Catholics in the United States are obliged to abstain from the eating of meat on Ash Wednesday and on all Fridays during the season of Lent. They are also obliged to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Self-imposed observance of fasting on all weekdays of Lent is strongly recommended (National Conference of Catholic Bishops' pastoral statement of Nov. 18, 1966).

Persons between the ages of 18 and 58 are bound by the law of fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday; persons 59 years of age and older are not bound to the law of fasting on these days. All persons 14 years of age and older are bound to observe the law of abstinence during the Fridays of Lent.

The law of fasting, which obliges on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday and is recommended on other weekdays of Lent, allows only one full meal a day, but does not forbid taking some food at the other two meal-times. — “Apostolic Constitution of Poenitentii” 111, 1 and 2.

Bishop John M. D’Arcy has urged that, according to a long-standing tradition, people try to attend daily Mass during Lent. Other traditional practices, such as Stations of the Cross, personal prayer and visits to the Blessed Sacrament, are highly encouraged. Concrete sacrifices, however small, for those in need are strongly encouraged.

All are asked to pray for those among us who are preparing for baptism or reception into the church at Easter time. All are also asked to pray for more young men and women to respond to the call of the priesthood and religious life.

Serving the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend
Mr. Edward Hession’s life offers inspiration to priesthood

A moment to cherish

I am sure that when all is over and I am sitting on a back porch thanking God for being pastor here these many years, certain days will stand out. There was such a day last week. The Eucharist was celebrated as part of the Rite of Christian Burial for Msgr. Edward Hession, a priest of this diocese for over 60 years. What can one say about the intense love between Msgr. Hession and the people of St. Charles Parish? He served in only two parishes: St. Patrick and St. Charles Borromeo, where he was the founding pastor. I recall from my early years here a physician urgently urging in a letter to me that Msgr. Hession not remain too much longer, as his sight was declining, and there was much worry among the people about his health and especially his declining vision and concern about his ability to continue. A group of parishioners came together to buy him a small, but comfortable, condominium adjoining the parish grounds. It proved a pleasant home for him over the years “nearer to the church,” he often said, than the rectory.

The externals

Father Ed was known as a choirmaster of words, sometimes called “puns.” He had the ability to make everyone laugh. Magic tricks were part of his life. He and his brother Joe were priests of this diocese who grew up in Lafayette, Ind. An outstanding student and athlete at St. Joseph, Rensselaer, he was known for his prowess in baseball and basketball, and as a famed drop-kicker in football. Thus, he appeared in baseball and basketball, and as a famed drop-kicker in football. Thus, he appeared in baseball and basketball, and as a famed drop-kicker in football. Thus, he appeared

The ordination of a priest

In the ordination of a priest, there is a call for sacrifice. The prostration before the altar in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, which John Paul II called “evocative,” brought out this point: the total giving of oneself to Christ and his work. The words of the bishop, “Understand what you are doing, imitate what you are handing and model your life on the Lord’s cross.” Also in the instruction: “Seek the concerns of Christ and not your own.” Yet, 50 and 60 years later, all you could see in Msgr. Edward Hession was joy. St. John Paul tells us, is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. His life was like a Magnificat: the Song of Mary, which he read each day in his private devotions. What is the source of all this? He had been given an extraordinary gift from God. He had a profound understanding of the priesthood and a deep conviction that Christ had called him to this beautiful, but demanding life. His devotion to the priesthood, symbolized when he stretched out on the floor of the cathedral, was total. How could one be anything but happy when he is convinced that he was living the life to which God had called him.

The priest as spouse

I have always been taken by the words of John Paul II in the document “Pastores Dabo Vobis,” (“I Will Give You Shepherds”). This document was written in the mid-1990s after bishops from all over the world were consulted on the role of men for the priesthood and the continuing formation after ordination. In light of what was soon to happen, the great crisis ahead, it turned out to be prophetic. To those who read it carefully, it gives light for the future. It said clearly who the priest was; and who he was not. I said the following words in the homily I was privileged to give for Msgr. Hession.

“...who, in the ordination to the calling to ministry is in the position to make this a loving choice, as a result of which the church and souls become his first interest. And with this concrete spirituality, he becomes capable of loving the universal church, and that part of it entrusted to him as a priest. This awareness of his bishop was another thing. He had indicated that he would not; because in the late years, his eyesight was declining, and there was a need for sacrifice. The prostration before the altar in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, which John Paul II called “evocative,” brought out this point: the total giving of oneself to Christ and his work.

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Priests from across the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend attended and concelebrated the Mass of Christian Burial for Msgr. Edward I. Hession at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Fort Wayne on Feb. 17. A comment by Tom Dixon said, “The greatest thing he did was be a great mentor. He taught by example, and I found 20 active priests in this diocese that were mentored at St. Charles.” Father Chris Young said Msgr. Hession was one of his heroes.

By Don Clemmer and Tim Johnson

FORT WAYNE — Although Msgr. Edward I. Hession served in just two parishes, St. Patrick in Fort Wayne and St. Charles Borromeo in Fort Wayne, he made an impact on those who served as assistants under him and those who observed the interaction of Msgr. John Suelzer and Msgr. Hession in later years.

Msgr. Suelzer, pastor of St. Charles Borromeo since Msgr. Hession’s retirement in 1986, remembers Msgr. Hession as a gentle, family man who loved his magic tricks, fishing a couple times. “He was always very positive. He always wanted to share that happiness with his predicators, asking for a donation to help purchase a unit in the condominium adjacent to the church, and the excess funds (were) used to help buy furnishings and basic items needed to set up housekeeping.”

Msgr. Hession was very comfortable in his condominium, but with increasing health problems, he moved to St. Anne Home for special care in early February, where he died Feb. 14.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Friday, Feb. 17, at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Fort Wayne with Bishop John D’Arcy officiating. In his homily, Bishop D’Arcy said the story of St. Charles Parish and Msgr. Hession was “a great love story.” Msgr. Hession built the first church, school, rectory and then a larger church. “St. Charles was his spouse. Nothing else could replace it,” Bishop D’Arcy said.

Bishop D’Arcy also related the love of the parishioners that they knew the love of Jesus Christ through Msgr. Hession’s zeal, care for the Eucharist and his gentleness. “In my book he was one of the heroes,” the bishop said.

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Msgr. Hession held a great devotion to the Eucharist and to Our Lady. “We honor him most if we take these two things from him,” Bishop D’Arcy said.
Holy Cross priest Father Walter McInerney turns 100

BY SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

NOTRE DAME — One cannot help but be uplifted by the sparkling eyes and Irish wit of Father Walter McInerney who celebrated his 100th birthday on Feb. 23. He is very obvious that he has enjoyed his life and his 80 years as a member of the Congregation of Holy Cross.

Born in Brighton, Mass., McInerney was the youngest — the “baby” as he says — of eight children. After graduating from Boston University, where he studied business administration and played hockey, he took a job with Lever Brothers Co.

While working in Dayton, Ohio, one day he began to seriously look at his life. “I was thinking things over. What is this world about?”

Soon after that, he attended a parish mission given by a Father Kearney, CSC, with whom he shared his desire to be a priest. “One thing led to another, and I soon found myself at Notre Dame.” He entered the “Little Seminary,” as it was called, in 1926 while he was learning Greek and Latin before going to the novitiate.

“Once in 1930, he has enjoyed a full life as a priest. Besides his birthday, this year he is also celebrating his 70th jubilee of priesthood. When Debra Niedbalski, special coordinator of events for the Indiana Province, reminded him of this, he said, “I can’t believe it!”

McInerney has ministered in many places and a variety of things. “I worked in Montreal, Canada, and been in every state except for South Dakota,” he said. He has served as a parish priest, professor, retreat director and on the Mission Band. Locally, he was at Holy Cross Parish in South Bend for 10 years, where he helped oversee the building of the church. “I did a lot because the pastor, Father Schulte, CSC, was dying of cancer.”

About Holy Cross, he commented, “Isn’t that the most beautiful church you have ever seen?” He also taught dogmatic and moral theology for four years at the University of Notre Dame from 1940 to 1944. Although he is quick to say that he loved every one of his assignments, McInerney brightened up considerably when he spoke about his retreat work. “I gave retreats to people of all ages.” He especially liked working with the youth. “I liked youngsters and wanted to help them.”

On the topic of vocations, he hopes that these interviews and articles about him will influence young men to join Holy Cross. He remarks, “I hope some say, ‘If that old guy can do it, so can I.’”

His philosophy of life is to be kind and have an attitude of gratitude. “My mother taught us to always be grateful and appreciative.” She also taught her children to help others. “She was charity herself! His father taught them to be honest.”

Friendship is also very important to him. “My friends know I am faithful,” he says. One close friend is Father Theodore Hesburgh. “He is a saint and very humble,” he says of him.

McInerney is an avid reader and is presently reading Hesburgh’s autobiography.

McInerney is quick to mention that he has a strong devotion to St. Joseph and says his litany every day. “I would tell the young women to pray to St. Joseph for a good man. And it worked.”

When asked what he thinks about all the parties, he says he is grateful. He is also grateful for Holy Cross House. “It is a hospital and a home. Where else can you get that?” he said. It also has ice cream and root beer, which he loves.

Asked what he says to young men interested in Holy Cross, “You couldn’t choose a better place. There are so many opportunities.”

Finally, in these last years of his life Father McInerney says that he is concentrating on “helping the poor.”

Father Walter McInerney, CSC, celebrated his 100th birthday on Feb. 23. He will also celebrate his 70th anniversary as a priest this year. Father McInerney resides at Holy Cross House.
Continued from Page 1

TRIBUTE

Msgr. Hession from daily Mass to the mission temporarily from a position the past seven years after accepting responsibility in Msgr. Hession’s evening care for St. Charles Parish, was influential, said Luther. He was a kind person.” Nix attended the funeral rites on Friday for the monsignor with her children in tow. “He loved kids,” she said. “He would have wanted them there.”

Monsignor was a bit of an entertainer. He enjoyed magic tricks, puns and jokes. He also wrote poetry such as “Why Do I Watch the Cubs,” a baseball team he dearly loved. But he also composed more serious poems including many about the Blessed Mother, to whom he shared a deep devotion. He even made rosaries.

Monsignor loved to sing. His family noted song festivities at family gatherings. He especially loved singing “O Danny Boy,” on St. Patrick’s Day in honor of his grandfather who came from County Down for confession.”

In the hour and a half he spent before I took over. I felt guided by the Lord to do it and when (the vacatones) returned, I wouldn’t give the monsignor back. Even in retirement, Msgr. Hession celebrated 25 Masses each month where Tillapaugh would assist by driving, setting the altar for Mass and supporting him as he attempted the altar stairs. “Mass was his life,” Tillapaugh said. “And he never turned anyone down for confession.” In the hour and a half he spent each evening with the monsignor, Tillapaugh grew to love the man with whom he shared Mass, a sandwich and a bedtime ritual in the past few years, always concluding with their customary exchange of “Have a good sleep.”

Tom Dixon, long-time friend of Msgr. Hession, fondly recalls “he was great fun with a great sense of humor.” Msgr. Hession once accompanied the Dixon family to a Rose Bowl game the year Dixon’s son played for Michigan. “But the greatest thing he did was be a great mentor. He taught by example, and I found 20 active priests in this diocese that were mentored at St. Charles,” said Dixon.

“Monsignor was a lifelong friend of our family. I was actually a member of the first class at St. Charles School,” recalled Dr. Diane Lynch Hopen, a medical doctor. Dr. Lynch Hopen, who still has a rosary she received from Msgr. Hession in third grade, and her husband, Bruce, also a doctor, were active in Msgr. Hession’s care, especially toward the end of his life. “He was a kind and saintly man,” she noted. “He never had an unkind word to say about anybody.”

Dr. Hopen’s brother, Dr. Tim Lynch, spoke at the Mass of Christian Burial. He recalled how, growing up in the parish, the child of a single parent on a single income and six children, that the doorbell rang. When the family answered the door, three sacks of groceries were there. Dr. Lynch said he saw monsignor getting into the car. He envisioned that monsignor is now seeing things in heaven with clear vision and finding a new audience for his jokes. Dr. Lynch concluded, “I know there aren’t a lot of Father Hessons in this world, but we can all thank our lucky stars that we met this one.”

Health Careers in High Demand

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Report after report indicates that the U.S. will experience a shortage of nurses and other health professionals in the next 20 years. This shortage is already occurring in many areas of the nation. An education in healthcare could be your first step toward a promising future.

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Health Careers Visit Day
Saturday, March 4, 2006 9 a.m.-Noon
Doermer Center on the University of Saint Francis campus (on the corner of Spring Street and Leesburg Road)

• Explore career opportunities in healthcare
• Talk with faculty and students
• Tour patient care laboratories
• Obtain scholarship information
• On-site transcript evaluations

For more information about the Health Careers Visit Day or to enroll at the University of Saint Francis, please call the Office of Admissions at 260-434-3279 or 800-729-4732.

In its employment practices, selection of students and administration of all programs, the University of Saint Francis maintains a policy of non-discrimination regarding age, race, gender, disability, and national origin.
Girls and Boys Town staff to present teens, tweens, workshop

WARSAW — Growing Healthy Tweens and Teens, a free workshop for parents and catechists will be presented Saturday, March 11, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Warsaw. Sponsored by the Office of Catechesis, the workshop will be presented by staff members of Girls & Boys Town Center for Adolescent and Family Spirituality, Omaha, Neb. 

Topics include: 

• What happens in a teenager brain 

• Helping tweens and teens build good relationships 

• Strategies that work for you, your family and others 

Please register by March 6 with the number of attendees and how many need Spanish translation. Registrations are accepted by e-mail Janice Martin: jmartin@fw.diocelewbf.org or call her at (260) 399-1411. In the South Bend area, call Sue Gerard at (574) 259-9994, ext. 230. In South Bend at 15 S. U.S. 30.

Bishop Luers students place in music competitions

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Luers High School students recently placed in the Indiana State Solo and Ensemble Regional Competition and in the Indiana State School Music Association (ISSMA) District Solo and Ensemble contests.

The following Bishop Luers High School students placed first at the Indiana State Solo and Ensemble Regional Music Competition at Wayne High School and were eligible to go on to state on Feb. 25:

• Mandi Lazzaro — violin 

• Madeline Helser — voice 

• Jimmy Mitchell — voice 

• B.J. Rorick — piano 

• Sonia Rodriguez and Elliot Barger received a silver rating.

Several Bishop Luers students participated at the ISSMA District Solo and Ensemble contest for winds, strings and percussion, hosted by Wayne High School on Jan. 28.

• Jessica Georgi received a gold rating on a group-2 trumpet solo.

• Mandi Lazzaro received a gold rating on a group-2 xylophone solo.

• Veronica Baker received a gold rating on a group-1 violin solo, and competed at the ISSMA State Solo and Ensemble contest in Indianapolis on Feb. 25.

Also, the Bishop Luers Percussion Ensemble earned the opportunity to participate at the state contest level by receiving a gold rating on a group-1 piece. The members of the ensemble are Greg Bauman, Kevin Jeong, Mandi Lazzaro, Chris Teeters, Bishop John M. D’Arcy visited the Old Testament theology class of Marilyn Fech on his visit to Bishop Luers High School on Monday, Feb. 13.

BISHOP VISITS LUERS’ THEOLOGY CLASS

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B.J. Rorick and Pat Kruze.

Midwest states Serrans to gather at Notre Dame

NOTRE DAME — There will be plenty of prayer at the Midwest States Serra Club convention taking place in America’s heartland this fall, Scheduled for Oct. 27-29, the conference will be held at the University of Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s College.

The weekend will include Masses at the Church of Our Lady of Loretto and Sacred Heart Basilica and praying the rosary at the Lourdes Grotto and also along the St. Joseph River at Saint Mary’s.

The purpose of the Serra Club is to foster vocations to the religious life, especially the priest hood. The club takes its name from the tireless Spanish evangelist, Blessed Fray Junipero Serra, who in the late 1700s founded 21 mission churches along the coast of what would later become the state of California. Today the names of the coastal cities of California sound like a litany of saints.

In 1935, four laymen from Seattle established the first club in Washington state and the organization has since grown into a global apostolate.

At a time when there is a vocations shortage in this part of the world, the work of the Serrans is especially critical for the future of the church.

The conference has two themes: “Searching for Knowledge, Truth, Charity and Christ and “Heaven is Intergenerational and Multicultural.”

Bishop John M. D’Arcy of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and Father Bernard Galé, the diocesan director of vocations, have highly endorsed the conference.

The list of speakers promises to impart lots of wisdom, experience and practical know-how in the ministry of fostering vocations.

Talks and workshops will be given by Father Theodore Hesburgh, CSC, President Emeritus of Notre Dame; Father Glenn Kohrman, chaplain of the Fort Wayne Serra Club and diocesan assistant director for vocations; Dr. Charles Rice, distinguished Notre Dame law professor; and Fred and Lisa Rice, co-directors of the Family Life Office of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Father Daniel Schiedt of St. Pius X Parish, Granger, who also ministers to young people, will celebrate the Friday evening Mass. Another highlight for the participants will be a social hour and dinner at the nearby Windsor Castleman, 11, correctly spelled words like infinity, circuit and adonis, but missed boleheize in the fourth round. In that same round, 12 more spellers were eliminated.

However, 12-year-old Collis correctly spelled liturgy and lasted five more rounds to become the runner-up for all of Allen County. She is the daughter of Cindy and Joe Collis.

Andy Franklin of Woodsibe Middle School correctly spelled collaborator to become the eventual champion. He will advance to the next level on March 11, with a chance to participate in Washington, D.C. at the national finals this spring.

Other school champions participating from our Catholic Schools included: Dylan Simpson, Queen of Angels; Loren Anderson, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel; DyNisha Miller, Benoit Academy; Max Roesler, St. Vincent de Paul; Andrew Jehl, St. Charles Borromeo; Jennifer Moehlenkamp, St. John the Baptist, New Haven; Daniel Rodenbeck, St. Aloysius, Yoder; Andre Irvine, Most Precious Blood; Abe Heimann, St. Joseph, Monroeville; Mona Del Prorze, St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne; and Cecelia Millhouse, St. Therese. — MC

Hibernians toast St. Patrick’s Day at dinner, dance

SOUTH BEND — The South Bend chapter of the Ancient Order of Hibernians of America will offer a toast to its legendary past in the city, as well as the future, at its annual St. Patrick’s Day dinner Saturday, March 11 in the St. Andrew Auditorium.

Proceeds of its program will go to its scholarship program. The South Bend chapter traces its establishment to the early 1920s when the immigrant Irish filled the pews of St. Patrick Church on South Taylor Street and St. Joseph Church on Hill Street, both located near the downtown.

The traditional dinner of corned beef and cabbage will be supplemented with chicken and side Irish dishes. The social hour will begin at 5:30 p.m. Irish dancers will perform at 7:30 p.m. and the dance program will begin at 8 p.m. to the music of the Pat Heiden Quartet.

Reservations can be made with Maury Hoban, president, at (574) 232-7832; Ben Cashman at (574) 287-6414, or Marty Bergeson at (574) 271-7089.

Tickets are $20 per person and $8 for children ages 7-12. No tickets will be sold at the door. — EJD

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception hosts mission March 12-15

FORT WAYNE — The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception will hold its parish mission, themed “Come to the Table — One Body, One Spirit in Love,” from Sunday, March 12, to Wednesday, March 15. Evening sessions will be held each evening except Wednesday.

On March 12, Father Bill Kummer, pastor at St. Michael in Plymouth, will speak on “Table of Real Presence.” On March 13, Marilyn Reigh, religion teacher at Bishop Luers High School, will speak on “Table of Unity and Love.” On March 14, Father Gary Sigler, pastor of Queen of Angels in Fort Wayne, will speak on “Table of Forgiveness” with a reconciliation service. On March 15, Bishop John M. D’Arcy will speak on “Table of Sacrifice and Love” and preside at the closing Mass.

The mission will also include morning sessions offered by Sister Jolene Heiden, SSND, on Monday, Tuesday in the Cathedral Center; and Thursday, One Body, One Spirit in Love,” from Sunday, March 12, to Wednesday, March 15. Evening sessions will be held each evening except Wednesday.

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Chili Cookoff warms the palettes and hearts at Little Flower

BY MICHELLE DONAGHEY

SOUTH BEND — Little Flower Parish loves chili. Whether it is hot, full of veggies or cheese, it doesn’t matter. Chili warms up everyone who eats it at their annual Chili Cookoff. At the same time, it helps raise funds for a good cause.

“The main purpose of our cookoff is to raise awareness for the American Cancer Society and the upcoming Relay for Life,” said Tammy Golubski, who helps with the registration of the many kinds of chili. “It has turned out to be a fantastic social event because of the interaction and fellowship. Because people taste a little bit of a lot of different chilies, there is a lot of discussion, comparing and fun competition, much different than a down chicken.”

And there are lots of samplings. There have been entries such as regular chili, white chili, vegetarian chili, fish chili, chicken and cheese chili, full of veggies chili, cheese chili and chili venison chili to name a few. The only limit to the recipe is the imagination at this cookoff.

Each person who submits an entry puts his or her name on the back of the card “so that one knows whose chili is whose” said Golubski. Entrants also add the spiciness rating such as mild, hot, or very hot. Next to the card and pot of chili is a large empty cup, or very hot. Next to the card and pot of chili is a large empty cup, smaller styrofoam cups are also near each pot of chili displayed. Smaller styrofoam cups are also near each pot for small samples of each chili type.

Every year, Little Flower has not had trouble coming up with participants and entrants for the event. “We have had at least 100 with up to 150 people coming. There have been up to 35 different entries and I think even more this year. There are always unique entries, white, sweet and sour, vegetarian, hunter’s chili with deer meat and beanless chili,” said Golubski.

One of the most popular entries in past chili events was a chili labeled “Man’s Chili” at the Little Flower Chili Cookoff held at the parish hall.

“Bill Gough tries a sample of “A Man’s Chili” at the Little Flower Chili Cookoff held at the parish hall. “There is bingo with prizes and a game room with ping pong, pool and other games. Little kids can go to the nursery which also includes toys and movies for parents to play with them,” says Golubski who notes that parents must provide supervision in this area. This year, the social life committee offered to also run bingo games for the whole family.

Every year, a total of around a couple hundred dollars is raised for ACS. “The main goal is to have information for the upcoming Relay for Life available,” said Golubski who had undergone cancer treatment in 1998 and is strongly in favor of having such fund-raising events. “If we work together, we will find a cure,” said Golubski.

Hoosier lawmakers debate enforcement, driving privileges for undocumented immigrants

INDIANAPOLIS — Immigration reform has many different connotations. For some it means tightening up America’s borders and enforcing deportation of illegal aliens. For others it means dealing with the reality of 11 million undocumented immigrants who are living, working and paying taxes in the United States — 45,000 reside in Indiana.

The Indiana General Assembly considered and defeated two immigration reform measures this year. House Bill 1383, a bill dealing with the enforcement aspect of immigration reform makes this year, has prohibited an undocumented immigrant from receiving public assistance, benefits for publicly funded health care, or health care services from publicly funded hospitals or health facilities. Schools would have been required to check a student’s immigration status before admitting them and to deny school admittance to those children who were not American citizens.

Glenn Tebbe, executive director for Immigration Reform Conference, said, “The bill was flawed from its premise and especially in its effects. While part of its purpose was to limit access to assistance, undocumented immigrants already are not eligible. A good goal of the bill was the effort to have law enforcement target suspected illegal immigrants who commit crime. Many lawmakers realized the harmful and discriminatory effects of the bill and it was soundly defeated by a 19-74 vote in immigration House of Representatives.”

Rep. Mike Murphy (R-Indianapolis) led an effort and died when he defeated HB 1383, which is one reason the measure was defeated by such a large margin. During the House floor debate, Rep. Murphy reminded other lawmakers of their own families’ heritage and histories. Rep. Murphy said to fellow lawmakers, “Many of our own ancestors did not come here legally. Some crossed the border from Canada to the United States,” he said. “If we think all of our ancestors came here legally, we are remembering fairy tales. Thousands came here illegally.”

In reflecting on the reasons why HB 1383 failed, Rep. Murphy, who authored St. Jude Parish in Indianapolis, said, “I think HB 1383 failed because people were finally made to understand and relate to their own history.”

Another proposal dealing with immigration reform in Indiana, HB 1310 would have allowed undocumented immigrants obtain a drivers certificate to drive in Indiana. “The situation is that undocumented immigrants are living, working and paying taxes in Indiana, but the REAL ID Act, a federal law, prohibits undocumented immigrants from obtaining a drivers license without a social security number,” said Rep. Murphy, who authored HB 1310. Rep. Murphy explained that HB 1310 would have provided a drivers certificate to undocumented immigrants who meet the following criteria: a) full time student at a state university, b) legal resident and actively engaged in working or business. 

HB 1310 was defeated by such a large margin, “the opportunity to have a proper discussion on the issue never happened,” said Murphy. “This discussion on immigration reform is being controlled by extreme groups who only want to talk about enforcement,” said Rep. Aguilera.

Rep. Suzanne Crouch (R-Evansville) a member of the House Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security who voted for HB 1383 in committee with “serious reservations” later voted against it on third reading on the House floor.

Rep. Crouch opposed HB 1310, “the driver’s certificate bill, because she thought it “rewarded illegal behavior.” Rep. Crouch said, “We should reward illegal behavior, which is what I thought HB 1310 would have done, or failed,” said Rep. Crouch.

“We have to figure out a way for undocumented immigrants to become legal,” said Rep. Crouch. “This is where we should be focusing our attention.”

Rep. Mike Murphy who attends St. John’s the Evangelist in Daylight said, “Perhaps the state should consider something like the Governor’s Tax Amnesty program for the Hispanic Community as a way to help undocumented immigrants become legal without fear of being deported or fined.”
Bishop Dwenger students gain insights into Muslim world

BY DON CLEMMER

FORT WAYNE — Over two mornings in mid February, two religion classes at Bishop Dwenger High School took in-class discussion far beyond the physical confines of their building when they participated in a two-part video conference, “Islam and the U.S.,” hosted by the Global Nomads Group.

The Global Nomads Group (GNG) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to broadening students’ understanding of the world and its people. The GNG draws on interactive technology, such as video conferencing, to bring young people together and allow them to discuss issues that affect them. This particular conference linked up the Dwenger students with a handful of middle and high school classes from around the nation.

Jim Sarasien, technology director at Bishop Dwenger, who was responsible for arranging the school’s involvement in the conference, immediately saw the worth of a video conference on Islam.

“I knew it was a current event issue,” noted Sarasien. “I knew our students would be interested in learning more about the religion and the experience greatly helped her students deepen their understanding of Islam.

“Students from religion classes taught by Tom Kenny and Melissa Wheeler gathered in the Dwenger library to represent their school in the conference. They participated via on-table microphones and a projection screen.

On day one of the conference, GNG facilitator David MacQuart asked students from the various schools about their views on topics including Islam, stereotyping and the ability of different cultures to live in harmony.

“They don’t see us as tolerant of them when we’re over there, trying to impose our way,” said one Dwenger student of Muslims in the Middle East.

Day two of the conference consisted primarily of a question-and-answer session with Ahmed Younis of the Muslim Public Affairs Council. Younis spoke strongly against current stereotypes of Muslims, pointing out that — according to the precepts of Islam as stated in the Qur’an, any violence is uncivilized and un-Islamic.

Religion teacher Melissa Wheeler, who brought her sophomore church history class to the conference, said that she felt the experience greatly helped her students deepen their understanding of Islam.

“My students knew the basics,” she noted, “but still had some misconceptions about what it means to be Muslim because of what they have seen in the media for the last few years. I hope that students were able to have some of those myths dispelled. I think they did. The comments that I got in return to the questions I asked at the end showed that some students did see something they had not seen before. They were able to see that not all Muslims are warmongers or terrorists.”

College students reunite with former high school students at national March

BY ROYCE V. GREGERSON

WASHINGTON — Standing up for the Catholic faith and its teachings is not always the easiest thing to do in our highly secular world, especially for college students attending secular colleges.

However, students from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend are doing their part to make doing this easier at Wabash College in Crawfordsville. Thanks to funding from the diocese and other organizations, six Catholic students at Wabash, four from the Fort Wayne-South Bend area, traveled to Washington, D.C., for the annual Right to Life March.

In Washington, the group met with high school students from Bishop Dwenger, Bishop Luers and Marian High Schools. The college participants had attended the diocesan schools and participated in the national march. John Paul Manalo and David Peden graduated from Bishop Dwenger in 2003 and 2002, respectively; Samuel Borrelli graduated from Marian in 2003; and Royce Gregerson graduated from Bishop Luers.

The group spent the night at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Bethesda, Md., along with the high school group.

“It was neat getting to meet up with our old high schools,” Manalo said. “It showed the real continuity of faith that we brought from Catholic schools.”

Monday brought the Rally for Life at the MCI Center in Washington. Opportunities for recollection and an inspirational Mass made visible the spiritual aspect of the group’s trip. Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, Archbishop of Washington, told all present to remember that they were on a spiritual pilgrimage.

“I think the rally provided us with a lot of focus,” Peden said. “We weren’t there for fun, we weren’t there for us; we were there because we are called by God to send his message to our country.”

It was nearly two hours following the end of the rally and the beginning of the march on the Capitol and the Supreme Court. A seemingly immumerable amount of people compacted into a rather small space provided for much tension, and everyone was glad when the march finally began. However, even if it created stress, the sheer amount of people in attendance was inspirational.

“Seeing the passion of young Catholics and non-Catholics alike made me certain that abortion will be banned within my lifetime,” Borrelli said.

The group left Washington with a renewed sense of purpose and energy in the pro-life cause, and looking forward to a very different march in another year. The group remains very thankful for the support of the diocese and their other supporters.

“We wouldn’t have been able to do the trip without the support of the diocese and our other supporters,” Peden said. “It meant a lot to us to be able to demonstrate our solidarity and support of the pro-life movement.”
Disciples in Mission

“Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch.”

BY SISTER JOLENE HEIDEN, SSND

Opening prayer

Gracious God, we come as we are today to give you praise. We know you are present to us and with us wherever we are. Help us to be open to your calls, challenges, and promises and to be more than we could ever imagine because of your Holy Spirit, who lives and reigns with you forever and ever. Amen

Scripture — Mk 1:16-20

Commentary

I wonder, as I prayed this passage, how, or even if, people would respond to Jesus’ call. “Come, follow me” if they heard it today? Is it such a simple call, but our culture is always on the move, more for noise and instant gratification, Ah, “there is the rub,” more for noise and instant gratification. Do we take the time to ponder these, talk to others, read for further understanding and pray for wisdom to make good decisions? What kind of priority do we give to these calls?

One of the earliest calls for many was the call to the priesthood. For many boys of the 1930s, the only real career path was into the military, but for many it was the call of God. Do we ever consider the depth of meaning in our adult life? Do we even consider the depth of our vocation if we are not seeking a life of the religious life?

Mk 1:16-20

Jesus and the call of God

Jesus is the truth. Jesus is always there, waiting. Jesus is the way. Jesus is the truth. Jesus is the life. May you have the courage to answer his call to “Come, follow me.”

Reflection and connection

• Take some time to think about the many calls (children, telephone, friends, neighbors, coworkers) you experience during a day. Do you react, or do you respond?

• Take some time to think about the many calls each has responded to in his or her life. As a group, to what do you sense you are being called this day, this week or this month? Try to be specific.

• How do you look upon inter-personal relationships? Consider the ways you express your concerns over a current issue or to find out their particular stance on a current issue, e.g. violence in our city, the life-death issues, etc.

• Do you react, or do you respond? Are you aware of your attitude? Is it done out of love?

• And keep me out of your way.

• Tell me what you want me to do.

• Let me meet whom you want me to meet.

• Tell me what you want me to say.

• And keep me out of your way. Amen.

JUBILEE PILGRIM CROSS TRANSFERS TO ST. THERESE PARISH

Students at Bishop Luers High School and Father Joe Rulli of St. Therese Parish, Fort Wayne, process with the Jubilee Pilgrim Cross from Luers to St. Therese. The cross spent one day at Bishop Luers, its first stop at a diocesan high school.

Jubilee Pilgrim Cross

March 3-10

St. Mary

St. Jude/St. Anne’s Home

Fort Wayne

March 10-17

St. Jude

St. Charles Borromeo/FFPW

Fort Wayne

March 17-24

Our Lady of Good Hope

University of St. Francis/TV Mass

Fort Wayne

March 24-31

March 31-April 7

Fort Wayne

Fort Wayne

Fort Wayne

Fort Wayne

EVANGELIZING ACTION CHALLENGE

For interior renewal: The state of life you are living is a call. How are you nourishing it so that you have the energy, the inner strength and the courage to fulfill your responsibilities?

Take time to read the life of some outstanding person: Father Oscar Romero, Gandhi, Mother Teresa of Calcutta. How did they view the world through the eyes of faith?

For reaching out to others: Our baptismal call to discipleship is the call to reach out to others. Talk with your parents or children about the various vocations in life. Find opportunities that will challenge you as a family to respond to this call. Be aware of your attitude. Is it done out of love?

In your small faith-sharing group, share about the various calls each has responded to in his or her life. As a group, do you sense you are being called this day, this week or this month? Try to be specific.

For transforming society: Call or write one of your congressmen, senators or the governor to express your concerns over a current issue or to find out their particular stance on a current issue, e.g. violence in our city, the life-death issues, etc.

Closing prayer

(One of my many visits to parishes, I found this beautiful prayer, written by Mychal Judge, OFM, on the front of a bulletin. I think of it as a disciple’s prayer and it has become one of my favorites.)

Lord, take me where you want me to go.

Let me meet whom you want me to meet.

Tell me what you want me to say.

And keep me out of your way.

Amen.

JUBILEE PILGRIM CROSS TRANSFERS TO ST. THERESE PARISH

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More than 100,000 gather at Fatima for reburial of Sister Lucia

FATIMA, Portugal (CNS) — Despite a persistent rain, more than 100,000 people gathered at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima to pray and witness the reburial of Carmelite Sister Lucia dos Santos, the last of three Fatima visionaries. Sister Lucia died Feb. 13, 2005, in her cloistered convent in Coimbra, Portugal, at the age of 97. She had been buried temporarily at the Carmelites' convent. The remains were made for final burial alongside her two cousins, Blessed Francisco MARTO and Francisco MARTO, at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima. On May 13, 1917 — when Lucia was 10 years old, Francisco was 9 and Jacinta was 7 — the children claimed to have seen the Blessed Virgin Mary at Fatima, near their home. The apparitions continued once a month until October 1917 and later were declared worthy of belief by the Catholic Church. In 2000 Pope John Paul II beatified Sister Lucia’s cousins, who died as children.

Inequities in health care system challenge Catholic leaders, Congress

WASHINGTON (CNS) — An Illinois man takes pliers to his own teeth in a “treat” in abscess. A college graduate with a full-time job in Kentucky dies from complications of an easily treatable disease because he didn’t seek medical care, a Senate report said. A Florida woman pays an extra $15.60 a year above her medical costs to get more personalized treatment and phone calls directly from her doctor. What’s wrong with this picture? The issue of justice in health care probably has been discussed since before the Hippocratic oath was written. But as American medicine becomes more technologically complex, the gap between the haves and the have-nots is getting larger.

Church cautious about plan to examine possible remains of Joan of Arc

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — A French church spokesman expressed caution about a forensic scientist’s announcement that he would analyze what might be the remains of St. Joan of Arc. “The precise origin of these objects isn’t known — all we have are some fragments of cloth and human rib,” said Bertrand Vincent, spokesman for France’s Tours Archdiocese. “Even if these are confirmed as belonging to a young woman of the period, who was burned to death, this won’t prove it’s Joan of Arc.”

Meeting focuses on challenges to priests heading more than one parish

CHICAGO (CNS) — For five years, Father Pat Lee has served as pastor of both St. Joseph and Immaculate Conception parishes on Chicago’s near North Side. The two churches are six blocks apart, but that doesn’t mean the two communities are — or want to be — the same. “The biggest challenge is to lead people to a broader vision of what church is,” said Father Lee, who participated in a Feb. 7-9 symposium on Multiple Parish Pastoring at the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein. “I do bring the resources of two places to the broader mission of the church. That should be an advantage.”

Retired Vatican official faces more sexual abuse charges in Canada

OTTAWA (CNS) — A retired Vatican official who returned to Canada to face two charges of sexual abuse of a minor has been charged with another set of sex abuse charges. The 16 charges against Msgr. Bernard Prince, an official of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith from 1991 to 2004, involve seven individuals and alleged incidents dating back more than 30 years. Sgt. Kristine Rae-Chollette, spokeswoman for the Ontario Provincial Police, said Feb. 17 there were “more investigations on the go.”

Italian bishops asked to suggest candidates for conference president

ROME (CNS) — Unlike bishops in most countries, the bishops of Italy do not meet in assembly, so their bishops’ conference, but this year they are being asked to suggest appropriate candidates. The Italian news agency ANSA reported Feb. 13 that Archbishop Paolo Romeo, the Vatican nuncio to Italy, sent a letter to 25 to the heads of Italy’s more than 200 dioceses asking them to suggest candidates for the office of president of the conference. The Vatican announced Feb. 14 that Pope Benedict XVI had asked Cardinal Roger Bernau of Rome, conference president for the past 15 years, to continue in office until other provisions are made. According to Feb. 11 announcement of the Italian bishops’ conference, “In consideration of the particular ties of the Italian episcopacy with the pope, bishop of Rome, the naming of the president of the conference is reserved to the supreme pontiff.”

Pope, curial officials discuss proposal to reconcile with Lefebvrites

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI presided over his first major meeting with top Roman Curia officials, an encounter that sources said focused on a proposal to reconcile with followers of the late Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre. More than 20 heads of congregations and pontifical councils attended the Feb. 13 meeting, which was to be followed up by a similar session in late March. No details of the February meeting were made available by the Vatican press office. A Vatican source said the pope and other department heads “spent time with Cardinal Dario Castrillon Hoyos outlined a possible solution to the 18-year-long impasse with the followers of St. Pius X, a self-styled traditionalist order founded by Archbishop Lefebvre. Its members reject modern liturgical texts and several teachings of the Second Vatican Council. One possible step being discussed was the Vatican was establishing an apostolic administration, a special jurisdictional structure that would allow the Lefebvrites to offer pastoral care to their followers around the world.

Vatican says number of priests increases, but varies by continent

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The number of priests and seminarians in the world continues to increase, but the situation varies widely from continent to continent, the Vatican said. The most positive signs came from Asia and Africa, where Europe has shown a marked decline in priestly vocations, according to a Feb. 18 statement from the Vatican press office. The statistics were released in connection with the presentation of the 2006 edition of the Vatican yearbook, known as the Annuario Pontificio, which catalogs the church’s pastoral presence, diocese-by-diocese. Pope Benedict XVI met with editors of the yearbook and praised them for their work. It was the first edition of the yearbook issued under his pontificate. In its statement, the press office referred to data on church population, priests and seminarians through 2004, the last year for which statistics are available. It said the number of priests in the world was 405,891 at the end of 2004, an increase of 441 from 2003. About two-thirds were diocesan priests and one-third members of religious orders.

Superior of Jesuits meets pope at Vatican

Father Peter Hans Kolvenbach, superior of the Jesuits, is seen with Pope Benedict XVI during the pontiff’s meeting with editors and staff of the Jesuit-run magazine La Civiltà Cattolica at the Vatican Feb. 17. The pope said the magazine helps the church in its dialogue with the modern world.
Lent

it’s a good thing ...

Perspective on a gift

BY DON CLEMMER

I

n the hectic routine of our daily lives, so often spent in the pursuit of our dreams and goals, we frequent-
ly miss the gifts that are already in our midst. Oftentimes, we have to slow down for a little while in order to notice them. As Catholics, this time of stepping back and catching our breath is built into the liturgical year as the season of Lent, and one of the gifts in our lives that we might otherwise miss if not for this season is the sacrament of reconciliation.

Reconciliation, of course, has been a neglected sacrament in the decades since the Second Vatican Council, to the point where if there were an “endangered sacrament” list, reconciliation would probably be at the top.

While there is no such list, there are such priests who feel a special connection to reconciliation as a part of their ministry and feel strongly that more Catholics need to more fully understand and appreciate it and, therefore, practice it more frequently.

Father Gary Sigler, pastor at Queen of Angels Church in Fort Wayne, is one such priest. “It’s such a ministry of healing,” Father Sigler says of his love for the sacrament. “It touches people in a way that we very often can’t do in the normal course of events. People are extremely vulnerable, open and sometimes hurting and struggling. So they’re very open to whatever help you can give them.”

As for why the sacrament is neglected, Father Sigler notes several reasons. One is that people today are very busy, and church in general often gets shoved to the margins. Another is that, in the years since Vatican II, when the church shifted its focus from the judgment of God to the mercy of God, many lost their motivation to seek out the sacrament.

“We lost that fear,” notes Father Sigler, “which is both a good and a bad thing. The sacrament is a sacrament of mercy, but people just don’t feel a need for it.”

Father Sigler also notes that, along with a fear of God’s judgment, many Catholics also lost a sense of sin, which provides him with one very simple reason people do not go to confession.

“Lots of times, people don’t go to confession because they really don’t know what to confess. As kids, we confess, ‘I disobeyed mommy and daddy. I didn’t do my homework’ but ... if you didn’t learn how to examine your conscience and understand the nature of sin beyond those kinds of lists, then you don’t know how to go to confession. I have a lot of older people who come to me and say, ‘I don’t know what to confess.’”

In these cases, Father Sigler recommends that people focus their attention on what they have neglected to do rather than what they have done.

“As we grow older, I think it’s more often than not in what we fail to do — that’s where our sinfulness lies.”

He also recommends that the Ten Commandments of their ministry are forgotten by many of the faithful.

Catholics achieving a better understanding and appreciation of reconciliation is a simple matter of perspective.

“We tend to see confession as something that we have to do. And we need to look at it not as something that we have to do, but something we get to do. Confession is given to us as a gift, not a burden. And so this sacrament is just one of many ways that God, in his mercy, wants to reach out to us and help us. ... It’s something we get to do, not something we have to do.”

And since reconciliation is a gift, it carries with it some real benefits for those who use it.

“There is something so therapeutic about admitting it,” notes Father Sigler, “about getting it out, getting it off your chest, bringing it to the light. When it stays inside, it churns away, and it just destroys you. ... One of the greatest problems that I think people have in their struggles and weaknesses is that they feel all alone. And when you can talk to somebody about a problem, one, you usually discover that you’re not alone, that there are a lot of people out there with the same kind of problems; two, (you discover) that there is help available, and sometimes that help comes from just talking about it.”

Father Sigler smiles as he adds that these benefits are so great that the sacrament has even cropped up in secular form.

“The 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous are wonderful,” he points out. “In the 12 Steps, the fourth and the fifth step are very much like our sacrament of reconciliation. The fourth step is to do a fearless moral inventory. ... They call it a fearless moral inventory. We call it an examination of conscience. The fifth step is admitting to myself, to God and to another human being the exact nature of my wrong. Confession. What they have discovered is essential to the recovery of an alcoholic or a drug addict is something the church has known all along.”

So, since Catholics are fortunate enough to have this sort of spiritual counsel already at their disposal, this Lent might be a good time to detach from the distractions of daily life and come to better appreciate the healing gift in our midst.
Catechesis of the Good Shepherd helps build a relationship with God, children

BY JENNIFER OCTSTEIN

SOUTH BEND — They move silently about their tasks, which any parent knows is somewhat unusual for kindergartners.

South Bend and Granger children are learning about having a relationship with the Good Shepherd, who knows and calls them each by name.

In a room known as the atrium, specially designed for this purpose, the children are guided by their catechists, who present activities to them that will help focus them on a relationship with their Lord and to understand their faith. Different stations are set up so the children can move around the atrium to “work” on a particular task. The teaching method, called Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, gives kids a hands-on approach to learning the Catholic faith.

“The ultimate goal is spiritual formation, using the Montessori Method as a way to convey truth,” said Joanie Rymsza, a catechist for children at Christ the King Catholic School in South Bend, where Catechesis of the Good Shepherd has been implemented.

The children can polish wood and brass, designed to teach them how to focus for long periods of time, according to Rymsza. They can use this skill for prayer and meditation. It also teaches fine motor skills.

Their catechists individually read them the Pearl of Great Price — Mt 13:45-46. During the reading, a child plays out the passage with a small wooden figure. Rymsza said the children can ponder the mysteries of the parable in their own way by doing this.

The children can also match sets of locks with keys, which develops fine motor skills, Rymsza said. But, at the same time, it introduces them to the tabernacle, which they will later learn to unlock so they can contemplate Jesus’ presence there.

Other activities are set up as a way to help the children understand the sacraments according to Teresa Oross, coordinator of sacramental preparation at Christ the King. Through Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, the children learn Scripture, symbolism and signs in Mass and learn to encounter the Good Shepherd in their prayers.

After an instructional presentation in the atrium, the children are able to work at different tasks peacefully, according to Amy Schlatterbeck, pastoral associate at St. Pius X Catholic Church in Granger, where Catechesis of the Good Shepherd has also been introduced.

“They’re very meditative,” Schlatterbeck said of the children. She said we often don’t think of kindergartners as meditative.

“Children don’t often have the opportunity to be quiet,” Schlatterbeck said. “That’s a grace they learn at their own pace with this method, and the parish community because each of the children will be able to understand what is happening during Mass.”

Oross said the catechists go through an intensive study — over 100 hours of training for level one catechists alone — and, at Christ the King, they are all volunteers. Schlatterbeck, who is a trained catechist for children at St. Pius, said she has learned more about her own faith by teaching Catechesis of the Good Shepherd to the children.

“We, together, are learning with the children,” Schlatterbeck said. “It’s based on child development,” Oross said, so that each level is age-appropriate.

She said the same presentations could be given to kids in level one as in level three. But the kids in level three can think more deeply about their activities, while the kids in level one are just being introduced to the precepts.

According to Schlatterbeck, the themes are revisited and repeated each year in the program. And, she said, the teaching is liturgically-based so that the catechist and the children can feel the rhythm of the liturgy throughout the year. And the children will be able to understand what is happening during Mass.

Sofia Cavalletti, a close friend of Pope John Paul II, built the catechesis using teaching methods birthed by Maria Montessori. The teaching method stresses the child’s abilities and initiative so they can learn without criticisms, reward or punishment. The children learn at their own pace with this method.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a revolutionary way to teach children about their Catholic faith, Schlatterbeck said.

“The traditional way to learn is by memorization,” Schlatterbeck said. “This approach is more relational, more experiential.”

Anna Mendoza, a kindergartner in Kate Murphy’s class at Christ the King School in South Bend, considers the Parable of the Pearl of Great Price as Murphy reads the Scripture to her. Anna plays the passage out with a small homemade wooden figure, which allows her to deepen her understanding of the mystery of the kingdom of God, according to catechist Joanie Rymsza.

Joel Mandel, a kindergartner in Kate Murphy’s class at Christ the King School in South Bend, traces and colors a picture of the mustard bush that Jesus talks about in the Parable of the Mustard Seed, according to catechist Joanie Rymsza. She said, “The art area provides pasting works, tracing works and an opportunity for freehand art related to atrium topics.” She said this allows them to process learning in other areas such as Incarnation area, geography area and prayer corner.

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The Self-Giving Love of Jesus

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**Live, Laugh, and Be Blessed:** Finding Humor and Holiness in Everyday Moments

By Anne Bryan Smollin

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ISBN-10 1-893732-98-3

**Simple Ways to Pray**

Emilie Griffin

Emilie Griffin offers readers an intimate and accessible introduction to the history and practice of prayer in the Catholic tradition. Meaning both to engage the beginner and encourage the experienced, Griffin explores the different types, devotional styles and techniques of prayer as well as outlining practical strategies for starting and sustaining an interior spiritual life.


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Brothers of Holy Cross to offer Lenten reflections series

NOTRE DAME — The Brothers of Holy Cross will again present a Lenten reflection series each Wednesday evening during the season of Lent. The series, beginning on March 1, Ash Wednesday, will be held in the Me House lounge at Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame from 7-8 p.m. each Wednesday in Lent. The reflection will be followed by light refreshments. Please enter through the main door of Dujarie House.

The six presenters are:
- March 1 — Brother Raymond Papenfuss, CSC, Living the Incarnation
- March 8 — Brother Philip Smith, CSC. When Will Tomorrow Begin?
- Lent is that time when we are advised to change our hearts. In as much that we sincerely want to do, we often say, “I’ll begin tomorrow.” When will that be? This session offers some musings about actual beginning in a timely fashion to remake our hearts.
- March 15 — Montel Mening, The Elevator Stops at the Penthouse
- Grace is an invitation of love from God. It is to offer a gift to be shared with oneself first and then with others. Montel will explore different responses possible in today’s world as we hope to finally arrive at “eternal life in unrestricted endless fullness” led by the “Light of the World.”
- March 22 — Brother William Mewes, CSC. The Beatitudes: Prescription for Happiness in Living
- Brother William will lead us to a better understanding of the beatitudes, especially as they pertain to our life of elder hood, now and in the future.
- March 29 — Brother Joseph McGuiggan, CSC. The Letting Go That Heals: When to Hold ‘em and when to Play ‘em
- Brother Joseph will examine the paradox of the cross and what it can mean for day-to-day living. He will help us look at the trials of life and focus on those ups and downs. How does the traditional notion of “carrying the cross” help or hinder them?
- April 5 — Brother Philip Armstrong, CSC. We’re the Flock: Are we a Church?
- Jesus advises us not to fear, yet fear has been from the time of Adam and Eve, an essential element in our relationship God. Brother Philip examines the scriptural uses of fear and shows how we can let God turn a wholly positive asset in our spiritual life.

Lenten Reflections
A Parish Mission at St. John the Baptist Church
943 Powers Street, New Haven, Indiana
February 26 - March 1, 2006

With services each evening at 7:00 p.m.
and an Ash Wednesday Mass at 7:00 p.m. on March 1

Father Garner belongs to the religious community called The Franciscan Missionaries of the Eternal Word. He was ordained in June 2004. Father Dominic currently enjoys being the assistant chaplain at the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Hanceville, Alabama, home of Mother Angelica and the Poor Clare Nuns of Perpetual Adoration. During our mission, Father Dominic will make morning presentations at 9:30 a.m.
Students find the Gospel a real ‘zinger’

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — Passing a real understanding of the Catholic faith to the next generation is a challenge as old as the Gospel itself. Catholic schools have long tried to meet that challenge by implementing curricula rich in faith training and moral character development. Recently, one elementary school in Fort Wayne has added a new dimension to its religion studies.

St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School is in its second year of spreading the Gospel with the “Breaking Open the Word” program. BOWT, as it is enthusiastically referred to by its students, is a supplementary religion program, which includes activities surrounding the Gospel found in the subsequent Sunday’s Mass.

Fourth-grade teacher Stephanie Boss, brought the program to Fort Wayne, following her move here from Denver six years ago. “This way of teaching is from lectionary-based catechism. It is an outgrowth of the program used in the Archdiocese of Denver. I’ve come to love it,” says Boss, who teaches at the St. Joseph campus.

After receiving permission from Principal Lois Widner, Boss began the program in her fourth-grade class. As word spread of the students’ enthusiastic response more teachers became interested in the program and Boss was asked to speak at teachers’ staff meetings as well as a NASA meeting for St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School. Soon every teacher on both campuses was ready to join the bandwagon.

The following year, the school purchased the entire program for use in kindergarten through eighth grades.

In planning each church season’s lessons, the school uses one teacher’s edition of each of the weekly grade-specific program magazines to gather ideas at each quarterly collaboration meeting.

“Using one teacher’s edition creates interaction between the teachers,” says Widner. “They get ideas but witness their own faith through their creative activities.” Each lesson created offers students reading of the next Sunday’s Gospel, discussion and corresponding activity. The teachers choose a prominent verse or phrase from each Gospel as the focus for discussion and have been inspired to refer to it as “the zinger.” Not surprisingly, the students have taken the zingers as their own.

Assistant principal of the St. Elizabeth School campus, Dorothy Korte, says the second graders she teaches look forward to doing the craft and talking about the Gospel. “It’s a wonderful program,” she says. “It’s easy to do and the kids love it. They write the zinger right on their craft.”

Once a week, all classes spend 15 to 45 minutes on the Gospel lesson, which includes a discussion on the zinger idea. These discussions lead students to discover how to bring the Gospel’s meaning to their lives and how to reflect it in their behavior as Catholics.

Students in Boss’s fourth-grade class look forward to the lessons and report they are now more attentive to the Gospel during Sunday Mass.

One student said the lessons have helped him see the Gospel in a different way while another reports that he nudges his parents when he hears the zinger. Still another enjoys sharing her zinger craft at home while teaching her family the lesson. Boss adds, “We have a lot of positive response from the parents from this. They tell us it’s making a difference.”

Zinger activities, which reinforce the meaning of the Gospel, range from simple art projects such as a manger scene of yarn for the younger grades to poetry, crossword puzzles and journaling for the middle school students. Each grade level works on its own project and one student each week is chosen to have his or her work proudly displayed on the BOTW wall within their classroom. Boss hangs the crafts around a large liturgical year calendar in hopes of inspiring her students to “come away with a feel for the liturgical year.”

The students are then asked to take their projects home each week for a family discussion. Many have collected their crafts and displayed them on a wall or refrigerator at home while others store them in a notebook or photo album. Father Tim Wrozek, pastor of St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School to St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton pastor Father Jim Shafer agrees, saying, “I’m happy the kids come better prepared for Mass. They pay better attention because they know the Gospel.” He recalls immediately receiving positive comments from parents as the program got under way. “The parents said their kids were coming home and talking about the Gospel.”

Breaking Open the Word has provided a new and exciting opportunity for the students of St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School to understand their faith and participate more fully in the Mass. As one fourth grader put it, “When we hear the Gospel before the Sunday Mass we understand it more and learn more about Jesus.” That’s a real zinger.
EDITORIAL

Spiritual growth during Lent, even beyond

T

he Synoptic Gospels tell us that the spirit of God that “led,” or “drove” Jesus into the desert to undertake 40 days of prayer and fasting. As we again approach the season of Lent, we, too, require God’s holy wind at our backs if we truly are to expe-

Dwenger student encouraged at pro-life march

This past January, I attended the annual National March for Life in Washington, D.C., for the second time. With drums pounding and the crowd close to half a million pro-life activists in one place, all there for the common purpose of working for an end to abortion.

Our pilgrimage began at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception three hours before the start of the Prayer Vigil for Life. And already the basilica was almost full.

The mass was very motivational, and at times the cardinal’s words during the homily seemed more like a political speech, drawing claps and cheers as he spoke of the horrors of abortion and the strength of the pro-life movement. He spoke of our movement’s progress over the past few years and encouraged us not to give in until the battle is won. Leaving the basilica, I was awed and inspired for our cause and for our faith.

The next morning, we attended the Young Life and Mass at the MCI Center, which was truly a sight to see; with well over 20,000 teenagers we filled the MCI Center to capacity.

The march itself was truly awe-inspiring; there were crowds of pro-life activists as far as we could see in every direction. Marchers filled all the streets surrounding the official course of the march and it was an incredible experience to be part of such an enormous attack on the evil of abortion.

My friends and I joined in song with a group of Franciscan priests who were carrying stereo equipment on their backs and providing live Christian music. And if we walked, we were once again amazed by the enormity of the crowds that were marching along with us, united in a common goal.

The whole experience was so meaningful to us, because we felt like we were making a difference and we knew that when our small band of Dwenger students gathered outside the MCI Center to pray, we were not alone in our fight, and if we keep trying, we will achieve our goal.

Lauren Polaski
Bishop Dwenger High School
Fort Wayne
New cardinals? Rome buzzes with excitement as rumors fly

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Sometimes this year — perhaps as early as March — Pope Benedict XVI is expected to create his first batch of cardinals, a prospect that has already generated a buzz of excitement in Rome. Various observers, especially journalists, tend to get overeager when it comes to new cardinals. Since last summer, there have been at least three false alarms about impending consistories. The current rumor is that the pope is preparing to name new cardinals in late February and invest them in late March. Holding a consistory during Lent would be unusable, some sources say; but, then again, Pope John XXIII did so twice in the 1960s. The appointment of new cardinals is seen as a leading indicator of any papacy, but it’s important to remember that, whenever Pope Benedict singles out any of his clergy, it will be a list that he has inherited in large part from his predecessor. Of the 20 or so prelates most frequently mentioned as likely cardinal appointees, all but two were put in line for the red hat by Pope John Paul II. One of those two is Polish Archbishop Stanislaw Dziwisz of Krakow, the late pope’s personal secretary, who in a sense will also be seen as a Pope John Paul selection.

Only U.S. Archbishop William J. Levada, head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, is considered a Pope Benedict appointee in this “likely cardinal” list. Archbishop Levada is one of three Roman Curia officials virtually certain to be named cardinal. The other two are German Archbishop Franc Rodé, head of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, and Italian Archbishop Agostino Vallini, head of the Supreme Court of the Apostolic Signature, the Vatican’s highest tribunal.

Other Roman Curia possibilities include German Archbishop Paul Cordes, head of the Pontifical Council Cor Unum, U.S. Archbishop John P. Foley, head of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications; and Polish Archbishop Stanislaw Ryylko, head of the Pontifical Council for the Laity.

The book is about Hosea. His other details of his background are not given, but we know that his father’s name is given, but no one but two were put in line for the red hat by Pope John Paul II. One of those two is Polish Archbishop Stanislaw Dziwisz of Krakow, the late pope’s personal secretary, who in a sense will also be seen as a Pope John Paul selection.

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We need Jesus. As implied by Mark in this reading, Jesus is God. He speaks with divine, not earthly, authority and knowledge.

However, God does not burst into our lives as a conqueror would come. We must seek God. We must go into the silence and starkness of our desert to realize why we need God, and there to commit ourselves to seek God. If we so commit, God will await us.

Readings look ahead to Lent

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mk 2:18-22.

Providing this weekend’s first reading is the Book of Hosea. It is not a long book of prophecy, but nor is it often used in the liturgy.

The book is about Hosea. His father’s name is given, but no other details of his background are offered. It is noted that his wife was Gomer, the daughter of Naamah, and that their union produced a son named Jezreel.

Hosea was Gomer, the daughter of Naamah, and that their union produced a son named Jezreel. Other details of his background are not given, but we know that his father’s name is given, but no one but two were put in line for the red hat by Pope John Paul II. One of those two is Polish Archbishop Stanislaw Dziwisz of Krakow, the late pope’s personal secretary, who in a sense will also be seen as a Pope John Paul selection.

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By Dominic Campillosson

In this second month of the year, we look at the second commandment as discussed in the Catechism of The Catholic Church (CCC).

1. The second commandment refers specifically to:
   a. the avoidance of idols
   b. keeping the Sabbath
   c. using God’s name properly

2. According to the catechism, this is a matter of respect, but it has another effect; it:
   a. makes us aware of our creation by God
   b. governs our use of speech in sacred matters.
   c. avoids putting much importance on material goods.

3. The catechism notes that to honor God’s name one should not use it except to:
   a. bless, praise, and glorify his name
   b. use it for white magic.
   c. find a rhyme.

4. The catechism also says that the faithful should confess the faith:
   a. when there are non-Catholics present.
   b. without giving way to fear.
   c. when it is okay with their employer.

5. By extension, the prohibition of abusing the name of God extends to:
   a. animals as they are part of creation
   b. the names of humans as they are made in the image of God
   c. the Virgin Mary and all the saints.

6. The catechism cautions that oaths and promises made in God’s name must be ful-
   filled, because to fail to do so implies God is:
   a. divine
   b. triune
   c. liar

7. Not surprisingly, the catechism prohibits speaking against God, specifically:
   a. irony
   b. caricature
   c. blasphemy

8. The second commandment commands the use of God’s name for purposes of:
   a. magic
   b. prayer
   c. liturgy

9. The catechism notes that this commandment prohibits false oaths. What are these?
   a. swearing “God is my witness” to something you know to be untrue
   b. using “God is my witness” to something you know to be true
   c. swearing “God is my witness” to something you believe to be true

10. The prohibition against perjury also extends to forbidding a Christian to do this:
    a. pledging oneself by oath to commit an evil deed
    b. pledging oneself by oath to commit any deed
    c. pledging oneself by oath to commit a good deed

11. Jesus even taught that specific oaths should not be necessary if people understand that their word should always be true. What scriptural phrase sums this up?
    a. He who lies by the oath dies by the oath.
    b. What let you say be simply yes or no.
    c. Evil be to him who evil thinks.

12. Yet the church has interpreted this as permitting oaths in special circumstances such as:
    a. when placing or accepting bets.
    b. when testifying in court.
    c. when administering truth serum to reluctant confessors.

13. Because names relate positively or negatively to God, Christians are prohibited from giving names in baptism to their children, which are:
    a. longer than God’s name.
    b. foreign to Christian sentiment.
    c. using God’s name properly

14. In baptism, the name of God is invoked in this specific formula — “In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.” What happens if this formula is deviated from too far?
    a. The sacrament signs the child to Satan.
    b. The sacrament is invalid and must be performed properly.
    c. Nothing, any wording will suffice provided the child is raised Catholic.

15. In terminology more familiar to Eastern Catholics and Orthodox, the catechism states that the name is:
    a. the icon of the person.
    b. the sign of wisdom (Sophia) of the Christian.
    c. a catholikos or universal sign of Christian life.

ANSWERS:

1. c, 2. b, 3. a, 4. b, 5. c, 6. c, 7. c, 8. a, 9. a, 10. a, 11. b, 12. b, 13. c, 14. b, 15. a
Most effective form of evangelization is to live faith in its fullness

Question: How do I help my non-believing spouse to feel safe and love, God? N.O. Oceola

St. Francis of Assisi is purported to have said, “Preach the Gospel, and when necessary, use words.” An effective form of evangelization is simply to live the faith in its fullness and be joyful in doing so; that disposition in its very nature inviting and persuasive. Dour attitudes and negativity achieve the opposite effect. The more you care your family members, the more likely you are to drive them the opposite way. I know several people who have, by their pushy, judgmental attitude, actually driven members of their family from the church. Remember that faith is ultimately a divine gift: we can’t give it, God does. Live the faith in its fullness and let him do the rest.

Question: Why do people raise their hands in the Old Testament? How did that get started? Anonymous, Fort Wayne

The posture of standing with hands slightly raised — called the “ora” position from the Latin meaning literally, “one who is praying” — is actually one of the most ancient ways of prayer, shared with our Jewish brothers and sisters.

Some of the earliest Christian iconography portrays believers standing with hands raised in that position. Origen (+AD 251) considered the “preferred” way of praying, symbolizing the lifting of our soul heavenward; St. Augustine of Hippo (+430) used this posture as symbolizing the Lord’s gift of himself on the cross, and as a physical reminder that Christianity is a religion of doing, saving act by charity toward others.

Far from being a “new” posture, it’s actually quite ancient and venerable.

Question: How long is Jesus with you in your story of conversion? Anonymous, Fort Wayne

As long as we remain in the state of grace, we share communion with Jesus Christ. We renew and deepen that communion each time we communicate. It is probably not advisable to seek “quantitative” measures of the spiritual benefits of the institution by counting the number of Masses which are celebrated. The measure of our merit is the intention with which we approach the celestial banquet. The spiritual advances we make in our spiritual life come as we grow in right judgment, right choice, and right action. As we grow in holiness, we become more prayerful and more conscious of our need for grace. The gift of grace is what strengthens our union with Christ and strengthens us in our faith. When we press forward in faith, the Holy Spirit will assist us and lead us to greater gifts and graces.

The first apology is due to the framers of the Constitution, who never intended the federal judiciary to assume the dominant role it now plays in our public life, and who could not have imagined that a court would play so large a role in the national life. The second apology is due to the Archbishops of the United States. The Catholic Church has canonized some of the most outstanding jurists, and (some) politicians. The Church should be noted as a public authority without question about old ways and new ways. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

The Alito apologies

With Justice Samuel A. Alito, Jr., safely and, I trust, happily, seated on the Supreme Court bench, the Catholic Church’s apologies are in order — as they frequently are after these judicial confirmation brawls. The first apology is due to the framers of the Constitution, who never intended the federal judiciary to assume the dominant role it now plays in our public life, and who could not have imagined that a court would play so large a role in the national life.

The second apology is due to Justice Alito. That a man of transparent integrity and competence should be opposed to our liberal-minded about his probity and his skill is bad enough, not least because of the mind-boggling suggestions come for the senior senator from Massachusetts, who seemingly sought to entice a coherent, grammatically correct English sentence without reading from a staff-written cue card. But then Senator Kennedy, who did himself with this charge, the week before the Senate vote: “Judge Alito does not share the values of equality and justice that make this country strong.”

That is a lie. To be precise, it’s that form of lie known as calumny, which, according to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, is an offense against both justice and charity, because false statements that harm the good name and reputation of others give rise to false judgments about them. Perhaps the good citizens of Massachusetts owe the rest of us an apology for returning to the Senate a blustering bully who is dishonest in a particularly obvious way.

I don’t know whether one can apologize to the truth, but the truth, as far as I can see, is that Justice Alito has a unique position in the history of the Alito hearings. There were serious questions to be explored with the nominee: the reach of presidential power in the distinctive kind of war in which we find ourselves; the importance and urgency of affirmative actions issues on behalf of students; the constitutional grounds for thinking through the church-state and affirmative actions issues on which the vote of Justice Sandra Day O’Connor, whom Alito was nominated to replace, was often decisive (if according to reasoning that often defied logic). Some of this was explored during the hearings, to be sure. Underneath all the verbiage, though, it quickly became clear that the real issues were abortion, presidential power, aboriginal and abortion (as columnist Mark Steyn neatly put it).

And of course, among the most vigorous defense of Roe v. Wade and its open-ended abortion license came from senators who loudly and repeatedly denounced because of the influence of this issue. In the debate, the Catholics, John Kerry (D-Davos and Massachussets) led the charge to filibuster the Alito nomination — a gambit in which he was supported by numerous other Catholics in the Senate. In contrast, there is the wealthy Zachacuen, a tax collector, who reforms his life and gives back many times over to the poor he stole from.

The proper hearing of wealth is seen in the lives of the saints who had access to wealth. In the Old Testament, Abraham, the founder of the Jewish religion and our father in the faith, was probably a wealthy man. When Abraham, originally from Ur in Iraq, went to Haran in Syria (now in eastern Turkey), God called him to set out for the land of Canaan (Israel). Abraham took his wife Sarah, his brother’s son Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated, and the persons they had acquired in Haran. These “persons” were the slaves and retainers that formed the social aggregate under the leadership of Abraham. The Bible speaks of the wealth of an individual, not groups. When Abraham, originally from Ur in Iraq, went to Haran in Syria (now in eastern Turkey), God called him to set out for the land of Canaan (Israel). Abraham took his wife Sarah, his brother’s son Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated, and the persons they had acquired in Haran. These “persons” were the slaves and retainers that formed the social aggregate under the leadership of Abraham. The Bible speaks of the wealth of an individual, not groups.

The next Supreme Court nominee will mark the so-called tipping point. Expect that nominee to be a lawyer of high intellectual credentials who get started? Anonymous, Fort Wayne

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The first apology is due to the framers of the Constitution, who never intended the federal judiciary to assume the dominant role it now plays in our public life, and who could not have imagined that a court would play so large a role in the national life. The second apology is due to Justice Alito. That a man of transparent integrity and competence should be opposed to our liberal-minded about his probity and his skill is bad enough, not least because of the mind-boggling suggestions come for the senior senator from Massachusetts, who seemingly sought to entice a coherent, grammatically correct English sentence without reading from a staff-written cue card. But then Senator Kennedy, who did himself with this charge, the week before the Senate vote: "Judge Alito does not share the values of equality and justice that make this country strong."

That is a lie. To be precise, it’s that form of lie known as calumny, which, according to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, is an offense against both justice and charity, because false statements that harm the good name and reputation of others give rise to false judgments about them. Perhaps the good citizens of Massachusetts owe the rest of us an apology for returning to the Senate a blustering bully who is dishonest in a particularly obvious way.

I don’t know whether one can apologize to the truth, but the truth, as far as I can see, is that Justice Alito has a unique position in the history of the Alito hearings. There were serious questions to be explored with the nominee: the reach of presidential power in the distinctive kind of war in which we find ourselves; the importance and urgency of affirmative actions issues on behalf of students; the constitutional grounds for thinking through the church-state and affirmative actions issues on which the vote of Justice Sandra Day O’Connor, whom Alito was nominated to replace, was often decisive (if according to reasoning that often defied logic). Some of this was explored during the hearings, to be sure. Underneath all the verbiage, though, it quickly became clear that the real issues were abortion, presidential power, aboriginal and abortion (as columnist Mark Steyn neatly put it).

And of course, among the most vigorous defense of Roe v. Wade and its open-ended abortion license came from senators who loudly and repeatedly denounced because of the influence of this issue. In the debate, the Catholics, John Kerry (D-Davos and Massachussets) led the charge to filibuster the Alito nomination — a gambit in which he was supported by numerous other Catholics in the Senate. In contrast, there is the wealthy Zachacuen, a tax collector, who reforms his life and gives back many times over to the poor he stole from.

The proper hearing of wealth is seen in the lives of the saints who had access to wealth. In the Old Testament, Abraham, the founder of the Jewish religion and our father in the faith, was probably a wealthy man. When Abraham, originally from Ur in Iraq, went to Haran in Syria (now in eastern Turkey), God called him to set out for the land of Canaan (Israel). Abraham took his wife Sarah, his brother’s son Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated, and the persons they had acquired in Haran. These “persons” were the slaves and retainers that formed the social aggregate under the leadership of Abraham. The Bible speaks of the wealth of an individual, not groups. When Abraham, originally from Ur in Iraq, went to Haran in Syria (now in eastern Turkey), God called him to set out for the land of Canaan (Israel). Abraham took his wife Sarah, his brother’s son Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated, and the persons they had acquired in Haran. These “persons” were the slaves and retainers that formed the social aggregate under the leadership of Abraham. The Bible speaks of the wealth of an individual, not groups.

The next Supreme Court nominee will mark the so-called tipping point. Expect that nominee to be a lawyer of high intellectual credentials who...
When I give talks about in vitro fertilization (IVF), I usually ask my audience the following question: “How many of you know a baby born by IVF, or know a couple who has tried to get pregnant this way?” Usually about half the hands in the room go up. Then I ask them how they had heard about it. Virtually all the same hands go up a second time.

I have the sense that Catholics are making use of IVF at the same rate as non-Catholics, and that most of them are only vaguely aware of the church’s position on making test tube babies.

When asked why IVF might be immoral, people will usually point to the extra embryos that are frozen or discarded. Such embryos are certainly a serious concern, but they are not the primary reason the church proscribes the procedure itself.

Even if IVF were done without making any extra embryos at all, this way of making babies would still be morally objectionable, because the procedure strikes at the very core of what makes us human. It is not the baby’s fault in any way. The child has no control over how or where it was conceived. Regardless of how a baby comes into the world, whether by ordinary or extraordinary means, it is a living being that is always a gift and a blessing. The problem with IVF is not the child, but with a decision made by the parents concerning how to pursue the paternity of the child. It is not the baby’s fault in any way. The child has no control over how or where it was conceived. Regardless of how a baby comes into the world, whether by ordinary or extraordinary means, it is a living being that is always a gift and a blessing.

One of the church’s objections to IVF is that it is a practice that is a form of contraception: rather than trying to have sex without babies, we try to have babies without sex. Because many Americans have come to view sex largely in terms of recreation, ignoring its procreative orientation, they have lost touch with the grave violations that occur both in contraceptive sex and in making babies in test tubes.

Clearly, the moral violations that occur in IVF do not reflect on the child, but on the parents. It is not the baby’s fault in any way. The child has no control over how or where it was conceived. Regardless of how a baby comes into the world, whether by ordinary or extraordinary means, it is a living being that is always a gift and a blessing. The problem with IVF is not the child, but with a decision made by the parents concerning how to pursue the paternity of the child. It is not the baby’s fault in any way. The child has no control over how or where it was conceived. Regardless of how a baby comes into the world, whether by ordinary or extraordinary means, it is a living being that is always a gift and a blessing.
Great players on and off the court

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — Ask Paul Gerardot what he stresses most when he coaches basketball, and he’ll tell you it’s not just how to play the game. Gerardot coaches the Benoit Academy seventh and eighth grade boys Phoenix and checks his players’ grades each week to make sure they are in good standing in the classroom.

He says attitudes and academics come first. For 16 years now, Gerardot has tried to instill life lessons through the game of basketball. Gerardot played CYO (Catholic Youth Organization) basketball himself and enjoys “being with the kids and giving back to the program that gave so much to me.”

He says that is true of many of the CYO coaches.

The Phoenix finished 6-2 in CYO play this season and 14-4 overall. “We concentrated on fundamental teamwork and sportsmanship above all,” said Gerardot. “Morgan, Elijah, Courtney and all of our eighth graders really stepped up to a leadership role,” he added.

All CYO tournament play began last week at St. Charles. Benoit beat St. Louis-St. Rose in the opening game and will face Queen of Angels in the “Blue league” semifinals (on Tuesday night, Feb. 21) whom they lost to by just one point during the regular season.

Benoit girls

Although they are small in numbers bringing up fifth graders and even a fourth grader to make a team, the Phoenix girls from Benoit Academy have had a great season. This young group only had two players with any prior basketball experience.

“We had to start from square one,” said assistant coach Milton Mingo. Mingo has over 20 years of coaching experience and even coached head coach, Juan Gorman, in high school track. “I just came in to help Juan out. We’ve had a lot of fun this season and every one of these girls has worked very hard,” said Mingo. Mingo said he may be “a little biased,” but feels Gorman’s daughter, Lacia, just a seventh grader, “may be one of the best girls in the league.”

Mingo added, “Lacia’s a real player, something special ... keep your eye on her.”

The team finished 4-2 in their league and hopes to get another shot at St. Therese in the CYO tournament.

St. Joseph HC boys

A former CYO player himself, Hessen Cassel Squires’ head coach Jim Knapke can clearly remember playing on Sunday afternoons at the Central Catholic gym. In his rookie season as coach, Knapke led his sixth-grade son, James, seven seventh graders and two eighth graders to a fourth place finish in the blue league this year. The Squires were a very young team with little experience.

“We focused on the fundamentals: ball handling, man-to-man defense and are looking forward to a much improved team next season,” said Knapke.

“This was a great group of kids,” he added.

The Squires lost in the first round of tournament play to the Rams from Huntington Catholic at St. Charles last week. The assistant coaches for Hessen Cassel were Tony Wyss, Phil Harris and Doyle Hartman.

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The St. Louis-St. Rose Twins took the small school boys fifth and sixth grade tournament at St. Aloysius, Yoder, recently. In the photo are the following team members: front row, from left, fifth graders Zach Castleman, Conner Sheehan, Nicholas Platter; and back row, standing, sixth graders Alex Emenhiser, Mitch Castelman, Colin Steuerzenberger, Austin Hammon and coach Corey Sheehan.

COACH GERARDOt WITH HIS BENOT ACADeMY TEAM WATCHING INTENTLY FROM THE SIDELINES DURING A CYO TOURNAMENT GAME. — MC

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Sacred Heart Home

Our experienced and professional staff is dedicated to providing the highest quality of nursing care.

• Daily Mass
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• Physical, Occupational, & Speech Therapies
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• Independent Living Patio Homes on Campus

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CYO TO OFFER WRESTLING CAMP AT BISHOP LUERS

Bishop Luers High School will have CYO wrestling mini-camps. Grades 1-4 will run from Feb. 27-March 9 from 6-7:30 p.m. Grades 5-8 will meet from Feb. 27-March 25 from 6-7:30 p.m. The cost is $15 per wrestler, and campers need to bring gym shoes, shorts and a t-shirt. For information or to obtain a permission slip, contact A. J. Kalver at (260) 456-1261. Kalver stresses that wrestling is a great sport that teaches discipline and sportsmanship. He adds that wrestling requires discipline, hard work and humility in victory or defeat. — MC
ICCL crowns regular season champions, tournament time begins

BY ELMER J. DANCH

SOUTH BEND — The Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL) crowned three division champions and a co-champion as it wound up its 60th regular season and will now leap into its post season tournament this weekend.

St. Thomas of Elkhart bagged the John Bosco East Division with a perfect division record. St. Bavo of Mishawaka nailed down the Martin De Porres East Division also with a 6-0 mark.

Corpus Christi won the John Bosco West Division with a 5-1 record. St. Jude and St. John the Baptist shared the Martin De Porres West Division with identical 5-1 records.

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The Saint Joseph's girls basketball team gather for some last-minute pointers at a recent game. The Saint Joseph's never trailed, leading 16-14, 35-28 and 52-39.

At Peru, Bishop Luers skyrocketed into an eight-point lead before Northwood had a shot at the basket. Ananda Pedro turned in a 16-point performance to the Saints. Markee Martin, her teammate, was outstanding on defense and picked up six points. Luers led at the end of each period, 13-6, 21-17 and 29-24.

Final division and league overall standings:

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Ent is approaching, and many Catholics are making decisions about what to give up for that solemn church season. But instead of giving something up, what if we added something to our day-to-day life? To engage in a new activity of charity, prayer or Bible study is a sacrifice of sorts — we are sacrificing what has become a comfortable existence by challenging ourselves to do more.

To read or study on one of the church’s profound teachings will do the trick as well. And since the goal of Lent is to draw closer to God, I can’t think of a better topic to study than the eucharistic presence of Our Lord. “God Is Near Us: The Eucharist, the Heart of Life” (Ignatius, $12.95) is a perfect choice for such an endeavor, as it leads the reader into a deep connection with Jesus Christ as he is present in the Eucharist. Written by then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, before he was elected Pope Benedict XVI, one of the most eminent theologians of our time and prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, this book displays the greatness of Christ’s gift to us in the Eucharist in these homilies and meditations.

The coming of Christ was meant for all man — God “did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all” — Rom 8:32 — and the continuation of his presence in the Eucharist was God’s intention all along, fore-shadowed as early as the Old Testament (Song of the Suffering Servant, Isaiah 53). And Cardinal Ratzinger used some dramatic imagery to show us just what God’s gift was: “He, who is Lord, comes down to us; he lays aside the garments of glory and becomes a slave, one who stands at the door and who does for us the slave’s service of washing our feet.

This is the meaning of his whole life and Passion: that he bends down to our dirty feet, to the dirt of humanity, and that in his greater love he washes us clean. The slave’s service of washing the feet was performed in order to prepare a person suitably for sitting at table, to make him ready for company, so that all could sit down together for a meal. “Jesus Christ prepares us, as it were, for God’s presence and for each other’s company, so that we can sit down together at table.” Meanwhile, we learn that the Last Supper is not solely sufficient for the institution of the Eucharist.

For the vast majority of Catholics, who don’t delve into theology much, and for the many who only look at their faith as a once-a-week duty, that seems, at the least, difficult to understand. Cardinal Ratzinger explains that Christ’s words at the Last Supper “are an anticipation of his death, a transformation of his death into an event of love.” The words would be empty of meaning if not for his death; similarly, his death would be empty of meaning without the Resurrection. “Thus the three belong together: the word, the death and the Resurrection. And this trinity ... gives us an inking of the mystery of the trune God himself, this is what Christian tradition calls the ‘Paschal Mystery,’ the mystery of Easter.”

There are plenty of other gems in “God Is Near Us” — how about “He (Christ) is the condescension of merciful love, who pours himself down for our sakes?” The words are an anticipation of his death, a transformation of his death into an event of love. The words would be empty of meaning if not for his death; similarly, his death would be empty of meaning without the Resurrection. Thus the three belong together: the word, the death and the Resurrection. And this trinity ... gives us an inking of the mystery of the triune God himself, this is what Christian tradition calls the ‘Paschal Mystery,’ the mystery of Easter.

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South Bend — St. Patrick Parish plans festivities for patron saint

What’s Happening?

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

**MISC. HAPPENING**

St. Patrick Parish plans festivities for patron saint

South Bend — St. Patrick Parish will have a corned beef and cabbage dinner on Saturday, March 11, from noon to 4 p.m. at the Parish Center, 308 S. Scott St. Tickets are $9 in advance by calling (574) 232-5839 or $10 at the door. Hot dog meal is $3.50. Take out available. Live Irish music and dancers. 9 a.m. Mass sponsored by the Hibernians at St. Patrick Church, 309 S. Taylor, coffee and donuts following. Parade downtown begins at 11 a.m. For entry info, go to www.sbshamrockclub.com.

**FISH FRYS**

Fish fry sponsored by Holy Name Society

New Haven — A fish fry sponsored by the Holy Name Society of St. John the Baptist Parish will be Friday, March 3, from 4 to 7 p.m. Adults $6.50, children 5-12 $3.50 and under 5 free. Carry-out available.

Knights plan fish fry

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521 will have an all-you-can-eat fish fry on Friday, March 3, from 5 to 7 p.m. Adults $7, children (5-12) $3. Portions of chicken strips and shrimp will be available.

Fish fry at St. Patrick School

Walkerton — St. Patrick School will host an all-you-can-eat fish fry on Friday, March 3, in the school. Tickets are $6.50 for adults, $3 for children (3-9) and children under 3 free. Drive-through carry-outs are $6.50.

Youth group hosts fish fry

Columbia City — The St. Paul of the Cross youth group will host a fish fry on Friday, March 10, at the church, 315 S. Line St. from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Adults $7, children 6-12 $4, children 5 and under free. Proceeds will benefit the senior Kentucky mission trip.

Knights plan fish fry

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

Ed Fox fish fry planned

Fort Wayne — Queen of Angels Parish will have a fish fry on Friday, March 3, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. with family-style fast seating. Adults $7, children (6-10) $3 and children 5 and under free. Carry-out available.

Fish fry at Our Lady

South Bend — A fish fry sponsored by the Our Lady of Hungary Holy Name Society will be Friday, March 10, from 5 to 7 p.m. in the gym, 735 W. Calvert St. Tickets are $7 at the door or $6.50 presale, $4.50 for children 6-12, children under 6 free. Presale tickets may be purchased before and after Masses at Our Lady of Hungary, or by calling the rectory at (574) 287-1700.

Fish and chicken dinner planned

Country Chef will be Saturday, March 4, 4:30-7:00 p.m. Adults $7, children (5-12) $4 and children 5 and under free. Carry-out available.

St. Louis Academy host fish fry by Country Chef

New Haven — A fish and tender dinner will be Friday, Feb. 24, from 4 to 7 p.m. at St. Louis Besancon, four miles east of U.S. 30 and I-469 on Lincoln Hwy East. Adults $7, children 6-11 $4 and children 5 and under free. Carry-out available.

Fish and chicken dinner planned

Roanoke — A broasted 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.

**WHAT’S HAPPENING** carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. Send in your announcement at least two weeks prior to the event. Mail to: Today’s Catholic, P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne 46856; or e-mail: tfox@fw.diocesefwsb.org. Events that require an admission charge or payment to participate will receive one free listing. For additional listings of that event, please call our advertising sales staff to purchase space.
St. Patrick, Ligonier, Est. 1860

Nineteen centuries after Christ was born in a stable, he was present and worshiped as the Blessed Sacrament in another stable in Ligonier.

“The stable” is a term affectionately used for a former carriage house and barn, which was one of the houses of worship that has served the Catholics of Ligonier and still comes up in conversation among senior parishioners.

When St. Patrick was founded under the direction of Bishop Henry Luers, services were held for about seven families in the home of Henry Zonker and then in a log-cabin-type church on Martin Street, where in winter, parishioners were warmed by a pot belly stove. Depending upon the weather, folks arrived on foot, on horseback, or in buggies, wagons and sleighs. Going to Mass called for planning and effort with no guarantee that a priest would be present; once or twice a month was a good average.

By 1899, St. Patrick had 21 families. Father John F. Noll was the nonresident pastor and arrived by train, since he also served Kendallville and Albion. After Father Noll became bishop, he arranged for the missionary Oblate Fathers of Mary Immaculate (OMI) to reside in Ligonier and to hold services in Albion and Wawasee. The Oblates remained until 1969 when St. Patrick came under the care of diocesan priests.

In 1967, the congregation moved across the street to a new church dedicated by Bishop Leo Pursley, and “the stable,” now vacant, was converted to a rectory, parish offices and classrooms.

In 2001, a residence at 403 Ravine Park Dr. was purchased to serve as a rectory, and the priests’ former living quarters were redesigned to serve as meeting rooms. It is a busy place, where 31 catechists offer religious education classes six days each week. Hispanic families now predominate at St. Patrick and preschoolers enrolled in the Good Shepherd Program are taught in Spanish and Masses are offered in English and Spanish.

When the diocese celebrates its sesquicentennial in 2007, St. Patrick of Ligonier will lack only three years of being a charter parish. Now, as it reaches its peak enrollment, one can only wonder what lies ahead for the little church on the hill.

The bell tower at St. Patrick contains a bell from the former Little Flower Church on the shores of Lake Wawasee where some parishioners arrived by boat. At left is St. Patrick Church dedicated in 1967 by Bishop Leo Pursley.

St. John the Baptist, New Haven, Est. 1860

Although the faith first came to the Fort Wayne-New Haven area in the early 1600s when French priests, Franciscans and Jesuits worked among the Miami Indians and Father Jacques Marquette founded a Catholic mission on the Maumee River in 1672, the first missionary work of record began on April 16, 1840, when Father Julian Benoit arrived in Fort Wayne and established an organized outreach to New Haven, Besancon, Hessen Cassel and other towns surrounding Fort Wayne. His followers continued to serve New Haven Catholics, and records show that early in 1858, Father Alexisus Botti held services alternately for 10 families in the home of Nicholas Schuchmann and in a dry goods store owned by Buiter and Schmelker.

The cornerstone for the first of three St. John the Baptist churches was laid by Bishop Henry Luers in October 1860. The parish consisted of 23 families and 120 members.

Over the years, St. John has experienced fire, flood and total rebuilding of its attractive campus. The present church was dedicated by Bishop Leo Pursley on April 27, 1975. Parishioners at St. John approach needs of the parish with vigor. A Holy Name Society organizes in 1940 has a present membership of 249 who take a hands-on approach to parish maintenance; they have installed drywall, painted the church interior, repaired kneelers, built cabinets, installed a baptistry, built a kitchen, cut down trees and are preparing to landscape a full city block where houses once stood.

St. John’s first school opened in 1864 with one male teacher. Today it has 370 students enrolled in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade who prepare liturgies, hold food drives and visit nursing homes. The Rosary Sodality, also chartered in 1940, serves funeral dinners, launders altar linens and is always on hand for special assignments. It is this group in particular that exemplifies the prevailing characteristic of St. John the Baptist Parish; its meetings are not held annually, monthly or periodically — members of the sodality meet daily with other parishioners for a rosary and prayers before Mass. Truly living stones that make up the solid essence that is St. John.

This small statue graced the original baptismal font at St. John. It is now in a modern setting in the present church.