In first encyclical, pope calls for deeper understanding of love

BY JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In his first encyclical, Pope Benedict XVI called for a deeper understanding of love as a gift from God to be shared in a self-sacrificial way, both at a personal and social level.

The pope said love between couples, often reduced today to selfish sexual pleasure, needs to be purified to include “concern and care for the other.”

Love is also charity, he said, and the church has an obligation to help the needy wherever they are found — but its primary motives must always be spiritual, never political or ideological.

The nearly 16,000-word encyclical, titled “Deus Caritas Est” (“God Is Love”), was issued Jan. 25 in seven languages. Addressed to all Catholics, it was divided into two sections, one on the meaning of love in salvation history, the other on the practice of love by the church.

The pope said his aim was to “speak of the love which God lavishes upon us and which we in return must share with others.” The two aspects, personal love and the practice of charity, are profoundly interconnected, he said.

The encyclical begins with a phrase from the First Letter of John: “God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.” The pope said the line expresses the heart of the Christian faith.

Love, page 5

A homeless woman begs on a street in Seattle. In his first encyclical, Pope Benedict XVI said that in a community of believers there is no room for poverty “that denies anyone what is needed for a dignified life.” The papal letter, “Deus Caritas Est” (“God Is Love”), was released at the Vatican Jan. 25.

Diocese celebrates 36 Light of Learning recipients

Bishop D’Arcy announces retirement of superintendent

BY SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

During National Catholic Schools week, 36 educators from South Bend and Fort Wayne were honored with Light of Learning awards at luncheons sponsored by Quality Dining and Our Sunday Visitor.

At the luncheon, Bishop John M. D’Arcy announced Catholic Schools Superintendent Michelle Hittie will be retiring at the end of the school year. Her final day will be June 30. Bishop commended Hittie for her five years of service as superintendent and devoted years as a school principal for 11 years and teacher for nine years and said, “We are going to miss her.”

Hittie told Today’s Catholic that she still wants to be involved in the diocese. She is looking for work that has “less pressure,” and “something that I enjoy.”

The master of ceremonies for the South Bend occasion was Jeff Jeffers, sports director at WNDU-TV in South Bend. In gratitude for his own Catholic Education and that of his children, he has served in this role for 10 years. The master of ceremonies for the Fort Wayne gathering was Jim Fitzpatrick.

Michelle Hittie, superintendent of schools for the diocese, spoke on this year’s theme: “Character, Compassion and Values” and the impact Catholic education has on the community. She said that Catholic schools develop character by teaching students to serve others.

“Doing for others helps us to develop the character we want for our students,” she said. The pope said the line expresses the heart of the Christian faith.

Love, page 5

The pro-life march in downtown Fort Wayne to the Federal Building attracted one of its largest crowds in its 32-year history. Armed with their pro-life banner, students from the Saints for Life group pass near the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Testimonials from The Silent No More contingency shared the hurt and then the healing of their abortion decisions.
Encyclical provides reflection on a central theme of Scripture

A time to read

While my schedule makes it difficult to find enough time to read, I always find it enriching and strengthening when I do so. During these weeks when there are no confirmations and evening events, I try to read after supper. Also, there are no baseball games on television for distraction.

What I have read in the past week to read the two documents by Pope Benedict XVI. The first, which could easily be missed, was the talk he gave around Christmas to members of the curia; his collaborators, those who work closely with him in Rome in the different offices. He spoke about the year just completed in a style that was warm, friendly, quite pastoral and easy to understand even though the thoughts are profound.

Foremost was the death of Pope John Paul II and of the suffering of this man who had spoken and preached all over the world. This “artist of the word,” as I heard Cardinal Casaroli refer to him in his first visit to this country in 1979, was now silent and he could only bless in silence from his window on Palm Sunday and even Easter Sunday. Pope Benedict reflected on World Youth Day in Cologne where he said there were one million young people and the pope had nothing to do but help keep things organized. This event in Cologne, along with the Rhine River and in neighboring towns touched Pope Benedict deeply.

He spoke about the Eucharist and the recent synod, which was a time of faith. He gave a two-week reflection on eucharistic adoration and how it had grown up in recent years among the people themselves. He indicated that it was a sound and beautiful development of our faith. He even quoted St. Augustine, the great Latin Father of the Church, in support of eucharistic adoration.

“...it is moving for me to see how everywhere in the church the ‘jubly of eucharistic adoration is revakening and being fruitful. In the period of liturgical reform, the Church was shut out from this experience which is both a liturgical and a spiritual need. I find that the graces of the sacrament, the graces of God tell us himself, and also about our relationship with God. The pope takes us through the various understandings of love, with much reflection on the love between a man and woman, and does it all with great understanding of the difficulties modern men and women have in believing in a God who is filled with love and is always bending toward human beings."

"Man cannot live by obiative love alone. He cannot always give, he must also receive anyone who wishes to give love, must also receive love as a gift. Certainly as the Lord tells us, we can become a source from which living waters flow, yet to become such a source, one must constantly drink anew from the original source which is Jesus Christ, from whose pierced heart flows the love of God."

“The second part, which I am only beginning to read, reflects in a practical way on the ancient church practice of giving to those in need. I would think it would be very helpful for parish leaders to reflect on this second part, and also those involved in the various works in our dioceses, such as Catholic Charities, the Christ Child Society, women’s Care Centers, Matthew 25, the Chapin Street Clinic, The Franciscan Center, St. Vincent de Paul and all those who do such wonderful work so they may have a more central this work always been in the Catholic Church. They will see more clearly the reason why such work must be continued and expanded.”

The new pope will be a teacher.

Remember, he was a priest or theologian of the council, one of the few bishops now remaining who was present at every session. He was the theologian of the legendary Cardinal Frings. The Holy Father reflected on a theme that is found often in his writings; namely, the correct and incorrect interpretation of the Second Vatican Council.

BISHOP JOHN M. D’ARCY

A typical weekend

I offered an early Mass on Saturday and then arrived at the Scottish Rite Center in Fort Wayne at noon to say the opening prayer before a packed house of more than 1,000 people at a Rally for Life. Then I marched with them to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. I made a brief stopover at our new Archbishop Noll Catholic Center to greet a large number of catechists and others in our diocese where, under the sponsorship of Sister Jane Carew and our wonderful Office of Catechesis, they were attending the first of three weekends at which they will receive instruction on the “Theology of the Body” of Pope John Paul II, given by a professor of philosophy at Notre Dame.

I was up early on Sunday morning to celebrate the television Mass, comment on the beginning of Catholic Schools Week, and, after a break, to prepare and do some paperwork. Then, off to St. Patrick Parish to celebrate Mass with our Vietnamese community. No, I cannot speak or preach in that Asian language, but it was important that I be with these people who are taken care of so beautifully by Father Chau Pham, SVD. It was their celebration of the Lunar New Year.

A significant anniversary

On Feb. 2, I will celebrate 49 years as a priest. To put it in another way, I begin my 50th year as a priest. I recall so well that wintry day with a light snow falling and my dear parents and sisters. There were 52 of us ordained for the Archdiocese of Boston, 78 in our class. History has shown that there probably were some who should not have been there. That, of course, is with perspective of the years.

I celebrated Mass that day in our Cathedral Chapel and then I had a little cake with some of my 50 Masses. Meanwhile, I hope to get some time this week to think, pray and give thanks to Jesus Christ our savior, the high priest, for this enormous gift. In the seminary, we were always told that the graces of the sacrament, the graces received from the laying on of hands, would be sufficient for us. Indeed, more than sufficient. How grateful we were to be priests. How can I ever possibly thank God for the life and graces of these 49 years? I have never had an unhappy day as a priest. Demanding days and challenging moments of course. Who of us would have wanted to be priests if we did not think that Christ was going to ask a great deal of us. The priesthood is a great adventure. It takes men who are not afraid of adventure. It is a life of love. Officium Amoris, as Pope John Paul II called it. It is a life of drawing attention to oneself, but to Christ. I love it more and am more grateful for it now than at any other time. These past 21 years here have been central to it. On Feb. 3, I began my 50th year as a priest. Deo Gratia.

See you next week.
The “Queer Film Festival” has taken place on the Notre Dame campus for the past two years. Father Jenkins said that to the nonacademic observer, the title of the event “seems to celebrate homosexual activity.”

Throughout his talks, Father Jenkins referred to the “sacred value” of academic freedom, saying it is “essential” to a university. “It ensures that faculty have the ability to research, create, teach and express themselves in accord with their own best judgment. Appropriately applied to students, it ensures that they have the opportunity to inquire, express opinions, explore ideas and engage in discussion,” Father Jenkins said.

However, freedom of expression does not have “absolute priority in every circumstance,” Jenkins continued. “While any restriction on expression must be reluctant and restrained, I believe that, in some situations, given the distinctive character and aspirations of Notre Dame, it may be necessary to establish certain boundaries, while defending the appropriate exercise of academic freedom.”

Father Jenkins promised to consider all the input he receives and take it into consideration in formulating principles that will guide decisions about the two events he focused on, as well as future events. Notre Dame has set up special e-mail addresses for faculty, student and alumni response. The complete text of Father Jenkins’s address is at http://president.nd.edu under “Academic Freedom and Catholic Character.”

The decision to confine the “Vagina Monologues” to a classroom setting at Notre Dame is similar to a decision announced earlier in January by Dominican Father Brian J. Shanley, the new president of Providence College in Providence, R.I. Other Catholic colleges, including Portland College of Human Development, have consistently won awards from the Catholic Press Association for general excellence, competing with papers from much larger markets. The goal of Today’s Catholic is to educate and evangelize. In keeping with this, readers will find new and exciting features for 2006. Operating an effective, financially efficient diocesan newspaper is a challenge, Jenkins said. I ask you, our faithful readers, to help us.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. John M. D’Arcy
Bishop of Notre Dame

Collection moneys reported for 2004-2005

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Feb. 5 is Renewal Sunday

Dear Readers of Today’s Catholic,

The time has come for renewal of subscriptions to Today’s Catholic. I thank all of you who subscribe to this excellent newspaper and read it every week. We are bombarded by 24-hour news coverage, reporting, for the most part, on the dark side of human nature. This newspaper brings us the light, hope, which comes from living in the presence of Christ, our redeemer.

Today’s Catholic has consistently won awards from the Catholic Press Association for general excellence, competing with papers from much larger markets. The goal of Today’s Catholic is to educate and evangelize. In keeping with this, readers will find new and exciting features for 2006. Operating an effective, financially efficient diocesan newspaper is a challenge, Jenkins said. I ask you, our faithful readers, to help us.

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SOUNDS OF THUNDER MARCH ON TO THE PRO-LIFE CAUSE

Dr. Alveda King speaks at the Allen County Right to Life rally and march

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Dr. Alveda King speaks at the Allen County Right to Life rally and march.

“People say, ‘Keep on. We are not giving up,’” King said, and gave her speech. “You need to hear the voice of life issues “know that you are with me.”

King went to the doctor, without even asking, the doctor told King, “You don’t want another baby.” The doctor made the decision for me, King said, and gave an involuntary D-and-C.

“My personality changed right away,” she said. “I became argumentative, combative, not feeling free.”

In conclusion, Quality Dining sent a letter to Bishop D’Arcy, who started the Guardian Angel Society that raises money by asking people to contribute $1,000 to help pay the tuition for a student in an inner city school. They have raised over a million dollars, mostly from older people whose children went through Catholic schools.

The goal of the Dotterweichs is “to fill our Catholic inner city schools.” It is their belief that we help the world community by educating students in these neighborhoods. “I think these Catholic inner city schools are the front lines for evangelization for the Catholic Church,” said Bill Dotterweich.

BIL DOTTERWEICH

Light of Learning recipients from the South Bend area pose with Catholic Schools Office administration and Bishop John M. D’Arcy at the Century Center in South Bend on Jan. 23.

DAN LEUMER

“WE WILL BE MARCHING FOR FREEDOM AND THE LIVES OF THE UNBORN WHO ARE LIKE A SLAVE IN THE WOMB OF THEIR MOTHER.”

— ALVEDA KING

“Why have we organized?” Bishop D’Arcy, who also attended the rally and march, asked.

“I think these inner city schools are the front lines for evangelization for the Catholic Church.”

BILL DOTTERWEICH

who received an award last year for their Freedom 22 Foundation that helps parents in difficult situations to pay tuition and to be involved in their children’s education.

This year’s special award was given to Bill and Peggy Dotterweich, friends of Bishop D’Arcy, who started the Guardian Angel Society that raises money by asking people to contribute $1,000 to help pay the tuition for a student in an inner city school. They have raised over a million dollars, mostly from older people whose children went through Catholic schools.

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DAN LEUMER
LOVE
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

which understands the creator as a loving God and which respects Christ’s death as the ultimate sign of God’s love for man.

In today’s world, however, the term “love” is frequently used and misunderstood, he said. Most commonly, it is understood as representing “eros,” the erotic love between a man and a woman. The church, from its earliest days, has taught that eros leads a man and woman to a bond that is exclusive, and exploited at will,” he said.

Materialistic society has turned “eros” into a commodity. This is hardly man’s thing to be bought and sold, or even the person whom I do not like or even know."

At times, the pope said, the church, with all its commandments and prohibitions, has been accused of poisoning eros or of being ready to “blow the whistle” just when the joy of erotic love presented itself.

But in modern society, he said, it has become clear that eros itself has been exalted and the human body debased.

Eros, reduced to pure ‘sex,’ has become a commodity, a mere ‘thing’ to be bought and sold, or rather, man himself becomes a commodity. This is hardly man’s great ‘yes’ to the body. On the contrary, he now considers his body and his sexuality as the purely material part of himself, to be used and exploited at will,” he said.

Properly understood, he said, eros can be to man and woman a marriage, a bond that is exclusive, and therefore monogamous, as well as permanent.

While it is true that the happiness of eros can give people a “foretaste of the divine,” eros needs to be disciplined and purified if it is to provide more than fleeting pleasure, the pope said.

The solution is to rediscover a balance between the ecstasy of eros and the unselfish love of agape, he said.

The key to regaining this balance, he said, lies in a personal relationship with God and an understanding of the sacrificial love of Jesus Christ. He said Christ gives the ultimate lesson in “love of neighbor,” which means: “I love even the person whom I do not like or even know.”

The pope said there was an essential interplay between love of God and love of neighbor.

“If I have no contact whatsoever with God in my life, then I cannot love anything more than the other, and I am incapable of seeing in him the image of God,” he said.

“But if in my life I fail completely to heed others, solely out of a desire to be ‘devout’ and to perform my ‘religious duties,’ then my relationship with God will also grow arid,” he said.

The second half of the encyclical makes two main points:

• As a community, the church must practice love through works of charity and attend to people’s sufferings and needs, including material needs.

• The church’s action stems from its spiritual mission and must never be undertaken as part of a political or ideological agenda.

The pope said there was a connection between the commitment to justice and the ministry of charity, but also important distinctions. Building a just social and civil order is an essential political task to which the church contributes through its social doctrine, but it cannot be the church’s immediate responsibility,” he said.

“A just society must be the achievement of politics, not of the church,” he added.

“The church cannot and must not take upon herself the political battle to bring about the most just society possible. She cannot and must not replace the state,” the pope said.

Yet at the same time she cannot and must not remain on the sidelines in the fight for justice,” he said. The church’s role is to make the rational arguments for justice and awaken the spiritual energy needed for the sacrifices that justice requires, he said.

“Christian charitable activity must be independent of parties and ideologies. It is not a means of changing the world ideologically, and it is not at the service of worldly stratagems, but it is a way of making present here and now the love which man always needs,” he said.

The pope examined and rejected the Marxist arguments that the poor “do not need charity but justice,” and that charity is merely a means of preserving a status quo of economic injustice. He said the church must help the needy wherever they are found, and he cited Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta as an example of love in action.

Speaking to a writer for the Baltimore Sun, Cunningham also remarked on what Pope Benedict left out. “Now this would have been a perfect time for him to launch into a huge diatribe against the moral relativism and pornography and so on,” he said. “He doesn’t do that. He sticks pretty much to what he wants to say.”

But this does not mean that charitable activity must somehow leave God and Christ aside,” he said. Without proposing specific guidelines, he added: “A Christian knows when it is time to speak of God and when it is better to say nothing and to let love speak alone.”

The pope said that prayer should not be forgotten as the church tries to alleviate the immense needs around the world.

“People who pray are not wasting their time, even though the situation appears desperate and seems to call for action alone. Prayer does not undermine the struggle against the poverty of our neighbors, however extreme,” he said.

Notre Dame scholars assess Pope Benedict XVI’s first encyclical, ‘Deus Caritas Est’

BY MICHAEL Q. GARVEY

Notre Dame — Pope Benedict XVI’s first encyclical, “Deus Caritas Est” (“God Is Love”), was issued Jan. 25 in seven languages. A 16,000-word teaching letter addressed to all Catholics, the encyclical has been panned by the more liberal Catholics, the encyclical has been praised by the more conservative Catholics, the encyclical has been praised by the more conservative Catholics, the encyclical has been praised by the more conservative

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CNS PHOTO FROM L’OSSERVATORE ROMANO

Pope Benedict XVI signs his first encyclical, “Deus Caritas Est” (“God Is Love”), in his private library at the Vatican Jan. 23. The pope said his aim in the encyclical is to “speak of the love which God lavishes upon us and which we in return must share with others,” Archbishop Leonardo Sandri, assistant papal secretay of state, is at right in this photo.

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Provena Health, a Catholic health system, builds communities of healing and hope by compassionately responding to human need in the spirit of Jesus Christ.
St. Mary Church celebrates Black History Month

FORT WAYNE — The St. Martin de Porres Society of St. Mary Church, located on Fort Wayne will celebrate February, Black History Month, with a series of special events.

Celebrations planned include the following:
• On the Sundays of February, a display highlighting items of significance in black history will be located in the gathering area of the church.
• Sunday, Feb. 5, following 10:45 morning Mass, there will be coffee, snacks and conversation centered around current issues facing the minority community.
• Saturday, Feb. 11, beginning at 9 a.m. in the Arts Hall, there will be a day of reflection with guest speaker Richard Pierce Jr., a University of Notre Dame associate professor of history and chair of the Department of African Studies. The reflection will include a film, speaker and discussion. Lunch will be provided, followed by a prayer service. Peregistration is required for this event. Contact the parish office at (260) 424-8231.
• Sunday, Feb. 19, following the 10:45 morning Mass, there will be coffee, snacks and the Fort Wayne Dance Collective featuring the Jenbe Dancers who will present authentic African dance including tribal dress and instruments.
• Saturday, Feb. 25, the special event will be a museum tour of Fort Wayne’s African American Historical Museum. Meet at St. Mary at 1 p.m. The cost will be $3 for adults and $2 for children. Reservations are required by calling the parish office at (260) 424-8231 or contacting Thelma Schulte, Jane Wick or Dottie Carpenter.

Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home hosts Bereavement Education Series

FORT WAYNE — Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home is a community-based home is a community-based agency that provides end-of-life care for the patient and support for the family.

For more information, please contact Michael Handlin or Lili Carroll at Visiting Nurse and Hospice at (260) 435-3222 or e-mail michaelhandlin@vnhh.org.

Catholic high schools hold annual jubilee

SOUTH BEND — The two South Bend area Catholic high schools, Saint Joseph’s and Marian High School, will hold their 117th annual fund-raising jubilee on Saturday, March 11, at Marian High School.

In the more than two decades of the jubilee, a total of 1.5 million has been raised for the two institutions.

“This amount has helped maintain the high quality of education for our children,” said the co-chairpersons Mo Miller and Jamie Reese, both of Marian, and Jean James and Kate Demorais, both of Saint Joseph’s.

A major part of the jubilee, titled the Orient Express, is the raffle and an opportunity to win $10,000. In the past, hundreds of parents have demonstrated their commitment to the mission of the schools through the purchase of these tickets.

This year, we are limiting raffle tickets sales to 1,000,” they said.

In addition to the grand prize of $10,000, there are five prizes of $500 each. — EJD

St. Vincent de Paul Society plans centennial observance

SOUTH BEND — The St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Joseph County will commemorate its 106th year of service to the underprivileged and poor with a series of programs also designed to raise funds for its continued operation.

The programs planned for observance include the film, “Jesus Christ, Superstar,” during Easter week and a civic luncheon tentatively planned before a Notre Dame home football game in September.

The society in St. Joseph County was actually established in October 1904 in St. Patrick Parish in South Bend.

A group of officers of the Santa Maria Council 553, Knights of Columbus, actually helped plan and form the organization to assist with in the area and also help care for their children.

Scw Wendleiter is the current executive director of the society, which also includes 20 parish conferences in the South Bend area. — EJD

Sne Numer Museum of Art features exhibitions

NOTRE DAME — The Snite Museum of Art is currently hosting several exhibitions, most of which opened in January and will run through the middle of March. Running through March 12 are “American Twentieth-Century Watercolors” at the Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute, “The Cameras of Gerard de Nerval: Thirteen Monotypes by Doug Kinsey,” and “Big Shots: Large Format Photographs from the Permanent Collection.”

Running through March 19 is “The Genesis of Monumental Architecture in Greece: The Corinth Project.” Running through March 26 is “Memoria: Roman Funerary Monuments” from the Speed Art Museum through June 25 is “Dietrich Klinge: Figurative Sculptures.”

Opening April 9 and running through May 21 will be the “Annual Student Exhibition — BPA and MFA Thesis Candidates.”

St. Margaret’s House

Winter Walk raises money to help women

SOUTH BEND — Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center is a lead sponsor for St. Margaret’s House upcoming Winter Walk 2006. The 1/12 mile walk will be held this year on Sunday, Feb. 12, beginning at 2:30 p.m. with a 1:30 p.m. on-site registration. Those wishing to pre-register can do so by calling (574) 234-9467 or e-mail bmasterson@crowechizek.com by Feb. 15.

Those interested in the Lourdes pilgrimage can obtain a formal application form by calling (574) 243-9356 or visiting the Lourdes Charity Committee, 22411 Applewood Ln., South Bend, IN 46628. Applicants should submit their requests in spring or early summer. The pilgrimage generally takes place in October.

A medical diagnosis of a serious condition is required, and the applicant must be able to make the journey to Europe. Funds can be made by calling (574) 243-9467 or e-mail michaelhandlin@vnhh.org.

While the church celebrates the Christmas season through the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, the parishioners of St. Joseph Parish in Bluffton held their first annual Three Kings Brunch to mark the solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, Jan. 8. The new Parish Social Committee organized the event. About 200 people, including adults and children, kept Christmas alive into early January for the celebration.

Parents” presented by Michael Handlin and Bonnie Knuth

Nov. 18 — “When You are Grieving During Special Days and Holidays” by Jeanne Sporre

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ability to remain level-headed in any situation made him a great asset to our leadership team. We will miss him.”

During his tenure at Saint Mary’s, White created the Center for Academic Innovation and helped to establish the Center for Women’s InterCultural Leadership, funded by Lilly Endowment Inc. He also created the SISTAR and COSTAR programs, which supported collaborative research between students and faculty as well as among faculty members themselves.

In addition to his role as Saint Mary’s vice president and dean of faculty since 2002, White also served as associate dean of faculty from 1998 to 2002. He has been a professor of English at Saint Mary’s since 1988 as well.

White earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Chicago, and received his master’s and doctorate in English and American literature from the University of Iowa.

“I love Saint Mary’s College. Saint Mary’s and its students will always have a special place in my heart,” says White. “But it’s also exciting and challenging to move from one great college to be a part of another.” White’s two daughters, Molly and Katie, are juniors at Saint Mary’s.

Wabash College, with an enrollment of 871 students, is one of three men’s colleges remaining in the United States.

President Mooney hopes to have someone in place by the time White leaves.

**My Friend Magazine holds poetry contest**

*My Friend — The Catholic Magazine for Kids* announces their annual poetry contest. In the February 2006 issue, the editor invites children to create a poem on their favorite saint.

“We’re asking kids to take the inspiration from a favorite saint and put it into poetry,” says Sister Maria Grace Dateno, FSP, a Daughter of St. Paul and the editor of *My Friend*. “I love reading the poems our readers send in. I’m really looking forward to seeing what they do with this contest.”

Children ages 7 to 13 may enter the contest. They do not need to be subscribers to *My Friend* magazine. All contest information is available at www.myfriend-magazine.org. The deadline to enter is March 31, and the poems can be no longer than 20 lines long.

With this contest, *My Friend* hopes to encourage young people to take saints as role models and to reflect on the difficulties and weaknesses they had to overcome in their struggle to live according to the Gospel.

**My Friend — The Catholic Magazine for Kids** is a 32-page monthly magazine (September to June) for children ages 7 to 12. *My Friend* helps kids bring faith and friendship with Jesus into all aspects of their everyday lives, and is a wonderful resource for classrooms and home schools. For more information, contact Sister Maria Grace Dateno, FSP, at (617) 522-8911 ext. 4470 or e-mail mgdateno@paulinemedia.com.

**Saint Mary’s vice president to attend campus housing summit**

NOTRE DAME — A group of campus housing experts from across the country will convene in Chicago next month to begin designing the college and university residence halls of the future. Saint Mary’s College Vice President for Finance and Administration Laurie Stuckelmer is one of the invited participants to the 21st Century Project summit, held Feb. 5-8.

The 21st Century Project is a multi-phase program that will culminate in the construction of a state-of-the-art residential facility. The Association of College and University Housing Officers-International (ACUHO-I) and its member organizations are sponsoring the development of this prototype.

Federal agencies such as the Department of Energy, Department of Education, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development will also be recruited to participate at various stages in the process.

“This is not simply a group of people brainstorming a wish list of ideas,” says Sallye Traxler, ACUHO-I executive director. “When the project is complete, there will be tangible evidence of our work and we fully expect it to serve as a model for the college residence halls to be built around the world for the next generation.”

**Moorman to perform at Sacred Heart Church**

WARSAW — Unique Valentine Experience presents Joseph C. Moorman, “Songs of Praise and Devotion,” a benefit concert for the Crusades Youth Group, on Sunday, Feb. 12, at 2 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church in Warsaw.

Moorman has been performing professionally since 1985, doing concerts, light opera and musical theater throughout the world.

As part of the concert, Catholic musical gifts will be purchased as a tribute to a loved one, living or deceased. A short tribute will be read by Joseph Moorman before each song is sung. The song list includes Schubert’s “Ave Maria,” “Shepherd Me O Lord,” “Be Not Afraid,” “You Raise Me Up,” “Tis Maria, Nazi Radost,” “The Lord’s Prayer,” “St. Joseph’s Lullaby,” “How Great Thou Art,” “Via Dolorosa,” “We Remember,” “You Are Mine,” “Thou Will Keep In Perfect Peace,” “The Virgin’s Snumber Song,” “Pange, Lingua” (chant), “Ave Maria,” “Pater Noster,” “Sanctus,” “Mater Dei” and “Christ Be our Light.” To reserve a song, contact Jane Seryov at (574) 269-7588.

A free will offering will be taken up during the performance, and many items will be raffled during intermission. Proceeds from the event will help offset the costs for teens to attend the High School Youth Conference at Franciscan University of Steubenville and the Young Church Leadership Institute this summer.

**MARCH CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4**

you’re right. Except, I got a pardon from the greatest king and the greatest judge whom ever will be,... And because of Jesus Christ, I am forgiven.”

There are “survivors” — any child born after 1973 — and the “overcomers,” King related.

“Because of that, the overcomers, like me, who have overcome the tricks of the devil, ... have lived to tell the truth of it. We are here today — that’s why we are marching... And (God) promised that if we come back to him, he will lead us, and we will be cleansed and healed.”

Last year, when King felt disheartened about the death of Terri Schiavo and the Supreme Court did not overturn Roe v. Wade, she turned to God in prayer. She said, “God moved on my spirit and he said, ‘The hearts of the people of the world must be changed. We have to take the long road home.’

“He didn’t say ‘no,’” King said. “It’s gonna happen. It’s gonna happen soon.” She said the large number of young people under 30 at the rally offered encouragement.

King said that faith-works by love will change hearts. “So when we see those young girls going into the clinic, it can’t be ‘Oh, look at those wicked girls going into the clinic,’” she said. “It is wicked, and they shouldn’t kill the baby if it happens. But it should be, ‘Look at those precious little girls who need the truth. How can we teach them in prayer?’”

“Stand there with your pride, with your compassion, and your love,” she said. “Let them know that if they need you to be with them through that nine-month period, and even after, your prayers are going to be there, your support. Let them know how precious life is.”

Importantly, life is precious, life is sweet, and as you march today, know that God goes with you, love goes with you. God goes with you and truly ‘We shall overcome,’” King said.

**KNIGHTS PARTICIPATE IN ANNUAL MARCH**

The St. Aloysius Knights of Columbus council have made the pro-life march, sponsored by the Allen County Right to Life, an annual tradition for their council. The 4th Degree Assembly of the Knights’ color guard from Fort Wayne have also made it their tradition to lead the march from the Scottish Rite Auditorium to the Federal Building.
Survey results published by National Association of Pastoral Musicians

By Brigid Curtis Ayer

Indianapolis — Immigrants living and working in Indiana may face additional hardships if House Bill 1383, an immigration bill moving through the Indiana General Assembly, becomes law. The bill, authored by State Representative Eric Turner (R-Marion), would force undocumented immigrants from receiving public assistance, benefits for publicly funded health care, or health care services from publicly funded hospitals or health facilities. Schools would be required to verify a student’s immigration status before admitting them to and denying school admission to those children who were not American citizens. The bill also makes immigration for a Class C felony punishable by a prison term of two to eight years.

“We should not reward illegal behavior by providing public assistance to illegal aliens,” said Rep. Turner. “Providing public service benefits to illegal aliens is simply endorsing illegal behavior.”

The Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC), the church’s official representative in the state legislature, testified in opposition to the bill during a Jan. 24, hearing before the House Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security. “This bill would make it unfair and unreasonable to educate citizens, as I have for 12-1/2 years, to know who is in my house,” said Rep. Turner. “As a Catholic priest, I do not have children. However, I wish to speak on behalf of children. Anyone who is in the state with undocumented immigrants, as I have for 12-1/2 years, knows that the doctor of the poor is to care for the poor. Poor people cannot afford a family physician,” said Father Tom Fox. “So according to this bill, parents must wait till their child gets sick and sicker until they are in danger of death. Then you would finally allow them to be cared for.”

Debbie Schmidt, executive director of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, said that the impact this legislation would have upon Catholic Charities would likely result in “more requests for assistance and would impact the community as a whole.”

The demands for financial assistance have already increased drastically over the last two years due to rising fuel and utility costs.

Bob Morr, one of the vice presidents for the Indiana Hospitals and Health Association said, “We see no reasonable merit in HB 1383 from a health care perspective. The general language of the bill suggests that health care providers would have the additional role of running immigration checks. This is an exceedingly unreasonable burden to have to screen a person for their legal status prior to provision of services.”

Benedictine Sister Karen Durlait, of the Guadalupe Center in Huntington, a ministry of the Evansville Diocese serving the Hispanic community said, “My biggest concern is that police will be asked to act as immigration agents. The Guadalupe Center sponsors meetings with the Hispanic community and the police so that they get to know each other and so the Hispanic community knows that the police are here to help them,” said Sister Durlait. “If this bill passes, what will happen in situations where the police are needed? Who will answer an undocumented person turn to for help?”

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, 15 states are currently working on legislation to address undocumented immigrants including Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Maryland, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia.

House Bill 1310, the driving privilege bills to grant undocumented immigrants a driving certificate which the ICC supported, died in the House Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security by a six to six tie vote and is unlikely to be reconsidered this year. House Bill 1383 now moves to the House floor for further consideration. Bills must pass their house of origin by Feb. 3, to be eligible for passage this year.

Silver Springs, Md. — A wide variety of liturgical songs has fostered and nourished the faith life of American Catholics, according to the results of a survey by the National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM). The online survey was conducted this past fall and drew responses from music directors, clergy, choir members, students and ordinary parishioners. Survey results are published in NPM’s Pastoral Musicians’ Magazine, 2006 issue of Pastoral Music, the association’s bimonthly journal.

“A surprising finding of this survey — and perhaps the most important one — was the lack of any clearly dominant choice among the 25 songs written after 1965, including ‘On Eagle’s Wings,’ ‘Here I Am, Lord,’ and ‘Be Not Afraid.’ About a quarter of the top 25 songs were traditional Catholic hymns that predate the Second Vatican Council, including ‘Holy God, We Praise Thy Name,’ ‘Ave Maria,’ and ‘Pais Angelicus.’ A number of participants identified hymns from Protestant and Evangelical sources, including ‘How Great Thou Art’ and ‘Amazing Grace.’

Many respondents related their choice to an important celebration — the funeral of a loved one or friend, the baptism of a child, a wedding or a religious profession. Funeral celebrations were by far the most commonly cited occasions on which a particular song made a lasting effect. A large number of participants chose songs that they recalled from childhood and that have continued to evoke and express a connection to faith and to the church.

The following are the top 25 songs identified by respondents to the NPM survey as making a difference in their own lives of faith. Numbers in parentheses reflect the number of responses:

1. On Eagle’s Wings (242)
2. Here I Am, Lord (132)
3. Be Not Afraid (146)
4. You Are Mine (138)
5. How Great Thou Art (76)
6. Holy God, We Praise Thy Name (70)
7. Amazing Grace (69)
8. All Are Welcome (58)
9. Praise Ye St. Francis (43)
10. Ave Maria (42)
11. We Are Called (38)
12. Let There Be Peace on Earth (36)
13. I Am the Bread of Life (30)
14. The Summons (30)
15. Pais Angelicus (29)
16. The Servant Song — Gilland (29)
17. Pescador de Hombres (28)
18. Servant Song — McCargill (28)
19. Shepherd Me, O God (27)
20. Ave Verum Corpus (26)
21. Lord of the Dance (24)
22. Our Father (24)
23. Testa Egro (24)
24. Pange Lingua (23)

Father Tom Shoemaker, pastor of St. Jude Parish in Fort Wayne, appears in an eagle costume as stew. Sunderland Band plays “On Eagles Wings” during a spirit rally Jan. 30. The school-wide rally hosted the recommissioning of the “St. Jude School Song,” written in the 1940’s. Long forgotten, a staff member found the song in an old file, and it was determined to be a start to renewing St. Jude school history, according to assistant principal Betty Buckle. Principal Sister Kathleen Marie Knueven, SND, says the revival of the school song is a “revival of Catholic education and the spirit of St. Jude.”
God, grant me serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time, enjoying the moment at a time, accepting hardship as a pathway to peace, taking as Jesus did, the sinful world as it is, not as I would have it, trusting that you will make all things right if I surrender to your will, so that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with you forever in the next. Amen

— Serenity Prayer

Scripture: Ps 16

Commentary

Within each of us there seems to be a built-in human scale that occasionally gets out of balance. During the cold days of winter after the excitement of the holidays, it seems that often our bodies, minds and hearts go into “hibernation mode.” We find that our energy is directed to the future. “Hope for brighter, warmer, more life-giving days. With confidence in God as the creator and designer of all times and seasons, we know that we are not forgotten during winter’s long, dark days. Even if we are spiritually fatigued or wearied by life’s struggles, we steadily know the Lord will provide the supernatural sunshine of hope to enlighten our dark times. During the long dreary days of winter if we allow it, the Holy Spirit enkindles within us the warmth and grace of hope.

Hope: Faith for the future

Winter is a time of hope. Peter Keef in his book, “Back to Virtue,” states that “hope is faith directed to the future.” Hope for the future is a sure sign that there is still life to be lived. Something, someone continually calling us onward and upward to new life. If hope is lost, we can stay locked up in our blankets, in the darkness of our own being. Or if hope is placed in earthly things or persons that cannot fulfill our expectations, we may find ourselves despairing and miserable. Our human nature instinctively nudges us to hope and work for the good things of earth, things that can make our lives pleasant. However, although these human accomplishments rarely serve to keep us aloft in the storms of life, “What profit would a man show if he were to gain the whole world and destroy himself in the process?” — Mt 16:26.

Ladjelis Orsy, in the article “The Virtue of Hope” — America, Dec. 5, 2005 — writes: “As fragile beings, we are tossed around by the winds and waves of the present. We need and want stability, and we find it by tying ourselves through the bond of hope to some future event. And through hope, we can find stability and meaning in our stormy present.” God’s gift of hope is different than our human hope. Hope is that spark of faith in God’s love and promises, keeping even as we stop to “hibernate” for a bit.

Jesus: Our anchor of hope

I ponder the hope of the Israelite people who waited for centuries to welcome their Messiah and King. Their faith in God’s promises sustained them through wars, slavery, exile, confusion and endless physical hardships. At the appointed time, God was revealed to the world through the infant Messiah ... the fulfillment of their hope, our hope. I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.” — Jn 10:10.

All too soon after Christmas, the reality and wonders of the Incarnation wane, and we forget what this wondrous mystery means in our lives. Jesus, both human and divine, comes into our world to share our burdens and blessings, our ups and our downs. He comes so that through him we might have light and life in this world — and even more fully eternal life in heaven. Through Jesus the world is made new and transformed. Through him we hope for daily personal transformation and eternal joy. Hope is grounded in the trust that God will give us the means, through divine grace, to attain happiness in this world and in the world to come.

The symbol of hope within Christianity is the anchor. The anchor of a ship is that heavy metal device dropped into the water to secure and stabilize the ship. Our anchor for life is Jesus who gives us divine hope that secures us now, as well as in the future. In John 15:5 Jesus tells us, “As the Father has loved me, so I love you. Remain joyful and hope-filled. As we await springtime with hope, perhaps it is good to take some advice from the master, Jesus Christ:

1. Don’t be anxious about your life — Mt 6:26-30. Jesus tells his disciples: “Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides. Do not worry about tomorrow, tomorrow will take care of itself.” Have faith that Jesus means what he says.

2. Cry out to the Father, “Abba,” in prayer. We compliment our heavenly Father when we go to him as a child. We can tell him everything, and God wants to hear us even if he already knows our needs. “Your Father knows what you need before you ask him. This is how you are to pray (say) ... Our Father ...” — Mt 6:9-11.

3. Detach yourself from earthly goods that might lead you away from God. Worldly goods bring only temporary happiness. Set your standards higher. “Do not love the world or the things of the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.” — 1 Jn 2:15.

Reflection and connection

• How do you cope with the winter months? How might you see these quieter times as a time for rest and renewal?

• What spiritual resources help you to maintain your faith and hope when life becomes a struggle?

• Who might benefit from a call or a visit from you during this season?

Practical paths of hope

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Cardinal says pope may visit Baltimore in 2007

Baltimore (CNS) — Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore has invited Pope Benedict XVI to visit Baltimore and has expressed hope the trip will take place in 2007. “The Holy Father will most likely be able to come next year,” the cardinal said after returning from Rome in mid-January. The cardinal had originally invited the pope to visit in the fall of this year for the rededication of the Basilica of the Assumption, the first metropolitan cathedral in the United States, but the pope’s schedule was filled up, said Sean Caine, archdiocesan communications director. The possibility of a papal trip to Baltimore was discussed by the cardinal Jan. 17 at the annual archdiocesan Catholic Charities dinner after he had returned from attending Rome events sponsored by the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. Caine told Catholic News Service Jan. 27 that while in Rome Cardinal Keeler heard that the pope already had an invitation to visit the United States in 2007 and asked the pope to visit Baltimore as part of the trip. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has not invited the pope to visit in 2007, said Mgr. Francis J. Maniscalco, conference spokesman. “I don’t know of any other invitations,” he said.

Pope says marriage tribunals must act quickly, follow church law

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — For the good of individuals and the Church, a whole, marriage tribunals must act as quickly as possible while fully following church law, Pope Benedict XVI said. “For more than a few of the faithful,” he said, “ecclesiastical sentences in this area, in fact, have an impact on the possibility or not of receiving Communion.” Pope Benedict met Jan. 28 with members of the Roman Rota, a church court dealing mainly with marriage cases. A tribunal declaration that a marriage was invalid would allow a divorced person to remarry civilly. The cardinal reminded people to have their union recognized by the church and, therefore, to receive Communion. Pope Benedict said the reason why so many bishops at the October synod on the Eucharist raised questions about tribunals and annulment proceedings and warned that they will violate church rules if they engage in some business activities. The decision is outlined in a statement from the Ukrainian-rite Synod of Bishops, which met in mid-January in Lviv, Ukraine. The statement added that church law also bars priests from dealing “with financial transactions and trade, either for their own or another’s benefit.” During a Jan. 21 press conference, Cardinal Lubomyr Husar of Kiev-Halych said the synod had “strictly interpreted church rules” in preparation for the March 26 Synod of Bishops, the first since Ukraine’s 2004 disputed presidential election known as the Orange Revolution.

Bishop Sample ordained in Marquette; at 45 he is youngest U.S. bishop

MARQUETTE, Mich. (CNS) — With St. Peter Cathedral in Marquette filled to capacity for his episcopal ordination, Bishop Alexander K. Sample became the 12th bishop of the Diocese of Marquette Jan. 25. At age 45, he is the youngest Catholic bishop in the United States. Addressing the people for the first time as their new bishop, Sample recalled wearing a cassock as he prepared for his first Mass as associate pastor at the cathedral. “At the end of Mass, one of the ladies of the parish came up to me and said, ‘So you’re our new associate.’ I saw you before Mass and I thought you were one of the altar boys,” the new bishop said. “From that point on, I became known as the altar-boy priest. Being now the youngest bishop in the moment in the United States, I do not want to be known as the altar-boy bishop!” he added. On a more serious note, Bishop Sample said, “I hope to be truly a shepherd to minister in the person and in the image of Christ the Good Shepherd, who came not to be served but to serve and to give his life. I give to you that pledge today to do that to the best of my ability.”

Ukrainian Catholic Church officials bar priests from campaigning

OXFORD, England (CNS) — Ukrainian Catholic Church officials have barred priests from campaigning in the country’s upcoming elections and warned that they will violate church rules if they engage in some business activities. The decision is outlined in a statement from the Ukrainian-rite Synod of Bishops, which met in mid-January in Lviv, Ukraine. The statement added that church law also bars priests from dealing “with financial transactions and trade, either for their own or another’s benefit.” During a Jan. 21 press conference, Cardinal Lubomyr Husar of Kiev-Halych said the synod had “strictly interpreted church rules” in preparation for the March 26 Synod of Bishops, the first since Ukraine’s 2004 disputed presidential election known as the Orange Revolution.

Underground church priests released in China’s Wenzhou Diocese

HONG KONG (CNS) — Two underground church priests, officials of Wenzhou Diocese in eastern China, were freed in mid-January after being detained for two and a half months. UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand, reported Jan. 27 that Father Shao Zhumin, 44, vicar general of the diocese, and Father Paul Jang Sunian, 36, diocesan chancellor, were released Jan. 11 and 13, respectively. Their diocese is based in Wenzhou, in China’s Zhejiang province. After his release, Father Shao was rushed to a hospital for kidney treatment. A source told UCA News Jan. 25 that he was unlikely to be discharged before Jan. 29, the beginning of the lunar new year. Father Jang underwent a medical checkup and is said to be in good health. Before Christmas, he staged a three-day hunger strike to demand that masses be celebrated, convinced him that he was detained, returned to him so he could celebrate Christmas Mass. The vessels have not been returned, the source said. Public security officers arrested the priests separately Oct. 27, hours after they celebrated Mass to close the Year of the Eucharist.

Jury finds pedophile priest’s killer guilty of murder

WORCESTER, Mass. (CNS) — A jury Jan. 25 found Joseph L. Druce guilty of first degree murder in the 2004 prison slaying of ex-priest John J. Geoghan. Geoghan, a former Boston priest, was the serial child molester whose January 2002 conviction for groping a young boy helped spark the national clergy sexual abuse scandal and force the church to adopt major policy changes. On its second day of deliberations after a two-week trial the jury rejected the defendant’s insanity defense put up by Druce, who admitted killing Geoghan in his prison cell. The conviction carries an automatic sentence of life in prison without parole. Druce is already serving a life sentence handed down in 1989 for killing a man who allegedly made a sexual pass at him.

New bishop of Sioux City ordained

SIOUX CITY, Iowa (CNS) — With his ordination Jan. 20 at Sioux City Cathedral of the Nativity, Bishop R. Walker Nickless became the seventh bishop of Sioux City. “The mission has begun,” the 54-year-old bishop said in closing remarks at the ordination. “May God the Father bless all of our efforts and efforts of Jesus Christ continue to be the way, the truth and the life and may His Holy Spirit guide us always and be our guide.” Nearly 1,000 people attended the two-and-one-half-hour service. They included 34 bishops, an abbot and more than 130 priests and deacons. Archbishop Jerome G. Hanus of Dubuque was the chief ordaining bishop.

Tribunal declares priest who started his own church is heretic

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (CNS) — A California branch of the San Bernardino Diocese has formally declared the Rev. Ned Reidy a heretic and excommunicated him to Catholic News Service Jan. 24. The former Holy Cross priest was pastor of a Palm Desert Catholic church for 19 years before he left his order and the Catholic Church in 1999 and formed his own breakaway congregation. By leaving the church Rev. Reidy was automatically excommunicated. He remained a priest but was no longer in good standing. The judgment by the tribunal paves the way for Bishop Gerald R. Barnes of San Bernardino to laicize him, that is, to formally dismiss him from the clerical state, said Father Howard Lincoln, diocesan spokesman. In interviews with local media Rev. Reidy, 69, dismissed the church trial as medieval and said he is no longer under the authority of the Roman Catholic Church.

BOY AMONG DEAD IN BOMB ATTACK ON IRAQ CHURCHES

CIRCUIT COURT FILE PHOTO/ADOLPHUS BUSHET, EUTERS

He was killed with at least two others in two bombing attacks outside two Christian churches the day before in Kirkuk.

Relatives and friends carry the casket of a boy during a funeral in Kirkuk, Iraq, Jan. 30.
Today’s Catholic offers venue for faith-filled retailers

By Kay Cozad

In today’s world, the market place holds fierce competition for those who have goods and services to offer. The business climate within Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is no different. However, for those who embrace their faith, there is more than just the secular advertising venue to choose affiliation. Today’s Catholic offers advertisers a faithful, family-oriented market base.

The Don Hall family has served Fort Wayne its fine cuisine since the 1940s. Hall’s offers several area restaurants from the Guesthouse to the Tavern at Coventry including a catering and cake service. Bud Hall says his restaurants have advertised in Today’s Catholic for as long as he can remember.

“Being Catholic, it just makes sense to have that religious link,” he says. He recalls that the diocesan newspaper “always came to our house as a child” as well as Catholic school availability. Of her presence in the newspaper, she says, “Today’s Catholic is the voice of the diocese. It’s a valuable tool for any Catholic to have. I like being a part of promoting that.”

Aguina Inc. owner Mike Manley says his religious book and gift store advertising thrust is the Catholic reader and gift buyer. “We’ve gotten away from secular media and do most advertising with Today’s Catholic.”

The store, purchased in 1967, has inhabited several locations in the South Bend area and currently offers religious goods at its present location on Mishawaka Ave. Advertising in Today’s Catholic on a regular basis and specifically during special seasons such as Lent and Advent has been beneficial to both retailer and consumer. “I’ve always been happy with the results and will continue to advertise with the paper,” Manley says.

All those with goods and services to offer agree with Bud Hall when he says of advertising in Today’s Catholic, “It’s just good business.”

Today’s Catholic encourages readers to patronize businesses that advertise in the newspaper. Please be sure to tell the advertiser you saw the advertisement in Today’s Catholic.

A story and weekly newspaper comes to life

By Tim Johnson

Fort Wayne — Many readers are surprised that the Today’s Catholic staff consists of a small, very bright and committed team that pulls many pieces of a puzzle together each week to bring the newspaper to your home.

“On the front desk, Kathy Voirtol answers the calls and takes care of bookkeeping and subscriptions. Kathy Denice, the business manager, directs the subscriptions and advertising. Our advertising representatives are Carol Eifert in Fort Wayne and Judy Kearns in South Bend. Advertising, not just subscriptions, actually pays the major expenses of the newspaper. Mark Weber designs the advertisements and also helps write some of the copy, such as the Sesquicentennial parish histories. The editorial staff consists of the following: Tim Johnson, editor; Don Clemmer, assistant editor; and Kay Cozad, staff writer.

We are joined by freelance writers from across the diocese who accept assignments and also submit ideas. Francie Hogan designs the newspaper pages. She also is our technical expert and designed and updates the diocesan Web site. We use Macintosh computers and a program called Quark Express 6.5 to produce the paper.

As Today’s Catholic thrusts into the renewal process in February, we would like to share how a story is developed.

First, we need to know about a story and weekly motion the items for the next week. We also plan the special sections for the next several weeks and assign stories at the meeting. For example, in this week’s issue, I covered the pro-life rally and march in Fort Wayne on Saturday.

Because we need all story copy by first thing on Monday, I spent Saturday afternoon after the rally at the office writing the story. I also shot the photos at the march and rally. They were downloaded in the computer from our digital camera.

Press releases and stories come to the editor throughout the week, but Monday morning is our deadline. About 90 percent of the stories are sent via e-mail, once again the preferred means of sending a story or letter to us. Don Clemmer and I clean the copy, begin on Wednesdays, and make it comply with Catholic News Service or Associated Press standardized styles. Setting copy to the style is an art all to itself with somewhat bizarre rules.

From the cleanup stage, we give the copy of the story to Francie Hogan who drops the files into the layout.

On Monday afternoons and evenings and Tuesday mornings, Don Clemmer, Kay Cozad, Kathy Denice, Francie Hogan and I proofread the paper. Francie makes the changes and saves each section of the newspaper as a portable document format (PDF) file. These files are then transmitted digitally to The Papers in Milford where the paper is printed, labeled with your address and mailed on Wednesday.

Today’s Catholic is, among other things, the voice of Bishop John M. D’Arcy, our publisher. We have lots of pieces of a puzzle to put together 47 issues per year into a product that informs, evangelizes, teaches and presents the viewpoint of the church at the diocesan, national and universal levels. But that keeps the ministry challenging and fun. There is a real creative energy that flows through the office — I like to think it is the Holy Spirit working through us.

If you are a subscriber, we thank you for your patronage. We encourage you to renew your subscription. If you are not a subscriber and happened to pick up a copy of Today’s Catholic in the back of your church or are reading a friend’s copy, please consider a subscription. At $20 per year, it’s a bargain and breaks down to about 50 cents per issue. If you wish to use your Visa or Master Card, please call our offices between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at (260) 456-2824.

Tim Johnson is the editor of Today’s Catholic.
Our Catholic Schools — personal and social

Last summer, Pope Benedict XVI went on vacation in Italy and found himself the object of requests from local priests to meet with them and to answer questions that were important to them. One of those questions was about the schools. The pope reflected that many bishops who came to Rome to meet the pope at the time of their “ad limina” visits frequently express their importance for the faith.

The pope’s remarks give point and direction to what our schools are about and why they are so important in the world in which we live.

The personal side of the faith is the intellectual factor that must be part of the schools’ endeavor. The pope remarked “that it is important that young people discover the beauty of faith, that it is beautiful to have a direction, that it is beautiful to have God as a friend who can truly tell us the essential things of life.”

The great emphasis that has been discovered in the recent past about the importance of our religion in the life of the school is a most welcome emphasis, which helps us all understand why “Catholic identity” must truly be the hallmark of our schools. It is that which gives form and purpose for the faithful to extend their energies and their material support to open, to maintain and to sustain our schools.

Our schools are not a retreat from reality, but rather they are places where they give us an understanding of the relationship of faith to the many forms of life and endeavors of our modern civilization.

Pope Benedict states, “Thanks to the Catholic school, it is also possible to confront the challenges of technology that strive for a pro-technological culture, destroying ancient forms of life and their moral content. It is vital to make people understand that faith is permanently up-to-date and perfectly reasonable. Hence an intellectual action is called for that makes the beauty and organic structure of the faith comprehensible.”

A second attribute that the pope sees to be necessary for the full development of the person in a school setting is to recognize that the intellectual factor must be accompanied by an emotional and social factor, that is, by socialization in the faith because faith can only be fulfilled if it also has a body, and this involves human beings in their way of life.

“Personalization and socialization are the two approaches that must penetrate the actual situations of today’s challenges.”

Pope Benedict points out the importance of these two attributes for the life of faith in our times, attributes which the Catholic school has a unique character and ability to so enter the lives of the faithful in the culture of our day.

Securing the vision

It is not difficult for the faithful today to see the importance of forming their children and young men and women in our elementary and secondary schools, as well as our excellent institutions of higher education. It may be more difficult, however, to see the importance of their own lives. Also clear is the importance of making a contribution to the society, which is and will be theirs in influence and to assist in living correctly.

The importance of the school in forming a true human culture lies in the socialization of faith, that is, to live and place importance in daily activities on the important moments of life.

The school is such a social institution, and there is a huge vacuum when it does not exist, or where it fails to recognize where it makes an indispensable contribution, not only to personal and social faith, but also to the true humanization of the values, the attitudes and the dispositions of all who live within the culture of our time.

Our Catholic schools are indispensable means for penetrating the culture of our day with truly religious values that are of the first importance to our young people in the formation and education to understanding the faith in the culture in which they are raised, and in the fulfillment of a truly Christian personality now and in the adult lives they will lead.

Our Catholic schools are beacons of light in a difficult world where darkness threatens human values.

Praise to all those in our diocese, from our bishop, to all of our students, especially first-generation college students and low and moderate-income families complete the FAFSA. At the event, financial aid experts from Indiana colleges and universities walk through the FAFSA with families and answer their questions.

In the past 17 years, College Goal Sunday has assisted nearly 65,000 Indiana residents with the FAFSA. The event has more than tripled its reach from 10 sites statewide, in its first year, to 34 sites and has a model for programs in several other states.

According to the State Student Assistance Commission of Indiana, programs such as College Goal Sunday are helping to connect first-generation college students with resources that provide them important information.

More than 126,000 first-generation Indiana students attended college in 2005. Also, more than 29 percent of Hoosiers who filed the FAFSA in 2005 were from single-parent families.

College Goal Sunday 2006 will take place at 2 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 12, at 34 sites throughout Indiana. The program helps thousands of Hoosiers each year through generous funding from Lumina Foundation for Education, Lilly Endowment and USA Funds.

For more information, including contact details for 34 sites, families can call toll free (800) 992-2076 or visit CollegeGoalSunday.org.
Laity address challenges in their parishes

Parishes are the cornerstone of the church as far as most Catholics are concerned. It is in local parishes where most Catholics go to Mass, receive Communion, get married and have their children baptized. If parishes are so central to Catholics’ experience of the church, it is important to keep track of conditions in them. The National Pastoral Life Center (NPLC) in New York is doing just that. In recent years, NPLC has published three studies of lay ecclesial ministers and the parishes where they work. The first study was done in 1990 and resulted in Msgr. Philip Murnion’s path-breaking report, “New Parish Ministers.” The second was done in 1997, and the third in 2005, marking the completion of a trinity of studies.

The most recent study was done in 2005, and the findings are contained in “Lay Parish Ministers,” written by David Delambo.

NPLC’s findings point to a number of challenges:

- More Catholics, but fewer priests and fewer parishes. In 1990, the Official Catholic Directory (OCD) reported that there were 55 million Catholics, 52,535 priests and 19,620 parishes.

Now there are over 64 million Catholics, but only 42,526 priests and 19,206 parishes.

- Same number of registered parishioners per parish. In 1990, there was an average of 2,381 registered parishioners per parish. That average has not changed much; it is now 1,326. But NPLC’s data also indicate that parishioners are responding to these challenges. They are stepping into leadership roles and making improvements in their parishes.

- Increased number of lay ecclesiastical ministers. In 1990, just over half of parishes employed lay people who worked at least half time in parish ministry. Now, two-thirds do. The number of lay ecclesiastical ministers has risen, from 1,323. Delambo attributes this finding to the increasing number of Hispanic Catholics (“who are not as likely to register as Anglo Catholics”) and the fact that today’s young adults also are not as likely to join a parish.

- Fewer, larger Masses. With the declining number of priests, there has been a reduction in the number of Masses offered each weekend and an increase in the average attendance of Masses. In 1990, the average weekend Mass attendance rate per parish was 1,099. Now it is 1,326. But NPLC’s data also indicate that parishioners are responding to these challenges. They are stepping into leadership roles and making improvements in their parishes.

- Increased number of lay deacons and deaconesses. In 1990, there were 2,381 registered parishioners per parish. That average has not changed much; it is now 1,326. But NPLC’s data also indicate that parishioners are responding to these challenges. They are stepping into leadership roles and making improvements in their parishes.

Scholars disagree as to when the condition of Peter’s mother-in-law was cured. For its final reading, the church offers us a selection from St. Mark’s Gospel. It is the story of the Lord’s curing of Peter’s mother-in-law. Matthew and Luke have their versions of the same story.

The story is clear. Merely by touching her hand, Jesus cured the woman. She was so fully cured, in fact, that she immediately rose from her sickbed and began to wait on Jesus and the disciples. She was healthy again, but she used her health to care for others. For all Christians, the impulse to serve others is true health.

While the cure is extraordinary, Mark does not make the fortunate mother-in-law the centerpiece of this reading. Rather, Jesus is the focus of the story. Christians have remembered the miracle long. Indeed, archeologists have found traces of this mother-in-law’s house in Capernaum. They confirmed their discovery by the fact that ancient Christian inscriptions were found in the walls. As the story continues, Jesus heals the sick and drives demons away. He ordered the demons not to speak, and they obeyed. Then, alone, Jesus went to a distant place to pray. Since there are no deserts in the vicinity of Capernaum, Jesus must have gone some distance, or at least to a barren place. Simon and the others pursued Jesus, longing to be near the Lord, needing the Lord. When at last they find Jesus, the Lord reminds them that the messianic role is to reach all people.

Reflection

The church continues to introduce us to Jesus, a process begun weeks ago at Christmas and under-scored in the lessons of the feast of the Epiphany and in those of the feast of the Lord’s Baptism. Jesus is Lord, the Son of God, with all the power thus implied. His role is to bring to humanity God’s mercy and perfection.

The condition of Peter’s mother-in-law, and the anxiousness with which Peter and the others search for Jesus, tell us about ourselves. Conditions occur in life, as overwhelming as those faced by Job. We are powerless to overcome them. Jesus overcomes them. His apostles continued to exercise this saving mission.

readings

Fifth week of Ordinary Time

Tuesday: 1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30 Ps 84:3-5, 10-11 Mk 7:1-13
Wednesday: 1 Kgs 10:1-10 Ps 37:6-11, 30, 35-40 Mk 7:1-13
Thursday: 1 Kgs 11:14-13 Ps 106:3-4, 35-37, 40 Mk 7:24-30
Friday: 1 Kgs 11:29-32; 12:19 Ps 81:10-15 Mk 7:31-37

THE CATEQUIZ’EM

By Dominic Campbell

In February, we remember Our Lady of Lourdes. Apparitions, beloved by many in the church, and distrusted by many outside her, are the subject of this quiz.

1. What is an apparition?
   a. a prophecy
   b. a perceptible vision of Christ, Mary or a saint to a person or persons
   c. a conversation between God and a mystic

2. Apparitions are not only recent phenomena. They occur as early as this in the Bible:
   a. Genesis 26:24
   b. Exodus 4:8, 9
   c. Mark 1:34

3. Who has the authority to decide if an apparition is genuine?
   a. the one who sees it
   b. only the faith community
   c. the church

4. When does a review usually have to occur?
   a. when two or three people see it
   b. when it has become a local “cultus” or focus of devotion
   c. when Satan decides

5. This apparition was to Juan Diego:
   a. Our Lady of The Roses
   b. Our Lady of Guadalupe
   c. The Virgin of Jericho

6. In what country was that?
   a. Panama
   b. Belize
   c. Mexico

7. This medal is related to an apparition:
   a. The Croix de Guerre
   b. The purple heart
   c. The miraculous medal

8. To whom was its design given by Mary?
   a. Catherine de Medici
   b. Sister Catherine Laboure
   c. Carlotta of Mexico

9. In 1846, this apparition occurred in France:
   a. Our Lady of La Salette
   b. Lourdes
   c. La Pucelle d’Oreans

10. Perhaps the most famous apparition was in this French town in 1858:
    a. Our Lady of La Salette
    b. Lourdes
    c. La Pucelle d’Oreans

11. This Irish site (whose name means hill in Irish) was the venue for as Marian apparition in 1879:
    a. Knock
    b. An Montaighne
    c. Glennin Caioire

12. This Portuguese site with an Arabic name was the scene of an apparition in 1917:
    a. Mustafaza
    b. Al Wald
    c. Fatima

13. In the 1930s, there were apparitions in Banneux and Beauruing, both in:
    a. Belgium
    b. France
    c. Switzerland

14. More recently, apparitions have been claimed for Medjugorje. Where is that?
    a. Croatia in the former Yugoslavia
    b. Kosovo in the former Yugoslavia
    c. Bosnia in the former Yugoslavia

15. What term officially describes validated apparitions?
    a. public revelation
    b. private revelation
    c. a conversation between God and a mystic

Answers:
1. b, a, c
2. a
3. b
4. c
5. c
6. a
7. c
8. b
9. b
10. b
11. a
12. c
13. c
14. b
15. a
Mixed marriages’ requires the Catholic to be strong in the faith

If a Catholic is considering marrying a Protestant, he or she should know what does church teaching say about this? Anonymity requested, Fort Wayne.

Since ancient times, the church has been concerned about marriages among those who do not share the faith of the church. Such marriages are called “mixed marriages.” The concern here has centered on the fact that such Catholics will lose their faith and that children born of this marriage will lose the church. In fact, at certain times in the church’s history, it was prohibited for Catholics to marry non-Catholics.

However, because of the euc- mumical openness of the Second Vatican Council, this prohibition was reconsidered by the church, and in 1970, Pope Paul VI issued a document, which made the con- tracts of mixed marriages a more open possibility. At this same time, the pope warned the faithful that such marriages are not without difficulty for the church. He stated, “There are very many difficulties inherent to a mixed marriage as such; a kind of division is introduced into a living cell of the church.” Because of this, mixed marriages were discouraged.

At the present time, the law of the church requires that a couple obtain the permission of the bishop of the diocese in order to enter into a mixed marriage. Before this permission is granted, a Catholic party must promise to remove all dangers of leaving the Catholic faith and to make a sincere promise to do all in his or her power to baptize and raise their children Catholic. In current practice, this permission is easily obtained from diocesan bishops in this country.

My pastoral experience as a priest has shown that in order for mixed marriages to be successful in terms of the faith, the Catholic party must be especially strong in the practice of the faith. The Catholic must be willing, for all practical purposes, to shoulder the burden of raising the children in the faith by themselves. This is very small matter and can be especially difficult if the non-Catholic happens to have a strong identity with his or her Christian community. Paul VI’s warning is as appropriate today as it was in 1970. On the other hand, mixed marriages are not impossible situations. With much love, patience and openness of God’s grace, couples in mixed marriages can flourish along with their children in the fulfillment of the plan of God for their lives. Also, it should be remembered that many non-Catholics have become faithful Catholics through marriage to a Catholic. This has been a source of great blessing for the church.

Why can’t priests marry? EC, Fort Wayne

Actually, being unmarried is not essential to being a priest. The pope could change this tomorrow, if he wanted. However, for cen- turies the church has required that priests make a promise of celibacy, that is, a promise to remain chaste and unmarried for the rest of their lives. I wouldn’t look for the pope to make this change anytime soon, or ever, because the celibacy of the priest is a great gift to the church for several reasons.

First, we truly believe that because of his ordination the priest becomes change. He remains the same person, but his very being changes so that when the priest celebrates the sacraments, it is truly Jesus himself who celebrates them and in and through the priest. For example, when at Mass the priest says, “Take this all of you and eat this.” This is my body,” we hear the voice of the priest, but it is really Jesus who is speaking to change the bread and wine into his own body and blood. Because Jesus remained unmarried while on this earth, the fact that a priest is a celibate person who keeps himself free of the fact that the priest is “another Christ” in the world, especially when he celebrates the sacraments.

Second, the celibacy of the priest points to the way that all of us will be in heaven. Jesus himself tells us in the Scriptures that there is no marriage in heaven. Matthew 22:29 says, “For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.”

Finally, when we talk about the relationship of Jesus and the church, we say that the church is the bride and Jesus is the bride- groom (this comes from the Book of Revelation, among other places). Since the bride of Jesus is the church, that means that the church is also the bride of the priest since the priest becomes truly “another Christ” in the world. If that is the case, then there’s no room in the priest’s life for any other bride. The priest becomes completely devoted to, his and Christ’s one beautiful bride, the church.

I need a new heart

I t’s serious. I need a new heart. No, no, not that kind. Thank goodness I’m alive and actually pretty healthy. What I’m talk- ing about is my kitchen. They say the kitchen is the heart of the home. Well, I need a transplant.

Let’s back up a second. My kitchen is actually very nice. I have simple cherry cabinets with clean lines, a functional refriger- ator and stove, although the latter floor hides the crumbs very well. The faucet works. The view of the backyard is nice, and the light oak backyard is very well. The faucet works. The view of the backyard is nice, and the light oak floor hides the crumbs very well. But the eating area is markedly too small for our brood of nine children. We have to hold all our breath to sit down at the table for dinner. Have you ever been to a circus where clown after clown squeezes by dodging legs, and gets through in the end? She chooses the sensible option and stands by her shipper Michael’s side, which is difficult, though he will be required to go to the bathroom during a meal. She has expected visitors, we are performing a living cell of the church.”

I don’t see anything about a family’s job to form a com- munity; and sharing in the life and relationship of Jesus and the church requires that a couple CATHOLIC.

THERESA A. THOMAS

THAT’S A GOOD QUESTION

I need a new heart

EVEry dAy CATHOLIC

THERESA A. THOMAS

landed on the floor. Most landed in the dish of cold carrots, which were, after all, crammed in right next to her plate. A house that is too small.) Is it really necessary, I wondered, to have lots of room to accomplish our mission as a family?

Pope John Paul II emphasized, in his “Apostolic Exhortation Familiaris Consortio On The Role of the Christian Family in the Modern World” four general tasks for the family: forming a community of people; serving life; par- ticipating in the development of society, and serving the life and mission of the church.

I don’t see anything about a spacious kitchen in there. A family’s job to form a com- munity of persons seems simple enough. Marriage makes an instant family. Adding children through birth or adoption makes the family grow. But the next task starts to make things tricky: it is serving life. Notice the task is not “serving life in a 3,000 square foot home” or even “serving life comfortably” but just serving life. By opening our heart and home (small kitchen and all) to people, from noisy babies to loving grandparents wanting to age parents with their own idiosyncrasies and demands to unex- pected visitors, we are performing the family mission of serving life. By educating our children to the best of our ability and making sacrifices to do so, we are also serving life and thus fulfilling our task as family.

Participating in the develop- ment of society and sharing in the life and mission of the church means we are to model the uni- versal church in our family home. The universal church is composed of many members. Strong mem- bers are to look out for weak members. In a cramped kitchen they pour the milk and cut up meat for those unable to do so.

We’re making plans to build a new home, closer to the kids’ Catholic high school, and to my husband. We plan to make a second bedroom to add to a bedroom or two since the kids are currently stacked, a bathtub to look forward to. While I’m hoping for more square footage to raise this brood of one beautiful bride, the church.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B: the healing of Peter’s mother-in-law and others. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.


DAVIDSON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

In 1997, 78 percent of parishes used computers to manage their revenues and personnel informa- tion. Now, 88 percent do.

James D. Davidson is professor of sociology at Purdue University in West Lafayette.

By Patricia Kasten

Gospel for February 5, 2006

Mark 1:29-39


FEBRUARY 5, 2006

C O M M E N T A R Y

In 1997, 78 percent of parishes used computers to manage their revenues and personnel informa- tion. Now, 88 percent do.

James D. Davidson is professor of sociology at Purdue University in West Lafayette.
The Garden of Eden is believed to be in modern Iraq. The Book of Genesis describes the Garden of Eden located near the head of the Persian Gulf, where the Tigris and Euphrates rivers join with two other streams to form a single river. This area is in southern Mesopotamia in modern Iraq. The Bible describes the Garden of Eden as having many trees that were beautiful and good for food. The land around these rivers also offers gold, bdellium (a gum resin similar to myrrh) and lapis lazuli (an azure blue semiprecious stone).

The New American Bible mentions that the word “Eden” is ancient Sumerian for “fertile plain.” A similar-sounding ancient Sumerian for “fertile plain” is an area in southern Iraq covering 6,000 square miles and forms a triangle between the cities of Basrah, Amarah and Nasiriyah. The marshlands is a sea of reeds and house-building material. The birds and the fish serve as a ready supply of food. Duck and heron breed in the reeds and there is a plentiful supply of carp and eel. The ancient Sumerians also introduced water buffalo into the marshlands. The raft or floating platform of reeds were large enough to hold a hut or a few buffalo.

Catholic Charities president on Pope Benedict XVI’s encyclical ‘Deus Caritas Est’ (‘God Is Love’)

BY LARRY SNYDER

It is of profound significance that the subject of Pope Benedict XVI’s first encyclical is charity. Using biblical and poetic imagery, he reminds us that charity is as central to Christian life as word and sacrament.

The Holy Father explained to us that his purpose in promulgating this encyclical is to reclaim the word “Caritas” (love). “We must reclaim it, purify it, and bring it back to its original splendor.”

The Holy Father does not shy away from confronting the mis-understandings of our culture, but this is an area that is a challenge and an affirmation. As organizations specifically commissioned to carry out the social ministry of the church, the encyclical demands that we be not just another philanthropic organization but that our Catholic identity and its inherent values imbue our organization and permeate how we deliver services. This is an affirmation of the commitment we have made in the United States to make the formu-

It is in an area in southern Iraq covering 6,000 square miles and forms a triangle between the cities of Basrah, Amarah and Nasiriyah.

Ride bike, hike, read and travel. The canoes of the marshlands are made of wood and can carry as many as 12 people. They are 36 feet long, but only 3-1/2 feet at the widest beam. The canoe is flat-bottomed with movable boards covering the floor. The canoe resembles a Viking ship. The canoes can be fitted up as a floating shop. The Marsh Arabs sell sugar, tea, tobacco and cloth. The Marsh Arabs are excellent swimmers and can kill a fish from a moving canoe.

An environmental study in 1994 said the Marshlands support a number of rare species. These include mammals like the long-fingered bat, the Mesopotamian spiny-tailed lizard, the bandicoot rat, the smooth-coated otter, the wild boar, the Goliath heron and the sacred ibis. Some 134 species of birds are found in the Marshlands. There are some travel videos and educational television programs that give you a glimpse of how the Marshlands and its people look. It is a very primitive, unspoiled, true-to-life and beautiful picture that you see. We can supervise that, for the ancient Sumerians, the marshlands signified great fertility and happiness, and could be a proper location for the first man and woman. It would be possible that Abraham, who lived in southern Mesopotamia, brought the story of the Garden of Eden with him and passed it on to his descendants.
God is there—win, lose or draw

W e’ve all heard someone say it. In fact, you’ve probably said it yourself. God helps people face things to worry about than who wins a football game ... or a basketball game ... or a baseball game. In theory, one would have to agree. God’s “concerns” must go far beyond the winner of this Sunday’s clash between undefeated CYO or ICLL teams.

Yet it would be rather presumptuous on our part to assume an understanding of God’s concerns, let alone how he would choose to utilize the outcome of a game. We are taught that God’s scope is so broad-ranging that we cannot begin to comprehend.

Yet we feel secure in speculating that God doesn’t care about a game’s outcome.

I have to admit that I don’t have the knowledge or depth of wisdom to know the answer to that for sure.

Naturally, as flawed humans, we assume that God deems winning as good and losing as bad. We are so securely conditioned that we figure God would only reward a victory with a victory and punish with a defeat. I suspect God probably doesn’t look at it that way. I suspect that sometimes losing is the best outcome for the coach or the players involved. Sometimes the lessons we learn about life or dealing with people are better taught in defeat than victory.

Sometimes adversity is what we need to become a better person.

Likewise, a victory is not always in the best interest of the conquerors. Perhaps it is at that time that God cares about the outcome of a game the most.

I have found myself embroiled in a tense, action-packed baseball game, sitting in the team dugout, feeling like the calmest guy in the park. Why? Because sometimes, when I can detach my human emotions from the situation, I can turn to God and simply say, “You will be done,” and accept the fact that at that precise moment, I have absolutely no control over the result. That doesn’t mean I stop coaching or stop trying to provide my players with the words to succeed. That would be a neglectful act on my part.

But sometimes you must let your fate take care of itself, accept the outcome and move on. We’ve prepared them the best we could; now it’s up to the players to succeed or fail.

I’d be less than truthful if I said that there aren’t times when I get very emotional during a game. If you’ve ever seen me play the last two years, you’d know this to be true. I’m human and I want our team to win. I can sometimes feel my heart pounding in my chest at the most critical juncture of the game. But there are other times when I can completely relax and be at peace. It is at those moments when my faith serves me well.

When a player or coach thanks God after a victory, it doesn’t necessarily mean that he or she is more grateful to a winner and the opponent a loser.

He or she is simply saying, “I feel wonderful. I am very happy that we won. My hard work paid off in the form of a victory. I feel blessed. Thank you.”

I have different reactions when my team loses a game.

Sometimes I’m very optimistic after a loss, especially if we played well. Sometimes I’m quite upset with my team, despite the victory, because even though we won, we didn’t play up to our potential or, far worse, we didn’t represent our school with dignity.

Win or lose, I ask God to help me use the outcome for the benefit of my players and team.

I don’t know if God wants our team to win all the time. (I suspect he would have to take my ego down a peg or two if we did.) I’d like to think that our hard work, doing things right and believing in all the positive things that contribute to a winning team will help lead us to victory the next time we play. But sometimes it doesn’t work that way, and we must accept that.

Does God have better things to worry about than who wins the baseball game? I must say, I don’t really know, although clearly there are more pressing issues in the world. I do know that athletics provides us with the forum to teach young men and women a lot of great lessons about life.

Sometimes the worst examples are perpetuated in victory. Other times, the lessons in defeat have the most significant impact. Just as long as I know God is there with me—win, lose or draw—is all that really matters. In that much, I am secure.

Tim Prister is a 1978 graduate of Mishawaka Marian High School and a 1982 graduate with a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Notre Dame, where he was the starting third baseman for the Irish baseball squad in 1981-82. Prister is the senior writer for Blue & Gold Illustrated after serving 20 years as editor. He is the author “What It Means To Be Fighting Irish” and is currently working on “The Gold Standard,” a book which will detail Charlie Weiss’ first year as head football coach at Notre Dame. Prister also is in his third year as head baseball coach at Mishawaka Marian.
Homeless an issue clouding effort to shine up Detroit for Super Bowl

BY JOE KORN

DETOUR (CNS) — Detroit officials and residents hope to spiff up the city’s image when the Super Bowl returns to town Feb. 5, but to do that the city has had to focus on a growing concern that seems to help, the problem of homelessness.

Depending on who’s counting, there are 5,000-13,000 people living on the streets of Detroit at any given time. Other estimates say 30,000-50,000 have no homes of their own, but are taken in by friends or relatives.

A sizable portion of the homeless population resides in downtown Detroit — within blocks of the major sites of the Super Bowl. Still others live in the suburbs, according to the Dorothy Day Catholic Worker House shelter for women and Manna Community Meals soup kitchen.

“The focus right now is to take care of their daily needs,” said Kathy Lynch, director of St. Al’s Center in downtown Detroit. “But it’s also to reroute them in their journeys so their daily needs will be satisfied in different ways.”

The major needs of the homeless, Lynch told The Michigan Catholic, are housing, food and clothing, having a place to use a restroom and to shower. “The biggest, of course, is the issue of housing — getting them into an apartment or some place where they’re safe from the elements,” she said.

Volunteers at the city’s shelters scramble to make sandwiches, hand out blankets and open rest rooms and portable toilets. Some even have nurses tend to the feet of the homeless, who often spend their days walking in shoes that are worn or don’t fit properly.

Lynch points out that not everyone understands what it means to give a homeless person life’s bare necessities. “I’ve had people say to me, ‘You’re enabling them,’” Lynch said. “And I tell them, ‘You try to go 48 hours without eating, and then tell me that we’re enabling them.”

The main goal Catholics in and around Detroit have in caring for the poor is to eliminate the source of homelessness.

Those who take it on say it’s even more difficult than it sounds. “Without constant support, they’re not going to make it any amount of time in any housing facility,” said Jamie Ebaugh, a program manager and caseworker at Oasis Detroit. The nonprofit that houses 15 mentally ill homeless people was founded by parishioners from St. Aloysius.

The difficulty of the challenge, however, hasn’t kept Christians in Detroit from answering their baptismal call to serve the poor, according to some of the city’s spiritual leaders.

“When the people see a clear connection between the announced Gospel in liturgy and an opportunity to apply it where there’s a clear need, they want to be a part of it,” said Father Russ Kohler, pastor of Most Holy Trinity Parish.

Most Holy Trinity has stretched its resources to meet the needs of the homeless — from opening its church as a place to sleep at night, to maintaining the free St. Frances Cabrini Medical Clinic, to using its school cafeteria to provide legal services to the poor.

Father Tom Lumpkin, co-manager of Manna Community Meals, said Christ taught the church that helping the poor is as natural as prayer.

“It is just as much a mission of the church to be actively involved in alleviating the concerns of the poor as it is to have a good liturgy,” Father Lumpkin said. Through caring for the needy, Father Lumpkin said, Christians are realizing the oneness of God’s family.

In Scriptures, that thought is expressed well in that we are the body of Christ,” he said. “We’re trying to live our lives so that our true selves in reaching out to others and being connected ... because our true self is an inter-connected part in the whole body of Christ.”

Often in his four decades of ministry in St. Aloysius Parish, Father Lumpkin added, he has seen volunteers grow to a deeper understanding of their role within Christ’s body.

“One of their experiences is that they discover that the home- less person or hungry person is not all that different from themselves,” he said. “Those programs and structures (to help the home- less) are no substitute for the fact that they have fears and discover people like you in the people that you’re serving.”

In this area that a handful of organizations have dug their trenches in the war against homelessness. Among them are Most Holy Trinity, Sts. Peter and Paul (Jesuit) and St. Aloysius parishes.

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Accusers, defenders tell their stories in Opus Dei book

REVIEWED BY YORK YOUNG

I can almost see the promo now for the movie version of “The Da Vinci Code,” scheduled for release this summer. Shrouded in mist, a very light-skinned man in a white suit is barely visible. The tag line reads: “A secret society. A mission for God. One man is to be feared.”

Anyone who has read the book knows what I speak of (think albino). And anyone who loves conspiracy theories and seeks to demystify the Catholic Church will run to the movie hoping to see the exposition of the evil that is Opus Dei. Maybe I’m exaggerating a little here.

There are no worldwide conspiracies to control the world with influence the Vatican and bring back the Tridentine Church in all its glory, according to “Opus Dei.” (DoubleDay, $24.95), the latest book by John L. Allen Jr., National Catholic Reporter’s correspondent. Allen has made a living over the past several years demystifying subjects that people with an unvarnished view of the Catholic faith (anti-Catholic would be too strong a word in this particular case) love to point at as evidence that the church is out of touch with the people in the pew. “All the Pope’s Men” and “Conclave,” both favorably reviewed in these pages previously, took a reporter’s look at the Vatican and its goings-on.

Allen’s expertise as a reporter shines through again in “Opus Dei,” which he posits as “an objective look behind the myths and reality of the most controversial force in the Catholic Church.” He does so admiringly, though the work, as Opus Dei is called by its adherents, is considered controversial because the myths it discusses in this effort too often are taken for reality.

Opus Dei was founded by St. Josemaria Escriva — the rapidity with which his sainthood was bestowed (death in 1975, beatification in 1992, canonization in 2002) — merely adds to the conspiracy models — in 1928 in Spain. Though it has a little more than 86,000 members worldwide at different levels of participation, 35,000 of those are Spanishiards, and the United States is fifth in the list of total number of members. (According to Allen, there’s a good chance that any individual Catholic in the United States doesn’t know anyone that is a member of Opus Dei.) A lay organization that strives to avoid clericalism and maintains a clear demarcation between men and women residences, it is not a religious order. It earned Personal Approval from the Vatican, the only organization in that category as of now — there has been much speculation that several other organizations may gain that status in the near future.

Allen gives both accusers and defenders of Opus Dei pages to tell their stories and then analyzes these stories with a dispassionate eye. He recounts both good and bad stories from former members.

The impression that Opus Dei is secretive can make even faithful Catholics curious and confused about its true nature. Allen’s tome should put those fears to rest, and will hopefully get a reading from many moviegoers this summer that could use a little rational thinking after absorbing Hollywood’s world view.

But what has contributed to the mysterious nature of Opus Dei is called by its adherents, is considered controversial because the myths it discusses in this effort too often are taken for reality.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

DEVOTIONS
Little Flower Holy Hour
Fort Wayne — Father Robert Schulte, rector of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, will celebrate the Holy Hour at MacDougal Chapel on Tuesday, Feb. 7, at 7:15 p.m. Join in prayer with the special intention for priests and vocations.

First Saturday devotions
Fort Wayne — On Saturday, Feb. 4, the World Apostolate of Fatima will hold devotions of preparation at St. Joseph Church, corner of Brooklyn and Haley and at St. Patrick, Ascola. Confraternity will begin at 7:15 a.m., with meditation at 7:30 a.m., and the rosary at 7:45 a.m. The Novena will be at 8 a.m. All are welcome.

First Sunday rosary for families
Fort Wayne — The first Sunday rosary for families will be at MacDougal Chapel on Sunday, Feb. 5, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. with Father Jim Stoye from the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Sister Geraldine from St. Francis of Assisi, from St. Joseph Church and from St. Jude attending.

MISC. HAPPENINGS
Baby shower supports Women’s Care Center
Fort Wayne — The women of St. Joseph Parish, corner of Brooklyn and Haley Ave, will host a baby shower on Wednesday, Feb. 22, at 7 p.m. in the church basement. There will be a baby gift as a donation. The gifts will be given to the Womens Care Center.

Child Christ Society plans raffle
South Bend — The Child Christ Society is sponsoring a 50/50 cash raffle. Proceeds will be split 50/50 between the society and pro-rated evenly for five drawings. Tickets are $10 each and will be sold from Feb. 10 to March 29 when the drawings will take place at the Sacred Heart Parish Center. For information or tickets contact the Christ Child Center at (574) 288-6028.

Beginning Experience announces retreat for widowed, divorced
Donaldson — A Beginning Experience weekend will be held Feb. 17-19 at Lindenwood Retreat Center. The weekend fee is $175. Call (574) 233-2132 for information.

St. Jude Adult faith formation to host lecture series on church history
Fort Wayne — Maryn Fech, diocesan workshop speaker, will be presenting a church history lecture series at St. Jude Parish Hall on three Wednesdays, Feb. 1, 8, and 15, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Participants may attend one or all of these sessions. For information call the parish office at (260) 484-6609.

Blood drive hosted by Our Lady of Good Hope Fort Wayne — A blood drive will be held at Our Lady of Good Hope Parish, 7215 St. Joe Rd, on Saturday, Feb. 18, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Each donor will receive a t-shirt.

FUNDRAISERS
Spaghetti dinner planned
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5570 will have an all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner on Thursday, Feb. 9, from 4 to 6 p.m. Adults $6, children ages 5 to 12 $3. Dinner includes spaghetti, salad, bread, beverages and dessert. The council is located at 5202 Linden Ave., one block east of Mayflower Road.

SEAS Knights plan breakfast
Fort Wayne — Bishop Luers Performing Arts Department will present SEAS Knights Breakfast Saturday, Feb. 18, at Bishop Luers Italian Cafe. This musical cabaret includes an Italian dinner, lively song and dance, and witty reprise. Doors open at 7 p.m.; dinner and dessert served at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are $15 per person. Phone reservations to Sue Mathias at (260) 456-1261 x3114 by Feb. 14.

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

Knights plan spaghetti dinner
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have an all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner on Friday, Feb. 3, from 5-7 p.m. Adults $7, children (5-12) $3. Also available are chicken strips for $7 and shrimp for $8. Carry-out available.

Knights plan drive-through fish dinner
Fort Wayne — The St. Joseph Hessen Cassel Knights of Columbus will have a drive-through fish dinner by Country Chef on Friday, Feb. 10, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the church hall. Cost is $6.50.

Scouts plan breakfast
Fort Wayne — St. John the Baptist Boy Scout Troop is hosting a pancake and sausage breakfast on Sunday, Feb. 19, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. John’s PAC. The funds raised will be used to buy a new Scout trailer for Troop 19.

St. Joseph Athletic Association plans athletic smoker
Mishawaka — Athletic smoker Mishawaka — An athletic smoker will be held Friday, Feb. 10, from 7 p.m. to midnight in the school gymnasium, Third and Spring Street. First prize — $100, second prize — $50, third prize — $25. Tickets $1 in advance or 6 for $5. At the door. Reverse draw tickets are $20 each. Only 300 tickets available. Reverse draw ticket includes admission, refreshments and food.

Bishop Luers basketball sponsors casino ‘Knight’
Fort Wayne — The Bishop Luers Boys’ Basketball Program is sponsoring Casino Knight, an evening of great adult entertainment in the Bishop Luers Cafeteria on Friday, Feb. 10, from 8 p.m. to midnight. Tickets are $20 a person, which includes two-drink tickets, hors d’oeuvres and admission to the event. The services of “Aces Up,” a Las Vegas style gaming company have been secured for the event. Some games include Texas Hold’em, Seven Card Stud, Five Card Stud and Black Jack. For tickets or questions, contact Dave and Jini Kohler at (260) 456-2670, Dan and Anita Correll at (260) 747-7752 or Bishop Luers School Hall at (260) 456-1261.

Marian baseball trivia night
Fort Wayne — Marian baseball will have a baseball trivia night on Saturday, Feb. 19. First prize is $200. Call Tere at (574) 360-3786 or Linda at (574) 255-5512 to book a table. $100 per table of 10 or $10 per person. Arrival time is 6:30 p.m., start time is 7 p.m. Bring any tailgate foods for the扭转table to share but purchase drinks from the vendors. Pop, water and Gatorade will be available.

Kid and kin sock hop supports Camp Fire
Mishawaka — Queen of Peace School will host a Camp Fire USA sock hop on Sunday, Feb. 22, at 7 p.m. in the church hall. Tickets are $3 in advance from the Camp Fire office or $3.50 at the door. Tickets include a drink, snack and dancing to Paul Chalmers of the Music Machine. Best dressed in costume wins a prize. Call (574) 234-1145 for information.

Fish fry planned at St. Jude
Fort Wayne — An all-you-can-eat Ed Fox fish fry will be held Friday, March 3, from 5 to 8 p.m. at St. Jude, across from Parkview Hospital. Adults $6, children (6-8) $5, children 5 and under free.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
Volunteers needed
Fort Wayne — The Franciscan Center Clothes Closet is in need of volunteers. Call Doris Bermes at (260) 744-3977 for information.

Erin’s House seeks good listeners
Fort Wayne — Erin’s House is seeking volunteers who are good listeners with a caring and compassionate heart for children and young adults ages 3 to 25. Call (260) 423-2466 for information.

Volunteer for St. Mary Soup Kitchen
Fort Wayne — St. Mary Parish is in need of regular volunteers for the soup kitchen on Wednesday and Friday mornings. Additional substitutes are needed for all days and shifts. Interested persons 16 and older should call (260) 424-8231. Some lifting required.

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

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

Mustard Seed Furniture Bank can use your donations
Fort Wayne — The Mustard Seed Furniture Bank is in need of furniture. Donations may be picked up by calling (260) 471- 5802. The Mustard Seed is dedicated to providing household furnishings to those in need.
St. Vincent de Paul, Elkhart, Est. 1868

Other than brief visits by missionaries clad in blackskin and black robes and who traveled by canoe, the history of the church in Elkhart begins about the same time as the Civil War, when the Father Henry Koenig, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Mishawaka made occasional visits to Elkhart and said Mass in someone’s home. One of the favorite spots for visiting priests was the home of August Ludwig at the spot now known as 1039 S. Main. Baptisms, marriages, Masses and spiritual assistance were provided there on a schedule determined by weather, road conditions and the availability of priests and good horses.

First steps at forming a parish were made by Father A.B. Oechtering, also of St. Joseph, with encouragement from Bishop Henry Luers, who attempted to buy land but met resistance when the need for another parish in Elkhart was acknowledged by Bishop Henry Luers.

Eventually a deal was made, and Bishop Luers laid the cornerstone for the first St. Vincent de Paul Church on July 12, 1868. The small church was built in 100 days, and in the fall, regular services began with two Masses a month. It would be another 38 years before parishioners would worship under electric lights.

The spirit of St. Vincent de Paul Parish as it exists today was well stated in 1993 on the occasion of the 125th anniversary of the parish when the then-mayor, James P. Perron, a parishioner, proclaimed, “While many churches may attempt to flee our central community, not realizing that they have left many of the poor and the less fortunate behind them, St. Vincent de Paul Church has recognized as blessed Vincent de Paul himself said as he wandered the streets in search of the poor and the homeless to be cared for by the good Sisters of Charity: “These are my treasures.”

These words are demonstrated daily through the Hispanic ministries of the parish, where each Tuesday the Food Pantry is open from 1-5 p.m., providing food supplied by parishioners and the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

All are welcome here and anyone referred by the township trustee can receive food supplies for one month.

In a parish that is 60/40 percent Hispanic, the Hispanic ministries office is busy scheduling weddings, quinceaneras, appointments with priests and baptisms, which sometimes reach 30 a month. On a regular basis, 15 babies are baptized on the third Saturday of each month and four babies are baptized during Mass on the fourth Sunday of the month.

Hispanic ministries also conduct weekly RICA meetings, weekly faith group meetings and biweekly English classes.

St. Vincent de Paul School, now planning its 125th anniversary, first held classes in an abandoned rookery, which was also living quarters for the faculty, three Sisters of The Holy Cross.

The school enrolls 188 in preschool through grade 6, with different grades planning liturgies on a weekly basis.

St. Thomas the Apostle, Elkhart, Est. 1949

St. Thomas the Apostle in Elkhart, an imposing edifice at 1405 North Main St., had its actual beginning at the other end of Main street, at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, then the only Catholic church in the city.

At the request of Bishop John F. Noll, who saw the need for another parish in Elkhart, Father Joseph Hession, pastor of St. Vincent, acquired the land for the yet unnamed parish. The first pastor, appointed by Bishop Noll, July 7, 1949, was Father James Elliott, associate pastor of Holy Angels Parish in Gary.

Father Elliott, with no church and no congregation, moved to Elkhart and took up residence at St. Vincent rectory, and with no other suitable location for worship, said Mass at St. Vincent for a group of prospective members.

On Sept. 9, 1949, Father Elliott moved from St. Vincent to a house at 1326 Romain St., which had been remodeled as a rectory. It was from here that he would observe and supervise construction of one building that would have four classrooms and a gym, which would be the temporary church.

As founding pastor, Father Elliott named the new parish St. Thomas the Apostle.

The building was completed in May 1950 and in September of that year, with 67 students in the first four grades, St. Thomas School began classes taught by two Sisters of the Holy Cross.

By 1952, there were eight grades and 185 students. Because development of the school took precedence, church services continued to be held in the gym until April 21, 1963, when ground was broken for the present church, which was dedicated by Bishop Leo Pursley, June 7, 1964.

In May 1999, the Blessed Sacrament Chapel of Eucharistic Adoration, located inside the main door of St. Thomas School opened, with hours of adoration from 3 to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Through the years, students at St. Thomas School have reflected the efforts of its certified faculty by consistently posting academic records higher than the Indiana average in all public schools. Students from all grades participate in weekly school liturgies and occasional Gospel processions on Sundays.

Through cards and letters, students from all grades correspond with St. Thomas parishioners who are shut-ins.

In the wake of Katrina, St. Thomas students adopted the St. John Vianney School in Baton Rouge and helped that school financially by a series of fund-raising events.

The Spartans of St. Thomas also support the local women's shelter at Christmas time with supplies for infants.

In still another community service, the students last year held five food drives with impressive amounts of canned foods donated to the St. Vincent de Paul Society and combined churches food bank.

The main altar at St. Vincent de Paul, Elkhart, is adorned with an image of the Holy Spirit.