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 formally install the cardinals at a special consistory March 24, the feast of the Annunciation of the Lord. It was 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.

O’Malley is now archpriest of the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome. O’Malley, a Capuchin Franciscan, has headed the archdiocese since 2003.

Sister Ann Margaret O’Hara, general superior of the Sisters of Providence, speaks during a 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.

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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**Bishop visits Josephinum where diocesan seminarians are studying**

**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 limestone building on my left became 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 facility. Msgr. Langsfeld had told me previously about 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 Precious Blood Parish; and Father Michael Heintz, rector of St. Matthew Cathedral Parish. Several seminarians 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 Presbytery 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 Lyon 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 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 about 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 the people, our Laos has a very stable faculty. As always, it is the warm and the strong discipline of Mary Keever, principal, who sets the tone for this wonderful school, recently declined 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 of town, and among the priests concelebrating Mass were neighboring pastors, Father Daryl Rybicki, Father Joseph Rubli, 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 Swierkiewicz, 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 Presbytery Council. I also consulted, as required in canon law, with one of our priests, Father David Carek, an exemplary pastor and very beloved at St. Michael Parish, Waterloo, and throughout the area.

It was a surprise the Angels is no longer really a parish; that is, there has been no class for vocation. The discipline of the Angels. The Angels is no longer really a parish; that is, there has been no class for vocation. The discipline of the Angels. The Angels is no longer really a parish; that is, there has been no class for vocation. The discipline of the Angels. The Angels is no longer really a parish; that is, there has been no class for vocation. The discipline of the Angels. The Angels is no longer really a parish; that is, there has been no class for vocation. The discipline of the Angels. The Angels is no longer really a parish; that is, there has been no class for vocation. The discipline of the Angels. The Angels is no longer really a parish; that is, there has been no class for vocation. The discipline of the Angels. The Angels is no longer really a parish; that is, there has been no class for vocation. The discipline of the Angels. The Angels is no longer really a parish; that is, there has been no class for vocation. The discipline of the Angels. The Angels is no longer really a parish; that is, there has been no class for vocation. The discipline of the Angels. The Angels is no longer really a parish; that is, there has been no class for vocation. The discipline of the Angels. The Angels is no longer really a parish; that is, there has been no class for vocation. The discipline of the Angels. The Angels is no longer really a parish; that is, there has been no class for vocation. The discipline of the Angels. The Angels is no longer really a parish; that is, there has been no class for vocation. The discipline of the Angels. The Angels is no longer really a parish; that is, there has been no class for vocation. The discipline of the Angels. The Angels is no longer really a parish; that is, there has been no class for vocation. The discipline of the Angels. The Angels is no longer really a parish; that is, there has been no class for vocation. The discipline of the Angels.

**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. Congratulations to Coach Dwenger, a former seminarian with three state championships, and justly so. 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 run. Our 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 been to the state tournament. 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**

**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 great saint, who evangelized what they called “Our Father in Faith” for many Catholics, and, following the authority given to the bishop in canon 871, I am pleased to grant a dispensation from the obligation to abstain from meat on 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, whose people eventually became great evangelizers throughout the world. A people who also suffered through famine, displacement and exile.

St. Patrick, pray for us.

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Mother Theodore came to the United States in 1840 to establish a congregation of women religious in a dense forest area adjacent to a remote community known as Saint Mary-of-the-Woods near Terre Haute, Indiana. Primitive pioneer barriers and difficulties, primitive were overcome by a pioneer spirit of faith and enthusiasm and the need to establish a congregation of sisters to minister in the United States from France in 1840. Soon thereafter, under the floor of the Church of the Immaculate Conception at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, her remains rest in a tomb made holy in Rome in 2000.

Mother Theodore’s presence is noticeably felt in the church and who is believed to be in heaven. A cause for sainthood is currently under lengthy investigation. A person’s life is examined in full to determine if it is a life worthy of being brought to others, whether it was a life devoted to holiness and God’s work and if there are any heroic virtues that are evident. Testimonies are gathered about a candidate. The candidate’s writings, teachings, liturgical 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 1989 when Sister of Providence Mary Theodosia Mugler 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 1999. To be considered for sainthood, a 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 irrigation was diagnosed by a specialist as being 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 into the mirror and saw the inflamed eye was gone. He was feeling better. He had an appointment for what he believed was to be the last surgery. The specialist examined him and asked what he did to his eye.

“Nothing. I just said a prayer,” McCord said.

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 deacon.

“I didn’t have any idea that what happened to me would rise to the level of a miracle,” McCord said.

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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 cardinal-designates were Chinese Bishop Joseph Zen Ze-kiun 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 religious freedom issues.

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 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 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 Uros Savino of Caracas, 63.
• Filipino Archbishop Guadencio Rosales of Manila, 73.
• Archbishop Ricard.
• Archbishop Canizares.
• Korean Archbishop Nicholas Chung Jin-Suk of Seoul, 74.
• Archbishop O’Malley.
• Archbishop Dziwisz.
• Italian Archbishop Carlo Cafrune of Bologna, 67.
• Bishop Zen.
• Archbishop Cordero Lanza di Montezemolo.
• Archbishop Dery.
• Father Vanhoye.

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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.
Informed consent bill advances

BY BRIGID CURTIS AYER

INDIANAPOLIS — Insufficient time and serious objections 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 floor debate that she was supportive of the bill’s concepts, in order to get the bill out of committee, she said she would have to remove the pain, aesthetic and fertilization references.

Rep. Tim Harris (R-Marion), author of a key amendment, said, “I wasn’t surprised when Sen. Miller told me ahead of time that she was going to get HB 1172 out of committee and before it moves 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 Web page at www.in.gov/idsh/www/index.html click on “Data & Statistics”; then click on “Induced Terminated Pregnancies” for abortion information. For more facts on abortion go to abortionfacts 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, hiring 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 FULTEAU

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 barbaric 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 where such a 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 Pitschmann, 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.

What’s ahead for them?

The Office of Catechesis presents a workshop for Parents and Catechists:

“GROWING HEALTHY TWEENS AND TEENS”

Directed by Laura Buddenberg and Kathleen McGee, staff members of GIRLS & BOYS TOWN CENTER FOR ADOLESCENT & FAMILY SPIRITUALITY

Omaha, Nebraska

SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 2006
9 AM to 1 PM
at Our Lady of Guadalupe, Warsaw

TOPICS

• What happens in a teen’s brain • Helping tweens & teens build good relationships

• Strategies that work for you, your family and others

ADMISSION IS FREE - SNACKS WILL BE SERVED

Please Register by March 6, 2006

(We need to know the numbers and how many will need Spanish translation)

Register by email with Janice Martin: jmartin@fw.diocesefwsb.org

OR CALL JANICE AT: 260-399-1411 In the South Bend area, call Sue Gerard at 574-259-9994 ext. 230

OUR LADY OF GUADaluPE IN warSaw, TAKe ROUTe 15 SOUtH OuT U.S. 30
AROUND THE DIOCESE

FORT WAYNE — The 32nd annual Luers-Midwest Show Choir Invitational 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.

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.

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 Russeau, assistant director of vocations of the Congregation of the Holy Cross; Parker Ludwig, Mass librarian at the University of Notre Dame; Bobby Morton, starting center for the South Bend football team; Kirby Falkenberg, executive director of the South Bend 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 Danielle, 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 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 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 McNemery, were honored by the council in 1947 and passed away in the 1950s.

Kevin Large, grand knight, paid special tribute to his 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 the oldest council grand knight, Elmer J. Danch, who has served the council continuously since 1941.

Its first grand knight was John G. Ewing, a professor at the University of Notre Dame, who was also named 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 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

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 Monday evening, 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 “Reparation and Liberation: 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.

Thursday Mass 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, 6-8:30 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 1 1/2-story farm-house 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 of pinto beans
1 cup of corn
1 package ranch dressing mix
1 package taco seasoning mix
Brown the meat, then add other ingredients. “1 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 Masjud 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 end of 2004 marked a turning point at 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 Association of South Bend.

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 judgment,” said Birdie Rossov 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 hajj 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, were more alike than different.

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 have grown from a cautious wariness of each other to a true respect,” said Mashour.

“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 host one group; other groups are formed not only locally, but nationally as well for the good of all people of all faiths. “The world is hungry for peace and justice,” said McElroy.

“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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Profiles in Black’ presented ‘Catholic St. Augustine youths Jonathan Jones and Gabriell Jones; and back row, A.J. Caldwell, Kevin

In the photo are the following front row, from left, Gabrielle Morgan, Martell Tardy, Patrick Bend community and throughout the U.S. In the photo were the foreground: 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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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, youth presented a program, “The Catholic Profiles in Black” on Feb. 19. The presentation celebrated the contributions 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 Jamie 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 setting,” said Janiero Morgan, who organized the program for St. Augustine Parish.

“As an African American who happens to practice my Christian faith as a Catholic, it’s important that the history of the African as well as the universal church throughout the world is taught to our youth of today,” Morgan said. “More importantly, it’s 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.”

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 were the people in the foreground: 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.

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 do whatever they can to become legal, otherwise they live in fear of what may happen. 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.”
Disciples in Mission

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

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 discour-aged, especially when we forget that you have built your Church, the founda-tion of our lives. Give us the grace to persist in following your ways, your truth and your life so that we may be equipped for 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 had a person of incredible charisma, sent to reveal to us the unconditional love of God. Many people who followed Jesus thought he was close to him in order to see, hear and touch him. It is easy to picture them at this time, often curiously and frequently push and shove to get close to their teacher to watch a demon-entertainment and discernment. As we reflect on the lives of Jesus, children and young children, eager to learn from him. The challenge of discipleship is to maintain this keen sense of explor-ing 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 who will listen how we will act on these words. We are to love our enemies, to do good to those who hate us and to pray for those who persecute us. These are the challenges of discipleship.

Jesus also says of those who listen to his words and act on them, "How can I fail 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 Lk 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 says of those who listen to his ways, "I will show you what someone is like who comes to me, listens to me, 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 foundation of the ultimate teacher, Jesus Christ. The challenge of doing what is right, regardless of temptation and struggle, is being a disciple of Jesus.

How do we build a strong foun-dation?

Jesus warns us to this question is timeless. First of all, Jesus asks us to listen to his words. How do we listen to his words? How can we? What does this suggest about the Church? The Church teaches us to listen to his words through the sacred Scriptures, sacred tradition and the magisteri-um 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 and allowing God to work in 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 walk with Jesus as a sand place by themselves may find a harder time but eventually are greeted by Jesus himself. Through Christ's teachings in the sacred Scriptures, we learn from his words and in our Spirit-al life — for the long haul.

As Catholics, we are called to be the Church. Our lived experiences, the writings of the early church fathers, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, (CCC Part II or “The Spirit of Early Christian Thought” by Robert Wilken)

Consider forking 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, 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, Mggr. Paul J. Hayes, CR Publications Inc. Norwood, Mass. 2003. These can often be found 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. You can learn from your experience and knowledge. Modeling Christian actions can be the best teacher.

For transforming society: Consider becoming a catechist for your faith or children religious education.

• Become involved with one social service agency that teaches 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 disci-pleship by trusting in strong foun-dations of knowledge and faith that are revealed to us through Jesus. Our minds and hearts can be weak, and we ask for your grace to persevere in a world that tends to reject you. Thank you for giving us the gift of 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.
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. The TV and 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 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 him 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 Pius X High School, 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 they were called to represent Christ, the bridegroom of his bride, 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 is unconditional, extending from the moment of conception to the moment of death. “The love between the stages of embryo, adult or old age. That is one reason why the church champions the sacred and inviolable character of all human life, even in the form of a pre-implanted embryo, the pope said. 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 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 Witali 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.”

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 accord was flawed and unfairly enforced, resulting in “theft of people’s 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 Bar-Zeta, and Auxiliary Bishop Pero Sudar of Sarajevo spoke to journalists at a Feb. 22 press conference hosted by Italy’s Catholic Action. 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.

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.

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 to a “small number” of pregnant women and a Medicare rebate for counseling if women are corrected. The pill requires women to take two doses a day for three months. The Catholic bishops in Australia maintain 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. Archbishop William M. Medcalf 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 months earlier; Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles; and Archbishop (now Cardinal-designate) William 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 goals 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, Ariz. He was 84 years old. Arrangements for a memorial service and 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 1991, headed the Vatican bank from 1979 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 the major Italian banking scandal. He also served as advance man for the global travels of Pope John Paul II from 1964 to 1982 and paid special attention to security arrangements at all papal visit sites.
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 of 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 parish staff members 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.
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 lifetime. 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.

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

The students and faculty of St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Catholic School recently teamed up with the Carlos O’Kelly Restaurant and held a Mexican 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 top two 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.
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 nonprofit 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 online 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 St, 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 knowing

STEWARDSHIP

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DUNBAR
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

How about the wonderful service organizations available to those in need. “I want Make a Difference Michiana to be the force that builds relationships between the community and the nonprofit sector. I see us fulfilling that mission through a nonprofit summit plan to host every spring. The goal of the summit is to recognize those good corporate citizens in our community and hold them up as role models for other businesses to emulate. We want to foster creativity in the ways businesses can help nonprofit organizations. We want to help educate the for-profit and nonprofit sectors on the benefits of partnerships and relationships through cause-related marketing,” said Dunbar.

Anyone interested in getting involved can visit the Web site at www.makeadifferencemichiana.org, send an e-mail at info@makeadifferencemichiana.org, or put something in the mail at P.O. Box 4073, South Bend, Ind. 46634 or call them at (574) 234-5543.

History of Southlawn Cemetery

The initial cemetery had its first burial in 1836 and began in the same manner as many other cemeteries in the area. Settlers who needed a final resting place chose a hillside, located in the center of today’s Southlawn Cemetery, and staked out an area for a family plot. In 1909, the Palmer’s Prairie Cemetery Association formed and more acreage was purchased directly west of the existing cemetery. In 1924, more land was needed and a group of area businessmen, George Fuchs, Perry C. Hartman, Walter Palmer, George Frick Sr., and Phillip Schafer formed a corporation and issued shares of stock for additional capital. In 1925, 45 acres of additional land was purchased and the cemetery was deemed Southlawn Cemetery Association. The association remained in place until 1999 when it was sold to an out-of-state corporation. Then in June of 2002, K.R. and Kerry Palmer purchased the cemetery to regain local ownership.

Southlawn presently has 45 acres of undeveloped ground for future growth.

Comparison for a Graveside Service with tent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opening &amp; Closing w/ Vault Setting</th>
<th>Saturday PM. Charges</th>
<th>Grave Costs</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chapel Hill</td>
<td>$1,035</td>
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<tr>
<td>Highland</td>
<td>$1,025</td>
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<tr>
<td>Riverview</td>
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<td>St. Joseph Valley</td>
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<tr>
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<td>$1,425</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southlawn</td>
<td>$650</td>
<td>$725</td>
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</tbody>
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**STEWARDSHIP**

March 5, 2006

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EDITORIAL

China and Korea, the archbishop of Manila in the Philippines, would put a face on the church in an area of the world where it facesLike the election of Pope John Paul II from Poland, such a move go with a pope from Europe or the Third World in the next conclave.

Benedict, a truly special distinction. For instance, Pope John XXIII's receive the red hat, making him the first cardinal created by Pope Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith — will be the first to

native and original when they gather however many years from now to

wind of conjecture among the Catholic press and Vatican watchers

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.

On Nov. 15, smaller than the predecessor 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.

Though nothing is known about many of the new cardinals, Thavis points out that the pope might also convene the full College of Cardinals more often, drawing them on a lesser scale to foster the pulse of the church around them. But it will also be the cardinals to get to know one another better, increasing the likelihood of their being truly creative and original when they gather, as Pope Benedict intends to do in November.

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 the United States, 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.

Stewardship, acting in place of Jesus

BY JUDITH M. DAVIS

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

GOSHEN — “Let me be frank. When it comes to stewardship, my patron saint is the kid in Scripture — you know, the one in the story in Parable 21, the one whose father asked him to go and work in the vineyard. We kid, no, ‘I won’t,’ but later changed his mind and went.

When offered the chance to do something for our community, my first instinct has been to protect my time, even in retirement. But 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 mind that these small ingredients are vital and make all the difference in the quality of life for ourselves and those around us.

According to Scripture, all of us were given talents and time to use in fulfillment of 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 communities of time, especially, are possible at different times in our lives, but all of us can take that Second Commissions in addition to what we do all the time.

That’s how I got hooked. I started out as a lector, then became an eucharistic minister. Prayer chain seemed like an easy thing to do. Cooking for the Interfaith Hospitality Network takes less than an afternoon and part of an evening, and eating dinner with the homeless can be a family activity, Rides to church? A few extra 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 Sancinta, my fifth grade teacher, that God is not to be outdone 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.
MARCH 5, 2006

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 political issues. The most recent study by James D. Davidson and Stephen Siprotch (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 Wengert 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 try to all the faithful. Younger priests (who were in seminary and ordained during the reign of Pope John Paul II) favor a “cultural 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 laitypeople. 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 Siprotch 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.

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.

The Book of Genesis is the source of the first reading. It is the familiar story of Noah, Noah was true to God, God provided that Noah was true to faith. Since Noah was true to faith, God assured Noah, and all, that the flood would not come, God protects the library. Without straying into the tortured history. Volumes on how the people would obey animals Noah had taken aboard the ark. God provides that Noah was true to faith. Since Noah was true to faith, God assured Noah, and all, that the flood would not come, God protects the library.

For the second reading, the Book of Genesis sadly has had a very questionable history. Volumes on how the people would obey animals Noah had taken aboard the ark. God provides that Noah was true to faith. Since Noah was true to faith, God assured Noah, and all, that the flood would not come, God protects the library.

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. senite
   c. smarsite

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 Noah puppet?
    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 “cloak”:
    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, 2, 3, 4c, 5a, 6b, 7c, 8b, 9b, 10c, 11b, 12a, 13c, 14a, 15b
Piano lesson

Mypiano 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 Tuesday, 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 that they often want to practice all day. Sometimes, all day. May I tell you a secret? It used to drive me crazy.

I feel somewhat bad about it. What an awful thing to say. Studying music helps improve test scores. It helps one think spatially and having a working knowledge of the piano can enrich the children’s minds and lives. I should be happy they want to practice. I wish I had 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 minutes or powerful concepts that my 15- and 15-year-olds practice over and over. Sometimes, in fact, I will slip into the listening room where they are playing and lay down on the sofa, eyes closed, to enjoy the music as 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 not forget the cost of the cash to pay our patient teacher. I have asked myself on days the children have struggled with notes and fingers (as I know all parents can, which I help them work much with), “Is it worth it?”

Last summer Caroline, who was 14, played in her first piano competition. It was held at a college 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’Oraje” (“The Storm”) by Burgmuller, aptly named because of its intensity, 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 comfort and 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 can sometimes be nerve-wracking enough. Caroline started off beautifully, just like she did at home, but then stumbled over a few keys. I held my breath. Quickly she recovered and finished the piece rather well, but not so good 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 not to be heard, especially at the beginning.

Without a doubt, it seems we will have to learn that lesson all over again. We 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 chisel, preparing the formation needed for the goal.

Caroline did not place at the piano competition, but the prize for having already been won. I told her how proud I was of her persistence, determination and performance — which were not the only one benefiting from instruction in this instrument. Mom, too, I told her, had learned a very important piano lesson.

Theresa A. Thomas

Sisters on the other hand, are religious who work in the world according to the specific charism of their order, like teaching, nursing, catechizing, etc., or 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. Lib,fswb.org or mail them to Today’s Catholic, PO. Box 11169, Fort Wayne, IN 46856. Please include your name and city and a phone number that we can contact you if necessary. Anonymity will be preserved upon request.

Sisters, on the other hand, are religious who work in the world according to the specific charism of their order, like teaching, nursing, catechizing, etc., or 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. Lib,fswb.org or mail them to Today’s Catholic, PO. Box 11169, Fort Wayne, IN 46856. Please include your name and city and a phone number that we can contact you if necessary. Anonymity will be preserved upon request.
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 on a small layout. 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 “ziqurratu,” meaning “pinnacle.” This temple tower consisted of a series of pyramidal structures 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 Esagili, 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 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 to disorder. The Babylonian word “babali” means “gate of god.” Thus the district near the city gate led to the temple area. Babel means “tower of the city of Babylon.” The city of Babylon is about 55 miles north of the Euphrates river in Iraq and lies on the left bank of the Euphrates River, where the Tigris and Euphrates approach each other more closely. The Hebrew form of a Babylon is would have 53 temples, but the greatest was Esagili, the temple of Marduk, which 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 girdle, a head, and a long hair. 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 Nanna (the god of light, fire and the moon). Father McKenzie mentions that the Babylonians divided their year into 365 days of 24 hours each with New Year on Nabiirum, the day of the Babylonian New Year festival at the Temple of Marduk. In the Temple of Marduk were shrines or cells for the statues of the other gods, which were carried in on Naburum New Year festival 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 5th 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’s connection to the sky and the universe apert from God. The New American Bible says “the tower that raises up to heaven and earth” is a direct reference to the chief ziggurat of Babylon. Babylon may signify a divine mound, the seat of the gods. A practical explanation offered is that the Tower of Babel is simply an artifical mound, built by the first settlers of the plain, who had been accustomed to worship on high places in their native mountains. The tower or mountain then became a symbol of the pull between heaven and earth, where the human person ascends to the gods and the gods manifest themselves on the peak. The parents of Melissa Koors three- and four-year-old classes contributed to this article.
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Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

EOE
**St. Matthew Blazers offer surprises in ICLL post season basketball**

BY ELMER J. DANCY

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 Sinke dropped in 15. However, the top scorer was Nick Moskolis who poured in 21 points and Jordan Milligan popped in 14 for his team.

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 Kubilowski and Joshua Rokonon had 17 and 12 points respectively in the first victory. Kubilowski tossed in 18 for St. Thomas in the second game and Jordan Carrillo had 16 for Holy Family.

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

Mike Kedzacki collected 25 points in two games to lead the winners.

In the Colors Division, St. Joseph, South Bend, Blue won twice beating St. Thomas Maron, 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 play-offs, 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. DANCY

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 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 champ on 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 upheld 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 Lechlitner and Sydney Smallbone, said Luers coach Teri Roninski.

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

Lechlitner wound up with 16 points. She became Saint Joseph’s all time scoring leader 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 Megyesi whose team finished with a 22-5 mark. Saint Joseph’s was rated the No. 1 team in Class 3-A all year.

“I am very proud of our team and the effort we put in, and we are looking ahead to next year when we will have four veterans back, including Sydney Smallbone and Kristen Dockery,” Megyesi said.

Score by quarters:

- Saint Joseph’s: 8 2 22 49
- Bishop Luers: 8 18 29 56

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 200 guests in attendance,” says Laura Worcester, Marian’s development director, who spearheaded the auction along with Jeff Borelli 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 used for events 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 it, and we have a ‘Jubilee Gala’ every 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 event 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.

**Marvin Saint Joseph’s join for March 11 Jubilee Auction Funds bridge the gap between tuition revenue and actual education cost**

By Sister Margie Layonis, CSC

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as the Lenten season began
Ash Wednesday, March 1, it is a good time to plan ahead for the practices of alms-giving, 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 requirement. 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 preventing health risks — from cardiovascular disease to Alzheimer’s disease to arthritis. In fact, the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans recommend at least two servings of fish or seafood per week.

Smoked Salmon, Irish Style
Serves 4
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 fraîche or soured cream
• Can substitute Gravadlax, 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 (for large biscuit or cookie cutter).

Cook on a lightly oiled pan or griddle until brown. Spoon a dollop of crème fraîche or soured cream on top. Garnish with lemon wedges and sprigs of dill or parsley.

Smoked Fra Diavolo
Serves 4
Ingredients
• A classic Italian shrimp dish. Ingredients
• 1/2 lbs. medium/large shrimp, peeled, uncooked
• 1 (20 oz.) prepared marinara sauce
• 2 cloves finely chopped garlic
• 1 tsp. dried parsley
• 1 T. olive oil
• 2 T. butter
• 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 sauté to taste with crumbled red pepper. Add shrimp to marinara sauce and keep warm.

Add pasta to boiling water and keep warm. Add pasta to boiling water and keep warm. Add pasta to boiling water and keep warm. Add pasta to boiling water and keep warm. Add pasta to boiling water and keep warm. Add pasta to boiling water and keep warm. Add pasta to boiling water and keep warm. Add pasta to boiling water and keep warm. Add pasta to boiling water and keep warm. Add pasta to boiling water and keep warm.

Shrimp Prawn, Irish Style
Serves 4

NEW YORK (US) – 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 perfectly banal plot involving the upcoming wedding of a formerly obese waitress (Alison Hanegan) 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 Rothemund’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. Subtitled. 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.

“Boots” (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 squatter mud 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.

Subtitled. 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 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.
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 5:30 to 4:30 p.m. at MacDoggal Chapel. Father Bob Schulze from the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, and Sister Adele Mann, SP, will be attending.

Sunday Mass at 11 a.m.
Fort Wayne — St. Michael Parish will have a Sunday Mass at 11 a.m., at the parish church. Father Michael Feldkamp, SP, will be the celebrant. Fr. Feldkamp will also preside at the annual parish breakfast, which will be held Feb. 27 in the Parish Hall. Call 488-2822 for more information.

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 #5570 will have a spaghetti dinner on Thursday, March 9, from 4 to 6 p.m. Adults $6, children ages 5 to 12 $2.50. Dinner includes spaghetti, salad, beverage and dessert. The council is located at 5029 Linden Ave., one block east of Mayflower Road.

St. John the Evangelist Fish Fry
Fort Wayne — Queen of Angels Parish will have a fish fry on Friday, March 3, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. and 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
St. Paul — A fish fry sponsored by the Holy Name Society will be at St. Paul’s at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 4. Tickets are $6 for adults, $3 for children and under free. Carry-out available.

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

Fish fry at St. Paul
St. Paul — Fish fry will be held at St. Paul’s at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, March 3. Tickets are $3 for adults, $2 for children and under free.

Lenten fish fry at Hessen Cassel
Fort Wayne — St. Joseph Parish will have its annual fish fry on Friday, March 10 and 24, from 4-7 p.m. Adults $7, children (6-11) $3.50, 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 on Thursday, March 9, from 4 to 6 p.m. Adults $6, children ages 5 to 12 $2.50. Dinner includes spaghetti, salad, beverage and dessert. The council is located at 5029 Linden Ave., one block east of Mayflower Road.

St. John the Evangelist Fish Fry
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Email fthonan@fwdiocesesfwb.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.
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 beautiful 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.