

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Pope celebrates Easter

Urges people, nations to
turn away from sin

BY CAROL GLATZ AND CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Celebrating the first Holy Week and Easter of his pontificate, Pope Benedict XVI called on individuals and nations to turn away from their sins and accept the love, truth and peace offered by the crucified and risen Christ.

After presiding April 16 over Easter morning Mass amid thousands of flowers and blossoming trees in St. Peter's Square, Pope Benedict solemnly offered his blessing "urbi et orbi" (to the city of Rome and the world), and prayed for peace and justice in the most troubled areas of the world.

While a couple of people at the morning Mass held signs wishing the pope a happy 79th birthday, there was no repeat of the sung wishes that had filled St. Peter's Basilica at 1 a.m. when the Easter Vigil ended.

During his midday Easter blessing, the pope called for "serious and honest negotiations" to find an "honorable solution" to the standoff between Iran and the international community over Iran's nuclear program. He also prayed that "in Iraq may peace finally prevail over the tragic violence that continues mercilessly to claim victims."

The pope called on the international community to come to the rescue of the people of Sudan's Darfur



CNS PHOTO/MAX ROSSI, REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI blesses worshippers with holy water during Easter Mass in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican April 16.

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IMMIGRATION RALLY HELD IN SOUTH BEND



BILL MUEMPFER

Father Chris Cox, CSC, pastor of St. Adalbert and St. Casimir parishes in South Bend, joins Bishop John M. D'Arcy in the immigration march and rally in South Bend on April 10. The rally had thousands of participants. Bishop D'Arcy urged people to treat immigrants — legal or illegal — with dignity. "Let us treat those who are undocumented as God's creatures and find a place for them," he was quoted as saying in the *Chicago Tribune*.

Bishop D'Arcy urges prayers, action on immigration reform

SOUTH BEND — Bishops and church organizations are urging Catholics across the U.S. to pray for comprehensive immigration reform and to push their legislators for measures that would legalize the status of millions of illegal immigrants.

In South Bend, Bishop John M. D'Arcy joined Father Christopher Cox, CSC, pastor of St. Adalbert and St. Casimir parish in South Bend, in an immigration rally that drew thousands of participants on April 10. The rally was one of many nationwide held April 9 and 10. Another rally was held in Goshen on April 9.

In his talk at the South Bend rally, Bishop D'Arcy said, "We are here for one purpose — to defend the dignity of every person. We have just commemorated the first year of the death of our beloved Pope John Paul II, who always stood for those whom society wished to neglect.

"Let us listen to him on his second to last visit to this country," Bishop D'Arcy said. "He was in New Jersey. He always loved this country and all we have done for those who came from far away. So, he said: 'From its beginning until now, the United States has been a haven for generation after generation of new arrivals. Men and women have streamed here from every corner of the globe, building new lives and forming a society of rich ethnic and racial diversity,

diversity based on commitment to our shared vision of human dignity and freedom. Of the United States we can truly say, E pluribus unum — from the many one.'"

Pope John Paul II added in his talk, "It is my prayerful hope that America will persevere in its own best traditions of openness and opportunity. It would indeed be sad if the United States were to turn away from that enterprising spirit, which has always sought the most practical and responsible ways of continuing to share with others the blessing God has richly bestowed here."

Bishop D'Arcy quoted Pope John Paul further from the Mass in New Jersey, "Quite close to the shores of New Jersey there rises a universally known landmark, which stands as an enduring witness to the American tradition of welcoming the stranger and which tells us something important about the kind of nation America has aspired to be. It is the Statute of Liberty, with its celebrated poem: 'Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free ... Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me.'"

Pope John Paul II continued: "Is present day American becoming, less sensitive, less caring toward the poor, the weak, the stranger, the needy? It must not. Today, as before, the United States is called to be a

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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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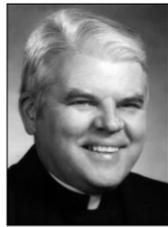
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We are all called to bring the news of the risen Christ to others



NEWS & NOTES

BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

The longest season and the most joyful

Our parishes reach a kind of pinnacle on Easter Sunday, and so does our diocese. The packed churches of Easter following the baptisms of Holy Saturday night, preceded by the solemn and prayerful Good Friday, move all of us. The church is at its most solemn and most beautiful. Part of that is Holy Thursday, the commemoration of the institution of the Eucharist and the washing of feet. Earlier in the week, the chrisms Masses with their solemnity in our cathedral and in our co-cathedral. This year, we had 78 priests in South Bend and 68 in Fort Wayne at the chrisms Mass. Great prayerfulness and solemnity as they renewed their promises. A beautiful time to be a priest and a great time to be a Catholic.

Now comes the wonderful readings of Easter week. Some are taken from the Acts of the Apostles. They recount the homilies which St. Peter gave to the early Christians. It is the beginning of the Apostolic Era, which saw the apostles taking literally the command of Christ to go to the ends of the earth, as it was then known, to preach the Gospel. Even to Rome. Even, according to tradition, as far as India, as our priests from India will tell you about the Apostle Philip. These homilies focus on the essence of the Christian message. In addition to this, each day during the week, we read in the Gospel one of the accounts of the Resurrection. For example, on Wednesday, there is the marvelous story of the way to Emmaus. These should be read frequently during the Easter season and meditated upon so that we might make our Act of Faith in the Risen Christ and speak with him, the one who died and rose for our salvation. The graces of Easter are always fresh and new. While we are not apostles in the sense of the original Twelve, we are all called to believe and to bring the news of the risen Christ to others.

How about the beautiful words in the Acts of the Apostles when the man who was crippled from birth saw the apostles coming to the temple, begging alms. Peter replied, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give you in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene. Rise and walk." If one cannot go to Mass during Easter week, these lessons and the Gospels for these days should be read throughout the season in our private prayer.

Further reading

I have always been moved by this passage from Paul's first Letter to the Corinthians. Paul said to his listeners that this is the message, "In which also you stand through which you are being saved. If you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you." And then he goes on to present it again.

"For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Céphas, then to the Twelve. Then he appeared to more than 500 brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain." — 1 Cor. 15: 3-10.

The apostles died for this message. Those who were unable to stand with Christ at the cross became martyrs to prove that it was true. Our part is to hold this in faith, to believe it with all our hearts and to accept the joy that comes from it.

Lectio Divina is one of the oldest prayer forms in the church. It calls us to the meditative reading of the Scripture. As priests, we have the great privilege and joy of the Office of Readings, which gives us Scripture and a comment on Scripture every single day. I hope often this season to read and reread the resurrection accounts, not only at Mass but in personal prayer. I encourage this for everyone.

Holy Week revisited

A friend of mine, Father Paul McPartland, a classmate ordained with me and so many others 49 years ago, spent some time with us at St. Matthew Cathedral Parish, South Bend. He was so impressed with all that is going on there and throughout the diocese that he simply said to me later, "The work of the kingdom of God is going in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend." I thought of this when I heard of the large number of confessions at both of our cathedrals, and also in other parishes. On Holy Saturday, three of our priests heard confessions for over three hours. Father James Stoye, Father Robert Schulte and Father Jonas Okoye heard confessions all afternoon. The same was true at St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend. I was privileged to hear confessions in both places, first at St. Matthew late on Holy Thursday, and on the following day at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. At the cathedral in Fort Wayne, I was privileged to baptize eight people and to give the sacrament of confirmation to 10 other new Catholics. All of this was repeated throughout the diocese.

I thank God for the splendid work of our priests in this area and of so many people, men and women, who work beside them as catechists and parish liturgical directors, and in many other capacities. So many graces during this season. If we do our part, he will do the rest.

All totaled, over 500 were received into the church this year. These are the ones we know from the Rite of Election, held early in Lent. The numbers are probably higher, because there are often some who are unable to come to the Rite of Election. I thank God for this and commend these new Catholics in our midst.

An early march in South Bend

On Palm Sunday night, I headed to South Bend, a day earlier than usual, in

order to join thousands of people who were demonstrating in support of the dignity of the many Hispanics from Mexico, Guatemala, Columbia and other countries who have lived here for many years and wish to be made legal and also, in most cases, to become citizens of this beloved country.

It was a joy to be with them. My old and dear friend, Father Bob Pelton, CSC, an expert on the church in Latin America was present. Fluent in Spanish and a theologian, he is also a devoted member of our Catholic Charities Board. I was not surprised to see him at this meeting. Then there was Father Chris Cox, CSC. Father Chris is pastor of St. Adalbert Parish and is equally devoted to the Polish and Hispanic people. His leadership has really strengthened St. Adalbert School. As Pope John Paul II told us, "Education is the way out of poverty." This fine school will have great effect on the west side of South Bend. Several other priests were there along with several thousand, and we had a peaceful march through South Bend. Father Cox was one of the leaders and organizers of this march. Also present was Father Wilson Corzo of St. Vincent de Paul, Elkhart, a native of Columbia.

It seemed to mean a lot to the people to have the bishop present, and I was pleased to quote Pope John Paul II in his second to last visit to this country, "Quite close to the shores of New Jersey, there rises a universally known landmark, which stands as an enduring witness to the American tradition of welcoming the stranger and which tells us something important about the kind of nation America has aspired to be. It is the Statue of Liberty with its celebrated poem: 'Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free ... Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me.' ... Is present-day America becoming," asks the pope, "less sensitive, less caring toward the poor, the weak, the stranger, the needy. It must not! Today, as before, the United States is called to be a hospitable society, a welcoming culture. If American were to turn in on itself, would this not be the beginning of the end of what constitutes the very essence of the 'American experience'?" — Pope John Paul II, in New Jersey 1995.

Diamond report

The Red Sox are 9-4 and a half game ahead of the Yankees. The road ahead is long, but it will be fun to follow it. A wonderful distraction. Do we have enough pitching, enough hitting? Eternal questions. It is an imperfect game, which is part of its joy. Enough philosophizing. Let us just enjoy it. It is great to have flowers and baseball and box scores at breakfast. All this and the wonderful Easter season. How can one not be joyful?

See you all next week.

EASTER

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region who continue to be under the threat of genocide and face terror and hunger.

He prayed for peace in the Holy Land and for "patient and persevering dialogue" between Israel and the Palestinian government.

"May the international community, which reaffirms Israel's right to exist in peace, assist the Palestinian people to overcome the precarious conditions in which they live," he said.

With more than 80,000 people gathered in St. Peter's Square for the blessing, Pope Benedict said Christ's resurrection from the dead fulfilled God's promise to save his creatures from the power of sin and death.

"From the risen Christ, all those who are still oppressed by chains of suffering and death look for hope, sometimes even without knowing it," he said.

"May the risen Christ grant that the strength of his life, peace and freedom be experienced everywhere," he said, after offering Easter greetings in 62 languages, including Esperanto, Maori, Arabic and Hebrew.

He told English speakers, "May the grace and joy of the risen Christ be with you all."

Speaking in Dutch, he thanked the Bloemen Bureau of Holland, the International Flower Bulb Centre, Plant Publicity Holland and 20 Dutch flower arrangers for creating a spring garden on the steps of St. Peter's Basilica.

During the April 15 Easter

Vigil, Pope Benedict baptized and confirmed seven men and women from six nations, using a small golden shell to trickle the holy water over each catechumen's head.

The young girl and woman from Japan, a young woman from Peru, a teenage boy from Colombia, a young woman from Cameroon, a young man from Albania and another from Belarus also received their first Communion from the pope as he welcomed them into the Catholic Church.

Baptism represents more than just receiving people into the faith or the simple washing away of sin, the pope said in the vigil homily. Baptism ushers in a complete transformation in one's life, making it "no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me," the pope said, quoting St. Paul.

The baptized individual is liberated from his or her isolated existence and plunged into full communion with Christ, he said.

"We grasp hold of the risen Lord" who will "hold us firmly even when our hands grow weak," the pope said.

At the end of the Way of the Cross service at Rome's Colosseum April 14, Pope Benedict called on Christians to be bold and courageous in their faith and help rein in the evil plaguing the world by reaching out to others with love.

Speaking without a text to those gathered at the site where numerous Christians had been killed in ancient Roman times, the pope urged people to be merciful and not sit back and watch injustice and suffering take place.

"We cannot be just spectators in the Way of the Cross," which is

not just an event from the past, but is an ever-repeating reality, he said.

The Way of the Cross reflects "all of humanity's sufferings today," including the suffering of abandoned or abused children, threats against the family, the division of the world between rich and poor, and the misery of those suffering from poverty and deprivation, he said.

Earlier April 14, Pope Benedict presided over the Good Friday liturgy of the Lord's Passion, beginning the rite by lying prostrate with his face on a pillow in front of the altar.

The preacher of the papal household, Capuchin Father Raniero Cantalamessa, said in his homily that people needed to be more compassionate and forgiving if the world was "not to slide ever more into the abyss of globalized violence."

Apparently referring to the conflict between Israel and the Palestinian territories, the Capuchin priest said he wondered what would happen if, "in the Near East, the two peoples at war for decades, rather than blaming one another were to begin to think of the suffering of others, to be moved to pity for one another," making the "wall of division" between the two no longer necessary.

There is so much pain and suffering in the world, "we must have some compassion and solidarity for one another," he said.

The pope left the Vatican Easter afternoon to spend a few days resting at the papal villa in Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome. At noon April 17, he recited the "Regina Coeli" prayer with visitors gathered in the villa's courtyard.

Deacon at St. Joseph Parish, South Bend, to be ordained April 22

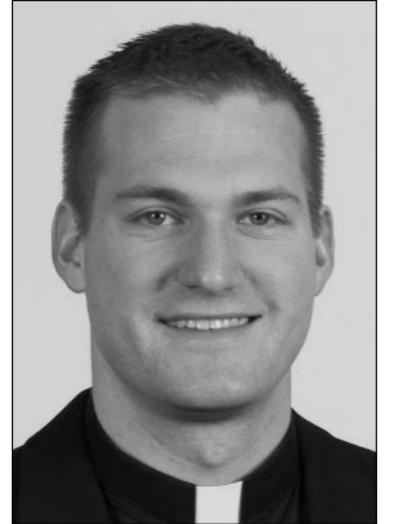
NOTRE DAME — Rev. Mr. Nathan D. Wills, CSC, will be ordained a priest for the Congregation of Holy Cross on Saturday, April 22 at 2:30 p.m. at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, located at the University of Notre Dame. The Most Reverend Daniel R. Jenky, CSC, Bishop of Peoria, will preside.

Wills will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Joseph Parish on Sunday, April 23, at 10 a.m. followed by a reception in the school. He will also celebrate Masses of thanksgiving at Notre Dame High School, Niles, Ill., on Tuesday, May 9, at 9:35 a.m.; St. Thomas Academy, Mendota Heights, Minn., on Tuesday, May 16, at 9:45 a.m.; and in his home parish, St. Joseph Parish, West St. Paul, Minn., on Sunday, May 21, at 11 a.m.

Born to Daniel and Susan Wills, Deacon Wills is a native of Mendota Heights, Minn., and attended St. Thomas Academy there. He came to Notre Dame in 1995 as a freshman in the Old College Undergraduate Seminary and earned a bachelor of arts degree in theology and computer applications in 1999.

The following year he entered Holy Cross Novitiate in Cascade, Colo., and returned to Notre Dame in 2000 to begin studies at Moreau Seminary.

Wills was awarded two additional degrees at the University of Notre Dame, a masters in education degree in May, 2003



REV. MR. NATHAN D. WILLS, CSC

through the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) program and a master of divinity degree in 2005.

During his time at Moreau Seminary, Wills served in a variety of ministry placements including hospice chaplain, counseling in a maximum security state prison, and as a volunteer with the Women's Care Center and Catholic Peace Fellowship. Through the ACE Program, he taught religion and computer skills for two years at Notre Dame High School in Niles, Ill.

Wills is presently serving as deacon at St. Joseph Parish in South Bend and has been assigned to continue his priestly ministry there.

Pope, in Holy Thursday homily, says Judas was a greedy liar

BY CINDY WOODEN

ROME (CNS) — Judas was a greedy liar who put his desire for money ahead of his relationship with Jesus and his love for God, Pope Benedict XVI said.

Exactly a week after the National Geographic Society put the sympathetic Gospel of Judas on display, Pope Benedict reasserted the traditional Christian view that Judas betrayed his friend and Lord after the Last Supper.

The document that went on display in Washington April 6 is a third-century Coptic translation of what had originally been written in Greek before 180. The text portrays Judas as Jesus' closest disciple and says Jesus asked Judas to hand him over to the Roman authorities so that he could fulfill his mission.

But during his April 13 homily at the Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper, Pope Benedict said Judas is the clearest example Christians have of someone who refuses God's saving love.

For Judas, the pope said, "only power and success are real; love does not count."

"And he is greedy: Money is

more important than communion with Jesus, more important than God and his love. He also becomes a liar, a double-crosser who breaks with the truth," Pope Benedict said.

Purposefully ignoring the truth, he said, Judas "hardens, becoming incapable of conversion ... and throws away his destroyed life."

The next day, the pope's preacher also weighed in against the recent wave of "pseudohistorical literature" gaining popularity as well as the soon-to-be-released film, "The Da Vinci Code."

In his April 14 homily during the Good Friday liturgy of the Lord's Passion, Capuchin Father Raniero Cantalamessa said that millions of people today were being "crassly manipulated by the media," which is more interested in touting the newest fad or insight rather than the truth and, as a consequence, turning a pretty penny for it.

"There is much talk about Judas' betrayal without realizing that it is being repeated" today, he said during his homily given before the pope and hundreds of people in St. Peter's Basilica.

"Christ is being sold again,"

he said, but this time "to publishers and booksellers" for billions of dollars.

People seem to be always itching for something new, and there are those who take advantage of that by carrying out or promoting "the clever rewriting of ancient legends," he said.

The fantasies and speculation will only "flare up with the imminent release of a certain film," the Capuchin friar said, in reference to the movie "The Da Vinci Code," based on the novel by Dan Brown.

The preacher of the papal household said he felt it was his duty to address the current swirl of controversy surrounding the many interpretations of the life and death of Jesus because "we cannot allow the silence of believers to be mistaken for embarrassment" nor allow the media to manipulate the truth about Christ's life, his death on the cross and his resurrection.

REFORM

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hospitable society, a welcoming culture. If America were to turn in on itself, would this not be the beginning of the end of what constitutes the very essence of the 'American experience'?"

Bishop D'Arcy said, "So, this man from a faraway country was able to tell us what is true and special, and even unique, about America. Perhaps because he knew so many of his beloved Polish citizens came here and were so well received, for example, on the west side of South Bend.

"We are not here for political purposes," the bishop said. "We are here to pray that our representatives will look again and reject harsh, punitive decisions, and seek decisions, which will recognize the dignity of every person and also enrich our beloved country.

"My own parents came as immigrants and found here the land of opportunity," Bishop D'Arcy said. "May this be true for everyone who knocks on our door. Let us treat those who are undocumented as God's creatures and find a place for them, respecting always our laws and making them part of our family, welcome at our table. We can do this legally and

properly. That is what we ask of our elected officials."

In other parts of the country, the bishops of New York state in a Good Friday statement supported legislation that "provides for a pathway to permanent legal status for undocumented workers" and sets up "a rational and fair temporary worker program."

The bishops oppose "the criminalization of immigrants for their undocumented status and the criminalizing of the agencies and religious congregations who help them," said the April 14 statement.

San Francisco Archbishop George H. Niederauer called for special prayers for a humane immigration reform to be said April 23, Divine Mercy Sunday. In an April 12 statement, he also urged Catholics to make sacrifices and contact their legislators on behalf of measures that respect "the dignity of our brothers and sisters who have come here from other lands."

An April 10 statement by the Knights of Columbus supported paths to legalization and noted that the world's largest Catholic lay organization "has proudly included brother Knights in Mexico for more than 100 years."

Catholic News Service contributed to this report.

Research team says Jesus' walk on water might have been on ice patch

BY JUDITH SUDILOVSKY

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Jesus' walk across the Sea of Galilee may actually have been made possible by a rare and isolated patch of floating ice, according to an Israeli-American academic research team.

The Gospels of Matthew and Mark describe how Jesus sent his disciples to Bethsaida on the other side of the Sea of Galilee and joined them later in the evening, reaching their boat by "walking on the sea."

A research team of oceanographers from Florida State University, Columbia University in New York and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem said it has found data to refute the biblical account. The findings were made public in the April 2006 issue of the *Journal of Paleolimnology*, a Canadian science journal that focuses on the science of prehistoric bodies of water.

"What we can do is explain something that in today's climate seems unacceptable but which could have happened 2,000 years ago," said researcher Nathan Paldor, chairman for atmospheric sciences at the Institute of Earth Sciences at the Hebrew University.

In an April 9 telephone interview with Catholic News Service, Paldor said there has been strong reaction to the report. Most of the reaction has been negative and largely from Christians who are offended that the study's conclusion denies the walk's miraculous nature.

"I don't view my research as shattering or strengthening beliefs. In my book both people who believe in the miracle of

Jesus' walk and those who don't can live with (the results of the study), but unfortunately some people found it hard to swallow. Some Christians believe we have desecrated the holy of holies," said Paldor.

In the report, the team explained how ice could have formed on the cold freshwater surface of the Sea of Galilee between 2,500 and 1,500 years ago when already-chilly temperatures briefly fell during one of two protracted cold periods.

The study said there was a rare combination of optimal water and atmospheric conditions for the development of a unique freezing phenomenon that the researchers called "springs ice." During the time of Jesus — when the temperature in the region was several degrees colder than it is today — this type of ice could have occurred every 100 or so years, said Paldor.

A combination of below-freezing temperature, rain and low to no winds would have been needed to produce the springs ice amid unfrozen water giving the appearance of someone walking on water, said Paldor.

Using records of the Mediterranean Sea's surface temperatures along with analytical ice and statistical models, the study focused on the dynamics of a small section of the Sea of Galilee near the salty springs which empty into it. Doron Nof, a professor at the department of oceanography of Florida State University and Ian McKeague, a professor at the biostatistics department of Columbia University, conducted the research with Paldor.

The salt water from the springs allowed a layer of about 10 centimeters of fresh water on

top to freeze while the salt water below remained liquid, explained Paldor.

Their analysis indicates that it is likely that a brief blast of frigid air descended over the lake, dropping the temperature for at least two days, which coincided with the chill which had settled in for a century at least.

The researchers maintain that if these atmospheric conditions existed at the same time over a lake like the Sea of Galilee, a floating ice patch could have developed above the plumes generated by the salty springs. It would have been difficult to distinguish such an ice patch floating on the surface of the small lake from the unfrozen water surrounding it along the lake's western shore in Tabgha — the area of the lake where many archeological finds from the time of Jesus have been documented.

This natural camouflage of the ice would especially have been possible if it had rained after the ice had formed since rain would have smoothed the ice's surface. The ice formed likely would have been thick enough to support human weight.

There are lakes, for example, in Wisconsin, where such a phenomenon has also been observed in modern times, said Paldor. One reader sent him a picture of her dog walking along such a patch of ice on a lake.

The team had earlier tackled the question of the parting of the Red Sea and had come up with a mathematical model which could explain that mystery. About five years ago they turned their curiosity on Jesus' walk on water.

Diocese disperses \$224,000 to 17 'needy' parish projects

BY VINCE LABARBERA

The Annual Bishop's Appeal of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend includes a funding program to assist less affluent parishes. A Parishes-in-Need Fund Committee, appointed by Bishop John M. D'Arcy, met recently to review parish requests for "needy" projects. The committee recommended a total of \$224,097 be granted to 17 parishes for 24 essential projects, enabling them to arrive at a more stable existence.

"Obviously, we can't meet every request submitted by the parishes," said Father Robert C. Schulte, vicar general/chancellor of the diocese. "We have to consider the nature of each request in light of the total needs and financial resources of the parish as well as the other parishes in the diocese requesting funding assistance," he continued. "If all or part of a request cannot be met, often the committee will recommend the parish apply to another fund of financial resource in the diocese or community, or seek other alternatives."

Some funds usually remain in the account for use throughout the year by parishes when a new need arises, Father Schulte indicated. If all the money is not used in 2006, however, it will be carried over and allocated to next year's Parishes-in-Need fund, he explained.

"Hopefully, this money will strengthen these parishes financially, increase their outreach and improve their ability to do the work of Christ," said Bishop D'Arcy.

This year's allocation of Parishes-in-Need funds brings to \$4,042,433 the amount granted from the Annual Bishop's Appeal to parishes in need during the 19 years of the appeal. This year's dispersion and the primary parish projects include:

Fort Wayne

- St. Therese — \$7,500 toward salary for a full-time resource teacher
- Most Precious Blood — \$20,000 to complete window replacement project for the school
- St. Henry — \$30,000 sub-

sidy for students attending Benoit Academy

- Sacred Heart — \$5,000 subsidy for students attending Benoit Academy
- Queen of Angels — \$30,000 to install new roof on the one- and two-story sections of the school

Fort Wayne area

- St. Mary, Huntington — \$5,500 to replace windows in rectory
- St. Joseph, Garrett — \$10,000 to replace St. Martin's Center roof
- St. Patrick, Ligonier — \$1,000 for materials and translating fees for Good Shepherd program

South Bend

- St. Adalbert — \$15,000 toward salary to coordinate after-school program
- St. Augustine — \$5,000 subsidy for sending students to a Catholic school
- St. John — \$20,000 to keep the parish in the black for this fiscal year
- Our Lady of Hungary — \$9,334 to remove slate on west side of church roof and install ice and water shield, \$2,043 to remove slate on northwest valley of church roof and install ice and water shield, \$10,760 to repair broken and missing slate on church roof, \$3,750 to remove part of wall in gym prior to replacing steam pipe and \$3,060 to replace steam pipe in gym
- St. Joseph — \$1,500 to install safety handrail in church for elderly and handicapped, and \$5,500 to replace sections of sidewalk in front of church and school
- Holy Cross — \$4,000 to replace eight windows in church sacristy and meeting room, and \$4,000 to replace eight windows in parish office

South Bend area

- St. Vincent, Elkhart — \$3,000 subsidy for sending students to a Catholic school and \$5,500 for the Latch Key program
- St. Patrick, Walkerton — \$17,650 to repair and repave church and school parking lots
- St. Monica, Mishawaka — \$9,000 to replace concrete steps and railing on east side of church

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Education for Ministry program teaches depth of Catholic faith

BY KAY COZAD

Spring is traditionally a time of renewal and rich with celebrations of many kinds. Weddings abound, confirmations are celebrated, and of course, students gear up for graduation from all levels of academia.

One little known graduation will take place this spring for a group of adults, 29 in South Bend and 43 in Fort Wayne, who have completed the Education for Ministry Program. The subject matter? The substance of the Catholic faith.

The Education for Ministry Program is a program of religious studies offered by the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend Office of Catechesis. It began in 1992 after the diocese took to heart the message of a U.S. Catholic Bishops' document, which urged the church to put its best resources into adult education. The program was first offered on University of Saint Francis and Saint Mary's College campuses and limited to 10 RCIA participants, directors of religious education and catechists. In 1994, the Office of Catechesis took over the administration and staffing of the program and offered it every other year as an independent program through the diocese. For the past four years it has been offered yearly, and with the generous support of a grant from Our Sunday Visitor, is offered free of charge.

Donna Macino, associate director of the Office of Catechesis and teacher of morality in the program, says it was

first offered to those working within the church needing more of a foundation in church teachings.

"We soon realized that everyone is called to know their faith, to evangelize. People catechize their children, grandchildren and friends," she says. So the program was opened to anyone wishing to "grow in their knowledge of their Catholic faith."

Participants have ranged in background from stay-at-home moms to college professors. To date, over 600 participants have graduated with a diocesan certificate in catechetical leadership from the program.

Education for Ministry requires a two-year commitment, where participants meet weekly for two-hour classes. "Our teachers are professors at Catholic universities, high school theology teachers, diocesan office staff and come from church and the private sector," says Macino. The classes are scheduled from August to May and follow the school calendar. Each session begins with Evening Prayer from the "Shorter Christian Prayer Book" and includes discussions on class content and life application.

The first year consists of teachings in Scripture, the catechism, prayer, the creed and church history. The liturgy, sacra-

ments, catechetical methods, morality and theology of ministry are investigated during the second year. "The program is challenging but adult friendly," says Macino. "Attendance is very important, as is the reading and completion of assignments. We

Fort Wayne student and St. Charles Borromeo, Fort Wayne, parishioner, Rose Henry, is looking forward to teaching someday in the Catholic school system and found the analysis of the catechism beneficial to her as well.

Monica Higginbotham of St.

Bavo Parish, Mishawaka, found learning about church history has changed the way she sees the church today. "It helped me see the presence of the Holy Spirit working out his plan for the church throughout all of history."

Convert to the faith, Skip Douglas, of St. Vincent Parish, Fort Wayne, gained clarification in morality and enjoyed the "fellowship of other Catholics struggling to learn, too," while Jackie Redman, of St. Monica, Mishawaka, has "become more aware of everything in the church." She says, "It has been a real eye opener. I don't take anything for granted."

Donna Macino reports that both groups showed an openness and desire to grow in community in addition to sharing the content information. Matt Smith, professor at the University of Saint Francis and Our Lady of Good Hope parishioner, agrees saying "The unequivocal kindness that participants have shown to each other in the classes has made this

program a special experience." Corine Erlandson, of St. Elizabeth Parish, Fort Wayne, grew close to the women at her table but also felt she got to know the others "through their insightful questions and comments," while Beth Schwier, of St. Bavo, feels that she "learned the most in the conversations."

St. Jude parishioner Sue Harrington and others, look forward to utilizing their new understanding in future endeavors. "I am involved in ... offering continuing learning programs in parishes in the Fort Wayne area. I hope I can inspire others to learn more about their faith."

And Linda Ong, of Sacred Heart Parish at Notre Dame, sums up her experience by saying, "It (the program) helped me know my faith better, that God is in control. He is the everlasting God that loves us all. It made me want to be a better person and look at my job as anesthesiologist as a vocation ..."

Education for Ministry is a program that "helps Catholics know and live their faith and have a deeper relationship with Christ," says Donna Macino. "It helps them learn how to be 'church.'"

Education for Ministry will begin a new session this August. For a brochure and application in South Bend call Sue Gerard at (574) 259-9994 Ext. 230 and in Fort Wayne call Becky Klotz at (260) 422-4611 Ext. 3359. The application deadline is April 28.

"We soon realized that everyone is called to know their faith, to evangelize. People catechize their children, grandchildren and friends."

DONNA MACINO, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF CATECHESIS

do everything to help them succeed."

Paula Giver, parish manager at Little Flower Church in South Bend, enrolled in the program for personal enrichment but finds benefit in her professional life as well.

"Often times questions are asked of the first person someone sees coming in the door of the church ... It's been helpful to have been given the basics in a number of areas regarding the 'way we do what we do or don't do,'" says Giver.

She feels comfortable now having resources like the catechism to find answers to her questions and "delve deeper into various areas covered by the courses."

Indiana-Purdue Universities at

Institute for Black Catholics finds a home at Notre Dame

BY MAY LEE JOHNSON

NOTRE DAME — Hundreds from Xavier University's Institute for Black Catholic Studies (IBCS) will find a temporary home on the University of Notre Dame campus.

The board of trustees at Xavier University, still suffering from last year's flood in New Orleans, has approved an offer by the University of Notre Dame to host the institute's summer session, June 30 through July 22.

Sister Jamie T. Phelps, OP, a member of the Dominican Sisters of Adrian, Mich., IBCS director, said Xavier's schedule is a problem because its spring semester has been extended into August because of time lost in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

"It was obvious if the regular courses were scheduled to meet in the summertime, there would be little space for the summer programs," Sister Phelps said. "A number of my theological colleagues were sensitive to the possible consequences of Katrina and its aftermath, and as a result, I got many calls offering a temporary location and support for the institute."

Founded in 1980, the IBCS



SISTER JAMIE T. PHELPS, OP

offers programs in pastoral ministries, religious education and pastoral theology, taught from the perspective of the black religious community.

The focus is to provide education for an effective Catholic ministry for black communities.

The majority of faculty members are black Catholic theologians, scholars and ministers.

Notre Dame was considered for many reasons, Phelps said.

"First, Notre Dame's spirit of hospitality. Their administration was among the first to offer concrete and practical assistance to Xavier," she said.

"Second, Notre Dame is in close proximity to the large black Catholic community in Chicago," Sister Phelps said.

Also, Notre Dame is committed to providing the high quality that the institute's students have come to expect, she said.

The institute has a May 1 pre-registration deadline for its master's-degree-level courses. The deadline is May 15 for noncredit continuing education and enrichment courses.

Students and faculty will be housed in O'Neil Hall during the event.

"We are pleased and honored," said Jean Ann Linney, Notre Dame vice president and assistant provost.

"The IBCS is an established program with an excellent reputation and impressive outcomes," Linney added. "We hope that many of our students and faculty will be able to participate in the program this summer, and perhaps cultivate a long-term collaboration between our universities in this important area."

Notre Dame is contributing a substantial amount of the costs of the program, but Xavier is providing help as well.

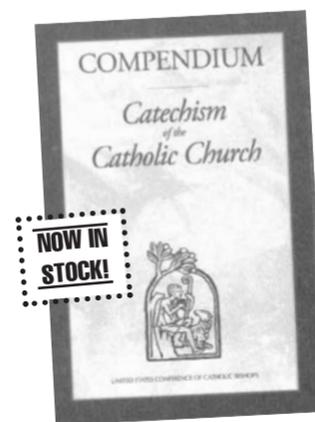
Sister Phelps is looking forward to participation by Notre Dame graduate students in theol-

ogy and other fields. But she also knows a lot of work still needs to be done.

"Right now, I'm working on getting help for my New Orleans staff members because many of their lives are still in disarray," she said. "Many of them were displaced by the flood and I'm working on some ways that could help them come to our summer's programs, so I'm praying that things will work out

but we'll just have to wait and see how everything works out."

For information about and registration materials for the Institute for Black Catholic Studies see the institute's Web site at www.xula.edu/IBCS and/ or call or write Sister Jamie Phelps at the University of Notre Dame (574) 631-5366 or e-mail Sister Phelps at Jamie50918@aol.com.



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President of St. Bonaventure University to speak at USF commencement

FORT WAYNE

Commencement ceremonies for the University of Saint Francis will be Saturday, May 6, at 2:30 p.m. at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum. Sister Margaret Carney, OSF, STD, will be the commencement speaker.

Graduating senior Bryan Umberg will deliver the invocation. Justin Grogg, Nicole Claving and Stefanie Woodring are valedictorians of the class of 2006.

For further information, call the Office of the President at (260) 434-3297.

Second annual eucharistic procession scheduled April 23 at ND

NOTRE DAME — The University of Notre Dame will celebrate its second annual eucharistic procession on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 23. The procession will set out from the Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus immediately following the 11:45 a.m. Mass, making its way through various parts of campus and concluding at the dome under Our Lady, Notre Dame, the patroness of the university. A joyous invitation is extended to all who are able to join in this rich Catholic tradition.

Once a yearly event at the University of Notre Dame, the observance of celebrating eucharistic processions fell out of practice on the campus more than 30 years ago. Inspired by our late Holy Father Pope John Paul II's declaration of the "Year of the Eucharist" (October 2004-October 2005), Notre Dame students, clubs, and campus ministry staff organized a eucharistic procession in April 2005.

Since this procession was well attended not only by our students, faculty, and religious, but also by local families, campus ministry and student leaders asked Bishop John D'Arcy for permission to make a eucharistic procession an annual event at Notre Dame, celebrated on Divine Mercy Sunday. The tradition's revival reflects a renewed interest in classical devotions to the sacrament of the Eucharist among Notre Dame students. By honoring the consecrated host, these devotions stress the Catholic belief that Jesus Christ is truly present in the holy Eucharist.

Various clubs, constituencies, dorms, and choirs will combine efforts in constructing four altars placed at focal points on campus, where benediction will be celebrated.

Following the procession, an outdoor barbecue is being hosted by Notre Dame's Knights of Columbus Council. In the event of inclement weather, the procession will be held inside Sacred Heart Basilica.

The students, faculty, and other participants in the eucharistic procession hope that many will con-

AROUND THE DIOCESE

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST SCHOOL MAKES 'CIRCLE OF LOVE'



DON CLEMMER

Father Daryl Rybicki speaks to the student body of St. John the Baptist School in Fort Wayne at the culmination of their second annual "Circle of Love" food drive. The school collected a total of 5,505 items, which were lined up around the perimeter of the parish property before being gathered up and taken to Community Harvest Food Bank.

sider joining in this response to our late pope's zealous exhortation: "Do not be afraid to go out on the streets and into public places, like the first apostles who preached Christ and the good news of salvation in the squares of cities, towns and villages. This is no time to be ashamed of the Gospel." — Homily of Pope John Paul II at the Eighth World Youth Day (1993) in Denver, Colo.

Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters call for withdrawal of troops from Iraq

SINSINAWA, Wis. — The Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa, Wis., called on President Bush to withdraw military forces from Iraq as soon as possible. In a statement released in March 2006, the congregation of Catholic Sisters also urged President Bush to meet moral and financial obligations to rebuild Iraq.

The congregation stated, "We strongly recommend that the U.S. government collaborate with the United Nations and the international community to work with the Iraqi government on issues of national security, humanitarian aid and reconstruction of the country. We continue to urge the United Nations and the Iraqi government to protect the rights of women and religious minorities."

Sister Toni Harris, OP, prioress of the Sinsinawa Dominican Congregation, said, "We believe that a military solution to curbing the violence in Iraq will not bring peace and security to Iraq. Peace will come when the international

community and the Iraqi government work together to rebuild the country."

The Sinsinawa Dominicans, along with other Dominican congregations in the United States, have been concerned about U.S. policy in Iraq since 1990 when the United Nations imposed sanctions on Iraq. In 1998, U.S. Dominicans began to visit Iraq to make connections with native Iraqi citizens who are Dominican sisters and priests.

"It was through our Dominican sisters in Iraq that we became aware of the suffering of the Iraqi people under sanctions and the continued suffering due to the U.S. invasion of Iraq. We cannot be silent. We have family in Iraq," Sister Toni said.

Sinsinawa Dominicans minister in 78 dioceses including Fort Wayne-South Bend, 35 states, and six foreign countries. They are part of a worldwide Order of Preachers (Dominicans) who minister in over 100 countries.

Sisters of Providence, White Violet Center host eighth annual Earth Day program April 22

SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS — Alpacas, raptors, music, a horse-drawn trolley ride, tours and plenty of activities for all ages highlight the schedule for the eighth annual Earth Day celebration Saturday, April 22, at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, hosted by the White Violet Center for Eco-Justice, a ministry of the Sisters of Providence.

The event is free and open to the

public. However, there will be an opportunity for a \$5 per-vehicle freewill donation. Activity begins at 11 a.m. and continues until 3 p.m. Food service is available from vendors, and plenty of bakery items prepared by Sisters of Providence will be available for purchase.

Some entertainers and educators from previous Earth Days are returning by popular demand. Singer-songwriter "Earth Mama," Joyce Rouse, will present songs that blend wisdom, wit and humor and they are guaranteed to inspire, inform and motivate people of all ages to look honestly at the environmental damage to the planet and reverse the devastation.

Another popular feature is Mark Booth's presentation of "Take Flight!" His wildlife educational program allows people to see vultures, owls, hawks and other birds of prey up close.

Activities are scheduled throughout the day. Visitors will be able to take a guided tour of the straw bale house, attend organic and biodynamic gardening presentations, see spinning and weaving demonstrations, and visit the herd of 40 alpacas and learn what makes them vital to the Sisters of Providence organic farm.

Also available are hikes along a nature trail, a leisurely ride around the grounds on a horse-drawn trolley, tours of the recycling barn and an informational display on hybrid cars. Numerous exhibitors are expected to provide educational and informational displays.

The Sisters of Providence will have a display featuring their new biomass fuel and heating system, and their off-road diesel fuel.

For more information, contact Candace Hack at chack@spsmw.org or at (812) 535-2935. For a schedule of presentation times, and the most up-to-date information visit www.whiteviolet.org.

University of Saint Francis president receives the leadership award

FORT WAYNE — Sister M. Elise Kriss, OSF, recently received the Distinguished Leadership Award from the Community Leadership Association for her entrepreneurial and spiritual guidance during her tenure as president of the University of Saint Francis. The Leadership Fort Wayne Alumni Association nominated Sister Elise for this award, which is given annually to leaders who create significant and notable contributions for the betterment of their communities.

Sister Elise Kriss has served as president of the university since 1993. Some of the major accomplishments of her presidency include the formation of the university's football program and the building of Bishop John M. D'Arcy Stadium; the university's acquisition of the Lutheran College of Health Professions; the name change from Saint Francis College to the University of Saint Francis; the university's recognition and award by the Templeton Foundation as a "Character-Building College"; the construction of the Campus Ministry Center, the Doermer Family Center for Health Science Education, Padua Residence Hall, the Mimi and Ian Rolland Art and Visual Communication Center and the Animation Technology Center; the formation of an alliance between the university and Parkview Health; and the addition of the graduate programs in nursing, physician assistant studies, theology and pastoral counseling as well as a number of undergraduate programs.

The Community Leadership Association is a nonprofit organization, founded in 1979, dedicated to nurturing leadership in communities throughout the United States and internationally.

USF hosts fair trade coffee house

FORT WAYNE — Campus Ministry and Just Peace at the University of Saint Francis will sponsor a Fair Trade Coffee House from 8-10 p.m. on Sunday, April 23, in the Student Center on campus.

Listen to good music and enjoy a variety of Fair Trade products while learning about the network of relationships that are part of fair trade. Bring your own mug and a small donation to defray the cost of the fair trade coffees, teas and chocolates that will be served. For information, call (260) 434-3260.

Correction

The St. Andrew Soup Kitchen is open Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. A story, highlighting the opening of the St. Vincent de Paul Society's food pantry at St. Peter Church had indicated the St. Andrew kitchen was closed.

Standing on holy ground:

The Christian vision of marriage, sexuality and procreation

Faith and fertility. At first glance, these words seem strange bedfellows. We usually associate "faith" with religion and "fertility" with science, and we all know how well religion and science get along.

We rarely think of faith and fertility in the same sentence, let alone as being linked at some deep level. "What does our faith have to do with our fertility?" many Catholics ask. Does God really care how many kids we have, what birth control method we use, and whether we get our tubes tied when our family is finished?

And for those who struggle with the heartache of infertility, the questions are different but no less sincere. Isn't it great that science has

come up with ways to achieve pregnancy if a couple can't conceive the old-fashioned way? Why wouldn't the church be all for any technique that allows childless couples to become parents?

This series will attempt to answer these questions by exploring the moral issues related to fertility and infertility, and explaining what the Catholic Church teaches and why.

To begin to understand where the church is coming from on all

of these issues, we first need to see the big picture. This article will sketch the Christian vision of marriage, sexuality and procreation.

The first truth that we need to firmly grasp in order to appreciate the beauty and breadth of this vision is the same truth that is the foundation of our Christian faith: God is love. He is not just some "higher power" out there, or an impersonal cosmic life force. God is a communion of persons who lives in himself a mystery of love as Father, Son and Spirit. In

This means that both man and woman have been given a rational mind and a free will capable of knowing what is good and choosing it. But what is more, man and woman also, in a sense, become the image of God by living with, and even more deeply, for each other in the vocation of marriage.

Sexual intercourse is intended by God to be the most intimate sign of the mutual gift of self that marriage is called to be. In sexual union, a husband and wife say with their bodies in a very private way what they said publicly on

the altar on their wedding day: "I accept you completely as the gift from God that you are, and I give myself to you completely in return." Sex is the body language of married love.

This mutual gift of self, which is expressed in sexual union, is not meant to end with the couple, but rather, makes them capable of the greatest possible gift: becoming co-creators with God in giving life to a new human person. The communion of love between a husband and wife is meant to mirror the love that exists between the Father and the Son, a love which is literally "personi-

fied" in the Holy Spirit. In a similar way, through the privilege of procreation, God enables the love between a husband and wife to become "personified" in the gift of their child, who is literally the two of them in one flesh, a living reflection of their love and a permanent sign of their unity. And what is more, this new human being bears not only the image and likeness of his or her parents, but above all, the image and likeness of God. So we see that the love-giving and life-giving meanings of sexual union are intimately linked, like two sides of the same coin, because they mirror the inner life of God who is love.

Perhaps we can now understand on a deeper level that fertility is not peripheral to our faith. Rather, it flows, as it were, from the very heart of God who is love, drawing married couples into the mystery of the most Holy Trinity and allowing them to make that mystery visible in some small but significant way.

Hopefully we see more clearly that when it comes to marriage, sexuality and procreation, we are standing on holy ground. God is present here in a real but mysterious way, and like Moses who approached the burning bush on Mount Horeb, we remove the sandals from our feet in profound reverence.

Next week, based on this vision of the sacredness of mar-

**I accept you completely
as the gift from God that you are,
and I give myself to you completely in return.**

this communion of persons, God the Father is the lover, God the Son is the beloved, and the love between them is so real that it is actually another person — the Holy Spirit.

This is a profound mystery that we will never fully grasp this side of the grave, but it is the essential starting point for understanding the Christian vision. Unless we understand who God is, we will never understand who we are, because we are created in the image and likeness of God.

FAITH AND FERTILITY

WHAT THE CHURCH TEACHES AND WHY

BY LISA A. EVERETT

riage, sexuality and procreation, we will consider the church's understanding of responsible parenthood and the moral principles involved in regulating fertility.

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High court declines to stop subpoena of archdiocesan records

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Supreme Court declined to get involved in prosecutors' efforts to subpoena confidential counseling records of the Los Angeles Archdiocese that deal with how accused child sexual abusers were treated. Without comment, the court April 17 turned down an archdiocesan appeal of a ruling by a California Superior Court that allowed the Los Angeles district attorney to subpoena records from the archdiocese. The records sought included letters written by, among others, Cardinal Roger M. Mahony, members of the archdiocesan staff and several priests who were under investigation for child molestation, as well as the details of counseling for those priests. A statement from the archdiocese said the court's action was disappointing, and noted that it allows the release of 21 pages of information in 14 documents to the district attorney. "We accept the court's ruling," the statement said, adding that it would have no effect on the ongoing efforts to settle civil suits related to sexual abuse cases through mediation.

Pope returns to practice of washing feet of laymen

ROME (CNS) — Returning to a practice in effect before 1985, Pope Benedict XVI washed the feet of 12 laymen during the April 13 evening Mass of the Lord's Supper at Rome's Basilica of St. John Lateran. The 12 men were chosen to represent the various lay movements and communities active in the Diocese of Rome. From 1985 to 2001, Pope John Paul II washed the feet of 12 priests each year during the Holy Thursday Mass. Beginning in 2002, because of his weakened physical condition and his inability to walk, the pope had cardinals perform the foot-washing ritual, but always washing the feet of 12 priests. However, in the first six years of his pontificate, Pope John Paul continued Pope Paul VI's practice of washing the feet of laypeople.

Church in Michigan fights ballot question against affirmative action

SOUTHFIELD, Mich. (CNS) — Catholic leaders in Michigan have joined a broad-based coalition to oppose a ballot proposal that would make it illegal for institutions that receive public funds to practice affirmative action in hiring and admissions. "As people of faith, we are obliged to pray and work for our society to overcome the past and present effects of discrimination," said Msgr. Robert McClory, chancellor of the Archdiocese of Detroit, at an April 6 press conference in metro Detroit for One United Michigan. "We look with hope for the day when the effects of discrimination will be overcome," he added. "Sadly, that day has not yet arrived and therefore we oppose this ballot proposal." One United Michigan is a coalition of more

NEWS BRIEFS

RELIGIOUS BROTHER WALKS IN PROCESSION



CNS PHOTO/DEBBIE HILL

Brother Christopher Alve of Italy, left, walks in procession around the tomb in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher during Easter Mass in Jerusalem's Old City April 16. The Church of the Holy Sepulcher is on the site where Jesus is believed to have been buried.

than 50 organizations, businesses, political candidates and social groups that have come together to oppose the ballot proposal. The coalition consists of both the state's Democratic governor, Jennifer Granholm, and her Republican opponent in November, Dick DeVos; large auto companies and unions; and several Christian and non-Christian faith groups.

In Beijing, more than 200 catechumens baptized at Easter Vigils

BEIJING (CNS) — Catholic churches in Beijing's city center baptized more than 200 catechumens during Easter Vigils April 15. For Catholics from the mainland and foreign countries, having some hymns and part of the liturgy in Latin enhanced the solemnity of the occasion in some Beijing churches, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. More than 1,000 Catholics packed the Church of the Savior — known as Beitang or North Church — to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and witness the baptism of 90 catechumens during the Easter Vigil. They also had a chance to hear the priest use some Latin while blessing the paschal candle and the fire at the start of the three-and-one-half-hour liturgy. Newly baptized Catholic Liu Jie told UCA News April 16 that he felt honored to be surrounded by so many Catholics attending his baptism.

U.S. Catholic-Anglican dialogue discusses Mary, church authority

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Mary, church authority and communion were among topics discussed March 30-April 2 during the 60th

meeting of the Anglican-Roman Catholic Consultation in the USA. The national dialogue group, commonly referred to as ARC-USA, devoted most of its session to reflections on "Mary: Grace and Hope in Christ," the document issued by the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Consultation at its 2004 meeting in Seattle. At the ARC-USA meeting, held in Belleville, Ill., four participants presented papers on the document on Mary: two on its use of Scripture, one on how the document deals with baptism, and one on the role of the faithful in the reception of church teachings on Mary. Assumptionist Father George Tavard gave a paper on the understanding of communion in ARCIC documents and in the Windsor Report, an internal Anglican document issued in 2004. Jon Nilson, a Catholic theologian, and the Rev. Ellen Wondra, an Episcopal theologian, received feedback on their joint draft paper on the regional levels of authority in the Anglican and Catholic churches.

Scottish bishops urge British not to invest in new nuclear weapons

LONDON (CNS) — Scotland's Catholic bishops have urged the British government not to invest in a new nuclear missile system, and instead to spend the money saved on the alleviation of global poverty. The eight bishops said that "the use of weapons of mass destruction must be a crime against God and humanity, and it must never happen." The bishops issued the statement April 11 after a meeting in Glasgow, Scotland, where they discussed the possibility that Britain may be planning to develop a replacement for its aging Trident nuclear weapons system. The warheads are carried on four nuclear

submarines that are based at Faslane Naval Base in Scotland. The bishops said they welcomed comments made by British Prime Minister Tony Blair that there should be the "fullest possible" public debate on the options. Blair also said no decision has been made on a replacement for the Trident system.

Archbishop says more Spanish-language Catholic radio stations needed

OMAHA, Neb. (CNS) — Archbishop Elden F. Curtiss of Omaha has encouraged his fellow U.S. bishops to develop Spanish-language Catholic radio stations as a way of reaching Hispanic Catholics. With the Hispanic population growing rapidly in the United States, many dioceses face difficulty finding enough Spanish-speaking priests, staff and volunteers, he said in a March letter to the country's bishops. Spanish-language Catholic radio is "an impressive and overlooked means" of reaching Hispanics, he said. It can help teach about religion and provide practical information about accessing social services, he added.

Independence of Franciscans at Assisi curbed

ASSISI, Italy (CNS) — The Franciscan sanctuary of Assisi, long a haven of pilgrimage, prayer and social activism, has found its independence curbed under Pope Benedict XVI. Inspired by the life of St. Francis and the interfaith outreach of Pope John Paul II, the Franciscan friars of Assisi sponsored a series of interreligious prayer meetings, peace marches

and conferences on social justice over the last 25 years. The guests included Buddhist monks and Muslim imams, no-global activists and death penalty opponents, and a slew of politicians. Former Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz, a Christian, lit a candle of peace in Assisi shortly before the United States invaded his country in 2003. Seven months after his election, Pope Benedict issued a one-page document that gave the local bishop and the Italian bishops' conference control over all pastoral activities of Franciscans in Assisi. Later he named a papal delegate to keep closer ties with the friars.

Theologian warns against some interpretations of Book of Revelation

MIAMI (CNS) — Should you be scared of the apocalypse? Only if you read the Book of Revelation as a script for ending the world in the 21st century, according to Father Jean-Pierre Ruiz, a biblical scholar and professor of theology at St. John's University in New York. Speaking at St. Thomas University in Miami, Father Ruiz warned against the interpretations of the last book of the Bible promoted by Christian evangelicals such as Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins in their "Left Behind" series of books and movies. "They're all well-intentioned people, even if they're wrong," Father Ruiz told *The Florida Catholic*, Miami archdiocesan newspaper. In his talk, he quoted television journalist Bill Moyers on the belief of many evangelicals that a war with Islam in the Middle East is "an essential conflagration on the road to redemption" and that the current war in Iraq is a "warm-up" to that conflict. "This is awfully frightening stuff, terrifying both because it represents a terrible distortion of the message of the Bible, and because such misreadings over the course of history led to the spilling of much ink, and to the spilling of even more blood," Father Ruiz said.

Bishops' international policy leader welcomes debt relief decision

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on International Policy has welcomed a decision by the World Bank executive board to forgive completely the debt of 17 of the world's heavily indebted poor countries. "This important step will mean that poor countries will not have to wait over a year for debt cancellation once they have qualified," said the committee head, Bishop Thomas G. Wenski of Orlando, Fla. "This step will relieve the burdens on some of our most vulnerable brothers and sisters around the world," he added. In late March the World Bank's board of executive directors approved the necessary financing and implementation details to begin canceling all remaining debt on International Development Association loans to 17 heavily indebted poor countries that have reached what is called the "completion point" of responsible economic and social reorganization.

Senior Spirit

CONFERENCE ON MINISTRY WITH THE AGING A conference will be held Thursday and Friday, May 11-12, at Don Hall's Guesthouse in Fort Wayne. Held annually to provide education and inspiration for those involved in caregiving with older adults, this year's featured speaker is Martha E. "Marty" Richards, MSW, ACSW. She is the author of several articles and books on families and aging.

A not-so-easy journey filled with moments of grace

BY VINCE LABARBERA

FORT WAYNE — Fifty-six pasta-filled, tired travelers from five (arch)dioceses returned to the United States on March 19 after spending 10 days on a pilgrimage to Assisi, Rome, Naples and Sorrento. Unpacking from the trip not only included emptying suitcases of souvenirs and clothing, but spending time reflecting on the many spiritual moments experienced.

The pilgrimage was led by Sister Agnes Marie Regan, OSF, pastoral associate at St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend. The journey was under the umbrella of the St. Matthew Travel Club, which Sister Agnes founded a few years ago after Bishop Daniel R. Jenky, CSC, former auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, directed her to "get my people out of town" as part of her job duties. Bishop Jenky (now bishop of the Diocese of Peoria) explained

when people travel together they "bond," becoming closer to one another as in the Body of Christ.

There were 43 pilgrims who traveled from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend — 20 from the Fort Wayne area and 23 from the South Bend region. Others were from the dioceses of Gary, Marquette, Peoria and the Archdiocese of San Antonio. Included in the group were three Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration from Mishawaka and a retired Franciscan priest, Father Marian Douglas, OFM, of Peoria, who celebrated Mass daily with the group.

From earliest times, pilgrims undertook arduous journeys to various sacred sites, and the recent trip to Italy was no exception. To put it succinctly, a pilgrimage is not for sissies because it often involves some unexpected hardships and inconveniences along the way. It definitely is not a vacation or a tour, but a journey that mirrors life with its difficulties and disappointments as well as its joys and unexpected surprises.

Chief among the many spiritual moments at Assisi for most was the privilege of being granted permission to celebrate Mass at the tomb of St. Francis in the basilica dedicated to the beloved follower of Jesus Christ. For others, highlights included the beauty and solitude of the mountainous terrain of Umbria, which nestles Assisi, and the magnificence of the repositories holding works of the great artists of the Middle Ages who came to pay homage to the Little Poor Man of 12th-century Assisi. Points of interest also included the Crucifix of San Damiano that spoke to St. Francis telling him to "Go and repair my church ..." and the actual sites where St. Francis and St. Clare died.

Experiencing the challenging walks up and down the steep hills

of Assisi was difficult for many of the mostly senior pilgrims, but few complained despite the meagerness of the accommodations and the simplicity of the meals served. Adversities paled in significance amid the unfolding of the spiritual impact of the Gospel choices made by Francis of Assisi.

"All roads lead to Rome" — but after that you're on your own. As mentioned above, a pilgrimage is not a get-on-the-bus-to-view-life-out-a-window vacation. It involves rubbing elbows with people from another culture, even those who are broken and bruised, and having charity and concern for others, especially one's companions on the journey who may be experiencing difficulty finding their way or coping with hardships.

Throughout the ages, pilgrims were recognized by the purse in which they carried coins to pay for sustenance. That certainly is true today as a few pilgrims fell victim to pickpockets hidden in the throngs of people riding buses and trains or crowded into the square in front of St. Peter's Basilica.

In true pilgrim spirit, however, the majority did not let an adversity become an irredeemable obstacle and lose hope, diminishing the spirituality of the once-in-a-lifetime event. Admirably, most accepted challenges as an opportunity to become stronger in faith, reconciling their hearts to God and forgiving the thieves as well as unscrupulous vendors who persecuted them — letting go of all that is not God and being enveloped in his care. As a lady from Peoria succinctly put it, "I am not going to let the loss of a camera spoil my pilgrimage experience."

Pilgrimages have as their goal the "tent of meeting" with God and with oneself. Each pilgrim, in fact, entered several "tents" along the way. They included hearing

God's word daily at eucharistic celebrations at sacred sites such as the tomb of Pope John XXIII and the dominating presence of the church par excellence in Vatican City encompassing Michaelangelo's marble "Pieta," and his magnificent paintings in the Sistine Chapel.

The Americans also viewed the impressive works of other notable artists in the Vatican Museum and had the opportunity to visit the excavations under the Vatican near the bones of St. Peter. Many also visited the Major Basilicas of St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major and St. Paul Outside the Walls.

All was not strictly religiously oriented, however, as the amicable group enjoyed a boisterous evening of euchre at Assisi and a "spirited" party on St. Patrick's Day atop the hotel in Rome.

Many also visited popular attractions in the Eternal City such as the Colosseum, Roman Forum, Pantheon, Trevi Fountain and Spanish Steps. They also traveled by bus along the Tyrrhenian Sea to Naples to tour the ruins of Pompeii and to enjoy shopping in Sorrento.

A pilgrimage is an experience that takes travelers a long time from which to fully unpack long after the suitcases are stored away. Hopefully, the pilgrims grew in faith and deepened their relationship with God and their brothers and sisters.



VINCE LABARBERA

Sister Agnes Marie Regan, OSF, orients her group of U.S. pilgrims on their initial visit to St. Peter's Basilica. With the assistance, in advance, of Bishop John D'Arcy, the group was invited to special seating for the weekly Wednesday audience with Pope Benedict XVI.

Vince LaBarbera is director of the Catholic Communications Office, Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Mary Pettit wins super volunteer award

SOUTH BEND — Indiana Legal Services, Inc. (ILS) proudly nominated Mary Pettit for a 2006 CAVCO Super Volunteer Award.

Pettit, an active parishioner of St. Pius X Church in Granger, has won a 2006 Community Association of Volunteer Coordinators (CAVCO) Super Volunteer award. She received her award at a luncheon in South Bend on Monday, April 24.

Since she began service in July 2005, Pettit has contributed over 500 hours of her time to ILS. The agency works on behalf

of low-income people seeking badly needed legal assistance in Northern Indiana.

The staff and volunteers at ILS feel she is a testament to the spirit of volunteerism, and, as an RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) member, one of the best illustrations of the talents that people over 55 can contribute to our community.

"Mary's dedication to our clients brings her to our office five days a week for at least six hours a day," said Heather Mezosi, the ILS volunteer coordi-

nator who nominated Pettit. "As a volunteer intake interviewer, Mary's role is not an easy one. She is on the 'front line' in our office, serving as the crucial first point of contact between indigent applicants and an attorney.

"ILS is a poverty law clinic, and, consequently, many of our callers are in the midst of some very troubling times in their lives," added Mezosi. "Several times each day, our volunteers hear heartbreaking stories of child abuse, of predatory practices against the elderly and

accounts of families being evicted into the bitter cold of winter. Excellent listening, writing and general interpersonal skills are necessary, as is empathy for the poor."

In addition to conducting intake interviews, Pettit also performs a multitude of other tasks. From copying and filing, to making labels, data entry, preparing envelopes, assisting the legal secretary with filings at the courthouse, folding pamphlets, participating in the annual holiday gift drive for client families and

stockpiling the candy jars with delectable vices, "Mary is an irreplaceable presence at Indiana Legal Services. Indeed, in less than 12 months, Mary Pettit's 500-plus hours of service have positively impacted the atmosphere of our office in a way that few other volunteers have," added Mezosi in the nomination.

Historic round barn to be re-roofed

Marshall County landmark preserved from the early 1900s now maintained for the future

BY IDA CHIPMAN

PLYMOUTH — The roof on their 111-year-old round barn, believed to be one of only two left standing in Marshall County, was coming apart.

It was really bad.

"We thought it would be a shame to let that happen," Anita Fox said.

"First the roof would go and then the rest of the barn would collapse," Clem Fox added.

"Because of what it is — a historical landmark — we couldn't just stand by and do nothing."

The Foxes are also having the building rewired, inside and out, reducing the chances of an accidental fire.

By investing their own money — which is more than what they paid for the farm over 40 years ago — they are insuring that a piece of Marshall County history is preserved.

"We figured that we should do this now and hope that whoever lives here in the future will appreciate the significance and treasure the history of the barn," Anita said.

The barn, 60 feet across and — from the basement to the cupola — 50 feet high, is now being re-roofed by Hochstetler Construction Co., Inc., of Wakarusa. They are using slabs of cedar wood split shingles, some as big as 10-inches wide.

You might think they'd be Amish craftsmen.



PHOTOS BY IDA CHIPMAN

Construction workers re-roof the historic round barn on the farm of Clem and Anita Fox west of Plymouth.

Wrong.

Three Mexican-American brothers are doing the work. The job is expected to take approximately two months to complete, depending on the weather.

Natividad, Martin and Javierre Aguirre have never worked on a round barn roof before.

But then, very few people

have.

"At first, it was really scary," Martin, the youngest brother, said. "We were kind of hanging on the side."

"After the lower level, we use harnesses and have now gotten used to working up high." The men use ropes to rappel themselves up the side of the struc-

ture.

The barn has a long and interesting history.

The property was first deeded in 1850 to George H. Ramsey. The farm was originally 180 acres, including woods on both sides of the road.

In 1895, George W. Ramsey built the round barn for his sister, Sarah Ramsey Birch. In her will, first dated in 1912, she provided for payment to her brother for the structure.

There have been several owners since then: Ora B. Welborn, the Clayton Bares and Jim and Betty Wade.

The Foxes bought the 60-acre farm, located on 9th Road, Plymouth, from the Wades in 1965. They raised their four children there. They are their two daughters, Lorraine Brattoli of Fort Wayne and Sister Rosaria of Lemont, Ill.; and two sons, August Fox of Brooksville, Fla., and Charles Fox of Plymouth.

Years ago Arthur Bare told Anita that his parents moved to a log cabin on the property in 1918 and that the barn was there long

before their home was built.

Clem and Anita cherish the property.

Clem was born in Monterey, the fourth of 14 children. He met Anita Glose in 1942, when he came to Marshall County to work in the Ancilla Domini Convent's farming operation. Shortly after he arrived, he went into the U.S. Army, serving in Germany during World War II.

Anita, a Plymouth native, lived on the farm's property with her family and, because she was an employee's daughter, was able to attend the convent's school for aspirants to the sisterhood. She graduated in 1948.

After the war, Clem came back to his job and courted Anita. They were married in St. Michael Church in May of 1950.

In addition to working at Ancilla's farm, Clem was custodian for West and Washington Elementary schools for 22 years.

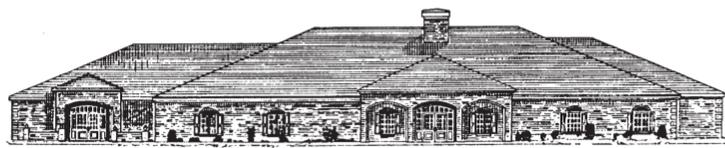
The Foxes are active members of St. Michael. Anita helps several mornings a week preparing for early Mass.

She and Clem enjoy their two grandsons, Brendan and Declan Fox of Plymouth.



Clem and Anita Fox are shown outside the historic round barn at their Marshall County farm.

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Jesus, I trust in you

A look at the Divine Mercy devotion

BY DON CLEMMER

FORT WAYNE — With two millennia and countless cultures of history and influence going into it, Catholic worship is a complex and multifaceted creature. It includes everything from Mass and eucharistic adoration to the rosary and the centering prayer, making it easy for the faithful to lose track of just how and when certain traditions came to be and what part they play in contemporary Catholicism. In these weeks following Easter, the Divine Mercy devotion is one such tradition worth examining.

The Divine Mercy devotion is based on the diaries of St. Maria Faustina Kowalska (1905-1938), a Polish nun who received numerous visions throughout her life. From her visions, she learned that she was to found a congregation that would proclaim God's mercy to the world and, through prayer, gain it for the world.

The devotion spread largely after Faustina's death, thanks to her spiritual director, Father Michael Sopocko. The Institute of Divine Mercy was founded in 1941, and Faustina was beatified in 1993 and canonized in 2000. The second Sunday of Easter was officially designated as Divine Mercy Sunday that same year. The novena of Divine Mercy Sunday is prayed in many parishes worldwide with services including eucharistic adoration, prayer of the Divine Mercy chaplet and reconciliation.

St. Jude Church in Fort Wayne is one such parish. Father Tom Shoemaker, pastor of St. Jude, first heard of the devotion when he was assigned to St. Henry Parish in Fort Wayne. When, after coming to St. Jude, parishioners approached him, requesting that the parish sponsor the novena and Divine Mercy Sunday devotions, Father Shoemaker acquiesced, noting that, as a pastor, he feels one of his responsibilities is to ensure that the parish meets the spiritual needs of the faithful.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

The faithful pray during a Mass celebrated April 3, 2005, in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican in memory of Pope John Paul II. The Mass was celebrated on Divine Mercy Sunday, which was instituted by the pope in 2000. Divine Mercy will be celebrated at churches throughout the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend on April 23.

As Father Shoemaker understands it, the whole message of Divine Mercy is that God loves us, even in our sin, that God is merciful to everybody, but that we need to ask for his mercy and show mercy to other people. It also emphasizes the sacraments, specifically reconciliation and the Eucharist, as the vehicles through which people experience God's mercy.

Like many special devotions in the Catholic Church, Father Shoemaker notes, Divine Mercy greatly touches some people and leaves other cold.

The Divine Mercy devotion, however, does have a lot going for it in the way of Pope John Paul endorsing it, instituting its

feast in 2000 and even offering an indulgence with the novena.

"It's a beautiful devotion," Father Shoemaker says. "It's part of being Catholic. There are many different ways of finding Christ. ... I've seen people at

deathbeds praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet. I know people who are not Catholic who have been moved and touched by it.

"What's important to remember is that it's private revelation," Father Shoemaker notes. "The

church is always reluctant to promote private revelation," that is, something that the whole church is not required to believe or practice.

"The overlap is unfortunate," he adds, referring to the fact that the novena leading up to Divine Mercy Sunday begins on Good Friday, blurring the distinction between the practice of a devotion that is private revelation and the celebration of Easter, a universal holiday and the central feast of the church calendar.

"If Divine Mercy Sunday were in the middle of July, that would be perfect," jokes Father Shoemaker.

At St. Jude, they work to avoid confusion when promoting the novena, making it as clear as possible that it is separate from the Easter holiday. Father Shoemaker even tells parishioners that, while going to confession is one of the requirements for the Divine Mercy indulgence, this requirement should not take precedence over making a good Lenten confession and that going to confession during Lent counts just as well.

But these concerns are merely logistical problems and do not overshadow the value of a beautiful devotion, one that focuses on God's mercy for every person, encourages believers to pray for that mercy and, with the help of the church, experience it in their daily lives. It may be private revelation, but such a sentiment most certainly has a place in the diverse landscape of the Catholic Church.

Divine Mercy Celebration

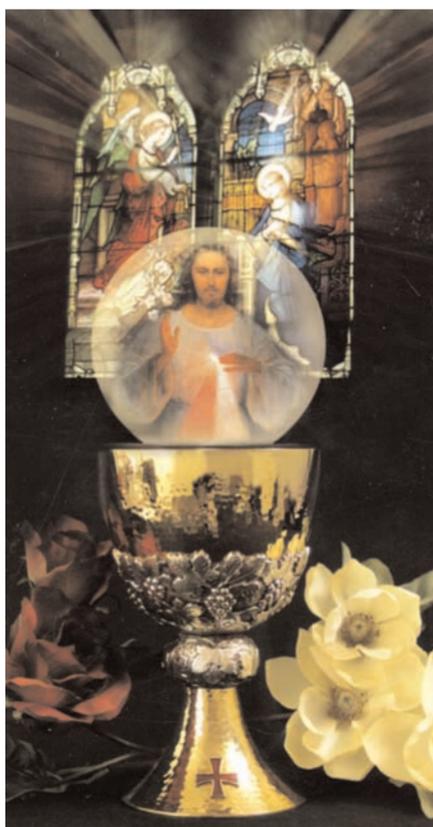
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EDITORIAL

Depending on your perspective, 'senior' has differing meanings

In school, finally attaining the rank of "senior" is indeed lofty status. As members of the elite class of the school of secondary or higher-level education, seniors often are granted respect and privileges other students do not receive.

But when the term "senior" is used to refer to persons who have reached or exceeded the age of retirement, the word often takes on a lesser distinction. Frequently, a "senior citizen" is considered by some to be a person close to death's door whose life nearly is over.

Advertisers seemingly have nothing to sell to them and the entertainment industry — comprised of movies, music, radio and television programming — creates little that is appealing to the elderly.

For those who have lived more than four decades beyond high school or college graduation, the term "senior" has lost nearly all of its high ranking. Even the term "seniority" referring to a privilege status attained by length of continuous service (as in a company) today often means an employee who is about to be shown the door because he or she is considered too old to be of much use any longer.

For "seniors" of the older variety this takes some getting used to. It is discouraging to be treated as a "has been" or someone who has little or no say-so on the way things are, while in reality the elderly person often is wiser in the ways of the world with experience, abilities and maturity to make good, practical decisions.

While there are some legal problems, health and financial frauds, physical and mental abuses, and other difficulties facing the elderly, on the whole there are many more resources available today for seniors than our parents and ancestors would have dreamed. They include federal assistance programs; health, legal and insurance information; consultations; news; grandparenting; and more. Good diet and improved medical care, in fact, have helped create an increasing population of senior citizens, particularly in the Western world. It is estimated that, by the year 2020, there will be more Americans over 65 than under age 13.

Some seniors, worn out by sickness, infirmities, aches and pains as well as the loneliness of old age, may think getting old is a curse and feel inclined to order the digging of their graves. But as each of us ages slowly, day by day, like fine wine perhaps, the personal questions we need to ask God in reference to ourselves are: What is the purpose of old age? And what is God's plan for me as I grow older?

Wisdom in the years

Consider the great artist, sculpture and painter Michelangelo who didn't begin painting "The Last Judgment" in the Sistine Chapel until he was 61. He was 66 when he completed the magnificent work. Three years before he died, Ludwig von Beethoven wrote his beautiful "Ninth (Choral) Symphony" at the age of 57. He was completely deaf by the time he finished the composition and was unable to hear the thunderous applause it invoked. The Japanese painter Katsushika Hokusai, who lived from 1760 to 1849, said:

"I have been in love with painting ever since I became conscious of it at the age of six. I drew some pictures I thought fairly good when I was 50, but really nothing I did before the age of 70 was of any value at all. At 73, I have at last caught every aspect of nature ... When I am 80 I shall have developed still further, and I will really master the secrets of art at 90. When I reach 100 my work will be truly sublime, and my final goal will be attained around the age of 110, when every line and dot I draw will be imbued with life." — Edward Hays, "The Old Hermit's Almanac."

Hokusai died in 1849 at the age of 89 with a great attitude about growing as he aged. His three-volume book "One Hundred Views of Mount Fuji," produced at the age of 75, had a major influence on European art.

God has fashioned each of us an artist of life, our life. Usually it takes a long time to be imbued with the fullness of life, and lovingly to embrace our wrinkled, white "martyrdom" with wisdom, grace and good humor. Only then will we begin to again attain the status that comes with being called "senior."

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

Reader is pleased with the Gulf Coast log

My husband and I, formerly from St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Wayne, are now in St. Joseph Village retirement community in Coppell, Texas, and we receive *Today's Catholic* here.

Among our friends here is a couple from Biloxi, and I have given them the articles that Craig Bobay wrote, those in the *Today's Catholic* and the complete log, which I downloaded and printed for them.

They were pleased to read about their "home" and the work being done to restore it. I want to commend Craig Bobay for the articles he wrote. It was very well done and should inspire other people to go help those who are in need of help because of Katrina or other disasters.

God bless him.

Mary Anne and Frank Brown
Coppell, Texas

Jesus' resurrection defies gnostic views of the body

Even though I've heard of such "gospels" (gnostic) as Mary Magdalene, Thomas or Philip, I was shocked to find that a Gospel of Judas (Iscariot) was discovered.

Considering that Judas was the apostle who handed Jesus over to be crucified and then killed himself, this really surprised me.

When reading about "The Da Vinci Code" and the gnostic gospels, I did learn that many gnostics believed in the Manichean heresy — that the soul is good and the body is evil. I know this is not true: The same God who created our souls created our bodies as well. According to the commentary by Father Michael Heintz, April 16, 2006, the newly-found

gospel shows Jesus thanking Judas for "liberating him from bodily existence."

According to the Gospels in our Bible, Jesus said, because of Judas' betrayal of him, that Judas would have been better off if he had never been born.

Watching "The Passion of the Christ" and hearing and reading about what happens when one is being crucified and the other physical suffering Jesus underwent, surely there are less painful ways to die if all one wanted was to be freed from one's body.

Jesus was soon back in his body. Our bodies cannot be intrinsically bad if the resurrection of Jesus' body is a good thing. Jesus' body ascended to heaven. How can that be an evil body if it went to heaven? We were promised a resurrection of our bodies whether our souls are in heaven or hell.

Paula Spart
South Bend

Childhood memories: Getting drenched at an annual parade

BY ELLIE SHAW

Back when I was a little girl growing up in the seaport city of Mobile, Ala., we had some Catholic customs that are not common in more northern climes.

For instance, on Christ the King feast day, all the Catholic school kids in elementary grades had to get out and march in a huge parade through the streets near the downtown area to meet in Bienville Square to hear the bishop speak and give his blessing to us. There were dozens of Catholic schools, some for boys or convents for girls — one in every neighborhood plus several Catholic high schools, a couple of military schools and a Carmelite monastery where we could take petitions for prayers etc. And of course, the bishop's beautiful home and chancery. The pastor of our church, St. Mary's, was Msgr. O'Donahue, and most of the priests were from Ireland and had quite an Irish accent. Father Toomey and Father Murphy used to come across the street to the playground and show the boys how to play soccer. I recall seeing Father Murphy bounce the ball off his head one day, and thought he was losing his mind. Football was the sport in the U.S.A.

We went out and practiced with the nuns marking time, through the neighborhood near our schools, in straight lines about 12 abreast or so, for what seemed like hours. The Sisters of Mercy in their long black habits would trot along

beside us, making us keep our lines straight, so we could compete with the other schools and uphold St. Mary's winning tradition. This was war time remember and marching was the thing to do. The nuns would hold up traffic spreading out their sleeves like black flags for us to pass by.

We enjoyed getting out of class, of course, and enjoying the spring weather. No coats were needed — maybe a sweater. We had both winter and summer uniforms for the climate and no air conditioning then.

And navy berets for church wear. Uniforms were passed down and could be obtained at the school or custom-made if you could afford it. I had some of both. Dressmaking was a very popular pastime.

We only practiced on nice days, which were plentiful.

There was no talking, at least not in earshot of Sister Mary Alice.

One eventful year it rained and rained. But on we marched.

Downtown to the square with the ornate fountain named after the French explorers (Bienville & D'Iberville) who

discovered the area through Mobile Bay on their trek across the South westward to New Orleans.

We were drenched. He went on and on, not to be deterred and we stood and stood listening and debating if we should break ranks and run for cover. But we were too afraid. Finally after about an hour of this misery, we made a dash for the cover of a nearby drugstore and the bishop did not hesitate. Soon he must have cut short his speech as the crowd started to disperse and we made our way out of there.

I'll never forget that memorable Christ the King Day as long as I live.



Complexity in immigration issues

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Amid the enthusiastic rallies and dueling politicians' rhetoric about immigration of the last few weeks, recent demographic analyses and opinion polls put the debate into numerical perspective.

Among the conclusions drawn from the data are that the nation's illegal immigrants include many families in complex situations, and that the opinions of Americans on the subject don't line up easily into neat rows.

Some of the demographic information may surprise people who think the illegal immigrant population consists largely of single young men.

About 36 percent, or 2.3 million, of the estimated 11 million to 12 million illegal immigrants are single men with no children; another 12 percent, or 740,000, are single women with no children. About 540,000, or 9 percent, are couples without kids. According to a Pew Hispanic Center analysis of census data, the other 41 percent or so break down into an assortment of "mixed status" families where parents aren't here legally.

Those "mixed status" categories include 1.5 million families where all the children are U.S. citizens, but at least one parent is in

the country illegally; 630,000 families where all the children are also here without legal papers; and 460,000 families in which some minor children are U.S. citizens and others are not.

Among Mexicans, who make up about half the illegal immigrant population, 48 percent are married or have a common-law spouse; more than two-thirds of that percentage live with their spouses in this country. The Pew report noted that about one-third of illegal Mexican immigrants with families have left all their children in Mexico.

Pew also concluded that those 1.5 million children — who, like their parents, are here illegally — are vastly outnumbered by more than 3 million children who are U.S. citizens with parents who lack the proper paperwork.

To be sure, there is a large population of unattached men, according to Pew, particularly among those who have arrived since 2000. Slightly more than half — 53 percent of the 4.4 million people who arrived between 2000 and 2005 — were unmarried, compared to about 45 percent of those who came to the United States before 2000.

The study was based on census

THE WASHINGTON LETTER

PATRICIA ZAPOR

data through 2005.

As Congress struggles to pass an immigration bill, what has been more widely reported than such demographic information are opinion polls about the problems with immigration and how they can best be fixed.

A poll of 800 likely voters nationwide conducted March 20-22 by the Tarrance Group and Lake Research Partners for the National Immigration Forum and the American Immigration Lawyers Association found that 75 percent favored an immigration proposal that included a plan to admit more temporary workers. The plan would allow people already in the country to register and legalize their status without giving them priority over legal

LETTER, PAGE 14

Thomas is model of first Christians



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

2nd Sunday of Easter Jn 20:19-31

The Acts of the Apostles is the source of the first reading for this weekend. Acts has interesting credentials. Biblical scholars believe that it is, in effect, a continuation of the Gospel of Luke. In their opinion, the same author wrote both works.

Acts is rich, and indeed unique, in its revelation of events immediately following the Ascension of Jesus. The community that gathered around the apostles is discussed at length.

This weekend's reading is fully within this feature. The community of believers is reported as being of "one heart and mind." More than a warm feeling for each other, the community was so united that no one claimed personal property. What one person had was available to all.

It was an aspect of the first Christian community that only rarely occurs today, except in religious congregations, the members of which vow poverty and share everything.

Important also in this reading is the revelation that the apostles bore witness to the Lord's Resurrection. They had seen the risen Lord. They were the privileged students and servants.

They also guided the communi-

ty, and in rather concrete ways. All funds were laid at the apostles' feet to be distributed then according to need and to help the poor.

For its second reading, the church presents the First Epistle of John. There are three epistles of John in the New Testament. They are powerful and eloquent in their language and deep in their message.

Central to these three epistles is their great insight into the identity of Christ and the fact that to be with God requires being with Jesus. The believer, through union with Jesus, is one with God. This closeness means being one with, and in, God's unending love. God is love. Loving God, and all others without exception, marks the true believer.

St. John's Gospel provides the last reading. It is a familiar story. Thomas, one of the Twelve, doubts the others when they tell him that they have seen the risen Lord. Then, Jesus, alive after death, glorious in the Resurrection, appears to all the apostles, including Thomas.

Thomas acknowledges Jesus as Lord and Master, but also as God. It is a clear and strong testimony that Jesus of Nazareth most certainly was seen in the early church as the son of God.

The drama of this encounter between Jesus and Thomas easily can eclipse another message in the story. This message is that Jesus acts through the apostles, most marvelously in the forgiveness of sins.

Then, as the reading closes, the evangelist states that the story of the Gospel has been given to allow others to know the Lord. In other words, through the apostles, and through the Gospels, the Lord continues to redeem and to give life.

Reflection

In no other liturgy throughout the year, not even at Christmas, is the church more joyful and fervent than at Easter. He lives! Furthermore, in Jesus all people have the opportunity to choose eternal life for themselves.

Easter, the feast of the Resurrection of the Lord, was a week ago. Already, and emphatically, the church is telling us that the Lord did not come and then go. The Lord is with us still. The Lord reaches out to us. He did so, through the apostles, as they led the pioneer Christians in faith and in absolute dedication to God.

He reaches out to us marvelously, again through the apostles, in forgiving sins. All this is because God loves us with an unending love.

Thomas, the model of the first Christians as told in Acts, and the reading from First John call us to love God. Nothing else truly matters than to love God. In God, given in Christ, is life. In God is true joy.

READINGS

Second Week of Easter

Monday: Acts 4:23-31 Ps 2:1-9 Jn 3:1-8

Tuesday: 1 Pt 5:5b-14 Ps 89:2-3,6-7, 16-17 Mk 16:15-20

Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26 Ps 34:2-9 Jn 3:16-21

Thursday: Acts 5:27-33 Ps 34:2, 9, 17-20 Jn 3:31-36

Friday: Acts 5:34-42 Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 Jn 6:1-15

Saturday: Acts 6:1-7 Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19 Jn 6:16-21

CATEQUIZ'EM

By Dominic Campion

On April 25, we remember St. Mark. This quiz looks at that Marcus and a few other folks who left their mark.

1. Pierre de Marca was a French bishop who defended this idea, which stresses the rights of the French church, often in opposition to the papacy:

- a. Liberte de l'Eglise b. Dieu et Mon Droit c. Gallicanism

2. The Marcan Hypothesis simply refers to the theory that Mark's Gospel is the

- a. shortest b. best c. first written

3. Marcella was a fourth to fifth century saint who was ultimately to die from her mistreatment by these invaders of Rome:

- a. the Huns b. the Goths c. the vandals

4. St. Marcellina had three sermons dedicated to her by this famous archbishop of Milan:

- a. St. Ambrose b. St. Swithin c. St. Augustine

5. The fourth century bishop Marcellus' unusual Trinitarian theology so concerned the church that this phrase was inserted into the Nicene Creed to clarify that church teaching did not match his:

- a. forgive us our trespasses
b. full of grace
c. kingdom shall have no end

6. Marcian was a fifth century Roman soldier who rose to this prominent position, which helped him support the church:

- a. bishop of Constantinople (later Byzantine Patriarch)
b. bishop of Rome (Pope)
c. emperor in the east

7. A fourth century Marcian was a monk who wrote some religious works in Greek, which survived only in Syriac. He is generally known simply as

- a. Marcian the Monk
b. Mark the Greek
c. The Mad Monk

8. He was occasionally confused with Marcus Eremita, now generally known as

- a. The other Mark, the taller one
b. Mark My Words
c. Mark the Hermit

9. The Marciana is a library in this city famous for St. Mark's Square:

- a. San Marcos California
b. Venice
c. Constantinople

10. Marcion was an influential second century heretic. He rejected completely

- a. the works of St. Mark because his name was too similar
b. the Old Testament
c. the doctrine of transubstantiation and clerical celibacy

11. Despite the name, the so-called "Marcionite prologues" did not relate to Mark's Gospel, but were found in ancient texts containing letters attributed to this apostle:

- a. St. Paul
b. St. Didache
c. St. Charlemagne

12. The Marcosians were denounced by the Catholic Irenaeus. He accused them of

- a. numerology and magical shows
b. astronomy and calculus
c. quark, strangeness and charm

13. They got their name from one "Marcus" who was one of the later representatives of this brand of heresy

- a. apostasy b. gnosticism c. charlatanism

14. Marcus Aurelius was a pagan emperor who was opposed to the church. He is thought to be virtually the last significant representative of this philosophy, which was soon surpassed by Christian witness

- a. cynicism
b. stoicism
c. epicureanism

15. The Liturgy of Mark is an eastern liturgy most closely associated with this major center of Eastern Christianity:

- a. Syracuse, Sicily
b. Nicosia, Cyprus
c. Alexandria, Egypt

ANSWERS:

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

E-mail chains do not reflect Christ's model of prayer

My e-mail is bombarded with well-meaning friends who are passing along prayers to saints such as St. Theresa, reflections and others. They almost always end with "pass this along in the next 10 minutes and see what happens" or "if you are not ashamed of Jesus, pass this along to 10 friends." To me, these are modern e-mail chain letters. It hinges on superstition. What does the church say about promoting and passing along these e-mails? V.K., Leo

Dear V.K.,

I too have received and continue to receive emails that ask or even cajole that I pass this message along to 10 or more friends within 24 hours to "see what happens," or to assure that a prayer is answered. This mixture of persuasion, curiosity and guilt bothers me a great deal. Religion is

used as an inducement or a vehicle to continue the chain letter. I quickly succumb to the urge to hit the delete icon, as I do with many e-mails that find themselves on my computer screen.

From time to time, I pick up multiple copies of prayers in church pews, which are left there by well-meaning souls, who are told that they must leave so many copies of this particular prayer in church, and then their prayer request will be granted. I agree with another priest who says that this system seems to have been started to benefit companies that sell copiers and toner. These types of chain requests and promises are not part of our faith tradition. This is good Catholic piety carried to an extreme.

It is commendable to ask people to pray for you. It is good to communicate with friends over the computer about needs that

THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION

you may have and prayer requests that you seek or are willing to offer. To pass on chain letters is not needed for Christian charity. When we pray, Christ does not promise that our prayer request will be answered the way we specify.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that Jesus is our model of prayer, "... He prays in us and with us. Since the heart of the Son seeks only what pleases the Father, how could the prayer of the children of adoption be

centered on the gifts rather than the Giver?" (2740) Expecting our own specific answer limits God's generosity and wisdom. We have to allow God to answer our prayers in God's own way and God's own time. Demanding an answer was not the approach of Jesus.

Seeking to multiply requests by using modern technology is an attempt to "strengthen" our prayer, which we seem to assume is not otherwise efficacious. Prayer should come from the human heart and be used to deepen our relationship with God, with no strings attached.

The catechism also tells us (based on Romans 8:27), "We must pray, then, with his spirit of freedom, to be able truly to know what he wants." (2736) Our prayer then should be open to the providence of God and not demanding, expecting or seeking

guaranteed results.

So don't feel guilty about hitting "delete," even if the e-mail is from a friend. And by "breaking the chain," you could save your other friends and relatives from a guilt trip as well.

Today's Catholic welcomes questions from readers to pose to Father Richard Hire, Father Michael Heintz, Father Mark Gurtner and 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. Include your name, city and an e-mail address or phone number so we can contact you if necessary. Anonymity will be preserved upon request.

The embrace of the cross

Why is the cross the most apt of Christian symbols? G.K. Chesterton offered a typically, well, Chestertonian answer in his masterpiece, "Orthodoxy." A circle, Chesterton wrote, suggests infinity and perfection, but a perfection "fixed forever in its size." By contrast, the cross "has at its heart a collision and a contradiction." And because of that, it "can extend its four arms forever without altering its shape. Because it has a paradox in its center, it can grow without changing. The circle returns in upon itself and is bound. The cross opens its arms to the four winds; it is a signpost for free travelers."

Chesterton's insight into the universal embrace of the cross has a long pedigree in Christian theology; the Latin and Greek Fathers of the Church spoke of the cross in analogous ways. Thus that late first century manual of Christian prayers and practices, the *Didache*, describes the cross as a "sign of expansion." St. Cyril of Jerusalem

picked up on that image, noting that only God could be so expansive: "On the cross," Cyril wrote, the Son of God "stretched out his hands to encompass the bounds of the universe." Lactantius, a Christian apologist of the late third and early fourth centuries, saw in the cross a foreshadowing of the universal church: in Christ's suffering, "God stretched out his arms and embraced the world, thus prefiguring the coming of a people that would, from East and West, gather under his wings."

St. Athanasius, one of the greatest of the Greek Fathers, pondered the cross of Christ sur-

rounded by two other crosses and saw in that scene on Calvary the reconciliation of Jew and gentile into the one people of God: Christ, God made man, and thus made a creature capable of standing erect and extending his hands, reaches out to the two thieves, who figuratively represent the two peoples to be gathered into the one church. And in his reaching out, the God-man tears down the walls of division between Jew and gentile and extends God's covenant of faithful love to the whole of believing humanity. The cross, by pointing in all four directions, symbolizes the radical inclusivity of God's redeeming purposes.

And thus Hans Urs von Balthasar, the 20th century Swiss theologian from whom I've borrowed these patristic images, suggests that the cross of Christ is

**It is at the moment when
Jesus suffers the most absolute
thirst that he dissolves,
to become an eternal fountain.**

the ultimate ground of solidarity: solidarity among the members of the human race; solidarity between humanity and God.

Chesterton saw a "collision and a contradiction" at the heart of the cross. Balthasar takes a different tack and sees, at the center of the cross, not so much colliding wood but the sacred heart of Jesus. The heart of Christ crucified is, Balthasar writes, the fountain of the church: "It is at the moment when Jesus suffers the most absolute thirst that he dissolves, to become an eternal fountain." And from that fountain pour forth water and blood, baptism and the holy Eucharist: the



GEORGE WEIGEL

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

sacrament from which the church is born and the sacrament from which the church lives. In handing over his sacred heart in a perfect act of obedience to the will of the Father, Jesus redeems our wayward hearts and makes it possible for us to make a gift of ourselves — to hand over to others, in love, that which is most intimate and personal to us.

Three times in my life, I have had the privilege of praying at the 12th station of the cross —

Calvary — in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem. The memories of jostling one's way through the Old City's narrow, winding streets, the noise of the tourists and the cacophony of contending rites and sects in the

basilica all fade away. It is, perhaps, the easiest place to pray in the world — and not so much prayer in the sense of formulated words, but prayer as "practicing the presence." At the 12th station, we are immersed in the sacred heart of Christ.

And there we find the center of the world, and the truth of the world's story. That is why it's "Good" Friday.

George Weigel is a senior fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

By Patricia Kasten

Gospel for April 23, 2006

John 20:19-31

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Octave of Sunday, Cycle B: two appearances of the Risen One in the Upper Room. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

EVENING	FIRST DAY	WEEK
DISCIPLES	JEWS	JESUS CAME
PEACE	SHOWED THEM	HIS SIDE
THEY SAW	RECEIVE	SPIRIT
FORGIVEN	UNLESS	NAILS
BELIEVE	BLESSED	SIGNS
PRESENCE	WRITTEN	CHRIST

NAIL MARKS

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

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LETTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

immigrants, would emphasize reuniting families and would penalize workers and employers who violate laws.

That combination of provisions mirrors the key elements supported by a wide range of organizations including the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Catholic Charities USA, major unions including the Service Employees International Union, the National Council of La Raza and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

A poll by *Time* magazine of 1,004 adults conducted March 29-30 showed similar support for specific components of that plan.

It found that 78 percent support allowing illegal immigrants to

legalize their status and eventually seek U.S. citizenship if they learn English, have jobs and pay taxes.

In the *Time* poll, 82 percent said the government doesn't do enough to control illegal immigration. The Gallup poll had 81 percent agreeing that "illegal immigration to the United States is out of control."

The Tarrance Group found 90 percent agreed with the statement "the immigration system is broken and needs to be fixed."

And on questions about deporting people who are in the country illegally, three polls give a clue about what people think.

Time found 47 percent support deporting all illegal immigrants. The Tarrance poll found that 79 percent think deporting all illegal immigrants currently in the country is unrealistic. Gallup's poll found 18 percent said all illegal immigrants should be deported.

Hip Hope

LUERS PRESENTS 'LES MISERABLES' Bishop Luers High School Drama Department will present "Les Miserables," directed by Karlene Krouse assisted by Kirby Volz. There are two performances this year on Friday, April 28, and on Saturday, April 29, at 8 p.m. in the Bishop Luers gym. All tickets are \$7 and are on sale now. For more information or to order tickets, call Sue Mathias at Bishop Luers High School (260) 456-1261 ext. 3114.

Plymouth student, St. Michael parishioner, receives Lilly Endowment scholarship

BY IDA CHIPMAN

PLYMOUTH — Marie Sanchez, 18, has worked hard all the way through Plymouth High School and before.

Ranked No. 1 academically in her senior class, her labors have paid off ... big time.

Marie was recently named as one of two Marshall County students who will receive full, four-year scholarships as the Marshall County Community Foundation's 2006 Lilly Endowment Community Scholars.

Marie, the daughter of Ignacio and Isabel Sanchez, of Plymouth, and Brittany Cook, the daughter of Judge Michael and Christine Cook of Bourbon, will receive not only full tuition to the Indiana college of their choice, but also an \$800 stipend for required books and equipment.

Marie says that she thinks that "God gave me the desire and the talent to do well so that I can be a role model for my Hispanic peers and to show them that with hard work and by putting their minds to something, they too can succeed."

Marie is genuinely concerned that statistics show that many of her Latino contemporaries won't even graduate from high school — much less go to college.

"That's not everyone," she says, "but many young people — of any race or background — need to realize that they can be successful if they apply themselves."

Apply herself she did — in every facet of her education.

Born in Boulder, Colo., in 1988, Marie and her family moved to Plymouth in 2001. She started the

eighth grade at Lincoln Junior High School.

Her mother, Isabel, with a doctorate in chemistry and Spanish from the National University of Mexico, is a professor at Saint Mary's College in South Bend.

She recently became an American citizen.

Ignacio Sanchez, Marie and 15-year-old Andy's father, earned his doctorate in chemistry at the National University of Mexico. He works in nanotechnology at Quadraspec, Inc. in West Lafayette. Every other weekend, the family goes out together for



IDA CHIPMAN

Marie Sanchez, a member of St. Michael Church, Plymouth, was recently recognized as a Lilly Endowment Scholar.

dinner and a movie.

Marie is a member of the National Honor Society and the Speech Club. She is president of the French Club, vice president of the Academic Club, represen-

vides tutoring services and homework assistance to Hispanic students as well as exposing them to educational and professional opportunities in the community and the world. She is a distance

runner and a member of the Plymouth cross-country team.

At St. Michael Catholic Church, Marie is treasurer of the church's Girls' Club and is a recruiter and activities coordinator.

She is planning on earning a degree at the University of Notre Dame in Latin American studies and political science.

"I would love to work in the federal government and perhaps be able to help Hispanic immigrants gain a successful life in this country."

tative-at-large of Alpha Delta Rho and is on the yearbook staff. She plays first chair flute and is the section leader in the Big Red Band. She is on the student council, in speech and debate and is a volunteer tutor.

She is proudest most of all of her role as founder of the Multi-Cultural Club, a group that pro-

She is planning on earning a degree at the University of Notre Dame in Latin American studies and political science.

Send-off of pilgrim cross opens countdown to World Youth Day 2008

BY JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — With the unveiling of a logo, the hand-over of a pilgrim cross and the cheers of young Australians, the "road to Sydney" and World Youth Day 2008 were officially opened at the Vatican.

Pope Benedict XVI sent the World Youth Day cross on a two-year trip across Africa and Oceania after a Palm Sunday liturgy April 9. Accepting it were young Australians, eager for the spiritual spotlight that will soon begin to swing across their country.

With Australian flags unfurled, the young people indulged in some lively celebration after the liturgy in St. Peter's Square.

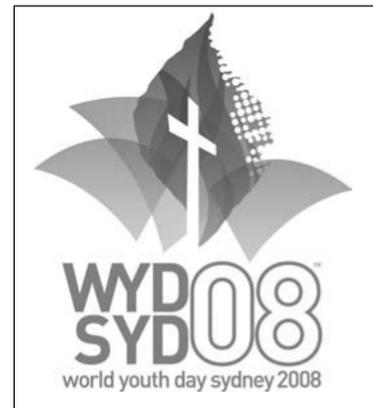
"That was the spirit of Sydney on display," Morris Iemma, premier of the Australian state New South Wales, remarked at a press conference afterward. He predicted that young people would find Sydney "the friendliest city and the most welcoming city" in the world.

Pope Benedict XVI gave the organizers a morale boost when he told pilgrims, "See you in Sydney, God willing." When Australia was announced last year as the venue for the next international gathering, there was doubt about whether the pope would make the trip.

But the pontiff recently assured Cardinal George Pell of Sydney that he planned to come, said Bishop Anthony Fisher, an auxiliary bishop in Sydney and a chief organizer of the event.

Civil authorities say they expect about 130,000 foreign youths to come to Australia in 2008 for the July 15-20 celebrations, to be joined by about twice that number from Australia.

Some 500,000 people are



expected to attend the closing papal Mass, which would make it the biggest event ever to take place in Sydney.

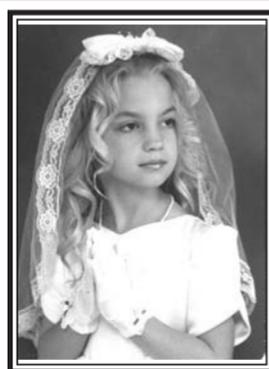
Malcolm Turnbull, the parliamentary secretary to Prime Minister John Howard, announced at the Vatican press conference that the federal government was donating \$20 million to World Youth Day, as well as providing logistical services.

It's the first time the event will be held in Oceania, and the distance means fewer participants are expected from Europe, North America and South America.

The pilgrimage of the World Youth Day cross will have a key role in awakening interest and spurring spiritual reflection across the country, Bishop Fisher said. He compared it to the relay of the Olympic torch, which came through Australia when the country hosted the Summer Olympics in 2000.

"But this time it's not about sport; it's about faith, and hope in young people," he said.

The World Youth Day program includes a Way of the Cross through Sydney, which will probably traverse five of the seven bridges over Sydney Harbor, Bishop Fisher said.



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Sports

HOLY CROSS COLLEGE IS SPONSORING RUN FOR HOPE The Holy Cross College community will host the Run for Hope on Saturday, April 29. Participants can choose between a 5K run, beginning at 10 a.m., and a two mile "fun walk," beginning at 10:15 a.m. The cost is \$20 for the run and \$10 for the walk. Proceeds will benefit Holy Cross School in New Orleans. Registration forms are available online at the Holy Cross College Web site at www.hcc-nd.edu and click on "Run for Hope Registration." Registration forms are due and must be postmarked by April 21. There will be a late registration fee of \$5. There will be no day-of registration and no refunds.

CYO softball season swings into action

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — In week one of girls' Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) softball action, seven games were played on the diamonds at Havenhurst and St. Charles.

Queen of Angels-Precious Blood beat St. John, New Haven, 12-2. Then St. John, New Haven, beat St. John (Fort Wayne)-St. Therese, 16-7. St. Charles went 2-0 by outscoring Hessen Cassel, 7-0, and Queen of Angels-Precious Blood, 6-1. St. Vincent topped St. Elizabeth-St. Joseph-St. Aloysius who turned around and beat St. Joseph, Hessen Cassel, 8-7. St. Vincent lost to St. Joseph, Decatur 2-3.

In Hessen Cassel's season opener, first game jitters along with the speed of the St. Charles pitching were just too much for the Squires. Second year coach and school athletic director, Nita Hartman and her assistants (Shawn DeVito and Garry

Malott) are focusing on the basics this season.

They are hoping to grow as a team by building on their throwing, batting and catching skills.

In their loss to St. Elizabeth-St. Joseph-St.

Aloysius, Hartman felt her girls played a tough defensive game in a strong spring wind. With just nine players in grades 4-8 making up the team this year, the five eighth graders play pitcher and the base positions giving their infield more experience. Hartman, a former Squire herself, said she doesn't mind losing a few games if she can see individual progress in her players this season.

Vince Fendel has coached his daughter's New Haven league



team since she was 8 years old. This year they

finally got a CYO team going at St. John's with many of these same girls. His wife, Lori, Jamie Hunt and Ed Leist assist Fendel.

The Raiders have 13 on the roster with just three eighth graders and went 1-1 in their first week of the season.

Fendel said he is counting on the girls with experience to help the newer, younger players. His goals for the season include getting the girls used to the speed of "fast pitch," learning more about the game of softball and having fun.

Saint Joseph's High School announces new football coach

SOUTH BEND — When the Saint Joseph's High School football Indians assemble for their spring practice this season, they will be greeting a new football coach who has been seasoned by a wealth of both college and high school mentoring.

He is Elliott Uzelac, a graduate of Western Michigan University who was the Mid-American Conference Coach of the Year in 1976 and will take over the Indians' football coaching, an assignment backed by more than three decades of coaching experience.

He was approved by the school board to succeed John Van Wagoner.

The Indians will begin their third season this fall as members of the Northern Indiana High School Conference. — EJD

'Get Fit. Stay Fit' event benefits schools

NEW HAVEN — The Annual CITY WALK "Get Fit. Stay Fit" campaign, one mile/ 5k/10k will take place this year on Oct. 21 on the campus of New Haven High School. This year a campaign has been added that will take place prior to the event. Ninety percent of all campaign proceeds will be given back to schools for the benefit of fitness-wellness initiatives and programs. Basically, for every \$10 pledge, a school keeps \$9 or 90 cents for every \$1 pledge.

Funds received from this event can be utilized in the following ways: fitness-wellness programs; playground equipment; physical education equipment; or future building(s) to be used for activity based programs.

Call (260) 749-5646 or e-mail kerri.zurbuch@verizon.net to schedule a 15-minute meeting to help educate the faculty, staff, administration, wellness committee and interested parties about this great fundraising opportunity.

Walkerton school to host first annual fund drive

WALKERTON — St. Patrick School in Walkerton is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. St. Patrick School is continuing to provide an alternative for parents who want their children to receive a Christian education. The Walkerton community, along with neighboring communities, has shown a commitment to this school through financial contributions, prayer and hard work.

On Saturday, April 22, the first annual fund drive will be held at the school in Letko Hall from 4-8 p.m. This will be an opportunity for

supporters of St. Patrick to visit the school, learn what the school has to offer and make a contribution to the annual fund. The focus of this year's campaign is to generate capital for tuition assistance and technological improvements for the school.

Those attending will be offered free pizza and a cash bar.

Individuals unable to attend this celebration may still participate in the fund drive by sending contributions to St. Patrick Parish, 807 Tyler St., Walkerton, IN 46574.

Associate Director of Religious Education Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend SOUTH BEND OFFICE

Applications are being accepted for the leadership position of Associate Director of Religious Education - South Bend Office. The ideal candidate would have had the experience of being a catechist and possess a BA degree or MA in Theology Degree.

The South Bend position has a particular focus of working with parish Directors of Religious Education and assisting in the strengthening of catechist formation. Both the Fort Wayne and the South Bend offices work in close collaboration in service to the entire diocese.

Essential qualities would be: a strong commitment to the Catholic Faith; good relational skills; a team player; the capacity to initiate activity; finding satisfaction in helping others grow in their faith.

If a candidate does not have extensive background, funding is available for an MA in Theology through the University of Notre Dame.



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Speaker says 'The Da Vinci Code' harms the faith of many people

BY ANN CAREY

This is the second feature in a series of lectures at the University of Notre Dame titled "Hollywood: Mission Field or Mission Impossible."

NOTRE DAME — Author and blogger Amy Welborn told an audience of students and faculty at the University of Notre Dame on April 10 that Dan Brown's best-selling novel, "The Da Vinci Code," is harming the faith of many people.

Welborn has written two books to answer the false assertions made by Brown in his novel. The storyline of "The Da Vinci Code" is that Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene, with whom he had a child, and that the concept of the divinity of Jesus was invented by the Emperor Constantine in the fourth century.

The book's plot centers on the extreme measures taken by the Catholic Church to prevent this information from ever seeing the light of day in order for the Vatican to protect its power. In the novel, the church even resorts to murder, carried out by members of Opus Dei. The title is based on the novel's premise that the artist Leonardo Da Vinci embedded codes in his paintings about these secrets regarding Jesus.

Welborn's two books responding to the Brown novel are "De-

coding Da Vinci: The Fact Behind the Fiction of 'The Da Vinci Code,'" which came out in 2004, and "De-coding Mary Magdalene: Truth, Legend, and Lies," which came out earlier this year. Both books are published by Our Sunday Visitor, Inc.

The author told the April 10 Notre Dame audience that the upcoming May release of "The Da Vinci Code" movie — starring Tom Hanks and directed by Ron Howard — is focusing interest on the story to the point that it

Code," Welborn said, is that Brown's novel depicts Christianity as denying truth, and that, in turn, impacts the faith of some readers.

Welborn related that in the course of doing radio call-in programs and giving talks around the country, people remind her: "You know, it's just a novel." She said she is well aware that "The Da Vinci Code" is fiction, but, "There are a substantial number of people who believe that the historical sections of 'The Da

Vinci Code" have no education in Church history, Welborn continued, and the "ignorance is amazing," with many people letting the book shape their faith.

Furthermore, she said that, as a Christian, she is troubled by a growing perception "that what the Christian Church says about Jesus is a lie." And she noted that the author of "The Da Vinci Code" never even cites the New Testament in laying out his scenario, because the New Testament would undo his erroneous theories.

Welborn said she fears that all of the hype over the upcoming "The Da Vinci Code" film will intensify interest in the novel, and that even more people will blindly accept the misinformation Brown lays out in his book.

"The Da Vinci Code" is a real challenge to us to get out there and fight this, not because it's offensive or anti-Catholic — all of which it may be — but because it's really important for people to know the truth about Jesus," Welborn concluded. For, "as Flannery O'Connor said, 'it's a matter of life and death.'"

Welborn's talk was the second of a three-part lecture series on the role of Christian religious belief in contemporary film and television, sponsored by Notre Dame's Center for Ethics and Culture.

"There are a substantial number of people who believe that the historical sections of 'The Da Vinci Code' are true, or at least maybe should be true."

AMY WELBORN

has become a cultural phenomenon. Adding to the sensationalism was a recently-completed trial in England, in which the authors of "The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail" lost their suit that had claimed Dan Brown plagiarized the story line from their book.

What troubles her about all this attention on "The Da Vinci

Vinci Code' are true, or at least maybe should be true."

A former high school teacher, Welborn said that because she is a teacher, she is interested in dealing with truth, and that is why she wrote her books and gives lectures on the religious and historical errors in the novel. Most people who read "The Da

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Holy Week Hoaxes

DaVinci Code, Gospel of Judas, junk science promote misconceptions and factual errors of Christian faith

WASHINGTON — As Christians celebrated the holiest week of the year and as Easter approached, new “theories” and discoveries about Christianity seem to abound. Two weeks ago, a “scientist” released his theory that Jesus didn’t walk on water, but ice. Then came the release of the Gospel of Judas, claiming the betrayer of Jesus was actually his favorite disciple and was hand-picked to betray him to the Romans. Lastly, the theory that seems to be the most widespread, is that Jesus and Mary Magdalene wed, and their bloodline currently live in present day France; in other words, the premise of Dan Brown’s bestselling novel, “The Da Vinci Code.”

According to Carl Olson and Sandra Miesel, authors of “The Da Vinci Hoax” (Ignatius Press, 2003) Dan Brown’s novel and the soon-to-be released movie, present the most factually inaccurate and difficult theories to counter in today’s pop culture society.

“Many Americans, who have read the ‘Code’ or intend to see the movie, don’t realize that it is supposed to be fiction, not accurate church history,” say Olson and Miesel. “Even devout Christians are confused by the message and may question the

true tenants of their faith as a result of what they see on the big screen or on the pages of a novel.”

In a 375-page dissection, which unravels Brown’s claim that his book is well researched and accurate, “The DaVinci Hoax” makes it very clear that Brown’s tales are simply that, fairy tales. Olson and Miesel examine the origins of the New Testament, the claims of apocryphal gospels and ancient sects, the medieval Knights Templar and the Holy Grail, Leonardo DaVinci’s alleged “coded” messages in his paintings and the accusation’s against the Catholic Church in order to counter the claims of Brown.

“According to Dan Brown, almost everything most Christians and non-Christians think they know about Jesus is completely wrong — the result of Catholic propaganda designed to hide the truth from the world,” say Olson. “What a message for Holy Week.”

San Francisco-based Ignatius Press, founded in 1978, is the largest Catholic publisher in the U.S. and celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2003. Ignatius Press publishes over 40 books each year, with over 800 titles in print. Ignatius is also publisher of *Catholic World Report* and *Homiletic & Pastoral Review* magazines.

Ordering information:

Book confronts struggles, joys and depth of Alzheimer’s

NOTRE DAME — Alzheimer’s is a devastating and frightening disease that slowly robs individuals of their memories. “Pray with Me Still” is rooted in the practice of praying the rosary, a ritual that is often a source of great comfort to Alzheimer’s patients and their loved ones.

“Pray with Me Still” confronts the struggles, joys and spiritual depths of both Alzheimer’s patients and those who care for them, while guiding individuals through this difficult time. By probing the spiritual life and capacities of the patients themselves, “Pray with Me Still” will bolster the spiritual strength of those who care for those with or live with Alzheimer’s.

“Pray with Me Still” begins by looking at the spiritual capacities of Alzheimer’s patients through three case studies. Then, turning attention to the struggles of those who love them and the spiritual realities with which they live, “Pray with Me Still” offers a section on how to pray the rosary and the prayers needed to pray it.

Two different sets of meditations on the mysteries of the rosary are provided. The first set is focused on the very personal day-to-day needs of Alzheimer’s patients and is

ideal for caregivers. These meditations could stand alone or be read along with praying the rosary.

The second set of meditations is more concise and written for caregivers or loved ones to use when praying together with patients. These are particularly well suited for use before each decade of the rosary.

“Pray with Me Still” is a collaborative project by author Beth Mahoney and Holy Cross Family Ministries. Mahoney shares her pastoral experiences in compiling the work of the contributors as well as authoring the rosary meditations for those with Alzheimer’s and their loved ones. She has a master’s degree in pastoral care and counseling from Boston College and has taken postgraduate courses in theology and canon law.

Mahoney is the mission director for Holy Cross Family Ministries, which is headquartered in North Easton, Mass., with offices in 16 countries worldwide. Their mission is to promote family prayer to bring unity and peace to families.

For more information on Holy Cross Family Ministries, visit their Web site, www.hcfm.org, or call (800) 299-PRAY.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

MISC. HAPPENINGS

Men 50 and over softball league

Arcola — St. Patrick Church is looking for men 50 and over for a softball league this spring. Contact Gus Trahin at (260) 432-4706 or Dan Strack at (260) 625-4475 to get your team signed up.

Day of reflection offered

Mishawaka — A day of reflection will be held at St. Francis Convent, (across from Marian High School) Tuesday, April 25, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The theme for the day is "God, our Rock." The cost is \$15 and includes lunch. Registrations needed by Friday, April 21, by calling Sister Barbara Anne Hallman at (574) 259-5427.

Salad luncheon planned

Elkhart — St. Thomas the Apostle Church will hold a salad luncheon on Wednesday, April 26, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 1405 North Main St. in Elliott Hall. Handicapped accessible. Donation of \$6 received at the door. Raffle tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

Luncheon card party planned

South Bend — A Saint Anne luncheon card party will be held at Our Lady of Hungary Parish, corner of W. Calvert and S. Chapin Sts. on Sunday, April 23. Doors open at noon. Donation of \$4 taken at door. Bring your own cards.

Spring musical at Precious Blood

Fort Wayne — The Spring musical at Most Precious Blood School, 1529 Barthold St., will be Disney's "Aladdin Jr." presented on April 21 and 22 at 7 p.m.

Life in the spirit seminar planned

Fort Wayne — A "Life in the Spirit" seminar will be held Saturday, April 29, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at St. Charles Hession Center. Mass in the church at 8 a.m. Registration at 8:30 a.m. Sessions are led by the local charismatic group. Call Shirley at (260) 484-3480 or Barb at (260) 484-6609 for information.

Single Catholic men and women forming social group

Fort Wayne — "The Gap," a newly forming singles social group for widowed, divorced and single men and women, who range in age from 45 to 65, will hold its first gathering on Friday, May 12, at 7 p.m. in St. Elizabeth Parish Hall. Enjoy an evening of fun with other mature single Catholics. Hors d'oeuvres and refreshments provided. For

information call (260) 432-7346 or e-mail gap4565@msn.com.

Divine Mercy Sunday with Bishop Jenky

Notre Dame — On April 23, Divine Mercy Sunday, there will be a eucharistic procession immediately after the 11:45 a.m. Mass in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. Bishop Daniel Jenky will lead the procession of the Blessed Sacrament, going to several altars set up around campus. Register for the free picnic following the procession at www.nd.edu/~adore/procession. Also that day at 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. the movie "Bella," will be shown at the DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts. It is a movie about the beauty of life.

DCCW potluck planned

Fort Wayne — The Fort Wayne Deanery Council of Catholic Women will have a potluck dinner on Tuesday, April 25, at St. Louis Besancon Church. Rosary at 2:40 p.m. will be followed by Mass. Following the Mass the speaker will be Father Robert D'Souza, associate pastor at St. Jude, who worked with Mother Teresa in India. A white elephant sale will also be held. Bring something that someone may bid on. All women of the diocese are invited. Call Betty Lomont Howard at (260) 749-9396.

First Saturday devotion held

Fort Wayne — The World Apostolate of Fatima will hold devotions of reparation at St. Joseph, corner of Brooklyn and Hale and at St. Patrick, Arcola on May 6. Reconciliation will begin at 7:15 a.m., meditation at 7:30 a.m., and the rosary at 7:45 a.m. with Mass at 8 a.m. All are welcome.

Mother-daughter program planned

South Bend — A special program for adolescent girls 10-13 and their mothers or guardians will be Friday, May 5, from 7-9 p.m. in the first floor education center at Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center. Topics include physical and emotional changes, respect and character formation. There is no charge for the program sponsored by Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center and The Natural Family Planning Program of St. Joseph County. To register, call the NFP office at (574) 234-5411 by Tuesday, May 2.

Spring variety show presented at Queen of Angels

Fort Wayne — A spring variety show, "On With the Show," will be held Friday and Saturday, April 28 and 29, starting at 7 p.m., at Queen of Angels School,

1600 W. State Blvd. Tickets at the door are \$2 for adults, \$1 for students and seniors. Children 3 and under free.

Silent card party planned

South Bend — The Daughters of Isabella Notre Dame Circle 572 will host a silent card party and play trivia games at their meeting on May 1 at 6 p.m. in the Peterson Room at Corpus Christi Church. It is also an open meeting and guests are welcome.

Bishop Luers holds driver's education classes

Fort Wayne — Bishop Luers High School will be accepting students for the Driver's Educational Program. Classroom session dates are June 5-16, from 8 to 11 a.m. The driving portion will be set up for June and July. Cost for Luers' students is \$350 (includes road test), all others \$365 (includes road test). To register, or for more information, call Bishop Luers High School, (260) 456-1261.

Pilgrimage to EWTN

Fort Wayne — A pilgrimage to Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Irondale, Ala., will be May 16-19. Pilgrims will attend the Wednesday evening live show and visit Mother Angelica's Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Costs begin at \$215. Several priests will be in attendance. For information call (260) 639-3788.

FUNDRAISERS

Fish Fry

South Bend — St. Augustine Parish, 1501 W. Washington St., will have a fish fry on Friday, April 21, from 3 to 8 p.m. Adults \$7, children \$2.

Knights plan spaghetti dinner

South Bend — The Knights Council 5521, 61533 S.

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Clara E. Wachowiak, 82, St. Pius X

Mishawaka

Michael C. Fain, 58, St. Monica

Martha C. Meuninck, 90, St. Joseph

New Carlisle

Thomas T. Rauschenbach, 90, St. Stanislaus Kostka

Notre Dame

Sister M. Frances E. Boydston, CSC, 89, Our Lady of Loretto

Sister Margo Cain, CSC, 73, Our Lady of Loretto

Robert A. Leader, 81, Sacred Heart Basilica

South Bend

Pauline Casper, 83, St. Mary of the Assumption

Eugenia S. Sikorski, 92, St. Adalbert

Irene M. Plonski, 85, St. Adalbert

Wabash

Victor Queen, 88, St. Bernard

Warsaw

Richard S. Bernoski, 54, Sacred Heart

Ironwood Dr., will have a spaghetti dinner on Friday, April 21, from 5 to 7 p.m. Adults \$6, children (5-12) \$3. Carry-out available.

Christ Child Society to have garage sale

South Bend — The Christ Child Society will have a garage sale on Thursday, May 4, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at St. Hedwig Memorial Center, Scott Street at Western Avenue. Sale includes clothing for all ages, household items, collectibles and more. Proceeds are used to clothe children in need in St. Joseph County.

Breakfast buffet supports ABC

Yoder — St. Aloysius will have an all-you-can-eat breakfast buffet on Sunday, April 23, in the activity center from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. A free-will donation will support the athletic booster club.

Rummage sale

New Haven — A rummage sale will be held at the St. Louis, Besancon, parish hall on Friday, April 21, from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and on Saturday, April 22, from 9 a.m. to noon. Fill a bag on Saturday for \$1.

Bishop Luers Marketing Committee sponsors chicken dinner

Fort Wayne — Bishop Luers High School marketing committee will sponsor a Nelson's chicken dinner at the Jefferson Pointe Wal-Mart on Saturday,

April 29, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dinners are \$6.50. Advance tickets are available after April 10 by calling (260) 436-1493 or the day of the sale. Proceeds benefit

DONATIONS

St. Vincent de Paul needs your help

South Bend — The St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Joseph County is in need of donations and monetary contributions. Large items will be picked up. Call the office at (574) 234-6000 for information.

St. Vincent de Paul needs your help

Fort Wayne — The St. Vincent de Paul Society of Allen County is in need of donations. Monetary contributions are always appreciated. The St. Vincent de Paul Society accepts cars, trucks and vans. Donations can be dropped off Monday through Friday at 1600 S. Calhoun from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call (260) 456-3561 for pick-up information. Large items will be picked up.

Mustard Seed Furniture Bank can use your donations

Fort Wayne — The Mustard Seed Furniture Bank is in need of furniture. Donations may be picked up by calling (260) 471-5802. The Mustard Seed is dedicated to providing household furnishings to those in need.

TV MASS GUIDE FOR MAY

DATE	FEAST	FORT WAYNE	SOUTH BEND	"Catholic Comment" airs every Sunday at 7:05 a.m. on WOWO 1190 AM in Fort Wayne and at 7:30 a.m. on WSBT 960 AM in South Bend
		CHANNEL 33 - WISE 10:30 A.M.	CHANNEL 16 - WNDU 10:30 A.M.	
May 7	4th Sunday of Easter	Father Adam Schmitt St. Joseph Fort Wayne	Father Edward O'Connor, CSC Corby Hall Notre Dame	
May 14	5th Sunday of Easter	Father Daniel Leeuw Provena and VA Center Avilla and Fort Wayne	Father John Cramer St. Matthew Cathedral South Bend	
May 21	6th Sunday of Easter	Father Robert D'Souza St. Jude Fort Wayne	Father Bernard Galic Holy Family South Bend	
May 28	Ascension of the Lord	Father Edward Erpelding St. Joseph, Hessen Cassel Fort Wayne	Bishop John M. D'Arcy Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend	"Radio Rosary" airs Sundays at 8:30 a.m. on WGL 1250 AM

ALLELUIA!

Special services for special days herald in the Easter season.

GOOD FRIDAY



Veneration

KAY COZAD

Parishioners venerate the cross during Good Friday services at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Fort Wayne.

SATURDAY



Blessing of the fire

TIM JOHNSON

Parishioners of St. Aloysius, Yoder, gather outside for the blessing of the fire and Easter candle at the beginning of the Easter Vigil.



Baptized

DON CLEMMER

Alyssa Ehinger holds a candle after being baptized at the Easter Vigil Mass at Queen of Angels Parish in Fort Wayne.

HOLY THURSDAY



Symbol of service

MICHELLE DONAGHEY

Bishop John M. D'Arcy washed the feet of parishioners of St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend during Holy Thursday Mass. Confessions and eucharistic adoration followed the Mass.

EASTER SUNDAY



Bishop celebrates TV Mass

VINCE LABARBERA

Bishop John M. D'Arcy, among the list of Holy Week and Easter obligations, celebrated the television Mass on WISE-TV in Fort Wayne.

St. Augustine pray the Stations of the Cross 'their own way'

BY MAY LEE JOHNSON

SOUTH BEND — Tina Jones' deep sulky voice filled the church with a rhythm-and-blues fusion as she sang gospel reflections at each Station of the Cross last week at St. Augustine Church in South Bend.

"Doing it Their Own Way," is a contemporary meditation that was developed by Father M. Jeffrey Bayli and the famous singer Aaron Neville. Jones sang



MAY LEE JOHNSON

the musical portions composed by Neville.

This new and different performance of the Stations of the Cross was the idea of St. Augustine Parish member Cheryl Ashe.

"I'm really into doing things a

Tina Jones sings gospel reflections recently during Stations of the Cross titled "Doing it Their Own Way" at St. Augustine Catholic Church in South Bend.

different way," said Ashe, who was the coordinator of the Stations of the Cross for St. Augustine Parish.

"One of the reasons I like this interpretation is because Aaron Neville sang the original version, and Tina's style is very much like his. Although Neville lived a difficult life, he had a praying wife and mother, and he was able to turn his life around, and it shows in his music."

The Stations of the Cross were drawn by an artist in Uganda, and

the tapestry was purchased by Father Charles Lavelly, CSC, pastor of St. Augustine Parish. It hangs in a place of honor at the church. Each station is depicted along the borders of the painting and in the center is a portrait of a black crucified Jesus

"I just lifted my head and let the music come through me," Jones said. "The Stations of the Cross is such a holy time, I just wanted to sing well."