

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Path to sainthood cleared for foundress of the Sisters of Providence



PROVIDED BY THE SISTERS OF PROVIDENCE

Sister Ann Margaret O'Hara, general superior of the Sisters of Providence, speaks during a morning news conference on Feb. 22 to announce the information about Mother Theodore Guerin, foundress of the order in the United States. The sainthood cause has been cleared for Mother Theodore Guerin who will become the eighth saint whose ministry was prominent in the U.S. She will also be the first canonized saint from Indiana.

She will be the first person from
Indiana to be canonized.

BY DAVE COX

SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS — The Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods announced Feb. 22 that the path to sainthood in the Catholic Church has been cleared for their foundress, Blessed Mother Theodore Guerin. Mother Theodore is considered a co-foundress of the Catholic schools in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

The Ordinary Congregation of the Cardinals in Rome on Tuesday, Feb. 21, made a positive declaration concerning a second miracle attributed to Mother Theodore's intercession. The way is now open for her canonization. Information about the cause will now be shared with all cardinals, archbishops, bishops and other church leaders before it is sent to Pope Benedict XVI for his approval.

Previously, committees of medical experts and theologians in Rome also gave their approval.

Canonization of Mother Theodore will make her the eighth saint who spent most of his or her ministry life in the United States. She will be the first person from Indiana to be canonized.

"This is a momentous time in our congregation's history, but it also is a time that is to be shared with people throughout Indiana, throughout the United States and throughout the world," said Sister Ann Margaret O'Hara. "This is the highest honor the Catholic Church can bestow on a person, but it is not just for Catholics. The pending canonization is some-

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Pope names 15 new cardinals, including two from U.S.

BY JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In his first set of major appointments, Pope Benedict XVI named 15 new cardinals, including U.S. Archbishops William J. Levada, head of the Vatican's doctrinal congregation, and Sean P. O'Malley of Boston.

The pope announced the names at the end of his general audience Feb. 22 and said he would formally install the cardinals at a special consistory March 24.

The pope also convened the entire College of Cardinals for a day of reflection and prayer March 23 and said he would celebrate Mass with the cardinals March 25, the feast of the Annunciation of the Lord.

It will be the first gathering of the College of Cardinals since they elected Pope Benedict last April.

Smiling as he made his announcement, the pope said the new cardinals reflect the universality of the church.

"In fact, they come from every part of the

world and carry out diverse duties in service to the people of God," the pope said.

The new cardinals represent 11 countries from five continents. Three are Vatican officials, nine are heads of dioceses or archdioceses around the world, and three are prelates over age 80 being honored for their service to the church.

Of those named, 12 were under the age of 80 and thus eligible to vote in a papal conclave. After the installation ceremony, the college is expected to number 193, with the number of voting members once again at its maximum of 120.

The appointment of Archbishop O'Malley, 61, gives the Archdiocese of Boston a resident cardinal after more than three years. Cardinal Bernard F. Law resigned in late 2002 in the wake of controversy over how he handled clerical sex abuse allegations in Boston, and he is now archpriest of the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome. Archbishop O'Malley, a Capuchin Franciscan, has headed the archdiocese since 2003.

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DIOCESAN TEAMS BATTLED FOR SEMI STATE TITLE



JOSEPH WISNIEWSKI

The Bishop Luers Lady Knights defeated the defending-state Saint Joseph's Lady Indians, 56-49, for the Class 3-A semi state title in competition at Elkhart on Feb. 25. Luers will play Evansville Memorial for the state title on March 4. See story on page 21.

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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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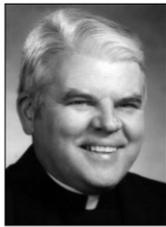
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Bishop visits Josephinum where diocesan seminarians are studying



NEWS & NOTES

BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

Day of joy. Day of hope

In the early afternoon on a recent Monday, I headed southwest from Fort Wayne — destination Columbus, Ohio. Through the rolling countryside and small towns, I was off for my first visit to the Pontifical Josephinum Seminary, where 11 of our young men are studying for the priesthood. Suddenly this historic edifice rose up on my left on Route 23 in the midst of late afternoon, big city traffic. I negotiated the proper turns and was quickly with Msgr. Paul Langsfeld, director of the Josephinum, and our students.

The seminary itself

I found myself very impressed with the seminary and the excellent courses in theology, philosophy and related sciences, which our men are experiencing. The Josephinum is a place of learning and prayer. I saw the faculty, not only through my personal meetings with them, which, indeed, were gracious, but through the eyes of our candidates. The seminarians spoke with such respect about their excellence as teachers and also about the content of the courses.

A Catholic seminary bears the responsibility of drawing from the great Catholic tradition of faith and reason. From listening to the students and seeing their respect for the teachers and the courses, one could only be grateful that our young men are in such a fine environment. I thought of three of our priests — Msgr. William Lester, pastor of Most Precious Blood Parish; Father Bernard Galic, pastor of Holy Family Parish and director of vocations; and Father Michael Heintz, rector of St. Matthew Cathedral Parish. Several seminaries were visited, with Father Galic going to each one. This team of three priests recommended the Josephinum.

I was impressed with the prayer life, and it was my privilege to celebrate the early morning Mass and preach to the community. There is a strong tradition of devotion to Our Lady and, of course, to St. Joseph, the patron of the seminary. I had a walking tour and an 8 p.m. meeting with all of our students.

Msgr. Langsfeld had told me previously that he considered our seminarians a kind of "leaven" for the student body. The care with which we screen and choose our candidates is becoming ever more evident and bringing about encouraging results. A few weeks previously, Father Ray Balzer, a beloved priest in our diocese and an alumnus of the Josephinum, had visited. Another highly revered alumnus is Father E. J. Miller. Both are retired and both were gifted baseball players.

During my meeting with our students, I was impressed with their ideas for fostering vocations. Matt Coonan, after extensive research and conversations with seminarians from other dioceses, especially Peoria, presented me with an idea for a retreat to be directed by our seminarians. After consultation with the Presbyteral Council, I hope to approve this.

Champions also

What good news to know that there was a basketball tournament with seminaries from all over the area. The Josephinum won. Starting on the first team were Matt Coonan, Jake Runyon and Drew Curry. Playing on another team was Jason Freiburger. Among the seminaries competing was St. Meinrad. St. Meinrad won the tournament in Chicago, so our students consider themselves champions of the entire Midwest. Matt tells me that his brother, Tink, who is in our college seminary in Minnesota and a former point guard at Bishop Dwenger, is a better player than he is.

I drove home on Tuesday afternoon, retracing my steps through the lovely countryside and the winter landscape, grateful to God for the fine young men we have preparing for the priesthood.

By the way, of the 14 seminarians studying for this diocese, eight are graduates of our Catholic high schools. That is an important statistic.

Bishop Luers, always special

In numbers, Bishop Luers is the smallest of our four high schools. It is the most diversified, with a number of African-American and Hispanic students. Luers Spirit is not a myth. The most impressive thing was the young men and women, their love for the school and their devotion to the Catholic faith. Like most of our schools now, helped by the increase in teachers' salaries because of the generosity of our people, Luers has a very stable faculty. As always, it is the warmth and the strong discipline of Mary Keefer, their principal, who sets the tone for this wonderful school, recently declared one of the top-50 Catholic high schools in the country.

Like our other schools, Bishop Luers is well launched in a major capital fund drive. Luers represents a kind of anchor on the south side.

Among the priests concelebrating Mass were neighboring pastors, Father Daryl Rybicki, Father Joseph Rulli, Father John Pfister and Father Lawrence Kramer, all of whom have a regular presence at Luers.

A weekend to remember

After attending Saints Alive, the annual and very successful fundraiser at Bishop Dwenger High School, I headed north on a cold Saturday evening to one of our tiniest parishes. This is St. Mary of the Angels Parish, Big Long Lake. It was cared for since its founding in 1947 by the Conventual Franciscans, who give pastoral care to several parishes along the Michigan border. Father Conrad Schweibold, OFM Conv, and Father Philip Ley, OFM Conv, are remembered there with special affection. Franciscans, who serve here with great devotion, are unable to promise a priest for this parish. We had a consultation with our Presbyteral Council. I also consulted, as required in canon law, with our vicar for the area, Father David Carkenord, an exemplary pastor and very beloved at St. Michael Parish, Waterloo, and throughout the area.

St. Mary of the Angels is no longer really a parish; that is, there has been no class for first Communion or confirmation. So, I had the obligation to say that this parish would have a change of status. In consultation with the Presbyteral Council, it was determined that it would be best to make it an oratory, with Mass celebrated when possible.

Father James Rose, a retired priest, has

been celebrating two Masses there on weekends. I indicated that, as long as Father Jim could go there, we would support his efforts. I also said that we would do everything possible to see that there is at least one Mass there on the weekends during the summer. It is a lake parish after all. This was difficult news, but I think the people expected it. There was much joy that regular Masses will be continued. Some parishioners, at least in the near future, meet in groups at homes to say the rosary frequently, and they pray for vocations to the priesthood for our diocese — prayers which are certainly being heard.

A nice dinner followed, and Father Carkenord gave the same announcement at the Sunday Mass.

Ligonier

Once cared for by Oblates of Mary Immaculate, St. Patrick, Ligonier, has a special place in my heart. I went there to install and inaugurate as pastor Father Joachim Quadros, known as Father Jim. He came to us from India, and I give much credit to Father Cyril Fernandes from Arcola for helping to bring him here. Father Jose Luis Villanueva, a priest from Mexico, cares for the Hispanics.

I celebrated the 10:30 a.m. Mass and I was pleased to see an increase in attendance. The 1 p.m. Mass brought together Hispanic Catholics from the customary two Masses. A packed church, standing room only.

Afterward, as part of my parish visitation, I had an enlightening visit with two women who have been a source of great strength at St. Patrick. They are catechists and their specialty is the Good Shepherd catechesis. Their names are Jeanna Hagen and Tammy Helfers. The priests and several parishioners joined us as together we looked at pastoral concerns.

I was able to hear firsthand some of the financial problems of the parish, but also receive strong reports on the catecheses. There are over 300 who go to religious instruction. The number of Hispanic Catholics is huge. Especially helpful, as she always is, was Enid Roman-de Jesus. Enid is the director of our ministry to Hispanics. She translated my homily into Spanish.

While at the Josephinum, I encouraged our seminarians to begin to study Spanish. We are blessed to have a number of priests from Central America who are helping us. Indeed, we have two seminarians who are natives of Mexico.

The state tournament

How about our two high schools — Saint Joseph's, South Bend, and Bishop Luers, Fort Wayne, meeting in the semi state finals, where only one could go to the championship game in Conseco Fieldhouse in Indianapolis. Saint Joe is a magnificent team, with one young woman, Melissa Lechlitner, already earning a scholarship to play for Coach McGraw at Notre Dame. To the surprise of all, Saint Joseph's was beaten by the very young Bishop Luers Lady Knights with only one senior on the squad. Congratulations to Saint Joe on a great three-year run, and best wishes to Bishop Luers as they turn their thoughts toward Indianapolis and the state finals. This is the sixth time in 10 years that Bishop Luers has reached the championship game. Very special, indeed.

More later about a wonderful parish mission at St. Joseph, Roanoke, and St. Catharine, Nix Settlement.

A blessed Lent to all. See you all next week.

LENTEN MESSAGE

from Bishop John M. D'Arcy

The three days before the first Sunday in Lent are sometimes called a kind of "porch" for this holy season. The first Sunday historically is thought to mark the beginning of this season that means so much to the life of the church.

While it is a multifaceted season, it is centrally a time to ponder and reflect on the fact that Jesus Christ, our savior, died on the cross and rose for our salvation. This is not a mystery that is outside of us, something to look at. It is our life. Lent and Easter, taken together, represent the source of true peace. The human race has been redeemed. Yet, it is possible to go through our lives without allowing this mystery to penetrate our hearts. How can we get inside this mystery so it gives light to our existence?

Lent calls us to three activities, which are really one. The activities are prayer, fasting and almsgiving. These are not primarily external activities. Every sacrifice, no matter how small, if we join it

to the sacrifice of Christ, gives us a part in the work of redemption. We are reminded of his great sacrifice and we are thankful for it, and we are joined to his self-giving. This is especially true at Lenten Masses.

It can be said that Lent is a time of thanksgiving. It is not a morbid time, but a time to bring to mind what Christ has done for us and to realize that, because of his great action, death is not the end, but the beginning. Lent is a journey of faith. Sober, indeed, but not morbid.

The graces are many, and they bring about an internal conversion — a conversion in love to a person — to Christ.

Only at prayer can we learn the meaning of Lent and be joined more fully to Christ. Lent without prayer has little meaning. We are in danger of being like the Pharisees. Lent with sincere prayer and adoration is transforming.

A blessed and prayerful Lent to all.

Mother Theodore Guerin forged through pioneer barriers and difficulties

She was influential in Catholic education in Fort Wayne

SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS — Pope John Paul II pronounced Mother Theodore Guerin, foundress of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, "as a model of the best of womanhood" when he introduced her to the world as blessed during her beatification ceremony in Rome in 1998.

Mother Theodore came to the United States from France in 1840 to establish a congregation of women religious in a dense forest adjacent to a remote community known as Saint Mary-of-the-Woods near Terre Haute. Primitive conditions greeted her and her five companions after a tumultuous journey of more than three months.

A humble beginning was nothing new for Mother Theodore, who was born Anne-Thérèse Guerin, Oct. 2, 1798, in the village of Etables in Brittany, France. She lived with her mother, father and three siblings in a cottage not far from the Atlantic Ocean. Her two brothers died at a young age. Her father was murdered by bandits. Her mother never fully recovered from the tragedy of her father's death. Only her sister outlived her.

At a young age, Anne-Thérèse had a fondness for the ocean and beaches. She nurtured her love of God through prayer while enjoying nature's beauty. At age 20, she asked her mother's permission to join a religious order. Her mother refused. Five years later, her mother agreed to let her daughter follow her heart. She entered the Sisters of Providence of Ruillé, France, Aug. 18, 1823. She professed first vows Sept. 8, 1825, and perpetual vows Sept. 5, 1831. She was first known as Sister St. Theodore.

Sister St. Theodore spent several years as a teacher in France, where she received honors for her teaching ability. She also ministered to the sick.

Across her beloved ocean, pioneer life was changing rapidly in the central regions of the United

States. The population was growing, and, along with it, the need for spiritual and educational guidance. The Most Reverend Simon Bruté, bishop of the Diocese of Vincennes in the 1830s, had a desire for sisters to minister in the diocese. He dispatched a colleague to France to find a congregation that would be willing to assist.

The superior of the Sisters of Providence of Ruillé believed only one of the congregation's sisters could lead the mission. Her choice was Sister St. Theodore. However, Sister St. Theodore was reluctant to accept the challenge, mostly because of health problems. After intense prayer and discernment, and words of encouragement, she agreed and began her arduous journey that eventually led her to Indiana.

In her new homeland, she and her companion sisters started right away on their mission and opened an academy for girls less than nine months after their arrival in Indiana. Soon thereafter, under Mother Theodore's leadership, schools were founded throughout the state before expanding into other areas such as Chicago, Boston and Los Angeles.

Mother Theodore's influence is found in Fort Wayne's Catholic school history. In 1845, Msgr. Julian Benoit built the first Catholic school in Fort Wayne on the northwest corner of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception grounds. The ground is now the chancery site. The three-story brick school was named St. Augustine Academy for Girls. Msgr. Benoit requested that the Sisters of Providence staff the school.

The sisters' journey was summarized in "History of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods," by Sister Mary Borromeo Brown.

In August, 1845, five sisters made the first five-day journey from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods to Fort Wayne. They took a stage to Covington where they boarded an

Erie Canal packet. Their trip would take the greater part of a week and cost \$40.50.

The colony of sisters was received by the people of Fort Wayne with enthusiasm. Their new home, St. Augustine, looked out over a straggling canal town and trading post.

A rail fence ran alongside the new Piqua Road, now Calhoun Street, in front of the convent and beyond stretched into the deep woods with a few scattered cabins of white settlers. From the canal landing, the sisters rode in a covered wagon to their new combination convent and school past an ensemble of log cabins, larger frame dwellings and an occasional recently-built brick house. Their solidly constructed house at the corner of Jefferson and Calhoun streets would be their home for more than 100 years.

As noted in the history of the cathedral in "A Sacred Place, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception," a commemorative book, "Among the sisters who visited the new establishment occasionally was Mother Theodore Guerin."

Mother Theodore suffered from illness most of her life. She was treated for a disease at an early age, and the treatment is believed to have damaged her digestive system. She lived on broth and soft foods for many years. Eventually, her condition overtook her, and she died May 14, 1856.

Pope John Paul II said Mother Theodore was "a perfect blend of humanness and holiness." People who knew her did not forget her. Each had a story to tell about her kindness, her love, her goodness and her devotion. She was an inspiration for others in many ways.

Mother Theodore's presence is still strong throughout the congregation. Her remains rest in a tomb under the floor of the Church of the Immaculate Conception at the motherhouse at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods.

STATEMENT FROM BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

Notice of dispensation on March 17, feast of St. Patrick

People have written to inquire about a dispensation from the obligation to abstain from meat on March 17, the feast of St. Patrick.

Taking into account these many inquiries and realizing that the feast of St. Patrick is for many a cause for celebration and thanksgiving to this extraordinary saint, who evangelized Ireland and thus is "Our Father in Faith" for many Catholics, and, following the authority given to the bishop in canon 87.1, I am pleased to grant a dispensation from the obligation to abstain from meat on Friday, March 17.

I ask everyone who accepts this dispensation to do some holy act on or near that day. For example, attending Mass, especially on the feast of St. Patrick, would be a most worthy act. So also would be the recitation of the rosary. In addition, there could be an act of service or generosity toward the poor.

In all of this, we should remind ourselves of St. Patrick, a man of prayer. In his confessions, he speaks of saying hundreds of prayers at night on the mountains as a slave boy before his rescue. He was also a great bishop and evangelizer.

So, if we accept this dispensation, we should keep in mind the person whom we venerate. A saint, a man of prayer, whose people eventually became great evangelizers throughout the world. A people who also suffered through famine, displacement and exile.

St. Patrick, pray for us.

GUERIN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

thing people of all faiths can share by recognizing the way Mother Theodore lived her life."

A saint is an individual whose life and deeds are held in esteem in the church and who is believed to be in heaven. A cause for sainthood is considered only after lengthy investigation. A person's life is examined in full to determine if it is a life worth emulating by others, whether it is a life devoted to holiness and God's work and if there are any heroic virtues that are evident. Personal testimonies are gathered about a candidate. The candidate's writings, teachings, heroic deeds and life practices are reviewed. Also, two miracles must be attributed to the person's intercession after his or her death.

The first miracle attributed to Mother Theodore's intercession occurred in 1908 when Sister of Providence Mary Theodosia Mug asked for healing of another sister through prayer to Mother Theodore. On the morning after her prayer at Mother Theodore's tomb, Sister Mary Theodosia, herself, actually was cured of several major health problems.

Acceptance of that miracle and all of the other information about Mother Theodore led to her beatification (made holy) in Rome in October 1998. To be considered for sainthood, a second miracle must occur after a person's beatification.

The second miracle occurred in 2000. Phil McCord, director of facilities management for the Sisters of Providence, was having significant pain and discomfort with his right eye after cataract surgery. The irritation was diagnosed by a specialist to be severe enough to warrant a cornea transplant. Phil was fearful of that diagnosis because of the potential loss of sight.

He visited the Church of the Immaculate Conception at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods one day and

through prayer, asked for Mother Theodore's assistance in finding courage to proceed with the surgery. Before he left the church that day, he said he felt peaceful and believed he had the strength to proceed.

The next morning, he looked in the mirror and some of the inflammation was gone and his eye was feeling better. He had an appointment for what he believed was to set the date for surgery. The specialist examined him and asked him what he did to his eye.

"Nothing. I just said a prayer," McCord answered.

The doctor informed him that no transplant would be needed. All he needed was a routine laser treatment to clear out some scar tissue. Today, Phil uses reading glasses, but has nearly perfect vision.

"There was no flash of light or immediate sign. And it wasn't a very eloquent prayer," said McCord, who is a native of Anderson and the son of a Baptist lay minister. "I am very grateful. I didn't have any idea that what happened to me would rise to the level of a miracle," McCord said.

"The rational engineer side of me still can't grasp it. The other emotions? Why should I be granted a miracle when there are others who I think are more deserving? I guess that's why they call it faith because you don't understand. I've just had to accept it. Some things are beyond understandable," McCord said.

"What I hope happens now is that people will take a look at this healing and use it as a reason to look at Mother Theodore's life, what she accomplished and what she continues to accomplish, and to look at what the sisters stand for and what they do," McCord emphasized.

"It is a great joy for us as Sisters of Providence to share the story about our beloved foundress with the world and especially with our friends and neighbors in the Wabash Valley. We hope that all people will feel welcome to visit Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, join us in celebrations that we will plan later, and to tour sacred places on our grounds." Sister Ann Margaret said.

APPOINT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Cardinal-designate Levada, 69, was appointed last May as the pope's successor to head the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. He had previously served as archbishop of San Francisco and Portland, Ore.

Among the more prominent cardinals-designate were Chinese Bishop Joseph Zen Ze-kium of Hong Kong, 74, and Archbishop Stanislaw Dziwisz of Krakow, 66, the longtime personal secretary of Pope John Paul II.

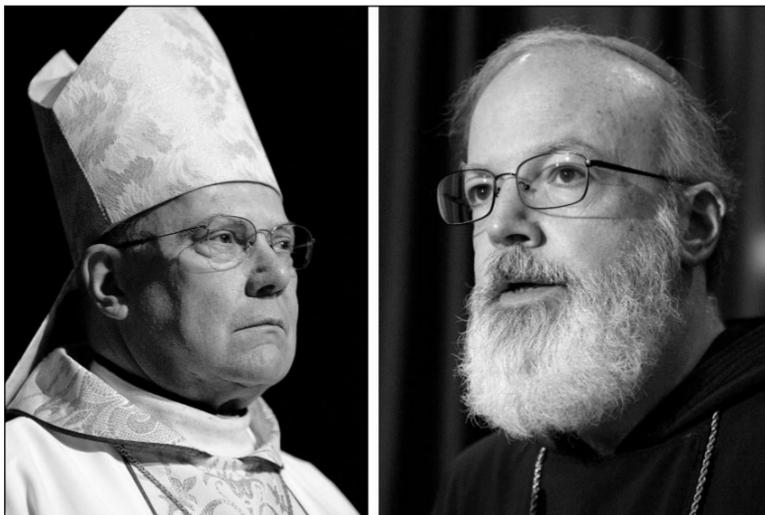
Cardinal-designate Dziwisz was a constant presence at the side of Pope John Paul, especially in later years when the ailing pope needed assistance moving, presiding over liturgies and reading texts. Last June, two months after the pope's death, he was named to head his native Archdiocese of Krakow.

He is expected to welcome Pope Benedict to Krakow when the pontiff travels to Poland in late May.

Cardinal-designate Zen, a Salesian, has headed the Diocese of Hong Kong since 2002; he had been coadjutor bishop since 1996. By Chinese standards, he has been considered outspoken in criticizing the Hong Kong and Chinese governments on human rights and religious freedom issues.

Late last year, he spoke of a "breakthrough" in Vatican-Chinese relations after recent agreement on bishops' appointments.

In naming new cardinals, the pope selected several people he had worked with closely over the years, including Archbishop Levada at the doctrinal congregation; two of the congregation's members, Archbishop Antonio



CNS PHOTO/GREG TARCZYNSKI/CNS PHOTO/JIM BOURG, REUTERS

Archbishop William J. Levada, 69, the Vatican's doctrinal chief and former San Francisco archbishop, left, and Boston Archbishop Sean P. O'Malley, 61, were named cardinals by Pope Benedict XVI Feb. 22. Cardinal-designate Levada is pictured during the Feb. 17 installation of Bishop Randolph R. Calvo of Reno, Nev., and Cardinal-designate O'Malley is seen in a 2003 file photo.

Canizares Llovera of Toledo, Spain, and Archbishop Jean-Pierre Ricard of Bordeaux, France; and French Jesuit Father Albert Vanhoye, who was a consultant to the doctrinal congregation and secretary of the Pontifical Biblical Commission.

Father Vanhoye, 82, was one of three elderly prelates honored by the pope; they would not vote in a conclave because they are over the age of 80. The others were Italian Archbishop Andrea Cordero Lanza di Montezemolo, 80, archpriest of the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, who had served as the first papal nuncio to Israel in the 1990s; and retired Ghanaian Archbishop Peter Poreku Dery of Tamale, 87.

The pope made his announcement on the feast of the Chair of Peter, Apostle, and said it was an appropriate moment to reflect on the ties between the world's cardinals and the pope's ministry.

Here is the list of the 15 cardinals-designate, in the order in

which they were announced:

- Archbishop Levada.
- Slovenian Archbishop Franc Rode, 71, prefect of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life.
- Italian Archbishop Agostino Vallini, 65, prefect of the Supreme Court of the Apostolic Signature, the Vatican's highest tribunal.
- Venezuelan Archbishop Jorge Urosa Savino of Caracas, 63.
- Filipino Archbishop Guadencio Rosales of Manila, 73.
- Archbishop Ricard.
- Archbishop Canizares.
- Korean Archbishop Nicholas Cheong Jin-Suk of Seoul, 74.
- Archbishop O'Malley.
- Archbishop Dziwisz.
- Italian Archbishop Carlo Caffarra of Bologna, 67.
- Bishop Zen.
- Archbishop Cordero Lanza di Montezemolo.
- Archbishop Dery.
- Father Vanhoye.



PROVIDED BY MATTHEW 25

Matthew 25 Health and Dental Clinic has announced a \$2.9 million capital campaign that will expand the size of the clinic in its downtown Fort Wayne facility. Funds from the year-long campaign will be used to renovate and nearly triple the space of the existing facility. Matthew 25 is the only full-time clinic in Allen County offering free medical, dental and vision services all under one roof. For over 30 years, Matthew 25 has assisted thousands of uninsured, low-income residents, filling a critical need that no other organization does. Open over 50 hours per week, Matthew 25 serves 100 patients a day on average — a number that's always increasing.

Matthew 25 launches capital campaign

FORT WAYNE — Matthew 25 Health and Dental Clinic kicked off the public phase of its \$2.9 million capital campaign at a news conference on March 2 at its facility on 413 E. Jefferson Blvd.

Funds from the year-long capital campaign will be used to renovate and nearly triple the space of its existing facility. When complete, the new Matthew 25 complex will total 20,260 square feet (compared to 6,800 square feet) and serve greater numbers of Allen County patients with expanded services and programs.

According to administrator Nancy Schenkel, "We're expanding our facility because the demand for our services has exploded as more people have become unemployed and uninsured. Our current facility simply cannot accommodate the great and growing needs."

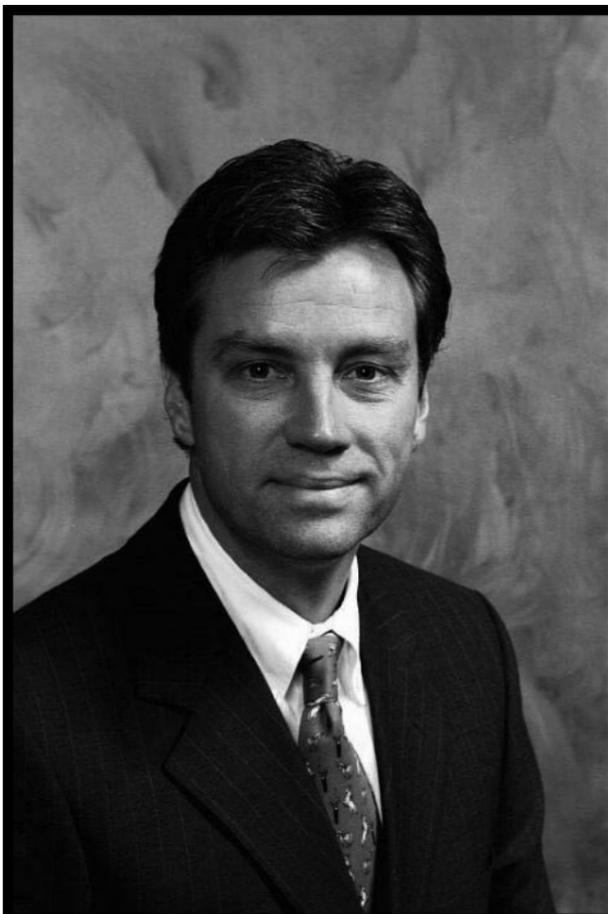
Most obvious is the lack of sufficient exam rooms to see patients. "Unless they have an immediate need, patients have to wait for an appointment several weeks away," said Schenkel.

Every day, Matthew 25 provides over 100 uninsured, low-income Allen County residents with free medical, dental and vision services. Over 1,000 patients rely on the clinic for diabetes support. And on "walk-in day" on Mondays, the clinic opens to long lines.

According to Matthew 25 estimates, 25-30 percent of Allen County residents are uninsured.

"A common myth is that Matthew 25 is a clinic for the unemployed poor," said Schenkel. "Truth is, as more people have lost their jobs and healthcare benefits, we've become a critical resource for a broad range of people."

"People are often surprised to learn that the majority of our patients are employed and juggling two or three jobs just to make ends meet," said Schenkel. "And the fastest growing group Matthew 25 serves is ages 40-60. Many are white-collar professionals who've enjoyed good-paying jobs with medical benefits for years — but not anymore."



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Informed consent bill advances

BY BRIGID CURTIS AYER

INDIANAPOLIS — Insufficient time and conflicting testimony from the medical community caused Senate leaders to substantially amend an informed consent bill, which was designed to curb abortion in Indiana.

House Bill 1172, as it passed the Indiana House, would have required women seeking abortion to be given information on fetal pain, and that after 20 weeks an anesthetic for the fetus may be available. It also would have changed the informed consent statute to require written information about adoption alternatives, physical risks concerning abortion and the statement that life begins at fertilization.

Because of conflicting testimony regarding fetal pain and the serious objection from some in the religious and medical community regarding statement that life begins at fertilization, Sen. Patricia Miller (R-Indianapolis), chair of the Senate Health Committee and Senate sponsor of HB 1172, said that she did not have time to adequately address these issues. While Sen. Miller said during the Senate hearing that she was supportive of the bill's concepts, in order to get the bill out of committee, she would have to remove the pain, anesthetic and fertilization references.

Rep. Tim Harris (R-Marion), author of the bill, said, "I wasn't surprised when Sen. Miller told me ahead of time that she was going to drastically amend HB 1172 in order to get the bill out of committee because the Senate Health Committee is a tough committee to get pro-life legislation through."

House Bill 1172 requires that informed consent information be given to women in written form. Indiana's current informed consent law does not specify the manner in which informed consent information is presented.

Sen. Miller offered an amendment in committee changing another part of the informed consent language to include "that there are many couples who are willing and waiting to adopt a child".

The intent of Sen. Miller's amendment, which was approved by the Senate panel unanimously, is to reduce the number of abortions by promoting adoption. The amended version of HB 1172 bill goes to the Senate floor where it is expected to pass the Senate. However because of changes, the House author Rep. Harris, said he will dissent and HB 1172 will go to conference committee where the bill's final language will be worked out. "We'll have to wait and see how the bill comes out of the Senate, but I'm planning to have an amendment prepared to put back in the language that Sen. Miller took out. I'm convinced that the conference committee report will pass the Senate if we can just get it to the Senate floor."

Sen. Jeff Drozda (R-Westfield) who is the Senate co-sponsor of the HB 1172 and who like Rep. Harris, will be a conferee when the bill goes to conference com-

mittee, said, "I'm very disappointed that this bill was drastically changed during the Senate Health Committee meeting, but the process of the bill going to conference committee still lends hope for some of the original language to be put back in." Sen. Drozda said, "The plan is to amend the bill in conference committee to include three things: 1. that life begins at fertilization; 2. that the baby may feel pain during the abortion; and 3. that pharmacists can follow their conscience by refusing to fill chemical abortion prescriptions."

Sen. Drozda said, "The biggest obstacle is getting the Senate Republicans to sign-off on the conference committee report so that the bill can move to a vote on the Senate floor." Drozda explained that the fate of this bill lies in the hands of the Senate Republican caucus who must approve of the bill's contents after it comes out of conference committee and before it moves to the Senate floor. Sen. Drozda said that because of this, "It is imperative that everyone contact their senator and ask them to support the conference committee report on HB 1172." Sen. Drozda said, "Once we get it to the Senate floor, it will pass."

Since HB 1172 was amended in the Senate, the final outcome will likely be determined in conference committee the first week of March. The Indiana General Assembly only has a few weeks remaining for legislative business as it must adjourn by March 14.

In 2003, the Indiana State Department of Health reported there were 11,458 abortions performed in Indiana. To view the full report of Indiana abortions from years 1999 to 2003 go to the

Indiana State Department of Health's Web page at www.in.gov/isdh/index.html click on "Data & Statistics"; then click on "Induced Terminated Pregnancies" for abortion information. For more facts on abortion go to abortion facts Web page at www.abortionfacts.com or the Silent No More Awareness Campaign's Web page at www.silentnomoreawareness.org.

Home Energy Sales Tax Exemption amended into budget bill

House Bill 1081, the Home energy sales tax exemption, was amended into the House property tax bill, HB 1001, during a Feb. 21 meeting of the Senate Tax and Fiscal Policy Committee. The amendment provides a sales tax exemption for sales of home energy to a person who acquires the energy through a home energy assistance program administered by the division of family resources.

"It is good that the effort to extend the sales tax exemption is still alive," said Glenn Tebbe, executive director of the Indiana Catholic Conference, "but the amended version only provides a home energy sales tax exemption on a temporary basis, for the year 2007."

Even though many lawmakers support the home energy portion of the bill, because of the other major tax issues including property and other local tax laws, the bill's fate is uncertain. HB 1001 is expected to pass the Senate, but is expected to go to conference committee where Tebbe says, "anything can happen."

Court to consider constitutionality of partial-birth abortion ban

BY JERRY FILTEAU

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Supreme Court said Feb. 21 that it will consider the constitutionality of the federal Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act.

The court agreed to hear a Bush administration appeal of a U.S. appeals court ruling that the 2003 law is unconstitutional because it does not include an exception for the health of a pregnant woman.

Deirdre A. McQuade, spokeswoman for the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, welcomed the court's decision to take up the case. "Partial-birth abortion is not necessary for women's physical or emotional health," she said. "Extensive testimony reveals that there is no maternal health reason why such a gruesome and inhumane procedure must be performed."

The appeal is the first abortion case the high court has agreed to hear since Justice Samuel Alito Jr. replaced Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who retired. O'Connor was often a swing vote on abortion cases and many observers regard Alito as more likely than her to favor legal restrictions on abortion.

Three federal appeals courts have found the 2003 law unconstitutional. The first such ruling came last July from the St. Louis-based 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which said that "a health exception is constitutionally required" in any law restricting abortion.

In separate rulings Jan. 31 two other appellate courts, the 9th Circuit in San Francisco and the 2nd Circuit in New York, also found the law's lack of a health

exception unconstitutional.

The 9th Circuit added that the law imposes "an undue burden" on women's access to abortion and called the language of the law too vague for consistent enforcement.

In 2000 the Supreme Court ruled 5-4 that a state law in Nebraska banning partial-birth abortion was unconstitutional because it did not include a health exception.

O'Connor was part of the court majority in that ruling, which not only nullified the Nebraska statute but also made similar laws in a number of other states unenforceable.

When the appellate court in St. Louis ruled last July that the absence of a health clause made the federal law unconstitutional, Gail Quinn, executive director of the bishops' pro-life secretariat, urged that the Supreme Court overturn that decision.

"It makes no sense to say one must kill a child who is more than half born to advance the mother's health instead of simply completing a live delivery," she said.

"There is no place in a civilized society for this cruel and dangerous practice," she said.

After the high court agreed to take up the case, McQuade commented, "Abortion advocates once said the (partial-birth abortion) procedure was rare and used only on women whose lives were in danger or whose unborn children were dying or severely disabled."

"But Ron Fitzsimmons, then executive director of the National Coalition of Abortion Providers, admitted in 1997 that partial-birth abortions are 'primarily done on healthy women and healthy fetuses,'" she said in her Feb. 21 statement.

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Luers hosts show choir invitational March 4

FORT WAYNE — The 32nd annual Luers-Midwest Show Choir Invitation will be Saturday, March 4, at Bishop Luers High School. This event showcases some of the most talented high school singers and dancers in the Midwest.

Seventeen schools from Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Florida and the Fort Wayne area will compete in a daytime elimination round. Six finalists compete again in the evening "Championship Sing-off" for the title of Grand Champion.

Competition begins at 8 a.m. and continues until 6 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and are available at the door.

Fort Wayne area schools are scheduled to perform at these times: Garrett Girl's Choir at 9 a.m., Homestead High School at 2 p.m. and Columbia City High School at 4:30 p.m.

Bishop Luers hosts the longest running show choir competition in America.

St. Anthony holds Men's Day of Prayer

SOUTH BEND — The traditional St. Joseph Men's Day of Prayer, honoring the foster father of Jesus Christ, will be renewed for the 10th successive year on Saturday, March 25, in St. Anthony School auditorium.

Five distinguished speakers will highlight the day, which will include Mass, rosary prayers, benediction and time for silent meditation.

Father Terry Fisher, pastor of St. Anthony de Padua Church, said "This special day of prayer will revitalize and strengthen the participants' Roman Catholic faith."

Registration will begin at 8 a.m. with a continental breakfast to follow.

Father Fisher also extended a special welcome to young men in high school and up to the age of 21. The fee for this group will be \$5 per person.

Registration for adults is \$10. The contributions for both groups may be placed in the gift basket at Mass.

The five speakers are Father Kevin Rousseau, assistant director of vocations of the Congregation of the Holy Cross; Parker Ladwid, Mass librarian at the University of Notre Dame; Bobby Morton, starting center for the Notre Dame football team; Kirby Falkenberg, executive director of the South Bend Metro YMCA; and Dr. Joseph Bagiackas, theologian, author and teacher. — EJD

Cancer benefit planned for March 25 at Queen of Angels

FORT WAYNE — On the evening of Saturday, March 25, a benefit for Mark Johnson and his family, Michele, Riley, Derek and Daniele, will be held at the Queen of Angels Activities Center, 1600 W. State Blvd., in Fort Wayne.

This evening of family fun, including a dinner, bake sale, silent auction, art and music, will be from

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PRESIDENT MOONEY DELIVERS STATE OF THE SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE ADDRESS AT MEDIA LUNCHEON



SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

Carol Ann Mooney, the first lay alumna to be president of Saint Mary's College, shares news about the college with the media at the first of regular media luncheons she will host. Among other things, she spoke of the impact Saint Mary's has had and continues to have in the country and the world. She shared that the college has the largest pool of applicants for the next academic year that it has had in 17 years. Mooney said that two of her personal goals are to increase diversity both in hiring and in the student body and that the college be in the national ranking of the best liberal arts colleges.

5:30 to 9 p.m., with proceeds helping to defray medical costs and lost family income resulting from a rare form of leukemia that Mark was diagnosed with in November 2005.

Mark, just 33 years old, has endured emergency neurosurgery, radiation therapy and induction chemotherapy with months of maintenance therapy to follow.

Mark will require physical therapy due to partial paralysis resulting from a tumor compressing his spine and affecting his walking ability. A bone marrow transplant is being considered. Due to his illness, Mark's job was terminated.

Knights celebrate 106 years of Catholic action

SOUTH BEND — It was a belated occasion, although members and wives of the auxiliary of Santa Maria Council No. 664, Knights of Columbus, still sliced into a large birthday cake to mark the 106th anniversary of South Bend's oldest council.

They also signed a large birthday card, which they delivered to their oldest council member, Father Walter McInerney, a former chaplain, who marked his 100th birthday Feb. 23 at Holy Cross House on the University of Notre Dame campus.

Father McInerney served as chaplain of the council from 1945 to 1947 and is the first priest in the

Congregation of Holy Cross to reach the century mark.

Santa Maria Council was chartered on Epiphany Sunday, Jan. 6, 1901, as South Bend Council with 55 members. Its last two charter members, Arthur Perley and John McInerney, were honored by the council in 1947 and passed away in the 1950s.

Kevin Large, grand knight, paid special tribute to its long list of silver and golden anniversary members during the ceremony "who have done so much in Catholic action for both the council and the Roman Catholic Church."

Large is the council's 61st grand knight and also paid special tribute to its oldest living past grand knight, Elmer J. Danch, who has served the council continuously since 1943.

Its first grand knight was John G. Ewing, a professor at the University of Notre Dame, who was also elected as the first Indiana state deputy.

Members of the council organized the St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Joseph County in 1904. Among its major Catholic action programs was the awarding of Catholic school scholarships, launched in 1945 and which today includes a full four-year scholarship to a son or daughter of a member to attend either Saint Joseph's or Marian High School, and the Lourdes Charity Ball, which sends a

worthy pilgrim to the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in France. — EJD

People of Faith warm to helping poor

FORT WAYNE — With increased heating costs hitting the poor especially hard this year, lay ministers from four Catholic churches — St. Therese, St. John the Baptist, St. Mary and St. Jude — have joined together in an effort to provide assistance to the Southeast side of Fort Wayne.

Since area Catholic churches have already taken up special collections for the Gift of Warmth campaign under the direction of Bishop D'Arcy, this new effort, called the People of Faith campaign, is a collaborative effort with other Christian churches, as well as the Muslim and Jewish communities in Fort Wayne.

These collections will be taken up throughout February and into March, and Catholic still willing to donate to the cause may contribute through Catholic Charities, Lutheran Social Services, Community Action of Northeast Indiana and the Salvation Army.

Those with questions regarding the campaign may reach Cheryl Mowan at St. Therese Church at (260) 747-9139.

St. Mary holds parish mission

FORT WAYNE — The people of St. Mary Parish would like to invite other parishes from around the diocese to their parish mission, starting Sunday evening, March 19, through March 22. Each evening, there will be a prayer service starting at 7 p.m.

On March 19, the topic will be "Faith — The Table of Real Presence" presented by Father Bill Kummer. The evening of March 20, the topic will be "Prayer — The Table of Unity and Love," which will be reflected on by Jim Didier. The third evening, March 21, there will be a reflection on "Reconciliation — The Table of Forgiveness" by Father James Stoye in preparation for the sacrament of reconciliation. The last evening, March 22, will bring the mission to a close with the celebration of the "Eucharist — The Table of Sacrifice and Thanksgiving," with Bishop John D'Arcy, who will be the celebrant and homilist.

Childcare will be offered each evening during the time of the services.

Morning sessions will be held at 9 a.m. in Oechtering Hall and conducted by Sister Jolene Heiden, SSND.

Artist Bruce Summerfield to appear at St. Aloysius event

YODER — Artist Bruce Summerfield will present his life story and journey in faith at St. Aloysius on Saturday, March 11, 6:30 p.m. in the activity center.

According to an article in *Fort Wayne Magazine*, March 2005, writer Darrell Turner says, "Bruce Summerfield's art is in the collections of three U.S. presidents and on display in the headquarters of major corporations throughout the nation. Yet he continues to create his works in the small crowded basement of his 115-year-old farmhouse in Hoagland. There was a time when selling animal portraits for thousands of dollars was Summerfield's major focus. But today, he says 'it's all about Jesus.'"

Summerfield is known for a painting of the crucified Jesus as the spike is nailed into his hand.

The event will include light hor d'oeuvres and refreshments, door prizes and fellowship. Cost is \$5 per person and payable at the door.

Chili cookoff winner's recipe announced

SOUTH BEND — Sam Weiss, a third-grade student who is 9 years old, was the winner of the Little Flower Parish Chili Cookoff. Sam's recipe follows:

1-1/2 pounds lean ground turkey
1 large can of diced tomatoes
1 large can pinto beans
1 chopped onion
1 package ranch dressing mix
1 package taco seasoning mix
Brown the meat, then add other ingredients. "I like to add more of the ingredients my family likes — say, extra tomatoes or ranch dressing — to taste," reports Weiss.

Catholic, Muslim women find mutual understanding, friendship

BY MICHELLE DONAGHEY

SOUTH BEND — They have learned that while there are differences between them, there are many common bonds, no matter if they are Muslim or Christian.

"We share a lot of values. Let's get together and find out how one another think, rather than let the media and current events to define us," said Pat AbuGharbieh, 52, of Masjid al Noor and a member of the Muslim-Christian Dialogue Group that was founded in April 2004 through the urging of Regina Weissert, a member of Little Flower Parish in South Bend.

"Unless people talk, you never really know how to live well together," said Weissert. "I am firmly convinced that it is only through dialogue with other cultures and religions that we can develop understanding and knowledge. You can read all about other people, but until you get to know them and talk to them, there is only a superficial understanding of their lives."

According to Weissert, the endeavor came out of Little Flower's Social Action Commission through the Center for Women's Intercultural Leadership at Saint Mary's College, where she connected with Rihad Quddoura, a member of the Islamic Society of Michiana.

Since its inception, the group has been well-received. "The church has given us their full support. We alternate our meetings between the mosque on Hepler Street and Little Flower once a month," said Weissert, noting that they meet on the third Tuesday at 12:15 p.m. The number attending varies from five to 35.

No one is asked to join the

other's faith, nor do they debate issues. Rather, during each meeting, they pick a topic, sometimes discuss teachings and views of each other's faith perspective or other chosen activities. Coffee and snacks are also served. "We also follow rules of dialogue, which helps newcomers to listen and learn without judging," said Birdie Rossow McElroy, who has been a member for about a year and is a member of the Church of Loretto at Saint Mary's College.

Topics, which the group tries to balance between Christian and Muslim faith topics, have included embryonic stem-cell research, sharing experiences of making the hajji or pilgrimage to Mecca, the significance of small sacrifices and the Christian faith (such as giving up things for Lent), All Saints and All Souls Day, what it means to be a religious (from a former nun member, Sister Elaine DesRosiers, who has moved to Kentucky), beliefs of the Church of the Brethren and the Muslim holiday, Eid al-Adha.

Women from Little Flower once took the group on a tour of their church. Most recently the group has been discussing more Muslim related topics, including discrimination. In fact, next month, the group plans to talk about the cartoons that have caused chaos worldwide. One of the most enjoyable and enlightening topics for both was when they discussed the Virgin Mary.

"So often, Christians assume that we don't believe in Jesus (Peace Be Upon Him) because we don't worship him. In fact, an entire chapter of the Quran is devoted to Mary, the chapter entitled "Maryam," said Deborah Mashour, a member of the Hepler Street mosque.

AbuGharbieh agreed. "It was most surprising to me that the Catholic and Muslim beliefs regarding the reverence for the Virgin Mary, were more alike than other Christian denominations' views of Mary," she noted.

Topics are not the only things that have changed about the group over the past two years that they have been meeting. Their dialogue has moved from quiet carefulness to friendly openness.

"We truly have grown from a cautious wariness of each other to a true respect," said Mashour who said that happened through "the willingness of all participants to respect each other."

"I have enjoyed seeing our evolution, the unlearning of misinformation, our growing trust and activism. Initially, I treaded somewhat delicately. Now there is a different level of disclosure. We've also become involved in one another's projects," said AbuGharbieh, noting how they held a food drive during Ramadan to benefit Little Flower's food pantry and then a blanket-clothing drive to help earthquake victims in Pakistan.

"I'm impressed by the sincerity and concern my Christian sisters demonstrate. Some are lifelong activists, which is inspiring," she added.

Members of the group only hope that similar groups are formed not only locally, but nationally as well for the good of people of all faiths. "The world is getting smaller all the time. There is a verse in the Qur'an that says 'Oh mankind, we created you into tribes that you may know one another.' I think that sums up my feelings as well," said Mashour, who is trying to make contacts in her area of Goshen-Elkhart to start



MICHELLE DONAGHEY

Regina Weissert listens intently to Pat AbuGharbieh during a recently meeting of the Muslim Christian Women's Dialogue group. The women meet monthly, rotating between the Islamic Society of Michiana on Hepler Street in South Bend and Little Flower Church on Ironwood Road.

a group.

While the road to insight and appreciation may take effort, it is worth it and is necessary, particularly in our world now, added Weissert.

"Understanding does not happen overnight, and it takes a great deal of openness and patience and willingness to listen to establish any kind of group that seeks to build relationships. It is my hope that dialogue will develop and

grow all over this land of ours, hungry for peace and justice," said Weissert.

McElroy, agrees. "I believe that tolerance and understanding grow only when persons of different backgrounds meet and share with open hearts."

Weissert says that she is available to those who would like more information about forming such dialogue groups or to answer questions at (574) 234-9953.

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St. Augustine youths presented 'Catholic Profiles in Black'

BY MAY LEE JOHNSON

SOUTH BEND — To celebrate Black History Month in February at St. Augustine Parish in South Bend, young people presented a program, "The Catholic Profiles in Black" on Feb. 19. The presentation celebrated the contribution of African-American laity and religious who made and continue to make contributions to the Catholic Church and society as a whole. For 2006, the profiles featured in the program were based on principles of Kwanzaa.

The children of St. Augustine Parish represented Black Catholics who contribute to society in politics, medicine, performing arts, law, and more importantly, to the Roman Catholic faith in America.

People in the South Bend Community especially Brother Roy Smith of the Holy Cross community, and Sister Jaimie Phelps, OP, director of the Black Catholic Institute of Xavier University of New Orleans (currently housed at the University of

Notre Dame due to Hurricane Katrina), are important people to Black Catholic history. These were some of the people highlighted.

"Over the last 14 years, I was fortunate and blessed to have been a certified religious education catechist within the Archdiocese of Detroit in the middle and high schools teaching and practicing the faith in a school and parish settings," said Jenario Morgan, who organized the program for St. Augustine Parish.

"As an African American who happens to practice my Christian faith as a Catholic, its important that the history of the American as well as the universal church throughout the world is taught to our youth of today," Morgan said. "More importantly, its especially important that our youth learn and come to know that Black Catholics in America and around the world have contributed and continue its efforts to promote the faith in everyday life through professional and personal achievements."



MAY LEE JOHNSON

St. Augustine Parish youth celebrated Black History Month with a special presentation that highlighted prominent Black Catholics in the South Bend community and throughout the U.S. In the photo are the following: front row, from left, Gabrielle Morgan, Martell Tardy, Patrick Sweeney and Dabian Boyd; middle row, Jasmine Leonard, Joshua Price, Jonathan Jones and Gabriell Jones; and back row, A.J. Caldwell, Kevin Dikes, Helen Roskowski and David Coughlin.



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Catholic Charities' Monica Newcomer represents immigrant clients

BY JENNIFER OCHSTEIN

SOUTH BEND — Social justice is near to Monica Newcomer's heart.

She was taught about it from an early age when her parents worked with Mennonite Central Committee in Guatemala to help those who are marginalized.

And now she has something with which she can take her spirit of social justice to a new level.

She was recently partially accredited, or has level-one accreditation, with the Board of Immigration Appeals. That means she'll be able to represent people who may need her help the most. She will be able to represent immigrant clients before the Federal Immigration Offices in Indianapolis and Chicago.

Newcomer is immigration case manager with Catholic Charities in South Bend. With the partial accreditation, for instance, Newcomer said, she can represent clients who are being interviewed to become citizens and help them with other services that would likely be more difficult for immigrants without her presence.

Catholic Charities in South Bend was recently recognized by the Board of Immigration Appeals, which is the executive branch of the Office of Immigration Review, which, in turn, operates under the federal Justice Department, Newcomer explained.

Because Catholic Charities was recognized, that allowed Newcomer to become partially accredited. She was also considered for accreditation based on her experience, training and moral character, she said.

Full accreditation would come with the ability to represent a

client in front of an immigration judge, but since the closest immigration court is in Chicago, and that is not an area she has much experience in, she said, she opted not to get full accreditation.

Newcomer graduated from Eastern Mennonite University in Virginia in 2002 with a degree in social work. She also took Spanish classes, which led her to want to work where she would be able to use her degree and Spanish.

After college, she found a volunteer position through Mennonite Voluntary Services working in Harlingen, Texas near the U.S.-Mexican border. The organization she worked with was called South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Office, where she discovered she enjoyed working on the legal side of social work.

In March 2005, she moved to the South Bend area and found her job at Catholic Charities. It was a match made in heaven, it seems.

Newcomer said she believes working with immigrants at Catholic Charities is important because "it's a matter of human rights."

She said many undocumented immigrants — 70 percent of which she deals with are from Latin American countries and most of them are from Mexico — don't realize there are ways to become legal while they're living in the U.S.

There is also a misconception among Americans that immigrants want to steal Americans' jobs and that they don't pay their taxes, but, she said, it's just not true.

She said most illegal immigrants will do whatever they can to become legal, otherwise they



JENNIFER OCHSTEIN

Monica Newcomer works with immigration at the South Bend Catholic Charities office. Catholic Charities in South Bend was recently recognized by the Board of Immigration Appeals. Newcomer was recently partially accredited, or has level-one accreditation, with the Board of Immigration Appeals.

live in fear of what may happen. And they are not able to fully integrate into society.

She said illegal immigrants cannot get driver's licenses, cannot get insurance or decent health care.

Their legal status is central to them being able to fully integrate themselves into a community, Newcomer said.

"A lot of them just want to make a better life for themselves and their families," Newcomer said. "And I don't blame them for that."



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Living Christ today: The challenge

BY GINNY KOHRMAN

Opening prayer

Dear Lord, the challenges of discipleship are many in today's world. It is easy to get discouraged, especially when we forget that you are our Rock, the foundation of our lives. Give us the grace to persist in following your ways, your truth and your life so that we may be strong when faced with the challenges of the world. Lord, walk with us this day, we pray. Amen

Scripture: Lk 6: 27-49 The Sermon on the Plain

Commentary

Have you ever met someone whom you immediately admired or with whom you immediately fell in love? Jesus Christ was a person of incredible charisma, sent to reveal to us the unconditional love of God. Many people who followed Jesus longed to be close to him in order to see, hear and touch him. It is easy to picture them as small children who innocently push and shove to get close to their teacher to watch a demonstration of something new and different. Because Jesus loved so freely, his followers became like children, eager to learn from him. The challenge of discipleship is to maintain this keen sense of exploring the love and truth that comes from God through Jesus.

Luke lays out the challenges of discipleship in numerous passages throughout his Gospel. In Luke 6: 27-49, Jesus tells those of us who will listen how we are to act. We are to love our enemies, to do good to those who hate, curse and mistreat us. If someone takes something from us, we are to give him or her more in return and ask for nothing back. Love those who hate us; be as merciful as the Father is merciful. Don't judge or condemn. Give more than we think we can. Examine our own sinfulness and not that of others. Jesus says, if we do all of that, we will be like him, the teacher.

The challenges of life

Living as Jesus taught in Luke's Gospel is challenging enough. But in our modern world we are faced with new and unforeseen topics that require searching, questioning, education and discernment. As mothers and fathers, the pressures of modern life and technology, the medical field and limited moral formation can confront and confuse us. Questions about reproduction, infertility and current issues like stem-cell research are everyday challenges in many families. When a doctor suggests to us parents that two or three children are enough and recommends birth

control, what do we do? If the boss insists we adhere to unethical business practices, how do we respond? When fetal abnormalities are found as a result of amniocentesis and the doctor tells us of the possible outcomes for our child, where do we turn for help? How do we practice stewardship in providing for our family needs and control spending on unnecessary things that cause financial burdens? When infertility is a problem, of which medical methods does the Catholic Church approve? The list of moral questions goes on and on.

Children, even young children, also feel the challenge of trying to do what they are taught by their parents and other religious educators. Being called a tattletale for reporting that a classmate stole pencils is not easy to take when you are seven or eight years old. "Johnny gets to watch this or that TV show or movie, and my mom and dad say no." "What do I do when I'm at a sleepover, and a 'bad' show is turned on?" Or "What do I do when a suggestive commercial comes on even when I'm watching a 'good' TV show?"

As teenagers and young adults the challenges of discipleship are felt when underage drinking is the favorite pastime of fellow students or teammates. "How can I fit in without consuming alcohol or drugs?" "Why must I remain sexually chaste when my friends engage in casual sex?" "Will I be the oddball, the socially unacceptable one, if I save myself for marriage?" In a world that is riddled with deception, half-truths and personal political agendas, how do we find the truth about who supports Catholic teachings of work, social justice and freedom and the dignity of every human being? The challenges of discipleship in the contemporary world can be staggering. At times it seems easier to walk away from the Master Teacher and say, "If you can't beat 'em, join 'em."

Jesus the teacher

Jesus tells us what we must do in Luke 6:43-48: "A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit." — Lk 6:43. "A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good..." — Lk 6:45. And Jesus also says of those who listen to his ways, "I will show you what someone is like who comes to me, listens to my words and acts on them. That one is like a person building a house, who dug deeply and laid the foundation on rock; when the flood came, the river burst against that house but could not shake it because it had been well built." — Lk 6: 47-48.

If we listen to the wisdom of the modern world, we may find that the fruit of our lives has rotted or that our foundations have been

shaken because we have not based our lives and consciences on the foundational message of the ultimate teacher, Jesus Christ. The challenge of doing what is right, regardless of temptation and struggle, is ever before us as Christians. So how do we build a strong foundation of faith?

Jesus' answer to this question is timeless. First of all, Jesus wants us to listen to his words. How do we listen to his words? How can we follow Jesus and the teachings he left us through the church if we do not know what they are? The truth about God is revealed to us through the sacred Scriptures, sacred tradition and the magisterium of the church. (Catechism of the Catholic Church 74-95) If we are to learn the truth, we must be open to listening to these sources of truth. Jesus even seems to push us a little further in that he asks that we also obey his truths. "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' but not do what I command?"

Enjoy Christ's challenges

Being a faithful follower is a lifelong commitment. Those who choose to build their house on sandy ground instead of rock may initially have an easier life. But what happens when the rains come or when the experiences of our life challenge us? The work of becoming informed in the faith should begin as a child and continue throughout our adult lives to strengthen us in the tough times. We need to continue to reach for Jesus through his church and to invest ourselves in it. A deep and abiding commitment to Christ and to his teachings should, in fact, be our greatest effort in life. We also need to look at the long view, instead of the short view. Decisions made impulsively, without knowledge and without Christ, may seem good for now but will fall apart later. As one of my favorite teachers told me, "Eventually, it all comes out in the wash." Making decisions with God in the equation helps us discover God's will and live a Gospel-centered life — for the long haul.

We as Catholics need to "get off our duffs." The expectation that we will be spoon-fed our faith, as may have been customary in the past, is now more a wish than a reality. As lay Catholics we should challenge ourselves to discover the wealth and depth of the Scriptures, spiritual writings and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Challenges to our current way of thinking aren't always easy, but with the help of God, the support of fellow disciples and good spiritual direction, we will be equipped to walk the path of lifelong commitment to discipleship.

There is tremendous wisdom in what Jesus said and in our Spirit-led church. Our lived experiences should reflect obedience to the

message of Christ: "But the one who listens and does not act is like a person who built a house on the ground without a foundation." Jesus asks us to act like his disciples. With all of life's demands, being a disciple of Christ won't always be effortless; indeed, the challenge is ever before us. Let us pray that our foundation of faith becomes ever more grounded in Scripture, tradition and the teachings of the church so that we will not be swept away by the challenges of discipleship in our modern world.

Reflection and connection

- What are your challenges in living as a disciple of Jesus in our world today?
- In which of these areas of discipleship (learning) do you feel a need for continued spiritual formation?
- What are the areas of church teaching that puzzle you or are difficult for you?

Evangelizing action challenge

For interior renewal: Challenge yourself to read one book of the Bible from beginning to end over the course of this week. Using a Catholic Study Bible, read the background information that is provided in the beginning of the book. Take time to look at the scriptural footnotes to add another layer of meaning to the text. There are many biblical commentaries on the sacred Scriptures. Should you like to go a step further in understanding the Scriptures, pick up one at your local religious bookstore.

The writings of the early Christians or of the early church fathers, also add another layer of meaning to the beliefs we profess in the creeds and in the sacraments. As a group, consider investigating the history of one belief in the creed or one sacrament. Find the roots of these teachings in

Scripture, in the writings of the church fathers or the Catechism of the Catholic Church. (CCC Part II or "The Spirit of Early Christian Thought" by Robert Wilken)

Consider forming or attending a Catholic Apologetics Class. "Beginning Apologetics (5) How to Answer Tough Moral Questions" by Father Frank Chacon and Jim Burnham, San Juan Catholic Seminars answers questions about abortion, contraception, cloning and sexual ethics as taught by the Catholic Church. Or another resource may be "Catholicism and Ethics, A Medical /Moral Handbook" by Father Edward Hayes, Msgr. Paul J. Hayes, CR Publications Inc. Norwood, Mass. 2003. These resources are available through the diocesan bookstore.

For reaching out to others: Invite someone new to your small Christian community or consider starting a new group with members of your community that can learn from your experience and knowledge. Modeling Christian actions can be the best teacher.

For transforming society: Consider becoming a catechist for young adult or children religious education.

- Become involved with one social injustice that ignores the teachings of the church.
- Pray for an end to abortion, volunteer or donate to agencies promoting life.
- Volunteer or donate to the Vincent House project; join the St. Vincent de Paul Society.
- Write to TV networks that create morally objectionable programs. Turn off the TV occasionally and read.

Closing prayer

Dear God, you urge us to respond to the challenges of discipleship by trusting in strong foundations of knowledge and faith that are revealed to us through Jesus. Our minds and hearts can be weak, Lord, and we ask for your grace to persevere in a world that tends to reject you. Thank you for the gift of the sacred Scriptures and sacred tradition. Strengthen our church, our pope, bishops and priests that they will be inspired and challenged by our witness of faith. May we feel your loving presence as we daily meet the challenges of true discipleship. We long for a strong foundation that is anchored in you. Amen

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Standing-room-only Masses a sign of shifting New Orleans population

NEW ORLEANS (CNS) — In a post-Katrina world marked by massive population shifts in the New Orleans area, the term “television Mass” has a new meaning. Unlike the TV ministry provided to shut-ins who cannot attend Mass, St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Slidell offers a closed-circuit video feed to bring Mass to about 100 people in a community adjacent to the main church who cannot fit inside its 550-seat worship space. The community room is set up with folding chairs and has glass doors that people can use to enter to receive Communion. A sound system and television set provide the liturgy live “so that the people are participating in the Mass and hearing and seeing everything that goes on,” said Father Rodney Bourg, St. Luke pastor. Slidell is north of New Orleans and near the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain. And like most other north shore parishes, St. Luke has experienced a 22 percent increase in Mass attendance in the last several months as displaced residents from various parts of New Orleans have migrated north to find temporary or permanent homes.

Doctrinal head: Openly gay priests make it tough to represent Christ

ROME (CNS) — Cardinal-designate William J. Levada said a priest who publicly announces he is homosexual makes it difficult for people to see the priest as representing Christ, the bridegroom of his bride, the church. A public declaration of homosexuality places a priest “at odds with the spousal character of love as revealed by God and imaged in humanity,” said the U.S. cardinal-designate, who is prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Cardinal-designate Levada made his remarks during a Feb. 26 homily as he presided over a Mass for the installation of the new rector of Rome’s Pontifical North American College, Msgr. James F. Checchio. In his homily, Cardinal-designate Levada reflected on the challenges priests face today and on the Sunday Scripture readings, which described God’s love for his people as the love of a husband for a wife and described Jesus as the bridegroom of the church.

Pope says God loves humans in all stages of life, embryo to old age

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI said God’s love for humans does not differentiate between the stages of embryo, adult or old age. That is one reason why the church proclaims the sacred and inviolable character of all human life, even in the form of a pre-implanted embryo, the pope told participants at a Vatican conference Feb. 27. The conference, sponsored by the Pontifical Academy for Life, was examining the theme “The Human Embryo Before Implantation: Scientific Update and

NEWS BRIEFS

WOMEN SEEK SHELTER AT POLICE STATION IN NIGERIA



CNS PHOTO/GEORGE ESIRI, REUTERS

Muslim women carry their belongings as they seek shelter at a police station in Asaba, Nigeria, Feb. 23. At least 138 Nigerians died in five days of rioting by Muslims and Christians across Africa’s most populous nation, where uncertainty over the political future is exacerbating ethnic and religious tensions.

Bioethical Considerations.” The pope said the topic was fascinating but very difficult, one that science alone cannot fully fathom. From the church’s point of view, neither Scripture nor ancient Christian tradition offers explicit treatment of the subject of embryos, he said. But he said the Bible does reflect an awareness of and respect for human life at its earliest stages. He quoted God’s words as recounted in the Book of Jeremiah: “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you. Before you were born I dedicated you.”

Polish statistician downplays study showing decline in Mass turnout

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — A church statistician downplayed a recent study showing a continued decline in Mass attendance in Poland. “Mass attendance is only one way of measuring a society’s religiousness,” said Pallotine Father Witold Zdaniewicz, professor and director of the Warsaw-based Catholic Church Statistics Institute. “The data clearly show a persistent drop in numbers going to church, but the causes and explanations vary considerably.” Father Zdaniewicz told Catholic News Service that results of a Sunday Mass head count taken in November would be announced before Pope Benedict XVI’s May 25-28 visit. In mid-February, the Polish Press Agency reported that Catholic Church Statistics Institute figures showed 43 percent of Catholics attended Sunday Mass regularly in 2004, compared to 47.5 percent in 2000. Under communist rule in the 1980s, church attendance was 60 percent; in 1991 it was 50

percent. Father Zdaniewicz said the data had to be looked at “holistically — we can’t just consider bare numbers and percentages.”

Bosnian bishops say Catholics in some regions near extinction

ROME (CNS) — Catholics in the Balkan nation of Bosnia-Herzegovina have become “second-class” citizens and, in some regions, are on the verge of extinction, said a group of Bosnian bishops visiting Rome. While the 1995 Dayton Peace Accords brought an end to ethnic violence and bloodshed between Serbs, Muslims and Croats, the bishops said the accords were flawed and unfairly enforced, resulting in a lack of true peace, justice and adequate human rights protections in the country. On the eve of the start of their weeklong “ad limina” visit to the Vatican, Bosnian Cardinal Vinko Puljic of Sarajevo, Bishop Franjo Komarica of Banja Luka, and Auxiliary Bishop Pero Sudar of Sarajevo spoke to journalists at a Feb. 22 press conference hosted by Italy’s Catholic Action movement. The bishops appealed to the international community to help transform Bosnia-Herzegovina from its current two-government existence to a unified, decentralized democracy that would no longer be split along ethnic lines.

Belgian nun discusses plight of child domestic workers in India

NEW YORK (CNS) — They are called domestic workers, but many of them are better described as slaves. They are children who work

in private households, they do arduous labor from before dawn until after dark, and they are vulnerable to abuse — physical, emotional, sexual. Sister Jeanne Devos, a Belgian member of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary who has served in India for more than 40 years, has devoted herself to helping them and also women who are domestic workers. In 1985 she founded the National Domestic Workers Movement, based in Mumbai, to call attention to the appalling circumstances in which they are trapped and to work for change. A key part of her mission is to fight trafficking, the abduction or “buying” of children for domestic work. Sister Jeanne said trafficking agents often make false promises to poor families that a child sent into domestic work will receive care and education. Parents learn nothing of the actual conditions the children endure, and in reality, most child domestic workers are not sent to school.

Australia approves RU-486; Cabinet endorses pregnancy counseling plan

SYDNEY, Australia (CNS) — Just days after Australia’s Parliament voted to allow the so-called abortion pill to be introduced into the nation’s health system, the Cabinet endorsed a multimillion-dollar plan for pregnancy counseling and support. On Feb. 17, Health Minister Tony Abbott, a Catholic and staunch opponent of abortion, lost control over use of the drug RU-486. By a two-thirds majority, control of the drug was turned over to the Therapeutic Goods Administration, the regulatory body that manages prescription

drugs. The body is expected to make its recommendations about the pill within coming months. However, on Feb. 21 Abbott won backing for a \$60 million (US\$44.2 million) counseling package to offer a 24-hour advice hotline for pregnant women and a Medicare rebate for counseling if women are considering an abortion. Abbott maintains that more than 100,000 abortions are performed each year in Australia, and national polls show that 87 percent of Australians believe the abortion rate is excessive.

Bishop Calvo ordained, installed as bishop of Reno

RENO, Nev. (CNS) — An overflow crowd of more than 4,000 gathered in the Reno Hilton Pavilion Feb. 17 for the episcopal ordination and installation of Bishop Randolph R. Calvo as the seventh bishop of Reno. Bishop Calvo, who was born in Guam but moved to San Francisco with his parents in 1957, was pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Redwood City, Calif., when Pope Benedict XVI named him bishop of Reno in December. It was the first time a bishop of Reno had been actually ordained a bishop in northern Nevada. The hotel site was chosen because no church in the diocese was large enough to hold the crowd. Among those in attendance were Archbishop George H. Niederauer, installed as head of the San Francisco Archdiocese just two days earlier; Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles; and Archbishop (now Cardinal-designate) William J. Levada, a former archbishop of San Francisco who is prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith at the Vatican. Retired Archbishop John R. Quinn of San Francisco delivered the homily, saying that one of the responsibilities of a bishop is to build up evangelical hope amid the trials of the world.

Archbishop Marcinkus, longtime head of Vatican bank, dies

SUN CITY, Ariz. (CNS) — Archbishop Paul C. Marcinkus, often regarded as the most powerful American in the Vatican during his 18 years as president of the Vatican bank, died Feb. 20 at his home in Sun City, apparently of natural causes. He was 84 years old. Arrangements for a memorial service in the Phoenix Diocese and for funeral services, expected to take place in his home Archdiocese of Chicago, were not immediately available. The U.S.-born archbishop, who spent 38 years in Vatican service before his retirement in 1990, headed the Vatican bank from 1971 to 1989 and was head of the Pontifical Commission for Vatican City State from 1981 to 1990. Under his watch the bank was involved — unwittingly, he and the Vatican always maintained — in a major 1980s Italian banking scandal. He also served as advance man for the global travels of Pope Paul VI and Pope John Paul II from 1964 to 1982 and paid special attention to security arrangements at all papal visit sites.



STEWARDSHIP

By our baptism, we are called to be stewards

Stewardship spokesperson offers encouragement

BY JULIE KENNY

"Our parish is starting stewardship. Can you help us?" We receive this question from parish staff members all over the country several times a month phrased in a variety of ways, all looking for help.

Weekend Mass attendance may be low, the parish may be struggling financially, they may need more volunteers, or all of the above. Hundreds of parishes are teaching stewardship to rejuvenate the life of the parish and bring their parishioners closer to Christ. Why stewardship?

It will help to first understand what stewardship is and is not. Stewardship is the way I live my life because I am extremely thankful for a good and gracious God, and I trust in him. This grateful existence is the result of a real conversion of heart that may come from a spiritual retreat experience or from the ongoing everyday experiences of living our faith.

It is the realization that God fashioned me in my mother's womb, gave me everything I have, provides me with opportunities to share my talents with

others, and he is counting on me to do so. Stewardship is not a program that ends when the parish collection goes up, or more people volunteer and is definitely not spelled "Stewardship!"

When parishes teach a stewardship way of life, parishioners are excited about their faith and joyfully share their lives and personal resources without counting the cost to themselves. This may mean driving to the parish at 2 a.m. to pray during eucharistic adoration one morning a week, worshipping at Mass every weekend — and sometimes during the week — giving a sacrificial and proportionate amount of their income to the parish and volunteering their time to parish ministries and/or community activities.

A parish desiring to teach stewardship should first look at parish life to see how they already live stewardship. Does the parish provide prayer opportunities for parishioners like eucharistic adoration, retreats or

parish missions, Bible study, small-prayer groups? How many ministries are active in the parish? How many parishioners currently volunteer? How many parishioners are involved in the parish prayer line? How many attend daily Mass? What is the average weekly collection? These are all existing stewardship activities to be grateful for.

To help organize and formalize stewardship efforts, the parish should contact the Office of Stewardship and Development in our diocese at (574) 258-6571. The director, Harry Verhiley, is excellent at guiding parish stewardship committees along their way. The office also has the names of other parishes teaching this way of life. Networking and idea sharing on what works and doesn't work are critical.

Attending stewardship events is another great way to network, share experiences and learn practical methods to implement or renew stewardship in all areas of parish life. One opportunity, coming June 14-16, is Our Sunday Visitor's regional stewardship

conference in Indianapolis. The Living Catholic Stewardship Conference will gather stewards from all over the Midwest to learn from the country's best and brightest stewardship minds. Each workshop is

designed to give participants practical tips and ideas for implementing the topic when they return to their parish. You can find more information on this conference at www.osvenvelopes.com.

The International Catholic Stewardship Council

(ICSC), located in Washington, D.C., is an organization parishes and dioceses join to get additional, quality resources and meet others teaching stewardship. This organization holds an annual conference as well as semiannual retreats designed to guide and educate parishes whether they're just starting or have taught stewardship for years. The ICSC's 2006 annual conference is Oct. 1-4 in Boston. You can find more information about the ICSC, their conference and materials at www.catholicstewardship.org.

The most successful stewardship efforts occur in parishes that keep the message of time, talent and treasure in front of parishioners throughout the year in a variety of ways. Parishes cannot mention stewardship one time a year during ministry sign-ups and expect everyone to remember and understand the message the rest of their lives.

By our baptism, we are called to be stewards. Ed Laughlin of Partners in Stewardship in Port Saint Lucie, Fla, says, "Stewards are on a lifelong journey. We must provide them nourishment and guidance along the way." Certainly there are stewards at different stages of their trek. Some just started. Some are nearing their destination. Some dawdle. Some run. Some desperately need a GPS!

The late Archbishop Thomas Murphy said, "Stewardship is not a quick fix." If parish efforts are not drawing parishioners closer to Christ, stop and start over or reevaluate the efforts. Be patient. Stay the course. Pick up your walking stick and get started.

Julie Kenny is the stewardship specialist at Our Sunday Visitor, Huntington.

Time

Talent

TREASURE

Priests find a way to live and give

BY ELISA SMITH

Three priests from the Archdiocese of Boston — Msgr. Peter T. Martocchio, Father Thomas C. Foley and Father James M. Larner — showed their faith by gifting their oceanfront home in Hull, Mass., to the Catholic Community Foundation of Northeast Indiana.

Msgr. Martocchio and Father Foley have traveled to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend many times to visit their classmate and friend, Bishop John M. D'Arcy, and to take in a few Notre Dame football games.

"We believe in the leadership of our good friend, (Bishop) John (D'Arcy). When he visits us, he speaks to us about the wonderful people and faithful priests in his diocese," said Father Foley.

Their planned gift is structured as a gift annuity for a home that combines two charitable planning techniques — life estate and gift annuity.

A life estate provides the three priests the right to live in or use the home for their lifetimes. A gift annuity, on the other hand, produces fixed, cash payments to them for life. The priests can use the cash to pay the property taxes, insurance and maintenance on the home.



PHILIP PURCELL

Msgr. Peter Martocchio and Father Thomas Foley on the porch of the home they have gifted to the Catholic Community Foundation.

Upon the death of the last survivor, the home will transfer to the Catholic Community Foundation of Northeast Indiana as an unrestricted gift. The bishop, at that time, along with the foundation's board of advisors, will determine how the home or the proceeds from its sale will be used.

To learn more about life estates, gift annuities, or other types of planned gifts, please contact the Diocesan Planned Giving Office at (260) 422-4611, ext. 3312, or at esmith@fw.diocesefwsb.org.

STUDENTS LEARN SPIRIT OF STEWARDSHIP WITH CAN DRIVE



PROVIDED BY ST. JOSEPH-ST. ELIZABETH SCHOOL

The students and faculty of St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Catholic School recently teamed up with the Carlos O'Kelly Restaurant and held a Mexi-can food drive. The school collected canned food items for two weeks with a little friendly competition between the classrooms. Week one saw Tonya Brown's kindergarten class bring in the

most items. Week two had Mary Czech and her first graders stacking those items high. For their outstanding collection efforts, each student from the two top classes received a free children's meal from Carlos O' Kelly as well as chips and salsa during class. Both teachers received \$20 Carlos O' Kelly gift certificates. As an entire school, St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth collected 1,376 canned food items that were donated to Community Harvest Food Bank. The Home and School Association says they are thankful to all families that donated items during this fun and successful stewardship project.



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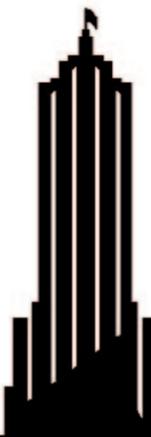
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Community steward helps others make a difference

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

SOUTH BEND — New Year resolutions: Join health club — \$200; buy new clothes to go with new body — \$200; put deck on the back of the house — \$2,000; help out needy people in my community — priceless.

This is probably not what many people's New Year resolutions list looks like, but it should. So often people think about what they can do to better themselves on the outside without ever thinking about the person they want to be inside.

Luckily, a new business called Make a Difference Michiana brings the internal helping right to the front door.

Created with the intent of bringing local non-profit agencies and their missions all together for the general public to discover, they help people find charities that need help with volunteers and funding projects.

"Make a Difference Michiana is a new nonprofit that aspires to be the conduit that connects the community with the many wonderful nonprofit agencies in Michiana. We hope by raising awareness of the services of the nonprofit sector that donations of goods, money and volunteerism will result," said Mary Dunbar, creator of this new entity.

"As part of our offerings, Make a Difference Michiana has developed an interactive Web site makeadifferencemichiana.org, where visitors can search for services, donation ideas, volunteer opportunities or donate on line to their favorite charity.

The company started at the end of 2005 and is looking to make a real difference in the community in 2006.

"It was exciting to see in the last three weeks of December after our launch, we received over 4,000 Web site visits. Many, many e-mails were sent from our site to participating agencies from people looking for additional information about services or volunteer opportunities, and we received online contributions on behalf of 11 participating nonprofits — all that in just those few weeks at the end of the year," said Dunbar.

In 1999, Dunbar began working at WSBT, Channel 22 in South Bend, and became the station's director of community affairs.

"I had the privilege of planning the community events the station was involved in. It was such a fulfilling job — where else could you plan a parade for returning soldiers one day and a tornado relief drive the next?" noted

Dunbar. "Over the last six years, serving on many nonprofit, public relations and marketing committees has given me such insight into the world of the nonprofit sector. I realize how important it is to educate the community about nonprofits and their mission. I've also seen first hand the struggle nonprofits have in marketing themselves. Budgets are tight, and when forced with the decision of spending dollars on marketing vs. programming, well, naturally programming wins out every time. In response to that need, I founded the 22 Ways of Giving campaign for the station in 2000 — a campaign that raises awareness and donations for 22 nonprofit organizations during the holiday season.

The success of that campaign is a testament to the generosity of our community — as seen by the success of so many community donation drives: WNDU's Pack a Backpack, Fox's Adopt a Family, Ziker's Coats for Kids, Roof Sit, local

Katrina relief efforts and so much more."

One notion that kept coming from many nonprofits to Dunbar was that no one knows about the special service agencies around town and it was that revelation that drove Dunbar to the creation of Make a Difference Michiana.

Dunbar has many hopes and dreams for her newly formed company and ultimately wants the community to benefit from know-



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

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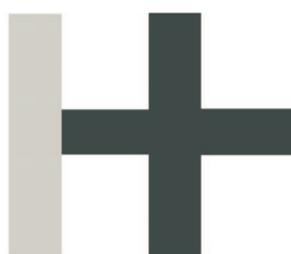


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EDITORIAL

Hoosier saint — no stranger to the diocese

In Brittany, where the wind and waves of the Atlantic cast a brooding mist on the rocky coast, a child was born in 1798 whose destiny was in America, and whose life's work would draw a blueprint for Catholic education, religious life for women, and whose example and trust in Providence would place her name among the sainted. She was Anne Therese Guerin, who would become the foundress of the Sisters of Providence in America under the name of Mother Theodore.

At age 41, she agreed to lead a band of six missionaries to America, destination Indiana. Forty days of seasickness were followed with travel by train, stagecoach and steamboat on the Ohio river, disembarking at Evansville.

At that time, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods was a single cabin in the unpopulated wilderness somewhere west of Terre Haute. If there had been a personal encounter, communication would have been limited; none of the sisters could speak English. The six lived in a loft, guests of the settlers who built the cabin. At night, they slept under buffalo robes, which in the mornings would sometimes be covered by snowflakes. Thus began the mission of Mother Theodore, who in time referred to her followers as "daughters of the forest."

In addition to being the spiritual director for the sisters and principal of the Saint Mary-of-the-Woods Academy, Mother Theodore learned to clear the land, plant crops, butcher hogs, supervise construction, deal with bankers, correspond with bishops and develop a favorite pastime, handling horses.

Mother Theodore's Fort Wayne legacy is legendary. Not only did the Sisters of Providence help thousands of children find education and Christian values, they helped many sisters and priests discover the roots of vocations. For example, St. Patrick Parish of Fort Wayne can boast of more than 100 religious vocations, with at least 60 of them among the Sisters of Providence.

The focus returns to one woman, Mother Theodore, who in turn was focused on one ideal — love for others through love of God and love of the cross. Sacrifice was at the top of her list, not among options.

New cardinals — oh, the possibilities

With a list of 15 names, Pope Benedict XVI has created a whirlwind of conjecture among the Catholic press and Vatican watchers with his first batch of new cardinals and what it might mean for the future of the church.

Even the number, 15, small after the precedent of John Paul II, holds significance, according to John Thavis of Catholic News Service, as it suggests that Pope Benedict might name cardinals more frequently than his predecessor.

Apart from frequently naming cardinals, Thavis points out that the pope might also convene the full College of Cardinals more often, drawing on them like a senate to better feel the pulse of the church around the world. (It will also allow the cardinals to get to know one another far better, increasing the likelihood of their being truly creative and original when they gather however many years from now to elect Benedict's successor.) This, coupled with Benedict's already-established predilection toward selecting new bishops from among the priests of a diocese, could make for a church that is far more attuned to what is happening "on the ground."

As for the identities of these new cardinals, the pope has named two Americans, bolstering the already substantial numbers of U.S. cardinals. And if this were not a big enough affirmation of the church in America, Cardinal-designate William Levada — the former archbishop of San Francisco and Ratzinger's successor in the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith — will be the first to receive the red hat, making him the first cardinal created by Pope Benedict, a truly special distinction. For instance, Pope John XXIII's first new cardinal was Cardinal Giovanni Battista Montini, who succeeded him as Paul VI. Of course, the chances of an American pope remain practically nil for the foreseeable future.

Asia, from which Pope Benedict has named three voting-age cardinals, is another story. As with the U.S., the naming of such a high number of cardinals from Asia is an affirmation of its church. Unlike the U.S., Asia, by all accounts the newest horizon of evangelization, could offer some interesting possibilities if the cardinals decide not to go with a pope from Europe or the Third World in the next conclave. Like the election of Pope John Paul II from Poland, such a move would put a face on the church in an area of the world where it faces particularly great challenges. An interesting note: of the countries in Asia, only the Philippines has a Christian majority and, while not drawing as much media attention as the cardinal-designates from China and Korea, the archbishop of Manila in the Philippines, Gaudencio Rosales, is among the new cardinals. A true dark horse, indeed.

Today's Catholic editorial board consists of Bishop John M. D'Arcy, Ann Carey, Don Clemmer, Father Mark Gurtner, Father Michael Heintz, Tim Johnson, Vince LaBarbera and Msgr. J. William Lester.

COMMENTARY

TODAY'S CATHOLIC welcomes letters from readers. All letters must be signed and include a phone number and address for verification. Today's Catholic reserves the right to edit for clarity and length. Address letters to: Today's Catholic • P.O. Box 11169 • Fort Wayne, IN • 46856-1169 or e-mail to: editor@fw.diocesefwsb.org

Stewardship, acting in place of Jesus

BY JUDITH M. DAVIS

The following is a talk given by Judith M. Davis at St. John the Evangelist Parish, Goshen, on Feb. 12. The discussion was stewardship.

GOSHEN — "Let me be frank. When it comes to stewardship, my patron saint is the kid in Scripture — you know — the son in Jesus' parable recorded in Matthew 21, the one whose father asked him to go and work in the vineyard. The kid said, 'No, I won't,' but later changed his mind and went.

"When offered the chance to do something in the church or community, my first instinct has been to protect my time, even in retirement. My second instinct, though, is to give it a try. There are many, many ministries that take minimal amounts of time and every single one of them pays benefits, as my priestly uncle used to say, that are 'out of this world.'

"First of all, our everyday work, inside and outside the home, is a real ministry and a genuine exercise of stewardship. As we work at our vocations, we fulfill part of our baptismal commission to be salt, yeast and light for the world — keeping in mind that these small ingredients are vital and make all the difference in the quality of life for ourselves and those around us.

"All of us were given talents and time to use in fulfilling the other part of that commission, and — as with our vocations — it's up to us to decide how and when to use them. Different commitments of time, especially, are possible at different times in our lives, but all of us can take on at least one ministry in addition to what we do all the time.

"That's how I got hooked. I started out as a lector, then eucharistic minister. Prayer chain seemed like an easy thing to do. Church decoration on holidays when I had some time off. Then, after retirement, Interfaith Hospitality, mentoring and a few others.

"When I was called to consider organizing Disciples in Mission, I thought, 'Only for a year, and I'm out.' I guess this is my fourth year, and this Lenten process gets better every time.

"One of my favorite ministries involves volunteering at Loveway, the therapeutic riding facility near Middlebury for folks with special needs. The children and young people who come to ride the beautiful Loveway horses may be autistic. They may have cerebral palsy or Down Syndrome. Some as young as three years old have had strokes. But all of them respond to the love and care and teaching of the staff and volunteers.

Sometimes it takes awhile. I've been assigned to Alice (not her real name) for three years.

"When she first came, she couldn't stand up by herself; she had nerve damage as well as severe retardation. Alice hasn't always been easy to work with, but just this year she picked up a currycomb by herself and started to brush her horse. She walks to and from the arena by herself now and hangs on shouting with glee as her horse trots. It gives me enormous joy and pride to see her performance at the annual open house.

"As a teacher, I derive equal pleasure from an expressively read paragraph, a well-written essay or a newly conquered math problem at St. John School.

"Loveway takes only two or three hours a week; mentoring, an hour. Many take even less time. Cooking for the Interfaith Hospitality Network takes less than an afternoon and part of an evening every three months, and eating dinner with the homeless can be a family activity. Rides to church? A few miles or less to pick up someone on your way to Mass or devotions and you've made somebody's day — maybe even God's.

"Each one of these ministries has rewards that can't be quantified and that are difficult to describe. Let me just say, with Sister Sanctina, my fifth grade teacher, that God is not to be out-

done in generosity. God touches my life each time I engage in ministry.

"One of the most beautiful tenets of our faith reminds us that we are members of the body of Christ. One of the most challenging and rewarding things we can do is act like members of that body, reaching out as Jesus did — acting in his place — to bring comfort, healing, joy, presence and service to others.

"We give this kind of activity what seems like a pedestrian name — stewardship of time and talent — but I like to think of it as acting in place of Jesus, mindful of the fact that not only do we serve the Christ in those we meet, it may well be that the only time some of them experience Christ happens in their encounter with us."

Judith Davis, a member of St. John the Evangelist Parish, Goshen, is a professor emerita of French and humanities, Goshen College, and a Benedictine oblate.



Are younger priests really more conservative than older priests?

With increasing frequency, Catholics tell me that younger priests are more conservative than older priests. Some people are pleased and energized by this trend, believing that it will foster increased orthodoxy and renewal in the church. Others are surprised (after all, aren't older people supposed to be more set in their ways?) and chagrined (believing that younger priests want to roll back the hands of time).

But is there really a generation gap among priests? Are younger priests really more conservative than older priests? I consulted seven recent studies for answers to these questions. Four of the studies have focused on priests' theological, or ecclesial, orientations. Two of these studies (one in 1994, the other in 2002) have been conducted by the *Los Angeles Times*. Two others have been published by Dean Hoge and colleagues at Catholic University (a 1995 article in *Sociology of Religion*, and a 2003 book titled "Evolving Visions of the Priesthood"). Two other studies by Ted Jelen (one in 1993, the other in 2003) have paid more attention to priests' views on



RESEARCH FOR THE CHURCH

JAMES D. DAVIDSON

political issues. The most recent study by Paul Levesque and Stephen Sipproth (in the winter 2005 issue of *Sociology of Religion*) examines the relationship between priests' ecclesial and political ideologies. Taken together, these studies convincingly show that, indeed, younger priests are more conservative than older priests, both theologically and politically.

Hoge and Wenger have shown that older priests (who became priests during the Vatican II era) tend toward a "servant-leader" model of the priesthood, which sees the priest as having the same status as the laity. The priest has a distinctive role to play as a spiritual and institutional leader, but he collaborates with laypeople in a shared ministry to all the faithful. Younger priests (who were in sem-

inary and ordained during the reign of Pope John Paul II) favor a "cultic" model of the priesthood, which sees the priest as a leader who is set apart from laity by the sacrament of holy orders. Because the priest is ordained, he is ontologically different from laypeople. He is a mediator between the laity and God. He also is to maintain a social distance between himself and the members of his parish.

Levesque and Sipproth find that priests who are now over the age of 75 tend to think of themselves as theological liberals (48 percent). Priests who are 50-75 years old also are inclined to see themselves as liberals (52 percent). On the other hand, only 32 percent of priests who are less than 50 years old describe themselves as liberal

LETTER, PAGE 18

Lent calls us to discipline by penance



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

First Sunday of Lent Mk 1:12-15

The Book of Genesis is the source of the first reading. It is the familiar story of Noah. Of course, Noah was faithful, whereas the world almost universally was not faithful. Since Noah was true to God, God provided that Noah should escape the impending doom of the great flood.

This reading is about events following the flood. Noah, his family and couples of the various animals Noah had taken aboard the ark were safe on dry land. By God's help, they had survived.

God assures Noah, and all, that never again would a flood destroy the earth. Furthermore, God promises a covenant with Noah's people. Of course, the presumption was that the people would obey God's law. After all, Noah's fidelity had saved him and his family from the flood.

Genesis sadly has had a very tortured history. Volumes on how to interpret Genesis would fill a library. Without straying into the many controversies, it suffices to say that the purpose of the book, and of this reading, is to teach religious facts.

The religious fact is that sin destroys, while God protects the truly faithful.

For the second reading, the

liturgy presents the Second Epistle of Peter. The letter states that it was composed in Babylon, surely a symbol of Rome. Rome was the imperial capital, the center therefore of paganism and of the impious culture of the time.

Christians at the time required encouragement. This epistle provided such encouragement.

It recalled the faithfulness of Noah. God protects and saves the faithful. So, God saves the faithful through their identity with Jesus. Christians unite with Jesus in baptism.

St. Mark's Gospel furnishes the last reading. It is very brief, only a few verses, but it is quite dramatic.

The times are uneasy. Jesus retreats into the desert, there to be tempted by Satan. John the Baptist is arrested. Then the Lord comes into Galilee. His message is bold and stark. He says that "the time of fulfillment" is at hand. God will be vindicated. The tables will be balanced. The sinful will be laid low. It is inevitable.

Jesus calls people to reform their lives. Fidelity to God is the key to life. There is still time to reform.

Reflection

The church has begun the season of Lent, the most intense period in the church's year of calling its people to union with God. It begins the process with this week-end's readings. They call people to face the facts of life, of life as humans, hopefully with God.

The exact details of the flood described in Genesis can be discussed. How extensive was this flood? Does the story in Genesis actually echo an older story from pagan sources about a great flood, with the exception of the references to the faithful Noah?

Regardless of these questions, or the answers to these questions, the religious message of Genesis is clear. It supplies a fitting beginning to reflection for Lent. The message is that sin, the willful rejection of God, leads necessarily and always to destruction. The ancient Hebrews had a good understanding that sin leads humans to their misery and to their death.

God, however, is ready to forgive and restore life. He is ready to give us life. He is ready to forgive us after we have sinned.

We must seek forgiveness. Essential to asking for forgiveness is to acknowledge personal sin. And the acknowledgment must be more than simply realizing our faults. We must discipline ourselves so that we do not sin again. Such disciplining is the purpose of Lent.

Lent therefore calls us to discipline by penance. It calls us to prayer, to focus our hearts and mind, and to communicate with God, the fountain of strength and mercy. His strength reinforces our resolve not to sin.

READINGS

First week of Lent

Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18 Ps 19:8-10, 15 Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday: Is 55:10-11 Ps 34:4-7, 16-19 Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10 Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19 Lk 11:29-32

Thursday: Est C: 12, 14-16, 23-25 Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8 Mt 7:7-12

Friday: Ez 18:21-28 Ps 130:1-8 Mt 5:20-26

Saturday: Dt 26:16-19 Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8 Mt 5:43-48

CATEQUIZ'EM

By Dominic Camplisson

In honor of Ash Wednesday, this quiz looks at words that end with "ash."

1. In 1 Samuel 2 the Lord extracts these from the ash heap:

- a. idols
- b. the prayers contained in burnt offerings
- c. the poor

2. This verb is often thought to be all over the Old Testament although in fact it is not found in most versions. It means to strike down or figuratively "bash"

- a. smite
- b. semite
- c. samnite

3. How much cash did Judas get for betraying Jesus, according to Matthew's Gospel?

- a. thirty pieces of eight
- b. thirty pieces of silver
- c. thirty pieces of gold (coins)

4. In the dash between David and Goliath, how did David kill the giant Philistine?

- a. with an arrow to his heel
- b. with Excalibur the ubiquitous sword
- c. with a stone from a slingshot

5. St. Paul in 2 Timothy, uses the analogy of making a dash for the finish line in

- a. a race
- b. a wrestling match
- c. a dance

6. In Psalm 144, the Lord is asked to make this flash:

- a. the shield of Gideon
- b. lightning
- c. his face to scare the Alamanites

7. Stephen I is the patron saint of this nation, home to authentic goulash:

- a. Romania
- b. Bulgaria
- c. Hungary

8. Who, according to Genesis, sold his birthright for some stew or hash?

- a. Jacob
- b. Esau
- c. Cain

9. According to Deuteronomy, what was the maximum number of blows a criminal could be given with a lash?

- a. 12
- b. 40
- c. 144

10. To make wine for use in a valid Communion, one must mash these:

- a. olives
- b. hops
- c. grapes

11. What is the Nash papyrus?

- a. a picture of an ancient Egyptian chariot, the rambler
- b. oldest known Old Testament text until discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls
- c. the document which explain how Judaism came to Africa via the Queen of Sheba

12. According to Matthew's Gospel the chief priests told the tomb guards to spread this rumor, to quash the truth of the Resurrection:

- a. His disciples came by night and stole him while we were asleep.
- b. The stone had not been rolled away.
- c. Jesus is arisen and gone ahead to Galilee.

13. In the Old Testament this dramatic term was used for a less serious skin rash:

- a. scrofula
- b. the mark of Cain
- c. leprosy

14. This anti-Catholic lodge organization originating in the North of Ireland is distinguished by the wearing of "the sash"

- a. the Orange Order
- b. the Knights of William
- c. the Anti-Catholic Sash Wearers

15. Who in the New Testament gave his hands a good wash, but is linked nevertheless with the death of Jesus?

- a. Peter
- b. Pilate
- c. Judas

ANSWERS:

1.c, 2.a, 3.b, 4.c, 5.a, 6.b, 7.c, 8.b, 9.b, 10.c, 11.b, 12.a, 13.c, 14.a, 15.b

Religious life has differences of mission and 'belonging'

What's the difference between an order priest and a diocesan priest? Anonymous, Fort Wayne

The main difference is that diocesan priests "belong" to a diocese and order priests "belong" to their order. The term used for this is "incardination." When a diocesan priest is ordained, he is being ordained to serve that diocese. Practically speaking, this means that he will never leave the diocese.

It is by exception that a diocesan priest would be given permission to do some other kind of work outside of the diocese. Even in this case, he still "belongs" to the diocese and could be called back at any time. Thus, on the day of his ordination, a diocesan priest makes a promise of obedience to the diocesan bishop (and his successors).

An order priest, on the other hand, belongs to a religious order established by the church, such as the Franciscans, Benedictines, Dominicans, Holy Cross. Order priests make vows of obedience, not to a diocesan bishop, but to their superior in the order.

Religious orders are founded with a particular charism accord-

ing to which they fulfill in their ministry. Some may work in hospitals. Some may work in colleges. Others may work with the poor.

While the diocesan priest is usually a "jack-of-all-trades," working mostly in parish ministry, an order priest is usually more focused on the work that his order has been called to do. However, order priests work in parishes, too.

Also, part of the life of priests (and brothers) in religious orders is to live in community. They live together, pray together, work together. Diocesan priests, on the other hand, do not live in community like order priests do. Although some diocesan priests do live together in parishes, it is not meant to be the same type of community life that is lived in religious orders.

One very specific difference between the two is that while religious priests (and brothers) make a vow of poverty, diocesan priests do not. The vow of poverty of the religious does not mean that they must live in destitution, but rather they are not allowed to own anything. Everything they earn by their work goes to the

THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION

order, and the order in turn gives their members what they need to live.

A diocesan priest, although called by God and the church to live in a spirit of poverty, is fully free to keep the money he makes and to own the things he uses.

Finally, a diocesan priest makes a promise of celibacy, which means that he promises to remain unmarried. A religious priest takes a vow of chastity. Practically speaking, they mean the same thing.

Can you please tell me what the requirements are for making a priest a monsignor? J.P., Fort Wayne

A priest is made a monsignor at the recommendation of his bishop. The bishop recommends a priest to the Holy Father, and

the Holy Father is free to make the priest a monsignor or not. It is completely within the discretion of the pope. The title of monsignor is an honorary title. Usually, a bishop will ask the Holy Father to bestow such a title on a priest because of the priest's outstanding service to the church.

However, again, the title is only honorific and implies no increase in rank. Incidentally, only diocesan priests can be made monsignors, not religious priests.

What's the difference between a nun and a sister? Anonymous, Fort Wayne

Both are religious, that is, each belongs to a specific religious community and takes vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. However, a nun is a religious who lives in a monastery, which is a cloistered house. A cloistered house is one that is sealed off from the world. Nuns are generally not allowed to leave the house, and no one from the outside is allowed to enter except in very specific and rare cases — like a doctor or a priest for saying Mass. The charism of the nun is prayer and sacrifice for the church.

Sisters, on the other hand, are religious who work in the world according to the specific charism of their order, like teaching, nursing, etc. They do not live in cloistered monasteries but usually together in convents.

It is not proper to refer to sisters as nuns. However, it is proper to refer to nuns as sisters.

Today's Catholic welcomes questions from readers to pose to Father Richard Hire, Father Michael Heintz, Father Mark Gurtner and the Liturgical Commission of the Office of Worship. Please e-mail your questions to editor@fw.diocese-fwsb.org or mail them to *Today's Catholic*, That's A Good Question, P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne, IN 46856. Please include your name and city and an e-mail address or telephone number that we can contact you if necessary. Anonymity will be preserved upon request.

Piano lesson

My piano bench pad is wearing out. I suppose that is a good thing. Five of my children, ages six through 15, practice piano regularly — religiously — you might say. On Tuesdays, the piano teacher comes to our house for three hours. That's a really long time to keep the other kids quiet and out of the room, but that is not even the end of it. When she leaves, the kids are so enthusiastic about their music they often want to practice all day. Sometimes all week. May I tell you a secret? I used to drive me crazy.

I know, I know. What an awful thing to say. Studying music helps improve test scores. It helps one think spatially. Being able to play the piano is a gift. It enriches the children's minds and lives. I should be happy they want to practice. But the plink, plink plunk for nearly five hours on Tuesdays, and other times during the week, is a long time, even for a mother who likes classical melodies.

I really don't mind the mastered, sweet-sounding minuets or powerful concertos that my 13- and 15-year olds practice over and over. Sometimes, in fact, I will slip into the living room where they are playing and lay down on the sofa, eyes closed, to enjoy the music that I never learned to play.

But it takes so much effort to schedule the lessons, to keep the ones not playing quiet during them, to keep track of the younger one's songs and practice times, to listen and encourage daily, and let's face it, to come up with the cash to pay our patient teacher. I have asked myself on days the children have struggled with notes and finger positions (neither of which I can help them much with), "Is it worth it?"

Last summer Caroline, who was 14, played in her first piano competition. It was held at a col-



EVERYDAY CATHOLIC

Theresa A. Thomas

lege in a real auditorium with three somber judges scribbling notes from afar. Before the event, she practiced for hours a day, for months at a time, honing her skills on the piece she had chosen — "L'Orage" ("The Storm" by Burgmuller), aptly named because of its intense, fast beat.

The day of the competition, Caroline looked beautiful as she approached the grand piano on stage. She wore a flowing black dress with ladylike but sensible shoes, which allowed her comfortable access to the piano pedals.

As she seated herself at the instrument with perfect posture — something not achieved without much effort if you know Caroline — I could sense both her nervousness and determination. At that moment, I was ashamed that I had ever questioned if the music education was too much trouble.

Right then, I knew the effort was worth this one, single moment, when Caroline had the courage to walk alone on stage and play. That day she offered her talent bravely for the experts to judge, at an age when just walking into a room full of peers can sometimes be nerve-wracking enough.

Caroline started off beautifully, just like she practiced at home, but then stumbled over a few keys. I held my breath. Quickly she recovered and finished the piece rather well, but not quickly enough, in the judge's opinion. I knew she must be disappointed, but I was immensely proud of her. She had worked hard. She had given it her best. To anyone else but trained

judges, her mother thought, the piece sounded spectacular.

It was then I thought that God must be like the parent and we are like the piano student. He applauds and encourages the sincere efforts of his children, but the incessant noise of the learning curve is surely no joy to hear, especially at the beginning.

Without a doubt, it seems we will never learn sometimes, as we plink plink plunk through the challenges God allows in our lives. But over time, with his immeasurable grace, we do learn. We may make mistakes at critical times, but God knows the intent of our hearts. Often we try again, and sometimes we may even gain some proficiency in doing his will.

Worthwhile objectives are always hard work. Good marriages, raising children, being good Catholics, and yes, even learning to play the piano, are not goals quickly achieved, nor should they be. The effort itself is the chiseler, providing the very formation needed for the goal.

Caroline did not place at the piano competition, but the prize had already been won. I told her how proud I was of her persistence, determination and performance. Then I shared that she wasn't the only one benefiting from instruction in this instrument. Mom, too, I told her, had learned her own piano lesson.

Theresa A. Thomas is the mother of nine children and a member of St. Mary of the Annunciation Parish in Bristol.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

By Patricia Kasten

Gospel for March 5, 2006

Mark 1:12-15

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the First Sunday of Lent, Cycle B: Jesus' time in the desert with Satan and wild animals. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

SPIRIT	DROVE HIM	OUT
INTO	FORTY DAYS	TEMPTED
BY SATAN	WILD BEASTS	ANGELS
JOHN	ARRESTED	JESUS
CAME TO	GALILEE	PROCLAIMING
OF GOD	TIME	KINGDOM
REPENT	BELIEVE	GOSPEL

THE TIME

O S E I E E L I L A G H
J S L M N K I N G D O M
O O T E I T A W D E S I
S D H S G T O O U T P H
Y U G N A N A F E S E E
A G S S F E A G V E L V
D P Y E F P B O E R W O
Y B K L J E V D I R K R
T H S P I R I T L A D D
R C A M E T O D E I C P
O T E M P T E D B N W E
F G N I M I A L C O R P

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DAVIDSON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

on ecclesial issues. Forty-eight percent say they are theological moderates, and 20 percent say they are conservative. According to the 2002 *LA Times* study of 1,854 priests in 80 dioceses, the vast majority of all priests, regardless of their age, believe that younger priests "are more theologically conservative — that is, more religiously orthodox — than their older counterparts."

In short, there clearly are theological and political differences between older and younger priests. As older priests with a servant-leader approach to the priesthood, a preference for the Democratic Party and liberal views on both ecclesial and political issues are replaced by younger men with a more cultic view of priesthood, a tendency to be Republican and more conservative ideologies, there are bound to be important changes in parish life. It remains to be seen whether these changes will lead to a period of renewal or will cause serious problems in the years ahead.

Biblical tower builders find confusion of speech

Question: Where is the Tower of Babel and what does it look like?

The story of the Tower of Babel is found in chapter 11 of the Book of Genesis. It says that people were migrating in the east and came upon a valley in the land of Shinar and settled there. Shinar is ancient Sumer in southern Mesopotamia, now modern Iraq. The Sumerians were the earliest inhabitants of Mesopotamia of whom there are historical records. Father John McKenzie says they probably entered Mesopotamia via the Persian Gulf about B.C. 3000, but they were not the aboriginal inhabitants of the country.

The new inhabitants then said: "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the sky, and so make a name for ourselves." This tower here is a temple tower or ziggurat. It comes

from the Akkadian word "ziqu-ratu," meaning "pinnacle." This temple tower consisted of a lofty pyramidal structure built in successive stages with outside staircases and a shrine at the top. The phrase "tower with its top in the sky" is a direct reference to the chief ziggurat of Babylon called Etemenanki, meaning "house of the foundation of heaven and earth." This tower was attached to Esagil, meaning "the house that raises high its head," the temple of Marduk.

The Bible then says God became angry with the builders of this great tower, saying: "If now, while they are one people, all speaking the same language, they have started to do this, nothing will later stop them from doing whatever they presume to do. Let us then go down and there confuse their language, so that one will not

understand what another says." The Bible then says "that is why the tower is called Babel, because the Lord confused the speech of all the world."

Babel means a confusion of sounds or voices. It comes from the Hebrew word "balal," meaning to mix or confuse. The Assyrian-Babylonian word "babili" means "gate of god." Thus the district near the city gate led to the temple area. Babel is the Hebrew form of the city of Babylon.

The city of Babylon is about 55 miles south of Baghdad in Iraq and lies on the left bank of the Euphrates River, where the Tigris and Euphrates approach each other most closely. Eventually Babylon would have 53 temples, but the greatest was Esagil, the temple of Marduk, with its temple tower called the Tower of Babel.

Marduk was the chief or national god of Babylon who is pictured with four wings, arrows, a sword, a gown, a beard, long hair and a helmet. Besides Marduk, other important Babylonian gods were Ea (the god of wisdom and spells), Sin (the moon god), Shamash (the sun god and god of justice), Ishtar

(the goddess of love and war), Adad (the god of wind, storm and flood) and Marduk's son Nabu (scribe and herald of the gods).

Father McKenzie mentions that the Babylonian king received his royalty each year when he took the hands of Marduk at the New Year festival at the location of the Tower of Babel. In the Temple of Marduk were shrines or cells for the statues of the other gods, which were carried in procession with Marduk in the New Year festival from the Temple of Marduk, through the famous Ishtar gate, and then outside the city walls to the "new year house."

Herodotus, the father of history, who visited Babylon in the fifth century B.C., says the Tower of Babel was built in seven stages, each with a different color of brick. On the summit was a small shrine. Access was gained by stairs or ramps.

Father McKenzie says that probably the Tower of Babel signified a cosmic mountain, symbolic of the earth itself, for discovered seals from Mesopotamia represent a god emerging from a cosmic mountain. Others say the Tower of



HIRE HISTORY

FATHER RICHARD HIRE

Babel may signify a divine mountain, the seat of the gods. A practical explanation offered is that the Tower of Babel is simply an artificial mountain, built by the first settlers of the plain, who had been accustomed to worship on high places in their native mountains. The mountain or tower then becomes the link between heaven and earth, where the human person ascends to the gods and the gods manifest themselves on the peak.

The New American Bible says the point of the Tower of Babel story is primarily to show the human race's increasing wickedness, shown in its presumptuous effort to create an urban culture apart from God.

Meet The Priest

Father Dave Ruppert

Ordained to the priesthood:

October 29, 2005

Associate Pastor, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Fort Wayne

Primary influence on decision to become a priest:

Faithful Mass attendance with family and many prayers for holy priests at Ss. Peter and Paul Parish in Huntington.

Why do you like being a priest?

I love helping people, especially by bringing them closer to Jesus through the sacraments. I love visiting people in their homes, in the hospitals and young people in the schools.

Do you have any interest or hobby? How did this interest develop?

One hobby is people, and I like collecting friends. Another hobby is model railroading, and I'm working on a small layout now. As a boy, I wanted to be a railroad engineer.



Do you have a pet?

I enjoy other people's pets. The pastor here has two dogs. My brother and sister's families have dogs, cats, goldfish and hermit crabs. I still take pleasure, like St. Francis, in these creatures of God, and I don't have to clean anything up!

What do you do for relaxation?



Visit my friends and family, especially my nieces and nephews, eat cafeteria food with children at school and cheer for kids at any kind of sporting, music or extracurricular events. Exercise on my bike and total gym. Watch holy movies and read homily books.

What is your favorite reading material? Who are your favorite authors?

My favorite reading materials are biographies and personal stories about real life. Who needs fiction when real life is so interesting? My favorite author is Dr. Tom Dooley, who wrote three books about helping people as a doctor in Vietnam. I also like books and tapes by Bishop Fulton Sheen.

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

There is always more. There is always more to discover and learn about Jesus, the faith and the saints. We can never learn everything in this lifetime about 2,000 years of church history.

What is your favorite prayer or scriptural passage?

Favorite prayer is Stations of the Cross, and one of my favorite Scriptures is Jn 15:13.

How do you prefer to be addressed by laity?

Father Dave or by my nickname F.D.R. (for Father Dave Ruppert)

Preschool parents remember Melissa Koors

FORT WAYNE — Melissa Koors was our children's preschool teacher at Most Precious Blood School in Fort Wayne. She taught our three- and four-year olds how to hold a pencil and cut with tiny scissors. She taught some of their first prayers. She taught them "The Advent Song" and "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" that they sang at the Christmas program.

And then, as many of us were cleaning up wrapping paper and assembling new toys, we got the phone call that Miss Koors had been killed in a car accident on Christmas Day.

The tragic news stunned the entire PB community. How could this happen to such a vivacious, young person? And the most immediate question for us parents, how do we tell our children?

But we would learn that our children, although they were also hurt and bewildered at the news, could teach us.

Melissa Koors had always been a special person. It's normal for parents to feel some trepidation as we walk our child to his or her first school experience. Miss Koors put us immediately at ease.

"I remember Livie's first day of school," says mother Cheryl Hamel. "She was so excited, and as we went in and put her book away, we were greeted by Miss Koors. I still have the picture of Livie talking to Miss Koors during those first few precious moments. Miss Koors was bent down at Olivia's eye level and was listening intently to what she had to say. I knew she would be a teacher who really cared about the kids."

"In the beginning of the year, my daughter had a very hard time separating from me," states Jeannie Guerin, whose family had just moved from New Jersey. "She must have cried for two weeks. Every morning, Miss Koors would pick up my crying daughter into

her arms and comfort her. It must have been an enormous task as she was almost the same size as her."

Another mom, Ruth Case, adds, "I dreaded taking my daughter to preschool. She seemed too young. However, after the first day with Miss Koors, she couldn't wait to go back, and my fears disappeared. Miss Koors had a way of making each child feel so special. She taught me how important it is to greet each day and each person with enthusiasm. One of the things I will miss the most was my daughter's morning run and dive into Miss Koors' arms. I can hear her voice saying, "Good morning, Arianna!" and Arianna replying, "I love you, Miss Koors."

"What I'll always remember is Miss Koors squatting down to my four-year-old son's level and beaming, 'Aaron, I am so proud of you.' Her smile, her eyes, her embrace were all totally focused on my son, making him feel 10 feet tall," notes Kathy Schall.

And just as Miss Koors began each day with enthusiasm and a smile, she filled the entire school day with joy. "Miss Koors was such a genuine and kind person who had energy for life like no one else. She taught both parents and students to be excited about life first thing in the morning and left us with calm and smiles at the end of the day," says Angie Karapantos.

Miss Koors was fun, but above all, she was an excellent teacher. Ruth Case explains, "My daughter has been struggling with an expressive language delay. When I explained the situation to Miss Koors, she simply said, 'Don't worry, she will be fine.' I couldn't believe the change in Arianna after just a few weeks of school."

We parents know that Melissa's family, boyfriend, friends and coworkers have suffered a terrible loss. Yet we all have gained from

knowing her. We parents want to emphasize that our children, families, school and church have learned from Miss Koors.

For this reason, Most Precious Blood School is planning a fitting memorial for Melissa Koors. Staff and parents have already had preliminary meetings and are considering several ideas. Both groups want to find something lasting and meaningful to celebrate Miss Koors' life and mission to children.

We parents would like to thank Melissa's family for their support of our children. Also, thanks to the wonderful community of Most Precious Blood School, particularly Msgr. J. William Lester, Principal Corinne Tessman, counselor Nancy Lambert, Jesse Bloom in the Atrium, and Heather Van, Linda Offerle, Jodie Cruz and Pat Beckman in the preschool.

Guerin adds, "Every night before bed, Gabriella would say 'I miss Miss Koors.' I could only comfort her with 'I know, baby. I do too.' Last night, while I lay with her in bed, she asked me, 'How many minutes does it take to get to heaven?' I could only imagine what she was thinking, so I asked her why. She said she wanted to know if we had enough time to go visit Miss Koors and come back before she fell asleep."

When we parents found we could not explain loss, we have turned to our faith. It was the faith that Miss Koors taught and modeled so well. Many parents have commented that they have been amazed at the strength of their children's sincere faith. All of Miss Koors' students firmly believe she is in heaven, watching over them.

The parents of Melissa Koors' three- and four-year-old classes contributed to this article.

Sports

WRESTLING CLUB ORGANIZES FOR YOUTH AND ADULTS Fort Wayne Knights Wrestling Club is now forming. Family memberships are \$20 plus the purchase of a USAW competitors card at \$30 per member. Sign-ups are on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting at 7 p.m. at Bishop Luers High School wrestling room with practices running from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. through the end of May. Club membership is open to kindergarten through adult. For more information, call Kevin Lovejoy at (260) 747-1662 or Tim Kennerk at (260) 622-7044.

Gators, Royals battle in tournament nail biter

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — St. Charles gym was the host site for the six championship match ups on Saturday, Feb. 25. Many spectators would have to agree the 1:30 game was one for the record books.

The St. Aloysius Gators vs. Queen of Angels Royals had a photo finish three-pointer at the buzzer in overtime, and St. Aloysius took the victory. The Gators led the whole game — by eight points at the end of the first quarter, six points at the half. Both teams were playing a good solid game; the Gators increased their lead to 11 at one point and were still up by seven after three quarters.

But the Royals had not given up yet. Jacob Roy had two treys in the final minutes of the game to lead the Queen of Angels run. The scoreboard read 43-each at the end of regulation play.

In overtime, Queen of Angels scored and St. Aloysius answered. The Royals scored again and the Gators answered — back and forth, back and forth. The score was now 50-each with the final possession belonging to St. Aloysius. The Royals were pressing.

St. Aloysius coach Tony Sorg said, "We set a screen for Kyle (Sorg), and I told him to hang on to the ball unless he had to get rid of it. He went down and got off a perfect three at the buzzer, nothing but net. Gators win, 53-50.

Queen of Angels' No. 24 Brad Freiburger led all scorers with 18 points. All six of St. Aloysius seventh- and eighth-grade players scored with Kyle Sorg's 13 points leading the way.

Coach Sorg told his boys before the game, "Play like it's your last game. You'll remember it forever." And they certainly will.

In other tournament action, the undefeated St. Therese Crusaders beat Queen of Angels, 35-8, for the Blue League girls' championship. In the eighth-grade boys' Gold League championship game, St. Vincent came out on top over St. Jude, 48-38. St. Charles eighth-grade girls were victorious over the Commodores from St. Joseph, Decatur, 35-21.

In the finals of the White League, St. Vincent 7th grade boys topped St. Jude, 30-20, while St. Charles' seventh grade girls outlasted St. Jude, 38-28.

As the season turns its sights to the basketball tournament, this week Most Precious Blood School

and St. Aloysius School Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) teams share the focus.

Most Precious Blood boys

Although they finished with a 1-6 record in the Blue League this season, the Precious Blood boys team played hard all year long.

"We did not have a big enrollment in our seventh-grade class, which hurt us some," said head coach Bernie Lohmuller. The team was made up of four eighth graders, three seventh graders and four sixth graders.

"Each of our three wins this season were definitely highlights," said Lohmuller. Most Precious Blood also had many close losses. During any given game, this team had five to six players in the scoring column.

Lohmuller said he focused on building fundamentals so his players could better understand organized league basketball. He stressed that by working together better they could play together better.

After a round-one tournament loss two weeks ago at St. Charles, Lohmuller said, "We were soundly outplayed in a very clean, very solid game against St. Al's. They (St. Al's) are a great team."

Assistant coaches this year

were Matt and Dave Hefty, Chris Turner and Chuck Scher.

Most Precious Blood girls

With just two eighth graders, the Most Precious Blood girls had a very young team this season playing against mostly all eighth-grade teams.

Coach Kim Eschbach is looking for big things from her nine seventh graders next year. "We had a great bunch of girls this year and even when faced with adversity they kept working hard," said Eschbach. "It seemed we were nervous the first half of play, but were able to shut teams down in the second half."

Eschbach felt the highlight of the season was the win over St. John New Haven. "We were down 0-8 and came back to win 24-14. It was a huge boost for our morale. I never saw such big smiles from our girls," said Eschbach.

The Precious Blood assistants were Mike Kaufmann, Emmy Lawrence and Jamie Eschbach.

St. Aloysius boys

The head coach for St. Aloysius, Yoder, boys this year was Tony Sorg. He has been coaching at St. Aloysius for over 15 years. He started by assisting his brother-in-law, Bud Sorg, and moved to head boys' coach eight years ago.

This has been a special year in many ways. Not only did Sorg's Gators finish first in the Blue League this season posting an impressive 7-0 record in CYO action, but Sorg also had two sons playing on the team, seventh grader Eric, and eighth grader Kyle.

The team lost just two regular-

season games and won a Lutheran school tournament in Ossian. "Our seventh graders came in with a good solid base so we were able to start right in with what we wanted to work on this year. We were able to spend our practices perfecting and refining our offenses and defense," said Sorg.

"This team was very well balanced. Kyle was our leading scorer, but all seven players were interchangeable, each in the starting lineup at some point during the season," said Sorg.

The assistant coaches for the St. Aloysius this year were Greg Byrd, Blane Sorg and Scott Rodenbeck.

St. Aloysius girls

Bud Sorg has been coaching about 20 years for St. Aloysius CYO teams. Knowing that he had a young team, his goal for his eight girls was to finish with a 500 record this season. They met that by winning three games and losing three games in the Blue League.

The lone eighth grader, Shelby Gruss, was the point scorer, a leader and hard worker according to Sorg. She had 24 points in their tournament loss to St. Rose-St. Louis.

"Our team was not real big and you can't coach height," Sorg said. However, one year can make a big difference in development at this level and our seventh graders can be much more competitive as eighth graders with some hard work between now and October.

"We played a great game against the Twins and lost by just seven points."

The assistant coaches were Greg Gruss and Dawn Sorg.



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St. Matthew Blazers offer surprises in ICCL post season basketball

BY ELMER J. DANCH

SOUTH BEND — Post season basketball tournaments turn up surprising moments and the first one on the Inter-City Catholic League tournament was by the St. Matthew Blazers.

The Blazers stunned St. Bavo, champions of the Martin de Porres East Division, 52-45, in the opening round of the 60th annual tournament.

The Blazers rolled off to a nearly lead and kept the upper hand all the way. Dylan LeBlanc tossed in 16 points and his teammate Bryant Sinka dropped in 15.

However, the top scorer was Nick Moskolis who poured in 21 points and Jordan Milligan popped in 14 for St. Bavo.

The Blazers kept their winning alive in the second round with a 44-40 victory over St. Joseph of South Bend. Bryant Sinka scored 14 to lead the Blazers.

St. Jude also was a double winner, beating St. Monica of Mishawaka, 37-19, and St. John the Baptist, 48-35.

Trace Dowling of St. Jude scored a total of 26 points in two games to pace the winners and Chris Shaw tallied 14 for St. John.

St. Thomas of Elkhart also was a two-game winner. The Spartans defeated St. Anthony, 44-23, and then toppled Holy Family in a nail biter, 45-41. Mike Kibolowski and Joshua Riikonen had 17 and 12 points respectively in the first victory. Kibolowski tossed in 18 for St. Thomas in the second game and Jordan Carillo had 16 for Holy Family.

The Corpus Christi Cougars, which had the best record in the John Bosco West Division, also came up with a double win. The Cougars downed Holy Cross, 54-27, and Christ the King, 37-25.

Mike Kendzicky collected 25

points in two games to lead the winners.

In the Colors Division, St. Joseph, South Bend, Blue won twice beating St. Thomas Maroon, 37-27, and St. Thomas Gold, 36-33.

Christ the King White beat St. Thomas White, 46-20 and St. Anthony Maroon, 44-31.

St. Jude Green tipped St. Matthew Black, 35-27, and then lost to Corpus Christi Red, 29-27.

Brandon Thorpe of St. Anthony topped all scorers with 19 points.

In the semi final post season games, St. Matthew will take on Corpus Christi and St. Jude will go up against St. Thomas, Elkhart.

In the Colors Division playoffs, Holy Family Blue will play Corpus Christi Red. St. Joseph, South Bend, Blue will meet Christ the King White.

Bishop Luers aims for state Class 3-A basketball title

BY ELMER J. DANCH

ELKHART — The Lady basketball Knights of Bishop Luers will play Evansville Memorial for the Class 3-A championship of the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) tournament on Saturday evening at Conseco Fieldhouse in Indianapolis.

For the second time in three years, the talented Lady Knights found the mystique to end the dream of the Saint Joseph's Lady Indians in the title round of the Elkhart semi state, 56-49, with a dazzling fourth-period comeback spearheaded by five-foot, three-inch Markee Martin, a Luers sophomore who is magical with the basketball.

"No one gave us a chance to beat the defending state champion Saint Joseph's girls, but once we erased an eight-point deficit, we found the way to win," Martin exclaimed.

Martin cashed seven of her game high 19 points in the fourth stanza, including five of six free throws.

The Knights, who upped their record to 23-4 trailed 42-41 in the fourth period and then went on a 15-6 stampede.

The Knights shot 45 percent on 19 of 42 attempts and the Indians were 37 percent on 21 of 51 attempts. The Knights collected four three-pointers to the Indians one.

The key to the victory was the double and triple teaming of Saint Joseph's top scorers, Melissa Lechlitter and Sydney



JOE WISNIEWSKI

The Bishop Luers Lady Knights celebrate after the final buzzer beating Saint Joseph's Lady Indians 56-49 Saturday at the Elkhart semi state.

Smallbone, said Luers coach Teri Ronsinski.

It worked very well because Saint Joseph's never enjoyed what could be a comfortable lead in the early stages.

Lechlitter wound up with 16 points. She became Saint Joseph's all time scoring leaders with 1,701 points, surpassing her former teammate Aimee Litka who had tallied 1,697.

"We lost to a better team, which outplayed us and also was able to take advantage of our inept shooting," said Saint

Joseph's coach Mike Megyese whose team finished with a 22-3 mark. Saint Joseph's was rated the No. 1 team in Class 3-A all year.

"I am very proud of our team and its splendid season, and we are looking ahead to next year when we will have four veterans back, including Sydney Smallbone and Kristen Dockery," Megyese said.

Score by quarters:

Saint Joseph's	8	22	34	49
Bishop Luers	8	18	29	56

Marian, Saint Joseph's join for March 11 Jubilee Auction

Funds bridge the gap between tuition revenue and actual education cost

BY SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

MISHAWAKA — In 1983, the two Catholic high schools in the South Bend area decided to have an event to raise money together. This event, known as the Jubilee Auction, has taken place every year since.

Annually, Marian and Saint Joseph High Schools work together to plan a spectacular evening for the public. This year's auction, "The Orient Express," will be held Saturday, March 11, at Marian High School in Mishawaka. It will include an elegant dinner and exciting bidding for many unique items.

"We anticipate over 500 guests in attendance," says Laura Worcester, Marian's development director, who spearheads the auction along with Jeff Boetticher from Saint Joseph's.

The event makes over \$300,000 annually and is largely due to the work of hundreds of volunteers from both schools. The money is split evenly between the two schools. These funds are used to help "bridge the gap" between tuition revenue and actual education cost and help with important items such as student financial assistance.

"The Jubilee Auction is also an incredible school community-building event," says Worcester. "It gives volunteers from both schools the opportunity to work together on a common goal. Parents have an opportunity to get to know other parents from both their child's school, as well as from the other. It truly helps us develop lasting relationships with our families — memories of the event stay with them for years after their students have graduated."

One longtime attendee commented that "each year we look forward to sitting with our 'Auction Friends' and having a wonderful evening. Year after year, we keep coming back. It's something to look forward to."

The auction location rotates between Marian and Saint Joseph's. Each school has a general chair or co-chairs. They recruit dozens of other chairs to represent each school on the various com-

mittees. These committees do everything from soliciting items for the auction to overseeing student volunteers. This year's Jubilee Auction's honorary chairs are Mike and Karen Leep and Pete and Wilma Veldman. Co-chairs are Mo Miller and Janie Reese from Marian and Jean James and Katy Demarais from Saint Joseph's High School.

Volunteers look forward to this event. Co-chair Jean James comments, "The auction is a great way to support our two Catholic High Schools and meet new people. It also provides me a chance to work and socialize with other Marian and Saint Joe parents. The true value of this event is when Marian

and Saint Joseph's parents come together to put on a great event that benefits both high schools."

A lot of hard work goes into this event, whose theme changes every year. Over 300 area merchants and other bene-

factors are solicited for both oral and silent auction items. "Virtually anything is auction-able," says Worcester. Some of the oral auction items include trips to exotic locations, Notre Dame packages and a dinner at home prepared by several area priests. Silent items include various services, gift certificates and literally hundreds of other wonderful things.

There are also corporate sponsors, including Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame and Quality Dining. "We could not do this without the enormous outpouring of community support," says Worcester.

A preview night is also held at the host school the evening before the auction. This year it will be Friday, March 10, and will include student entertainment, great food, an opportunity to sneak a peak at the ambiance of the Orient Express and to bid on some exciting items. All of this comes for only \$5 per person.

Finally, Bishop John M. D'Arcy plays a major role at the auction. In addition to presiding over the Mass that takes place right before dinner, he also serves as "auctioneer" for contributions to the Bishop's Scholarship Fund.

This auction is a wonderful way to show the fruits of true collaboration.

"Year after year, we keep coming back. It's something to look forward to."

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Try some variety with fish recipes during Lent

As the Lenten season began Ash Wednesday, March 1, it is a good time to plan ahead for the practices of almsgiving, penance and fasting and abstinence.

Reminding readers of their Lenten obligations, such as abstaining from meat, and giving them healthy alternatives will help them adhere to the abstinence requirements. Fish is a great option for Catholics in search of meal ideas on Fridays during Lent.

Nearly every day, researchers extoll the health benefits of fish and seafood. Study after study is showing that the omega-3 fatty acids found in fish and seafood increase our quality of life by reducing and preventing health risks — from cardiovascular disease to Alzheimer's and arthritis. In fact, the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans and new food guide pyramid now recommend at least two servings of fish or seafood per week.

Smoked Salmon, Irish Style Serves 4

cuisine: Irish

Ingredients

- 1 lb. smoked salmon - sliced
- Potato Cakes
- 1 lb. freshly cooked mashed potatoes
- 2 oz. butter
- Pinch salt and pepper
- 2 oz. flour
- Lemon wedges
- Dill

• Small tub crème fraiche or soured cream

• Can substitute Gravdax, smoked trout, smoked mackerel.

Instructions

Melt the butter and add to the hot mashed potato. Season.

Sprinkle on the flour and work mixture into a dough. Roll out in a circular shape (1/4-inch thick approximately) on a floured surface. Cut into rounds using a scone cutter (or large biscuit or cookie cutter).

Cook on a lightly oiled pan or griddle until brown. Spoon a dollop of crème fraiche (or soured cream) on each potato cake, and arrange a generous slice of smoked salmon on top. Garnish with lemon wedges and sprigs of dill or parsley.

Shrimp Fra Diavolo Serves 4

cuisine: Italian

A classic Italian shrimp dish.

Ingredients

- 1-1/2 lbs. medium/large shrimp, peeled, uncooked
- 1 (26 oz.) prepared marinara sauce
- 2 cloves finely chopped garlic
- 1 tsp. dried parsley
- 1 T. olive oil
- 2 T. butter
- crushed red pepper to taste
- 1 lb. angel hair pasta

Instructions

Rinse and shrimp and drain in a colander, reserve.

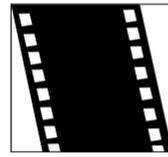
In a large pot, boil water for pasta.

Heat butter and olive oil in a skillet over medium heat. Add garlic and reduce heat to low. Saute garlic until soft.

Add shrimp and cook uncovered for approximately five minutes on each side, until shrimp turns pink. Remove from heat and reserve.

In a separate saucepan, heat marinara sauce and season to taste with crushed red pepper. Add shrimp to marinara sauce and keep warm.

Add pasta to boiling water and cook for three minutes. Drain pasta and place in serving dish. Top with shrimp and marinara sauce.



MOVIE CAPSULES

NEW YORK (CNS) – Following is a recent capsule review issued by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting.

"Date Movie" (20th Century Fox)

Crudely sophomoric sendup of recent popular romantic comedies barely held together by a perfunctory plot involving the upcoming wedding of a formerly obese waitress (Alyson Hannigan) to the man of her dreams (Adam Campbell), a wedding that the latter's seductive ex-flame (Sophie Monk) threatens to sabotage. Following in the genre-skewering footsteps of "Scary Movie," directors Jason Friedberg and Aaron Seltzer spoof such films as "My Big Fat Greek Wedding," "Hitch" and "My Best Friend's Wedding," among others, in a nonstop barrage of vulgar and unfunny juvenile sight gags that test the limits of its PG-13 rating. Pervasive raunchy and gross-out humor, some comic violence, recurring crude language and a few instances of profanity. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13.

"Sophie Scholl: The Final Days" (Zeitgeist)

Gripping true-life drama chronicling the final six days in the life of Sophie Scholl (Julia Jentsch), a 21-year-old German college student executed by the Nazis in 1943 after

being arrested for distributing anti-war leaflets at her university, detailing her ordeal from her three-day cross-examination by a Gestapo interrogator (Alexander Held), to her mock trial and execution. Unvarnished by oversentimentality, director Marc Rothmund's film is a quietly powerful testament to bravery in the face of evil that examines themes of freedom of conscience and peaceful resistance to tyranny while imparting a strong anti-war message. Subtitles. Mature thematic elements, including suggested death by guillotine. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"Tsotsi" (Miramax)

Powerful, beautifully acted film about vicious South African hoodlum (Presley Chweneyagae) who shoots a woman and steals her car, not realizing her baby is in the back seat, and how his life is transformed by the experience. Though the squalid underworld milieu, and the periodic acts of violence will not be to every taste, writer-director Gavin Hood's adaptation of an Athol Fugard novel ultimately becomes into an incredibly moving experience with a truly redemptive ending sure to bring a lump to the throat of the patient viewer. Subtitles. Pervasive rough and occasional crude language, some profanity, two violent killings, a shooting, brief breastfeeding images, gambling. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is L — limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

WHAT'S HAPPENING carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. Send in your announcement at least two weeks prior to the event. Mail to: Today's Catholic, P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne 46856; or e-mail: fhogan@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. HAPPENINGS

Casino night planned

Monroeville — A casino night and Texas hold'em tournament will be held at St. Joseph School on Saturday, March 11, at the Monroe Pavillion, 421 Monroe St. Doors open at 5 p.m. for tournament registration. Tournament and games begin at 7 p.m. No cover charge. Entry fee for tournament is \$30. Top 10 winners payout. 1st place \$700. To pre-register call (260) 623-6081. You must be 21 to enter. All proceeds will benefit St. Joseph School. License # 107464

Deanery to meet

Warsaw — The NCCW Elkhart Deanery meeting will be held at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish on Thursday, March 16. Rosary will be recited at 10:40 a.m., Mass at 11 a.m. with lunch and presentation following.

Blood drive hosted at St. Joseph

Fort Wayne — St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel will host a blood drive on Sunday, March 12, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Bishop Luers holds freshman registration, driver's education classes

Fort Wayne — Bishop Luers High School will be registering freshman students for the class of 2010 on Saturday, March 25, from 10 to 11 a.m. The child's last report card and ISTEP results are needed at registration. The school is also accepting applications for their summer Driver's Educational Program. Classroom session dates are June 5-16, from 8 to 11 a.m. The driving portion will be set up for June and July. Cost for Luers' students is \$350 (includes road test), all others \$365 (includes road test). To register, or for more information, call Bishop Luers High School, (260) 456-1261.

Center for Hospice to preview volunteer opportunities

South Bend — Volunteers are Mission Critical will be presented on Wednesday, March 15, from 9 to 10 a.m. and 6 to 7 p.m. for adults interested in exploring volunteer opportunities with The Center for Hospice and Palliative Care. These one-hour programs will offer an overview of the numerous volunteer openings at the agency. RSVP to Jackie at (574) 243-3100 by March 14 if you plan to attend.

DEVOTIONS

Parish mission planned

Fort Wayne — St. Joseph Hessen Cassel will have a parish mission "Come Alive at His Feast"

March 5-8 each evening at 6:30 p.m. Morning sessions will be at 9 a.m.

First Sunday rosary for families

Fort Wayne — The first Sunday rosary for families will be Sunday, March 5, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. at MacDougal Chapel. Father Bob Schulte from the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, and Sister Adele Mann, SP, will be attending.

Little Flower Holy Hour

Fort Wayne — Father Ronald Rieder, OFM, Cap., pastor of Ss. Peter and Paul Parish in Huntington, will celebrate the Holy Hour at MacDougal Chapel Tuesday, March 7, at 7:15 p.m.

One day Lenten retreat offered

Fort Wayne — A one-day retreat titled "He Chose the Nails" will be held at the St. Vincent de Paul Spiritual Center on Saturday, March 11, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Participants are asked to bring a side dish, a bible and a pen. Call (260) 490-9571 for information or to register.

Living the Faith series continues

Fort Wayne — St. John the Baptist Parish will offer The Indwelling of the Trinity: A Way to Pray, presented by Sister Gloria Ann Fiedler, CDP, on Wednesday, March 15, at 7 p.m. in Ryder Hall in the church basement. Participants are invited to attend the 5:30 p.m. Mass followed by a soup dinner. Registration not necessary and there is no cost.

FUNDRAISERS

Rosary society sponsors fish fry

Arcola — The St. Patrick rosary society will have a fish fry on Friday, March 10, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the volunteer fire station, one mile east of St. Patrick. Adults \$7.50, seniors 60+ \$6.50, children 6-12 \$4, children under 6 free.

Fish fry at Hessen Cassel

Fort Wayne — St. Joseph Parish will have all-you-can-eat fish frys on Friday, March 10 and 24, from 4-7 p.m. Adults \$7, children (6-11) \$5.50, children 5 and under free.

Lenten fish fry by Ed Fox

Bluffton — St. Joseph Church will have a Lenten fish fry on Friday, March 10, from 4 to 7 p.m. in the social hall. Adults \$8, children (6-12) \$5.50, children under 5 free.

St. Therese School offers fish dinner

Fort Wayne — St. Therese School will host a fish dinner on Friday, March 10, from 4:30 to 7

p.m. Adults \$7, children (6-12) \$4.50, children 5 and under free. All-you-can-eat fish by Dan's. Proceeds will benefit the athletic booster club.

St. Charles hosts fish fry

Fort Wayne — St. Charles Parish will have a fish fry on Friday, March 10, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$4 for students and free for those pre-school and younger.

Spaghetti dinner planned

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council #5570 will have a spaghetti dinner, Thursday, March 9, from 4 to 6 p.m. Adults \$6, children ages 5 to 12 \$2.50. Dinner includes spaghetti, salad, bread, beverages and dessert. The council is located at 5202 Linden Ave., one block east of Mayflower Road.

St. John the Evangelist Fish Fry

Goshen — The Knights of Columbus will host an all-you-can-eat fish fry on Friday, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 and April 7, in the Parish Center, 117 W. Monroe St. from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Adults \$6.50, children (12 and under) \$3.50, family (2 Adults and 3 or more children) \$20. Carry-outs available.

Fish fry planned at St. Jude

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

Fish fry at St. Adalbert

South Bend — An all-you-can-eat fish fry and salad bar will be Friday, March 3, from 3:30 to 7 p.m. in the Heritage Center. Adults and carry-out \$7, children 5-12 \$3, children under 5 free.

Luers Athletic Boosters host fish fry

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

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 beverage are included.

REST IN PEACE

Avilla

Robert William Cardeaux, 80, St. Mary of the Assumption

Bristol

John A. Landon, 64, St. Mary of the Annunciation

Betty Boal, 81, St. Mary of the Annunciation

Columbia City

Walter A. Facks, 81, St. Paul of the Cross

Fort Wayne

Jeanette C. Freiburger Loew, 87, St. Jude

Lillian Marasovich, 86, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Juana Parra, 55, St. Patrick

James Weikart, 35, St. Joseph

Helen B. Youse, 80, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel

Jeffrey J. Kramer Jr., 22, St. Jude

Frank J. Potosky Sr., 95, St. Charles Borromeo

Marjorie B. Schenkel, 90, Most Precious Blood

Panfila Zepeda, 82, Sacred Heart

Josephine K. Schweier, 93, Queen of Angels

Ruth K. Wehrle, 82, Sacred Heart

Fred J. Hennefeld, 80, St. Charles Borromeo

Josephine Zimski, 84, St. Jude

Goshen

Mary M. Fetsch, 90, St. John the Baptist

Kendallville

Elizabeth Ruth Robinson, 83, Immaculate Conception

Mishawaka

Helen M. Burns, 85, St. Monica

William H. Milliken, 90, St. Monica

John S. Kovatch, 81, St. Joseph

Plymouth

Steven S. Hansen, 36, St. Michael

South Bend

Mary A. Cwidak, 100, St. Adalbert

James Waldron, 54, St. Matthew Cathedral

Paul V. Paden Jr., 83, St. Matthew Cathedral

Jean L. Artz, 94, St. Anthony de Padua

Dorothy Chwalek, 81, St. John the Baptist

Patricia M. Cain, 73, St. Casimir

Salvatore Schirripa, 83, Corpus Christi

Sister Teresa Ann Callahan, 89, Church of the Immaculate Conception, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind. Sister served at St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne.

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 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 children under 5 free.

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 free.

ENJOY LENT with Fish by Ed Fox

March

1	St. Patrick Church	Fort Wayne	2120 South Harrison Street
3	St. Jude Church		State at Randallia
3	Queen of Angels Church		1500 West State
10	Good Shepherd UMC		4700 Vance Avenue
10	St. Joseph Church		(Bluffton, Indiana)
17	St. Aloysius Church		14623 Bluffton Road
17	St. Rose Church		206 Summit (Monroeville)
24	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church		10700 Aboite Center Road
24	Our Lady of Good Hope Church		7215 St. Joe Road
31	St. Henry Church		2929 East Paulding Road
31	St. Joseph UMC		6004 Reed Road

April

14	American Legion Post 420		112 East South (Monroeville)
14	Decatur Masons		(Decatur, Indiana)



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Seminarians welcome Father Raymond Balzer, '49, to Josephinum

BY DEACON TONY STEINACKER

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The seminarians from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend recently welcomed Father Raymond Balzer, an alumnus of class of 1949, back to the Pontifical College Josephinum for a two-day visit.

Father Balzer started out at the Josephinum in 1937 as a freshman in high school. Upon completing his course work in the school of theology, Father Balzer asked to be assigned to a diocese where he could be of greatest assistance. The rector of the Josephinum at that time, Msgr. Aidan Brandehoff, had served at one time in the Fort Wayne Diocese, and so he offered Father Balzer an assignment there.

Looking back upon the decision, Father Balzer recalls that "it was one of the easiest things I have ever done because I just placed the whole situation in front of our Lord and our Blessed Mother, and I knew they would take care of me."

In a soft, assuring voice, Father Balzer adds, "Total trust and confidence in our Lord and our Lady: this is how we are to live."

Although things have changed since Father Balzer's days at the Josephinum, many memories came flooding back to him as he surveyed the grounds of the beau-

tiful midwinter campus. Of course, the first thing he wanted to do was make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament. After a few quiet prayers of thanksgiving, Father Balzer strolled over to admire the recently restored Stations of the Cross in St. Turibius Chapel. "Magnificent, just magnificent!" he said.

"This is all very wonderful," he added. Then it was off to see his old dorm room, Number 12 on the first floor looking west. Father Balzer commented that these rooms on the first floor were highly sought after by students because they were close both to the chapel and the classrooms when running a little late.

After a short walk, Father Balzer briefly visited the small seminary cemetery where former faculty who had dedicated their lives to Christ and to the formation of future priests are buried. Father Balzer had experienced many of these outstanding priests as professors or knew of them from his years at the Josephinum. "Great men, great men. They taught us a lot, and not just in the classroom either."

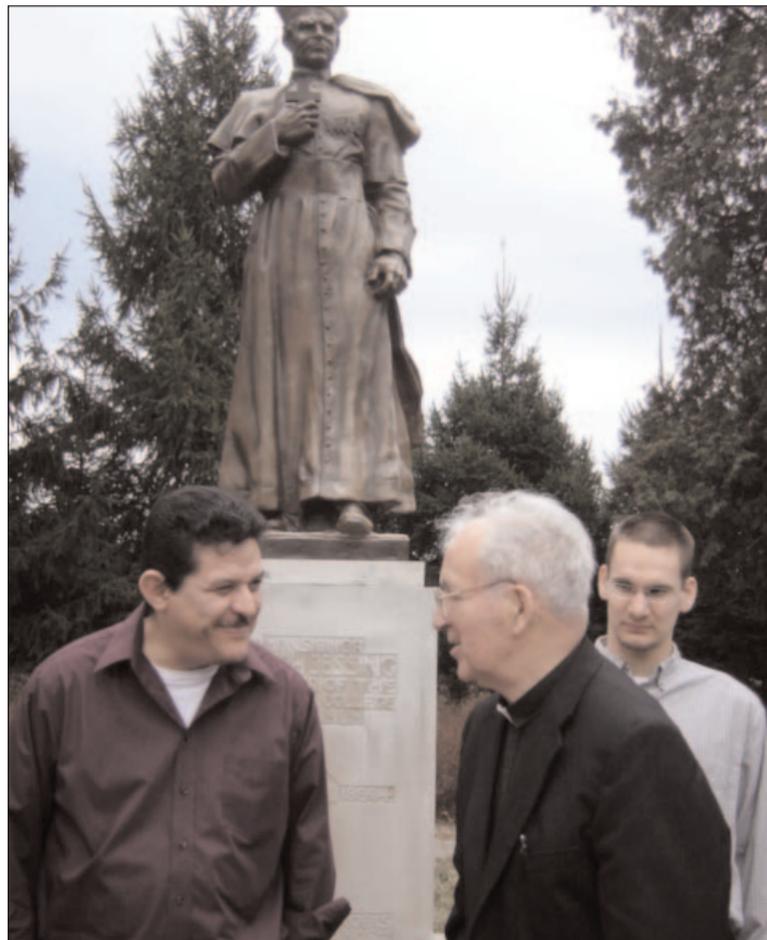
Father Balzer related how he would be praying his rosary in the chapel and he would look up in the choir loft and see one or two professors praying their office or private prayer each night. "Such men gave great witness to the faith. They gave their

whole lives over to teaching us." For the young seminarians, Father Balzer's words convey both a powerful tribute and a wonderful, loving spirit.

Accompanying Father Balzer were Father Adam Schmitt, uncle of Deacon Tony Steinacker, and fellow alumnus, Father David Ruppert, a member of the Josephinum class of 2005. The three priests came to the Josephinum for a two-day visit that ended with an all-school Mass that the three concelebrated along with many of the current priests who serve on the faculty as administrators, spiritual directors or professors.

When it came time to say goodbye, Father Balzer extended words of thanks to Msgr. Paul Langsfeld, rector of the Josephinum, "I am ever grateful for my time as a student here. I owe so much to the wonderful education I received from the Josephinum."

Msgr. Langsfeld in turn thanked Father Balzer for his kind words as well as his prayerful support. He also invited Father Balzer "back home" anytime. Father Balzer said he looks forward to another visit soon.



PROVIDED BY PONTIFICAL COLLEGE JOSEPHINUM

Pictured in front of the Msgr. Joseph Jessing statue is Father Raymond Balzer, class of '49, and seminarians from the diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Gabriel Hernandez, left, and Matt Coonan. After the picture, two collegians, Dan Yohe and Eric Wolf, sang the Josephinum Alma Mater to Father Balzer as a special gift.

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