FORT WAYNE — Michelle Hittie, the superintendent of schools of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend for the past five years, will bid a fond farewell to the Catholic school system as she retires at the end of this school year. It’s a position she never dreamed she would hold, and she loved every minute of it.

Born in Pittsburgh, Pa., Hittie is proud of her 16 years of Catholic education. Following high school graduation from Elizabeth Seton High School, Hittie attended Mercyhurst College in Erie, Pa., and earned a degree in elementary education in 1962. She and Bill, her husband of 43 years, were married that same year.

Hittie’s first teaching assignment was in Philadelphia, where she was a first grade teacher for one year before “the babies” began to arrive. Subsequently, for the next 17 years she was happy to be a stay-at-home mom. Following seven moves in nine years, the Hittie family landed in Fort Wayne where they have resided and enjoyed membership at St. Charles Parish since 1971.

In 1976, Bill’s beloved mother, Mickie, came to share the lives and home of the Hittie family, which now had grown to include three sons and two daughters. Then with the support of husband and help of stay-at-home grandma, Hittie returned to school and earned her master of education degree from Indiana-Purdue Universities at Fort Wayne (IPFW) in 1980.

Following graduation, as her youngest child entered kindergarten, Hittie reentered the teaching profession full-time, as junior high language arts teacher at St. John the Baptist School, New Haven. What began as a temporary contract for a maternity leave, soon stretched into eight years. With the encouragement of the Sisters of St. Agnes present at St. John, Hittie, who still adamantly contends that she was very happy as a teacher, returned once again to IPFW, this time to pursue an administrative license. With the attainment of her license she accepted the position as principal of the school, which she held for the next four years. “As principal, you get to know all the kids. I just loved that,” she says.

In 1994, Hittie took the opportunity to use her administrative skills in another school, this time St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne, and accepted the position of superintendent.

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Visiting Poland in late May, Pope Benedict XVI drew on Poles’ history, their tragedies and their love for Pope John Paul II to call for a future of solid faith, reconciliation and peace.

Arriving in Warsaw May 25, Pope Benedict knew the focus of his audience was on his Polish-born predecessor, and while he constantly referred to his own desire to follow in Pope John Paul’s footsteps, he emphasized that the best way to keep his predecessor’s memory alive was to believe and act as he did.

“This is no mere sentimental journey, although it is certainly that, too, but rather a journey of faith,” Pope Benedict said at the Warsaw airport welcoming ceremony.

And while international focus was on the German-born Pope Benedict May 28 when he visited the Nazis’ Auschwitz-Birkenau camp, he referred to his predecessor there as well.

“Pope John Paul came here as a son of that people which, along with the Jewish people, suffered most in this place and, in general, throughout the war,” Pope Benedict said. “I come here today as a son of the German people.

“To speak in this place of horror, in this place where unprecedented mass crimes were committed against God and man is almost impossible — and it is particularly difficult and troubling for a Christian, for a pope from Germany,” he said.
Adoration to Blessed Sacrament offers blessings to the diocese

BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

Pentecost

We have celebrated the birthday of the church. Some contend that the church was born from the side of Christ on Good Friday, and this is certainly true. For others, the key moment is the gift of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Sunday. Of course, we should never wonder whether the pouring out of the Holy Spirit without Christ’s offering himself as a gift to God the Father for our salvation. For me, Pentecost was blessed. I was off to South Bend on Saturday for the confirmation of about 35 adults and back the next day to Fort Wayne for a similar event. What a privilege to celebrate Pentecost Mass at our two cathedrals and to confer the gift of the Holy Spirit in the midst of two beautiful liturgies.

Now, Corpus Christi

After celebrating the feast of the Holy Trinity this week, we prepare for the feast of Corpus Christi. This feast developed later in the church. In the beginning, the church reserved the Blessed Sacrament for the sick. If it were reserved for the sick, that means that Christ remained present as at Mass. Thus this popular devotion developed as people wanted to be near places where the church reserved the Blessed Sacrament. Thus, the church reserved the Blessed Sacrament for the sick. If it were reserved for the sick, that means that Christ remained present as at Mass. Thus this popular devotion developed as people wanted to be near places where the church reserved the Blessed Sacrament. This is growing. It is coming from the people, and especially from the young people. In our diocese, we are blessed with two parishes under the patronage of this mystery — Blessed Sacrament Parish, Albion, and Corpus Christi Parish, South Bend.

We must not forget the sisters

However, we must not forget the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration situated on a beautiful hill overlooking Marian High School. Their adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, around the clock, has long been a blessing for our diocese. They are truly missionary sisters serving in education, health care, and various social efforts. They are becoming widely known throughout the state and beyond for their efforts in bringing young people closer to Christ, through prayer and adoration in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. They work in campus ministry in our diocese and with young adults. They are a blessing.

There is no doubt in our time in adoration and prayer strengthens them for these other ministries.

As part of the preparation for our jubilee year, I have asked the Office of Vocations to take up several initiatives as well as to strengthen those efforts they are already making. One new initiative will be that every parish will be asked to have prayer time with the Office of Worship, will apply appropriate prayers. I am working on a prayer which we hope can be said at all Masses during all, or part, of the Jubilee Year.

I hope everyone will spend some time in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament on this great feast. I am grateful to parishes, like St. Jude and St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne; Corpus Christi, South Bend; St. Mary, Bristol; and Immaculate Conception, Auburn, who have asked the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is growing. It is coming from the people. In one place, he speaks of his own prayer before the Blessed Sacrament during long evenings in the seminary chapel, to which he returned after the terrible war.

Speaking of confirmations and bishops

I have had the privilege and joy of conferring the sacrament of confirmation in 34 parishes, with two left at St. Dominick, Bremen, and at St. Vincent de Paul, Elkhart. I am grateful to Bishop Hock, director of the Extension Society and retired bishop of the Diocese of Jackson, Miss., for confering confirmation in six parishes. I am grateful to the good Lord, and I must say to my dear parents, for strong health.

However, when the schedule slows, more walking and an improved diet will be necessary. Taking care of one’s health is an obligation.

I have never found confirmations a burden. In fact, I enjoy the vitality of the young people in our diocese and it is a tremendous opportunity to preach the Gospel.

Visiting bishops

I had lunch with Bishop Carlos Garfias, OP, associate pastor of St. John the Evangelist, Ligonier, and Father Cyril Fernandes, pastor of St. Patrick, Ligonier, and St. Patrick Parish, Albion. He is a native of India, as are the two priests.

Two days later at the Morris Inn on the campus of the University of Notre Dame, I had lunch with Bishop Carlos Garfias, OP, associate pastor of St. John the Evangelist, Ligonier, and St. Patrick Parish, Albion. He is a native of India, as are the two priests.

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Diocese celebrates jubilee with regional confirmations in 2007

BY KAY COZAD

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend moves forward toward its 150th jubilee celebration in 2007 with such activities as the Traveling Pilgrim Cross, ongoing parish-wide missions and the “Disciples in Mission” process. Bishop John M. D’Arcy, who is devoted to shepherding his regional church, is encouraged by these events, which bring unity to the local parishes.

“The term ‘jubilee’ speaks of joy, not just inner joy, but a jubilation, which is manifested outwardly, for the coming of God is also an outward, visible, audible and tangible event,” says Bishop D’Arcy as he quotes Pope John Paul II.

Another exciting jubilee event, now in the planning stages, is the regional confirmations that will take place in the fall of 2007. “This will be a unique historical event in the diocese where we will visibly celebrate our unity as a diocese with the large groups,” says Linda Forge, director of the Office of Campus and Young Adult Ministry. The confirmandi of the South Bend and surrounding area parishes will be confirmed on Sept. 16, during a special Mass celebrated by Bishop D’Arcy at the Joyce Athletic Conference Center on the University of Notre Dame Campus. Those from the Fort Wayne area will join Bishop D’Arcy in a confirmation Mass at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum on Sept. 30.

September was chosen for this joyous event so that the many spring events, such as Lenten and Easter liturgies, Communions and graduations, would not interfere with attendance.

In preparation for these special confirmation ceremonies, each of the parishes of the diocese will be encouraged to create a banner uniquely depicting their church, to lead their confirmandi as they process to the Mass. Each confirmation Mass celebration in 2007 promised the diocese to celebrate regional confirmations as part of the sesquicentennial celebrations slated for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend in 2007. The photo at top shows the regional confirmation held at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum and below the regional confirmation held at the Joyce Center at Notre Dame with Bishop Daniel Jenky performing the rite.

In 2000, regional confirmations were part of the great jubilee celebrations that celebrated 2,000 years of Christianity. The success of the regional confirmations in 2000 prompted the diocese to celebrate regional confirmations as part of the sesquicentennial celebrations slated for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend in 2007. Judges reported in The Catholic Journalist, “Today’s Catholic will present inspiring music and joyful event so that the many regional confirmations will be one of the highlights of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.”

Today’s Catholic receives CPA honors

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (CNS) — Today’s Catholic, the official publication of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, was honored with a second-place award in the general excellence category for newspapers with circulation up to 17,000.

Judges reported in The Catholic Journalist, “Today’s Catholic covers a lot of ground and journalism readers a well-rounded picture of the community. Strong design completes the package. An excellent all-around effort.”

“This award reflects a team effort,” said Today’s Catholic editor Tom Johnson. “From our publisher, to the staff, to our freelance writers and photographers, the award reflects the commitment of people who love our faith and want to bring the stories of the faith to our readers.”

The National Catholic Reporter, based in Kansas City, Mo., won the first-place general excellence award for the seventh year in a row in Catholic Press Association judging for national newspapers. Discover newspapers winning first-place general excellence awards were The Catholic Spirit, St. Paul, Minn., 40,001-plus circulation.

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St. Mary’s Heritage Fund awards 31 grants totaling $199,000

BY VINCE LABARBERA

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend has awarded 31 grants totaling $199,000 from the St. Mary’s Heritage Fund to various organizations from throughout the diocese. A total of 62 application requests were received this year from 17 parishes, 23 schools and nine agencies. The following were awarded grants upon the approval of Bishop John D’Arcy:

Parishes

Fort Wayne
• St. Therese — $3,000 for tuition assistance for parishioners with children at St. Therese School
• St. Mary — $2,500 for start-up costs for Father Tom O’Connor Light of Christ Award
• St. Joseph, Garrett — $5,000 for financial aid to Hispanic students
• Bishop Luers High School — $20,000 for tuition assistance
• Saint Joseph’s High School — $10,000 for financial aid
• Our Lady of Hungary — $7,000 for a resource teacher
• St. John — $5,000 for financial aid
• Holy Family — $5,000 for tuition assistance for 31 children
• Holy Cross — $3,000 for tuition assistance
• St. Adalbert — $25,000 for scholarship assistance

South Bend
• St. Augustine — $1,000 for tuition assistance for parishioners to attend a parochial school
• St. Casimir — $2,500 for parish coordinator of adult education
• St. Mary, Huntington — $2,000 toward Spanish Good Shepherd training for 2007
• St. Mary, Huntington — $1,000 for tuition assistance for parishioners with children at St. Mary School

Schools

Fort Wayne
• St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth — $5,000 for financial aid for low-income and Hispanic students
• Queen of Angels — $10,000 for financial aid
• Benoit Academy — $10,000 for tuition assistance for Catholic and non-Catholic students
• St. John — $4,000 for financial aid to African American and Hispanic students
• Bishop Luers High School — $20,000 for tuition assistance
• Saint Joseph’s High School — $10,000 for financial aid
• Our Lady of Hungary — $7,000 for a resource teacher
• St. John — $5,000 for financial aid
• Holy Family — $5,000 for tuition assistance for 31 children
• Holy Cross — $3,000 for tuition assistance
• St. Adalbert — $25,000 for scholarship assistance

Area

• St. John, Goshen — $3,000 for salary for bilingual teacher’s aid
• St. Joseph, Garrett — $5,000 for tuition assistance
• St. Monica, Mishawaka — $6,000 for financial aid
• St. Bavo, Mishawaka — $7,000 for school counselor one day a week
• St. Aloysius, Yoder — $6,000 for financial aid
• St. Patrick, Walkerton — $7,000 for tuition assistance
• St. Vincent, Elkhart — $8,000 for tuition assistance

Agencies

Fort Wayne
• Bishop Luers High School — $20,000 for tuition assistance
• St. John — $5,000 for financial aid

South Bend
• St. John — $5,000 for financial aid
• Holy Family — $5,000 for tuition assistance for 31 children
• Holy Cross — $3,000 for tuition assistance
• St. Adalbert — $25,000 for scholarship assistance

Area

• St. John, Goshen — $3,000 for salary for bilingual teacher’s aid

Bishops to meet in Los Angeles June 15-17

BY JERRY FIITEAU

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The biggest church issue the U.S. bishops will face when they meet this June is a new English translation of the Order of Mass.

They will also be asked to approve a 10-year extension of the annual collection for retired religious and plan to write a message to teenagers on stewardship.

They will be asked to approve a “no-increase 2007 assessment on dioceses for support of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.”

They will discuss but not vote on plans for a major restructuring of the way the USCCB operates.

The bishops are to meet June 15-17 at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles.

The meeting will give Archbishop Pietro Sambi, who just arrived in February as apostolic nuncio to the United States, his first opportunity to address the entire U.S. hierarchy.

The bishops will hear several oral reports: from Catholic Relief Services, their Task Force on Catholic Bishops and Politicians and their Hurricane Task Force.

Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan of Santa Fe, N.M., is to present a proposal from the Committee on Priorities and Plans that would reduce the number of standing and ad hoc committees of the USCCB from more than 50 currently to 14.

A reconfiguration of committees into these 14. These reductions in management of the conference are to be national administrative, executive budget and finance priorities and plans. The enacted or re-geared committees would be: education, research and development; catechesis and evangelization; Catholic health care; pro-life activities; American Catholics; religious retirement, Catholic Communication Campaign; international justice and peace, Catholic Social Concerns; national shrines, national Catholic labor confederation; social welfare; Catholic educational development; pro-life activity; pro-life activities; national Catholic Social Concerns.

Priority resolutions mandated by the Vatican or their Hurricane Task Force.

The bishops are to discuss the issue in June but not vote on a final plan until they meet again in November.

The reconfiguration of committees into these 14.

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Three teens receive Organist Training Program certificates

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — Organ music is the mainstay of so much of the traditional Catholic compositions and enhances any liturgical celebration. In an effort to continue that musical legacy, the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend supports the Organist Training Program (OTP), Est. 1980. The partnership between the Diocesan Music Committee and the University of Notre Dame Preparatory Department, the OTP offers those interested an opportunity to advance their level of skills and deepen their understanding of the liturgy. The program is currently sponsored by the the Office of Worship, under the administration of Beverly Rieger.

Currently there are 11 students enrolled in the program across the diocese, with seven teachers. Students range from sophomore in high school to adult age. The program requires that an applicant have advanced piano or organ skills, be active in a parish music ministry and have a willingness to commit to the time, sometimes up to five years, to meet the requirements.

Each year recitals are held to showcase the students and their talents. The Fort Wayne recital was held on June 6 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. The recital for South Bend will be held at St. Pius X Church in Granger on June 13. This year seven students have completed the program and are being awarded certificates. They are Gregory Shannon, Kelly Landrigan and Victor Morman.

Gregory Shannon, son of Ron and Marilyn Shannon, is 18 and a graduating home-schooled senior this year. He and his parents, along with his seven siblings are parishioners of Sacred Heart Parish in Fort Wayne. Music has always been a part of his life, with organ lessons coming on the heels of the family’s acquisition of a small used organ in 1998. After playing Latin Low Mass at his church for a year, Shannon’s mother encouraged him to audition for the OTP. “I was interested in the OTP because I could focus more on the liturgy with Catholic teachers,” he says.

For the past four years Shannon has committed to weekly half-hour lessons with the talented teachings of Jeremy Hoy, Sister Margaret Andre Waechtler, CSC, and Dr. Wayne Peterson. He plays the organ for Sacred Heart’s Saturday Mass including Latin High Mass, and practices with the choir there several times each month. Finding success in participating in the program Shannon says, “I have learned a lot of organ technique, organ music and liturgy...I would definitely recommend this program for interested musicians...” Future plans for Shannon include attending Indiana-Purdue Universities at Fort Wayne (IPFW) in the fall and continued work with Dr. Peterson through out his college career.

Of his music he says, “Playing at Mass is for me a way of serving God and is a way of worship. Beautiful church music helps others to worship.” Kelly Landrigan recently completed her junior year at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Fort Wayne. At 17, Landrigan plays piano and organ at St. Aloysius Parish.

Interest in the OTP was sparked initially by a cousin who had participated in the program, and after being accepted Landrigan studied under Sister Margaret Andre Waechtler, CSC, for three years. “She’s very nice, energetic and dependable,” says Landrigan of Sister Margaret.

Mastering play with the combination of the hands and the feet was the most difficult for this musician but she feels learning the different techniques the organ requires, as well as the liturgical training, was well worth the effort. Music, she says, enables her to give something back to God. “I’m glad my music training has allowed me to further my faith on a different level and hopefully minister to others,” she adds, hoping to continue to play for the church in the future.

Landrigan will be a senior in the fall and aspires to study sec-ondary education with a minor in music following high school graduation.

Victor Morman, 18, is the oldest of five children born to James and Jeri Morman. The family attends St. Therese Parish in Fort Wayne, where he plays piano or organ for Mass and special occasions.

Morman’s musical background dates back to piano lessons beginning when he was just six years old. “My parents were musical. Mom played piano. Dad sings in choirs. My family encouraged me,” says Morman.

After reading about the Organist Training Program in Today’s Catholic, Morman became interested, saying, “I wanted to learn to play the organ and learn the different Mass parts.” So for the past four years, after acceptance into the program in 2002, Morman has studied under Tim Robinson, who he reports is wonderful to work with. He believes his piano experience helped him transition to the organ, though he too, found the addition of pedaling to be challenging.

After participation in the training, Morman feels his music is becoming a “major thing” in his life. “It helps me with everything I do.” He recommends the Organist Training Program for those who wish to learn more about the Mass and the liturgical techniques involved. With the completion of home schooling this spring, the senior anticipates attending Ball State University in the fall to pursue a piano performance degree and hopes to continue to play at church wherever he is needed.

The program is grateful to the community of the outstanding teachers this year, who are: Jeremy Hoy, Andrew McShane and Dr. Betty Woodland in South Bend and Sister Margaret Andre Waechtler, CSC, Irene Ator, Tim Robinson and Dr. Wayne Peterson in Fort Wayne.

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Cardinal says marriage amendment not to be squandered

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As President George W. Bush called on the Senate to pass the Marriage Protection Amendment, Philadelphia Cardinal Justin Rigali said the vote was “an opportunity to take a step toward the future” and “not an opportunity to squander.” In a June 5 event at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building next door to the White House, Bush said adding the Constitution was the only way to “take this issue out of the hands of over-reaching judges and put it back where it belongs — in the hands of the American people.” Cardinal Rigali was among a coalition of religious and civic leaders who attended the White House event. Bush called marriage between a man and a woman the most enduring and important human institution. He noted that 45 states have passed laws or constitutional amendments defining marriage as only between a man and a woman. The bill could be on the Senate calendar for a June 6 vote would add a two-sentence amendment to the U.S. Constitution. It reads: “The people of the United States shall, in their several States, may consist only of the union of a man and a woman. Neither this Constitution, nor the Union, under any constitution of any state, shall be construed to require that marriage or the legal incidents thereof be conferred upon any union other than the union of a man and a woman.”

Pope, British prime minister meet, discuss dialogue with Islam

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a meeting with British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Pope Benedict XVI underlined the need to keep dialogue open with “moderate Islam.” In a statement released the same day, June 3, the Vatican said controversy over Iran’s nuclear program can and should be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy. It said the pope was “fully live chaste, celibate lives. Pope says married faiths can signal unity

WARSOW, Poland (CNS) — A marriage between Christians of different denominations can be “a practical laboratory of unity” if the husband and wife are guided and supported by both their churches, Pope Benedict XVI said. Although some 95 percent of Poles are Catholic and marry Catholics, he said, Christian teaching on family life and the importance of giving a religious education to their children is needed. The pope said in a meeting May 25 with members of the Catholic Church’s official dialogue partner in Poland, an ecumenical council that includes Orthodox, Lutheran, Baptist, Methodist and Old Catholic communities. The meeting was held in Warsaw’s Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity, the same church where Pope John Paul II met ecumenical leaders during his 1991 trip to Poland.

Coordinator of U.S. seminary visitations expects report this fall

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (CNS) — Archbishop Edwin O’Brien of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services said May 26 that the Vatican’s visitations to U.S. seminaries and houses of formation are nearly complete, and he hopes the resulting reports will be released this fall. “Bottom line, I think this visitation was most successful,” Archbishop O’Brien said in a talk to the 2006 Catholic Media Convocation in Nashville. A former head of two seminaries, he was coordinator of the visitations for the Vatican’s Congregation for Catholic Education, which oversees seminary formation. The objectives of the visitations, which were sparked by the sexual abuse crisis that hit the U.S. church in 2002, were to examine the criteria for admission of candidates and various aspects of priestly formation, including the intellectual formation of seminarians in the field of moral theology and the programs of human and spiritual formation aimed at ensuring they can faithfully live chaste, celibate lives.

Archbishop Hughes says pope sends blessings, prayers to New Orleans

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI sent his heartfelt blessings and assurances of his support to New Orleans Archbishop Alfred C. Hughes, after a private audience June 1, the archbishop told Catholic News Service. That he wanted to personally thank the pope for his support in the aftermath of the crisis, which devastat ed the Louisiana seaport. He said he also thanked the pope for hav ing sent funding and a special envoy, Archbishop Paul Cordes, head of the Vatican’s charity arm, the Pontifical Council Cor Unum. “The Holy Father was wonderful in his expression of concern and support,” Archbishop Hughes told CNS, and “he wanted me to send back his blessings” and tell people that his prayers for everyone there continue. The archbishop, who was in Rome to attend meetings of the Vatican’s financial council, said the private audience also gave him permission to speak of his concerns to the pope.

Chinese bishop, known for work toward united church, dies of cancer

HONG KONG (CNS) — Chinese Bishop Anthony Li Du’an of Xi’an, a church leader who enjoyed both papal approval and government recognition, died May 25 of liver cancer. The 79-year-old bishop contributed to the formation of priests and nuns and the reconciliation of the government-approved Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association and the underground Catholic Church in mainland China. Father Stephen Chen Ruixue of Xi’an told UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand, that hundreds of Catholics and government officials joined in a prayer service and Mass for Bishop Li. Father Chen, chancellor of the Xi’an Diocese, said Coadjutor Bishop Anthony Dang Mingyan of Xi’an and Bishop Joseph Tong Changping of Weinan, also in Shaanxi province, led the prayer service and concelebrated the Mass at St. Francis Cathedral in Xi’an city. Bishop Li’s body has been placed in the cathedral, locally known as South Church, for people to pay their respects.

Father Wintz wins Franny award; McGovern receives special honor

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (CNS) — Franciscan Father Jack Wintz, a member of the staff of St. Anthony Messenger magazine in Cincinnati for 35 years, is the 2006 winner of the St. Francis de Sales Award. The annual Franny Wintz award, given to an individual by the Catholic Press Association, honors the legacy of Bettie Neuman Wintz and her husband, Charles ’. Among questions the group plans to address in future sessions are the impact of religious orders over issues relating to life after death, including purgatory, indulgences and Masses and prayers for the dead. “The members of the dialogue team have established solid foundations for further discussion and development,” said the Rev. Lowell G. Almen, secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and a Lutheran co-chair of the dialogue. Auxiliary Bishop Richard J. Sklba of the U.S. Catholic Church and a Lutheran co-chair, said, “One of the more illuminating and instructive aspects of the meeting was the manner in which both Lutheran and Catholic scholars were able to reflect on the developing history of their own liturgical practices since the Reformation.”

Accepting the award, Father Wintz peppered his brief remarks with stories of his late wife Betty, noting that he had been nominated each of the past four years and that his notes had improved each year. “Why does the pope always have a chance to mind?” he asked, referring to the daytime soap opera star who won an Emmy Award as a female actress in a daytime drama in 1999 after being nominated 18 times without a win. Father Wintz praised the other finalists and his colleagues at St. Anthony Messenger.
New social group welcomes mature singles

FORT WAYNE — “The GAP” is a new faith-based social group for widowed, divorced and single men and women who range in age from the 40s to the 60s, who have fallen through the cracks of the church between the young adult ministries and the senior citizen groups.

Over 80 single men and women from several Fort Wayne parishes and surrounding area gathered at St. Elizabeth parish hall on May 12. Those in attendance enjoyed socializing, games and refreshments, and shared ideas of interest for future gatherings. The group plans to meet on the third Friday of every month beginning at 7 p.m., with additional activities scheduled as they occur. Meeting places may vary.

The mission of this ministry outreach is to provide a safe environment where mature single Catholic-Christian men and women can enjoy Christian fellowship within group activities. The next “GAP” gathering will be held at St. Elizabeth parish hall June 16, at 7 p.m. For more information please e-mail gap065@msn.com or call (200) 432-7436.

Elizabeth Everett wins scholarship

SOUTH BEND — Elizabeth Everett, a home school student, was named the winner of a four-year academic scholarship to either Saint Joseph’s High School or Marian High School with the sole stipulation that the winning student be the son or daughter of a K of C member.

Elizabeth Everett is the daughter of Fred and Lisa Everett and is the first home school student to win the award in council history.

Fred Everett holds the position of advocate of the council. — EJD

St. Joseph School announces math awards, Washington trip

DECATUR — St. Joseph School and the Indiana Council of Teachers of Mathematics (ICTM) have awarded Tyler Staub and Fred Everett holds the position of advocate of the council.

The award is named in honor of Stephen Brays and J. Frank Miles, two members who promoted a four-year scholarship to either Saint Joseph’s High School or Marian High School with the sole stipulation that the winning student be the son or daughter of a K of C member.

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AROUND THE DIOCESE

MARIAN HIGH SCHOOL CELEBRATES BACCALAUREATE

Bishop John M. D’Arcy celebrated the Marian High School baccalaureate Mass at St. Matthew Cathedral on June 1. Commencement followed June 2 at the Morris Center for Performing Arts in South Bend.

St. Jude Elementary School graduates and soon-to-be Marian graduates Adam Prister, Stephen Jagla, Michael McShane and Shane Fye gather for a photo. They posed for the same picture four years ago when they graduated from St. Jude School together.

Holy Cross College will be adding men’s and women’s varsity soccer

NOTRE DAME — The Holy Cross College (HCC) athletic program continues to grow. Plans have been made to recruit a men’s and women’s soccer team and coaching staff for next fall.

This move comes after the recent addition of customized soccer fields right on the college’s main campus. The fields are currently being used by the club soccer team.

Niezgoda named president of Nieuwland assembly

SOUTH BEND — William E. Neizgoda, who has served in several official capacities, is the new president of the nine-member Holy Cross College (HCC) Nieuwland Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus.

Niezgoda works with Steve Elk Jr., who recently completed a two-year term as faith navigator of the assembly, which was named in 1943 in honor of Father Nieuwland, professor of organic chemistry at the University of Notre Dame and a founder of synthetic rubber during World War II. At the time, he also served as pastor of Sacred Heart Church on West Thomas Street in South Bend in the heart of the Belgian community. The church building currently is the home of the Christ Child Society.

The assembly was originally established in 1963 as South Bend Assembly 242 and remained so until it petitioned for a change in name to honor Father Nieuwland for his outstanding work in organic chemistry.

Other elected officers were: John Sibilia, faithfull captain; James R. Berger, faithful pilot; Stephen Elk Jr., faithful admiral; John S. Emeritus, master; Joseph R. Ortega, outer sentinel; William C. Straight, outer sentinel; and Thomas A. Losmiak, third year trustee. — EJD

Mary Kay Dance

NOTRE DAME — The Holy Cross College (HCC) women’s varsity soccer program, which has information from the North American Conference of Catholic Athletes for Recreation (NACAR).

Other elected officers were: John Sibilia, faithfull captain; James R. Berger, faithful pilot; Stephen Elk Jr., faithful admiral; John S. Emeritus, master; Joseph R. Ortega, outer sentinel; William C. Straight, outer sentinel; and Thomas A. Losmiak, third year trustee. — EJD

Forty students and over 30 chaperones from St. Joseph School recently visited Washington D.C. The trip began with an all-night bus ride to the nation’s capital, followed by three days of touring the sights.

Students toured Ford’s Theatre, the Holocaust Museum, Mount Vernon, the Capitol Building, the Washington Monument and the National Police Officer’s Memorial, FDR’s Memorial, the World War II Memorial, Arlington Cemetery, the Korean and Vietnam War Memorials, the Smithsonian Museums and wrapped up the visit with a night tour of the Lincoln Monument, the Jefferson Monument and the Kennedy Center.

The students were greeted by Congressman Mike Pence at the Capitol Building. He gave them a personal tour and told the students about the rich history of the building.

Holy Cross College scholarship to benefit Notre Dame employees and their children

NOTRE DAME — The bond of the Congregation of Holy Cross stretches around the world, but the Holy Cross community in Notre Dame has a special closeness. This friendship was demonstrated earlier this year, when University of Notre Dame President Emeritus, Father Theodore M. Hesburgh, S.C., supported a major Holy Cross College fundraiser. With the money raised, Holy Cross College has been able to establish the Hesburgh Scholarship Fund.

In response to Father Hesburgh’s kindness, Holy Cross College President Brother Richard Gilman, CSC, has designated the dollars from that fund to assist only the children of Notre Dame employees who wish to attend Holy Cross College.

For more information about financial aid at Holy Cross College, please call Doug Irvine at (574) 239-8362 or send an e-mail to divine@hcc.nd.edu. To speak with an admissions counselor, call (574) 239-8400.

Sisters of Providence open Providence Associates program

SAINT MARY-OF-THE- WOODS — The Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, have established an associate program that provides an opportunity for lay adults to have a close connection with the Congregation without taking the vows that are required for religious life. Providence Associates is open to women and men age 18 and older of diverse faith traditions who seek a formal relationship with the Sisters of Providence. The associates will share their talents and abilities with the Congregation to honor Divine Providence through works of love, mercy and justice.

The program has been in development about two years.

“There is very high interest from people alumnae of our schools, former members and friends of the sisters in becoming partners in a spiritual sense, as well as having an opportunity to share their gift of talents with others to make a difference in people’s lives,” said Sister of Providence Mary Alice Zander, who is the director of Providence Associates.

Providence Associates will be able to share in mutual and intentional prayer, appropriate community gatherings and prayer groups, Sisters of Providence retreats and spiritual enrichment programs, social justice activities, eco-justice projects and other congregational ministries.

Commitments are for one year and can be renewed annually. There is no canonical, financial or legal obligation to one another on the part of the associate or the congregation. Associate candidates and appointed companions will meet every four to six weeks for 10 or 11 months. Candidates will be invited to participate in congregational programs, activities and celebrations.

“We have had a small associate program available to people in the Chicago area for many years. We have decided that the time is right to expand and strengthen it to welcome and invite people in many other places that have had a Sisters of Providence presence. Even people who live in areas where there are no members of the congregation currently ministering are welcome to become a candidate,” Sister Mary Alice said.

More information about Providence Associates and what opportunities are available can be obtained from Sister Mary Alice Zander at (812) 535-2862. She also may be contacted by e-mail at mazander@spwv.org. Further information is available at the Sisters of Providence Web site which is www.spwv.org and at www.catholic-church.org/nacar which has information from the North American Conference of Catholic Athletes for Recreation (NACAR).
Lay chaplain addresses Serrans

SOUTH BEND — “Being a Catholic chaplain in a hospital involves a myriad of both spirituality and responses to emergencies around the clock,” said Mary Gallagher, a member of the Church of the King Parish, who detailed much of her responsibilities as a chaplain at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center to members of the South Bend Serra Club.

The National Association of Catholic Chaplains came into being in 1965, and in 1973 the organization voted to add religious brothers, religious sisters and Catholic laypeople. And the responsibility shared by laypeople who serve as chaplains places a heavy trust on them in administering to the needs of patients, she said.

Holy Cross College will host Youth Summer Enrichment program June 19-23

NOTRE DAME — While many Holy Cross College (HCC) students take a break for the summer, some South Bend area young people will be filling the college halls. This June HCC hosts the fifth annual Youth Summer Enrichment program. Students ages 9-14 can sign up for classes like “Watercolor Painting,” “Jazz and Hip Hop Dance,” “Fun with Cooking,” “Police Camp,” “Survivor Group Skills,” “Basketball Fundamentals,” “Acrobatics for Kids” and more.

The program runs from June 19-23 with classes from 1 to 5 p.m. This year Holy Cross College has joined with Saint Joseph’s High School, so students can enjoy a full day of fun if they choose.

SIHS will be running an art camp in the morning and will then be escorting students to Holy Cross College for the afternoon.

Each program costs $100 for the full week of three classes, but students can also elect to take one or two classes for $40 each. A t-shirt is included in the fee.

Enrollment information is available online at www.hcc-nd.edu, and click on “Youth Summer Enrichment.” Parents can also call the college’s community education coordinator, Pat Adams, at (574) 239-8364.

Serra Club honors altar servers

SOUTH BEND — A total of 138 altar servers, including both boys and girls, were cited for exemplary services to their parishes by the Serra Club of South Bend, which honored them with special certificates.

The servers represented 18 parishes in the western end of the diocese.

Deacon Ron Moser of St. Joseph Parish in Mishawaka has served as general chairman of the program for the past three years. He pointed out that both boys and girls at Catholic schools soon discover that assisting the priest as an altar server provides them with a deep sense of spirituality, as well as an outreach to others to see an example.

The servers were from: St. Patrick, Walkerton; Schuyler Auraal, Rafael Casto, Ben Elch; Mollie Radacki, Kayus O’Brien and Alivia Hesters; from Corpus Christi, Devre Stopeczynski and Josh McMikan; from Holy Family, Abigail Anastos, Joshua Bathon, Zachary Kasler, Chaelor Orlowski and Andrew Zack; from St. Monica, Mishawaka, Mary Ganser, Kourtney Gruber, Jackson McManus, Maddison Mueller, Aaron Rosneck, Caitlin Saros, Emily Schindel, Tyler Semons and Rosa Zappia; from Christ the King, Luke O’Connor, Lisa Bella, Andrew Bokhart, Amy Waskowski, Erin Gorn and Jonathon Daniel; from St. Jude-St. Mary of the Assumption, Rebecca Badowski, Luke Charter, Brian Klockow, Nicholas Kvitawski, Elizabeth Lehman, Ryan Luczkowski, Michael McGuire, Nicholas McGuire, Nicholas Stancombe, Brandan Weis and Jason Badowski; from St. Pius X, Tyler Loefelholz, Elise Waldschmidt, Adelle Weber, Anita Weber and Kathryn Campbell; from St. Joseph South Bend, Kevin Barrett, Allison D’Ambrosia, Peter Doyle, Giuliana Corozzo and Christian Hammon; from St. John the Evangelist, Goshen, Keith Guthrie, Kevin Mackowski and Kathryn Longuace; from St. Anthony of Padua, South Bend, Kate Dalton, Bridget Liddell, Jacob Ta, Kate Taelman, Audrey Page and Katie Schmidt; from Queen of Peace, Mishawaka, Michele Weldy, Philip Weldy, Joseph Monhaut and Aleshia Farrow; from Our Lady of Hungary, Chris Stockberger, Victoria Gruber, Caber Lubezius, Chris Stand and Joseph R. Molnar; St. Joseph, Mishawaka, Aaron Bulger, Andrew Ross and Philip Sheperd; from St. Michael, Plymouth, Mute Adams, Kaylee Kopetski, Ashley Lenne, Danielle Lenne and William Kopetski; and from St. John the Baptist, South Bend, Aaron Bauer, Grant Niegozinski, Joseph Pacsi, Kyle Sera and Jacob Kazumanski.

Twenty-one altar servers from St. Thomas the Apostle, Elkhart, were also recognized. — EJD

Bishop Dwenger clearing room for its future

FORT WAYNE — The first steps in Bishop Dwenger High School’s expansion efforts began on May 22 with the demolition of the convent on the Dwenger campus.

Over the past several years, the convent has been home to offices and storage for the school’s Saints Alive! auction as well as the diocesan campus ministry offices. The last offices moved when the diocese moved into the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center in downtown Fort Wayne in June 2005.

Bishop Dwenger High School will break ground on the initial phase of its expansion project on Tuesday, June 13, at 11 a.m.

Bishop John M. D’Arcy will join principal, J. Fred Tone, and other school and diocesan officials as the school prepares to add a 26,000 square foot fine arts addition to the existing building.

Work is expected to begin on the fine arts academic wing sometime in June with a scheduled completion date of August 2007.

The fine arts wing will house three visual arts classrooms as well as separate vocal and instrumental music areas. The band room will accommodate up to 120 students and the choir room 90 students. The space will also include storage space for uniform, instruments and music. There will also be individual practice rooms and an ensemble room to help accommodate the growing demand for the arts at Dwenger.

Dwenger has already generated nearly $4 million in gifts and pledges towards $7.75 million goal in its ONE Family Campaign. Two pacesetter gifts of $1 million and $500,000 respectively have helped make the first phase of expansion a reality. Additional funding is still needed to begin construction of the classroom wing, which will add 13 new classrooms to the school.

Once expansion is complete, the school will be capable of housing up to 1,200 students. Expected enrollment for the 2006-07 school year is 1,050 students.

Bishop Dwenger is the largest of the four Catholic diocesan high schools.

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Reproductive technologies: Assisting or replacing marital relations?

In the last article, we considered why sexual relations between spouses is the only setting worthy of the procreation of a person. The dignity of a child demands that he or she be given life through a personal act that expresses the total self-giving of his or her parents. From this conviction follows the principle that medical interventions that assist marital intercourse to achieve conception are morally good, while reproductive technologies that replace or substitute for marital relations are morally wrong.

It should be fairly easy to see from this principle that in vitro fertilization (IVF) fails to be a morally acceptable method for treating infertility. This is because IVF achieves conception by having technicians join sperm and ova in a laboratory petri dish, rather than through the loving, sexual embrace of husband and wife. The Catechism of the Catholic Church spells out why sexual relations that preceded it are no longer an act by marriage. They betray the spouses’ right to become a father and a mother only through each other.

Techniques involving only the married couple (homologous artificial insemination and fertilization) are perhaps less reprehensible, yet remain morally unacceptable. They dissociate the sexual act from the procreative act. The act, which brings the child into existence, is no longer an act by which two persons give themselves to one another. Only respect for the link between the meanings of the conjugal act and the purpose of marriage ensures the moral good of the con-ception. In its practice of IVF, Catholic health care facilities and hospitals have serious reservations. They argue that IVF achieves conception by having technicians join sperm and ova in a laboratory petri dish, rather than through the loving, sexual embrace of husband and wife. The Catechism of the Catholic Church spells out why sexual relations that preceded it are no longer an act by marriage. They betray the spouses’ right to become a father and a mother only through each other. Techniques involving only the married couple (homologous artificial insemination and fertilization) are perhaps less reprehensible, yet remain morally unacceptable. They dissociate the sexual act from the procreative act. The act, which brings the child into existence, is no longer an act by which two persons give themselves to one another. Only respect for the link between the meanings of the conjugal act and the purpose of marriage ensures the moral good of the conception.

While the church has clearly condemned in vitro fertilization, it has not formally passed judgment on the GIFT procedure. While IVF is by far the most commonly used “assisted reproductive technology” (ART) today, an earlier and simpler procedure called GIFT was developed in the 1980s. GIFT is an acronym that stands for Gamete IntraFallopian Transfer. It requires at least one fallopian tube that is not obstructed on the part of the woman. The procedure involves obtaining nearly ripe ova from the woman through needle aspiration and a sample of semen that is obtained during normal marital relations with the help of a perforated condom. The prepared semen sample or one and more ova are placed in plastic tubing, but separated by an air bubble to prevent conception. The contents of the tubing are then immediately inserted into the woman’s fallopian tube so that conception can take place inside her body.

Pregnancy rates with GIFT are similar to those with IVF: 16-20 percent of women who undergo these reproductive procedures go on to give birth. While the church has clearly condemned in vitro fertilization, it has not formally passed judgment on the GIFT procedure. However, many Catholic moral theologians, including ethicists from the National Catholic Bioethics Center, have serious reservations. They argue that even though GIFT joins sperm and ova in the woman’s body rather than a petri dish, conception is really the result of a technical procedure rather than the marital relations that preceded it.

In the absence of a definitive judgment by the church, it is up to local bishops whether to permit the GIFT procedure in Catholic health care facilities and up to married couples whether to pursue it.

Next week, with the help of a Fort Wayne physician, this series will explore a new reproductive technology that is clearly ethical and is far more effective than either IVF or GIFT in helping couples conceive.

Lisa Everett is the co-director of the Office of Family Life for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.
Multigenerational valedictorians: Brains and character are family legacy

By Kay Cozad

FORT WAYNE — Have you ever done something so reminiscent of one of your parents that your first thought was, “I’ve become my mother”? Well, that’s not such a bad thing for 18-year-old Claire Ensley.

The 2006 Bishop Dwenger valedictorian Claire Ensley, center, stands with her grandmother, Mary Stout Carroll, left, and mother, Susan Ensley, in Susan’s first-grade classroom at St. Charles School where they are all members of the parish. Claire is the most recent generation of her family to earn valedictorian status. Carroll was valedictorian of Elmhurst class of 1947. Susan Ensley earned top rank at Dwenger in 1981.

Ensley’s grandmother and mother are both very proud of the family’s newest valedictorian. But intelligence isn’t the only thing passed down through the generations in this family.

These three women share a quiet strength and spirit that comes from a place other than text books.

The past seven years she has held the first in a series of exchange programs where she visited France as her mother Susan had done over two decades earlier. Claire is listed as second in the nation on the National French Test. She participates in band as did her mother, French and calculus clubs and National Honors Society, as well.

On being named valedictorian for 2006, a special Mass in January, Ensley says she was not surprised. “With on-line grade postings, you can keep up with where you are.” And she feels she’s done her best. “I worked hard because I wouldn’t have been happy with myself if I wasn’t reaching my potential.”

“Religion is very important to us. It’s much more important than grades. It’s so much bigger than school,” says Claire.

Her mother Susan agrees, saying, “Doing for others is more important to us than making money.”

The future looks bright for the modest Claire Ensley. Her grandmother is thrilled that she is valedictorian and “always knew she was awfully smart.” Mom Susan can’t wait to see what exciting options for the future will be open to her daughter. With Claire, the legacy lives on.
GOSHEN — We are proud that St. John is our patron saint. We have a powerful example by which we are led here at St. John the Evangelist School. St. John was blessed in many ways as Jesus made him the caretaker of his own Mother, Mary, as he was dying on the cross. He was also the first one at the tomb when he heard about Jesus’ resurrection. These were two very dynamic things to happen to a simple fisherman.

He is the patron saint of writers and booksellers. He wrote the Gospel according to John, three letters and the Book of Revelation. The evangelist’s symbol, the eagle, stands beside him holding in his beak the ink pot that enabled John to record his account of Christ’s life and his vision. We can imagine St. John’s eagle assisting us in our everyday writing and education. (Our after school program at St. John’s is lovingly called “Eagle’s Nest.”)

In his old age, he had a simple message, “Little children, love one another.” When asked for another lesson, he said that if they followed this simple lesson, that was enough.

In our school philosophy St. John states, in part... “Love one another ... Love others as Jesus loves us. ... In the awareness of others, the sensitivity to the needs of our parish and community, we are called to serve others by prayer, sacrifice, and the various calls to action.”

Prayer: Dear Lord, through the power of the Holy Spirit, allow St. John to assist the students of our school and all other schools in their studying about you. Amen.

Taking a break from our studies over the summer, I asked some of my classmates about their summer plans. These are just a few of their comments:

- Miguel is going to Chicago to see grandparents there who are visiting from Mexico;
- Spencer is going to North Carolina to go fishing with family and friends;
- Juan C. is going to Mexico, going to friends’ houses, and visiting with an aunt from Wyoming; Haley will be swimming in her backyard pool and I will be going to Shanklin Park (local park in Goshen) every Friday with classmate, and celebrating July 4th with family and relatives from out of state. As you can see, our summertime treat will involve spending time with relatives and family, loving one another, just as St. John requested.

Matthew Leitz is a fourth grade student at St. John the Evangelist School in Goshen.
Churches urged to apply for funding available for marriage programs

Washington (CNS) — Catholic and Protestant leaders praised the Bush administration for making $100 million in new funds available to programs that strengthen marriage in America.

After four years of rejecting President George W. Bush’s Healthy Marriage Initiative, Congress passed the proposal May 16.

Five religious leaders and marriage advocates spoke about the initiative at a May 25 press conference in Washington hosted by Marriage Savers, a nonprofit organization that aims to reduce the nation’s growing divorce rate.

“Marriage is the community’s responsibility,” said Bishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Knoxville, Tenn., chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Marriage and Family Life. “Good marriages cannot exist in a vacuum. We need to ... take action.”

Mike McManus, founder and co-chair of Marriage Savers, said the purpose of the press event was to encourage Protestant and Catholic leaders to apply for federal aid to fund marriage programs and to urge their colleagues to consider doing the same.

Since 1986, McManus and his wife, Harriet, have created 202 Community Marriage Policies involving 10,000 pastors and priests. Under the policy, a pastor sends three couples to a marriage training program to learn how to help other couples.

With half of all marriages in the country ending in divorce, McManus believes churches need to take action.

Churches teach that marriage was the first institution created by God but they have been doing more work in areas other than marriage, according to McManus, who is Presbyterian.

Church leaders cannot just maintain “marriages between a man and a woman,” but must “strengthen marriage,” McManus said.

He hopes his Community Marriage Policies will encourage churches to “give marriages a shot in the arm.”

Credit scores: Understanding an unrecognized asset

Assets are things of value that we own or possess. Most are easy to spot such as homes and investments. A consumers’ credit score is not the type of asset that appears on a financial statement.

However, it can be a major factor in deciding whether or not credit is extended or insurance coverage granted. An individual’s credit score is viewed in many quarters as a tool to assess a consumers’ integrity.

The pervasive use of credit scores influences mortgage and lease decisions, rental applications and insurance underwriting. It is important that consumers understand and care for their credit score in order to secure the most favorable terms.

Fair Isaac Corporation (FICO) is a statistical scoring firm that calculates the three digit score. The raw data is gathered and distributed via the three major credit reporting firms: Trans Union, Equifax and Experian. FICO utilizes a proprietary methodology to determine the score.

The top score is 850. Scores of 700 and above allow consumers to access the best rates and terms. Scores in the 600s and less result in higher rates and fees. It is important to note that these lower scores do not preclude a consumer from obtaining credit, but they may limit the consumer’s ability to take out a mortgage or get a loan.

To encourage consumers to protect their scores, FICO utilizes a proprietary methodology to determine the score. The result is often premium pricing, which can limit the borrower’s options. This is especially true in the mortgage market where higher rates mean the buyer must settle for a lesser home. Scores below 600 are very unfavorable and consumers in this category will find it difficult to do business in many ways.

There are changes at hand in the scoring world. The three leading credit bureaus have grown weary of paying FICO for their rating. They have worked together and are now coming forward with their own ranking called the VantageScore.

This new methodology seeks to eliminate confusion and discrepancies by assigning consumers letter grades based upon their scores. Grades from A to F will be utilized. Any resemblance to school marks is purely intentional.

Regardless of the scoring method used, it is important for individuals to recognize their credit scores as an important asset. Federal law requires that the reporting agencies provide free annual credit reports to consumers upon their request.

Anyone concerned about their ranking should obtain one of these reports and review it for accuracy and correctness. It is not unusual to find erroneous information. It will also reveal open credit accounts that have gone unused for long periods. These accounts should be closed by the consumer for security and rating purposes.

Regular maintenance by the consumer can help assure the most accurate and fair result.
EDITORIAL
Catholic media spreads its wings

W hen we think of all the means to communicate the Gospel in this day and age of information-savvy, truth hungry individu-
als, the scope is broad and ever changing.

From the many centuries when the word was spread from
person to person, to today in an electronic individualistic means — read-
ship of the newspaper, the Internet, e-mail, radio, television, videos, DVDs, even Podcasts — the means seem endless.

What was discussed with Catholic communicators at a recent
meeting in Nashville, Tenn., was that any or all of these tools
should be utilized to evangelize.

We are interested in the best methods of spreading the mes-
gage of our diocese to the masses. Print has been the diocesan
standard since 1926 when the paper was founded. Recently, several young
adults have volunteered to be part of a pilot study and receive
the newspaper electronically through e-mail. Early reports indicate
that this is a popular means of transfer to the younger audience.

We also learned of a few advantages of offering a Podcast of
the newspaper — a short newscast with some news highlights for
the week that are featured in Today’s Catholic. The Podcast could
be downloaded to an iPod from our Web site, www.diocesefwsb.org
and lure the readers to the newspaper for more in-depth coverage.

We also plan to incorporate some video coverage on the Web
site in the future.

As always, we would enjoy hearing from our readers. How can
we best serve you? What stories and information about the church
do you want the paper to cover? What teachings of the church do
you want greater understanding? What is the best means of get-
ing diocesan news to you, to your children and to your grandchil-
dren? Let us know; we’re listening. When it comes to the tools of
communications, we are eager to share the Gospel for the church
as a whole.

Cardinal makes a pitch for civility

Cardinal Theodore Edgar McCarrick, archbishop emeritus of
Washington, D.C., spoke at the recent Catholic Media
Convocation in Nashville, Tenn., attended by staff members of
Today’s Catholic, as well as over 400 other members of
the Catholic media. In his remarks, the cardinal offered what he
called 10 “Wouldn’t it be nice ifs,” in which he discussed specific areas
and issues where he felt the Catholic press could really
make a difference.

The first was the promotion of civility — a powerful force in a
church, country and world so divided. And so, in this space,
Today’s Catholic will take the cardinal’s words at face value and
address this specific area.

Civility extends beyond superficial politeness. While it is true
that so much more good could be accomplished in the world if
opposing sides would just refrain from namecalling, demonizing
and other nastiness, this is only a start. Even when displaying
their best manners, people can still be cold, judgmental, arrogant
and rude in the context of the cause or issues they feel is so
terribly worth it. This feeble take on civility will never last.

True civility runs deeper. It is the climate of respect that flour-
ishes naturally when people respect one another from the heart,
hoping to reconcile differences and move forward. This is done out
of an appreciation for one another as children of the God and a
realization that only when people lovingly work together (as opposed
to dividing ourselves and marginalizing each other) can
we tackle the truly significant issues in our time and find solu-
tions that will respect the dignity and consciences of all people.

The call for civility today, if nothing else, should empower
the church and tell it that its message is still needed, that it still
has as big a part as ever in the goings on of society. After all, lov-
ing one’s enemies and associating even with those deemed evil or
sinful — e.g. tax collectors and prostitutes — is at the heart of
the example and teachings of Christ.

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

EDITORS’ NOTES

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

Today’s Catholic welcomes letters from readers. All letters must be signed and include a phone number and address for verification.

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COMMENTARY
Book offers insights in Catholic identity

As a frequent reader of your newspaper, I would like to share
with your readership a most enjoyable and enriching pastime.
The last few years have witnessed unprecedented negative press
coverage of the Catholic Church.

Furthermore, recent events at Catholic universities like the
University of Notre Dame and others, has made many Catholics curi-
ous about what constitutes a Catholic college or university. Last month
the publication of “Catholic Higher Education: A Culture in Crisis” by Father John J. Piderit, Sr.
and Melanie M. Morey, which was
published by the Oxford Press.

Father Piderit is the former pres-
ident of Loyola University in
Chicago and now directs Catholic
After School Academies in the New
York metropolitan area. Open to all
Catholic children, these programs
are designed especially for Catholic
students attending public school
whose parents need daily after-
school care.

Father Piderit and Morey screen
an eye-opening history of Catholic
education in the United States. In
fact, the third part of the book deals
with the collapse of congregations of religious women and the devas-
tating effect it has had on all levels of Catholic education over the last
three decades. Piderit and Morey
are right on target when they credit
Catholic nuns for creating the stron-
gest Catholic culture in the U.S.
It made me realize how lucky past
generations were to have had
so many ready to serve in educa-
tional capacities.

For me, I am always mystified
when I read about things similar to
the recent events at Notre Dame,
such as colleges allowing pro-
choice commencement speakers as
well as internal policies that show
disregard for Catholic values. The
authors do a thorough and
thought-provoking examination of
such events and offer firm strategies that will be essential for keeping
Catholic colleges and universities “Catholic” in years to come.

Although the book spoke out
much information, all was presented in a fast-flowing and easy-to-read
style reminiscent of a John Grisham
crime novel. “Catholic Higher Education” was a definite breath of fresh air for
me at a time when the Catholic Church and Catholic culture is
under attack from all sides.

James Fernandez
East Lyme, CT
Ecumenical plate-spinner: Cardinal coordinates dozens of dialogues

THE VATICAN LETTER

JOHN THAVIS

Kasper said. Probably the most note-
worthy accomplishment was the
1999 agreement with the
Lutheran church on justification by faith; the
Methodist church is expected to
adopt that statement when it meets
in plenary session in July.

But here Cardinal Kasper
warned of new problems, and he
was blunt. He spoke of “the inter-
national fragmentation of some eccle-
siastical communities and their loss of
substance in ethical areas, espe-
cially on questions of life and the
family.”

He said an obvious example
was seen in the current “crisis” of
the Anglican community — a
reference to the Anglican ordination
of a gay bishop in North America
and the blessing of homosexual
couples.

Thus, the teaching in these
passages point it out to us. It tells us about God. It tells us about ourselves.

It tells us that God loves us. How? By giving us the Lord Jesus as our Redeemer. God loves by giving us bearers of the divine word, such as Moses and Paul. God loves by giving us the apostles. They were no more than humans who simply had the opportunity to meet Jesus and to learn from Jesus. Jesus sent them into the world, to us, to give us the words of salvation, the words by which to live.

Their tradition, indeed their presence, endures among us. It continues in their successors, the bishops, and in the church guided by the bishops.

In these lessons, the church is frank. God is everything. He alone gives life and peace. Nothing else is lasting, secure or real. God loves us. He reveals the most intimate detail of divinity to us, the Trinity, that we might truly know God. He reaches to us in Jesus. Jesus reaches to us, and meets us, in the apostles.

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Reading:

9. The ______ Interim, a compromise settlement between Catholics and Protestants

10. In the last days of the Roman Empire, this heresy held sway amongst the Teutonic (German) tribes:

11. Germany (formerly the Bundes Republik) became less Catholic in 1990. Why?

12. In the 19th century trouble again arose for Catholics in Germany, in an anti-Catholic struggle called the

13. This was led by this man, the so-called Iron Chancellor:

14. More troubles in Germany came about in the regime led by this political party, which opposed the church and eventually put thousands of priests in death camps:

ANSWERS:

1.b, 2.c, 3.a, 4.a, 5.b, 6.b, 7.c, 8.b, 9.a, 10.a, 11.a, 12.a, 13.b, 14.c, 15.b, 16.c
Happiness and joy of heaven is indescribable in human terms

That's a Good Question

blessed and possess life and eternal rest.

The early Fathers of the Church also describe heaven as union with God. St. Augustine of Hippo (d. A.D. 430) writes: “You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find rest in you.” St. Clement of Alexandria (d. A.D. 215) says the blessed become “at one heart and near to the Lord.”

Besides us and God, there are other beings, too, in heaven. There are the good angels, the Blessed Mother and the human saints. St. Thomas describes the great joy that the human saints experience when Jesus separates the good from the wicked, and the good go to heaven. The Book of Revelation says the saints in heaven wear long white robes, implying there are many people in it. Similarly, the church’s doctrine of the “communion of saints” shows the connection between the holy people on earth, the souls in purgatory and the blessed in heaven. The blessed in heaven are basic—and act heart and near to the Lord.

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Christ the King, St. Anthony win ICCL baseball tournaments

BY ELMER J. DANCH

SOUTH BEND — In the nick of time before the close of the school year, the Inter-City Catholic League crowned its two post season baseball tournament champions for the 2006 season, and in the process wound up its 60th successive diamond year.

Unbeaten Christ the King, winner of the John Bosco Division, won the varsity championship by nipping once-beaten Corpus Christi Red, 4-2. And St. Anthony won the Second Chance affair for teams finishing in the lower half of the league by defeating St. Anthony Maroon, 8-1.

Coach Ron Ratkay’s Kings chalked up their 12th successive win of the season and became one of the few ICCL teams to wind up a perfect season with a 12-0 mark.

The Kings were paced by the strong pitching combination of Robert Jamieson and Robby Fontenot and a tight defense behind Steve Solkey, Tim Bishop, Tyler Blaha and Gage Ratkay who snuffed out numerous Corpus Christi chances. Matt Petsche and Adam Dyczko combined five hits in the clutches to keep the Kings in front. Christ the King downed St. Thomas of Elkhart, 8-5, in the semifinal round.

‘Fabulous five’ student-athletes honored with Division I scholarships

BY JOE KOZINSKI

SOUTH BEND — Five student-athletes from Saint Joseph’s High School in South Bend have given the institution a road map to success and bequeathed inspirations for classmatess left behind to aspire to.

The student-athletes, all females, have honored their school and their sports by receiving Division I scholarships in volleyball, basketball, soccer and swimming.

Name: Emily Lindborg
Sport: Volleyball
GPA: 3.4
College: University of North Carolina-Greensboro
Saint Joe experience: “Going to state two years in a row will hopefully give me a competitive edge.”

Name: Morgan Cox
Sport: Soccer
GPA: 4.1
College: Butler University
Saint Joe experience: “Going to state my sophomore year and fighting through surgery my senior year makes me want to compete harder at the next level.”

Name: Mary Grace Godfrey
Sport: Swimming
GPA: 3.8
College: Notre Dame

Saint Joe experience: “I have had the opportunity to represent a small Catholic school and excel, I have the same expectations at Notre Dame.”

Name: Ali Nellis
Sport: Soccer
GPA: 3.5
College: Xavier University
Saint Joe experience: “Being able to be a part of five girls from a small Catholic school to go on to a Division I college.”

“IT’s really funny that we all competed against each other in the Inter-City Catholic League and choose different sports in high school,” commented Godfrey. “We all stayed pretty close as friends throughout our four years at Saint Joe.”

“They are all good kids with no egos interfering with their personalities,” stated Eric Golhke, athletic director of Saint Joseph’s. “They all seem excited about the opportunities ahead of them, not necessarily on the field of sport but in the classroom.”

“These girls epitomize what Saint Joseph’s High School and sports are all about,” Golhke added. “For a small school, five Division I scholarships, is a tremendous accomplishment.”

Pastoral Care Associate

Saint Anne Home & Retirement Community seeks a practicing Catholic who is a Eucharistic Minister. This full-time position requires someone with experience in pastoral ministry; must enjoy working with the elderly, addressing their spiritual needs; be a team worker and skilled in Microsoft Office products. Hours are 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. weekdays and every other Saturday and Sunday from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Salary is commensurate with experience. Great benefits and personal reward. Applications accepted Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. 1900 Randallia, Fort Wayne or fax Human Resources 260-483-1525

EOE

Associate Director of Music

Vibrant suburban parish of 2600 families, known for excellence in liturgy and music, seeks a full-time associate Director of Music. ADM must work collaboratively with Director and Assistant Director of Liturgy and Music. Responsibilities include assisting Director with 7 Sunday Liturgies, Holy Days, funerals, and weddings; directing children’s choir, assisting Director with bell and adult choirs. Requirements include keyboard, pipe organ, and choral skills, ability to work with other instrumentalists, and a degree in music or equivalent. Salary is commensurate with experience and degree. Please send resume with references to: Director of Liturgy and Music

Saint Pius X Roman Catholic Church
52553 Fir Road • Granger, IN 46530
Phone: 574 272 8462 ext 28 Email:jhoy@stpius.net

EOE
The advocate: Our spirit of love

BY GINNY KOHRMAN

Opening prayer

Come Holy Spirit — as the wind — to move and stir our hearts to love. Come Holy Spirit — as the water — to create and renew life in all of creation. Come Holy Spirit — as the fire — to illuminate your eternal presence to the whole world. O Holy Spirit, unite our lives into yours, so that we may be transformed with your truth and love. Amen.

Scripture: Jn 14: 15-31

Commentary

My daughter, who is currently taking an etiquette course in college, demonstrated a very interesting point on a recent mother-daughter shopping trip. Each time she approached a sales person or a waiter or waitress, she greeted them with a smile, an upbeat attitude and appropriate “pleases” and “thank yous.” It was interesting to watch the responses of others. In many of her encounters, she received good service and many smiles in return. Her kindness, gratitude and respect for others were reciprocated time after time.

By the end of the day, she had also made the day a little easier for those working behind the counters. It is often difficult to understand or describe the Holy Spirit. But in a very simple way, my daughter’s experience reveals something about the Trinity, especially the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is often described as the love between the Father and the Son. This is particularly obvious in the Gospel of St. John. Jesus tells his disciples, “I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you.” — Jn 14: 18-20.

The love connection between the Father and the Son is eternally and powerfully united and overflowing. As the love between the Father and Son is generated and intensified, an energy, fire, force — the Holy Spirit — is born and let loose into the heart of all creation. This love overflows into all of creation and humankind through both the visible word of God, Jesus Christ, and the invisible breath of God, the Holy Spirit.

Jesus, the visible image of the Spirit

Jesus tells Nicodemus, “You must be born from above. The wind blows where it wills, and you can hardly tell where it goes: so it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” — Jn 3: 7-8.

The love of the Trinity is like the wind: an invisible moving Spirit that generates love “where it wills.” The Catechism of the Catholic Church states, “The word of God and his breath are the origin of the being and life of every creature.” In the creation stories we read of the “mighty wind” that swept over the waters (Gen. 1:2) and the “breath of life” that God blew into the nostrils of Adam. From the very beginning of time, God’s Spirit was preparing for “the fullness of time” when the overflowing love of God would be made visible to humankind through Jesus Christ. Through the word of God spoken in the Old Testament, particularly the prophets, the coming of the messiah and a new Spirit are foretold. In time, the Father’s plan of loving goodness, through Mary of Nazareth, is fulfilled through the Holy Spirit. The catechism says, “Through Mary, the Holy Spirit begins to bring men, the objects of God’s merciful love, into communion with Christ.” (726)

All that Jesus teaches and reveals throughout his ministry is a joint effort with God’s Holy Spirit. Jesus alludes to the Holy Spirit throughout the Gospels, but it is primarily through Christ’s works and words that the Holy Spirit is manifested. As his death draws near and out of love for us, Jesus promises an advocate, who will remain with us forever and teach us everything. Today all of Christ’s words and actions are kept alive through the Holy Spirit who leads us into all truth.

The Holy Spirit, God’s gift of love

Jesus said, “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, which the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows it. But you know it, because it because it remains with you and will be in you.” — Jn 14: 16-17.

We recognize and know “the Spirit of truth” from the love that flows from the source of all life and goodness, God the Father. Through the gift of redemption, made possible by Jesus Christ, we are able to share in the love of the Trinity. “God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.” — Rom. 5:5.

On Pentecost the Holy Spirit is fully revealed. The coming of the Holy Spirit never ceases, and the promise of Christ remains. Like the spirit of my daughter, the Holy Spirit affects and infects every heart open and ready to receive God’s incredible love. The Holy Spirit, the breath and power of God, transforms us, makes us a new creation, and changes our perceptions, our hearts, and our lives. We become transformed and affected by the fruits of the Holy Spirit and become more loving, joyful, peaceful, patient, gentle, faithful, good and loving. We are radically changed by God’s love.

Our love and goodness, like the love within the Trinity, overflowing and igniting love among all peoples. Through the Holy Spirit we are united with the Father and the Son into a community of loving believers. Through the Scriptures, tradition and teachings of the church, our sacramental liturgies, prayer, the witness of charity and the holiness of our lives, God’s Holy Spirit is revealed and made visible to others. Through our baptism into the church, we as disciples in mission inherit and share in the mission of Jesus and His Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit, who “has granted us onto the true vine will make us bear the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.” (CCC 736)

Disciples in mission inherit and share in the mission of Jesus and His Holy Spirit, much like my daughter did on our mother-daughter shopping day.

Reflection and connection

How might you purposely reveal to others the fruits of God’s Spirit alive within you? How might you adjust your attitudes to more fully reflect the Holy Spirit alive in your heart: to be more loving, more peaceful, more just, etc.?

Evangelization and action challenge

For interior renewal

This evening as you pray, do a short examination of conscience: Have I lived today in the spirit of Christ? Through my attitudes and actions, have I helped the people with whom I’ve interacted grow a little closer to God?

Reaching out and transforming society

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are given to all and are very personal, to be shaped by each individual. They include wisdom, understanding, right judgment, courage, knowledge, reverence, wonder and awe. Just as you are pleased if someone uses a gift which you have given them, so I imagine God is pleased when we use these seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. Reflect on ways you can use the Gifts of the Spirit you have been given and then transform your gifts into actions that foster the kingdom of God.

Closing prayer

Together in a Strange Land

I am spirit, I am breath, I am fire for your light.
You are boldness, you are passion, you are strength in my plight.
Awakening, enriching, igniting our hearts.
Disciples: we are more and more free.
Responding to holy combustion

Hand in hand, I lead you leading me.

By Edward J. Farrell

The complete series of Disciples in Mission Literature can be found at www.diocesefw.org/DIM

Disciples in Mission: “Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch.”

JUNE 11, 2006 17

The advocate: Our spirit of love

The Jubilee Pilgrim Cross came to Bishop Dwenger from St. Vincent’s Parish on May 16. The students held a brief prayer service over the TV announcements and then processed through the school rectifying portions of Psalm 136 from where the theme for the cross came.
Are you ashamed of Jesus’ presence in your life?

SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

“Whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this faithless and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of when he comes in his Father’s glory with the Holy Angels.” — Mt. 8:38.

As I was praying the other day, this verse from Matthew almost jumped off the page of my Bible. That is always a sure sign that God is trying to tell me something and wants me to probe for the deeper message. What is Jesus saying?

My initial reaction was that I am not ashamed of Jesus or his words. I am grateful to acknowledge us as his friends. Some of them might think I am some how your life should proclaim that you are a friend of Jesus. One of the best ways is to be a loving person as he was. On that last day we sure hope Jesus will acknowledge us as his friends.

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**What’s Happening?**

**MISC HAPPIENINGS**

ACW plans meeting
South Bend — The Area Council of Catholic Women will meet Wednesday, June 21, at St. Mary of the Assumption Church for Mass at 12:30 p.m. A potluck meal will follow. Reservations required to Rosemary at (574) 291-2395 or Sharon at (574) 251-0206 by June 18. All women are welcome.

Center for Hospice to offer grief group
Elkhart — The Center for Hospice and Palliative Care will begin a Living with Loss group on Tuesday, June 6, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Elkhart General Health Education Center – Goshen Campus, 2222 Rieth Blvd. This group will meet for eight weeks. There is no charge to attend and the group is open to the general public. Registration is requested by calling Greg Suderman at (574) 264-3321 or (866) 264-3321.

**LIVING THE FAITH SERIES**

Fort Wayne — The Young Adults of the St. John the Baptist to Book of the Mass,” and Dubriel is the author of “The How-to Book of the Mass,” and speaking on “How to Get More Adults of the St. John the Baptist to Book of the Mass,” and Dubriel is the author of “The How-to Book of the Mass,” and speaking on “How to Get More

Knights plan fish fry
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5221, 61553 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a spaghetti dinner on Friday, June 16, from 5 to 7 p.m. Adults $6, children (5-12) $3.

Daughters of Isabella announce June events
South Bend — On Sunday, June 11, the Daughters of Isabella Notre Dame Circle 572 will celebrate Corporate Communion at the 10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Patrick Church followed by brunch at LePeep’s on Michigan St. A tour of the Hope Rescue Mission Family Life Center, 432 S. Lafayette Blvd. is set for June 14.

Quilt raffle benefits Hannah’s House Mishawaka — Hannah’s House will have a quilt raffle on Wednesday, July 12. Tickets are $10 for seven tickets. The king size “Mariner’s Compass” quilt was crafted by a Mennonite quilter in Middlebury. Call (574) 562-2739 for information or to buy tickets.

Garage Sale to support Christ Child Society Fort Wayne — A garage sale will be held on Friday, June 9, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Saturday, June 10, from 8 a.m. to noon at Queen of Angels Activity Center, 1500 W. State Blvd.

Living history day to celebrate St. Patrick anniversary Walkerton — A living history day will celebrate 150 years of Catholicism at St. Patrick Parish at the Freedom Food Fest at Hester’s Farm, 71880 SR 23 on July 1-4.

**What’s Happening?**

South Bend — The Young Adults of the St. John the Baptist to Book of the Mass,” and Dubriel is the author of “The How-to Book of the Mass,” and speaking on “How to Get More Adults of the St. John the Baptist to Book of the Mass,” and Dubriel is the author of “The How-to Book of the Mass,” and speaking on “How to Get More
Michelle Hittie became superintendent of Catholic schools in 2001 with the stipulation that she would hold it for three years until her husband retired. She stayed five, and what a five years it’s been.

Her first year as superintendent, Hittie made a promise to visit all 44 schools in the diocese system. She kept her promise, putting over 50,000 miles on her car in the past five years. “I’ve enjoyed working with the wonderful, supportive pastors, the great principals and the talented staff at each school,” she says.

Her tenure as superintendent has brought much improvement to the schools around the diocese. One important initiative was the special education project. “We wanted to meet the needs of the children with disabilities,” says Hittie, who adds that 75 percent of the 44 schools in the diocese now have a resource teacher on staff.

Marketing is the most current project the superintendent’s office has undertaken, partnering with the University of Notre Dame to develop a strategy to encourage enrollment within the Catholic schools.

These projects showcase the innovative nature of this accomplished, professional woman. She is an accomplished presenter for many local and national education conferences and has held seats on several boards and associations.

But Hittie is very much a people person as well, evidenced by the couple’s frequent travels. RV (recreational vehicle) travel is the ticket, she says. “In August, much to Hittie’s chagrin, the couple will rent an RV and travel to New York for 10 days. “I hope that gets it out of his system,” chuckles Hittie. “Then we can move on to the lake cottage.”

As she ponders the future, her thoughts turn to the pictures of Jesus with the little children that grace her office walls. “I love children. These pictures remind me of that. I may go back to teaching...”

Of her remarkable career in education, Hittie muses, “I’ve had a full life. I go where I’m needed. It’s about service. The Lord’s not done with me yet.”

There will be a retirement celebration for Michelle Hittie at the Archdiocese Noll Catholic Center.

Hittie continued from page 1

Prior to her current post, Hittie, stands by her favorite print of Jesus with a little child. Hittie, who has led the Catholic schools for five years, will be retiring at the end of this school year.

Among her many accomplishments as superintendent is the special education initiative and enrollment marketing.

Superintendent of Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Michelle Hittie, has undertaken, partnering with the University of Notre Dame to develop a strategy to encourage enrollment within the Catholic schools.

Marketing is the most current project the superintendent’s office has undertaken, partnering with the University of Notre Dame to develop a strategy to encourage enrollment within the Catholic schools.

These projects showcase the innovative nature of this accomplished, professional woman. She is an accomplished presenter for many local and national education conferences and has held seats on several boards and associations.

But Hittie is very much a people person as well, evidenced by the couple’s frequent travels. RV (recreational vehicle) travel is the ticket, she says. “In August, much to Hittie’s chagrin, the couple will rent an RV and travel to New York for 10 days. “I hope that gets it out of his system,” chuckles Hittie. “Then we can move on to the lake cottage.”

As she ponders the future, her thoughts turn to the pictures of Jesus with the little children that grace her office walls. “I love children. These pictures remind me of that. I may go back to teaching...”

Of her remarkable career in education, Hittie muses, “I’ve had a full life. I go where I’m needed. It’s about service. The Lord’s not done with me yet.”

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Wayne. But when, in 1995, the principal’s position became vacant at her home parish, St. Charles, Hittie applied and was accepted as administrator there for the next six years.

It was then, Hittie says, that things changed. “I didn’t apply for the superintendent’s job,” she recalls. “I liked my job at St. Charles. Then I got a call from Father Bob Schulte, to consider the position.”

Following much discernment and support from her family, she accepted the position. “My husband said, ‘you have a gift, you have to do it.’ I guess I think of the saying ‘to whom much is given, much is expected.’”

Hittie made a promise to visit all 44 schools in the diocesan system. “I’ve had 25 years in the diocese, and never dreamed I would be principal or superintendent. I may say I made a difference here.”

She is “thrilled” with the choice for incoming superintendent, Father Steve Kempringer, CSC, and feels she is leaving him a well-orchestrated office.

The future looks bright for this retiring administrator, with her passion for hiking, golfing, reading and, of course, playing with her six grandchildren. Her dream is to have a lake cottage but Bill has other plans. RV (recreational vehicle) travel is the ticket, he says. So in August, much to Hittie’s chagrin, the couple will rent an RV and travel to New York for 10 days. “I hope that gets it out of his system,” chuckles Hittie. “Then we can move on to the lake cottage.”

For the fidelity and unity of the Church, Pope Benedict assured the world to “breathe the air” of Pope John Paul II’s homeland, meet his predecessor’s fellow Poles and experience their faith, “which gave him life and strength.”

At a May 26 outdoor Mass under a downpour in Warsaw, Pope Benedict asked the crowd, “How can we not thank God today for all that was accomplished in your name and in the whole world during the pontificate of John Paul II?”

“Before our eyes, changes occurred in entire political, economic and social systems,” he said. “People in various countries learned the power of freedom and their sense of dignity.”

After the Mass, Pope Benedict flew by helicopter to Czestochowa to visit Poland’s national Marian shrine and meet with seminarians, members of religious orders and members of lay movements.

WAKE UP TO “CATHOLIC ANSWERS LIVE” 6:00 TO 8:00 AM