



Spirit of competition

High schools, CYO and ICCL warm up to spring sports
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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Celebrating the importance of worship, Catholic education

South Bend students gather for All Schools Mass



KRISTI WARD

Julia, an eighth grade student at St. Anthony School in South Bend, leads the crowd of 5,000 people at the All Schools Mass on March 8 in praying the vocation prayer "Lord, teach me and show me my vocation in life" as Bishop John M. D'Arcy looks on.

BY KRISTI WARD

NOTRE DAME — It started like any other event at Notre Dame's Joyce Center, with bright colors and uniformed participants and friendly ushers and excited chatter and hopeful anticipation — and the echoing commotion of thousands of people find ... something changed. The Joyce Center suddenly became a place for reverent worship.

With music from talented musicians drawn from local Catholic schools, the All Schools Mass in South Bend drew together 5,000 students, teachers and administrators from 25 local Catholic schools and 30 parish priests to celebrate the importance of worship in Catholic education with Bishop John D'Arcy.

The Mass focused on the Catholic Schools Week theme of "character, compassion and values" and drew from the Lenten season its colors, readings and songs.

When Bishop John M. D'Arcy began his homily, the atmosphere became a question-and-answer session between a loved and respected teacher and his eager students. Greenan Sullivan from St. Anthony in South Bend answered so well, he was asked to join the bishop on stage.

"Greenan Sullivan, now that sounds Irish," said the bishop. Greenan nodded.

The bishop asked, "What's the big Irish feast coming up soon?"

"St. Patrick," Greenan answered.

The bishop put his hand on the boy's shoulder and looked out at the crowd. "He's hitting all the right buttons here," he said with a smile, as the crowd laughed.

Becky from St. Joseph School in Watervliet, Mich.,

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Jesus decoded

U.S. bishops establish Web site to counter 'Da Vinci Code' claims
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Not just for doctors and scientists

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Implementing the School of Prayer

Auburn parish and Bishop Dwenger incorporate concept advocated by pope
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Disciples in Mission

Faith in Jesus Christ
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Disaster Recovery Team continues to repair and connect

BY CRAIG BOBAY

This is the second part of a series that will follow a mission group from St. Jude Parish in Fort Wayne who recently returned from Biloxi, Miss., where they assisted in cleanup and repair efforts from Hurricane Katrina. The report in its entirety can be found at the diocesan Web site at www.diocesefwsb.org/TODAY.

Wednesday, Feb. 8

"I woke at 5:30 a.m. today to my wrist watch alarm to honor the agreement Dan and I made to go for a run this morning before breakfast. ... We got chased by some mangy looking hound dogs on a country road and heard several roosters crow as a beautiful sun rose above the rolling hills and fog of the south's Gulf Coast region. We ran five miles in 41 minutes, picking up the pace for the last half. The healthy aspect of the run gave me the will to pass on the bacon and pancake breakfast in favor of oat-

meal and a banana this morning.

"Laura Sweigert was her usual cheerful self and ball of energy this morning, even at 6:30 a.m. Laura shared the story of her crew's work in Waveland, where the eye of the hurricane had passed. Laura has been working on crew with Mark Stoner, also from St. Jude. Mark, a 34-year-old dentist and father of three learned of the St. Jude Katrina mission from our fearless leader, Art, while the two men were at an RCIA meeting at the church.

"Yesterday, Laura, Mark and Norm Kahler (from Buffalo, N.Y.) hung drywall for a young man named Wayne near Waveland. Wayne, his wife and their 11-year-old son lived in a mobile home on his dad's property, before the 15-foot flood of Katrina swept through and severely damaged their homes. Located about two miles from the Gulf of Mexico, the floodwaters of the nearby Jordan River submerged their home in the August storm.

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BISHOP SIGNS BOOKS



DON CLEMMER

Bishop John M. D'Arcy signs the Books of Enrollment as catechumens look on during the rite of election and rite of calling candidates to continuing conversion at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne on March 12. In his homily, Bishop D'Arcy described coming into the church as an act inspired by knowing God, loving God and therefore wanting to be closer to God.

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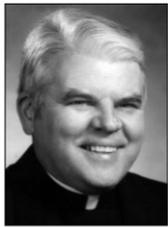
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Pope's encyclical encouraged to be read as a prayer book



NEWS & NOTES

BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

'Deus Caritas Est'

This is the title of the encyclical written by Pope Benedict XVI, the first of his pontificate. This work, which I will be sending to our priests and others, rewards a careful reading. The Holy Father, theologian and teacher, as well as pastor, lays out in clear language the heart of Christian life. First, there is the analysis of human love and its relationship with the divine love. There is also a reflection on the tendency today to separate body and spirit — that is, human love, marital love and sexual love — from the divine, and how this is not the message of the Bible, which draws the two together.

There is a beautiful analysis of the Old Testament in reference to God's steadfast love for his people. The pope shows himself a master of biblical exegesis. For example, in the reflection on the Song of Songs, sometimes called the Canticle of Canticles, "an Old Testament book well-known to the mystics," the pope shows his understanding that these were originally love songs "perhaps intended for a Jewish wedding feast and meant to exalt conjugal love." He also shows how they have been accepted as one of the Books of the Bible by their application to the love that God has for his people.

There is a reflection on the Book of Hosea, always one of my favorite books in the Old Testament, showing God remaining faithful despite the fact that Israel has not been faithful to him. Israel is the harlot who has been unfaithful, but God always welcomes her back.

"Hosea above all shows that this agape dimension of God's love for man goes far beyond the aspect of gratuity. Israel has committed 'adultery' and has broken the covenant; God should judge and repudiate her. It is precisely that at this point God is revealed to be God and not man: 'How can I give you up, O Ephraim! How can I hand you over, O Israel! ... My heart recoils within me, my compassion grows warm and tender. I will not execute my fierce anger, I will not again destroy Ephraim; for I am God and not man, the Holy One in your midst.' — Hosea 11: 8-9.

God's compassionate love for his people — for humanity — is at the same time a forgiving love. It is so great that it turns God against himself, his love against his justice."

What the pope is doing is showing how in the Old Testament, God has pulled aside the veil to show himself as he really is.

Long before we saw the tender face of God in Jesus Christ.

An affirmation

All of this was affirmed when I had the good fortune, while attending the Notre Dame-DePaul basketball game, to meet a friend of mine, Professor Gary Anderson of Notre Dame. Professor Anderson is an eminent scholar of the Old Testament who came here a few years ago from Harvard Divinity School, recruited by John Cavadini, chair of the Department of Theology, who has done so much to strengthen academically, and in other ways, the theology department of Notre Dame.

I discovered that Professor Anderson has become a strong fan of Notre Dame football and basketball. I asked him about this new encyclical of the pope, as I was aware of the significant Old Testament analysis which it contained. He told me that he thought it was beautiful and an extraordinary document.

What the pope shows in this letter is that spirituality — that is, the science of prayer and of the saints — must never be separated from sound theology. There has been a tendency to make theology almost like the study of chemistry. It has been made an intellectual exercise. What you have in this encyclical is material for meditation, for prayer. No book in itself will make it possible to accept the overwhelming nature of God's love. But spiritual reading, quiet and reflective, can be, and should be, a necessary means of spiritual growth.

On Sunday evening when there was exposition of the Blessed Sacrament immediately after the 5 p.m. Mass, I took this book with me for prayer, along with the Liturgy of the Hours. I encourage everyone to read this document, but to read it as a prayer book. I hope to refer to it from time to time in this column.

But spiritual reading,
quiet and reflective,
can be, and should be,
a necessary means
of spiritual growth.

Conversion of heart

As stated often in this column, this is a diocese where you do everything twice. So, for two successive Sundays, I was privileged to lead the service entitled the rite of election. I tried to show the people, with the help of the pope's encyclical, that their approach to the church, whether through baptism or through the profession of faith and reception of the Eucharist for those already baptized, is a conversion to love. It is made possible by his love and grace. The same could be said of Lent. In one place, the liturgy calls Lent a season of joy, and it is also a season of love. Do we not ponder the one who died for our salvation, and gave us the gift of himself? That is what grace is — God's presence in the ultimate gift in this life — the reception of the holy Eucharist.

Parish missions

As I am sure you know, most of our offices are contained in one building, which

we recently purchased with the help of a grant from Our Sunday Visitor. I remain in my former quarters next to the cathedral, but I am in the process of visiting every department.

In visiting the Office of Spiritual Development, I was thrilled to realize that they have coordinated 14 parish missions this year. I recently closed a mission at St. Joseph Parish, Roanoke. The people came from two parishes — St. Joseph and the tiny parish of St. Catharine, Nix Settlement. It reminded me of my early days here when my sister, Sister Anne D'Arcy, brought my mother out for a visit about a year after I was installed as bishop. Mom was concerned on the first day about being far from home, but when we arrived at St. Catharine, Nix Settlement, everyone was saying the rosary in this small country church, and she became peaceful. It increased when we visited with the parishioners after Mass at a lovely breakfast and she saw the cemetery adjacent to the church. "Who wouldn't like it out here? It's just like Ireland." The ultimate praise.

I am preparing now to close a mission at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and, next week, one at St. Mary, Fort Wayne. These missions draw people because of excellent preparation, led by the spiritual development office.

On Sunday, as mentioned after the rite of election and the celebration of the 5 p.m. Mass, there was a holy hour with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. All of this reminded me of the words of Pope John Paul II who said that the parish should be a school of prayer. Hopefully, as we intensify our preparation for our Jubilee Year, this will become ever more the case.

And the young people

There was a beautiful Mass for our school children in the greater South Bend area at the Joyce Center. Thousands of young people singing and praying. Excellent preparation under the direction of the director of our Office of Worship, Beverly Rieger. We must do everything we can to continue to strengthen our schools for the children there to experience a culture of faith.

Heard around South Bend: 'Nine and three is not good enough'

This, I understand, is the banner which is located in the football facility which contains the offices and workout rooms at Notre Dame. It makes one look forward to more lovely October Saturdays.

Baseball is appearing now on television and, even if the teams are from faraway places like Japan, Venezuela and Korea, the rules are the same, and it makes one realize that spring is here. Soon the jonquils will come up in my backyard, then the Triduum and Easter. Joy everywhere.

See you all next week.

'Jesus Decoded' site launched to counter claims in 'Da Vinci Code'

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A new Web site sponsored by the U.S. bishops' Catholic Communication Campaign has been established to provide accurate information about the life of Jesus, the origins of Christianity and Catholic teaching to counter claims made in the best-selling novel "The Da Vinci Code" by Dan Brown.

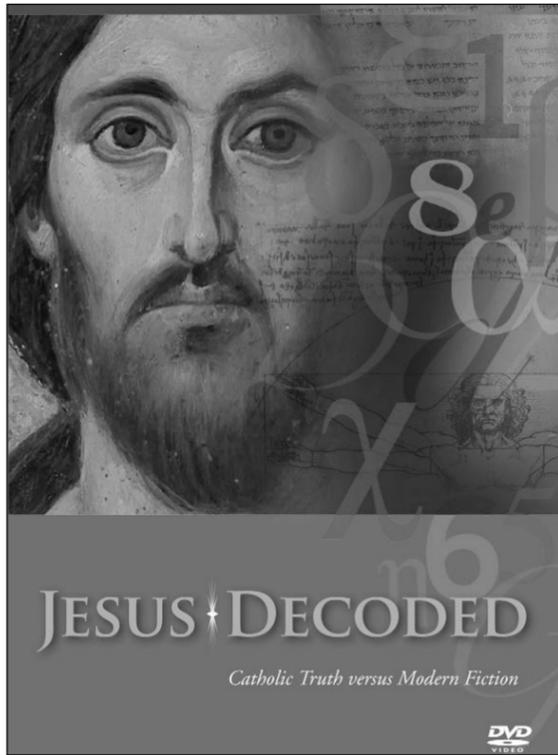
The Web site, www.jesusdecoded.com, was launched March 9. A film version of the book is slated for nationwide release May 19.

The site contains information that refutes claims made in the book about the nature of Jesus; his relationship with Mary Magdalene; the first four ecumenical councils of the early church and how they shaped today's teaching about Jesus; contemporaneous accounts of Jesus' life that were not selected for the New Testament; the role of women in the church throughout history; and the "Last Supper" paintings by Leonardo da Vinci and other artists of his era.

Also found on the site is a column by John Thavis, Rome Bureau chief for Catholic News Service, on the level of Vatican reaction to the book and forthcoming movie.

There is also an essay from the U.S. bishops' Office for Film & Broadcasting on the marketing hype behind the movie; and a commentary, "What's Wrong With 'The Da Vinci Code'?", written by Father John Wauck, a U.S. priest of Opus Dei, the personal prelature that figures prominently in the novel.

The site also has production information on the CCC's "Jesus Decoded" TV special, including information on air dates and times in cities around the United States. The program, shot on location in Israel, Turkey and Italy, includes interviews with international scholars versed in art, history and Scripture who "help separate Catholic truth from popular fiction." It has been offered to NBC affiliates, but each affiliate's management makes the



CNS PHOTO/COURTESY CCC

This is the DVD cover of the new documentary "Jesus Decoded." The show, produced by the Catholic Communication Campaign, documents the authentic teaching about Jesus Christ and is being released around the same time as the "The Da Vinci Code" movie. Aside from the DVD release, the program may air on select NBC affiliates beginning May 20.

DA VINCI, PAGE 4

CRS collection helps

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Reaching out to help people who are suffering is an essential part of our vocation as Christians and a traditional part of our observance of the season of Lent. When we consider the startling fact that over half of the world's people live on less than \$2 a day, how can we not be moved to make personal sacrifices, however small, to help our suffering brothers and sisters throughout the world?

Next weekend, March 25-26, we will have a marvelous opportunity to help those who suffer by making a donation to the Catholic Relief Services Collection. This collection benefits Catholic service agencies such as Catholic Relief Services, Migration and Refugee Services, the Holy Father's Relief Fund and the Department of Social Development and World Peace. Catholic Relief Services, which is the overseas relief and development agency of the church in the United States, works in more than 99 countries worldwide and supports community development projects in agriculture, education, emergency relief, health and human welfare. For example, when the Indian Ocean tsunami hit a little over a year ago on the morning after Christmas, by lunchtime Catholic Relief Services had begun its first food distribution to those devastated by the disaster.

Migration and Refugee Services, which helps resettle approximately one-quarter of all refugees admitted to the United States each year, provides assistance and pastoral care to newcomers and advocates for just public policies related to immigration. The Holy Father's Relief Fund assists victims of natural disasters and other emergencies around the world. The Department of Social Development and World Peace, which is part of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, applies Catholic social teaching to current issues, including human rights, justice and the search for peace. Continued advocacy for debt relief by this department and others led to a groundbreaking commitment in July 2005 by the United States and other major wealthy nations to cancel the debt of the world's poorest countries.

The organizations that benefit from this appeal count on the generosity of Catholics in this country to continue their crucial work. May we find inspiration to be as generous as possible with this collection in the example of Christ, who took every form of human suffering upon himself and made it the means of our redemption.

Sincerely yours in our Lord,

Most Reverend John M. D'Arcy

Catholic Charities in Boston Archdiocese to end adoption services

BY JERRY FILTEAU

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic Charities of the Boston Archdiocese announced March 10 that it will stop providing adoption services rather than continue to comply with a state law requiring no discrimination against gay and lesbian couples who seek to adopt.

The same day Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney called it "a mistake for our laws to put the rights of adults over the needs of children" and said he would seek legislation allowing religious agencies to perform adoptions without violating their religious tenets.

Prompted by a similar issue arising at Catholic Charities of San Francisco, a top Vatican official has said Catholic agencies should not be involved in adoptions by same-sex couples.

"We have encountered a dilemma we cannot resolve," said Father J. Bryan Hehir, Boston Catholic Charities president, and Jeffrey Kaneb, chairman of the board of trustees, in a joint statement March 10.

They said the agency "cannot reconcile the teaching of the church, which guides our work, and the statutes and regulations of the commonwealth," under which archdiocesan adoptive services had placed 13 children with same-sex couples over the past 20 years.

A 2003 Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith document says it would be "gravely

immoral" to let same-sex couples adopt children.

"Allowing children to be adopted by persons living in such unions would actually mean doing violence to these children, in the sense that their condition of dependency would be used to place them in an environment that is not conducive to their full development," said the document.

Massachusetts laws and regulations, however, require adoption agencies contracting with the state not to discriminate against same-sex couples who seek to adopt children.

A similar issue has arisen in Catholic Charities of the San Francisco Archdiocese which, in collaboration with government agencies, has placed five children with same-sex couples in recent years.

Cardinal-designate William J. Levada, who headed the San Francisco Archdiocese during those years but is now head of the Vatican's doctrinal congregation, said March 9 that since the 2003 Vatican document, "it has been, and remains, my position that Catholic agencies should not place children for adoption in homosexual households."

After *The Boston Globe* reported that Boston archdiocesan Catholic Charities had arranged the adoption of 13 children by same-sex couples over the past 20 years, the Massachusetts Catholic Conference formed a committee to review the issue.

In a statement Feb. 28 the state's bishops urged the government to give Catholic adoption agencies an exemption to the requirement of equal treatment for same-sex couples seeking to adopt.

Catholic agencies in the state have provided adoptive services for more than a century "out of the religious and moral conviction that we should act in support of children in need and parents who seek to respond to those needs," the bishops said.

"Because of the church's teaching, Catholic agencies may not provide adoptions to same-sex couples," they said.

Seven of the 42 members of the Boston Catholic Charities board resigned in protest over the bishops' decision to seek a licensing exemption, saying the move "undermines our moral priority of helping vulnerable children find loving homes."

By its vote March 10, the board agreed to end its adoption services in light of the conflict between the law and Catholic teaching, so that it can focus its energies on its other programs to assist the poor and vulnerable.

According to data provided by the Catholic Charities agency:

- It received about \$1 million in reimbursements for its adoption-related work in 2005; its total 2005 revenue was about \$37 million.

- In 2005 it found adoptive homes for 41 children, provided post-adoption training and support services to 883 families and con-

ducted 730 information searches for adoptees.

Last year, Catholic Charities said, it served more than 200,000 children, teens, families and seniors in need. It provided programs ranging from serving basic human needs to behavioral health, child care, after-school programs, adult day health, counseling, and refugee and immigration services.

Catherine Loeffler, executive director of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Worcester, Mass., said the Boston agency's decision would not affect her agency's practices.

If a same-sex couple comes to the Worcester agency seeking to adopt, it will continue to ask the state, which refers the couples, to use another agency for that case, she said.

San Francisco archdiocesan spokesman Maurice Healy said March 10 that after inquiries from *The Globe* about Catholic Charities practices in his archdiocese, he asked Cardinal-designate Levada if he wanted to add any clarification.

In his e-mail reply the former San Francisco archbishop said that during his time in San Francisco, he had been informed of placements with same-sex couples "for three children or teenagers who were judged difficult to place. These placements involved prudential judgments about the needs of the children."

He added, however, that such placements should be barred in

light of the 2003 Vatican document. "The reasons given in the document, as well as the potential scandal for the faithful should an archdiocesan agency act contrary to the clear teaching of the church's magisterium, require that a Catholic bishop follow this clear guidance from the Holy See in his oversight of Catholic diocesan agencies," he said.

Healey said Cardinal-designate Levada had been informed of three adoptions by same-sex couples in 2002; the total number subsequently rose to five same-sex adoptions out of a total of 136 over a five-year period, he said.

Brian F. Cahill, executive director of San Francisco's Catholic Charities, told Catholic News Service that about \$450,000 of his agency's \$37 million annual budget goes to adoptive services.

He said it was too early to say how the Boston decision or Cardinal-designate Levada's note would affect the San Francisco agency's future approach to adoptive services. He said he expected soon to brief Archbishop George H. Niederauer, who was just installed in mid-February, on the issue.

"We have always been operating, one, guided by the teachings of the church and, two, guided by the best interests of some very, very vulnerable children," he said.

Notre Dame hosts biomedical ethics conference

BY ANN CAREY

NOTRE DAME — College students who are planning careers in medicine spent three days at the University of Notre Dame March 9-11, considering the ethical issues encountered in modern science and medicine. With the help of leading experts in bioethics and some undergraduates themselves, the students grappled with the implications involved in research and treatment for conditions like alcoholism, obesity, old age, attention-deficit disorder, HIV/AIDS and infertility.

The students — from various faith backgrounds — came from schools around the country for the ninth Annual National Undergraduate Bioethics Conference, which will take place at Michigan State University next year. Students participated in daily small-group discussions that enabled them to consider and develop ideas posed in talks by national figures like Dr. Paul McHugh, director of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Johns Hopkins University, who is a member of the President's Council on Bioethics.

One of the recurring themes of the conference was consideration of the question: "Just because we can do something, does this mean that we ought to do it?"

Deirdre McQuade, director of planning and information in the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, told the conference that it is important to keep in mind the various "ethical lenses" that look at issues. She said that in our utilitarian culture, there is a temptation to view the dignity of the human person as being pitted against the value of

the common good.

McQuade noted that the conference title, "Health Care in an Increasingly Health-Obsessed Culture," accurately reflected our culture's obsession with health and youth, an eternal optimism that technology can help us to be "ever more young, ever more fruitful, ever more energetic, etc."

She urged the students to be wary of the "technological imperative," the troubling attitude that, "If this technology is available to us, why not go for it?" This technological imperative can appear in a stronger form, she warned, that says: "If we can do it, we should."

Notre Dame law professor O. Carter Snead further developed these ideas in his talk on "Bioethical Issues on the Horizon: Looking to the Future." Snead formerly was general counsel for the President's Council on Bioethics and remains an expert consultant for that body.

Snead discussed ethical challenges in medicine that raise questions like this: Is it appropriate to obtain human ova from aborted fetuses for in vitro fertilization (IVF)? Should IVF embryos be screened for certain traits like gender? Should embryos be created so their stem cells, and even their organs may be harvested? Should doctors be able to euthanize disabled infants? How about creating animals that have human cells?

These issues can be "exciting" or "terrifying," depending on one's perspective Snead said.

"But there's no way around the fact that we are going to have to figure out a way to govern ourselves and govern our science and our medicine according to the ethical principles that we



ANN CAREY

Notre Dame law professor O. Carter Snead, left, told a biomedical ethics conference that every person, not just scientists and doctors, should have a voice in deciding the ethics of what science and medicine should and should not do. Ave Maria University philosophy professor Daniel Maher, right, talked about what health means in various individuals, cultures and settings.

arrive at when we debate and discuss these particular issues."

Even though many of these issues are new, Snead said, the traditional "rules of engagement" should be used to produce "meaningful self-governance that is both humane and reasonable." To that end, Snead proposed these 10 rules:

- Slow down. Do not allow the use of new technology to get ahead of our understanding of the moral problems involved.

- Science does not answer ethical questions. Ethical questions are human, political questions

that should be answered by everyone, for we govern ourselves and make laws that reflect underlying moral principles.

- "In order to govern ourselves rationally and humanely, we have to clearly understand and articulate, in a clear and open way, the goods that we seek to defend and the harms that we seek to avoid."

- Call things by their right names; you cannot avoid moral

disputes by using words that obscure those disputes. The term "therapeutic cloning," for example, is misleading because no therapies have been developed from it.

- Be honest about the promise and the perils of the science. Snead cited wild claims about the curative powers of embryonic stem-cell research, when in fact no person has yet benefited from it.

- Be honest about our ambitions and what they require. For example, embryonic stem-cell researchers first said they needed only "surplus" embryos from IVF clinics. Now they are calling for federal funding to clone human embryos because massive numbers are needed for their research.

- In a self-governing democracy, we must understand opposing arguments and fairly characterize them. For example, it is a biological fact that the embryo is human; it is not a religious argument, as some people claim.

- Be responsive to the opposing arguments and give the reasons for a project, not just the desired result.

- Be open-minded and prepared to be surprised and to challenge your own views.

- Be civil and charitable. Calling people names detracts from the atmosphere of meaningful debate and self-governance.

Snead said he hoped his 10 rules would not only help to "rehabilitate our current discourse," but also to "prepare us to tackle the very unusual things that wait for us in the future."

MASS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and Doris from St. Anthony School in South Bend were also called up on stage to give answers as the bishop taught the students to find Jesus in the sick and the poor.

"It's true the same Christ you meet in the Eucharist is also waiting for us in the poor and the needy," Bishop D'Arcy said. "He comes to you when you pray. He comes to you when you reach out to the poor. He is always trying to reach you."

Toward the end of his homily,

Bishop D'Arcy introduced Nathan Wilkins from the Holy Cross congregation.

"Nathan, tell us about the two kinds of deacons," the bishop asked.

"There are permanent deacons and transitional deacons," Deacon Nate said. "I'm a transitional deacon, on my way to becoming a priest ... (big smile) ... in 46 days." The crowd cheered and applauded.

"Did you go to Catholic school?" the bishop asked. "I went through Catholic grade school, Catholic high school and Catholic university," Deacon Nate answered.

"What Catholic university?"

asked the bishop. Deacon Nate grinned and looked sideways at Bishop D'Arcy. "Ummm, Notre Dame — have you heard of it?"

After the crowd laughed and applauded, Bishop D'Arcy called Julia from St. Anthony School up on the stage to recite the vocation prayer, "Lord, teach me and show me my vocation in life," and he asked every student to pray it every day.

The bishop's final message reflected his affection for the youngest members of his flock.

"It's a very great joy to be with you," he said, smiling. "Live up to your faith, study hard and be joyful!"

gests, the early church councils tried to uncover the truth, according to Schreck.

In those councils, the participants "asked critical questions and had entertained different views of who Jesus was, his mission, and in this process saw the need to clarify the truth about Jesus that sprung from the most authentic and reliable sources about him," Schreck said. "And there were many sources about him that were being promulgated."

The "Jesus Decoded" TV special will be available by mid-April on DVD from USCCB Publishing for \$19.95. A companion booklet, "The Authentic Jesus," sells for \$2.50, and a box of 100 parish bulletin inserts on the same theme sells for \$12. Prices do not include shipping and handling. Orders may be placed by phone at: (800) 235-8722.

DA VINCI

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

decision whether to air it.

"Many of my students and myself included enjoy a good, fast-paced novel, and enjoyed 'The Da Vinci Code' on that level, as a tall tale of adventure," said Alan Schreck, chairman of the theology department at the Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio, who contributed an essay to the Web site on early church ecumenical councils.

"There's a level where this book is appealing to people," Schreck told CNS. "That is what makes it dangerous to someone, if they believe it's a historical representation or an accurate theological presentation."

Rather than cover up the truth about Jesus, as the novel sug-

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Academic freedom discussed at Notre Dame forum

BY ANN CAREY

NOTRE DAME — Academic freedom has been a hot topic on the University of Notre Dame campus this year, and the Notre Dame Faculty Senate kept the topic on the front burner with a forum here on March 8.

"Academic Freedom at a Catholic University" was the topic discussed by Marianist Father James Heft, a theologian who is chancellor of the University of Dayton, and by Jonathan Knight, director of the Program in Academic Freedom and Tenure for the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), a professional organization headquartered in Washington, D.C.

This heightened interest in academic freedom was prompted by a major address made by Notre Dame president, Holy Cross Father John Jenkins, to faculty and students in January. In that address, Father Jenkins announced that he was restricting the performance of "The Vagina Monologues" and evaluating the title and content of the "Queer Film Festival," both controversial events that had become annual fixtures at Notre Dame. As part of his address, Father Jenkins invited discussion about academic freedom and Catholic character that would give him insights for setting policies governing the appropriateness of such programs at Notre Dame.

This background consequently was referenced by both speakers at the March 8 forum, and Knight indicated he had been receiving input from sources at Notre Dame prior to his talk. Knight said he would not comment on Father Jenkins's decision to restrict performance of the Monologues, but his opinion came through rather clearly in his remarks.

The AAUP representative said that any objection to a program or event on a university campus should not be rooted in concern about content unless there is "sound reason" to conclude that the event or activity is not consistent with an academic department's obligations of professionalism.

"Thus, if a faculty member is free to assign 'The Vagina Monologues' to his or her class," Knight said, "it is difficult to see what principle consistent with academic freedom could be relied upon to not allow the department to have the play performed in a more public venue because its content is deemed offensive."

Knight concluded: "I am there-



ANN CAREY

Marianist Father James Heft, chancellor of the University of Dayton, told a Notre Dame forum on academic freedom that Catholic universities should be open circles that fully engage all areas of knowledge while drawing upon Catholic intellectual traditions.

fore skeptical that reasons advanced to date for not allowing 'The Vagina Monologues' or the gay film festival to continue as they have in the past can find support under principles of academic freedom, although I readily acknowledge that such a decision might be thought by some to comport with the evolving Catholic character of Notre Dame University."

Speaking after Knight, Father Heft called the topic of academic freedom in a Catholic university "important, but complex and contested." He noted that the AAUP had been dedicated to protecting the rights of individual professors, and Catholic universities owe a debt of gratitude to the AAUP for this.

However, Father Heft continued, "The notion of academic freedom without limits, ironically, has great limitations if applied without qualification to Catholic universities, where indeed an intellectual tradition should be privileged, and theology occupies a special place in the academic life."

One must understand what a Catholic university is and should be before one can understand the kind of academic freedom germane to it, Father Heft continued. He offered three metaphors for what the university might be: a marketplace of ideas where the institution never takes a stance and the fittest of ideas survive; a closed circle where little research is done, fidelity is the most important goal and opposing views are disallowed; and an open circle that is sufficiently circumscribed to provide a community of discourse open to a wide variety of ideas.

It is this open circle metaphor

Father Heft favors, and he talked about how the Catholic Church has benefited over the centuries from Roman law, Greek philosophy, the art and literature of the Renaissance and even from the Enlightenment's emphasis on individual rights. To keep that circle open, Father Heft said, the Catholic university will purposely hire scholars from other faith traditions; and to keep the circle Catholic, the university will hire Catholic scholars in a variety of disciplines.

Father Heft said that while a Catholic university benefits from some of the AAUP initiatives, "The Catholic university needs to adjust this idea of academic freedom to include the privileging of Catholic intellectual traditions that must stand at the heart of the mission of a Catholic university. ... The liberal notion of academic freedom excludes Catholic distinctiveness, or if not excludes it, then relegates it to second-class citizenship. This is ironic, since liberal organizations should support pluralism, and Catholic universities, if we are able to create and sustain them, will contribute to the needed pluralism of American higher education."

About 100 Notre Dame professors, staff and students attended the forum, and in a question-answer period after the panel, several professors demonstrated the strong feelings on both sides of the issues, with some supporting the initiative of Father Jenkins and others seeing them as backward and a threat to academic freedom.

St. Vincent de Paul Society hosts fundraiser

BY DEB WAGNER

FORT WAYNE — The Fort Wayne district of the St. Vincent de Paul Society held its first annual fundraiser recently at the local Knights of Columbus hall.

The social event included an inspirational message by Father Steve Gibson, CSC, from the former Fatima Retreat House in South Bend and an Italian buffet prepared by local chefs. Proceeds will be used by the St. Vincent de Paul store, which is celebrating its 60th year of operation this year, and the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

The store depends heavily on volunteers, which include people from community corrections and those sent by the Wayne Township trustee's office, and its eight full-time employees to remain operational. Volunteers run the wood-working shop where handmade chests of drawers are constructed and sold in the store. A single mother with a few children to care for often appreciates a chest of drawers.

After the buffet, Father Steve spoke to the group about Notre Dame football and the real heroes in the world. He said the "real heroes are those in the St. Vincent de Paul Society who clothe the naked, that feed the hungry and give shelter to those who have no place to live."

He explained that if we do things for the purposes of mortification, then we did not hear the Gospel on Ash Wednesday. Just like some Notre Dame fans paint their faces in the school colors to

show solidarity, Catholics wear ashes to indicate their desire to be a part of a larger purpose.

He said we are called to do something bigger than ourselves every time we hear, "Do this in memory of me," during the consecration at Mass. The "this" is to do everything that Jesus would do, beginning with his time in public ministry and ending with his death, including serving the poor.

Father Steve concluded, "Every time you show people the dignity and respect people deserve, you do the 'this.' How do we know God is with us? Because we're doing his will. No matter what we are doing, God is whispering to us, 'Just keep doing your best.'"

Gloria Vachon of St. Louis Parish, Besancon, agrees with Father Steve's comments saying, "There needs to be more young people to carry on the tradition of serving the poor and to promote the thinking of others instead of self."

The society does its best to carry on the traditions of its founder, St. Vincent de Paul. Mary Howard from Our Lady of Good Hope Parish readily admits, "I was first involved in St. Vincent de Paul Society for selfish and social reasons. But then I began to realize how good it makes me feel to do good for others."

Donna Brooke, president of the District Council of the Fort Wayne St. Vincent de Paul Society, perhaps sums it up best by saying, "Being Catholic is more than going to church. It's serving God through serving the poor."



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Historic St. Patrick Church to host St. Patrick Day celebration

LAGRO — Historic St. Patrick's Church, Lagro, will once again host a 5 p.m. Mass, on Friday, March 17, concelebrated by Father Sextus Don of St. Bernard Parish, Wabash, and Father Ray Balzer of Fort Wayne.

The Erben Organ will be played by organist Peggy Coppler, and Mark Fearnow will be the cantor.

Immediately following Mass, a soup supper will be held at the Lagro United Methodist Church fellowship hall. Potato soup, Irish beef stew, hard bread, relish trays and assorted drinks and desserts will round out the menu. A freewill donation will be taken at the door.

The Market Street Beat of Wabash will entertain back at the church immediately following the soup supper. Also part of the evening's entertainment is St. Bernard Children's Choir. Father Gary Sigler, formerly administrator of St. Patrick's and now located at Queen of Angels Church, Fort Wayne, will close the evening's ceremonies with his traditional rendition of "Danny Boy." The St. Patrick event is hosted by the Friends of St. Patrick's, an ecumenical group of citizens who are interested in preservation of the historic church. The church became part of the National Registry of Historic Places in the late 1990s, and the friends have been organized since then to complete restoration projects throughout. The organ was completed in 2005.

The group's latest effort is for brick restoration on the outside of the church. The first phase of the project will cost \$20,000. Offerings from the Soup Supper, as well as the BratFest, which the group holds in October, will go toward this effort.

Organ, classical music recital set March 23 in Donaldson

DONALDSON — Ancilla College, Lindenwood Retreat Center and the PHJC Ministry Center Liturgy Office under the direction of Mary Lou McCarthy, are jointly sponsoring the performance of Dr. Herman Taylor and his wife, Vivian. The hour-long organ recital and vocal performance will be performed Thursday, March 23, in the Ancilla Domini Chapel, beginning at 7 p.m. The public is invited to this free event.

Herman D. Taylor holds the bachelor of music degree from Chicago Musical College of Roosevelt University, and the master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Michigan where his organ study was with Dr. Marilyn Mason. He also holds the AAGO certification from the American Guild of Organists.

Before going to Eastern Illinois University, in Charleston, Ill., in 1990 as chair of the music department, he was professor of music,

AROUND THE DIOCESE

ST. AUGUSTINE CELEBRATES HONOR ROLL RECIPIENTS



MAY LEE JOHNSON

Father Charles Lavelly, CSC, recognized young people of St. Augustine Parish in South Bend who made the honor roll at their schools. Students were presented with certificates and McDonald's gift certificate. The parish also recognized Davante Newbill who earned the St. Augustine Most Improved Student Award. In the photo are, front row, from left, Marcus Michado, Jonathan Jones, Tyler Flynn, Gabriell Jones, Elena M. M. Lora, Gabrielle Morgan and Davante Newbill, back row, Argenia Dikes, Jenna Downs-Last, Mel Tardy, Father Lavelly. Not present for the photo, but recognized by the parish, were Bridget Johnson and Raphael Peeple.

coordinator of music and chair of the Division of the Humanities at Dillard University in New Orleans, La.

In 1985, he performed the complete organ works of J. S. Bach in a series of 17 recitals in the United States and Europe. In 1987, under the auspices of the United States Army Office of Chaplaincy, he performed organ recitals in five cities in Germany.

Taylor is still active as a performer, adjudicator and clinician. Performances this year include The Washington National Cathedral and the University of Michigan.

He is professor emeritus at Eastern and served as director of music and organist at the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Mattoon, Ill.

Vivian H. Taylor, a native of Jackson, Miss., received the bachelor degree in music from Dillard University in New Orleans, La., and graduate studies at the University of New Orleans.

Prior to moving to Charleston, she was a teacher in the New Orleans public and Catholic schools.

Taylor was a member of the New World Ensemble under the direction of the late Moses Hogan, the New Orleans Black Chorale, and the professional chorus, Jefferson Singers. She has been featured as soloist in a number of works including "Gloria" by Poulenc, "Behold the Lamb" and "Messiah."

Since relocating in Charleston,

she has remained active as soloist and is a substitute teacher in the Charleston public schools.

Their program will include works by Francois Couperin, J. S. Bach and Louis Vierne. Mrs. Taylor's selections will include "Sweet Little Jesus Boy," "Were You There" and other spirituals.

All are invited to a light reception in Cana Hall following the recital. This event is one of several programs celebrating Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center's 20th anniversary.

Rockne passing to be remembered

NOTRE DAME — Notre Dame alumni and friends will mark the 75th anniversary of the passing of legendary football coach Knute Rockne with a memorial Mass and breakfast on Sunday, March 26, on the campus. Mass will be held in the chapel of Dillon Hall with the breakfast to follow in Kenna Hall.

Rockne lost his life in an airplane crash in Kansas on March 31, 1931. He is buried in Highland Cemetery in northwest South Bend.

Rockne is a native of Voss, Norway, where he was born on March 4, 1888. The 118th anniversary of his birth was also marked in his native city by international sculptor Jerry McKenna, who will be the speaker at the memorial breakfast at Notre Dame. A bust of Rockne by

McKenna is located in the Football Hall of Fame in South Bend.

Cornelius "Corky" Donovan is chairman of the memorial Mass and breakfast. — EJD

Raffle to help support Catholic Charities

SOUTH BEND — A "Pot of Gold" raffle, expected to raise \$75,000 to help support Catholic Charities in the South Bend area, will continue until May 10, according to Robert Ercoline, west region director of Catholic Charities.

Tickets are \$50 each and may be purchased at the Catholic Charities office in South Bend, located at 1817 Miami St. next to the St. Matthew Cathedral complex.

"These are extremely challenging times for many people and especially for social services, which our organization continues to serve every day," said Ercoline.

Catholic Charities is involved in many services, including adoption services, the Circle of Mercy Child Center, Food Pantry Emergency Services for the Poor, mental health counseling, school counseling, immigration services and senior aid programs.

Ercoline notes that financial support for Catholic Charities will allow the organization "to continue to bring help and hope to residents of Elkhart, Kosciusko, LaGrange, Marshall and St. Joseph counties." — EJD

Sanctity of life chain to be held in Elkhart

ELKHART — A monthly non-denominational life chain to defend the sanctity of life will be held on Saturday, March 18, from 11 a.m. to noon at the corner of Cassopolis Street and County Road 6 in Elkhart.

Life Chain is a one-hour period of time, during which the participants stand in silence while holding a poster with a pro-life message for the public to read. Some participants pray in silence during that time.

It is a peaceful and prayerful statement in defense of God's precious unborn children. Children are also invited to participate with their families.

Signs will be provided or participants may bring their own pro-life sign. Graphic signs are not allowed.

For more information contact David Krauss at (800) 601-3240 or e-mail davidjkrauss@comcast.net.

St. Matthew holds soup and bread dinners

SOUTH BEND — The traditional soup and bread dinners, which have been part of the Lenten observance for many years at St. Matthew Cathedral, will be served on the evenings of Wednesday, March 21, and Wednesday, March 29, in St. Matthew Cathedral School.

Father Michael Heintz has also arranged Lenten speakers with spiritual messages for the two occasions.

The parish's annual Jonah Fish Fry will be served Friday, March 24, from 4 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Special carry-outs will be available and also delivered to the elderly and homebound who have no transportation. — EJD

Parishes join together in Katrina relief effort

SOUTH BEND — The parishes of St. Joseph in South Bend and Sacred Heart at Notre Dame joined forces to bring help and hope to the people of Moss Point, Miss., by providing Emergency Clean-Up Buckets.

The Emergency Clean-Up Buckets contain supplies, which enable people to begin the overwhelming job of cleaning up after floods, hurricanes, tornados and other disasters in the United States and abroad. These kits make a world of difference in the lives of victims of natural disasters.

The Clean Up Buckets contain scouring pads, soaps, sponges, latex and work gloves, trash bags, dust masks, towels, clothes line and clothes pins, detergent and much more.

The buckets were assembled by both parishes in January and are now ready to be shipped to Moss Point, by Tom Bull, a Sacred Heart parishioner.

Szymczak's term as Associated Churches board president ends

FORT WAYNE — Thomas Szymczak, pastoral associate at Queen of Angels Parish, recently

HOLY CROSS BROTHER CHOSEN AS ST. PATRICK DAY PARADE MARSHAL



BROTHER CHARLES MCBRIDE, CSC

Holy Cross Brother Edward Courtney, CSC, 87, was the grand marshal of the annual St. Patrick Day Parade held in downtown South Bend, Saturday, March 11. Over 60 units marched in the largest-ever St. Pat's Parade for South Bend. Brother Edward is well known in the South Bend area for flying the American flag along U.S. 933 near Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame. Brother Edward is a resident of Dujarie House infirmary at Holy Cross Village.

completed his two-year term as board president of Associated Churches of Fort Wayne and Allen County. He is succeeded by Charles Hatten of First Christian Church; the transition occurred at their 62nd annual meeting at Hall's Guesthouse on March 10. Szymczak was the first Catholic board president in the organization's history, and during his tenure, he more than tripled the membership of area Catholic churches in Associated Churches. The group's membership includes roughly 200 church communities.

Knights sponsor Lourdes pilgrimage

SOUTH BEND — This summer, the Santa Maria Council 552 of

the Knights of Columbus will send its 41st pilgrim who has been diagnosed with a medical ailment or problem to the famous shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in southern France.

This charitable and humane event comes from the proceeds from the council's 41st annual Lourdes Charity Ball that was recently held.

The process of selecting an individual for the trip is considered by a special committee. A medical diagnosis of a serious condition must be certified by a medical doctor. Applications must be submitted to Toni and K.C. Pocius, 22411 Applewood Ln., South Bend, Ind. 46628.

Applicants must be from St. Joseph County. — *EJD*

Serving and learning during ND break

BY MICHAEL O. GARVEY

NOTRE DAME — More than 200 University of Notre Dame students will spend their spring break, March 11 to 18, working in the desolated Gulf Coast region and in impoverished areas of Appalachia, visiting with migrant workers in the California desert, speaking with social activists and policy makers in New York and Washington, D.C., and as guests of developmentally disabled people in Canada.

The students are enrolled in the Spring Break Seminars, one-credit courses administered by the faculty and staff of Notre Dame's Center for Social Concerns in cooperation with other academic departments of the university and often with assistance from the Notre Dame Alumni Association as well.

Before their departure from Notre Dame's campus on March 10, 11 and 12, participating students attended orientation classes and read Catholic social teachings relevant to the sites and communities they were to visit.

Eight students and two graduate students visited New Orleans and

other Gulf Coast areas to examine environmental and human rights issues arising from the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

The largest of the seminars, on Appalachia, sent 150 students to 16 sites in Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia and Tennessee to assist in various community service projects. The students not only worked, but also recreated with local residents while discussing with them such matters as environmental problems, education and the region's economy.

Twelve students traveled to Washington, D.C., to examine ethical and public policy issues in science and technology, which increasingly concern the federal government and various interest groups. The students met with representatives from government and religious agencies and assorted advocacy groups to discuss such subjects as nuclear waste disposal, stem-cell research and genetically modified organisms.

Five students spent a week at the L'Arche Daybreak Community in Toronto, and six more in the L'Arche Community in Washington, D.C., living and working in a community of developmentally disabled people and

their companions. They were introduced to the vision and writings of L'Arche founder Jean Vanier, and to the model of service he has inspired.

The Migrant Experiences Seminar sent 10 students to Immokalee, Fla., where they worked in the fields with migrant workers, assist agencies that serve migrants and live with migrant families.

Eight students participated in the Holy Cross Mission Seminar in the Coachella region of southern California at the Parish of Nuestra Senora de Soledad Coachella. Working with members of Notre Dame's founding religious community, the Congregation of Holy Cross, and hosted by local families, the students will study the Catholic Church's "option for the poor" through an immersion in the spirituality, culture and economy of a poor rural community.

The Children and Poverty Seminar sent 13 students to New York City to examine issues affecting youth, especially those who are poor. Their itinerary will include visits with officials at UNICEF and administrators at Columbia University's National Center for Children and Poverty.



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Mater Ecclesiae School of Prayer touches Auburn, Bishop Dwenger

BY DEB WAGNER

Until you are convinced that prayer is the best use of your time, you will not find time for prayer.

— Hilary Ottensmeyer, OSB

FORT WAYNE — Over half a decade ago, Sister Jane Carew, OV, and Donna Macino, director and associate director respectively of the Office of Catechesis, embarked on a journey that came to fruition most recently at Immaculate Conception Parish in Auburn late last year. In the jubilee year of 2000, they went to the Jubilee Event for Catechesis in Rome. This event would lay the foundation for the School of Prayer locally that has something for everyone.

One of the speakers at the Jubilee Event for Catechesis was Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, now Pope Benedict XVI. Pope Benedict observed that people could benefit from additional instruction to develop the prayer aspect of their lives. He encouraged those in attendance to establish Schools of Prayer in their local diocese.

Sister Jane and Donna Macino prayed and studied Cardinal Ratzinger's commission to the crowd for several months. During this time, they were also inspired by the thoughts of St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, who is also known as Edith Stein. This saint thought that prayer is the highest achievement that a human being is capable of attaining. It was through this period of discernment that the Mater Ecclesiae School of Prayer was developed.

The name Mater Ecclesiae was chosen for the name of the School of Prayer because it is the

name of a painting of the Blessed Virgin Mary with Jesus that hangs outside of the papal apartment in Rome. Pope John Paul II had this artwork painted in order to have an image of our Blessed Mother to gaze upon as he recuperated from his injuries received during the assassination attempt many years ago.

The School of Prayer looks specifically to the fourth pillar of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Each session is correlated to speak to the specific details of this pillar, yet it allows participants to reach conclusions through prayer, self-study of authors pertinent in church history and guided instruction. Participants are encouraged to take what they learn and teach it to others in their parish or school community.

One participant and teacher from Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne chose to lead the senior class in praying the Liturgy of the Hours daily.

Regina Starr of Immaculate Conception Parish in Auburn found the Mater Ecclesiae School of Prayer to be life changing for her due to the various perspectives presented.

"Each person in the group was touched by different authors in different ways, and it all came together and connected to each other. We all arrived at the same point, but through a different path," Starr said. "The School of Prayer helped set my priorities and how prayer influences other things in my life. It made me make prayer a priority."

The School of Prayer has a structured format. There is a limit of 12 participants who meet once a month for eight months. In between monthly meetings, participants commit to 15 minutes of personal prayer a day and about

100 pages of reading on the topic of personal prayer.

Similar to a college practicum, there is a natural progression to the topics presented and each person is asked to prepare a meaningful discussion at the meeting. Topics include longing for a communion with God; developing a life of prayer; exposing oneself to early church fathers such as Athanasius, Clement of Alexandria, Origen and Tertullian; commitment to a life of prayer; learning the steps of prayer affirmed by Pope Benedict XVI; studying the life of faith and its relevance to prayer; encountering the difficulties of prayer such as distractions, dryness and darkness; and the Eucharist.

Keith Turner, also of Immaculate Conception Parish in Auburn, enjoyed participating in the School of Prayer with his wife, Cindy. Keith found that the more he worked with and studied the materials presented, the more he uncovered. He said, "I do not consider myself a theologian by any means. Whether you're a neophyte in the Catholic faith or a priest, the information presented can appeal to everyone no matter where you are in your walk with God."

Cindy is looking forward to sitting down from time to time and reviewing the information again.

The highlight of the School of Prayer occurs during the eighth and final meeting with the Eucharist since it is the focal point of the Catholic faith.

Starr concluded, "Sister laid the foundation and brought us to the heart of the Catholic Church — the Eucharist. I receive (the body and blood of Christ) with more reverence than ever before."

Abortion, home heating issue advance to conference committee process

BY BRIGID CURTIS AYER

INDIANAPOLIS — Politics at its best and worst can be viewed in the waning days of the Indiana General Assembly and is often heightened during a process called the conference committee.

Followed and understood mainly by Statehouse insiders, this fast-paced, often convoluted, mayhem leaves even the legislatively inclined baffled.

This year, like others, is no exception. And in the case of controversial issues such as abortion, especially leading up to an election year when political stakes are higher, it ups the ante of the political bargaining — a key component of the conference committee process.

House Bill 1172, a priority bill for the Indiana Catholic Conference illustrates the conference committee process. The bill would add more information for women seeking abortion under Indiana's informed consent law.

The version of the bill, which passed the Indiana House of Representatives with bipartisan support by a (70-30) vote, did five things — before it went into conference committee. It informed women considering abortion 1) that life begins at fertilization; 2) that the fetus may feel pain during the abortion; 3) that after 20 weeks of gestation since the fetus may feel pain an anesthetic for the fetus may be available; 4) that written information be provided on physical risks of abortion; and 5) that written information on adoption alternatives be given.

A conference committee is made up of two members of each chamber, appointed by the presiding officers. A bill goes to a conference committee upon refusal of the first chamber to concur in the amendments adopted by the second chamber.

Since HB 1172 was amended in the Senate, the bill's author has the option to agree or concur with the amendments or to disagree, thus dissenting with the amendments. If the author dissents, then a conference committee must meet and attempt to prepare a version of the measure acceptable to both houses. "Since Rep. Harris, the bill's author, decided not to concur, the bill moved to a conference committee," said Glenn Tebbe, executive director of the Indiana Catholic Conference.

The conference committee is made up of four conferees appointed by the leadership of each political caucus including the House Republicans, House Democrats, Senate Republicans and Senate Democrats. The conferees for HB 1172 were Rep. Tim Harris (R-Marion) House author of the bill, Sen. Jeff Drozda (R-Westfield) Senate sponsor of the bill, Rep. Earl Harris (D-East Chicago) and Sen. Allie Craycraft (D-Selma).

"While these meetings are public, many unofficial discussions occur," said Tebbe. "Some may be

between two legislators or others may be a one-on-one discussion between a legislator and lobbyist.

"Sometimes it takes more than one conference committee meeting to come up with a final report," said Tebbe. "Another challenge is once a conference committee report has been agreed upon by the conferees, then leadership must approve of the contents and wording before it can go to the floor for a vote."

Two reports were offered during a March 8, conference committee by Rep. Tim Harris (R-Marion), author of the bill for consideration, to determine if either could receive sufficient support. One report included 1) that the fetus might feel pain; 2) that "physical life" begins at fertilization; and 3) the Senate version of HB 1080 regarding abortion facilities.

A second report offered by Rep. Harris added a provision that would allow pharmacists to refuse to dispense an abortifacient. Rep. Tim Harris decided to go with the first report since language in the second report, "dispense an abortifacient," was a new concept that had not passed either the House or Senate chamber and would have created more opportunity for opposition from legislators.

Home heating

The home heating issue, also a priority for the Indiana Catholic Conference this year, may have found a safe harbor in a conference committee report. Earlier this session, HB 1081, the energy sales tax exemption for persons receiving heating assistance, passed the House. However in the Senate, the bill was amended into the state's controversial property tax bill HB 1001.

"Since the two chambers are far apart on resolving differences in the two versions of HB 1001, the bill's sponsors sought another place to put the sales tax exemption," said Tebbe.

"They found SB 258, a bill which deals with sales tax for recreational vehicles," he said. "Sponsors are hopeful that they can include the home heating tax exemption language into the conference committee report for SB 258."

Food handling

Language providing a food handling exemption for nonprofits, which was removed from two bills in conference committee, has found another home in HB 1235, a bill dealing with a similar topic. This report has been signed by conferees. If signed into law, the conference committee report on HB 1235 would give churches, schools and other nonprofits a food handling exemption until 2010.

After a conference committee report is approved by leadership in both the House and Senate, it is eligible to move forward to the House and Senate floor for a vote.

The Indiana General Assembly is set for adjournment on Tuesday, March 14.

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BY LINDA FURGE

Opening prayer

Dear God, kindle in us a holy flame, a steady faith so we will not be like reeds battered about in the wind. We pray for the gift of faith — for to have faith is to have purpose and meaning in life. Give us faith, O Lord, so that we find the link between you and humanity, between what we see and what we can't see, between what is sacred and what is not. Lord, give us faith today and always. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Scripture: Lk 12: 22-34

Commentary

St. Thomas Aquinas said, "The things we love tell us what we are." All of us can name the things we love, the people we trust. There is always something that keeps us going in our daily routines and when the going gets tough. Good things often come first: family, home, education, ministry. However, if we put even these good things before God, if we find we have more faith in something or someone than we have faith in God, perhaps we should reflect again on the Scripture passage below:

"Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin ... But if God so clothes the grass of the field ... how much more will he clothe you — you of little faith. And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and ... drink ... your Father knows that you need them. Instead strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

When we choose to, first and foremost, put our faith in God, we know we can then look to the person of Jesus to discover the source and content of that faith. So, what does having "faith in Jesus Christ" mean?

First of all, faith itself is a gift from God, freely given to us in baptism. Faith is a grace: "... the free and undeserved help that God gives us to respond to his call to become children of God ..." (CCC, 1996). When we respond to the gift and grace of faith, we are saying, "Yes, we believe what God has revealed in the person of Jesus Christ and through his church." And "(one) cannot believe in Jesus Christ without sharing in his Spirit. It is the Spirit who reveals to men who Jesus is (CCC, 151). It is God's Holy Spirit who guides us in our response to God's invitation to believe — as we acknowledge our faith in the one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

At the same time, we do not make our response as mindless robots. God loves us so much that we are given the freedom to use

our intellect and will to respond to this divine invitation to relationship. Faith and reason can never be at odds because God is the creator of both. An authentic life of faith requires that we cooperate with God's grace, to continually grow in both our love and understanding of the one who continually invites us ever more closely.

St. Augustine's famous quote says it best: "I believe, in order to understand; and I understand, the better to believe." In other words, we come to understand God by both knowing and experiencing God through a personal and committed relationship. Our faith is strengthened and nourished in many ways including personal prayer, good catechesis, reading and contemplating the Scriptures, and through participation in the sacraments, especially reconciliation and holy Eucharist.

And our faith becomes a "living faith" when we actively profess, bear witness and spread our belief in God in the world. "At the heart of catechesis (teaching) we find, in essence, a person, the person of Jesus of Nazareth, the only son from the Father ... who suffered and died for us and who now, after rising, is living with us forever. From this loving knowledge of Christ springs the desire to proclaim him, to 'evangelize,' and to lead others to the 'yes' of faith in Jesus Christ" (CCC #426, 429). Our living faith commits us to a Christian love that is timelessly modeled and lived by Jesus Christ.

Is our human fidelity to Jesus Christ perfect at all times? Of course not ... faith grows and develops out of our life experiences, both good and bad; and there is no doubt that we often face challenges to our faith. It is especially in times of doubt, conflict or confusion that God urges us to grow in our faith. We may wonder ... why did God not answer my prayer? ... how can my wonderfully generous Buddhist neighbor not be destined for heaven? ... why does God allow evil and suffering? A prayer for all of us in times of confusion and doubt is found in the Gospel of Mark: "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief." (9:24)

God never turns away from those of us searching for answers. How kindly Jesus treated Thomas when he doubted Christ's presence. Praying for guidance and seeking answers in Scripture and in our Catholic tradition to these difficult questions are two of the best ways to strengthen our faith. Struggling with understanding the faith, while seeking to understand it, is different from intentionally refusing to believe what is true. In the midst of an ever-changing world or difficult life situations, we look to the church, the body of Christ, to help us understand the truth as revealed by Jesus Christ. Our Catholic faith has a content:

we believe what God has revealed, what God has revealed to us through Jesus Christ; and we have faith in — we believe — what the church proposes and teaches.

The Greek and Latin roots of the word believe mean "to give one's heart to." Believing, therefore, includes both the intellectual assent to a set of truths and the giving of one's heart to the resurrected Christ, the Word of God. Giving our hearts to Jesus, believing in Jesus, moves us into a personal relationship with him in the here-and-now and summons us, by love, to become Christ for others.

Regardless of where we find ourselves on our faith journey, God loves us no matter what. We can trust that God is right here with us — both in the faith-filled times and in the doubtful times. We can confidently put our faith in Jesus Christ as he invites us to grow ever closer to himself. Openness to change and conversion is all that he asks.

As one of Bon Jovi's lyrics says: "In a world that gives you nothing, we need something to believe in." As Catholic Christians our belief in something is someone — Jesus Christ, the Word of God.

Reflection and connection

- What or who do you place

first in your life? Where does God rank?

- What challenges to your faith do you experience? How do you respond to these challenges?
- Where are you in your faith life? How has it evolved over time — or has it evolved at all?
- In what area(s) do you see room for your faith to grow? How do you plan to grow in your faith? Are you open to change?

Evangelizing action challenge and closing prayer

Our closing prayer was taken from The Catechism of the Catholic Church #222-27. This catechism reading served as inspiration for this session's evangelizing action challenges (inserted within the reading itself).

"Believing in God, the only One, and loving him with all our being has enormous consequences for our whole life.

- It means coming to know God's greatness and majesty: "Behold, God is great, and we must 'serve God first.'" Therefore, we must "serve God first."

For interior renewal: Turn to the Book of Psalms in the Bible and prayerfully recite one of the many psalms of praise to the

Lord.

- It means living in thanksgiving: if God is the only one, everything we are and have comes from him: "What have you that you did not receive?" "What shall I render to the Lord for all his bounty to me?"

- It means knowing the unity and true dignity of all men: Everyone is made in the image and likeness of God.

For reaching out to others: Each morning give thanks for the gift of faith and ask God to give you an opportunity to share your faith with another.

- It means making good use of created things: faith in God, the only one, leads us to use everything that is not God only insofar as it brings us closer to him, and to detach ourselves from it insofar as it turns us away from him.

My Lord and my God, take from me everything that distances me from you.

My Lord and my God, give me everything that brings me closer to you.

My Lord and my God, detach me from myself to give my all to you.

For transforming society: Find one way to "make good use of created things" or to detach yourself from something that distances you from God.

- It means trusting God in every circumstance, even in adversity. A prayer of St. Theresa of Jesus wonderfully expresses this trust:

Let nothing trouble you / Let nothing frighten you
Everything passes / God never changes

Patience / Obtains all
Whoever has God / Wants for nothing
God alone is enough.

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Conscience must concur with church's moral teaching, politicians told

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Responding to a recent statement by Catholic Democrats in the House of Representatives affirming “the primacy of conscience” in their voting decisions, three key leaders of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops said conscience “must be consistent with fundamental moral principles,” including the church’s opposition to abortion. “As members of the church, all Catholics are obliged to shape our consciences in accord with the moral teaching of the church,” said a “Statement on Responsibilities of Catholics in Public Life,” which called abortion “a grave violation of the most fundamental human right — the right to life.” The March 10 statement was signed by Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore, chairman of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities; Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick of Washington, chairman of the Task Force on Catholic Bishops and Catholic Politicians; and Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio of Brooklyn, N.Y., chairman of the Committee on Domestic Policy. In their Feb. 28 statement, 55 of the 73 Catholic Democrats in the House acknowledged Catholic teaching on “the value of human life and the undesirability of abortion” and pledged to support alternatives to abortion, such as adoption, improved access to children’s health care and child care, and “policies that encourage paternal and maternal responsibility.” They said they “seek the church’s guidance” on those issues but also believe “in the primacy of conscience.” Some of the politicians who signed that statement are strongly pro-life while others support keeping abortion legal.

Head of bishops' conference, accused of sexual abuse, denies claim

SPOKANE, Wash. (CNS) — Bishop William S. Skylstad of Spokane, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, has denied a woman’s claim that he sexually abused her more than 40 years ago when she was a minor. Diocesan attorney Greg Arpin said in a March 8 statement, “Bishop Skylstad categorically denies the accusation.” “I have kept the promise of celibacy that I made when I was ordained a deacon 47 years ago,” Bishop Skylstad said in the statement. “I hope that the Spokane community will join me in praying for all those who have come forward to report sexual abuse. Please pray for me as well.” The statement said that the diocesan sexual abuse review board and Archbishop Pietro Sambi, papal nuncio to the United States, have been advised of the accusation. News of the claim was reported by media outlets March 8, but the news stories said it was filed last December as part of the diocese’s bankruptcy process. Bishop Skylstad, 72, has been a priest since 1960 and a bishop since 1977. He has headed the Spokane Diocese since 1990.

NEWS BRIEFS

DEMONSTRATORS PROTEST IMMIGRATION LEGISLATION



CNS PHOTO/KAREN CALLAWAY

Demonstrators pack Federal Plaza in Chicago after marching from the city’s West Side to rally against pending immigration legislation March 10. A House-passed immigration bill calls for tougher border protection and stiffens penalties for undocumented immigrants and those who help them. Estimates put the number of marchers up to 100,000 people.

Pope temporarily merges four Vatican councils under two presidents

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — At the start of what may be a sweeping reform of the Roman Curia, Pope Benedict XVI merged the leadership of four of the Vatican’s councils under two presidents. The Vatican announced March 11 that French Cardinal Paul Poupard, head of the Pontifical Council for Culture, also would serve as the interim president of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue and that Italian Cardinal Renato Martino, head of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, temporarily would head the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Travelers. The Vatican announced that the pope accepted the retirement of the head of the migrants’ council, Japanese Cardinal Stephen Fumio Hamao, who turned 76 March 9. To fill the vacancy, the pope united “for the time being” the presidency of the office with that of justice and peace. Cardinal Poupard’s assignment as president of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue filled a post made vacant after the pope Feb. 15 named its former head, Archbishop Michael Fitzgerald, to be the new ambassador to Egypt and the Arab League.

Holy Land at critical stage, Cardinal McCarrick says during visit

JERUSALEM (CNS) — The Holy Land is at a critical moment in its history following the Hamas victory in Palestinian elections and preceding March 28 Israeli elections,

said Washington Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick. “There is the sense that this is a very crucial moment, and it will require an enormous amount of wisdom and courage and prayer because there are so many intangibles we just don’t know,” Cardinal McCarrick told Catholic News Service March 10, the final day of a three-day visit to the Holy Land. The Washington cardinal said both elections could “very significantly change the equation” of keeping the peace in the Holy Land. The elections also may make it more difficult for the U.S.-backed “road map” — designed for a permanent, two-state solution for Israeli-Palestinian peace — to move forward, he said. The cardinal said the U.S. Catholic Church is committed to the road map, developed in 2003. Despite the challenges during this time of transition, the United States needs to be dedicated to a two-state solution that gives Israel “recognized borders and freedom from terrorism” while at the same time giving Palestinians a “viable and peaceful state,” he said.

Bush urges groups to bid for funding for faith-based initiatives

WASHINGTON (CNS) — President George W. Bush urged faith-based charities to bid competitively for federal funding March 9. In a luncheon speech at a daylong National Conference on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, Bush said progress has been made but much more needs to be done to give faith-based social service programs equal footing with secular nonprofits in federal, state and corporate grant-making. “It used to be that groups were prohibited from receiving any federal funding what-

soever because they had a cross or a star or a crescent on the wall,” Bush said. “And that’s changed for the better.” He called faith-based service organizations America’s “armies of compassion.”

Cardinal says schools could teach Islam along with Christianity

ROME (CNS) — If a public school has a significant number of Muslim students, there is no reason why those students should not have a weekly course on Islam while Catholic students are in catechism class, said Cardinal Renato Martino. The cardinal, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, was asked to comment on a request by the Union of Italian Islamic Communities that Islam be offered alongside the weekly classes in Catholicism in Italian public schools. “If in a school there are a hundred Muslim children, I do not see why their religion cannot be taught,” the cardinal told reporters March 9 after addressing a conference on “Paths to Peace,” sponsored by the St. Louis of France Cultural Center in Rome.

Aid agencies says 3.5 million Kenyans face starvation

LONDON (CNS) — Catholic aid agencies in Britain and the United States say as many as 3.5 million Kenyans face a severe food emergency because of several seasons of drought. The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, an agency of the Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales, said millions of Kenyans could starve to death unless emergency food supplies are delivered soon. Dominic Stolarow,

a CAFOD humanitarian officer who has been visiting the worst-affected areas in the northeastern part of the country, said Kenya is also facing its most severe drought since 1971. “Cattle die first in times of drought as they can only go for up to three days without water,” he said in a March 7 statement. “In some villages I went into I saw carcasses just piled up,” he said. “There is very little people can do once they have lost their livestock.” The famine and drought have been caused by consecutive poor rainy seasons.

Boston Archdiocese to settle with 88 abuse victims

BOSTON (CNS) — The Boston Archdiocese said March 9 that 88 people with clergy sexual abuse claims have agreed to a settlement in which an arbitrator will determine how much compensation each receives. Awards are to range from \$5,000 to \$200,000, averaging about \$75,000 per person. “The archdiocese presented this settlement program in good faith to compensate those survivors who have been abused by priests of the archdiocese and to do so in a way that is sensitive to the pastoral needs of the survivors,” the archdiocese said in a statement. Arbitrator Paul A. Finn was to hold hearings with victims in March and April and determine the awards by May 8 so that victims could receive compensation by May 15. About 100 other abuse claims are not addressed in the March 9 settlement. Of these, 30 will be offered arbitration in which the arbitrator determines whether or not abuse occurred. The other 70 involve allegations against lay employees or against priests who were not from the archdiocese, or allegations by people who were no longer minors at the time of the alleged abuse.

Cardinal-designate says comments show fear of Sino-Vatican relations

HONG KONG (CNS) — Cardinal-designate Joseph Zen Ze-kium of Hong Kong said recent criticism of his papal appointment from a leader of the government-approved church body in Beijing “shows how worried he is about the prospect of normalization of relations between China and the Holy See.” Anthony Liu Bainian, vice chairman of the government-approved Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association, told the British news agency Reuters March 8 that many Chinese believe Pope Benedict XVI’s appointment of Cardinal-designate Zen showed the Vatican wants to challenge Beijing. Liu also described Cardinal-designate Zen as a threat to the Beijing government just as the late Pope John Paul II was a threat to the communist regime in Poland and said the Hong Kong bishop is “widely known as an opponent of communism.” The government church official made his comments as the March 3-13 plenary session of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference was convening in Beijing. Liu is a standing committee member of the conference.

SUMMER CAMPS



Marian prepares for camps

MISHAWAKA — During the long days of summer, students usually trade their books and pencils for relaxation and fun.

At Marian High School, the coaches keep teaching in their classrooms and either the courts or the fields.

“The camps also give our current student athletes the ability to bond and teach life skills to younger athletes,” Glon added. “It’s important for our kids to learn how to educate and give to back to the community.”

The following are the dates and times for Marian summer camps:

Date	Grades	Time	Sport
June 5-9	K-2	10 a.m.-Noon	Boys Basketball
June 5-9	3-4	10 a.m.-Noon	Boys Basketball
June 5-9	5-6	1-3 p.m.	Boys Basketball
June 5-9	7-8	1-3 p.m.	Boys Basketball
June 5-9	9	6-8 p.m.	Boys Basketball
June 5-9	Team Camp	6-8 p.m.	Boys Basketball
June 12-16	3-5	9 a.m.-Noon	Boys Soccer
June 12-16	K-8	1-4 p.m.	Poms
June 12-16	Team Camp	5:30-8 p.m.	Girls Volleyball
June 12-16	4-9	9-11 a.m.	Girls Track
June 12-16	4-9	1-3 p.m.	Boys Track
June 19-23	K-2	9-11:30 a.m.	Football
June 19-23	6-8	9 a.m.-Noon	Boys Soccer
June 20-23	Team Camp		Cheerleading
June 26-29	5-9	12:30-3:30 p.m.	Baseball
June 26-July 1	3-5	9 a.m.-Noon	Football
June 26-July 1	Team Camp	2-10 p.m.	Football
June 26-July 1	Team Camp	6-8 p.m.	Soccer
June 26-July 1	K-8	9-11:30 a.m.	Cheerleading
July 10-12	6-8	1-4 p.m. (tentative)	Girls Soccer
July 10-14	6-8	9 a.m.-Noon	Football
July 10-14	Team Camp	5-7 p.m. (tentative)	Girls Soccer
July 17-20	3-9	9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.	Volleyball
TBA	3-8		Girls Basketball
TBA	Team Camp		Girls Basketball
TBA	K-8		Boys/Girls Tennis

Team Camps are for current students.

Sign up brochures for all youth camps are available for pick up in Marian’s main and athletic offices in May or the first day of camp. They may also be picked up at Marian feeder school offices and on Marian’s Web site: www.marianhs.org. For more questions, please contact the Marian athletic office at (574) 259-5858.

“No matter how old you are, keep reminding yourself that it’s not winning, but sport itself, striving for realistic goals and giving your all, that is what is really important,” commented Glon. “The playing of sports has an intrinsic value, no matter what your playing level you will build a fit body, self discipline; you will learn team work, and how to handle adversity,” Glon said.

— Joe Kozinski

Saint Joseph’s High School offers camps

SOUTH BEND — Summer brings with it warm days, crickets at night and talks around a roaring camp fire. The season also carries a time when athletes can receive quality individual instruction.

“The opportunity to develop student athletes’ individual athletic skills is a positive about the Saint Joseph’s summer camps,” commented Eric Gohlke, athletic director. “Our camps also give our coaching staff time to bond with the younger athletes.”

“We are excited to be adding a couple of camps to our schedule this year in the form of softball and soccer,” added Gohlke. “All of our camps are on site and it gives future Indians a great chance to see and play on our fine facilities.”

The dates and times for the camps are as follows:

Sport	Date	Time	Grades
Boys BB	June 12-16	2:30-4:30 p.m. Noon-2:30 9 a.m.-Noon	K-3 4-6 7-9
Baseball	June 19-22	8:-9 a.m. 9-10:30 a.m. 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.	K-3 4-6 7-9
Football	June 26-29	8:30-9:30 a.m. 10 a.m.-Noon 1-3 p.m.	K-3 4-6 7-9
Softball	June 12-15	8-9 a.m. 9-10:30 a.m. 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.	K-3 4-6 7-9
Girls BB	June 26-30 July 10-14	9-11 a.m. Noon-2:30 p.m. 9 a.m.-Noon	K-4 5-7 8-9
Volleyball	June 19-22	9-11:30 a.m. 1-4 p.m.	4-6 7-9
Girl Soccer	July 10-14	5:30-6:30 p.m. 5:30-7 p.m.	K-4 5-8

Camp registration forms are available in the St. Joseph’s athletic office, (574) 233-6137.

“Our camps really accomplish a couple of prominent things for the Saint Joe Community,” Gohlke stated. “They start the process of building relationships with our coaching staff and, probably more importantly, our school.”

— Joe Kozinski

Fort Wayne high schools to offer summer camps

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Luers and Bishop Dwenger high schools will offer several athletic and extracurricular camps throughout the summer.

The following is a summary of camps.

Bishop Luers High School summer camp program

- Track and field camp June 19-22
- Football camp July 17-20
- Show Choir Camp Aug. 1-4
- Cheerleading Camp Aug. 7-11

Other summer camps in the planning stages include tennis, girls soccer, boys soccer, girls basketball, boys basketball and girls volleyball.

Information and registration forms for summer camps may be found on the school’s Web site, www.bishopluers.org.

Bishop Dwenger High School summer camp program

- Youth football camp June 5-9
- Team football camp June 5-9
- Youth volleyball camp June 5-9
- Team boys soccer camp June 5-9
- Dance team camp June 12-16
- Youth basketball camp boys and girls Session One June 12-16
- Youth basketball camp boys and girls Session Two July 10-14
- Wrestling camp June 12-16
- Boys youth soccer camp June 12-16
- Girls soccer team camp June 12-16
- Grade school boys summer basketball league June 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28, 30
- Baseball camp June 26-30
- High school volleyball July 17-21
- Cheerleading camp July 24-28

• Summer conditioning: Also available is an eight-week program in flexibility, plyometrics, speed, agility and weight training designated for the athlete’s particular sport(s). Monday, Wednesday and Thursday June 5-30 and July 11-28.

Information and registration forms may be found at www.bishopdwenger.com. — Bonnie Elbersson

Marian Knights' teams to represent their school with traditional honor and pride

BY JOE KOZINSKI

MISHAWAKA — The time has come for the student athletes to make their way from the gyms, rinks and wrestling mats to the wide open spaces of the diamonds, tracks, courses, tennis courts and rugby pitches.

Marian High School athletes have started to move outdoors with a spring in their steps ready to compete in the final contests of the school year.

"We had a solid season last year, fourth in conference, third in the sectionals and had a state champion," said Jason Smith, girls track coach. "Unfortunately our state champion graduated."

"We look to be very competitive again this season in the Northern Indiana Conference and at the state level," Smith explained. "We return three of our four runners in the 4x8 and 4x4 with junior Mary Kate

Quiett, who finished eighth in the state last year in the 400 and eighth in the state in cross country add to our depth.

"What really helps us this year is our senior leadership," commented Smith. "Lindsey Gillman, Sam Smogor, Carmen Masterson and Maureen Pendergast have really stepped up and lead through example."

While the distance runners are the core of the girls' team, the boys track team strength is in their sprints and field events.

"If we can shake off the injuries that slowed us down last season, I see our depth in the sprints as a definite plus," said Chris Killilea, boys track coach. "Health will be the key to be competitive in the conference as well as getting a number of events out of the sectionals."

"Nick Tripple, Ryan Maas, Blake and Blair Powell are all back from our 4x100 relay team and Adam Grove will anchor our

400 and 4x4 team," commented Killilea. "Our distance runners will be solidly led by Dane Rigney, who made it to the regionals last year, and Andy Ginter."

"Our field events have some really good experience and athleticism with Chris Alalade in the high jump and long jump returning and Maas in the pole vault," Killilea explained. "We just have some really quality kids that will go out and compete."

As the boys track team will be busy running, jumping and throwing, the girls' softball team will likely be breaking in a couple of new diamonds this spring.

"Our goal is to play at our new complex this spring," explained George Grenert, girls softball coach. "Our old fields were quality facilities, but the new ones are definitely on the top end in the area."

"Last year, we won 18 games and felt that we were below our expectations," replied Grenert. "We only lost two players to graduation and are returning five or six seniors."

"We have some very talented underclassmen to add to the mix," continued Grenert. "We can and will compete for the conference and sectional crowns."

"We return our Division I shortstop in Mia Ettl who was our leading hitter from last year," said Grenert. "And we have three

highly talented pitchers in senior Leila Charvat, junior Kelley Murray and sophomore Samantha DeFord."

A rotation like that across the grades has to make a coach smile."

While Coach Grenert has a smile on his face, the boys baseball coach, Tim Prister, is still grinning from last year's squad.

"We finished 21-8 and in second in the NIC behind Penn," Prister

said. "We've taken some steps as a program, and we want to take the next step, legitimately competing for the conference title."

"We lost a lot of quality players and leaders from last year's team and our depth is about to be tested," Prister said. "I'm really encouraged by the 14 seniors trying out for the team."

"The kids are buying into the system we have put in over the last four seasons," explained Prister. "The continuity is in place and the chemistry between the classes is very good."

"This year we will have less power but as hitters we may be on the same level," Prister continued. "Scott Micinski, pitcher/shortstop, will be our foundation as a four year starter."

"When the lights go on Geoff Lesar, a .400 hitter, is right up there as a player," remarked Prister. "We also can count on senior left handed pitcher Ben Niespodziany and expect a break-

out season from Adam Jacobsen."

Baseball holds a traditional place in the American mainstream sports, rugby seems to be the up and coming sport on the Marian campus.

"We had a decent season last year, and have a very good senior class coming back," expressed Larry Daher, rugby coach. "Our forwards should be our strength and we will like last season improve to a state caliber team by season's end."

"We really are complimented with one of the best players in the state if not the Midwest in Steve McNamara," said Daher. "Paul Rahrig is also a bright spot as a three year starter and our leader in the tight five."

"We are not as big as we have been in the past, but we have as much speed as we have ever had," Daher continued. "We have a sophomore-dominated backline and they should get better and better as the season progresses."

While the aggressiveness and competitiveness is displayed on the pitch, the same components will be found on the local links.

"We have a respectable season last year with a 14-4 record and qualifying two golfers for the state tournament," commented Jim Kryder, boys golf coach. "Colin VanEs and Michael McShane, state qualifiers, bring with them experience and leadership in addition to the strong presence of John Firth."

"The kids know what it takes and what is necessary for us to be successful," Kryder said. "I expect that the improvement from last year to this season will be tremendous."

"We will still be very young with four returning lettermen including three seniors and three juniors," commented Kryder. "As it looks right now our incoming class shows as much depth as we have ever had coming into the school."

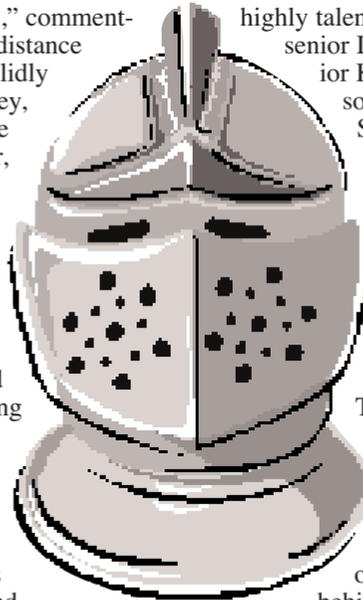
The boys golf team may be young but the girls tennis team has been drinking from the fountain of youth.

"We won our conference last year and with it lost seven varsity players," explained Coach Brian Beigle. "I think we would call this season a rebuilding year."

"We are down to two girls with varsity experience," Beigle continued. "Our two seniors are also our two top players in Merideth Nolan and Emily Walker."

"Some really good news is that we have 11 freshmen and 11 sophomores that will be competing to fill the void left by graduation," Beigle commented.

The teams of Marian High school trading in their parkas for shorts seem to be on the right track or course or for that matter pitch, to represent the Knights with the traditional honor and pride.



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Saint Joseph's preps for the spring sports season

BY JOE KOZINSKI

SOUTH BEND — There is something stirring on the corner of Angela and North Michigan, and it looks like it is about to make some loud noise this spring.

The culprit is the student body of Saint Joseph's High School as they prepare to compete in the last season of the school year.

"The numbers of participants are up tremendously this year," said Mike McCarthy, track coach. "We have 44 girls out right now. I think it's a cross between getting some kids hooked and them spreading the word and that our coaching staff does a very good job of relating to the student athletes."

"After our depth, our strength will be in the distance events," continued McCarthy. "Our cross country team went undefeated and made it to the semi state and it should carry over into the track season."

"Ali Sweeney and Anna Foldenauer were first team All-Conference in cross country and were competitive and have surpassed all of our expectations," said McCarthy. "We also will have some great kids in the hurdles with Kristine Kowalski in the 300 and high hurdles and Maddie Toth in the hurdles and long jump."

"Kowalski is focused and can be considered the best around this area," said McCarthy. "Maddie has already jumped 16-foot 3-inches this spring and is improving with every meet."

"It looks like we also have a new sprinter that is blessed with some natural talent," said McCarthy. "Alex Brooks, daughter of Notre Dame standout Reggie Brooks, will anchor us in the 100 and 200 this year."

The 44 girls on the track team may seem like a nice big group but when a head count was taken of the Indian's boys track team, the magic number has grown to 59.

"We are returning 80 percent of last year's team that went 6-2 in the Northern Indiana

Conference," McCarthy said. "We have a nice balance and believe that we are as good as anyone in the conference and sectional."

"Our strengths are in our relays, the long jump (two athletes have jumped 20-plus feet) and the hurdles (two out of top four finishers in the conference last year)," McCarthy said. "We've had some kids work hard in the off season participating in AAU track and even competing nationally in some events."

"Kanteh Kamanda has colleges looking at him in the 400 and long jump and Jordan Taylor, after an outstanding football season, will handle duties in the 100, 200 and long jump," said McCarthy. "Andrew McCorry was first team all NIC in cross country and will anchor us in the mile and 800 and Tayler Summerlin who was a national champ this summer will compete in the 200, 400 and 4 x 100 relay."

"Although we will be strong on the track, we also have an athlete that is an excellent thrower in Marcus Macellari," McCarthy explained. "Last season Marcus had to compete at the J.V. level because of his transfer status and won all his events, this year he gets to participate on the varsity team."

While Macellari will be throwing the shot put for distance, the girls softball team will be throwing more for accuracy.

"The real strength of our team will be pitching," said Dan Olinger, girls softball coach. "Shelby Dzievla and Kim Lipinski give us a nice one-two combination on the hill."

"We will be young after graduating five of last year's starters and with only four seniors, but a very solid sophomore class," Olinger remarked. "We will be good defensively, improved offensively and we will have the best speed that we've had in the last 10 years."

"I think we will be very strong and have a very good nucleus with Lauren Paczkowski at shortstop, and with Alli Cantanzorite and Nicole Osowski sharing some of the catching responsibili-

ties," Olinger commented.

"We have a tough schedule, but I see us peaking at the end of the season going into sectionals."

Whereas the girl's softball team will rely on their pitching the baseball team will place its trust in outstanding senior leadership.

"Ryan Newland, shortstop, and Joe Connor, left-handed pitcher, are both ready to take over the reigns as co-captains for our squad," boasted David Luczkowski, baseball coach. "Joe is a role model and has great work ethic and Ryan developed his work ethic over the summer and has done a great job in the weight room."

"They're as good as leaders as we have had," Luczkowski said. "Both of them have opportunities to continue playing at the college level."

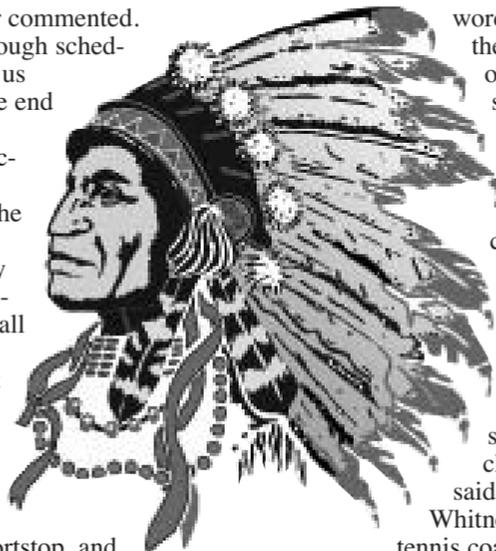
"After our two seniors, we are young — young, but experienced," explained Luczkowski. "Last year we started five sophomores and they got quality at bats and pitching and grew in experience through the year."

"This season we will rely on our offense and defense," Luczkowski continued. "We don't have an ace pitcher like last season, but we have confidence in our entire staff to give us quality innings."

"Our pitching must let our defense to make the plays, and we can manufacture some runs with our offense," Luczkowski said. "The kids really came together as a group over the summer playing in tournaments and I feel that it is going to carry over into the season."

"I really like our chances," Luczkowski added. "I've been waiting for the season to get started since last October."

Graduation will be the key



word used in the early part of the season for the Lady Indians on the hard courts.

"We graduated five starters from last year's sectional champs," said Laura Whitney, girls

tennis coach. "This should be considered a rebuilding year, but the girls have worked so very hard in the off season."

"We have 40 girls trying out for the team this year, up from 20 last season," Whitney commented. "Tennis seems to be on the rise, numerous coaches from the area are talking about the increased turn out."

"Kate Mullaney, a junior, was our number two single from last year is back as well as Caroline Shakour who has varsity experience and has improved quite a bit in the off season," said Whitney. "Many of our girls have worked so hard that I would think a good goal this season would be a conference title."

Youth seems to be the word

muttered most around campus during the spring semester in most of the sports, golf not withstanding.

"This is my first year at the helm of the boy's golf team," explained Joe Miller. "It looks like we will be dominated in numbers by freshmen and experienced sophomore golfers."

"We have just started practicing, and it seems that the team has a good attitude and they are willing to work and get better," Miller continued. "The goal of our team will be to continue to get better week to week and become competitive."

"We want to look toward the second half of the season and be ready for the sectional," Miller added. "It will be exciting to watch the kids grow and develop throughout the season and years to come."

Saint Joseph's High School seems entrenched with a youth movement that is exuberant and growing in numbers exponentially that can only mean success for the upcoming season as well as the years to come.

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More CYO basketball teams profiled

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — As the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) says good-bye to another great season of play, a few teams are left to be profiled.

St. Jude boys 8

Matt Momper has coached most of the same boys since they were six-year-old "Y-Ballers." Now they are eighth graders and finished second place (13-2 overall) in CYO action. These 13 classmates were a tight-knit group of friends who succeed in the classroom as well. Momper reported that at least 10 received high honors and five of them have already qualified for and taken their SATs.

The Eagles, who held each of their opponents to 29 points or less during the season, stressed defense from day one. Momper also took the opportunity to incorporate confirmation prayers into the season, praying before and after each practice. The assistant coaches this year were Bob Didomenico and Mark Mugg.

"We tried to teach the boys more than just basketball and hope this will help them become better husbands, fathers, employees later in life," said Momper.

The Eagles were runner-up in the Gold League tournament losing to St. Vincent 38-48 in the championship game.

St. Jude girls 7

With seven daughters, John Petrie has been able to coach girls' basketball at St. Jude for over 20 years now. This year, he took his 10 eighth graders to a 16-1 season, remaining undefeated until the championship game of the nine-team white league.

The blue and gold Eagles lost to St. Charles by a score of 38-28. "We had some sickness for the final game, but make no excuses. They (St. Charles) played a great game and we just couldn't step it up to beat them," said Petrie.

Jeff Petrie assisted by working with the post players and Martha Kebede worked with the guards for the Eagles this year.

Summing up this season, Petrie said, "We had a fundamentally sound, scrappy team who loved to play basketball." Petrie will move up to the eighth grade level next year with his daughter, Maria, but may consider switching to coaching boys' basketball when his youngest, a son, is old enough.

St. Joseph, Decatur, boys 8

Tyler Staub and Bryan Miller tied as high scorers this season for Terry Smith's St. Joseph, Decatur, boys. In his sixth year at St. Joe, Smith reports that although their record did not show many wins (2-18), this group of nine boys is one the best

teams he has ever coached.

"They taught me more than I taught them ... how you must persevere in life when faced with struggles," said Smith. "This was a very accomplished group of students with several musicians. There will be doctors, lawyers, civil engineers in this bunch," predicted Smith.

Mike Baker and Tim Weaver were assistant coaches for the Commodores.

St. Joseph, Decatur, boys 7

Scott Macklin has coached a variety of sports since the late 1980s. He even played at St. Joseph himself while attending there. He was very pleased his 11 players each scored a bucket this year and posted a third-place finish in the CYO (6-2). Their overall season record was 18-10 with just two of their losses in double figures and two in overtime.

Todd Busick and Ryan Baker assisted Macklin. He would also like to thank Eric Dohrman for keeping the scorebook all season.

The starting five for the Commodores all scored over 100 points this season and the team averaged 32 points per game. They were 55 percent from the

free throw line with four players hitting over 6-10. In tournament play, the green and gold lost in the semi finals to St. John, Fort Wayne.

St. Joseph, Decatur, girls 8

Jim Verrone and Stan Smith led their 10 eighth graders to a perfect record (9-0) in CYO play this season.

Madison Gross led scoring, Tarryn Hake was a hustler and most improved while Chelsea Selking had a competitive streak and always gave 110 percent. Carrie Terveer was the team's point guard and ball handler, and Alyssa Alanis was one of the best defenders in the league according to Smith. He also commented that Taylor, Staci, Ashley and Nikki "all gave as much as we could have asked them to give."

Smith has coached many high school teams, yet felt this was truly the best team he has ever coached and could not have been any prouder of these girls.

The green and gold fell one

game short of the CYO tournament championship falling to St. Charles in the final game.

St. Joseph, Decatur, girls 7

When asked how long he has been coaching, Mike Stimpson said, "Let's see, I started with football at St. Joe when I was 19, and I'm 46 now. That's forever and a day."

This year, he had seven seventh graders who were very good ball players and a balanced team.

Their season record was 19-4. Three of their losses came in overtime or double overtime including a semi final tournament loss to St. Charles 23-26. The green and gold Commodores finished third place in the CYO white league and won the Adams County seventh grade title in December 2005.

Stimpson has coached this same group of girls for the past three years and their overall record was 54-11. His assistants were Dan Kaczmarek and his father, Dick.

Stimpson would like to add a big thank you to Ava Meyer for all her hard work scheduling the CYO games.

Huntington boys

After not winning a game last season, Coach Dan Bracht's goal for this year was to "win some games and finish in the middle of the pack." The Rams did just that



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with a 4-4 CYO league record and fifth place finish losing to eventual champions, St. Aloysius in the semi finals of the tournament.

The assistant coaches this year were John Fisher and Steve Godfroy. The team had 11 players: four eighth graders, six seventh graders and one sixth grader.

Bracht has been coaching different sports for over 25 years now, but will officially be retiring as his son moves on to high school.

Huntington girls

Mike Stoffel played in the 60s for Huntington Catholic and has been coaching the girls' basketball team for the past five years. He had 10 players this season: six eighth graders, one seventh grader and three sixth graders.

His assistant coach was Tom Skelly.

Commenting on the Rams 4-14 season, Stoffel said, "We were competitive, but just couldn't get that many wins."

Stoffel was pleased his three sixth graders were invited to play AAU ball at Bishop Luers, as was Kaitlyn Scheiber, eighth grader and leading scorer.



MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

Gold League boys champions St. Vincent 8 boys and the Gold League girls champions St. Charles 8 girls pose for team photos.

More teams will be highlighted next week.

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Bishop Luers High School gears up for spring sports

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Luers High School will be offering a full complement of spring sports this season, including girls' tennis and softball, boys' golf, baseball and lacrosse, and a combined girls' and boys' track program.

With 35 boys and 44 girls on the roster, track coach Jason Draper is optimistic about the upcoming season. Of that number, 13 boys and 14 girls are freshman athletes. "I'm really pleased about that," says Draper, adding that he expects them to be contributors to the team's success.

The season began in early March with two indoor meets at Huntington College, followed by a qualifying meet at Taylor University, Upland, with those finals scheduled for March 18 at Indiana University in Bloomington.

Draper points out that last year's girls' team had the best record ever in Luers history, coming in second in sectional competition and third in the conference. This year "we hope to continue where we left off," he says.

Draper, now in his ninth year as head coach, has the help of six assistants: Mark Niemoeller as pole vault coach, Heather Briggs as jump coach, Greg Gehl and Lee Rodenbeck as throwing (discus and shot put) coaches, Linda Keuneke as distance coach and

Elise Rupright as sprint coach. With the exception of Rupright, who is in her first year of coaching, the staff has been together five years.

Draper says, "We bring a good background and life experience to the sport."

The program continues to expand and improve each year and Draper feels that consistency is paying off. "I'm excited about the season," he says.

The baseball team, led by head coach Gary Rogers, is another perennial favorite of Luers athletes. With many potential players in conditioning right now and more expected as basketball season wraps up, Rogers expects upcoming tryouts to produce 30 or so players for the varsity and reserve squads.

Rogers, a guidance counselor at Paul Harding High School, has been coaching baseball for 20 years. A former player himself at the semipro level in Louisiana, he is active during the summer as an assistant commissioner and coach in the Wildcat program locally. Not surprisingly he says, "I love baseball."

Last season's successful 19-8 record may be topped this year, since Rogers has three of his top-five pitchers and four of his top-six hitters returning, including 10

seniors and several lettermen. "We have some really good kids coming back," he says with enthusiasm. "I'm real excited."

With a large turnout of hopefuls, Bishop Luers golf coach A. J. Kalver looks to have his work cut out for him early this season. Twenty-one golfers are currently conditioning three times a week in preparation for upcoming tryouts, but Kalver will have to reduce that number to 12 in rounding out his varsity and reserve squads.

He is pleased to have three returning seniors, David Felts, a four-year varsity player, as well as Adam Peterson and Mike Dowling. Also among this season's prospects are junior David Bryant and sophomores Lucas Braun and Aaron Litchfield. But there will be plenty of opportunity for younger golfers to "step up and fill some spots," says Kalver.

Kalver has been coaching golf more than 20 years, the last nine or 10 at Bishop Luers — he's lost track. He's also a physical education teacher.

The 2004 and 2005 golf teams were SAC champions, says Kalver, and last year were second in sectional play. Always optimistic, he says he expects no less for the upcoming season, which begins April 12.



Tryouts near for many Bishop Dwenger athletes

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

FORT WAYNE — Spring sports will soon be in full swing at Bishop Dwenger High School, with some athletes in physical conditioning and preparing for tryouts while others' seasons have already begun. Sports on tap include boys' track, baseball and golf and girls' track, softball and tennis.

Girls' tennis coach Anne Schenkel says 28 to 30 players plan to try out for this year's team and though "they can't pick up racquets till Monday," there's plenty of exuberance and excitement on their part. Knowing that she only has spots for about 22 of them makes her job harder, she admits.

Last year's 10-2 record gives them something to aim for, and with returning senior Alexa Rang and returning juniors Shannon Voors, Katelyn Springer and Katie Schenkel, the coach is optimistic about the coming season.

Schenkel, a former University of Notre Dame player, has been head coach since 2002. She will be assisted by Gen Workman, a former University of Saint Francis player now in her first year of coaching and by several adult volunteers.

After the season begins April 11, the schedule will be intense with two or three matches each week and invitationals on the weekends, says Schenkel.

Her coaching philosophy is simple. She says, "I tell them to give me 100 percent and have fun ... and we usually win."

Another group of Dwenger athletes preparing for tryouts are 50 baseball players, all of whom are hoping to make the final cut when coach Larry Windmiller reduces their number to 36 for his varsity and reserve teams.

Windmiller is no stranger to the process, with 18 years of coaching baseball at Bishop Dwenger under his belt. He will be assisted in the task and throughout the season by John Tone, Kevin Jefferson and Steve Johnson.

Last year's team went 21-9 and won the sectionals, says Windmiller, so this year's team has quite a challenge ahead of them. "We need to find some pitching," he says, and the catcher's position and others will be up for grabs.

With the season opener against New Haven looming on April 8, Windmiller is sure to have many of those decisions made on the path to what promis-

es to be another banner year.

When track and field competition kicked off March 1 with an indoor meet at Huntington College, girls' track coach Dave Scaggs had 70 varsity and reserve athletes on his roster.

He points out that last year's team, though fifth in the conference, featured some outstanding individual medal winners, some of whom are back this season.

Returning senior Brittany Ade was state runner-up in the 800-meter event in 2005 and has already been awarded a full scholarship to Ball State University. Jean Marqueling was an outstanding shot putter as well. In addition, middle-distance runners Lauren Ottenweller and Chloe Mack will be strong contenders.

Altogether, five seniors will provide "excellent leadership and a great work ethic" for underclassmen, says Scaggs. That number includes 30 freshmen that "I expect a lot of big things from," he adds.

In his sixth year of coaching at Bishop Dwenger, Scaggs will be assisted by Melissa Wheeler, Jessica Hayes and Tom Kenny.

Boys' track coach Chris Svarczkopf has a problem some coaches might envy with an unusually large turnout of more than 90 athletes on his roster. But he says, "I'll have difficulty getting them all in." Get them into competition he will, though, by entering them in field events or relays if necessary so everyone can participate.

Svarczkopf modestly admits to being "pretty happy" with last year's impressive record. The 2005 team was champion of the Bishop Luers, New Haven and Carroll relays, placed fourth in the SAC and third in sectional competition. The 4 x 800-relay team placed fourth at the state level, a Dwenger hurdler placed eighth, and returning pole vaulter Matthew Schipper tied for sixth. Also returning are Mike Niezer, Mike Hoffman and Ben Riefenberg, members of that state-ranked relay team.

"Their goals are real high," says Svarczkopf.

Last year's winning hurdler and last year's SAC shot put champ have graduated, leaving opportunities for younger athletes, he adds.

Along with head coach Svarczkopf is a "nice staff" of assistants. They include Herb Widner, Eric Ade, Don Schipper, Andrew Schipper and Dan Richardville. Hulio Garcia has had health problems but will soon return to the coaching staff.



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CYO and ICCL face off in playoffs

BY ELMER J. DANCH

SOUTH BEND — The school-boy basketballers from the Fort Wayne Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) faced off with the Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL) of South Bend during the annual diocesan playoffs by winning three of the four contests.

Big schools, league champs contest

CYO-team St. Vincent of Fort Wayne nipped the Corpus Christi Cougars, ICCL overall champions, 53-56.

Corpus Christi had the comeback — down 10 points with two minutes to play — and took its only lead of the game with 15 seconds left, had a steal with 10 seconds left, but failed to convert the free throws. St. Vincent won by one point on the buzzer beat-

er. Matt Mackowiak of Corpus Christi was the top individual scorer with 15 points and teammate Michael Kendzicki had 13. Wade Markley tossed in 10 for the victors.

Big school, runner-up contest

St. Thomas Spartans of Elkhart defeated St. Jude of Fort Wayne quite handily, 44-29, to become the sole ICCL winners from the big school divisions. St. Jude had a one point half time lead.

The Spartans led all the way as Joshua Riikonen paced all scorers with 17 points and teammate Michael Kibilowski picked up 11 points.

Small school contest

CYO-team St. Aloysius, Yoder, tipped St. Jude of the ICCL, 32-26, as Kyle Sorg led all scorers with 18 points. David Halter tallied 10 for St. Jude. St. Jude had a one point half time lead.

Small school, runner-up contest

Queen of Angels of the CYO edged St. John the Baptist of the ICCL, 49-38, as Brad Freiburger led the way with 13 points and teammate Joe Goodwin popped in 10. The score had a two-point margin at half time. Chris Shaw rolled in 14 points and Alex Bauter collected 10 for St. John.

ICCL expands baseball, expects smooth track season

BY JOE KOZINSKI

SOUTH BEND — When the days start to get longer and the temperatures start to rise, it means good things for the spring sports of the Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL).

"It's great to get the kids outside again," remarked Tony Violi, president of the ICCL. "All of our programs have run so smoothly this year, and I'm excited to wrap up our 2005-2006 campaign with our track and baseball competitions."

"We have seen an expansion of baseball, and it looks like we are going in the same direction with the track program," Violi explained. "We have two solid directors for our three disciplines; Bill Sorukas has been around forever and has vast experience in the varsity baseball arena and

Mark Kopinski still has the

B-team baseball and will pick up girls track responsibilities."

"The track season will kick off on April 17 and conclude with the City Meet on May 20 tentatively at Adams High School," said Kopinski. "It looks like we will be expanding to between 11 and 12 teams and run two meets a week for most schools."

"We will be running on quality facilities including Marian and Saint Joseph's high schools," Kopinski added. "This year we will include an official starter in all of our meets."

"Another new thing we will have this year on our side is daylight savings time," Kopinski noted. "The additional hour before it gets dark should allow us to have tri-meets during the season."

While extra light is a factor in track, it isn't that important when it comes to varsity baseball.

"We have been blessed with lit diamonds for years in the varsity league," stated Sorukas. "Our league will continue to use Saint Joe and Marian's fields on Sundays and the City Parks during the week."

"We can officially start practicing on the 15th of March, but the season will open on April 10, the day after spring break," commented Sorukas. "It looks like we will have approximately 12 teams this year and will play a small school, big school schedule."

"We are going to play as many games as the rain or lack of rain

permits with the exception of Easter and Mother's day," explained Sorukas. "We will finish up with an all-inclusive tournament in the middle of May."

The varsity baseball players won't be the only ones praying for sunny days; the B-team league has a very aggressive schedule to get in before their tournament.

"This year it looks like we will have 11 fifth-grade teams and 14 combined fifth-sixth-grade squads," Kopinski noted. "We start our league a little later on April 17 and will squeeze in as many games as we can before starting our tournament on May 8."

"I'm really excited about playing many of our games at Newton Park in Lakeville," Kopinski said. "Newton Park is a state-of-the-art facility that will have concessions and all that comes along with the great playing atmosphere."

"We still will be playing some of our games at other quality parks like Oslo, Clay and Centennial," Kopinski added. "The way our league has been running the last couple of years, I'm excited and excited for the kids to get things going."

"Though this has been a great season for all ICCL sports there is a down side to the spring sports," mentioned Violi. "It's the last time some of our eighth graders will be able to compete in sports with their classmates."



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EDITORIAL

Spring is in the air

With spring around the corner, many people may be thinking about the annual task of spring cleaning — going into the nooks and crannies of our homes to get rid of the cobwebs, dust and dirt that just seems to accumulate.

As you clean out the closets and shelves, sorting items you no longer wear or items that sit idly on the shelf, perhaps another person could use these things. There are many opportunities to share our extras with those in need. The St. Vincent de Paul Society, The Franciscan Center, St. Patrick Closet and homeless shelters are just a few of the ministries in the diocese that help the poor. Perhaps we can all adopt an Eric's Promise to share our belongings with those in need. Not only is this a good house-cleaning project, it is also a good Lenten project, a form of almsgiving.

Spring cleaning for the soul

Just as we clean our homes, Lent is a good time to review our lives and provide a housecleaning of sorts for the soul, a time to remove the clutter, or sin, that may have amassed. The sacrament of reconciliation is similar to housecleaning.

As we clean our homes — every year we find that things accumulate, whether material things or just dust. Every year we renew our homes with a good cleaning. If we wait too long, we have a larger project — more to clean. When we take advantage of reconciliation — Pope John Paul II suggested a monthly visit — we keep the sins from accumulating into a larger project. But as we use Lent as a season of forgiveness, we can especially use it to ask God for forgiveness of our failings. Last week, Bishop John M. D'Arcy also referred to Lent as a season of love and joy. What greater joy and relief is there than to hear "I absolve you from your sins?"

We start with a clean slate. Just as the Magic Eraser can remove spots, stains and scum, the sacrament of reconciliation offers that same clean slate. The book, "The Awesome Mercy of God," by Father John H. Hampsch, CMF, discusses the joys of reconciliation. Father Hampsch says that not only does God forgive our sins, God forgets our sins. We leave the reconciliation room with a clean slate; the house has been cleaned.

Just as we need tools to clean our homes — vacuum, brooms, cleaning cloths, soap, water — so too, tools to make a good examination of conscience are needed.

Some base their examination by reviewing the Ten Commandments. But Father Gary Sigler, in a feature about reconciliation at the beginning of Lent in *Today's Catholic*, recommended that the Ten Commandments not be the model for one's examination of conscience, noting "You can go down that one pretty easily and say, 'Well, I haven't killed anyone, I haven't stolen anything, I haven't committed adultery, I haven't borne false witness, I haven't coveted my neighbor's good — I haven't done anything.' So I tell them to focus their examination of conscience on the two great commandments — love the Lord, your God, with all your heart and soul and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself. We can always see how we're falling short on that, how we don't make God first and foremost in our lives."

As we go about our cleaning, perhaps there is one closet that we dread to open to clean — something that we are afraid to confess. This year may be the time to grasp the doorknob firmly, open the closet and clear the air. When those doors are opened to our souls at reconciliation, we find Jesus waiting to offer his comfort and healing.

Helping others heal

Today's Catholic is running excerpts from a log written by St. Jude parishioner, Craig Bobay. He, along with several other St. Jude parishioners, returned from a mission trip to the Gulf Coast to assist those whose homes were damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

So much work still needs to be done, and Bobay hopes others will be inclined to assist those suffering in the Gulf Coast. For example, the lady that Bobay assists in the feature, had no further repairs made to her home between the November mission trip and the February mission trip.

The government has been taking a lot of criticism for its lack of timely assistance in the Gulf Coast, but it is the church, which is at the forefront to assist those in need, the first on the scene and the silent heroes who continue to make a difference and bring comfort to those who lost so much.

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

COMMENTARY

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

Take time to discover juvenile justice center

Lent is a wonderful time for the social justice and peace committee in your parish to find out what the Thomas N. Frederick Juvenile Justice Center on South Michigan Street in South Bend is all about.

Have you ever been interested in taking a tour to see what takes place where these young people live — both boys and girls? Sometimes we have as many as 90 or more kids, and they are as young as eight years old.

We have a wonderful woman chaplain who works there part-time. The Sisters of the Holy Cross and Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center who pay her salary sponsor her. The chaplain and her volunteers provide religious programs, counseling and services to between 85 and 100 youth each month. Some churches participate regularly, but the center can use the help of many

more.

It would be wonderful to have a Mass celebrated there now and then as well as provide sacraments to the Catholics. Mentors are also needed. Once they are discharged to their homes or to other facilities, people need to follow through and continue to care for them.

Father Tom McNally, CSC, who lives at St. Adalbert rectory, has given many hours of his time to these young people and would appreciate your help, as would our chaplain, Laura Powell.

Remember, these young people are like your own children or your neighbor's. Only they have had the misfortune of having problems with the law and society.

Have a peaceful and spiritual Lent and give some thought to the plight of these young people.

For tours of the center, call Laura Powell at (574) 850-3146. Her hours are Sundays from 1 to 9 p.m., Mondays from 1 to 9 p.m. and Wednesdays from 2 to 8 p.m.

Sister Gabriella Doran, CSC
Notre Dame

Thank you from CNEWA

Dear Father Schulte,

Thank you for your check in the amount of \$4,376.83 representing CNEWA's share of the 2005 World Mission Sunday collection of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

For the past eight decades, as a result of the love, concern and generosity of Catholic Church in the United States, CNEWA has been able to assist the Eastern Churches in their pastoral ministry and humanitarian outreach. American bishops rightly should take pride in the fact that millions of dollars have been deployed to build churches, schools and convents, to educate priests and nuns and to provide care for some of the neediest of God's people.

Father Guido Gockel, M.H.M.
National Secretary
Catholic Near East Welfare
Association

Academic freedom does not promote false ideas or immoral causes

BY TOM UEBBING

Academic freedom is the liberty to investigate any subject and to try to discover the truth about it. It does not include the freedom to promote false ideas or immoral causes.

The first exercise of academic freedom made by teachers or students is the decision to attend a Catholic institution. This free choice carries greater responsibility for a teacher because the teacher can be expected to exemplify Catholic values and, depending on the discipline, to teach or promote the Catholic faith. The teacher or student presumably could have gone to a non-Catholic religious school or a secular institution. It is logical to expect a Catholic institution to uphold the Catholic faith and morals and illogical to expect or demand otherwise.

A presupposition of unlimited academic freedom is that the human intellect, aided by the proper tools of research and open discussion, will arrive at the truth. The reality is, however, that the human intellect is darkened by the effects of both original and personal sins, and without the parameters of the church's teaching may for a variety of reasons fall into error. Therefore, academic freedom at a Catholic institution is not unlimited but guided by the faith.

While it is considered folly and laughable to dissent from a known scientific truth, such as that the earth is round, oddly in academic circles it is sometimes considered a sign of intellectual "gravitas" to

dissent from established church teaching on issues such as contraception or homosexual relations. Since the Catholic Church enjoys the assurance that the Holy Spirit protects the magisterium from error in matters of faith and morals, a Catholic school acts properly if it excludes or suppresses ideas or behavior known to be erroneous or immoral. This is not an unjust limitation of freedom, but the proper directing of it toward the good and the truth.

Some segments of our society have also absolutized the right to free speech and anathematized any form of censorship. Sometimes a Catholic university may need to choose between upholding the First Amendment or the first commandment. There is no absolute right to say or write anything you want to because speech needs to be governed by charity and truth. Likewise, censorship can be an act of charity when it prudently protects unprepared or vulnerable people, whether young or old, from pernicious, seductive and false ideas or images. And some things are simply not worthy of a human being. That is far different from a condescending form of censorship that, fearing the truth, or doubting that people who are trained and competent to deal with difficult issues will properly do so, attempts a form of mind-control.

With this understanding it is perfectly acceptable to investigate and discuss sin. From cover to cover, that is one of the main themes of the Bible. However, the Bible does not promote sin but sheds the light of Christ on it and

urges repentance and conversion. It is perfectly permissible to read "Mein Kampf," the communist manifesto or gay literature for the purpose of understanding Nazism, communism and homosexuality but not to find inspiration to form a neo-Nazi group, foment a violent workers' revolution or justify gay marriage.

Another issue is whether or not students should be given a Christian formation or simply be presented ideas of all shades of truth and be expected to decide for themselves what they believe. It is a myth that students ages 18 to 22 are mature adults. Especially in our modern Western society where maturity often comes late because of a lack of responsibilities in youth, college students are very much still in the process of maturing. Therefore it is a grave disservice to them to neglect to teach them the truth about a subject while exposing them to all sorts of false ideas contained therein. Students should not be led into temptation either into sins of the mind or the flesh.

It is an inescapable pastoral responsibility of the administration and faculty of a Catholic institution to properly instruct the students in faith and morals and to not tolerate bad behavior. Contrary to criticisms, in loco parentis is neither paternalistic nor anachronistic. In fact, parents are entrusting their most dear loved ones into the hands of the administration and faculty with the trust and hope that they will be guided in the truth of the faith. That trust must never be betrayed.

Does religious illiteracy cause dissent?

I recently have heard several church leaders say that the main reason why there is so much disagreement with church teachings is that Catholics no longer understand their faith the way they used to. In other words, religious illiteracy contributes to dissent. If it is true, this claim has important policy implications. It suggests that, if people only understood their faith, they would agree with church teachings.

But, is it true that a lack of understanding leads to disagreement with church teachings? Does religious illiteracy foster dissent?

In the 1960s, sociologists Charles Glock and Rodney Stark explored the relationship between religious knowledge and religious belief. Their measure of religious knowledge included questions about Scripture quotations and Old Testament prophets. Their index of religious "orthodoxy" included items on the existence of a personal God, the divinity of Christ, the authenticity of biblical miracles and the existence of the devil. Their measure of "ethicalism" had to do with the importance of loving one's neighbor and doing good for others.

Glock and Stark found very little relationship between knowledge and belief. Catholics who



RESEARCH FOR THE CHURCH

JAMES D. DAVIDSON

were high in knowledge were only slightly more likely than other Catholics to be doctrinally orthodox and were no more likely to score high on ethicalism.

A 2005 national survey also raises questions about the alleged connection between illiteracy and dissent. Several colleagues and I asked Catholics to agree or disagree with the following statement: "You often feel that you cannot explain your faith to others." Agreement with this statement was a sign of religious illiteracy. Disagreement was a sign of religious literacy. We also asked Catholics about the importance of the sacraments, belief that Mary is the Mother of God, social justice, the teaching authority of the magisterium, having a celibate clergy, prayer, helping the poor, the Resurrection, eucharistic adoration and the church's opposition to the death penalty, same-sex marriage and abortion.

Catholics who were most likely

to say they could not explain their faith to others were no more, nor less, likely than other Catholics to say these church teachings are important. For example, 83 percent of those who said they could not explain their faith to others and 85 percent of those who disagreed with that statement said that belief in the Resurrection is "very important." Thus, there was little or no link between illiteracy and dissent.

Here is a third way to look at the issue. If illiteracy contributes to dissent, Catholics with high school educations or less should disagree with church teachings more than highly educated Catholics. In fact, most studies — including several of my own — indicate just the opposite: less educated Catholics are more likely to agree with church teachings than Catholics with advanced degrees.

Moreover, some of the most

DAVIDSON, PAGE 20

God loves us, as the ancient Hebrews



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Third Sunday of Lent Jn 2:13-25

The Book of Exodus is the source of this Lenten weekend's first biblical reading. It is the story of God's presenting Moses with what Christians long have called the Ten Commandments.

The context is important. The time setting for this event was during the Hebrews' long trek across the Sinai Peninsula. They were fleeing Egypt, where they had been enslaved. They were en route to their future homeland.

However, most important to understanding this context is God's role in it. The Hebrews would never have escaped Egypt had God not assisted them. They would have been hopelessly lost in the stark Sinai desert had God not guided them. They would have starved, or died of thirst or have been killed by venomous snakes had God not come to their rescue. Finally, they would have no place to go had God not promised them a homeland.

They absolutely depended on God. God had shown them great love and mercy. They knew God, and they had bonded with God.

It was in fact a contract, a mutual relationship. In turn, they were expected to live in peace, with respect for all and certainly in recognition of God as Creator.

Simple humans, they could not quickly realize how to satisfy their part of the relationship. God revealed the way they could meet their obligations. He gave them the Ten Commandments. The commandments, then, are not so much arbitrary rules set by an aloof and demanding God. Instead, they were directions as to how the Hebrews could find tranquility, security and life itself.

St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians furnishes the second reading. It gives a basic truth of human existence. Humans are limited in their grasp of reality and in their ability to decide wisely and objectively.

God supplies for these lacks and wants. He guides us. The guide is Jesus, the Son of God. In Jesus, Christians find absolute wisdom.

The last reading is from St. John's Gospel. It is one of the best-known Gospel passages. In this story, Jesus enters the temple in Jerusalem as the feast of Passover approaches. So, the event happened in springtime.

Passover drew Jews from everywhere to Jerusalem. As these people came on a pilgrimage, they wanted to offer sacrifice in the temple. Commerce in the things needed for the rituals was brisk. For Jesus, the commerce was bad, since in effect people led only by self-interest and personal monetary profit were trafficking in holy items, in all likelihood profiteering, since the pilgrims would have had nowhere else to go to obtain what they needed for their sacrifices.

The apostles saw the Lord's strong reaction as proof from the prophets that indeed the Messiah had come, and the Messiah was Jesus.

Then Jesus said in effect that true holiness is not in merely going

through motions, however sacred in their origin or purpose, or in mouthing pious words. Rather, genuine saintliness comes from the heart.

Jesus predicts the forthcoming crucifixion and resurrection. And the evangelist presents Jesus as being fully aware of human nature.

Reflection

The readings for this third weekend are powerful, and they are great in their teachings for us.

First among the lessons is the teaching implied by the gift from God of the Ten Commandments. God loves us, as God loved the ancient Hebrews. They yearned to be freed from slavery. We yearn to be free from sin, with the angers, heartbreaks and despair it creates.

As God rescued the Hebrews and showed them how to achieve peace and dignity as persons, God rescues us through Jesus.

Jesus understands us perfectly, because Jesus is human. His own total dedication teaches us that we cannot be good Christians if we do not give ourselves completely to God from the heart.

READINGS

Third week of Lent

Monday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a,12-14a,16 Ps 89:2-5,27,29 Rom 4:13,16-18,22 Mt 1:16,18-21,24a or Lk 2:41-51a

Tuesday: Dn 3:25-34-43 Ps 25:4bc-5ab,6-7bc,8-9 Mt 18:21-35

Wednesday: Dt 4:1,5-9 Ps 147:12-13,15-16,19-20 Mt 5:17-19

Thursday: Jer 7:23-28 Ps 95:1-2,6-9 Lk 11:14-23

Friday: Hos 14:2-10 Ps 81:6c-11b,14,17 Mk 12:28-34

Saturday: Is 7:10-14;8:10 Ps 40:7-11 Heb 10:4-10 Lk 1:26-38

CATEQUIZ'EM

By Dominic Camplisson

On March 20 the church remembers St. Joseph, as does this quiz.

- 1. St. Joseph is not considered by Christians as Jesus' father. Why not?**
 - a. Because he was Jewish and Jesus was the first Christian.
 - b. Because it was unclear if he was the father.
 - c. Because Jesus did not have an earthly father.
- 2. Matthew's Gospel calls Joseph's father Jacob, while Luke's calls him**
 - a. Heli
 - b. Walter
 - c. Jude
- 3. Joseph was from the city of Bethlehem, also known as the city of**
 - a. Angels
 - b. David
 - c. Mangers
- 4. But Joseph lived in Nazareth. Why?**
 - a. There was more work.
 - b. He had fled the predation of the Lebanese.
 - c. We do not know.
- 5. Joseph's trade was "tekton." What is the usual translation of that?**
 - a. water boy
 - b. carpenter
 - c. notary
- 6. But tekton can also mean**
 - a. builder or mechanic
 - b. scholar or student
 - c. Levite or deacon
- 7. According to non-biblical sources, Joseph may have been married to a wife before Mary. Why might this be important to some?**
 - a. It explains that polygamy was acceptable in the first century in Israel.
 - b. It is used to explain references to Jesus' "brothers."
 - c. It means that Joseph already knew how to raise children before Jesus was born.
- 8. One of the names attributed to a possible earlier wife was also later the name of a notorious dancer with a penchant for heads:**
 - a. Salami
 - b. Salome
 - c. Salerno
- 9. One of the works that never made it into the Bible but purports to give some details of Joseph's life and death was**
 - a. "I Was a Teenage Carpenter"
 - b. "Great Moments With Mr. Tekton"
 - c. "Life of the Virgin and Death of Joseph"
- 10. Despite some of the more fanciful traditions, the Bible shows Joseph had a very human reaction to finding out his fiancée (or wife) was already expecting a child:**
 - a. He wanted to name the child "Joe-Joe."
 - b. He wanted to divorce, separate.
 - c. He wanted to ensure she would pay child support.
- 11 Why did he change his mind?**
 - a. He was set straight by an angel.
 - b. He could not afford an attorney.
 - c. He decided that two wives were better than one, so he kept her.
- 12. We know that Joseph made at least one trip to Africa. Why?**
 - a. to visit the Lion of Judah in Ethiopia
 - b. to visit the birthplace of the original Joseph in Thebes
 - c. to take his family away from Herod's men who wanted to kill Jesus
- 13. The Bible (John and Luke) relates that Jesus was often referred to as "the son of Joseph." What does this mean?**
 - a. that the Gospel writers were trying to trick people
 - b. Joseph was attempting to steal center stage as Jesus' fame grew
 - c. not much, people naturally assumed that Jesus was Joseph's son
- 14. What does the Bible tell us about the death of Joseph?**
 - a. He was dead and was assumed body and soul into heaven.
 - b. He died at 100 years old, having outlived his foster Son.
 - c. Nothing
- 15. Why do most scholars think Joseph was dead by the time of the crucifixion?**
 - a. As a carpenter, he would have been required to make a cross.
 - b. Jesus commended his mother to John, not to Joseph.
 - c. Joseph would have been crucified with Jesus had he been alive.
- 16. Although non-Catholics often assume that the veneration of saints was a medieval invention, St. Joseph was dearly regarded as saint at least from the fourth century amongst the Copts. Who are Copts?**
 - a. the opposite of robbers
 - b. Egyptian Christians
 - c. No one knows; they die out in the fifth century.

ANSWERS:

1.c, 2.a, 3.b, 4.c, 5.b, 6.a, 7.b, 8.b, 9.c, 10.b, 11.a, 12.c, 13.c, 14.c, 15.b, 16.b

Forms of eulogy are not permitted at the funeral Mass

What does the church say about eulogies at a Mass of Christian Burial?

— Anonymous

First, let's look at the definition of a eulogy. According to Webster's Dictionary, a eulogy is "a speech or writing in commendation; praise." When someone famous dies, we are accustomed to seeing many important people walking to the podium at the funeral and talking about the life of the famous person. That is a eulogy.

Does this model fit in a Catholic funeral Mass? The church gives us a vision of the Catholic funeral Mass as follows: "Christians celebrate the funeral rites to offer worship, praise and thanksgiving to God for the gift of life, which has now been returned to God, the author of life and the hope of the just." — OCF#5

In its wisdom, the church recognizes that our consolation and our hope comes from the sure knowledge that God gave life to the person who died and that Jesus Christ redeemed all of us by his dying and rising. We praise God for this unconditional love.

The Order of Christian Funerals goes on to say: "... The

full and active participation of the assembly affirms the value of praying for the dead, gives strength and support to the bereaved, and is a sure sign of faith and hope in the paschal mystery." — 150 OCF

We come together as a community to console the family and friends of the person who has died.

We bring the body of the person who has died back to the same church in which that person was baptized, confirmed, received Eucharist and possibly was married or ordained. In the funeral Mass, the gathered community, the word of God, and the Eucharist strengthen and console those who mourn.

We know too that prayers for the dead are important and effective. We pray throughout the funeral Mass for the person who has died. In the opening prayer outside the Easter season, we pray: "Almighty God and Father, it is our certain faith that your Son, who died on the cross, was raised from the dead, the firstfruits of all who have fallen asleep. Grant that through this mystery

THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION

your servant (name) who has gone to his/her rest in Christ, may share in the joy of his resurrection."

You can see that the model of Catholic Christian burial is very different than the funerals that are shown on television. The homily given by the priest will focus not on the physical life of the person who has died, but on his/her eternal life in heaven with Jesus Christ and our hope of eternal life.

If we want to publicly share an aspect of the life of the person who has died as an example of Christian faith, this can happen in the "Speaking in Remembrance," which the church offers as an option after the post Communion prayer. "Speaking in Remembrance" must be a reflection on the life of the deceased in

the context of his or her faith and the life of grace. One person gives this reflection, and it is short, no more than two minutes (Diocesan Catholic Christian Funeral Guidelines). That reflection is followed by the rites of final commendation and the journey to the cemetery for burial.

When would it be appropriate to tell the funny stories and the endearing anecdotes about the life of the deceased person who is our family member and our friend?

These stories may be shared at the vigil or at the cemetery. However, the best place for sharing our stories is at the funeral (consolation) dinner, which usually follows the services at the gravesite.

With our easy access to advanced recording and video devices, people are asking to record themselves before they die and to have this recording played at the funeral. People are also asking to have favorite recorded music played at their funeral. These are another form of eulogy and are not permitted at the funeral Mass. They take away from the integrity and power of the liturgy, which is focused on the dying and

rising of Jesus Christ. However, they would be most appropriate at the funeral dinner and at other family gatherings later.

"May the angels lead you into paradise. May the martyrs come to welcome you, and take you to the holy city, the new and eternal Jerusalem."

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

The adventure of a lifetime

"I exhort the elders among you to tend to the flock of God that is in your charge, exercising the oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you do it." — 1 Pt 5:1-2

On page one of a recent book on ministry, Father Anthony Gittins, a renowned mission theologian, states: "This book is about people who are not quite normal by conventional judgments. They may be restless or nomadic, and their primary concern is not to settle down.

"They are missionaries, people energized by a sense of mission, of vocation. They believe, as the second-century Epistle to Diognetus put it, that God has assigned them an 'important post ... and they are not at liberty to desert it.'"

Father Gittins goes on to show how this call is indeed the adventure of a lifetime. An adventure implies plunging into the unknown, taking risks for a cause, reinventing things, doing things that were never done before and doing all these things for a lifetime.

None of it is done to get a medal, a prize or one's name in the paper. It's done to be true to God's call to preach the good news in season and out of season.

I fully agree with the theologian's insights. Every year, as March rolls by, I feel the urge to brag a wee bit about my vocation as a missionary priest. Why? March 15 is the birthday of St. Daniel Comboni, founder of my missionary institute. March 17 is

the anniversary of my ordination to the missionary priesthood (oh, yes, it's also St. Pat's Day). And March 19 is the feast of my namesake, St. Joseph.

I glory in the thought that, totally by the grace of God, I am both a missionary and a priest. After 44 years in the missionary priesthood, I firmly believe that, deep down, there is no other way to be a priest. After all, aren't all priests called to minister in a church, which is "missionary by its very nature?"

We were not ordained to settle down, but to minister to God's people. Anything short of that turns us into church bureaucrats — and who needs more bureaucrats? Neither were we ordained

to be the managers of aging parish buildings or to limit our ministry to the converted.

A younger priest I know once told me: "I am not the pastor of this church. I am the pastor of this neighborhood." Music

to my ears! And we were not ordained for a time, but for life, which means that, as long as there is breath, there will be ministry of one kind or another.

To whom do I owe the privilege of being a missionary priest and of continuing to enjoy the adventure? I owe it largely to good friends among the laity who, down to this day, honor me with their friendship, kindness and support. But I owe it, first of all, to the priests and the missionaries I knew when I was a youngster, growing up in postwar northern Italy.

My old pastor, who had been a



THE GLOBAL CHRISTIAN

FATHER JOE BRAGOTTI, MCCJ

tough labor organizer in his younger days, used to surrender his pulpit gladly to missionaries who showed up at the parish. They in turn set us on fire with stories, pictures, glass slides (yes, glass) and fiery sermons.

The young associates provided us with opportunities to learn, to play and to pray. They were our heroes and I wanted to be like them. Years later, I had the good fortune to serve in Uganda with the first Comboni Missionary I met as a child. In 1979, he died a martyr's death at the hands of Idi Amin's henchmen.

As we search, pray and hope for vocations we must believe in the adventure. No amount of public relations gimmicks will ever take the place of supportive friends and of the living witness of saintly, up-to-date, well adjusted, happy, adventurous and dedicated priests, who are willing to minister 24/7 until they die.

Father Joe Bragotti, MCCJ, is mission director of the North American Province of the Comboni Missionaries, a worldwide religious institute founded by St. Daniel Comboni to carry the Gospel to "the poorest and most abandoned" people on earth.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

By Patricia Kasten

Gospel for March 19, 2006

John 2:13-25

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for Third Sunday of Lent, Cycle B: the cleansing of the Temple in Jerusalem. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

PASSOVER	WENT UP	TEMPLE
SHEEP	DOVES	MONEY
CHANGERS	SEATED	WHIP
DROVE	COINS	OVERTURNED
OUT OF HERE	HOUSE	CONSUME ME
DESTROY	FORTY-SIX	SPEAKING
BODY	DEAD	WORD

WENT UP

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

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DAVIDSON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

knowledgeable people in today's church have disagreed with church teachings. Father Hans Kung has openly disagreed with the church's views on the infallibility of the pope, and Father Charles Curran has disagreed with the magisterium on sexual-reproductive issues.

Our research also shows that laypeople accept core church teachings, which they would be hard pressed to explain, such as Jesus's real presence in the Eucharist, and reject many other

teachings, which they can explain rather easily, such as the church's opposition to the death penalty.

These studies and observations raise serious questions about the alleged link between illiteracy and dissent. There does not appear to be a very strong relationship between the two. Indeed, they seem to have little or nothing to do with each other. If so, efforts to increase religious literacy might have other beneficial effects, but they are not likely to reduce dissent in the church.

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

God destroys Sodom and Gomorrah for their wickedness

Question: Is there any truth to the story of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah?

The story of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah is found in chapter 19 of Genesis. Sodom and Gomorrah were part of the Pentapolis, or group of five cities, probably located on a fertile plain near the Dead Sea in Israel at the time of Abraham around B.C. 2000. The other three cities were Zeboiim, Admah and Zoar.

Genesis says that Abraham and his nephew Lot were very wealthy by having many laborers and animals. So, instead of trying to share the same land, they decided to separate. Abraham stayed in Canaan, and Lot settled in the cities of the Plain, pitching his tent near Sodom.

Eventually, four foreign kings made war on the five kings of the cities of the Plain. The kings of Sodom and Gomorrah tried to

flee, but fell into bitumen or asphalt pits in the valley. The foreign kings sacked Sodom and Gomorrah and captured Lot and his possessions. When Abraham heard of this tragedy, he pursued the foreign kings and retrieved Lot and his possessions.

God then decides to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah for their wickedness. Angels warn Lot to flee the city with his wife and two daughters and not to look back. Lot flees to the city of Zoar. God rains down sulfurous fire on Sodom and Gomorrah. But Lot's wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt. When Abraham looked at the region of the plain, he saw dense smoke over the land rising like fumes from a furnace.

The New American Bible says the destruction of the Cities of the Plain was caused primarily by an earthquake. This would be accompanied by a disastrous fire

and its accompanying gases in a region containing bitumen.

G. Grenville says the name Sodom means Red Fields from an organism that grows in the nearby salt pans. A. Knopf describes the traditional location of Sodom. It is 1,300 feet below sea level, the lowest inhabited point in the world. It is the center of the phosphate extraction industry, which draws on the evaporation fields that run the length of the Dead Sea. Nearby is a mountainous mass of crumbling rocks with countless caves and tunnels. Sharp salty accretions litter the banks of the Dead Sea, and the Arabs have given poetic names to many of them. A pillar of salt near Sodom is pointed out as the remains of Lot's wife. Father Murphy-O'Connor mentions that the site of Sodom was used by the ancient Nabataeans who collected bitumen from the surface and sold it to the Egyptians for

embalming. In Roman times, the Dead Sea was called the Lake of Asphalt.

The New American Bible offers the probable location of the five cities of the Plain on the southern part of the Dead Sea. Sodom is located more west, Zeboiim and Admah more east, and Gomorrah and Zoar more north. A. Stevenson says that now Sodom and Gomorrah may possibly be beneath the waters of the Dead Sea. Father John McKenzie, however, says that, since Genesis pictures Sodom as well-watered, like the Garden of Eden or the tributaries of Egypt, the location of Sodom may be different from the stark region of the Dead Sea.

The gist of the story of Sodom and Gomorrah is that God judges us for the sins we commit. The actual sin of Sodom is called impurity by Genesis, a lack of social justice by Isaiah, a disre-



HIRE HISTORY

FATHER RICHARD HIRE

gard for the poor by Ezekiel and general immorality by Jeremiah.

The area of Sodom and Gomorrah and the physical properties of the Dead Sea certainly made an impact on writers of the ancient world. The Dead Sea is mentioned by Aristotle, Strabo, Pliny the Elder, Tacitus, Pausanias and Galen. In the Middle Ages, the Dead Sea carried heavy marine traffic and was called the "Sea of the Devil."

Lent is a good time to evaluate relationships

BY LISA M. PETSCH

In today's fast-paced, individualistic, achievement-oriented society, relationships can all too easily get short shrift, owing to our busyness, preoccupation and stress.

Fortunately, the Lenten season presents us with a wonderful opportunity to critically evaluate our connection to our Creator, ourselves, loved ones and the world around us, and get back on track.

Good communication is the key to any healthy relationship. Since we're continually growing and changing as individuals, it needs to be ongoing. Mutual sharing leads to increased understanding of one another, which in turn results in greater intimacy.

While communication is a two-way process, listening is more difficult than speaking, because a) it requires patience, since we're able to process information faster than it can be transmitted, and b) we must relinquish self-focus — no easy task in this age of egocentrism.

In contrast to hearing, which is passive, listening requires effort. Good listeners make themselves available; give their full attention, eliminating or tuning out external and internal distractions; are open-minded, sensitive and nonjudgmental; and listen with their heart as well as their head.

Specifically, though, how do we deepen our relationship with God, in order to experience his unconditional love and peace and ascertain his unique plan for us? We can accomplish this through reading Scripture (the written word of God) and meditating on it, or being still and "listening to his voice in the depths of our hearts." — Blessed Mother Teresa.

Although God can speak to us anywhere, anytime, certain conditions make us more receptive to his messages, including a desire to know him better and a quiet environment. Appointing a time and place for regular, in-depth communication with him helps us develop and maintain an intimate relationship.

Another important type of communication involves connecting with our inner being — that is, tuning in to our feelings and our needs (which may be quite different from our wants), developing our intuition, discovering our hidden talents and skills, reflecting on our experiences and determining what we can learn from them, establish-

ing and monitoring priorities and contemplating choices. (Self-help gurus refer to this as living intentionally, listening to your life and discovering your authentic self.)

We'd do well to set aside quiet time at the end of each day for such review; some people include journaling as part of the process.

This reflection time is also an opportunity to look deep inside to the imperfections that keep us separated from our Creator and one another, and determine how we can use the gifts God has given us to build his kingdom here on earth.

Listening is also key to communicating with others. As I discovered in my social work training, it's a complex skill that needs to be developed, practiced and refined. Among other things, good interpersonal listening involves demonstrating interest and empathy through attentive body language (maintaining eye contact, for example) and using all of our senses. It also includes listening for underlying themes and feelings and paying attention to nonverbal cues such as tone of voice, energy level and posture.

Listening can provide us with valuable feedback about our behavior, helping us get to know ourselves better. It's also a means of ascertaining people's needs and wishes, a prerequisite to helping loved ones, neighbors and colleagues as well as the impoverished and oppressed. We can learn about the plight of the latter group by keeping abreast of current affairs through the media; we can then respond with charitable works and social justice endeavors.

Another reason for listening attentively to other people is that God sometimes speaks to us through them — offering needed encouragement, words of wisdom or thought-provoking observations and questions, for example.

Behavioral experts say it takes an average of 21-30 days to change or establish a habit. The 40 days of Lent allow us ample time, therefore, to improve upon our listening skills as well as build a habit of regular reflection.

If we're patient and persistent, we'll be rewarded with a spiritual transformation that brings fulfillment and peace.

Lisa M. Petsche is a clinical social worker and a freelance journalist specializing in spirituality and family life.

Meet The Priest

Father Larry Kramer

Ordained to the priesthood:

May 28, 1960

Pastor, St. Paul of the Cross,
Columbia City

What was the primary influence on your decision to become a priest?

Primary influence on vocation decision: altruistic faith formation at home and school (includes example of parents, priests, religious sisters and liturgical orientation from cathedral choir director John Yonkman).

Why do you like being a priest?

I like being a priest because it is so satisfying to help so many people in so many ways that really count, and because there is so much support from other clergy and laity in doing this.

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

My special interest is teaching in any setting, formal or informal. I enjoy preaching, visiting religion classes and informal give-and-take, whether around a kitchen table or in a barroom booth. Another interest is swimming laps daily.

Do you have any pets?

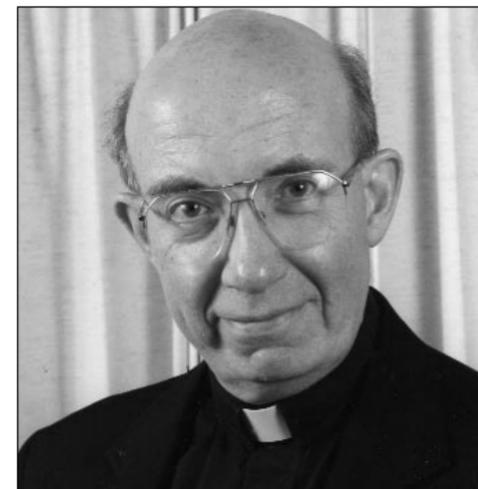
No pets with fur, scales or feathers, but I enjoy other people's pets, including not having to take care of them. Can I count my deacon?

What do you like to do for relaxation?

For relaxation, I enjoy train trips and short "surgical strike" vacations.

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

For reading I favor periodicals. Even



when I read a book, I seldom read it all, treating individual chapters like magazine articles. The Catechism of the Catholic Church has many passages I find helpful and inspiring. I like John Allen's stuff on current church matters. I have enjoyed the late Frank Sheed, G.K. Chesterton, Buckminster Fuller and community organizer Saul Alinsky. I don't read much fiction. Although I haven't cracked it in years, the "Summa Theologiae" of St. Thomas Aquinas had a profound effect on my philosophical and theological formation.

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

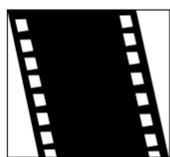
For me, the best part of being a Catholic is our twofold treasure: liturgy and social justice teaching.

What is your favorite prayer or scriptural passage?

A favorite prayer is St. Thomas Aquinas's very short Prayer before Study. When I was a high school student, we said it before every class. "Grant us the grace, O merciful God, to desire ardently all that is pleasing to you, to examine it prudently, to acknowledge it truthfully and to accomplish it perfectly for the praise and glory of your name. Amen."

How do you prefer to be addressed by laity?

I prefer to be addressed as "Father Larry." I don't mind it when people drop the "Father" part, especially if they are evangelicals with a religious scruple about it. Fortunately, my parents gave me a name I can live with.



MOVIE CAPSULES

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

"Aquamarine" (20th Century Fox)

Sweetly told modern-day fairy tale about two 13-year-old best friends — Claire (Emma Roberts) and Hailey (Joanna "JoJo" Levesque) — who help a mermaid

(Sara Paxton), washed ashore during a storm, experience true love in the hopes that the magic wish rewarded them will undo Hailey's impending move to Australia. With a delightful mix of fantasy, comedy and romance, director Elizabeth Allen's wholesome and warmly sentimental, if admittedly lightweight, effort scores points for admirably showing that authentic love can express itself in varied ways. Some mild sensuality and suggestiveness, a few crass expressions and innuendo. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

"Failure to Launch" (Paramount)

Uneven but oddly likable comedy about professional "intervention" consultant (Sarah Jessica Parker) hired by the parents (Kathy Bates and Terry Bradshaw) of a 35-year-old, still-living-at-home jock (Matthew McConaughey) in the hopes of making him independent enough to move out, with predictable romantic complications. Director Tom Dey maintains a spirited pace, there are some pleasing performances, the sylvan and aquatic settings are easy on the eyes, and the ending is morally sound, outweighing too many conversational expletives and a permissive view of premarital sex. Profanity, rough and crude language and expressions, implied sexual situations and banter, and a

comic instance of rear male nudity. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13.

"Game 6" (Serenade)

A dreary day in the life of a phillandering Broadway playwright (Michael Keaton) as his latest play is set to open shows him juggling his apprehensions about the play's reception by a notorious drama critic (Robert Downey Jr.) and hopes that his favorite team, the Red Sox, might finally win the World Series in 1986. Director Michael Hoffman's adaptation of a screenplay by novelist Don DeLillo has a decent cast (including Griffin Dunne, Catherine O'Hara, Bebe

Neuwirth, Roger Rees, Lillias White and Harris Yulin), but feels hollow from start to finish, the New York theater milieu ringing particularly false, and the redemptive ending fails to balance the preceding 83 minutes of tedium. A few instances of profanity, rough and crude language, two nongraphic sexual encounters, one with rear and upper female nudity, premarital sexual encounters, sexual discussions, and a violent brawl. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is L — limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

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

DEVOTIONS

Family day of recollection

Avilla — St. Mary Parish will have a family day of recollection on Sunday, March 19, from 2 to 7 p.m. in the school. The theme "On the Road to Calvary" will be presented by Father Bernie Galic, former pastor of St. Mary's. Fathers Bill Kummer, Jim Rose and Matt Jozefiak, C.P.P.S. will be hear confessions and lead small group discussion for all age groups. Babysitting will be provided. A "souper supper" will be at 5 p.m. followed by the Way of the Cross at 6 p.m. in the church.

Huntington deanery DCCW plans Spring Day of Reflection

Huntington — The Huntington Deanery Spring Day of Reflection hosted by the St. Mary Rosary Sodality will be Saturday, March 25, at 9 a.m. at Huntington Catholic School. Father John Pfister will speak on the Eucharist and lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. Father Adam Schmidt will speak at the afternoon session. A raffle will be held and benediction will be at 1:30 p.m. Register by March 19 to (260) 356-0706.

Legion of Mary to meet

South Bend — The Acies ceremony of the Legion of Mary will be held Sunday, March 26, at 2 p.m. at St. Jude Parish. The speaker will be Father Derrick Sneyd. Refreshments will be served.

Lenten Day of Reflection

Kendallville — Immaculate Conception Parish will host a Day of Reflection for Harvest House and the Elkhart Deanery of the DCCW on Thursday, April 6. The day begins at 9:15 a.m. with prayer time and will be followed by Father Daryl Rybicki speaking on reconciliation. Lunch is included and there will

be time for reflection, reconciliation and end with Mass. Reservations are needed to (260) 347-4045. There is no charge.

Little Flower Holy Hour

Fort Wayne — Msgr. Owen Campion, associate publisher of *Our Sunday Visitor*, will celebrate the holy hour at MacDougal Chapel on Tuesday, March 21, at 7:15 p.m.

FISH FRIES

Lenten fish fry

South Bend — Sacred Heart of Jesus, Lakeville will have a Lenten fish fry by TYNER IOOF

on Friday, March 17, from 4 to 7 p.m. Tickets are \$7.50 for adults and all carry-outs \$3 for children (6-12). Carry out closes at 6:30 p.m. Tickets available at the door or by calling the parish at (574) 291-2826.

Fish Fry

Fort Wayne — An Ed Fox Fish Fry sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Father Solanus Casey Council 11276, will be Friday, March 24, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the parish hall of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church. Adult meals \$8, children (ages 6-8) will be \$5 and children five or under eat free. Carry-out will be available.



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Monroeville

Ronald A. Wyss, 79, St. Rose of Lima

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Bernard F. Hiss, 88, Sacred Heart Basilica

Father Adrien J. Ste. Marie, CSC, Sacred Heart Basilica

Plymouth

Sarah A. Jones, 75, St. Michael

South Bend

Edwin P. Sparazynski, 90, St. Adalbert

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Kanczuzewski, 87,

Christ the King

Gwen Ullrey, 83, Christ the King

Mary Ann Robak, 84, St. Adalbert

Joseph H. Pianstki, 91, St. Adalbert

Kevin M. Burns, 49, Holy Cross

Larry R. Zeak, 54, St. Matthew Cathedral

Mary Lou Hake, 84, Little Flower

Daniel F. Slott, 80, St. Matthew Cathedral

Gerald T. Borchers, 84, St. John the Baptist

Sister Mary Anselm Coppersmith, 93,

Church of the Immaculate

Conception, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind.

Sister served at St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne.

Director of Youth Ministry

Growing and active Catholic parish in Indianapolis, Indiana suburb seeks Director of youth Ministry to expand and facilitate programs for grades 7 - 12. Qualified candidates must be passionate in their Catholic faith; able to lead, inspire and communicate with youth and adults; and willing to work cooperatively with parish staff and advisory committee.

Energetic individual desired to draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission and work of our faith community. This is a full-time position with flexible work hours. Salary commensurate with experience, and full diocesan are benefits provided. Please send resume, including list of references and salary requirements, to:

Staloyouth@ameritech.net

Director of Music and Liturgy

Vibrant city parish of 700 families served by Holy Cross priests, with K-8 school, seeks full-time director of music and liturgy to coordinate balanced parish music program as part of pastoral team. Parish has well-established cantor program, adult choir, school children's choir, youth ensemble and tradition of full and active community participation. Candidates must possess a bachelor's degree in music performance or education. Preferred that candidates also have training in theology, liturgy and pastoral ministry and ability to play a keyboard instrument. Please send resume with references by April 3, 2006 to:

Search Committee, St. Joseph Parish
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Full-time director of YOUTH MINISTRY

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BILOXI

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“Wayne, in his mid 30s, has been confined to a wheelchair since he sustained a severe spinal cord injury many years ago when he was a teenager. Some time after Katrina, FEMA delivered a mobile home (“FEMA trailer”) that was not wheelchair accessible, despite the family’s specific request for an accessible home. The door of that FEMA trailer was too narrow to permit Wayne’s entrance, so while they waited many weeks for FEMA to straighten out the red tape and deliver a usable trailer to Wayne and his family, Wayne slept outdoors in his wheelchair while his wife and son lived in the first FEMA trailer. Not being able to get out of the wheelchair for such a long time caused bed sores and led to Wayne being hospitalized. FEMA eventually corrected its snafu, delivered an accessible trailer to Wayne, and he moved in. FEMA never bothered to remove its originally delivered trailer, although the need for this type of temporary housing is huge throughout the devastated region. Today Laura, Mark, Norm and newcomer Patrick Verel (also from New York), returned to Wayne’s, where they hung more drywall, and started on the finish work of taping and mudding the walls.

“Wayne’s father’s home, located on the same lot as Wayne’s mobile home was also severely damaged in the hurricane. Heyward (Wayne’s dad) has been helping Mark and Laura’s crew in renovating Wayne’s mobile home. Heyward has also been working around the clock, seven days a week to try to get his own house in order.

“Mark explained the problem facing relief workers with all the missing street signs — the LTDR staff directed him to Wayne’s house as follows: ‘Take this road down to the gulf, and turn right, then go down a couple miles ‘til you see the van turned upside down on the side of the road, and take another right, then go a few blocks until you see a red car on

top of another car.’

“After breakfast, our crew of Dan, Walt, dad and I went back down to Eula’s in Biloxi to wrap up the roof work and begin other projects as needed there. On the way, we stopped at Lowe’s for some more building materials. Then we met Eula, and reviewed the remaining work with her.

“I took the time to get to know her a bit better, since the immediate task of getting her under a sound roof was nearly accomplished. Eula Mae Burbridge has been in Biloxi since 1958. She and her husband moved to Couevas Street in 1967, buying instead of renting the home, contrary to what most of her friends in the neighborhood were doing back in those days. They raised five children in that home, and witnessed Biloxi change from a fishing and shrimping center to a casino town over the years. Her only child still in the area is now in the service, engaged in the war in Iraq.

“Born in 1936, in New Orleans, Eula has certainly seen her share of social and life changes over the years. When I asked about those events, Eula said, yes, she has witnessed much, but none tops the devastation of Katrina for its magnitude and impact.

“We were pleased to have another excellent day in the 60-degree full sun of the Gulf Coast so we could continue the outdoors restoration needed for our southern sister. We finished replacing the galvanized tin roof, repaired and straightened the fence, replaced and repaired the roof of the shed, and removed a section of rusted and severely slanted chain link fence at the front of the home, which had become a dubious welcome sign in the driveway. We also all pitched in to replace several sections of vinyl siding on the front of the house that had been torn off in the storm, and dad and Dan began replacing the soffit and fascia that the winds had taken or damaged. While I collected debris strewn about the yard (including rescuing a couple potted aloe vera plants), Walt and Eula discussed the necessary purchase of drywall and mud compound that Eula promised to make tonight. We were going to move the renovation

efforts indoors tomorrow, after wrapping up the few remaining exterior projects.

“Dad assisted Dan, Walt and me all day, measuring and cutting tin and vinyl, and he finally suffered his first Katrina wound, which was unnoticed for quite awhile. Dan first observed the six-inch trail of dried blood along dad’s forearm. I assisted dad in cleaning the wound with a wet wipe from my backpack and applied some antibacterial gel and a band aid, both from the first aid kit my sister-in-law Mary put together. ... (Dad) figured out that he had caught and scratched his arm on the top of Eula’s fence while clearing the damaged chain link from the driveway area.

“After clearing the front porch work area, and putting away our tools for the day, we reflected on the completion of our original task — the roof. Now that the roof was reliably sealed, we could turn our attention to drywall and ceiling repair, and get Eula closer to her long-desired move back home. As we climbed into the autos for the trip back to the center, I noticed that dad and I had been overdone by the sun, and made a mental note to make sure that we applied sunscreen tomorrow. ...

“Several on our mission



PROVIDED BY DAN LEFFERS

Members of the recovery team include from left front, Carol Blauvelt, Tom Bobay, Theresa Hartman, Craig Bobay; middle row, Walt Schroeder, Barb Collins, Anne Ladowski, Joan White, Alice Reinhard, Laura Swigart; back, Enid Laisure, Mark Stoner, Art Renninger, Julie Renninger, Dan Leffers and Dan Schaab.



PROVIDED BY CRAIG BOBAY

Walt Schroeder, Eula Mae and Dan Leffers at the end of a long day.

observed how grateful the local people are for our assistance. Many have been on recovery help lists for months, and nearly all for whom we worked still have much yet to be done before their lives will be returned to normal. Today Julie Renninger and crew (Barb Collins, Enid Laisure, Anne Ladowski, Joan White and Alice Reinhard) emptied three semi trucks of food sent to the Biloxi Diocese. As they unloaded the food, they also handed it out to locals who stopped when they saw the trucks being unloaded.

“In the early days after the hurricane, the Dedeaux Center served as a food distribution point. Julie, Anne, Enid and Barb were obviously deeply impressed by the people that came by for the food.

“Several of those who stopped for food today were families with children, obviously lacking most basic comforts we take for granted. Anne told of the difficulty she had with seeing ‘such sadness in the eyes of the little ones.’ Julie added, ‘Many of the people just seemed to have their spirit completely broken.’

“Enid related that a humble man who came by for food felt the need to apologize for the broken down condition of his car. Barb recognized severe depression and deep hopelessness in the people, but she also noted that they were sincerely thankful. These traits — hopelessness, depression and gratitude were observed over and over again by us all throughout the week.

“Many people broke down to tears when we told them that we at St. Jude have been, and will continue to pray for them. The people down here are genuinely impressed that so many other people from all over the country are volunteering and coming down to help them out.

“Many have amazing stories of surviving the storm. One man told Barb that after the flood water receded and he returned to his house, everything he owned was gone except for a Christmas Nativity scene of the Christ child, which he always displayed in his front yard year round.

“... We watched the local news tonight. The first five stories on the news were all Katrina related. The hurricane damage constantly permeates life down here.”



Jesse
Manibusan

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\$25 Cost
Includes:
T-shirt, snack,
Olive Garden dinner, Concert and
Keynote with
Jesse and Poppie,
Mass with the
Bishop, the Village, Prayer labyrinth, and awesome workshops!

Saturday April 22, 2006
Mishawaka, Indiana
Marian High School

Faith Fest 06

diocesefw/sb.org/youth

HOW TO ASSIST

The Diocese of Biloxi, Miss. is accepting volunteers to help with the recovery phase of the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Those who wish to learn more about what they may accomplish in restoring hope to the people of the Mississippi coast should contact the Diocese of Biloxi’s Long Term Disaster Recovery, Volunteer Coordinator Deanna Misko, at (228) 701-0555. Her address is 1450 North St., Gulfport, Miss., 39507. Another contact is the Dedeaux Retreat Center’s director, Billy Ray Dedeaux at his e-mail address: Dedeaux05Favre@aol.com. The Sacred Heart Catholic Church and the Dedeaux Center are located at 14595 Vidalia Rd., Pass Christian, Miss. 39571. Billy Ray’s phone number at the center is (228) 586-9003. Donations are also accepted at these two above addresses.

Art Renninger may be contacted to provide information for local Fort Wayne or South Bend area groups interested in helping. Art’s phone number is (260) 493-1804.

Contact your local American Red Cross Chapter to learn how to volunteer for the ongoing hurricane relief efforts or log on at www.redcross.org for online information. Other organizations that you may contact include 1-800-Volunteer.org (www.1-800-volunteer.org) or the National Volunteer Center Network www.pointsoflight.org/centers/find_center.cfm.