Province of the Brothers of Holy Cross at Notre Dame had three of its members from the District of Ghana, West Africa, make final vows of poverty, celibacy and obedience to the Congregation of Holy Cross on Saturday, Dec. 31. Brothers making final vows include: Brother Benjamin Biney Mensah, CSC, Brother Matthew Saboga, CSC, and Brother Patrick Adu Baah, CSC.

The profession of final vows took place at St. Paul’s Pro-Cathedral, Sekondi. The celebrant was Bishop John Martin Darko, bishop of the Sekondi-Takoradi Diocese. Brother Robert Fillmore, CSC, Provincial of the Midwest Province, received the vows of the three brothers. A reception followed at the brother’s school, St. John’s School, Sekondi.

The three brothers prepared for their final profession by making a retreat at the Kizito Retreat Center in Apowa.

Knights of Columbus

ANNUAL SOUTH BEND

Respect Life Program

Sunday, January 15, 2006

You know the reason; you know the numbers - Pray for Life!

RITL March starts from Council #553 at 553 East Washington Street at 2:00 PM with march to St. Joseph’s Church for Prayer Service. March returns to Council #553. Respect Life Program begins at 3:00 PM.

FATHER GLENN KOHRMAN - Guest Speaker

Bob Zielencki - Master of Ceremonies

You are invited to stay for hot soup, bread, fellowship, and Celtic Instrumental Music.

PLEASE BRING ANY NEW BABY/MATERNITY ITEMS for donation to Women’s Care Center & Hannah House.

Sponsored by St. Joseph Valley Chapter of the Knights of Columbus
Masses for Life scheduled in Fort Wayne and South Bend

Masses for Life are scheduled Sunday, Jan. 22, at the cathedrals in both Fort Wayne and South Bend. The Masses take place on the actual anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision.

Bishop John M. D’Arcy will be celebrating the 8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend. Father Robert Schulte will celebrate the 5 p.m. Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne. An hour of adoration follows the Mass with benediction at 7 p.m. in Fort Wayne and 7:30 p.m. in South Bend.

Knights to host respect life program in South Bend on Sunday

SOUTH BEND — The annual respect life program, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, will take place Sunday, Jan. 15, in South Bend.

The program will begin with a short march from the Santa Maria Council #553 located at 553 East Washington St. in South Bend to St. Joseph Church, 226 North Hill St. There will be a brief prayer service with Father John DeRiso, CSC, at approximately 2:20 p.m. at the church followed by a march back to the Knights of Columbus hall.

A respect life program will be held at the Knights’ hall beginning at approximately 3 p.m. Father Glenn Kohrman will provide the talk. Bob Zielinski will serve as the master of ceremonies.

Hot soup and bread, Celtic instrumental music and fellowship will follow the talk.

All donations that are collected at the event will be given to the Women’s Care Center and Human Life Education.

For more information, contact Kevin Large, president of the St. Joseph Valley Chapter of the Knights of Columbus, at (574) 830-4001 or klarge@earthlink.net.

Father Lavely, CSC talks about 40 years as priest

SOUTH BEND — Serving the spiritual needs of four parishes in the South Bend area plus a 10-year stint as a teacher and administrator at Notre Dame High School in Niles, Father Charles Lavely, CSC, have been the highlights of a 40-year career as a priest for Father Charles Lavely, CSC.

Now the pastor at St. Augustine Church on South Bend’s near west side, Father Lavely recounted four diverse assignments to Little Flower Church, Holy Cross Church, St. Patrick Church and his current assignment — to members of the Serra Club of South Bend, which has recently received special honors from Serra International of Chicago for a $1,400 contribution for the fostering and promotion of religious vocations both in the U.S. and abroad.

“People today, and that includes our youth, are thirsting for knowledge of Jesus Christ every day because they want to make it a principal part of their values,” he said, noting that this was more so today and especially in his own parish, which has a large minority congregation.

Father Lavely, who was ordained in 1965 in Rome to the Congregation of the Holy Cross, said he found his many years of teaching at the high school level an exhilarating experience because of well-planned programs at both the academic and extra curricular levels.

Ukrainian Catholic visit set for Serras

SOUTH BEND — Members of the Serra Club of South Bend will have the opportunity to enjoy a new experience on Friday, Feb. 3, at St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church, Byzantine Rite, in Mishawaka.

Father Thromas R. Dobrowski will celebrate the liturgy. Afterwards, members will be guests at a luncheon and also receive a special tour of the church.

Missionaries of the Precious Blood hold discernment retreat

CARTHAGENA, Ohio — The Missionaries of the Precious Blood will hold a vocation discernment retreat at St. Charles Center in Carthagean, Ohio, March 3-5.

The Missionaries of the Precious Blood is a religious society of priests, brothers and lay associates who work as missionaries in parishes (including St. Gaspar Del Bufalo in Rome City) in the U.S. and abroad, in education and in a wide range of apostolates, promoting the redeeming power of the blood of Christ and preaching God’s word.

The vocation discernment weekend is for men of college age and older who are discerning a vocation to religious life as a priest or brother. Retreatants will spend the weekend in prayer and conversation with the Missionaries of the Precious Blood.

For more information, contact Father Ken Schnipke, CPPS, office for vocation ministry, Missionaries of the Precious Blood, at (937) 228-6224, or e-mail him at vocation@cpps-preciousblood.org.

St. Joseph and Sacred Heart parishes join in Katrina relief effort

SOUTH BEND — The parishes of St. Joseph and Sacred Heart joined forces in the Advent season to bring help and hope to the people of Moss Point, Miss., by providing emergency cleanup buckets.

The United Religious Community’s Executive Director, Carol Thon, encouraged participation in the Church World Service’s Gifts of the Heart program. CWS, a nonprofit organization based in Elkhart, provides disaster relief worldwide. The emergency cleanup buckets and supplies enable people to begin the overwhelming job of cleaning up after floods, hurricanes, tornados and other disasters in the United States and abroad. These kits make a world of difference in the lives of victims of natural disasters.

During Advent, the weeks of preparation leading to Christmas, the two parishes collected supplies for nearly 200 buckets. The buckets were assembled at St. Joseph Parish on Hill Street in South Bend on Thursday, Jan. 12.

The cleanup buckets contain scouring pads, soaps, sponges, latex and work gloves, trash bag, dust masks, towels, clothes line and cloth pens, detergent and more.

Pack 584 assists St. Vincent de Paul Society

For the third consecutive year, Pack 584 formed its own food and funds drive and delivered the goods and over $1,000 cash to the St. Vincent de Paul Society in South Bend. The pack also delivered Christmas presents to more than 100 households. The pack is shown at the pantry with pack leader Shawn Sullivan.

Prominent Latino artist to speak at USF

FORT WAYNE — Paul Sierra, an internationally renowned artist based in Chicago, will discuss his work and life as an immigrant artist on Thursday, Feb. 16, at 7:30 p.m. in the Rolland Center on the University of Saint Francis campus. Born in Havana, Cuba, Paul Sierra immigrated to the United States in 1961 and received formal art training at The School of Art Institute of Chicago. His lecture is free to the public and supported by Arts United and Greater Fort Wayne, the Indiana Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts. For more information, call (260) 434-7591 or visit www.sf.edu/art.

Debt seminar offered in February

NEW HAVEN — A seminar, “How to Think Debt-Proof,” will be offered Monday, Feb. 13, 20 and 27 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the conference room of the New Haven Library, 435 Ann St. This free, six-hour, interactive seminar provides the information for taking control of one’s finances, get out of debt and start life more. It will also include details on using the Contingency Fund, Rapid Debt-Repayment Plan and Freedom Loan Repayment Plan. For more information, call by Michael Able, CPA, Tower Bank, 1st Source Bank and the Blazing Community Center, Inc., a United Way Partner Agency. To register, call (260) 749-9516.

Fort Wayne residents can receive free legal assistance Jan. 16

FORT WAYNE — The Indiana United Black Action (ISBA), in cooperation with various groups around the state, will sponsor a program that offers free legal assistance to the citizens of Indiana. “Talk To A Lawyer Today” features volunteer attorneys answering legal questions. Participants must be in-person and over the phone on the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

Hoosiers living in the Fort Wayne area can get their legal questions answered on Jan. 16 at 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Allen County Public Library South Campus. The location can receive assistance by calling (260) 407-0917 between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. that day.
Speakers, entertainment and trips make up SAJES repertoire

BY MICHELLE DONAGHEY

SOUTH BEND — Seniors of any age enjoy each other’s company. That’s one of the reasons Sister Agnes Marie Regan, OSF, didn’t specify what exact age a person had to be to be a part of the SAJES, Sts. Anna and Joachim Elder Society, that regularly meets out of the St. Matthew Cathedral.

“I never put an age on it (to attend). That helps for us to get a wide range of people. If they feel that they want to be part of the group, that is just fine,” said Sister Agnes Marie. She thoroughly enjoys talking about the group that started around four years ago.

The name came about because of the first meeting date said Sister Agnes Marie. “We decided to have a get together and it happened to start on July 26 — the feast of Anna and Joachim. How appropriate to have them as patrons. When I saw it spelled out, SAJES, which is pronounced ‘sages,’ it was uncanny. A sage is an older and wiser person of age. Very appropriate, I think,” she noted.

The group regularly meets during good weather around every other month at the St. Matthew Cathedral, first for Mass and then for fellowship at a potluck. Sometimes, after the potluck, the group has a speaker, activity or takes a carpool trip. Attendance varies from 35 to up to 60 people in attendance. Not all of those who come are from the cathedral necessarily, she notes. “People come from St. Adalbert, St. Anthony, St. John the Baptist and many others. That was one of Bishop Jenky’s feelings. It’s open to everyone in the diocese,” said Sister Agnes who says there are no dues, just a freewill offering taken.

The potlucks are a very appreciated and popular by SAJES attendees. “They always have the right amount of food. Sometimes I worry, but it always works out. The food is great as seniors have truly mastered the art of cooking,” she laughs.

Eating together is very much something the group enjoys. “Some haven’t eaten with someone in a long time because many of them live alone.”

Sometimes they stay at the parish and listen to a speaker or be entertained by a visiting performer or play bingo. Other times, they take a short trip by carpool.

“A speaker from the South Bend Police Department came to talk about safety for elders not only when they are out and about, but also on the phone” said Sister Agnes. At another get-together, a South Bend Chocolate Company representative came to talk about chocolate, let them try samples and offered them the opportunity to purchase chocolates. A group from the Palais Theatre Touring Group came once an performed a vaudeville Gracie Allen/George Burns act for them.

Besides speakers, entertainment and bingo, Sister Agnes said they once held a mini-retreat on the issues of spirituality for seniors, “which is so different than for young people.” The length of the retreat also differed from many younger adult retreats. “It was four hours” said Sister Agnes Marie who added that many older adults don’t like to be out all day nor to drive at night.

When the weather is warm, the group has taken trips away from the cathedral, which are well-attended she noted.

“We once had a picnic at the Knights of Columbus Hall with Will Yancey, a folk singer who sings old fashioned folk and some spiritual music. It was great,” said Sister Agnes Marie. She noted some people “didn’t want to go home! They started dancing! It was so spontaneous!”

The group has also carpooled from the church to take a ride on the Elkhart River Queen.

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No matter what they do, Sister Agnes Marie said that those who attend truly get something special out of the meetings.

“The spirituality of it, the companionship are so very important to them. So many of them live alone. Getting together is so important to them,” said Sister Agnes Marie who especially enjoys the company of the group.

“Their love of life. They don’t have any agendas. They know relationships and being with other people and the simple things are important. Their values are truly in the right place,” she said.

Those who attend love it, and they encourage others to come and join them! Helen and Leon Caenepeel, who have been parishioners of the cathedral since 1943 and regular attendees, enjoy every time that they meet with SAJES, whether it is a potluck or a trip.

“We have a great time with everyone. We have fun with the group and we pray with them,” said Leon, 90, who said that they particularly enjoyed the retreat.

“The leader got the point across, and she also had a great sense of humor. It was joyful to listen to her talk. She really made you feel so comfortable,” said Leon.

“The fellowship is great. We just get together and have a nice meal and sometimes have entertainment. It’s so relaxing. That’s what I like about it,” said Gene Fieglung who attends with wife, Julia, and encourages all to come.

The next SAJES meeting will begin with Mass on Feb. 10 at the cathedral at 11:30 a.m. Everyone in the diocese is welcome to attend including couples as well as singles and widows and widowers.

Elmer Danch and Helen Caenepeel enjoyed a SAJES party held near Valentine’s Day in 2005.

The Valleyaires surprised Sister Agnes Marie with a serenade or two during the SAJES Valentine’s Day party last year.

By Michelle Donaghey

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Indiana Catholic Conference works to limit death penalty use

**BY BRIGID CURTIS AYER**

INDIANAPOLIS — In response to the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops’ (USCCB) November statement calling for an end to the death penalty, the Indiana Catholic Conference will work to limit Indiana’s death penalty during the 2006 legislative session of the Indiana General Assembly.

“Because all human beings are created in the image and likeness of God, we have an inherent dignity,” said Indiana Catholic Conference Executive Director Glenn Tebbe. “The church has consistently upheld the dignity of all life from conception to natural death. It is out of this consistent life ethic that we address legislative issues. This year we are dovetailing on the U.S. Catholic bishops’ campaign to end the death penalty in Indiana,” said Tebbe.

Sen. Bowser, longtime advocate of the death penalty, said, “The bill puts into effect the decision of the jury where it should be,” recommending the bill. “The bill puts when a jury cannot agree on a death penalty in Indiana," said Indiana Catholic Conference Executive Director Paula Sites, and current executive director of the Indiana Public Defenders Council, said, “Senetate Bill 66 is based on model language drafted by the Task Force on Mental Disability and the Death Penalty.” Sites said, “We were not able to use this model language until the 2007 General Assembly, but public interest sparked by the Arthur Baird clemency campaign encouraged us to begin our efforts a year early.”

Kathy Bayes, National Alliance of the Mentally Ill (NAMI), Fort Wayne Chapter, said, “Our goal is to limit very carefully the definition to be used in the change in state law to apply only to persons suffering from serious mental illness at the time of the crime.”

Sen. Bowser, longtime advocate to end the death penalty said, “The mood of the House and Senate are not favorable to abolishing the death penalty at this time, but I think we can move on some aspects of the death penalty.

“Persons who are mentally ill should not receive a death sentence,” said Sen. Bowser. “The U.S. Supreme Court has outlawed executing minors and the mentally retarded. Therefore, a person suffering mental illness should be treated the same.”

No matter what happens this session, Sen. Bowser said she will continue to work on this issue. “Before I leave the Senate, I want to rid our state of the death penalty altogether. But for now, I’m doing what I can to move this issue forward.”

Sen. Richard Bray (R-M Martinsville), chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, the legislation and majority of both death penalty bills have been assigned and who in part will control what happens to this legislation, said he is not planning to hear either bill this session. “We studied the death penalty extensively a few years ago and in the short session, a subject like the death penalty takes a lot of time,” said Bray. “I think in this session, I don’t think the votes are there to pass it.” Bray who served as a Morgan County Prosecutor for 12 years said he has “a lot of confidence in Indiana’s judicial system.”

Bray says he supports the death penalty, but does the majority of people he represents. Bray said that recent rulings by Indiana’s Supreme Court have placed “an extra degree of protection” in capital cases.

With regard to persons who are mentally ill, Bray said, he agrees they should not be executed, but says “determining a criterion for mental illness is difficult because it’s so subjective.”

Thirty-four states including Indiana have the death penalty. Since 1977, when Indiana reinstated the death penalty, 16 persons have been executed. Only three of the 92 persons sentenced to death in Indiana received commuted sentences. Gov. Joe Kernan commuted two death sentences to life in prison without parole, and Gov. Mitch Daniels recently commuted the death sentence of Arthur Baird to life in prison without parole.

Malcolm Lunsford, a permanent deacon from the Gary Diocese, works as a volunteer chaplain at the Indiana State Prison in Michigan City. Lunsford visits, listens to and brings comfort to prisoners who have been on death row and has witnessed one execution.

“The death penalty accomplishes nothing,” said Lunsford. “For some, it may give a sense of revenge, but not closure. Closure comes only through forgiveness.”


Junior high art teacher crazy about model trains

**BY IDA CHIPMAN**

PLYMOUTH — Tom Johnson, the art teacher at Lincoln Junior High School for the past 31 years, has been crazy about trains since he was about five years old.

He grew up right on Michigan Street in Plymouth, close by the old Nickel Plate Railroad. Sounds of hissing steam, grinning wheels and clanging bells were a part of his daily life.

Sometimes, if he was really lucky and timed it just right, he’d get to see the trains switch tracks up town.

“The railroad crossing guard at Washington School was Merlin Jolly,” Tom said. “Everybody called him ‘Jolly.’ And he was.”

He’d give the kids a candy bar on their birthdays and he was always willing to talk. Tom, a student at St. Michael School, would ride his bike to the crossing almost every day to chat with Jolly.

“Jolly would ask us kids to gather up acorns on the school grounds and the next time that we’d see him, he’d have changed them into peanuts in the shell.”

Tom said it took them a long time to catch on to that one.

When he was 12, he got a job cleaning Bob Kelsey’s barber shop and used his tips to buy his first H-O-scale train.

“Once a year, close to Christmas time, Uncle George would set it up and all of us cousins would come over to play with it.”

In addition, Tom would occasionally sneak up to the apartment to look at his model cars.

He yeamed to have a toy train of his own.

When he was 12, he got a job cleaning Bob Kelsey’s barber shop on Washington Street. He made $2.50 a week and saved every penny of it to buy his first O-Scale train set.

The locomotive, three cars, a caboose and a 8-day track cost around $18 at Malloy’s City Drug. He laid eighty feet of track on 12- to 8-inch wide shelves he built around the walls for his 30 locomotives to run on.

Gradually he has created a panorama of small farm towns along the full 400 covered ‘hoppers,’ seven grain elevators, a Texaco gas station and a number of depots, antique stores, cafes and shops. He has added touches such as pop machines, cases of fruit and other interesting details.

“One of them,” he said, “is sort of spooky.”

He built the Bridge Lake Grocery store out of his imagination. “Turns out,” Tom said, “it is eerily like one that was really there!”

One of Tom’s pet peevies is that people don’t really understand the model train hobby.

“Some think we are adults still playing with toy trains,” he said.

“That’s not at all. There are history lessons to be learned and, for me, it’s another way to be creative, other than painting pictures on flat surfaces.”

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Mexican exchange student enjoys stay in area

BY MIRANDA KRYDER

FORT WAYNE — Life sometimes takes drastic turns. Bishop Luers High School junior Ana Becerra understands this concept well. Barely four months ago, she was sitting in beautiful Vera Cruz, Mexico, with her parents, enjoying the summer sunshine and the seaside city. Now she is living in a foreign country with a family not her own and attending a school full of strangers.

Becerra is an exchange student, living life a bit differently than the average Bishop Luers student. Through the help of an exchange program, C.A.S.E., Becerra came to Fort Wayne and resides with the Aguirre family of St. Therese Parish in Fort Wayne. The Aguirre family is hosting Becerra’s stay until the end of June. No language barriers have appeared between Becerra and her host family; she is trilingual in Spanish, English and French.

Becerra decided to come to the U.S. to study as an exchange student because she has future plans of a career, which may allow her to travel internationally. She is just getting the experience now.

Although life in Vera Cruz is similar to that in the U.S., Becerra has had to make a few adjustments. Once an only child, she now has three host siblings, one with whom she must share a bedroom.

“I miss the privacy,” Becerra admitted.

The school day also seems a bit awkward to Becerra. “In Vera Cruz, instead of the students changing classes, the teachers switch rooms,” Becerra explained.

Becerra participated in many activities at her high school in Vera Cruz including volleyball, service projects, an athletic program similar to cross country and French studies. She is taking a break for now, but may join the softball team in the spring.

Despite these changes, Becerra seems to find life in Fort Wayne agreeable. She has had fun going to the movies, football games and go-karting. She does miss the food from her home.

“The food here is too junky,” Becerra commented.

Ana Becerra, left, is an exchange student from Mexico who attends Bishop Luers High School in Fort Wayne. She is shown with the Aguirre family. Front to back in the photo is the host family, Kim, Javeon, Monica and Gerry Aguirre.

Wrestling invitational combines remembers a Luers wrestler

BY ALLISON JACKSON

FORT WAYNE — Two years ago, the Bishop Luers family suffered the sudden and heartbreaking loss of one of its members, Corey Kennerk. Corey was a well liked, personable young man who had a burning passion for the sport of wrestling. One would often see him in the gym or wrestling room, training and improving his skills in the sport he loved.

With this sudden and tragic death in an automobile accident, his friends and teammates on the wrestling team were at a loss to find a way to honor his memory appropriately. Then, a sudden epiphany seemed to smash wrestling coach A.J. Kalver in the head. What better way to honor a young man who had an insatiable interest in wrestling than to hold a wrestling invitational in his honor?

Actually, it was not so much an epiphany as a subtle prompting from Mike Skordos, father of senior wrestler, Jonathan Skordos.

“Mike was definitely the source of this idea. He brought the idea to me, and I just started to put it together. I thought it was the best way to honor the memory of a great wrestler,” stated Kalver.

Senior wrestler Todd Gerardot added, “I think this is the way Corey would have wanted to be remembered. He was an asset to the team, and he affected my wrestling career as well as the performance of the rest of the wrestling team. It was the thing he had the most passion for and I know he would have wanted this.”

The Corey Kennerk Wrestling Invitational was held on Dec. 10, and eight teams took part. The teams included Indianapolis Bishop Shannon, Lebanon, Northrop, Huntington North, Kokomo, McQuinlan, North Miami and Bishop Luers.

Kalver stated that the Kennerk family was very pleased when they heard about the invitational being put together. They were the guests of honor at the invitational. They were involved in working different aspects of the invitational including handing out the awards.

“They didn’t want to open old wounds, but they saw this as a final way to help them let go and settle the turmoil of their son’s death in their hearts,” Kalver said.

The Corey Kennerk Wrestling Invitational holds deep meaning for the members of the wrestling team, especially for the seniors. This would have been Kennerk’s senior year, and the team saw it as an extremely fitting time for the birth of the invitational. They all affirmed that they were excited about the opportunity to commemorate Kennerk and to make sure others do not forget.

“I think this is one of the best things that we could do to remember Corey,” said junior David Bryant. “It will show him that we do miss him and will never forget what he gave to this team by his skill and attitude.”

Although Kennerk was a skilled wrestler, he contributed to the team in other ways that will be missed and commemorated through the wrestling invitational.

He was a treasured friend and “brother” to many on the team. All agreed that this was the hardest part of all about letting him go. Senior Roger Norton reminisced, “Corey was a friend of mine since the fifth grade, and losing him was really hard. He always made me laugh, but most of all he made me want to be a better person on and off the wrestling mat.”

Wrestlers at Bishop Luers High School in Fort Wayne remember classmate Corey Kennerk who died in a car accident in November of 2004. Wrestlers in the photo and their weight class include the following: front row, from left, Todd Gerardot (145), Ashley Norton, team manager, and Roger Norton (103); back row, Jonathan Skordos (145) and Tom Lohmuller (171). When Corey wrestled, his weight class was 130, which his fellow wrestlers wrote on their arms, “CK 130.” They wrote “CK 06” because Corey would have been a senior this year.

Norton’s sister and wrestling team manager, Ashley Norton, added, “Corey was caring, funny, and he could always make you smile. He was one of my best friends, and I will miss him every day of my life.”

The death of a friend and a great athlete is a hard thing to have to deal with in life, especially at a time when one seems to take the presence of others for granted. Although this tragic ordeal will never take the minds and hearts of those Kennerk touched, they now have an outlet for their grief and love.

Junior Robert Handel summed up the goal and heart behind the idea, “The Corey Kennerk Wrestling Invitational is a way to remind everyone of Corey’s legacy, and as it continues on, to make sure that we as the Bishop Luers community will never forget him.”

Allison Jackson is a junior at Bishop Luers High School and a member of the school newspaper staff.

SAT PREP COURSE OFFERED AT BISHOP DWENGER

Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne is offering an SAT prep course on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-7:30 p.m. beginning Jan. 24 and runs through March 9. The 14 sessions include diagnostic testing, six verbal and six math sessions. The fee is $150 and includes the textbook. The class addresses recent changes in the SAT. The class is open to any high school student in the area. For information and registration, contact the school at (260) 496-4700.
Admitting past mistakes is key to Christian unity, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — When Church leaders and members have offended or misrepresented the teachings of others, they make important contributions to Christian unity, Pope Benedict XVI said. Meeting Jan. 7 with the leaders of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, Pope Benedict said that in 2000 Pope John Paul II “gave a powerful impulse to this endeavor in the Catholic Church” when he publicly asked for forgiveness on behalf of Catholics. “I am pleased to learn that several of the Reformed churches which are members of the World Alliance have undertaken similar initiatives,” he said. The pope was referring to decisions by the Presbyterian Church USA, the Christian Reformed Church in North America and others to declare that official statements about Catholicism made by their leaders in the 16th century do not reflect their current understandings of Catholic Church teaching.

Freed from death row, ex-prisoner talks about what sustained him

HAMPTON, Ga. (CNS) — Juan Roberto Melendez Colon can remember holding a rope in his hands preparing to strangle himself in his prison cell on Florida’s death row. But on June 25, 2002, he said, he pulled the rope back. Instead, he went to sleep and dreamed he was swimming again as he did when he was a boy in the tranquil aqua waters of the Caribbean. “The sun was bright. The sky was blue. The palm trees looked so good from the beach, and I was right there in the Caribbean swimming. Then I saw — four dolphins — flipping and jumping like dolphins do. And then I looked to the shore and I saw my mama waving at me . . . I was happy,” he recalled. He awoke with new hope that one day he would be found innocent, and he flushed the rope down the toilet. In January 2002, he became the 99th of 122 former death-row inmates to be exonerated in the United States since the death penalty was reinstated in 1976. He and 12 other exonerated men took an oath to their constitutions on Florida’s death row. “I promise to myself I will never, ever again think of continuing participation in the death of human beings,” Melendez Colon said then. He would be found innocent, and after his release from prison he kept his promise.

POPE ANOINTS INFANT IN SISTINE CHAPEL

Pope Benedict XVI anoints an infant in the Sistine Chapel at the Vatican Jan. 8. The pope baptized 10 babies, using the occasion to launch an impassioned denunciation of a “culture of death” that he said pervades the modern world.

Maryland bishops call for veto override, $1 increase in minimum wage

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Following the Jan. 3 retirement of Ukrainian Bishop Basil H. Losten of Stamford, Conn., to 28 other U.S. bishops, including five cardinals, who have already turned 75, 14 more, including two cardinals, will celebrate their 75th this year. There are 14 still-active U.S. bishops, including three cardinals, who have already turned 75. Fourteen more, including two cardinals, will celebrate their 75th birthday in 2006. At age 75 bishops are requested to submit their resignation to the pope. Bishop Losten turned 75 last May 11, Cardinal Edmund C. Szoka, 78, who has been in Vatican service since 1990, has been the oldest active U.S. cardinal since July 2003. The former bishop of Gaylord, Mich., and former archbishop of Detroit turned 75 Sept. 14, 2002. In Vatican service since 1990, he is president of the Pontifical Commission for Vatican City State. In 2005 Cardinals Adam J. Maida of Detroit and Theodore E. McCarrick of Washington turned 75. Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore will be 75 March 4, 2006. Cardinal Bernard F. Law, archbishop of St. Mary Major Basilica in Rome, will be 75 Nov. 4, 2006.

Pontifical council says Holy Spirit is theme of next three youth days

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — While choosing themes for the next three celebrations of World Youth Day, Pope Benedict XVI asked young Catholics to reflect on how the Holy Spirit leads people to encounter Christ, to love others and to go out to the world to spread the Gospel, said the Pontifical Council for the Laity. The council, which coordinates the local annual celebration of World Youth Day and organizes the international gatherings of young people with the pope, published the list of themes for 2006-2008. The next international gathering, the council said Jan. 3, will be held July 15-20, 2008, in Sydney, Australia. The theme for the 2008 event is “You Will Receive Power When the Holy Spirit Has Come Upon You; and You Will Be My Witnesses.” The quotation is taken from the first chapter of the Acts of the Apostles. “Your Word Is a Lamp to My Feet and a Light to My Path” is the theme chosen by Pope Benedict for the 2006 celebrations, which will be held on the diocesan level, the council said. In 2007, also on the diocesan level, young people will focus on the theme “Just as I Have Loved You, You Also Should Love One Another.”

Survey says majority of Hispanics call themselves pro-life

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A survey released Jan. 5 by the U.S. Latino Civic Education Fund reported that 57 percent identify themselves as pro-life and support laws requiring parental notification before a minor under 18 years old can get an abortion. The survey said only 27 percent identified themselves as pro-choice and 36 percent opposed parental notification before a minor’s abortion. The survey by the Washington-based Latino Coalition, an independent organization specializing in issues affecting Hispanics, was released in mid-January. It reported the responses of 1,000 adult Hispanics surveyed Dec. 10-13 on the telephone. The margin of error was a margin of error of plus or minus 3.1 percent. Seventy percent of the respondents identified themselves as Catholics.

More than 800 million children are exploited, says Vatican report

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — More than 800 million children around the world are victims of mutilation, disease, trafficking and other forms of economic and social exploitation, an annual Vatican report said. Among the worrisome trends are the more than 200 million child laborers between the ages of 5 and 14 years of age and the increase in street children on several continents, it said. Millions more children are forced into armed conflict or prostitution. In many countries, births are unregistered, leaving those chil-
CULVER — Jim “Red” Walsh, 19, was studying to be a Catholic priest. The second son of an immigrant Irish Catholic family, his parents were delighted.

Jim went to seminaries in Chicago, Detroit and Dallas as the family moved around so that his father could find construction work during the aftermath of the Great Depression.

He grew up a tough kid. Tall and lanky with bright red hair, he was in more fist fights throughout the third grade than baseball games.

His childhood was ordinary. He enjoyed sports, hanging out with other paper boys and reading comic books. Although he had already opted for the priesthood, Jim’s father maintained his son’s “left jab, right cross, left hook and ring savvy” by encouraging boxing lessons from a former prize fighter.

By the time Jim graduated from St. Scholastica’s Grade School, Jim had earned a well-deserved reputation with his fists and had won the Novice Light Heavy Weight Championship of the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO).

“I had every intention of entering the priesthood,” he said. “But in June of 1950, when the U.S. Army’s police action in the aid of South Korea’s army erupted into a full scale war with the North Korean Poples’ Army — I wanted to do my patriotic duty for God, country and family.”

“My father said that I was wrong-minded setting aside obedience to the archbishop on behalf of President Harry Truman’s political prattle.”

As a third-year seminarian with “guilt-stained patriotism,” he went back to school.

The U.S. Eighth Army had been driven back 275 miles south, the longest retreats in the annals of the U.S. military.

Jim could stand it no longer. He left the seminary and returned home.

On Feb. 6, 1951, he joined the army and was sent to Camp Breckenridge, Ky. He was recommended for Leadership School, but declined the appointment and was immediately sent to Korea.

His first duty assignment was to dig a latrine. He said he guessed that he was chosen because, after two years in the seminary, his commanding officer figured he could comprehend a manual on building urinals.

“That’s the way it was in the army, they had recognized my leadership skills and put them to use.”

At first, in combat, Jim was the ammo bearer. He would lug six cans, each weighing 20 pounds and holding 250 rounds, up a never-ending cliff to win the honor of “first idiot ammo bearer.”

In a 73-page epitope, written for his children and grandchildren, Jim is graphic about his experiences in Korea. There are several stories about rats, cockroaches, death, destruction and what it was like to be a GI in a new kind of war — “rock to rock, ridge line to crest warfare. A new era of siege warfare!”

In the Library of Congress’ Veterans’ History Project, “Voices of War,” published in 2004, by the National Geographic Society, Jim, in his first major publication, writes about his first glimpse of dead GIs.

“I knew GIs were as likely to die in battle as was the enemy, but I hadn’t ever seen a dead GI. Here were a half dozen laid side by side. They could have been in a funeral parlor, so neatly arranged were they. None had limbs missing. Their bodies were still in full field dress. Bodies that once were full of vigor were waxen, pale of face and hands, blood spots staining their fatigues. A lone rifleman guarded them. He could have been at prayer the way he knelt over them.

“I let loose a prayer of my own for the repose of their souls with God at that moment!”

He said that it took less than a year for the fingers that had once been folded in seminary chapel prayer to pull a trigger to kill communists.

It was kill or be killed.

“Transmission was done from seminarian to soldier, changing me from the godly to the deadly.”

Discharged in November of 1952, Jim was decorated with six ribbons, including a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star. He enrolled in the University of Notre Dame on the G.I. Bill.

He won the N.D. Bengal Bouts Heavy Weight Division title in 1954, and that same year at a mixer, resplendent in his Bengal Boxing lighter sweater, met a Saint Mary’s sophomore student named Jo Ann Myers who he said “was the world’s most beautiful woman.” Jo Ann, born in Kewanee, where her grandfather was the publisher and editor of the Kewanee Herald, was raised in Indianapolis.

The couple were married in the Sacred Heart Basilica in September of 1955.

After earning a bachelor’s degree in January of 1955, a master’s degree in 1956 and another master’s degree in social work in 1960, Jim served as probation officer in juvenile court in South Bend for a year and five years in the court system in Detroit, Mich. He then moved to Ohio for eight years, returning to South Bend to become the director of Catholic Social Services from 1963 to 1968.

After practicing law in Kansas for a number of years, the family — including their five children — moved to Culver in 1987. In semi-retirement, Jim was an ambassador for area nursing homes in five counties: Elkhart, Kosciusko, LaPorte, Marshall and St. Joseph.

He sings in the choir at St. Mary’s Church in Culver.

Still a member of the Indiana and Kansas Bar, he has turned his attention to writing and has authored five books: two fictions on Irish history; two fictions on the Korean War and one factual story on nursing homes.

In addition to the excerpts in the “Voices of War” (pages 153-155), three articles have been published in “The Almanac for Farmers and City Folks.” His stories are entitled: “A Lot of Bull, Ringing Hogs and Peculiar Law.”
Human life would be devalued by loss of pro-life individuals, institutions

We Catholics have come a long way since our immigrant ancestors encountered blatant anti-Catholicism that denied jobs, political office and equal social status. However, we should not grow complacent now that Catholics have achieved economic, social and political equality, for daily news accounts remind us that contemporary Catholics increasingly face challenges to the free exercise of our religion, particularly in regard to issues touching on human life.

In Illinois, for example, the governor has issued an executive order requiring all pharmacists to fill prescriptions for the so-called “morning-after pill” that can cause an abortion. Several Illinois pharmacists already have been laid off for refusing to dispense the drug because of its abortifacient properties. Other states are considering enacting laws that will deny pharmacists a conscience exemption, and similar federal legislation was introduced in Congress last year and then withdrawn so that sponsors of the bill could look for more support before reintroducing the bill.

The conscience rights of other healthcare workers also are being attacked. The Catholic Medical Association reports cases of bias against pro-life medical students and residents, as well as bias in employment of pro-life doctors. Last year, the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology told the U.S. Congress that doctors who morally object to abortion should be required to refer patients to doctors who will perform abortions.

Furthermore, Catholic hospitals across the country are being threatened with loss of public funds if the hospitals do not provide the whole spectrum of “reproductive services.” Already, many states require all employers who offer prescription drug coverage to include contraception in that coverage. Even though we Catholics are comfortably established in our society and do not face the same kind of discrimination as our ancestors, we must remember that the exercise of our religion takes place outside as well as inside our churches. As Vatican II reminded us, exercise of our religion occurs as we go about our everyday lives in the public square, where we are commanded to live our faith and the Gospel values it teaches.

We are not trying to challenge and resist such assaults on our constitutional rights. Catholics would be forced out of many medical fields. Likewise, as Cardinal Francis George of Chicago told the American Medical Association when it was considering a resolution to require all hospitals to perform abortions, Catholic healthcare institutions would disappear.

If the Catholic pro-life influence disappears from the public square, all human life would be seriously devalued by the loss of pro-life individuals and healthcare institutions that serve the public good as they teach, promote and practice the culture of life intended for all of humanity by our Creator.

Embryonic stem-cell research needs a time-out

News that a Korean researcher fabricated claims that he had succeeded in creating a stem-cell line from cloned human embryos has shocked the scientific world. This shock may be just what is needed to call a long time-out to reconsider such research.

Proponents of embryonic stem-cell research claim that the flexible cells of embryos can be used to cure almost any disease and that embryo clones of the patient reduce the chance of rejection. Dr. Hwang’s alleged accomplishments fueled that hype and motivated other researchers to try to match his now-discredited work.

Also discredited are the wild claims of successful cures possible with embryonic stem-cell therapy, claims that attracted investors and prompted voters in some states to approve massive spending in hope of catching up with the Korean research. The truth is, not one researcher has published a report of a patient who has benefited from embryonic stem-cell treatment, and no such benefit is on the horizon.

On the other hand, adult stem-cell research, which uses cells from human sources without harming the donor-sources like umbilical cords, bone marrow and human skin — has already helped thousands. Indiana is among the few states that have banned human cloning and created adult stem-cell research centers.

We hope the research scandal will motivate a sober re-evaluation of embryonic stem-cell research and its demand for cloned embryos and prompt more states to follow Indiana’s lead. Not only are human cloning and embryonic stem-cell research morally reprehensible, they also are wasting scientific talent and billions of dollars that could be used for the more promising adult stem-cell research that already is benefiting patients.

Coach Westendorf’s impact may lead to lives of those he coached

What is a hero? On Dec. 1, 2005, the Catholic community of Fort Wayne, Ind., was mourning the death of Coach Westendorf passed away after a year long battle with cancer. As the News Sentinel (death notice) in the former Saint Francis coach, I kept thinking back to the early 1980s when Coach W. took many St. Charles girls’ basketball teams to CYO championships in the old Central Catholic gymnasium.

Coach W. was the kind of coach that could make a winning team out of a bunch of 12-year-old girls playing their first organized basketball ever. I loved playing for him in fifth, sixth and eighth grades, but it wasn’t the winning or the great job of teaching fundamentals that I remember the most. Instead, it was his smile, his wink and his philosophy.

Coach always said you’ll be a success if you keep your priorities straight; No. 1, God; No. 2, family; No. 3, school; No. 4, friends (3 and 4 could switch during the summer and in times of need) and No. 5, sports.

I am a high school teacher and coach now, and I’ve always tried to share his philosophy with my students and athletes.

Larry probably never knew how many “next generations” of female athletes he’s helped coach. Good coaches are teachers, and good teachers are heroes because they make a difference in others’ lives. May he and his family rest in peace knowing he is with our Lord.

Coach Tim Johnson, Vince LaBarbera and Msgr. J. William Lester.

ICC continues its role to provide a Catholic voice to Indiana legislators

For almost 40 years the Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC) has offered a moral and social justice perspective regarding legislative issues. Again this year the conference looks forward to working with Indiana’s elected leaders in providing a pro-life perspective in addressing the Reproduction and Kenya Research committee. The church examines all issues in the light of its principles of social doctrine and values based upon the Gospel.

The church’s role in society as noted in the catechism is to “bear witness to man, in the name of Christ, to his dignity and his vocation as a responsible person. The church teaches the demands of justice and peace in conformity with divine wisdom.”

The conference shares in this responsibility, and looks forward to examining other issues with these same criteria throughout the 2006 session of the Indiana General Assembly.

Glenn Tebbe is the executive director of the Indiana Catholic Conference.

Today’s Catholic welcomes letters from readers. All letters must be signed and include a phone number and address for verification.

Today’s Catholic reserves the right to edit for clarity and length. Address letters to: Today’s Catholic • P.O. Box 11169 • Fort Wayne, IN • 46865-1169 or e-mail to: editor@ftw.dioecesefw.org
Christ is the path for every disciple

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jn 1:35-42

T he First Book of Samuel is the source of the first reading for this weekend. Originally, First and Second Samuel were one volume. At some point in history, an editor divided them into two volumes, and two volumes appear in Bible translations today.

As the title of these books implies, the central figure is Samuel, a prophet active centuries before Christ.

Prophets were highly revered throughout the history of the Chosen People. They were seen as God’s special representatives, but also personally very holy and devoted to God. At times, prophets resisted their calling initially. Such was the case of the great prophets, Isaiah, Ezekiel and Jeremiah. However, after all was said and done, they acknowledged themselves to God’s will and accepted the call to be prophets.

These figures were admired because the call to be a prophet was seen precisely as a call, as a call from God. In the Mark 1:9 reading, God calls Samuel. It occurs according to God’s plan. Samuel is open to hearing God, indeed ready to hear God, but Samuel cannot hurry the divine plan.

St. Paul’s First Epistle to the Corinthians is the second reading for this weekend. Many of the Pauline writings have their luster in their clear revelation of the bond between true believers and Jesus. Jesus was the Son of God, but also human, in a mystery theologians call the Incarnation.

Truly committed Christians, in faith and baptism, are inseparably bound to Jesus in a shared human nature, but also in the divine life given by believers through Christ. This supernatural bond, the very keystone of personal salvation, requires Christians not only to be of spiritual faithfulness, but to be living, active, and involved. They must not allow themselves to fall into carnal sin.

Instructed as Christian Corinthians in this fact seems for some to be excessive for Paul. However, it should be remembered, Corinth was known near and far as a virtual capital of lewdness and vice.

St. John’s Gospel furnishes the last reading. It is a story about the decision to follow Jesus by Simon, later known as Peter, and Simon’s brother, Andrew. In the story, Jesus intrigues Andrew and Simon. They follow Jesus. Yet, the Lord invites them to be apostles.

They recognize Jesus as Messiah. Jesus calls Peter to a new life, even giving him a new name, Cephas, that is often translated as Peter.

Reflection

The church, in the majesty and glory of its liturgy, in the profound gaze into the reality of Jesus, born in Bethlehem, given by the Magi, or kings, is commemorated by this January feast:

1. A fourth-century St. Martin was a soldier in France. Even while serving as soldier he showed charity in one instance giving a beggar
   a. advice not to ask for money
   b. half of his only cloak
   c. his medals

2. Although Martin Luther is regarded as one of the most significant of the Protestant reformers, he was a member of this Catholic order:
   a. Jesuits
   b. Dominicans
   c. Augustinians

3. The arrival of the Magi or kings is commemorated by this January feast:
   a. St. Janis
   b. Epiphany
   c. Epicles

4. This seventh century saint and pope, Martin I, has this honor, not sought by many.
   a. He was the last pope to be installed with the rite of roggung.
   b. He was the last pope to be allowed out of Rome.
   c. He was the last pope to be considered a martyr.

5. Lutheran Church disciplines vary a lot, but in these two greater Scandinavian countries, the Lutherans retain an episcopacy, ultimately derived from the Catholic Church:
   a. Sweden and Finland
   b. Sweden and the German Democratic Republic.
   c. Norway and Kaliningrad (in Russia).

6. Jesus was mockingly called “the King of the Jews.” What is one name for the board on which this was inscribed, claimed as relic by someone?
   a. The Mandela
   b. The Shroud of El Cajon
   c. The Titulus

7. Pope Martin IV found himself involved in the politics of his day. This reached a low point when he did this to the Byzantine Emperor Michael Palaeologus:
   a. had him executed
   b. excommunicated him
   c. tickled him until he signed a concordat

8. The Catholic Church, after some debate with Martin Luther, excommunicated him. What was the name of the document that enacted this?
   a. Decret Romanum Pontificum
   b. Lex Luther
   c. The 95 Theses

9. This king, denied a divorce by the pope, simply made himself the head of his nation’s Catholic Church:
   a. Henry V of Turkey
   b. Henry VIII of England
   c. Ludwig of Bavaria

10. St. Martin de Porres had to overcome much prejudice to make his way in life. Why?
    a. She was Gertrude Von Schwarz Bord, an ex Catholic school teacher.
    b. He was illegitimate and of mixed race, and his mother was an ex slave.
    c. Waging war against the Spanish

ANSWERS:
1. b, c
2. c
3. a, b
4. c
5. c
6. a
7. c
8. c
9. b
10. b
The church calls us to be pro-life to the root

Forming priests in today’s culture

Now that the initial dust over the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith’s new bishops’ guide on homosexuality and candidacy for the priesthood has settled, three points seem worth underlining.

The first point is one of historical and theological context. On Dec. 8, the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the church marked the 40th anniversary of the conclusion of the Second Vatican Council — a reforming council intended by John XXIII to prepare the church for what would be called later a “springtime of evangelization.” Historically, it must be remembered that every great period of reform in Catholic history has been influenced by the liturgical and theological context.

One could argue that there can be no “reform” of any facet of Catholic life without reference to “formating,” that is, the “form” in question is the priesthood understood as an iconic embodiment of the eternal priesthood of Jesus, the Christ. God’s eternal priesthood, in turn, involves Christ’s spousal relationship with his bride, the church. Those truths of history and theology in mind is essential for reading the recent Instruction from Rome correctly — which is to say, as a reforming document.

The final point is one of cultural context.

Living chastely is no easy business in the sex-saturated culture of the contemporary West. It’s impossible to walk through a mall, turn on your computer or television, or browse through a bookstore without being bombarded by sexual imagery of every imaginable sort. The challenge of living chastely in these circumstances is a tough one for everybody: single, married or celibate, lay or ordained. That is one reason why the appropriate authorizations in the church — pastors, diocesan vocation directors, seminary faculty, seminary rectors, religious superiors, and, above all, bishops — must be as certain as humanly possible of living the demanding vocation of chaste celibate love before he is called to holy orders.

That responsibility cannot be outsourced to psychologists and psychiatrists. Why? Because, in the final analysis, it is a judgment of pastoral prudence, not a clinical judgment. The evaluation of clinicians can be helpful in forming a judgment about a man’s capacity for living chaste celibate love in today’s sexual free-zone but cannot substitute for courageous pastoral prudence.

In the providence of God, the church will need to rely on the final call resting with the local Church. As the Congregation for the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith reminds the new bishops in their guide, “The final call rests with the church’s pastoral authorities.” And as the Long Lent of 2002 made unmistakably clear, it is a responsibility that cannot be shirked.

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B: the identification of Jesus as the Lamb of God. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

Next Day
Walk by
Turned
Teacher
Afternoon
Peter
Messian

John
Lamb of God
Looking for
That day
Andrew
Brother
Anointed

Disciples
Followed
Translated

He walked by
D e d e w o l l f t x
A l a m b o f g o d r e
N j d n u o f u f n a d
D j o k o f r j o h n i
R o f g n i k o o l l s
E n s i m o n p k w l c
W e d e n r u t p i a i
A x p t e a c h e r t p
L t a t h i m f t d e l
K d f h a i s s e m d e
B a y r e h t o r b d s
Y y a d t a t h y p d h

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The CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

George Weigel

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

Scripture Search

By Patricia Kasten

Gospel for January 15, 2006

John 1:35-42

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W e d e n r u t p i a i
A x p t e a c h e r t p
L t a t h i m f t d e l
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A x p t e a c h e r t p
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COMMENTARY

Making Sense of Bioethics

BY FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK

January 15, 2006

‘Imposing our beliefs’ on others

A lot of hot-button topics are being debated in our state legislatures these days, topics of great ethical significance. Among them are things that range from emergency contraception to gay marriage. These debates address important issues for the future of our society. Lawmakers face the responsibility of making laws that should or should not be permitted by law within a reasonable society.

So the question is whether we will impose something on somebody. The question is instead whether whatever is to be imposed by the force of law is reasonable, just and good for society and its members.

The shape of the Eucharistic Prayer

Think back to the time you first learned the alphabet. Think back to how your parents taught you to sing the letters to the tune “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star.” Most children can recite that song even before they were written order by heart. Many adults, confused for a moment over just where “Q” belongs, will find themselves humming the same nursery school song until they place “O” correctly between “P” and “R.”

We know what our ancestors knew. Repetition is the best way to learn. The Scriptures of the Old Testament were spoken, memorized and handed orally, from one generation to the next, long before they were written down. Today, surgeons who perform the same operation day in and day out again have the lowest mortality rates. Psychiatrists who attain professional careers are the ones who practice daily. Scientists speak of such repetitive learning as the cutting and clearing of neural pathways in the brain. It is like a clearing in the forest; the more you walk it, the easier walking becomes. Left alone and untended, the pathway will disappear, overgrown by vines and grasses.

The name is true with prayer. When we first learn a new prayer or hymn, we concentrate on getting the words and rhythms right. Like hikers on an uncharted trail, we have our eyes on the ground, looking for rocks and fallen branches. We’re afraid of tripping up.

Once we learn a prayer or hymn, we’re set free. Most of us don’t need a printed copy of the Hail Mary or the Our Father in order to pray. We can pray those familiar prayers anywhere, under any circumstances. Why? Because we have repeated them over and over again, ever since we were children.

Just as repetition is the friend of learning, so is it the friend of prayer. Once we know a prayer by heart, we can stop focusing on the words and think instead about the object of the words, the glory of God. We can lift our eyes, as Jesus did, in prayer, to “go up on the Lord’s beauty, to visit his temple.”

For some 1,400 years, the Roman Catholic Church prayed one Eucharistic Prayer. It is called the Roman Canon — and it is a “rule” or “standard.” Just as a carpenter will use a rule, or level, as a guide to measure whether a wall is true, so the church uses the canon of the Eucharistic Prayer as a guide for all our prayer, personal and communal.

Since 1970, the Vatican has revised the Roman Canon and has added 13 other Eucharistic Prayers. All of them — except for the Eucharistic Prayer for Masses with Children, which is modeled after the Roman Canon — repeat an ancient pattern of the Eucharistic Prayer, that of offering the gifts of bread and wine. These Eucharistic Prayers differ in their detail, but they all speak of the same thing, the bond that can never be broken.

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuro-science from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is the priest for the diocese of Fall River, Mass. and serves as the director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.
BISHOP LUERS TO HOST EXTREME CHEER CHALLENGE  Bishop Luers High School will host the second annual Extreme Cheer Challenge in the gym on Saturday, Jan. 21. High school, junior high, some grade school and all-star teams from Indiana and Ohio will compete. Competition begins at 10 a.m. The entrance fee is $5 per person. For more information, contact Anita Correll at (260) 465-1261.
Accountability: A life lesson learned in sports

BY JOAN BOBAY

FORT WAYNE — For at least 15 years, or perhaps more, Most Precious Blood has hosted a holiday basketball tournament for grades five and six. This year’s chairperson, Judy Schon, said it is a three-day event held Dec. 26-28 and had 16 teams participating. One of those teams was crowned with St. Jude’s boys and girls teams winning the titles.

Boys

In the championship game, St. Jude-6, coached by Patrick Henline, defeated St. John Fort Wayne-5, and in the consolation game, St. Vincent-6 won over Wayne-5, and in the consolation game, Henline, defeated St. John Fort Wayne-5 in the championship game. It's how a young athlete deals with that moment that will have a direct bearing on an event later in life that ultimately is much more important than the outcome of a high school game. "It was my fault" are four of the most difficult words in the English language. That’s not to say that your child should walk around blaming everything bad that happens to the team or player on himself or herself. But as a parent, you have to be careful. There’s nothing more annoying than a team or player who walks away with a "I don’t blame me" attitude.

As a coach, I try to acknowledge when a player makes a mistake. It sets a good example. It breaks down some of the barriers between the coach and player, and let’s them know that assessing the situation and taking responsibility for a shortcoming rather than blaming others is what accountability is about. When a child decides to play sports, particularly a team sport, he or she assumes a certain amount of responsibility for his or her performance. Certainly by the high school level, a young person playing a team sport must take on the responsibility incumbent of a teammate.

There’s nothing worse than an extremely gifted athlete who gives a poor effort. It reminds me of the parable of the talents.— Mt. 25:14-30. The worker with five talents put them to use and doubled them, much to the joy of his boss. The man with two talents doubled his as well. But the man with one talent buried his, for fear of losing it. When God has given you the ability, to try and jump and sweat and compete, and you have chosen to put those talents to use in a team sport, a certain amount of responsibility and accountability comes with it. Likewise, when an athlete gives his or her all and comes up a bit short, he or she can sleep well that night. You have put your talents to good use. You have been accountable. I would like to win every game that we play, but I know we can’t and won't. There are games that we win when I am upset about the way we performed. There are games that we lose when I’m extremely proud of my players. Ultimately, it’s not about winning and losing as much as it is about being accountable for one’s performance and effort. It’s okay to tell your child that his or her failure in the sports arena is not the end of the world. It’s not okay to dismiss one’s accountability to the team. One day real soon, when teamwork in the workplace is much more important than the outcome of a baseball game, but accountability to one’s fellow worker — a teammate, so to speak — will come in handy.

The better we can differentiate between the two, the better athlete you’ll have. More importantly, the better person and budding adult you have. Ultimately, that’s what is much more important than a notch in the victory column.

Three-day Precious Blood tournament called a success

BY MICHAEL WOJCIC

MORRIS PLAINS, N.J. (CNS) — In many ways, Diesa Seidel, physical education teacher at St. Virgil School in Morris Plains and a former basketball star, is a real “globe-trotter.” And she has years of frequent-flier miles to prove it. Since 1991-92 and the editor of Blue & Gold Illustrated (BGI) from 1983-2002. He currently is the senior writer for BGI, provides Notre Dame coverage for the Indianapolis Star, and serves as the head basketball coach of the Mishawaka Marian Knights.

Service by collecting pledges before running the 26.2-mile New York City Marathon. With a time of 4:17:34, the talented athlete placed in the fastest one-third overall — 12,933 out of 37,300 runners — and in the fastest one-quarter among women.

“The marathon was very challenging. There was a lot of pain involved,” said Seidel, who was sent off to the run by students, faculty and staff with a lively pep rally, complete with cheerleaders. “You don’t know what you can do until you do it,” she said. “I saw the clock at the end of the run and thought ‘Wow, I just ran a marathon!’”

It’s powerful to bring together people of all religions united in one task: to serve others,” she said of her two Religious Youth Service trips. “Through service comes love.”

At St. Virgil’s, Seidel said her goal is to “insist in my kids a love of sports and physical activity so they continue them on their own.”

“Diesa keeps the kids moving around,” said Joyce Middletone, St. Virgil’s principal. “It’s fun to see kids doing push-ups on the front lawn. Diesa wants them to be fit. She is a wonderful role model for the kids, because she’s fit, still plays basketball and ran the New York Marathon. We are proud of her.”

Dwenger doing ‘swimmingly’

FORT WAYNE — At a triangular swim meet between Bishop Dwenger, Bishop Luers and Concordia Lutheran, Dwenger won the boys meet 134-130 over Concordia with Luers third. Dwenger girls won the meet 132-121 over Concordia with Luers third.

James Dwenger was a double winner with victories in the 100 free style and 100 back-stroke. The Saints won the final event, 400 freestyle, with a 1-2 finish. Two Concordia swimmers, Tyler Lemert and Dan Wickensheimer, also were double winners in the boys meet.

The girls produced one double winner. Bridge Water and Emily Prister of Dwenger, in the 200 IM and 100 breast stroke. The latter, coupled with the pulling of the girls winning the final event, the 400 relay, earned the Saints the win for the girls.
“Cache” (Hidden) (Sony Classics)

NEW YORK (CNS) – Superior allegorical French thriller — with political underpinnings — about a television talk show host (Daniel Auteuil) and his wife (Juliette Binoche) who works in publishing who receive ominous drawings and videotapes indicating that they are under surveillance, but by whom is a mystery. Director-writer Michael Haneke eschews melodramatics for understated suspense and psychological tension that builds unnervingly, though the denouement leaves provocatively unanswered questions. Subtitles. Scattered rough and crude language; an instance of profanity; two violent, if dramatically valid, episodes including the beheading of a rooster with blood; a suicide with blood; brief shadowy nudity. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

“Munich” (Universal)

Riveting but morally fuzzy political thriller inspired by real events about a team of Israeli assassins (led by Eric Bana) assigned to hunt down and assassinate 11 Palestinians who supposedly had a hand in the slaughter of Jewish athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics. With its problematic revenge theme, director Steven Spielberg’s well-acted film walks a thin line between condemning violence and exploiting it for titilating effect by wrapping it in the pulse-pounding excitement of an espionage-action movie that belies its stated serious intent. Extremely graphic violence, including shooting and bomb-related gore, front-frontal nudity, two sexual encounters between husband and wife with partial nudity, as well as recurring rough and crude language and profanity. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is L — limited adult content many adults would find objectionable. Suitable for mature audiences. Films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R.
LIFE CHAIN EVENT PLANNED
Goshen — A Life Chain sponsored by Holy Innocents Pro-Life Action Group will be held around the public sidewalks of the Goshen Court House on Saturday, Jan. 21, from 11 a.m. to noon. Placards provided. Family participation encouraged. Contact Karen at (574) 295-8551 for information.

SAUSAGE AND PANCAKE BREAKFAST
Fort Wayne — Most Precious Blood School, 1529 Barthold St., will host a sausage and pancake breakfast on Sunday, Jan. 29, from 9 a.m. to noon. Tickets are $5 adults, $2.50 kids under 10 and $15 per family. Contact Kelly Shanks at (260) 466-5941 for information.

32nd ANNUAL MARCH FOR LIFE
January 28, 2006 Noon at Scottish Rite (DOWNTOWN FORT WAYNE)
No Admission Charge

Keynote Speaker
Dr. Alveda King
Director of African American Outreach Priests for Life

A Silent No More event will immediately follow the March at the Federal Building.

The National Silent No More Awareness campaign is an effort to make the public aware of the devastation abortion brings to women, men, and their families. The emotional and physical pain of abortion will no longer be shrouded in secrecy and silence, but rather exposed and healed. This effort is a key to make abortion unthinkable and persuade society that women deserve better than abortion. For more information about Silent No More visit their website at www.silentnomoreawareness.org.

FOR LIFE

Silent No More event will immediately follow the March at the Federal Building.

SOUTH BEND
Dorothy V. Zielsinski, 87, St. Stanislaus
Daniel A. Jaworski, 73, Corpus Christi
Anne M. Balint, 70, St. Jude
Robert E. Jeske, 83, St. Stanislaus

MEMORIAL SERVICES

REST IN PEACE

For more information, call the Allen County Rite to Life office at (260) 471-1849 or visit www.chooselife.org

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Mass for Life
Sunday, January 22, 2006

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne
The Reverend Robert Schulte, Main Celebrant
Mass at 5:00 p.m. • Benediction - 7:00 p.m.

Cathedral of St. Matthew, South Bend
The Most Reverend John M. D’Arcy, Main Celebrant
Mass at 5:30 p.m. • Benediction - 7:30 p.m.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
(immediately following Mass)

The Mass will mark the 33rd anniversary of the Supreme Court decision of Roe v. Wade which legalized abortion in our country. Please come and pray for a renewed respect for human life in our nation.

Sponsored by the Office of Family Life