Professor discusses Jim Crow Era at day of reflection

BY BONNIE EBERSON

FORT WAYNE — St. Mary Church was the site Feb. 11 for a day of reflection in celebration of Black History Month. The speaker at the event was Dr. Richard Pierce, associate professor of history and chairman of the Department of Africana Studies at the University of Notre Dame.

Also part of the day-long presentation was a film, discussion of Pierce’s remarks, lunch and a prayer service, all hosted by the St. Martin de Porres Society of St. Mary Parish. Pierce, a specialist in African American, urban and civil rights history and author of “Polite Protest,” shared with his audience the early results of research he is currently doing for a book tentatively titled “Teaching Jim Crow.”

“Jim Crow” is the practice of segregation and policy of discrimination against blacks that Pierce himself calls the “separation of races,” and the Jim Crow era “a time when blacks frequently occupied the lowest rungs of political, economic and social life.” It was prevalent in the United States in the years from 1896, when the decision in Plessy vs. Ferguson gave the practice of segregation legal status, until 1954, when the Brown vs. Board of Education decision became the legal blueprint for racial integration and equality.

Pierce said his book will examine how African-American parents and institutions worked together to teach Jim Crow to their children while still maintaining the youngsters’ self esteem. Children had to be instructed in ways to live safely in a society bent on their repression and quick to punish them for the slightest infraction. But they had to be taught dignity and self worth as well, no simple task, Pierce pointed out.

Their job was made even more difficult by subtle outside forces. The book “Little Black Sambo” was the only representation of black society, and early textbooks taught a “certain sense of civic order” in which blacks were

BISHOP BEGINS HIGH SCHOOL VISITATIONS

BY ANN CAREY

NOTRE DAME — A student-led conference drew about 300 students from around the country to the University of Notre Dame Feb. 10 and 11 to speak, listen, discuss and network about “new feminism.”

The “Edith Stein Project: Redefining Feminism” was organized by three Notre Dame undergraduates, Anamaria Scapefluda-Ruiz, Caitlyn Shaughnessy and Madeleine Ryland, as a forum for discussing the dignity of women and the problems women face in the culture.

A diverse roster of 21 speakers included students themselves, professional women, university professors, and several national and international figures, including Deidre McQuade, director of Planning and Information in the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops; Josef Seifert, rector and professor of philosophy at the International Academy of Philosophy in Liechtenstein; and Alasdair MacIntyre, Notre Dame philosophy professor and author of “Edith Stein: A Philosophical Prologue.”

In MacIntyre’s talk on Edith Stein, it became clear why the organizers had named their conference after the saint, also known by her Carmelite name, Sister Teresa Benedicta of the Cross. He explained that Saint Edith Stein (1891-1942) was a brilliant philosopher who — even though she had earned a doctorate at a prestigious university — was denied a university position because she was a woman. However, because she was so open to truth and caring about truth, Edith Stein saw intellectual inquiry itself as a vocation, and she used her feminine gifts to pursue truth, first as a school teacher and then as a Carmelite nun. Edith Stein con-
Women respond in the rich tradition of the church

BISHOP JOHN M. DARCY

A moment to remember

Three young women — Caitlin Shaugnessy, Amnanaria ScapeLanda-Ruiz and Madeleine Byland — organized a seminar on the extraordinary Edith Stein, St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross. They are Notre Dame students and titled their effort the “Edith Stein Project: Redefining Feminism.”

To do it right involved fundraising, and our Sunday Visitor Institute was pleased to give them a grant. Drawing from the Catholic tradition, they presented seminars over two days centered on, but not limited to, the life and teaching of the extraordinary German intellectual, Edith Stein. Born a Jew, she became a Catholic after a long journey, eventually a Carmelite and finally a martyr. Who can forget the words to her sister as the Nazis took her from her convent, “Come, Rosa, let us go and die for our people.” A Catholic intellectual and also a Jew.

Among the topics for the various seminars were: Dignity of Women on an International Level; Women in Latin America; Pornography; St. Gianna, a mother canonized recently by Pope John Paul II; The Social Implications of Contraception; and the Importance of Fertility Awareness.

Sister Marie Morgan, OSF, gave a seminar on Edith Stein’s ideas on spiritual motherhood, and Father John Coughlin, OFM, presented a seminar titled Women and the Church. Laura Garcia spoke on Mary: Model for the Church. I was privileged to be invited to celebrate the 5 p.m. Mass at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

It was obvious from my contact with the three young women who led this campus-wide seminar, with many outstanding speakers from within and without Notre Dame, that these were women of the church who also wished to respond to the issues of this time out of the rich tradition of the church on the gift and vocation of women.

I shared with them in my homily the words from Pope John Paul’s apostolic letter “Obe the Word of God.” Written on the occasion of the Marian year in 1988, the pope begins by quoting the fathers of the Second Vatican Council at the conclusion of that extraordinary event. “The hour is coming, in fact there has been, when the vocation of women is acknowledged in its fullness, the hour in which the Church, more aware of the world an influence, an effect and the power never hitherto achieved. That is why, at this moment when the human race is undergoing so deep a transformation, women imbued with the spirit of the Gospel can do so much to aid humanity in not falling.” Not women are going to keep the world from falling, said the Council of Fathers, but women imbued with the spirit of the Gospel.

I also shared the words of Pope John Paul II on Edith Stein.

“Typical of the spiritual outlook moved so to speak, between two poles: Aristotelian Thomism and phenomenology. I was particularly interested in Edith Stein, an extraordinary figure. Not only was she a philosopher, born into a Jewish family in Wroclaw, she discovered Christ, was baptized and entered the Carmelite convent, spent some time in the Netherlands, but was deported from there to Auschwitz by the Nazis. She died in a gas chamber and her mortal remains were hummed in a crematorium. She had studied with Husserl and had been a colleague of the Polish philosopher Ingriden. I had the joy of meeting her in Cologne and then canonizing her in Rome. I also proclaimed Edith Stein, Sister Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, as a co-apparition of Europe, together with St. Bridget of Sweden and St. Catherine of Sienna: three women alongside the three martyrs: Cyril, Methodios, and Benedict.”

“— Rise, Let’s Be On Our Way.” John Paul II

I reflected that the women who had influenced the church most deeply, St. Catherine of Siemna, St. Teresa of Avila and St. Therese of Lisieux, were contemplatives, women of profound prayer. Also Edith Stein was a member of the Carmelites, a contemplative congregation. Men and women who are contemplative, that is who pray, will influence the church and the world. As we conclude our observance of the eucharistic year, I especially offer a prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, which is beginning to flourish in our churches, whether we are So I went there in the dark night and said a prayer of thanks to her for being present in Boston that day, and all the years since, and also for bringing me to Notre Dame.

A day at Marian

What can possibly be said about a beautiful day at Mariani School, hosted by Carl Loesch, the principal? Here, too, is a special human story. Carl’s parents live near Fort Wayne on an old farm that has been in his family for generations. So it was that, having been recruited by John Gaughan and Sister Jane Carew, he came to teach at Bishop Dwenger High School. In his second year, he was chosen as Teacher of the Year. He is a wonderful mentor and leader for young people. He is fair and disciplined. There are no favorites. As a father of three boys, he takes great pride in the experience of his love that I asked to take an episcopal motto. It was, “Carl, I believe you will return to us.”

When the opening came at Mariani, I knew he was the right one. Carl is a wonderful mentor and leader for young people. He is fair and disciplined. There are no favorites. As a father of three boys, he takes his responsibilities with great seriousness. He is devoted to strengthening Mariani in every way. His faith in Christ and in the church is evident. Having seen his journey through Dwenger and Wall Street to Notre Dame and then to Mariani, I am also impressed by his desire to bring the par- ents and the board with whom he works. A special day at Mariani with an old friend.

Pitchers and catchers ready to report soon. Still no word from the Red Sox.

See you all next week.
No conflict: Truths of faith, science have God as source, pope says

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The truths of faith cannot be in conflict with the truths of science because God is the source of faith and creator of the world, Pope Benedict XVI said.

The pope met Feb. 10 with 98 officials, members and consultants of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith at the Vatican Feb. 10. The pope said the truths of faith cannot be in conflict with the truths of science because God is the source of faith and creator of the world.

The pope said, “called, in a spirit of collegiality, to recall the centrality of the Catholic faith in its authentic expression.”

When “the truth of faith is placed at the center of Christian existence with simplicity and decisiveness, people’s lives are energized by a love that knows neither breaks nor boundaries,” Pope Benedict said.

“Love for the truth, he said, pushes the human intellect to explore new horizons. Jesus Christ, in truth, incarnate, the pope said, so everything the church does to promote truth is a way of serving Christ. “One recalls the way the church also inspires and orients the way of serving Christ, because God be alive in their hearts so that it would give direction to their projects and plans, but especially to the way they care for their patients and the patients’ families.”

Marking World Day of Sick, pope says God sent Jesus to heal, save

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Out of his great love for all creatures, God sent his son to heal and to save, Pope Benedict XVI said.

“Christ is the hand of God extended to humanity so it could be made whole again after sickness and death, standing on its feet on the solid rock of divine love,” the pope said.

The pope used the main part of his midday Angelus address to remind people that the church celebrates World Day of the Sick Feb. 11 and to ask for continued prayers for those who are suffering.

He asked Mary to watch over all the sick, but especially those who “suffer from solitude, poverty and marginalization.”

While the main celebration of World Day of the Sick took place in Adelaide, Australia, Pope Benedict joined Italian sick people and their caregivers at the Immaculate Conception Convent of Eusebio to “remind the modern world, which risks forgetting, that the primacy of divine grace is stronger than sin or death,” the pope said.

The 2006 World Day of the Sick was dedicated in a special way to people with mental illnesses and to those who care for them.

Pope Benedict said Jesus’ own ministry to the sick was dedicated in a special way to people with mental illnesses and to those who care for them.

The pope asked Catholic health workers to let the love of God be alive in their hearts so that it would give direction to their lives.

“Any dealing with human beings, and human beings always need something more than technically proper care,” Cardinal Lozano said. “They need humanity. They need heartfelt concern.”

Pope greets athletes, says he hopes games uphold Olympic values

BY CINDY WOODEN

TURIN, Italy (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI greeted the thousands of athletes, organizers and visitors who have flocked to Turin for the XX Olympic Winter Games.

At the end of his Feb. 12 Sunday Angelus prayer at the Vatican, Pope Benedict sent his “cordial greetings to the organizers, members of the International Olympic Committee and all the athletes” who came to Turin from all over the world.

Just two days after the games opened, the pope used the occasion of his weekly address to express hope that this “beautiful sports competition” upholds “the Olympic values of commitment, joy and brotherhood.”

He also asked that the games help contribute to peace.

It was the third time the pope made a public statement about the Olympics. He first spoke during his blessing of the Olympic flame in St. Peter’s Square Dec. 5, then in a written message to Cardinal Severino Poletto of Turin.

In the message to the cardinal, released Jan. 21, the pope introduced what may be a new anthropology of sport, said a Vatican official.

U.S. Father Kevin Lixey, who heads the Vatican’s church and social desk and who was in Turin Feb. 9-12, said “there’s a treasure in the pope’s message for the Olympics.

“I think it was very beautiful what the (pope) said about Christ being the light” and comparing it to the light of the Olympic torch, he told Catholic News Service.

Just as the Olympic flame is an integral part of representing the spirit of the games, the pope said light is also a reminder for Christians that Jesus “illuminates humanity in all of its dimensions, including sport.”

“What sports badly need is a model” that offers a concept of the body that has value and is infused with a spirit, a model that is inherent in Pope Benedict’s message, Father Lixey said.

“Next to the Olympic torch there’s that other light (found in Christ) that might be able to guide athletes these days,” he said.

He said Pope John Paul II spoke of Christ as the greatest athlete by conquering death.”

While Pope John Paul was known for his athletic prowess and love of sport, Pope Benedict enjoys moderate exercise with walking, said the priest.

“There’s obviously no comparison to John Paul II as a former athlete,” he said, “but I know (Pope Benedict) walks every day, making it a part of his routine.”

Pope Benedict always takes a break from his work, carries his rosary and strolls through the Vatican Gardens, Father Lixey said.

While it may not be kayaking, a sport the late pope loved, it still is remarkable and “impressive to see” considering the pope is 78 years old, he said.
STEIN
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

verted to Catholicism when she was 30 years old, and because of her Jewish heritage was killed by the Nazis in 1942 at Auschwitz. She was canonized in 1998.

“Every one of us has to solve the problems Edith Stein solved,” MacIntyre said, adding that Stein was the woman who most recognized the obstacles women face in the world.

In their welcome to the conference, the organizers called on participants to look at how society treats women and to realize that practices that degrade women are caused by “a general misunderstanding of the true nature and dignity of the human person, particularly the female person.” Thus, the first half of the conference dealt with issues affecting the dignity of women. Some of those speakers were:

• Amy McInerny, an attorney and South Bend resident who founded the Women’s Injury Project, which treats women and to realize that their idea for the conference.

• Laura Baechle, executive director of the YWCA of St. Joseph County, who discussed how the legal justice system often re-victimizes domestic abuse victims.

• Erica Bove, a medical student at the University of Vermont College of Medicine, who talked about eating disorders being a disease of the soul in which women try to gain recognition and create a sense of purpose for their lives.

• Alex Jech, a graduate student in philosophy at Notre Dame, and Rebekah Scaperlanda, a student at the University of Kansas, who both discussed how pornography degrades women and debases the culture.

• Natural Family Planning educator and registered nurse Janet Betcher of South Bend, who talked on the importance of fertility awareness in addressing women’s health problems.

• Caitlin Shaughnessy, who spoke on “The Social Implications of Contraception in Chile.”

The second half of the conference was devoted to seeking a deeper understanding of who women are, the source of her dignity and how to “uphold and celebrate her unique nature, her inherent worth and the distinct gifts that she has to offer society.”

The organizers stressed that “new feminism” is not an attempt to return women to “restrictive” feminine roles or to make women more masculine, but rather, it is a promotion of a vision of women as equal in dignity to men and complementary to men. Conference speakers were invited to draw upon their own experiences as well as “the valuable thoughts of our predecessors, particularly the vision of the human person revealed in Catholic tradition.”

Thus, various speakers in the second half of the conference applied Catholic tradition to their remarks. Professor Seifert discussed Pope John Paul II’s view of spousal love and the complementarity of man and woman. Michael Scaperlanda, a law professor at the University of Oklahoma and father of Anamaria and Rebekah, talked about the call to marriage based on St. Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians. Laura Garcia, a philosophy professor at Boston College, spoke on “Mary: A Model for Working Women.” And Franciscan Sister Marie Morgan, a theology teacher at Marian High School in Mishawaka, spoke about the thought of Edith Stein.

The results of the conference, according to David Solomon, a Notre Dame philosophy professor and director of the university’s Center for Ethics and Culture, were outstanding. In remarks at the conference banquet, Solomon recounted how the three Notre Dame students approached the Center for Ethics and Culture with their idea for the conference. It was an idea the center also had been contemplating. Solomon said, so the center threw its support behind the students, as did several other Notre Dame entities, several individuals, and the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Solomon said that the three students enlisted their friends, and with great energy and enthusiasm created a sophisticated organization that planned an impressive program. He called the student-created Edith Stein Project “a model” for the ongoing effort to define just what it means for a college to be Catholic.

Bishop John M. D’Arcy had similar praise in his homily at the Mass that closed the conference. He commended the three women who created the conference for taking such a positive view of womanhood and “drinking of the font of the Catholic Church and its tradition.” Like Edith Stein, the young women behind the conference were “seekers of the truth,” Bishop D’Arcy said, calling them “an inspiration,” and noting that “when imbued with the spirit of the Gospel can save humanity.”

According to Scaperlanda-Ruiz, a similar conference is planned again for next year.

Robert Devetski is one of more than 30 Barnes & Thornburg attorneys providing legal services to their fellow parishioners in the Diocese of Fort Wayne - South Bend.

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DON CLEMMER

Dr. Richard Pierce, associate professor of history and chairman of the Department of Africana Studies at the University of Notre Dame, speaks at the day of reflection in celebration of Black History Month at St. Mary Church in Fort Wayne. Pierce’s remarks dealt primarily with research he is conducting for a book, tentatively titled “Teaching Jim Crow.”

“No you don’t ask questions.” Perhaps their children’s mere survival in a hostile environment was the goal of most black parents, suggested yet another listener.

The following appears in remarks by Pierce quoted on the National Black Catholic Congress Web site: “African American adults entangled in a Jim Crow society had the daunting task of raising children in an environment committed to their subjugation. This put African American parents in an especially compromising position, as they had to explain to their children, on the one hand, why they were restricted from certain public facilities, while, on the other, trying to instill a sense of worth and dignity.”

Pierce says that, while he understands why black parents taught their children what they did, he is “stuck on” exactly how they did it, or the “cultural transmission” of that information. And so, he says, his research will continue before memories fade and valuable information is irretrievably lost.

The professor emphasizes that he needs more firsthand accounts from people who lived and raised their children during the Jim Crow era.

“Please help me record one of the greatest untold stories of African American perseverance ... I’m looking for people to interview.”

Dr. Richard Pierce may be contacted at the University of Notre Dame by e-mail at piercerd@nd.edu.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Robert Devetski is one of more than 30 Barnes & Thornburg attorneys providing legal services to their fellow parishioners in the Diocese of Fort Wayne - South Bend.
Vatican official says pope will fix liturgical abuses firmly, gently

BY JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican’s top liturgy official said he expects Pope Benedict XVI to move against liturgical abuse with firm teaching and a gentle manner, recognizing that such mistakes often reflect ignorance, not ill will.

At the same time, the pope wants to offer reconciliation to followers of the late French Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre — but not at the cost of “disonwning” the Second Vatican Council, said Cardinal Francis Arinze, the Nigerian who heads the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments.

Cardinal Arinze spoke about the direction of the new papacy in an interview with Catholic News Service in early February. He said he expected important moves — but not a purge — to improve liturgy under Pope Benedict.

“I do not expect an aggressive correction of abuses. I don’t think the pope is going to use the ecclesiastical hammer,” Cardinal Arinze said.

“Pope Benedict has very clear doctrine and convictions. What many people may not know is that he is not rough. He is gentlemanly, in the sense of what the prophet Isaiah said: ‘A bruised reed he will not break,’” the cardinal said.

Many liturgical abuses, Cardinal Arinze said, are “based on weakness of faith or ignorance” or on a wrong idea of creativity. Where improper practices occur, it is important to begin identifying them and talking about them, but without harming those people involved, the cardinal said.

That could be one reason the pope is focusing on the bigger faith issues, understanding that the quality of worship reflects knowledge of the faith, he said. A good example, he said, is the pope’s first encyclical, “Deus Caritas Est” (“God Is Love”).

Many people are scrutinizing papal Masses for clues to liturgical direction under the new pope.

“Obviously, people are watch- ing the details, and cannot blame them,” Cardinal Arinze said with a laugh. “I think the papal liturgies are beautiful and that people like them.”

He said the election of Pope Benedict, who wrote extensively about liturgy for the Society of St. Pius X, which was founded by Archbishop Lefebvre and which rejected the new Mass and some Vatican II teachings or directives.

Cardinal Arinze shares that hope, but said people should realize that the pope “cannot change the faith of the church.”

“He cannot disown Vatican II in order to make the church happy. The pope cannot reinvent everything, or act as if Vatican II did not take place,” he said.

While some have proposed a wider indulg to allow use of the pre-Vatican II Tridentine Mass with fewer restrictions, Cardinal Arinze said he is happy with Pope John Paul II’s rules, which require the involvement of the local bishop.

“When you speak of wider use for everybody, it raises some questions, which have to be examined more carefully,” he said.

The cardinal said he thought that for most people the question is not the Tridentine rite versus the new Mass, but the more basic issues of faith, love of Christ and the appreciation of the importance of Sunday Mass.

“If a person has these, many of these other problems would fall into line,” he said.

Cardinal Arinze said one priority that has carried over to the new pontificate is the translation of liturgical texts.

“The pope has said, let the various translations of the Missal proceed quickly, because the people are waiting. These pieces of paper used on Sunday and little leaflets are not ideal. You really need the whole book translated,” he said.

He said the new Roman Missal, released in Latin in 2002, is 1,300 pages long and has excellent texts, including some new ones, but the people do not have them in their local languages.

The cardinal said he hoped work on the English translation would be completed in two years. He said that would not depend principally on the Vatican, but rather on the priority given by the project by bishops’ conferences.

The Roman Missal is being translated by the International Commission on English in the Liturgy for bishops’ conferences, which can adopt, amend or reject the translation. The worship con- gregation, meanwhile, has established a committee of 12 bishops, called Vox Clara, to help it evaluate the texts as they are being prepared.

The congregation’s closer watch on translations in recent years does not mean the Vatican wants to supplant local bishops and bishops’ conferences as the “key people” in translating liturgi- cal texts, Cardinal Arinze said. But sometimes, he said, the congregation gives its views on a particular translation as it is being done, so that translated texts will receive ratification in Rome with the least delay.

Cardinal Arinze, 73, has headed the worship and sacraments con- gregation since 2002. Liturgy has always been one of his primary interests, and he wrote his doctoral dissertation on sacrifice in a Nigerian traditional religion as an introduction to the catechesis of the Catholic Mass.

The cardinal has been a popular speaker in the United States, and his reflections on liturgy and other topics have been featured in a number of recent video podcasts.

He heads a staff of 36 experts responsible for responding to ques- tions from around the Vatican and reviewing texts and ministerial books in many languages, hosting groups of bishops, attending a multitude of meetings and conferences, promoting liturgical knowl- edge and practice, and discourag- ing abuses.

“We always have more work than we can do on any particular day. People don’t understand that,” Cardinal Arinze said.

The limited personnel and resources mean that on some issues, like factors, the con- gregation’s actions may appear largely symbolic.

“It is understood that a few of us sitting here in the Vatican are going to conduct excellent music all around the world,” he said. But last year the congregation spon- sored a study day at the Vatican to encourage dioceses to take liturgi- cal music more seriously.

Cardinal Arinze said the main challenge facing his congregation is to encourage a spirit of prayer, which must grow out of faith. He said bringing people to Mass regu- larly is essential, and it hinges largely on two factors: catechesis and high-quality, faith-filled liturgies.

Celebrating Mass well involves lay ministers, but primarily the priest, who sets a tone through every word and gesture, the cardinal said.

“Suppose a priest comes at the beginning of Mass and says: ‘Good morning, everybody, did your team win last night?’ That’s not a liturgical greeting. If you can find it in any liturgical book, I’ll give you a turkey,” Cardinal Arinze said.

Likewise, a priest has to preach well, making sure that his homily offers theological and scriptural enlightenment, and not merely ver- bal “acrobatics” to show off how


By Paul Haring
CNS

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Loyalty & Returns: You are entitled to a 25% return of the purchase price on all clothing, shoes and accessories purchased between Tuesday, March 7 and Saturday, March 18, 2006.
**Catholic Charities was warranted.** Appeals found that recognition of located. Father Thomas Doborowski, a native of Windsor, Ontario, Canada, is now in his eighth year as pastor of this 100-family parish church, which was established in 1916 by a few families who had migrated to the United States from the Ukraine.

Father Doborowski answered many questions concerning the Byzantine Rite, many of them centered around married priests and the celibacy of priests in the Roman Rite. He said celibacy is the positive answer to young men desiring a religious vocation, emphasizing that celibate priests are devoted to the Roman Catholic Church with all their hearts and minds. He too is unmarried and cited himself as an example.

Patricia O’Neil of the Serra Club was general chairperson of the visit, in which 77 people participated.

**St. Joseph-Hessens Cassel holds mission**

FORT WAYNE — St. Joseph-Hessens Cassel will hold its parish mission, “Come Alive at His Feast,” Sunday, March 5 through Wednesday, March 8. The evening sessions of the mission will be at 6:30 p.m., with Father Ron Rieder, OFM, Cap., presenting “Eucharist: Table of Real Presence” on Sunday, Gervaise Bastian presenting “Eucharist: Table of Goodness” on Monday, Father Tom Shoemaker presenting “Eucharist: Table of Table of Goodness” on Tuesday, and Father Edward Doborowski saying the closing Mass and presenting “Eucharist: Table of Sacrifice and Thanksgiving” on Wednesday. The mission will also include sessions on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 9 a.m. presented by Sister Jolene Heiden, SSND.

**Catholic Charities’ South Bend office approved with recognition and accreditation**

SOUTH BEND — The South Bend office of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Inc. has been approved for office recognition and accreditation. To seek this recognition, the agency filed an application with the Board of Immigration Appeals, along with proof of service that the application was served under the proper jurisdiction being directed having jurisdiction over the area in which the organization was located.

The Board of Immigration Appeals found that recognition of Catholic Charities was warranted.

The Jubilee Pilgrim Cross, while visiting St. Therese Parish, accompanied students from Bishop Dwenger High School, Bishop Luers High School and St. Therese School seventh- and eighth-grade students, shown above, as they prayed the rosary across the street from the abortion clinic on Feb. 9 in Fort Wayne. Over 80 high school students prayed the rosary at 7 a.m. before classes, braving frigid weather and sacrificing sleep.

**Serra Club visits Byzantine Rite Catholic Church**

MISHAWAKA — Members of the Serra Club of South Bend had their first experience in attending as well as participating in — the hour-long divine liturgy of the Byzantine Rite at St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church in Mishawaka.

The liturgy, including the Gospel, was chantied, as is tradition with this particular Eastern Rite of the Catholic Church.


**Most Precious Blood School receives gifts**

FORT WAYNE — In honor of Catholic Schools Week, Joshua Hamler and Richard O’Neill of CM Sloan and Sons Funeral Home, a part of Dignity Memorial, presented a new iMac computer, Mac Mini and other electronics and supplies to Most Precious Blood School in Fort Wayne. This was part of the Dignity and Sons/Dignity Memorial neighborhood outreach program.

**Most Precious Blood announces kindergarten round-up**

FORT WAYNE — Most Precious Blood School’s kindergarten round-up for the 2006-2007 school year Wednesday, March 15, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. This evening is dedicated toward encouraging the Most Precious Blood School program to meet the school staff and have questions answered. Free dinner will be provided. For more information, contact the school at (260) 424-4832.

**Pontifical College Josephinum opens doors to the public for tours**

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The Pontifical College Josephinum will open its doors to the public for tours of its buildings and grounds on Saturday, Feb. 25. Tours to the public are only available two times each year and will be available every half hour from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Space is limited andcall to make your reservation today.

Costs are $10 for adults and $5 for children, under 12, admission is free. Guests will have the opportunity to explore the only pontifical college outside of Italy. It is home to over 125 Catholic seminarians, representing 26 dioceses from around the world. The construction in this aspect is apparent throughout the buildings. The views of extensive oak, woodwork, stained glass, terrazzo floors, intricate brickwork design, inspirational stained glass windows and art work are breath-taking. Also on exhibit will be a sampling of rare books and manuscripts from the Josephinum’s library.

For information and reservations, please call (614) 985-2234.

**Tax Assistance Program provides relief in a cruel season**

NOTRE DAME — As a disgruntled consumer navigates a Data, with its avalanche of arcane regulations, camouflaged deductions and illegible forms, it is consoling to remember Albert Einstein’s obser-
viation that “the hardest thing in the world to understand is the income tax.” Nevertheless, the near incomprehensibility of tax law, so often a staple of middle-class comedy, can be an intolerable burden for beleaguered citizens with low incomes. An awareness of that burden and a determination to lighten it are the principal earmarks of the Vivian Harrington Grant Notre Dame-Saint Mary’s College Tax Assistance Program (TAP), now in its 35th year. The program, in which volunteer tax preparers provide assistance with state and local tax returns to taxpayers whose incomes are below $35,000, helped file 3,462 tax returns last year. There is no charge for the service, which is funded by the Mendoza College of Business and supplied by the Internal Revenue Service and the Indiana Department of Revenue. A few program volunteers are certified public accountants from national, regional and local firms, as well as accounting faculty members from Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s, but most are undergraduates or graduates.

It seems as agreeable an arrangement as can be made in such an unpleasant season.

“A win-win-win situation is a reality,” says Ken Milani, Notre Dame professor of accountancy and TAP director. “The TAP program provides this outcome. Low-income Michiana-area taxpayers are the primary beneficiaries of the TAP since they receive free income tax preparation service, but students also benefit from the program since it provides them with practical experience. A third group, involved faculty members, complement classroom activities by working with students on an interesting and challenging project.”

Last year, more than 800 such people were served by the program and more than 1,400 tax returns were prepared.

The Tax Assistance Program provides service in 11 area locations including the Center for Social Concerns and ND Downtown. The International TAP meets in LaFortune Student Center and the Mendoza College of Business.

Domestic service began Saturday, Feb. 11, and ends Thursday, April 13.

The program is open to ready service in 11 area locations, including the Center for Social Concerns and ND Downtown. The International TAP meets in LaFortune Student Center and the Mendoza College of Business.

Indianapolis — Schools in urban and poor areas facing teacher shortages may soon find relief if the teacher shortage bill, Senate Bill 172, becomes Indiana law.

Senate Bill 172, authored by Sen. Teresa Lubbers (R-Indianapolis) would allow the governing body of a school corporation or an accredited nonpublic school to hire an individual who is in the process of obtaining a teaching license under the “Transition to Teaching” program.

Sen. Lubbers said, “The bill is designed to help schools hire licensed teachers in hard-to-find subject areas such as math, science, special education and English-as-a-second-language. The goal being to improve the quality of teachers in those areas where there are shortages. Under the bill, the teachers that are hired from the ‘Transition to Teaching’ program must have subject competency in which they are going to teach.”

Sen. Lubbers added, “The way it is now, the State Board of Education has issued roughly 900 emergency teaching permits to fill the teaching shortage, and those teaching with an emergency permit are not required to have a subject competency. Senate Bill 151 will require those in the ‘Transition to Teaching’ program to have subject competency, but overall they are more qualified to teach since they are already working toward licensure.”

Sen. Lubbers said her bill is actually becoming less controversial. “As people are learning more about the bill, support for it is growing,” said Lubbers. “This bill also applies to accredited, nonpublic schools,” Lubbers said.

The teacher shortage bill, which passed the Indiana Senate last month (31-15), was approved Feb. 8, by the House Education Committee. The bill moves to the House floor for further consideration.

Another important measure affecting children in Indiana is also moving forward through the Indiana legislature. Senate Bill 151, authored by Sen. Connie Lawson (R-Davieville), in its original form, would have required child care providers registered as ministries who receive federal and state funding through vouchers from the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF), to meet certain child to staff ratios. “Ministries do an excellent job, however there is a problem with the licensure of day care providers who have found a loophole in the definition as a ministry. These providers, who have no real ministry affiliation, were being exempted from child care standards under the registered ministry category,” said Sen. Lawson.

Sen. Lawson explained that one such provider in Indianapolis had 13 two-year-olds and only one adult supervising. “To address this problem and ensure at the very least certain child to staff ratios existed, the bill would have required all child care providers, including those who are registered ministries, to adhere to the minimum child to staff ratios,” said Sen. Lawson. “But because of the lack of time in the short session, and due to the outcry of ministry organizations, that language of the bill was amended out of it in order that there would be more time to work with ministries and come up with a good definition for a ministry and resolve the problem.

“It’s important that we bring more people into providing quality child care and that’s what we’re trying to do with SB 151,” said Sen. Lawson.

Melanie Brizzi, the Child Care Development Liaison for FSSA, said “It’s important for parents to realize that not all child care providers are licensed or are required to follow the same standards. Parents need to ask questions like ‘How many children do you have per each adult?’ There are many ministries out there that provide a very high quality of care, but parents can not assume that they all operate under the same guidelines because they don’t.” said Brizzi.

According to Brizzi, there are 650 child care providers in Indiana operating as registered ministries. Two-thirds of those accept the Child Care and Development Fund vouchers to supplement child care providers, which operate as registered ministries, are not required to have child care development training and are exempted from required child to staff ratios. Approximately $122 million in government dollars are spent in Indiana through Child Care and Development Fund vouchers.

Senate Bill 151 passed the Senate (50-0) and has been assigned the House Committee on Family, Children and Human Affairs and awaits a hearing.
**World Council of Churches' head says ecumenical movement needs youths**

**PORTO ALEGRE, Brazil (CNS) —** Without young people, the World Council of Churches will not be able to keep the ecumenical movement alive and active, the council’s secretary-general told a global gathering of young adults.

The Rev. Samuel Kobia addressed a packed hall of 300 young adults Feb. 11 at a youth gathering before the WCC’s Ninth General Assembly Feb. 14-23 in Porto Alegre. “My vision,” Rev. Kobia said, “is that young people have a stronger and more meaningful voice in the ecumenical movement. You need to be very well organized to have maximum impact at an assembly like this. Get together and determine how you can make the most of your voice.”

Greeted with enthusiastic singing and clapping, Rev. Kobia, a 56-year-old Methodist minister, told the crowd, “You make me feel young again.” He said it was his experience that the World Council of Churches was “a space to be in, to participate in and to grow in. There’s no place like it in the world. With its cultural and religious diversity, it is a transforming space.”

**New Orleans to close seven parishes, delay opening of 23 others**

NEW ORLEANS (CNS) — The Archdiocese of New Orleans issued a pastoral plan Feb. 9 that calls for the closing of seven parishes and delays the reopening of 23 others until there are enough parishioners in an area to warrant the resumption of pastoral ministry. The plan also calls for establishing six centralized elementary schools, which before the storm had served primarily as individual parish elementary schools.

The archdiocese, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, took unknown projections regarding its future Catholic population and hundreds of its properties suffered extensive damage. New Orleans Archbishop Alfred C. Hughes projected that the archdiocese, which before Katrina was home to nearly a half-million Catholics in 142 parishes, might see its Catholic population return in the next two years to only 60 percent to 65 percent of its August 2005 levels, which would mean a Catholic population of about 200,000. The pastoral plan, which will take effect March 15, establishes a framework for parishes suffering in the seven deaneries that sustained the greatest damage from the Aug. 29 storm.

**Compendium of catechism goes on sale in paperback March 31**

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, a 200-page synthesis of the 1992 catechism, will be available in paperback March 31 from USCCB Publishing, the publishing office of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. A hardcover edition will follow shortly after. Both versions will be published in English and Spanish. The compendium, made up of 598 questions and answers, echoes to some degree the format of the Baltimore Catechism, which was standard in many U.S. Catholic parishes and schools from 1885 to the 1960s. The paperback version of the compendium, in English or Spanish, will cost $14.95; the price for the hardcover book will be $24.95. The compendium may be ordered online at: www.usccbpublishing.org, or by phone at: (800) 235-8722.

**Survey shows Catholics who give most want more church accountability**

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholics who give more than $5,000 a year to the church are more critical than other Catholics about the church’s financial accountability practices, according to a new survey commissioned by FADICA. “Only 12 percent of larg-er parish donors rated the church above average in keeping them informed of the use of their dona-tions, while over a third of typical parishioners rated church reporting practices above average,” according to a survey analysis prepared by Charles E. Zech, director of the Center for the Study of Church Management at Villanova University’s College of Commerce and Finance. The survey, conducted in November and December 2005 by Zaghy International, was the fourth annual “Catholic donor atti-tude survey” commissioned by Foundations and Donors Interested in Catholic Activities, a Washington-based consortium of charitable foundations and individual donors interested in religious philanthropy. Responses were received from 1,000 Catholics nationwide, but only the answers of the 787 people who identified themselves as regular churchgoers attending Mass at least three times a month were analyzed.

**First lady meets with pope, discusses violence sparked by cartoons**

**VATICAN CITY (CNS) —** Pope Benedict XVI expressed his hopes that the U.S. first lady’s trip to the Winter Olympics in Turin, Italy, would be peaceful and spoke of his concern about violent protests taking place in many Islamic countries.

First lady Laura Bush and one of her 24-year-old twin daughters, Barbara Bush, met with the pope at the Vatican Feb. 9 during a brief stop in Rome on the way to the Olympics. After the meeting, she told reporters traveling with her that peace, terrorism and violence were among the topics the pope raised. “He talked to me about the worries of terrorism, worries right now about violence in Beirut, Damascus and other cities” in the Middle East as protests continued over cartoons published in Europe that many Muslims found offensive. “His hope and certainly our hope (is) for peace and tolerance” and for everyone to treat others with respect, she said.

**Vatican confirms Pope Benedict to visit Turkey Nov. 28-30**

**VATICAN CITY (CNS) —** Just four days after an Italian priest was killed in Turkey, the Vatican confirmed that Pope Benedict XVI would visit the country Nov. 28-30.

While the pope had spoken publicly about wanting to go to Turkey specifically to visit the Istanbul-based Ecumenical Orthodox Patriarchate of Constantinople, the Feb. 9 Vatican announcement was the first to mention specific dates.

Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said Turkish President Ahmet Necdet Sezer invited His Holiness Benedict XVI to make an official visit to his nation Nov. 28-30. The Holy Father accepted the invitation.” Navarro-Valls said a detailed itinerary had not yet been completed.

**Prospect of Anglican women bishops causes problems, says cardinal**

**LONDON (CNS) —** The prospect of ordaining women as bishops in the Church of England means that the quest for unity is at a plateau, says a cardinal. There is “no doubt that recent developments in the Anglican Communion with regard to the ordination of women as priests and now as bishops — even more profoundly because a bishop is in a particular way a figure of unity — as well as other developments in the ethical sphere have meant that ecumenism is at a plateau,” said Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O’Connor of Westminster, England. The cardinal spoke at a London press conference Feb. 6, the same day as the first session of the Church of England’s general synod, at which Anglican leaders were scheduled to debate the ordination of women as bishops, a move church officials have said would present a new obstacle to Anglican-Catholic unity. “It’s probably inevitable that in due course there will be the ordination of women as bishops,” said Cardinal Murphy-O’Connor. “If you have women as priests, it’s an inevitable conclusion.”

**Vicar general ordained as Chicago’s newest auxiliary bishop**

**CHICAGO (CNS) —** When the Archdiocese of Chicago welcomed its newest auxiliary Feb. 2, it was truly a celebration of a favorite son. Cardinal Francis E. George ordained Bishop George J. Rassas, 63, with his parents, Francis and George J. Rassas, Sr., in the front pew at Chicago’s Holy Name Cathedral and dozens of other family members in attendance. The rest of the crowd was filled with well-wishers who knew Bishop Rassas from his nearly 38 years of ministry in the archdiocese, including 14 years as pastor of St. Mary Parish in Lake Forest and 15 years working in family ministry while assisting in other parishes. For the past year, Bishop Rassas has served as vicar general, a post in which he is expected to continue for the immediate future.

**South African bishops establish office to address human trafficking**

**CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS) —** The Southern African Catholic Bishops’ Conference is establishing an office at its Pretoria headquarters to combat human trafficking. Conference officials said they are “acutely aware” that the countries they represent — Botswana, South Africa and Swaziland — are affected by international trafficking in women and children, particularly for the sex trade. “The trafficking in the vulnerable will not be challenged until women and children are treated with the respect and protections to be bought, used and sold, but as unique and valuable individual persons,” the bishops said in a Feb. 1 statement after a plenary meeting in Pretoria. “Society’s strength is measured not in its strongest, most-prized members, but in its most vulnerable members,” the bishops added, noting that “women and children have the right to family and nurturing and security.”

**New break in Vatican walls gives access to parking garage**

**VATICAN CITY (CNS) —** U.S. Cardinal Edmund C. Szoka formally blessed a new breach in the Vatican walls, opening a gate to a new underground parking garage. The cardinal, president of the commission governing Vatican properties, said the work on the walls involved not only destruction, but also the restoration of a segment built during the 1559-1565 pontificate of Pope Pius IV. The Feb. 10 ceremony included unveil-ling a new gate inscribed in Latin by the sculptor of Pope Benedict XVI and the fact that it is the first year of his pontificate. The new bronze-covered steel gate was sculpted by Gino Giannetti, the Vatican said.
Giving through life insurance

Question: How can I use life insurance to make a planned gift to my parish, school or other diocesan agency, and what are the benefits of doing so?

Answer: Very few individuals have the ability to write a check for $100,000, $50,000, $25,000, or even $10,000 to their favorite charity. However, an individual can accomplish making such a significant future gift through his or her estate plan. And one way is through life insurance.

Life insurance can be used to benefit your parish, school or other diocesan agency in various ways.

- **Beneficiary Designation.** You can retain lifetime ownership rights in a policy but name a charity as the beneficiary of your life insurance policy. At the insured’s death, the life insurance proceeds pass to the beneficiary with no income tax consequences. And if the beneficiary is a charity, your estate will not be subject to any estate tax on the proceeds.

This type of designation is revocable, which means that you can change the beneficiary at any time during your lifetime. In addition, you have the right to go back against the policy or to cash in the insurance policy. This can easily be fulfilled by obtaining a change of beneficiary form from your insurance agent. There are several advantages of funding a charitable giving plan with life insurance. First of all, because life insurance is not a probate asset, it is paid promptly and not tied up in the administration of an estate.

Moreover, as noted earlier, a number of tax incentives exist for making a charitable gift with life insurance. As noted earlier, a number of tax incentives exist for making a charitable gift with life insurance.

- **Irrevocable Gift of Policy.** Another way of gifting life insurance to a charity is by assigning the ownership and beneficiary designation of a policy to the charity during your lifetime. Because you are giving up ownership under this arrangement, the transfer is irrevocable. However, a number of tax benefits may apply.

Let’s assume that you own a $50,000 whole life policy with a cash surrender value of $20,000 and annual premiums of $800. If you contribute the policy to your church by transferring ownership and beneficiary designation to the church with an immediate charitable income tax deduction for the cash surrender value of the policy. Also, if you continue paying the annual premiums on the policy, you would receive a charitable income tax deduction for the amount of the premium paid each of those years.

Moreover, the insurance proceeds will pass free of estate taxation. And at your death, the full $50,000 proceeds will be distributed to your church.

- **Purchase of New Policy.** If you do not have a current life insurance policy that you could name a charity as beneficiary or assign ownership to the charity, you could purchase a new policy on your life. You would name the charity as the owner and beneficiary of the new policy. If you pay the annual premium, you would be entitled to claim an income tax deduction for the amount paid.

- **Wealth Replacement Plan.** What can you do with an asset that has appreciated substantially in value? If you sell that asset, you would incur capital gains tax. But if you held that property, your estate would be subject to estate and inheritance tax on it. The taxes would greatly reduce the amount passing to your heirs.

One idea is to use a wealth replacement plan. You could transfer the appreciated asset to a charitable remainder trust. The charitable remainder trust sells the asset, but pays no capital gain tax. You and/or your beneficiary would receive an annual payout from the charitable remainder trust. In “replace” the assets that will be transferring to charity, you can purchase a life insurance policy and use the payout from the charitable remainder trust to pay the premium on the policy.

The life insurance proceeds would be payable to family members at your death. Remember life insurance proceeds are not subject to income tax, and if structured properly, can escape estate tax as well.

With the charitable remainder trust, assets remaining in the trust at the end of a term of years or at the death of the last beneficiary are distributed to your beloved charity. There are several advantages of funding a charitable giving plan with life insurance.

In addition, gifting life insurance is not a complicated process. You would request the appropriate forms from your insurance agent to name your charity as owner and/or beneficiary of a policy.

- **Elisa M. Smith, CPA/PFS, is vice president and director of financial planning for STAR Wealth Management Fort Wayne, and the director of planned giving, Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.”

PLANNED GIVING

ELISA SMITH

GORDON — Gordon and Dot Taiclet, parishioners of St. Michael Parish in Plymouth were named as the 2006 Community Spirit Award recipients. They were recognized at a reception at The Java Trail on Jan. 17. Gordon, a retired Monterey, grain elevator and feed store owner, was asked to say a few words about his and Dorothy’s 54 years together.

“One people have their I.R.A.s or their 401 (k) — me? I have my D.O.T.,” he joked.

The Taiclets will be honored at the annual Catch the Spirit Gala to be held on Friday, April 21, at Swan Lake Resort. Invitations and tickets will be sent out in late February. The theme of the party will be Monopoly.


Dot, in addition to her thriving business for the past 18 years as a Realtor-broker with the ReMax system for the Indiana region, has served on the Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center, Plymouth’s Development Committee. She has worked for the Argos United Way, the Marshall County American Red Cross, the Kiwanis Club and St. Michael Catholic Church.

Gordon mirrors Dot’s activities in every way, partnering with her in charitable activities. He helps her in her work, staking “Do Call Dot” sale signs and taking pictures of her listed properties.

“She told me she wanted to go to the real estate business part-time,” he said. “I didn’t know the part-time part was me.”

The money raised benefits the Saint Joseph Health Center. Last year more than $75,000, the proceeds from the gala, was placed in the Marshall County Community Foundation to further advance the Center of Care Endowment Fund.

The Health Center has treated more than 1,300 underserved residents of Marshall County with primary medical care since opening in 1999.

The Taiclets will be the 14th recipients of the Community Spirit Award.
Rewards in helping students and church

B Y I D A C H I P M A N

PLYMOUTH — Sara Lopez is a hard worker.
She always has been — all of her life — which will soon be 76 years.
Her day starts before dawn. By 5:45 a.m. she is at St. Michael Church, setting up everything for the morning Mass.
After Mass and coffee with friends, at 8 a.m., she arrives at Webster Elementary where there and in the afternoon, at Jefferson, she works not only with the E.S.L. (English-as-a-second-language) children, but “with any students who need me.”

Lynn Dodson, secretary at Webster, said that Sara talked about retiring this year, “but we begged her to stay. She helps our Hispanic families so much and everyone loves her.”

Born in Donna, Texas, Sara was the youngest of five children. Her father died of a stroke at the age of 42, the day after Sara, six weeks old, was baptized.
“I was hard for my mother,” she said, “but she had the help of our close-knit family.”
Sara lived with her grandmother. “She was my second mother,” she said, “but she had the help of our close-knit family.”

Of the seven, two are retired from the Navy, one of whom is a Cdr., USNR; a factory supervisor, two law enforcement officers, an industrial technology teacher and a self-employed plumbing contractor.
“I decided,” she said, with passion, “I did not want to raise our children in Texas, which, in my opinion, at that time was the most prejudiced state in the union against minorities — blacks and Mexicans alike.”
In 1959, they moved to Plymouth, and Cel went to work for the Weidner Canning Co., and later for Bremen’s Universal Bearings, retiring after 33 years on the job.
The family has been an integral part of the community.
“Our children were involved in church, church and sports. Religion was, and is, the foundation for our family: school came a close second.”
She said that she’s been blessed with good kids.
“Trust the Mother of God,” she said. “Give your children to her — that’s all you have to do.”
When, Laurie, the youngest Lopez child, went to kindergarten, Sara, who had been a stay-at-home mom, got a job with American Containers where she worked for 18 years, retiring in 1995.
During that time, having dropped out of school 48 years before, Sara decided, at the age of 66, to get her high school degree.
She went back to school to earn her General Education Diploma.
“I had preached education and the importance of learning to my children all of their lives and I wanted to finish what I had started.”
Only one of her seven children was even aware that she was doing it.

With the help of her teacher, Laura Jeffers Kruyer, it took six months to comp out of four years of schooling.
“If you are serious, it doesn’t take too long,” she said. “Life’s experiences helped me pass.”
Kruyer suggested that Sara enter a contest sponsored by the Adult Literacy Coalition of Indiana. Her 300-word essay, “A Turning Point,” won second place.
Shortly afterwards, she went with a tour group to Europe, visiting Rome and Croatia.
“I wanted to make the pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady,” she said.
“I had followed the advice of my grandmother. Our Lady was always guiding me. She never left my side and my prayers have always been answered — sometimes in the most unusual ways.”
Sara loves her job and has decided to work with children as full-time aide as long as she can.
She said that she may end up as an old lady rolling down the halls in a wheelchair.
“Doing what I do,” she said, “there is no time to get grumpy. I never have to think ‘what am I going to do today?’ And I know where I have to go.”
Bishop Dwenger participates in national pro-life march

Students from Bishop Dwenger High School participated in the pro-life march in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 20 to commemorate the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion. In the march is Jessica Hayes, morality theology teacher at Bishop Dwenger. Next to Hayes is student Kai Young and others in the background. Students also visited the John Paul II Cultural Center before the vigil Mass at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception.

Brosnahan helps build retreat community

Ice-breakers help build retreat community

Bishop Luers High School students Molly Schall, Brendan Fazio and Veronica Baker participate in an ice-breaker exercise at the junior-senior retreat in January. Drawing on the Antioch retreat model, students were entirely responsible for planning and leading the retreat. Adam Peterson and Annette Wellman were the retreat directors.

Saints Alive! accepting reservations

Saints Alive! is still accepting reservations for the upcoming dinner and auction on Friday, Feb. 24. The theme for this year is “London ... Long Ago.” Call Kris Markam in the Saints Alive! office at (260) 483-7001 to make a reservation.

Teens make difference at march

SOUTH BEND — For over three decades, people from all walks of life have gathered annually on the Mall in Washington, D.C., to mark the occasion of the U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling on Roe v. Wade, which legalized abortion. The 33rd March for Life on Jan. 20 drew hundreds of thousands to the nation’s capitol to take a stand against abortion and take real steps to promote life. Included in those numbers were young adults from all the Catholic universities and colleges in the diocese, young people from all of the diocesan high schools and teens from youth ministry programs in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

This year’s gathering seemed to have a different feel, a change that included the recent confirmation of Justice Samuel Alito, one that added to the hope that this gathering may be one of the last of its kind.

The teens from the combined youth ministry program of Christ the King and St. Joseph parishes in South Bend teamed up with students from Saint Joseph’s High School to march and make a difference in another way.

For the past four months, these teens have been penning a “Platform for Life” to be present-ed to Indiana’s congressional del-e-gation. The first recipient of this document was Democratic Senator Evan Bayh. The platform was presented by the teens to Bayh through his aide Lauren Cialone in a meeting following the march. The platform will also be presented to Sen. Richard Lugar and Rep. Chris Chocola through representatives in their offices in South Bend. The other delegates will receive the platform in the mail.

The platform is simple but speaks from the heart of the young people who wrote it. It urges congressional representa-tives to look at being people of faith and is precious to him. All life on this planet was created by God and is precious to him. All life is special and will help advance this world into the future.”

“The march means setting about to stop the trip to the grave. The platform proclamations, “It is our understanding that the abortion issue is axiomatic to being pro-life. Only when we take into account the value of the human person at the moment of conception can we seriously take into account the whole economy and condition of the human person as it relates to the world today.”

It continues, “We also understand that the world is not a simple place in which to live and that the decisions that you will make in this legislative session will affect us for years to come. We encourage you to consider the value of all human life as you debate the issues of abortion, education, homelessness, health care, the death penalty, our nation’s fight against terrorism and all legislation dealing with the life and dignity of us all.”

The 33 young people who helped in the formation of the document, outlined the following concepts they used in the development of their platform. The teen’s state that being pro-life means “Embracing love for all; Exhibiting bravery; Offering a chance; Realizing everyone matters; Seeking true justice; Searching for peace and sacrifice; Democracy; Respect for others; Truth; Equality; Centering on Christ; Focusing on God’s plan.”

In presenting the document to Cialone and legislative intern Pat Hayes, Jacob Testa, a senior at Saint Joseph’s, explained, “We want you to understand that all life issues center around the fact that you must be born. We cannot continue to allow abortion to happen in our country. Without birth, the other life issues we face, like the death penalty, fair trade, don’t matter.”

Thirteen young people, along with four chaperones, made the trek to Washington and they took with them the thoughts of the other young people who could not make the trip, but wanted their voice to be heard. Included with the platform were the thoughts of all who helped in the formation of the document.

George Lund reflected, “Every life on this planet was created by God and is precious to him. All life is special and will help improve the whole human family.”

Youth minister Greg Sweeney took that thought a step further explaining that sometimes in striving for life, we may be all by ourselves. “We have to be just like the sentinels. Sometimes people stop to listen to what we have to say; sometimes no one is around to hear it. But we still have to speak up for life, we still have to take the steps to make sure that life is protected — that life is sacred.”

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I

In recent history, popes have used their first encyclical letter to set a tone, as if they were, for their papacy. Put another way, one might view the first encyclical of most modern pontiffs as “setting an agenda” for their papacy. This was clearly the case with Pope John Paul II, whose “Redemptor Hominis” (“redeemer of man”) (1979) put forth what was to be a recurring theme of his papacy, a theologically-determined anthropology: what it means to be authentically human is revealed most clearly in the life of Jesus Christ, who not only shows us God, but also reveals who we are to be called to. One might even suggest that his later “theology of the body” is a natural and organic development of themes latent in that first encyclical.

Pope Benedict XVI’s first encyclical, “Deus Caritas Est” (“God is love”), is, in some ways a surprise. Not a few ecclesiastical pundits had predicted, quite wrongly, that his first letter would address liturgical aberrations or stand as a stern corrective against theologians embroiled in controversy, which might reveal more about the pundits’ concerns than about Benedict’s. No, Benedict’s first salvo to the world at large brings us back to the basics. The essence of the Christian life and vocation is to be caught up and drawn into the drama of God’s love for the world.

Benedict demonstrates that sin strikes at the very heart of us (quite literally), perveting that which is most God-like within us, our capacity for love. Eros, which, correctly understood, is a desiring for others, is love, but otherwise becomes a sexual appetite that is reduced to mere sensuality (and sensuality always using rather than reverencing others).

Benedict wants to rescue eros from this kind of reductionism and sanctify it as the fruitful power of love in the tradition. There is, after all, a long history of Christian commentary on the Song of Songs (with all of its rather bold and racy language) as a love song expressing God’s love for the individual soul or, alternately, for his people as a whole as the church. This is, of course, most evident in Jesus, who gives himself entirely on behalf of his beloved, the church. This love is experienced and even tasted in the church’s celebration of the Eucharist.

Once Benedict has provided reflection on the nature of Christian love, he then turns his attention to what this means concretely in the life of the church. Those who like warm, cuddly and snug conceptions of love will find Benedict’s words here a wake-up call. Genuine love, the love revealed by Jesus, is never easy, and while it may from time to time be warm, it makes serious demands upon us. This is not because God is a demanding tyrant. Rather, it is because we are so tuned in on ourselves, so self-focused, that God’s love seems to us so demanding, as it calls us out of ourselves and to make a gift of ourselves. But in this self-giving is true liberation, true freedom. As the Gospel teaches, it is only in dying to oneself that we can discover our true identity and vocation.

What is more, the church is motivated — in fact, driven — by this agape (Benedict uses its Latin form, caritas) to the service of our neighbor. Benedict makes clear that “our neighbor” is not confined to our own community of faith, but extends beyond and imposes a universal love toward even those we meet by chance. This pastoral charity, this kind of love naturally flows out of the very essence of what Benedict calls the church’s deepest nature: a corporate work of proclaiming the Gospel (his use of the doublet kerygma-martyria means this proclamation is more than mere verbiage), instantiating that proclamation in sacramental celebration (eucharistia) and enacting what has been celebrated through the ages in the liturgy (diaconia).

Pope Benedict’s first encyclical makes several things abundantly clear: (1) He is very much attuned to the situation of the modern person, who is driven by love, albeit at times disordered love (thus love in need of healing and elevation); (2) he has a dynamic understanding of the life of the church, which cannot be reduced to mere institutional terms and whose central and self-defining act is the celebration of the Eucharist; (3) he sees the church (very much in patristic terms) as the soul or servant of the world; Christians are called to be engaged in the world but not in terms defined by the world; and finally, (4) the destiny of humanity is to lovingly participate in the very reality of a communio of knowledge and love, a communion, which does not destroy personality, but perfects it.

Unlocking a wardrobe

By Brandon McCaffery

If you, by some chance, were to open any antique wooden wardrobe, an old wardrobe that was once used by a loved one, albeit at times disordered love (thus love in need of healing and elevation); (2) he has a dynamic understanding of the life of the church, which cannot be reduced to mere institutional terms and whose central and self-defining act is the celebration of the Eucharist; (3) he sees the church (very much in patristic terms) as the soul or servant of the world; Christians are called to be engaged in the world but not in terms defined by the church; and finally, (4) the destiny of humanity is to lovingly participate in the very reality of a communion of knowledge and love, a communion, which does not destroy personality, but perfects it.

So now comes the time to realize that God is everywhere, even if it is in some place so unanticipated.

The theme of this column is C.S. Lewis’ earlier books was “Mere Christianity.” Just think — a bold Lion giving his life for the good of others, then rising again and defeating evil altogether — does it ring any bells? Oh, of course it does! And this is what is so beautiful about Narnia, so magical about the writings of C.S. Lewis. The hope in Narnia creates a world of dreams with the seeming certainties of reality. And I tell you — dreams usually are the best realities.

That someone was willing to suffer and die for you is not a dream. Do you ever wonder what your heart? Doesn’t your soul quiver to sense something magical, something impossible? Don’t you dream that dreams can come true? Of course you do, for everyone has a hope for his or her future. That hope will make this life on earth worthwhile.

C.S. Lewis tries to touch our hearts through the delicate words of his Narnia novels, not to persuade us into believing in the Almighty, but to feel, to accept the love given by both Aslan and Narnia. It is this love that makes Narnia so remarkable, so beautiful. It’s for this reason that we felt in love with the book at a tender age, and then in love with the story all over again just a few months ago with the release of “The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe.” We recognize love when we feel it.

So now comes the time to realize that God is everywhere, even if it is in some place so unanticipated. He is within that very large book on your shelf, in the gentle wind that sings through the trees, in the morning sun that always rises after night, and even more closely, within the beats of our very own hearts.

The time has now come to find him. He has been waiting a very, very long time. I suggest starting somewhere unexpected, even if it happens to be a dirty old wardrobe. Open those doors, and embrace his grace.

Marian High School Lancers Featuring Brandon McCaffery is a member of St. Bavo Parish in Mishawaka.
The church is a church, not a sect

James D. Davidson

Sociologists believe there are many differences between a “church” and a “sect.” Both are legitimate forms of religious expression, but they represent two fundamentally different approaches to religion. An understanding of these approaches might help Catholics who are trying to interpret some of the issues facing the church today.

By nature, a church has a positive view of society. It sees itself as functioning within existing social and cultural arrangements, but is willing to critique these arrangements from time to time. A church believes that God offers a balanced world view that both affirms society and retains the core elements of its religious tradition. It believes it is able to survive — indeed, flourish — within the society, while maintaining its integrity as a religious institution, including doctrines that challenge the society.

Membership in a church is inclusive, meaning that a church hopes to attract followers from all walks of life. Membership standards make it fairly easy for people from varied backgrounds and with diverse world views to join the church. In fact, most people become members simply by being born into church families and being baptized into the church at a very early age. Members of a church see themselves as a heterogeneous mixture of saved and sinners who are neither better nor worse than other members of society. Churches encourage their members to desire to be fully involved in many spheres of life, and they create behavioral norms that make it possible to maintain moderately elevated levels of religious commitment, but do not expect members to sacrifice other commitments for the sake of the church.

A sect starts out as a subset of church members who believe that their church has made too many compromises with the larger society and, in the process, has sacrificed much of its integrity and many of its core teachings. These members believe there is a need to adopt a countercultural view of society and to reclaim the fundamental truths of their faith. Sometimes they are able to convince church leaders to make room for them within the church. When they are unable to do so, they are expected to move voluntarily outside of the church and form a new religious group.

Membership in the new sect is exclusive. It is restricted to adults who are willing to embrace the group’s countercultural views of society and the faith. Sect members draw a clear line between insiders (“the saints”) and outsiders (“the sinners”). Sects encourage their members to withdraw from the society and make the sect the center of their lives, as both a social community and a community of faith. They expect high levels of religious participation.

Using such criteria, social theorists and researchers agree that the Roman Catholic Church is a church, and a sect. Both are legitimate forms of religious expression, but they represent two fundamentally different approaches to religion. An understanding of these approaches might help Catholics who are trying to interpret some of the issues facing the church today.
We have twins. We have twins.

A merican Airlines flight #1556 is tearing through the sky at a fantastic speed. In the seats ahead of me there are three couples that have just adopted Guatemalan orphans and are returning home with their tiny bundles of love.

Unbeknownst to them, I share some of their joy and feelings. I have met them twice. In a couple of hours I will again see familiar people and places, and tonight I will rest my weary bones in my own bed. But my heart is still in the rainforest of the northernmost region of Guatemala where our twins live. Are you surprised, befuddled, confused? Let me explain.

Our twins are special. They range in age from one day to 90 years. People of good will need a “hand-up” to set them free to take their place in society. People “over there” had nothing, not even a common page in the bulletin. We do not observe the norm are unaware of the fact that they only draw attention to themselves when acting, thus diminishing the “sign of unity” of which the instruction speaks. (→ no. 42)

Q. Why does the church keep changing how we participate in the Mass, for example, standing in response to receiving holy Communion — from kneeling to standing? Are you surprised, befuddled, confused? Let me explain.

Weary of institutionalism, the church is in search of renewed freshness that allows us to re-think and respond to the needs of today’s world. Thus the change.

Q. Are you now required to bow before receiving Communion? What does it mean if we don’t? DEAR EC.

In regard to this question, the “General Instruction of the Roman Missal” (GIRM) 2000, states that a “common posture, to be observed by all participants, is a sign of the unity... it both expresses and fosters the intention and spirit of the participants.” (→ no. 42) In that regard, the instruction states: “The norm for the presentation of holy Communion in the dioceses of the United States is standing... When receiving holy Communion, the communicant bows his or her head before the Sacrament as a gesture of reverence.” (→ no. 160)

If people choose some other form of reverence, for example, genuflecting or kneeling, the instruction states (no. 160) that such communicants should not be denied holy Communion.

However, the instruction does state that “such instances should be addressed pastorally, by providing the faithful with proper catechesis on the reasons for this norm.”

Often times we do not observe the norm are unaware of the fact that they only draw attention to themselves when acting, thus diminishing the “sign of unity” of which the instruction speaks. (→ no. 42)

Q. Why do Catholics sit, stand and kneel when we worship? We sit, for example, when we watch movies; we stand to greet someone; we take off our hats when we sing the national anthem; we put our hand over our heart when we recite the pledge of allegiance; and we might kneel when we make a request of another (e.g., a man going down on one knee to ask for a woman’s hand in marriage).

All these gestures are intended not only to help us do what we want to do comfortably, but they also signify much deeper and interior sentiments such as respect or love.

So, too, with our liturgical prayer. Our external bodily gestures help us to experience more fully the particular ritual activity taking place, whether we’re being greeted by the priest at the beginning of Mass, sitting to listen to the readings and the homily or standing to pray the Lord’s Prayer.

Q. Why are we now required to bow before receiving Communion? What does it mean if we don’t? EC.

In regard to this question, the “General Instruction of the Roman Missal.” (GIRM) 2000, states that...
In search of Noah’s Ark: Mt. Ararat and other places

The Book of Genesis tells the story of Noah, God destroyed the earth with the sins of the human race and wanted to destroy the people. But Noah and his family were saved by God. So God warned Noah about the approaching flood and told him to build an ark. Noah and his wife, along with his three sons and their wives, went into the ark. For 40 days and nights heavy rain came and the waters lifted the ark above the earth. All the highest mountains were submerged. The waters maintained their crest over the earth for 150 days. Then the waters receded and the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. Noah and his family came out of the ark. Noah thanked God from an altar of sacrifice, and God told Noah’s family to be fertile and multiply.

Ararat is the country in Armenia. Now it lies in eastern Turkey. But you can still see Mt. Ararat at a distance when you are standing in Armenia. This mountain has two peaks: Great Ararat at 16,945 feet and Little Ararat at 12,877 feet. The mountain rises above the valleys of the Araxes and Arpa River. It is a magnificent mountain, and its top can be shrouded in a cloud, while snow decorates its lower peaks. Ararat is actually a dormant volcano that last erupted in 1840.

Anna Edmonds says the upper third of Mt. Ararat is covered with snow all the time. The last 100 meters of snow on the top have turned to ice. The snow melts some of the snow that offers running water for climbers. Below the snow the slopes are covered with great blocks of black basalt rock, some as large as village houses.

Some people have said Noah’s ark is on Mt. Ararat. Josephus, the Jewish historian, in A.D. 70 said that the ark is there on display for all to see. The Italian explorer Marco Polo in 1300 also said the ark is there, but both men were relying on the accounts of others. E. Blake says that Noah and his family could have used up the ark in bits and pieces to build their homes, which is a fate that many other ancient structures in the Near East.

In modern times, G. Horobin says one Turkish pilot claimed to have seen a ship’s timbers on Mt. Ararat. R. Moore says satellite photos have shown a boat embedded on a glacier, but when examined, they were freak formations in the strata. There were mainly great floods in the ancient world. A. O’Neill says the worst in Mesopotamia (or southern Iraq) overwhelmed Abraham’s native city of Ur about B.C. 4000, burying it under some 10 feet of silt. The ancient Babylonians (of southern Iraq) hold a story based in bits and pieces to build their mountain that is covered in snow all the time.

In search of Noah’s Ark: Mt. Ararat and other places

Together again

BY FATHER WILLIAM PEIL

Three they went out. Three they came back.

It was May 13, 1917, when Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta went out to a field owned by Lucia’s family, the Covas da Iria, two miles west of Fatima, Portugal. Before they came back, a woman said she had come from heaven and wanted to destroy the people with the sins of the human race. She was the source of the pagan myths.

Francois and Jacinta — Lucia was their cousin — were stricken in the 1918 flu epidemic, which swept the world.

Francois seemed to be getting better and even was able to get out of bed and walk around for awhile, but his lungs were badly infected. On April 4, 1919, after having said he was hearing the suffering “for the love of our Lord and Our Lady,” he gently passed away. Jacinta remained frail and told Lucia that the Blessed Virgin had appeared to her and told her she’d be taken to a hospital in Lisbon and after suffering a great deal would die alone. Jacinta died Feb. 20, 1920, in a hospital in Lisbon after having two of her ribs removed in a futile effort to relieve the pain.

Shortly before she died, she had kissed a picture of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and said, “Now you can convert many sinners because I am suffering so much.” She died at 10:30 p.m. while the nurse was out of the room for a few moments.

Lucia died on Feb. 13, 2005, in Covas da Iria, Portugal, after a lifetime of spreading the Fatima message. On May 13, 2000, Pope John Paul II, in a visit to Fatima, declared Francisco and Jacinta “Blessed” and assigned their feast day to Feb. 20.

On Feb. 3, 2006, Pope Benedict XVI elevated the World Apostolate of Fatima from a private organization to the Public Association of the World Apostolate of Fatima. Lucia’s body is being brought to Fatima Feb. 19, 2006, to be laid alongside her cousins Francisco and Jacinta.

Three they went out. Three they came back. Together again.

Our Sunday Visitor announces stewardship conference

HUNTINGTON — Our Sunday Visitor has gathered some of the best stewardship minds in the country to create a stewardship message closer to areas parishes. In conjunction with the International Catholic Stewardship Council (ICSC), USCCB Publishing, ParishSOFT, CSI Catholic Service and others, Our Sunday Visitor announces its latest stewardship resource, the Living Catholic Stewardship Conference, June 14-16, in Indianapolis.

This exciting new stewardship event will include nationally-recogized stewardship speakers that will present a range of sessions geared for both pastors that are just starting out on their stewardship journey, to parishes that have been practicing stewardship for many years.

Each workshop will reinforce the United States Conference of Catholic Bishop’s pastoral letter on stewardship and is structured with a “train the trainer” approach to assist pastors, parish staff, stewardship committee members and lay volunteers in implementing the suggestions and procedures in their parishes. The materials and break-out discussions will also help attendees take the message, and many ideas, back home to their peers.

Early bird registration ends March 1. After that, the price will increase from $225 to $300. Speakers such as Matthew Kelly, Charles Zech, Dan Conway and others will present sessions on a variety of topics. For a complete listing of session topics, visit the conference’s website at www.osvnvelopes.com.

Father Michael Heintz

Ordained to the priesthood: Nov. 27, 1993
Rector and Pastor, St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend

Briefly tell us what was the primary influence on your decision to become a priest?

The primary influence on my decision to become a priest derives from my experience growing up and attending school at St. Thomas in Elkhart. The happiness and wholeness of the priests who served there made a deep impression on me as a child, and I both respected and admired them; I would like to be like them.

Why do you like being a priest?

I like being a priest because who I am and what I do are the same.

Do you have a special interest or hobby? How did this interest develop?

I am a avid sports fan, in particular, baseball. I was never an accomplished athlete but found office-lining as a way of being part of sports. In fact, I am a licensed umpire, and in the spring and summer each year, I umpire Little league, ICLA and high school baseball.

What do you like to do for relaxation?

For relaxation, I enjoy reading and sports.

Do you have any pets?

I have no pets.

What is your favorite reading material? All who is/are your favorite author(s)?

I enjoy reading theology and history. Augustine probably has pride of place (no pun intended) as a favorite author. Modern authors I enjoy are Henry Chadwick, Andrew Louth, John Behr, Frances Young and Simon Tugwell.

What do you think is the best part of being Catholic?

The best part of being Catholic is the entire world that belief as a Catholic opens up; it is a comprehensive way of seeing and understanding the world.

What is your favorite scriptural passage?

My favorite passages are Matthew 6:33 (Seek first...) and the account of the Road to Emmaus in Luke 24.

How do you prefer to be addressed by laity?

Father Mike or Father Heintz is fine.
Sports

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — The Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) wrapped up its fifth and sixth grade tournament last week that involved large schools and small school action.

Boys large school

In his 10th season, Coach Tony Stump’s St. Vincent Panthers Green team squeaked past St. Jude, St. Elizabeth/St. Joe and then St. Charles to win the fifth- and sixth-grade boys CYO large school tournament. “It took a team effort and was a close game all the way. St. Charles gave us all we could handle,” said Coach Stump said of their 22-20 victory championship.

Evon Feichter had nine points and Keenan Fuller added eight for the Panthers while Michael Sordelet and Keenan Fuller added eight for St. Jude. The assistant coaches for St. Jude were Craig Bobay, Larry Mayers and Bill Kartholl.

Girls small school

The small school tournament took place at St. Aloysius Activity Center in Yoder. The girls’ winner was Huntington Catholic over St. Therese with a score of 22-10.

Assistant Coach Mike Stoffel said this was the Rams best finish since joining the CYO league three years ago. The head coach for the team is Tom Skelly. With a record of 3-0, they will now continue intramural play in their Huntington County league. Este Stoffel chipped in 14 points for Huntington Catholic and Audrie Laegring was the leading scorer for St. Therese.

Boys small school

In boys’ action, Coach Corey Sheehan led his St. Louis-St. Rose Twins past St. Aloysius, St. Therese and finally Benoit Academy on the road to the championship in his rookie season as a CYO coach. The two “academies” each had just seven players listed on their roster and it was a hard fought battle until the end with the final score of 50-43.

Twins players could not believe the turnout of fans for the big game. The Castleman brothers combined for 20 of the Twins points. Lacy Curry of Benoit and Colin Stuerzenberger of St. Louis led all scoring with 17 points each. The team finished their season with a record of 16-3.

LADY INDIANS PACK PLYMOUTH, MOVE ON TO HAMMOND

After wrapping up their fifth successive record-breaking sectional championship, the defending Class 3-A Indiana state champion Saint Joseph’s girls basketball team will lay their blue chips on the line at Hammond this week in the Twin Lakes Regional against Hammond High School. The Lady Indians packed away the Knox Sectional with a 61-51 victory over the No. 5 ranked Plymouth Lady Pilgrims by sinking 31 of 38 free throws plus an astounding individual performance by Melissa Lechtliner. — EJD

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TODAY’S CATHOLIC

February 10, 2006
Dwenger students promote chastity in middle schools

**BY KAY COZAD**

FORT WAYNE — Peer pressure and cultural trends can have a powerful influence on the choices made by young people. Media promotion of drug and alcohol use and promiscuity has taken its toll on the moral fiber of today’s adolescents. Teenage pregnancy, abortion and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) have been a threat to this generation of teens for some time. One Catholic high school has adopted a proactive defense to change all that.

Bishop Dwenger High School has begun its second year in presenting “A Promise to Keep: God’s Gift of Human Sexuality,” a peer mentorship program, to sixth, seventh and eighth grade students in area elementary schools. Nancy Yorke, service coordinator at Bishop Dwenger High School, describes the program as a powerful use of positive peer pressure.

It began four years ago, says Yorke, when she was asked to visit the program in progress in the Indianapolis diocesan schools, where it has run for 12 years. After bringing her positive impression back to Dwenger and Bishop John M. D’Arcy, she was encouraged to propose a grant to Our Sunday Visitor, who now funds the program. The pilot year for it began in 2004 with 18 student mentors in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

The program boasts a specifically scripted curriculum, part of the Office of Catholic Education’s Religion Curriculum Guide and the Guidelines for Sexual Education in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, but includes a personal touch. Participating junior and senior students from Bishop Dwenger classes are nominated by teachers and staff not only for their quality of character but because they are sexually pure. Nearly 25 students form teams of three to five and after choosing topics of interest within the series each student works with an adult coach to memorize the material.

Topics of interest include character development, friendship and understanding peer pressure, media influence, assertiveness techniques, consequences, linking drugs to sex and love in action.

A unique aspect of the program is the personal student testimony. “The strongest point is the witness of the students. They weave their own stories of chastity into the memorized material. It is very powerful,” says Yorke.

Senior peer mentor, Erika Roy, agrees, “We incorporate a lot of personal experience. The students like hearing personal stories from ones closer to their age.” Roy presents linking drugs to sex and says she enjoys her participation in the program because it “shows them someone cares about them and their decisions.”

Each one-hour presentation, to which staff and parents are encouraged to attend, begins with a short discussion on a definition of chastity and a personal testimony of the peer mentor’s choice to remain chaste. Topic-specific material is presented in Scripture readings, activities, discussions and movies.

Senior Ryan Briscoe, who presents love in action, says with conviction, “It’s (chastity) not some old goofy thing. It’s very real. We are all called to chastity.” He, with the other two mentors on his team, sees value in high school students talking to the younger students and is enthusiastic about being part of the program.

Senior Nick Andert, presenting media, says, “I think the program helps the students see things they may not have thought of before in the media. They don’t expect the great influence media has.” He is proud to share his main reason for remaining chaste, “The love for my future wife — I don’t want to give myself to someone else and take that away from my wife.”

Nancy Yorke reports that each of Bishop Dwenger’s 13 feeder schools has the opportunity to schedule the presentation, which she hopes will reinforce what is being taught in the students’ homes, during the months of November, February and March.

St. Charles Parish and St. John, New Haven have participated for two years with positive reviews from students and staff alike.

“I am proud of the mentors and the help we get from the schools. It’s good for the staff and parents to see the excitement from the mentors as they travel,” says Yorke.

In addition to presenting at the scheduled elementary schools, the mentors also bring a “short version” of the program to the entire freshman class of Bishop Dwenger each fall. This year several other elementary schools in the diocese have shown interest and Yorke also reports that Marian High School in Mishawaka and Saint Joseph’s High School in South Bend are considering adopting this diocesan-wide project for their areas as well.

Yorke, students and staff are well pleased with the development of this project in their area schools. “We have joined the countercultural sexual revolution,” she says. “The students are strong in their ‘no’ to premarital sex. Our motto is ‘We are strong on chastity.’

For more information on the “Promise to Keep” program please contact Nancy Yorke at Bishop Dwenger High School at (260) 496-4700.

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NEW YORK (CNS) – Following are recent capsule reviews issued by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Office for Film and Broadcasting.

“Curious George” (Universal)

Delightful and disarming animated adventure based on the beloved children’s books by A.H. and Margaret Rey, about an inquisitive chimp — George — who befriends a museum curator (voiced by Will Ferrell) searching for a legendary idol for his failing museum, and who eventually stows away, leaving his jungle home for New York, where much monkey mischief ensues. Directed by Matthew O’Callaghan, the simply told but visually vibrant film stays faithful to the gentle tone of the books, imparting a warmed-hearted message about friendship, which though geared toward youngsters adults will find charming. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences. All ages admitted.

“Final Destination 3” (New Line)

Mindless third installment in the horror franchise, this time involving a group of high school students (including Mary Elizabeth Winstead and Ryan Merriman) who escape death by getting off a roller coaster moments before it derails killing everyone else on board, only to find out you can’t cheat the Grim Reaper as each survivor subsequently meets a gory demise. Little more than a tedious series of gratuitously grisly fatalities, director James Wong’s film tries to outgross its predecessors with increasingly intricate ways to kill its young cast, using them as mere props for sadistic sight gags. Excessive graphic and bloody violence, including impalings and dismemberments, partial frontal nudity, much rough and sexually crude language, some profanity and recurring crass humor. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

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Fort Wayne — Bishop Luers Athletic Boosters host fish fry on Friday, March 3, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Bishop Luers cafeteria. There will also be the ever popular Bishop Luers cafeteria. Tickets available at the rectory or at the door.

St. Louis Academy host fish fry by Country Chef
New Haven — A fish and tenderloin dinner will be Friday, Feb. 24, from 4 to 7 p.m. at St. Louis Besancon, 4 miles east of US 30 and I-469 on Lincoln Hwy East. Adults $7, children 6-11 $4 and children 5 and under. Carry-out available.

Fish and chicken dinner planned
Roanoke — A boneless fish and chicken dinner prepared by Country Chef will be Saturday, Feb. 25, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tickets are $7 for adults, $5 for children 6-8 and free for those 5 and under. Carry-out available.

FUNDRAISERS

St. Aloysius Knights host raffle
Fort Wayne — Father Kevin Russeau, CSC, will speak on “Eucharist is Living” at a Lenten retreat at Christ the King Parish, 52473 State Road 933, March 5-7, at 7 p.m. Call (574) 272-3113 for information.

Bishop Hopes Fish Fry: Winners to be Announced
Fort Wayne — Bishop Luers Athletic Boosters will be having a fish fry on Friday, March 3, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Bishop Luers cafeteria. There will also be the ever popular drive-through service. Adults are $7; seniors $6; children 11 and under; $5; and preschool, five and under free. Price includes fish, slaw, potatoes, rolls, beverages and dessert. This is an all-you-can-eat affair.

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Jonah fish fry and salad bar
South Bend — Corpus Christi Parish will have a fish fry and salad bar on Friday, March 10, from 4 to 7:30 p.m. Adults and carry-out $7, children 6-12 $3, children 5 and under. Tickets available at the rectory or at the door.

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Ray Guarendi to speak at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish

BY RAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — Dr. Ray Guarendi, noted author, psychologist and public speaker, will present a three-part series on parenting that promises to be educational as well as entertaining. Hosted by St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, Dr. Ray, as he is nationally known, will speak on issues from discipline to family faith on Feb. 19, 20 and 21 beginning at 7 p.m. in the parish hall.

This much sought-after speaker is known for his dynamic presence and humor. The parenting information and personal stories he passionately offers covers toddlers to parishioners to family faith on Feb. 19, 20 and 21 beginning at 7 p.m. in the parish hall.

Dr. Guarendi will present “Back to the Family” on Feb. 19 with results from a three-year study on families. The Feb. 20 talk, “Standing Strong,” promises to empower the parent with humor and real stories. “Why Catholic” presents the doctor’s personal faith story and the role faith plays in strong parenting. The public is welcome. For more information call St. Elizabeth office (260-447-1551) or visit Dr. Guarendi’s Web site at www.drray.com.

**Enjoy Lent with Fish by Ed Fox**

**March**
- 1 St. Patrick Church
- 3 St. Jude Church
- 3 Queen of Angels Church
- 10 Good Shepherd UMC
- 10 St. Joseph Church
- 17 St. Aloysius Church
- 17 St. Rose Church
- 24 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church
- 24 Our Lady of Good Hope Church
- 31 St. Henry Church
- 31 St. Joseph UMC

**April**
- 14 American Legion Post 420
- 14 Decatur Masons

Dr. Ray Guarendi—nearly author, national radio host, clinical psychologist, and father of 10—is coming to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church for a series of presentations on parenting. His aim is to help you raise great kids and bolster your self-confidence as parents. He’ll cover parenting and families from direction, from toddlers to teens, child discipline, parenting skills, and adoption to adolescence.

Sunday, Feb. 19- “Back to the Family”- 7:00pm
Monday, Feb. 20- “Standing Strong”- 7:00pm
Tuesday, Feb. 21- “Why Catholic?”- 7:00pm

Find out more about Dr. Ray Guarendi, listen to his national radio call-in show “THE DR. IS IN!” on Redeemer Radio 1450AM from Noon to 2PM daily, or visit his website at www.drray.com

Please call 260-432-0268 with questions.

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**Back to the Family—Surviving Parenthood with Love & Laughter**

with Dr. Ray Guarendi

**St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church**

10700 Aboite Ctr. Rd.

**FEB. 19, 20, 21 - 7-8:30pm**

**3 Evenings! 3 Topics! Attention Parents!**

By Ray Cozad

**I hope to help parents become more confident, more in authority and have much more peace of mind in the work they’re doing.**

Dr. Ray Guarendi

**Eastern and high schools. Guarendi attended Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, while he performed in night clubs singing and playing the organ to earn his keep. After acquiring his doctorate in clinical psychology, he worked in a mental health center where he soon found the majority of parents with whom he worked were “innocent, tentative and afraid to be parents.” His clinical practice evolved into working primarily with parents as “change agents” rather than working with their children. The insights he gained in his clinical and community agency work led him in 1985 to write his first book on parenting, “You’re a Better Parent Than You Think.” The book, now offered in a paperback, video and audio series, offers the reader down-to-earth guidance in restoring the confidence needed to raise a child well.

During the early years as clinical psychologist Guarendi met and married his wife, Randi, of 22 years. After years of being unable to conceive a child, they decided to adopt. The Guarendi family has grown to include 10 adopted children ranging in age from six to 18. “We adopted the first, then the second. When we realized our willingness to adopt from any race we said ‘let’s do it again,’” says Guarendi. The family resides in Guarendi’s hometown of Canton, Ohio.

Regarding his Catholic faith Guarendi freely admits that he “left the church for about 10 years.” During the early years of their marriage, the Guarendis worshipped in non-denominational churches until Randi began to home school the children. “As she taught religion to the children, she looked at the Catholic faith and saw truth and depth,” says Guarendi. “She became a convert and is more devout and thoughtful Catholic than I am.”

He believes his conversion back to the church was inspired by his wife. Together they are raising their brood of 10 “immersed in the faith” while being actively involved in their home parish of Little Flower.

Soon after the publication of his first book, Guarendi was asked to speak to groups around the area. In subsequent years, he reduced his clinical hours and eventually moved out of the mental health center. During that time, he appeared on several national radio and television programs including “Oprah” and “CBS This Morning.”

Currently, Guarendi travels nationally from January to May speaking to a variety of groups including schools, churches, hospitaLS, national conventions and more. He enjoys presenting to all groups but says, “My bread and butter are the church groups because the people are seriously involved in their faith and they come to hear.” Guarendi presents his insights on parenting skills secularly but more recently has had more requests to speak to Catholic audiences. “My talks are tradition-al and moral. When it comes to faith — thank God I’ve come to understand how critical it is in everything.” He believes that as a public speaker he’s allowed to speak more boldly about faith and uses him in the mission field.

In addition to his speaking schedule, Guarendi now boasts three books, including “Discipline That Lasts a Lifetime” and “Back to the Family” and an audio tape series titled, “Raising Kids Right.”

Giving Parenting back to Parents.” He also writes a syndicated national column on parenting and is a regular guest on Catholic Answers Live. His national radio show, “The Doctor Is In,” can be heard each weekday from noon to 2 p.m. on Fort Wayne’s new all Catholic radio station, Redeemer Radio, 1450 AM.

Expectations for his audience at St. Elizabeth Parich — “I hope they don’t do off,” he says. More seriously, he hopes, “If they come to hear, I hope to help parents become more confident, more in authority and have much more peace of mind in the work they’re doing.”

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