Beverly Rieger leaves Office of Worship post

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — If you ever attended an ordination, a special diocesan-wide Mass or had a question about liturgy, church art or church architecture in the last eight years, chances are the event was organized or your parish was assisted by Beverly Rieger. Now after eight years as the director of the Office of Worship for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Rieger will leave her post at the end of June to pursue her musical interests and have more flexible time to spend with family.

“I’m not retiring. I’m way too young for retirement,” quipped Rieger.

“For the last 20 years almost, I have been developing my own music business based on my own original music composing, recording and performing,” she told Today’s Catholic.

“How interesting that at a time when the doors to free trade are being opened, that the international borders are being closed to immigrants,” began Cardinal Rodriguez, in Spanish.

“We can’t allow ourselves to forget that in the face of every immigrant there is a history,” he continued, a history complicated by the humiliation and family disintegration that is suffered by those who choose to come north.

Some 2,000 Hispanic youth from all over the country carried banners depicting their dioceses as they gathered at the Notre Dame Joyce Athletic and Convocation Center for opening ceremonies of the National Encuentro for Hispanic Youth and Young Adult Ministry.
Bishop expresses the joy of priests in communion at retreat

Retreat with out priests

On a recent Monday night, I gathered with our priests to begin a few days of prayer together, our annual retreat. It was a joy to live this retreat with about 45 of our priests. Our retreat master did a splendid job.

One year ago, we had Archbishop Dolan of Milwaukee, who gave an inspiring retreat for our priests. The focus was on St. Peter and the word “ways” in which Peter was engaged with the Lord as seen in the Scriptures. Among those making the retreat was Father John Coughlin, OFM. Prior to the start of the Father Coughlin’s presentation, he would preach our retreat this year, and he agreed to do so.

Once again, our priests were blessed with excellent conferences. We were drawn to Christ not only by the content of the conferences, which were so sound theologically and also inspirational and uplifting, but by his wisdom, goodness, and humility of the retreat master. I thought you might find it interesting if I shared with you some of the content of these days.

The nature of the ministerial priesthood

After an opening night conference, which focused on the nature of a Christ-centered, holiness and exceptional athlete who played quarterback for Boston Latin School and catcher in baseball. After serving a short time in the Archdiocese of Boston, he joined the St. James Society, a group of priests who went to South America to serve there. Later, he joined Maryknoll, received a doctorate from Louvain University and, the last I heard, was a spiritual director and teacher to the seminarians in San Salvador. The young man gave me his address, and I hope to connect with this old and dear friend. Robert Penn Warren, the great American novelist, wrote, “The friend of your youth is your friend forever.” There is truth in it, and I hope I can connect with this old friend before our class observes our golden jubilee — 50 years as priests.

A final confirmation at St. Dominic, Bremen, with Father Polycarp Fernando and the good people of that parish. Thirty-six confirmation candidates. Trinitarian and beautiful. I wish to extend my appreciation to our diocesan master of ceremonies, Jim Fitzpatrick. There is no question he lightens my burdens, assists the priests with great kindness and helps in so many ways.

Another golden jubilee

A few miles on Sunday morning to St. John the Baptist Parish, South Bend, for the 50th anniversary of that beloved parish. Many thanks to Father Jim Seculoff, a prayerful and devoted priest, for putting together this jubilee. Among those concelebrating was Father Bob Vast, who had served at St. John. On the Feast of the Holy Trinity, it was a joy to be with the people there as part of this celebration and to stop by briefly at the dinner held at Holy Family Parish.

Father Seculoff is a man of prayer and devotion, and he knows how to run a parish. St. John has it difficulties for financial reasons. The area has changed considerably in the past half century. It is not easy to keep the school going, but we continue to do our best. The parish is in the best of hands.

A joyful finish

We have two cookouts, one in each end of the diocese, every June to bring our priests together with their bishop in a social way. Father Bill Schoor of St. Pius X, Granger, and Father Chris Young of St. Patrick’s, Walkerton, prepared a wonderful dinner. These two men are culinary experts and so, before heading back on the long trip to Fort Wayne, we gathered in the backyard of the Granger parish with a number of our priests and enjoyed a wonderful meal together. Off then down the toll road to I-69 and home. A week of prayer and ministry in South Bend. Tried, but happy.

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Another golden jubilee
Bishop D’Arcy has announced the following personnel assignments:

- Father Jeffery Largent has been appointed associate pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Mishawaka. The effective date of this appointment is July 19, 2006.
- Father Joseph Gaughan has been appointed associate pastor of Most Precious Blood Parish, Fort Wayne. The effective date of this appointment is July 26, 2006.
- Father John Cramer has been appointed pastor of Assumption Parish, South Bend. The effective date of this appointment is July 23, 2006.
- Father Edward Expdoing has been appointed pastor of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Goshen. The effective date of this appointment is July 27, 2006.
- FATHER THOMAS LOMBARDI has been appointed pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Garrett.
- FATHER DERRICK SNEYD has been appointed pastor of St. Anthony de Padua Parish, South Bend.

Piety and deacon assignments, retirements announced

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Every two seconds, someone in America needs blood. Cancer treatments, hip and knee replacements, organ transplants and a variety of heart and lung surgeries all help patients live fuller lives — and all require blood products.
The American Red Cross supplies half of the nation’s blood supply and also supplies the military times of need. Traditionally during the summer months, the Red Cross operates with a shortage of blood because people do not fit blood donation into their busy schedules. With family vacations, summer camps and more, people often do not find the time to give the gift of life.
Blood donation is safe, simple, and it saves lives. Blood usage is projected to increase based on the growth and aging of the American population and increases in medical advances. However, the donor base is decreasing with the aging of loyal donors and the busy lifestyles of the younger population. New donors are needed.
If you are 17 years of age or older and in general good health, you may be eligible to donate blood. If you want to become a hero to those in need of the gift of life, please call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE (1-800-448-3543) to schedule your blood donation appointment.
I myself, as I did the last three years, have donated blood; and it is my hope that you will also donate. Even if you have never given blood, the American Red Cross is willing to spend an hour of your day saving a life. If you have donated blood in the past, may I remind you how rewarding and appreciated this generous act of charity can be for you as well as the recipient.
With every best wish and prayer, I remain,
Sincerely yours in our Lord,
Most Rev. John M. D’Arcy

MGR. J. WILLIAM LESTER

God is loving communion of Trinity, pope tells pilgrims

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — God is not a lone, aloof, infinite being, but is a loving communion of Father, Son and Holy Spirit and extends that love to all people, Pope Benedict XVI said on the feast of the Most Holy Trinity.

“In this world, no one can see God, but he himself has made himself known” to people through his love for them, he said before praying the Sunday Angelus with pilgrims gathered in St. Peter’s Square June 13.

Through the action of the Holy Spirit, “believers can know the immensity of God himself, discerning that he is not infinite solitude, but communion of love and life, family, living and received in an eternal dialogue between the Father and the Son in the Holy Spirit,” the pope said from his apartment window at the Vatican.

According to St. Augustine, the pope said, love unites three entities: the one who loves, the one who is loved, and love itself that binds all three.

“Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him,” the pope said, quoting a verse from the Gospel of St. John.

The whole universe “speaks of God, astoundingly simple and leading us to contemplate and imitate God’s love that creates unity out of diversity,” the pope said.

“From interstellar space to microscopic particles, everything that exists points to a being that communicates himself in the plurality and variety of the elements, like in an immense symphony,” he said.

All the separate entities in creation are loved and guided according to God’s “harmonic dynamism” of love, he said. But
Bishop D’Arcy joins parishioners of St. John for 50th jubilee celebration

BY MICHELLE DONAGHEY

SOUTH BEND — “We give thanks to God for a half century of faith, and we give thanks for all of you. May God strengthen our faith and may we all pray for faith, hope and love and an increase in those joining the priesthood and religious life,” said Bishop John M. D’Arcy at the 50th anniversary jubilee Mass celebrated at St. John the Baptist Church in South Bend on Sunday, June 11.

The small church near the airport in South Bend was filled with “twice the amount of people” there usually is,” noted pastor Father James Seculoff, who along with former pastor, Father Robert Yast, the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in Mishawaka and the Knights of Columbus celebrated the 11 a.m. Mass, followed by coffee and doughnuts and later a 2 p.m. sold-out dinner.

Bishop D’Arcy praised Father Seculoff to those present as a “man of prayer who places Jesus Christ and his mother, first.”

“His joyful spirit is the basis of his ministry,” said Bishop D’Arcy. “On this feast of the Holy Trinity, we also celebrate the 50th anniversary of this parish, thinking of the sisters, priests and all of those who have been here,” said Bishop D’Arcy and noted that a half century ago “when it was the end of World War II, when they said we must have a church.”

“Twice the amount (of people) there usually is” noted pastor of the Office of Worship Rieger as director with a difficult situation, “Will I miss my Office of Worship ministries? Yes, very much,” she concluded.

“Her education is in music performance and ongoing education in liturgy. ‘I am extremely grateful to Father Michael Driscoll at the University of Notre Dame for all of his encouragement in my continuing liturgical education,’” Rieger said.

She looks forward to being a full-time musician, but, “Will I miss my Office of Worship ministry? Yes, very much,” she concluded.

Bishop John M. D’Arcy blessed those present at a celebration Mass for St. John the Baptist’s jubilee, walking behind Father James Seculoff, pastor, Father Robert Yast, a former parish priest, and diocesan master of ceremonies, Jim Fitzpatrick.

which makes through the sacraments, the invisible visible.

“A parish is a place where there is a priest, a shepherd,” Bishop D’Arcy said. “The priest who appreciates his priesthood with devotion and loves his people with love the same as a man for his wife and becomes the spouse of the parish.”

Bishop D’Arcy added that everyone should not “take this for granted” urging all to pray for more priests.

“We must generate priests from our own diocese,” said Bishop D’Arcy. He noted that in the diocese, 15 priests are from other countries. Bishop D’Arcy said he is hopeful as he accepted five to seminary with a total of 17 or 18 in preparation. “This is a result of your prayers,” he said.

“We hope and pray that the parish will be strengthened spiritually and fiscally in the years ahead,” Bishop D’Arcy said at the conclusion of Mass.

Father Seculoff, who also spoke, said that the parish is “waiting for the new people as they come in,” pointing out that recent surveys show that South Bend should be growing to the “west and south. We lost parishioners, but we have hope,” said Father Seculoff.

Beverly Rieger, director of the Office of Worship for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, will leave her post at the end of June to pursue her musical interests and have more flexible time to spend with family. She stands in her Archbishop Noll Catholic Center office, which overlooks the spires of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

RIEGER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Legends were the inclusion of the many cultures in our diocese. We are still exploring how to make this genuine, and not just token,” Rieger’s most memorable moments are “the Eucharistic Congress ... among so many other moments such as ordinations, (and) church dedications, which are intensely spiritual moments.”

Her most joy-filled and satisfying moments are when “I can really help a pastor, musician, RCIA director with a difficult situation, and know that I have made a positive difference.”

Eight years ago, Bishop John M. D’Arcy hired Rieger as director of the Office of Worship because of her work at Queen of Angels Parish. He felt that her approach to liturgy was the approach that he wanted for the diocese.

“We focused on communication, excellence in liturgy, openness to all styles of music, which were appropriate for liturgy, ongoing assistance to pastors and those in leadership roles in parishes, and a development of assistance to other cultures in our diocese in matters of liturgy,” Rieger said.

Her education is in music performance and ongoing education in liturgy. “I am extremely grateful to Father Michael Driscoll at the University of Notre Dame for all of his encouragement in my continuing liturgical education,” Rieger said.

For details about becoming a foster parent, join The Villages for an information night Tuesday, June 20, 6:30 p.m., at 2250 Lake Ave., Suite 160 in Fort Wayne.

For more information, call 800.831.4154 or visit www.villageskids.org.
Bishop D’Arcy welcomes Hispanic youth and young adults to encuentro

BY ANN CAREY

NOTRE DAME — Bishop John M. D’Arcy welcomed some 2,000 Hispanic youth, young adults and diocesan and parish leaders to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend for their June 8-11 National Encuentro for Hispanic Youth and Young Adult Ministry on the University of Notre Dame campus.

The “encuentro,” meaning “meeting,” was the first national event of its kind for Catholic Hispanic young people and focused on their needs, aspirations and contributions relative to the Catholic Church. The goal of the encuentro was to develop a common vision and pastoral principles, which will be presented to the U.S. bishops. Some 20 bishops attended at least part of the weekend event.

Bishop D’Arcy greeted his fellow bishops and the other encuentro guests at the encuentro’s opening event in the Notre Dame Athletic and Convocation Center the evening of June 8. He reminded the enthusiastic crowd that they were on a campus dedicated to Our Lady, and he pointed out that the lady of the grotto at Notre Dame Lourdes is in honor of the lady at the grotto at Notre Dame over 160 years ago.

The cardinal called the participants to sanctity and evangelization before closing with an a capella round of a hymn, which the crowd willingly accompanied.

Bishop John M. D’Arcy drew an enthusiastic response from the 2,000 participants at the first Hispanic youth encuentro when he told the crowd that, as the son of immigrants, he was honored to be among so many other people with the same experience. Simultaneous translation was provided on a big screen above the speakers’ platform.

“We are honored with your presence,” Bishop D’Arcy concluded, noting that the group’s devotion to Our Lady, spirit of celebration, sense of the providence of God and love for the Holy Eucharist were the same characteristics that Holy Cross Father Edward Sorn brought with him when he founded the University of Notre Dame over 160 years ago.

“Pray for faith and go from this place and bring not yourselves, but Jesus Christ and his mother to the world,” Bishop D’Arcy told the young people.

Parishioners at Our Lady of Good Hope in Fort Wayne recently celebrated a groundbreaking for the construction of a new rectory. Father Mark Guttner, pastor, joined other parishioners at the May groundbreaking. The rectory is scheduled for completion in September.

OUR LADY OF GOOD HOPE BREAKS GROUND

BY ANN CAREY

Parishioners at Our Lady of Good Hope in Fort Wayne recently celebrated a groundbreaking for the construction of a new rectory. Father Mark Guttner, pastor, joined other parishioners at the May groundbreaking. The rectory is scheduled for completion in September.

Bishop D’Arcy welcomed over 3,000 Hispanic youth, young adults and diocesan and parish leaders to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend for their June 8-11 National Encuentro for Hispanic Youth and Young Adult Ministry on the University of Notre Dame campus.

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**CATHOLIC AND PROTESTANT LEADERS OFFER PRAYERS AT START OF WORLD CUP**

Catholic and Protestant leaders offer a blessing in the Catholic Cathedral of Our Lady in Munich, Germany, during a June 9 prayer service marking the start of the 2006 FIFA World Cup. Pictured from left are Mainz Cardinal Karl Lehmann, president of the German bishops’ conference; Bishop Wolfgang Huber of the Lutheran-Reformed Church in Berlin-Brandenburg; Cardinal Friedrich Wetter of Munich and Freising; Bishop Johannes Friedrich, the head of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church in Germany; and Bishop Walter Klaiber, head of the Methodist Church in Frankfurt.

**VATICAN OFFICIAL TO Anglicans: Women bishops would destroy unity**

**LONDON** (CNS) — A Vatican cardinal has warned the Church of England that a move to ordain women as bishops would destroy any chance of full unity with the Catholic and Orthodox churches.

Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, said that the Anglican Church had adopted such a resolution the “shared partaking of the one Lord’s table, with us long for so earnestly, would disappear into the far and ultimately unreachable distance.” He said, “Instead of moving toward one another, we would simply coexist alongside each other.” His remarks came in a speech to a private meeting of the Church of England bishops in Market Bosworth, England, just four months after the bishops agreed to set up a working group to outline a process through which women might be consecrated as bishops. The bishop of Lincoln said such a step would be made by the Church of England had a “particular importance” because they gave a “clear indication of the direction in which the communion as a whole was heading.”

**Pope’s first trip to Spain to include nighttime vigil, morning Mass**

**VATICAN CITY** (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI’s first trip to Spain will include a nighttime vigil and morning Mass with families from all over the world as well as with meetings with Spain’s bishops, the Spanish royal family and Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero. The pope will visit the Mediterranean port city of Valencia July 8-9 to help close the Fifth World Meeting of Families. More than 1.5 million people are expected to be in Valencia for the families meeting, which will run July 1-9. During his brief, but busy journey, the pope will visit Valencia’s Gothic cathedral and the city’s ultramodern City of the Arts and the Sciences center where the international families meeting will be held.

**Pope tops British query list as 'Ski stories' gain traction**

**Washington** (CNS) — The diocese will be involved with this girl,” Thomas said. “I did not elaborate. “The bishop abused her 40 years ago when she was a minor.” Thomas Frey, the bishop’s personal lawyer, told Catholic News Service June 9. “The diocese will not pay any claim to her,” said Frey, who hired the private investigator who looked into the woman’s allegations. “To my knowledge there has been no investigation by public authorities,” he said, noting that the statute of limitations has expired.

**Bishop Gossman retires, successor named; Philly gets new auxiliary**

**WASHINGTON** (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has accepted the resignation of Bishop F. Joseph Gossman of Raleigh, N.C., and named Bishop Michael F. Burbidge to succeed him. The pope also appointed Msgr. Daniel E. Thomas, pastor of Our Lady of the Rosary Parish in Philadelphia, Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States, announced the changes in Washington June 8. Bishop Burbidge is to be installed as bishop of Raleigh Aug. 4. Bishop designate Thomas is to be ordained in Philadelphia July 26. Bishop Gossman, 76, has been a bishop since 1968 and head of the Raleigh Diocese since 1975. With his retirement there are only five active U.S. bishops who were given their current post by Pope Paul VI.

**Bishop Skylstad says private probe clear of abuse claim**

**SPOKANE, Wash.** (CNS) — Spokane Bishop William S. Skylstad has said that an investigation ordered produced no evidence to support an unnamed woman’s allegation that he sexually abused her 40 years ago when she was a minor. Bishop Skylstad communicated the probe’s results June 8 at a news conference in answer to a question from a reporter who did not elaborate. “The bishop could not have been and was not involved with this girl,” Thomas Frey, the bishop’s personal lawyer, told Catholic News Service June 9. “The diocese will cooperate fully with any investigation of the claims and allegations made against Bishop Michael F. Burbidge,” Msgr. Daniel E. Thomas, pastor of Our Lady of the Rosary Parish in Philadelphia, Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States, said.

**Pope says he will acquire a personal item of Pope John Paul II**

**HENDERSONVILLE, Tenn.** — Pope John Paul II High School in Hendersonville carried the name of the late pope, and now it also houses the black ski jacket he wore during visits to the mountains, Bishop Edward U. Kmiec of Buffalo, N.Y., who headed the Nashville Diocese when the school opened in 2002, returned to the school earlier this year to deliver the jacket. “It gives a little human connection to the pope,” the bishop said. Since the school was built, Bishop Kmiec had made several attempts to acquire a personal item of Pope John Paul that could be housed at the school, but was unsuccessful.

**High school named for late pope now has his ski jacket on display**

**HENDERSONVILLE, Tenn.** — The Knights of Columbus filed a brief asking a federal appeals court in San Francisco to reject the latest effort by a California atheist and several other plaintiffs to have the Pledge of Allegiance declared unconstitutional because it contains the words “under God.” In a friend-of-the-court, or amicus, brief filed in the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in early June, the Knights asked the court to reverse a lower court that said it is unconstitutional to include “under God” in a pledge that minor students are required to recite in school. The brief was filed by the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty on behalf of the Knights. Joining in the brief were six individual Knights and their families. The Supreme Court in 2004 threw out a similar challenge by Michael Newdow, filed on behalf of his school-age daughter, Newdow was among plaintiffs in a new lawsuit against various government entities and schools filed the next year. But he and most of the other plaintiffs ultimately were either dropped from the suit or dismissed by the U.S. District Court. The remaining plaintiffs in the lawsuit against the Rio Linda Union School District outside Sacramento are an unnamed woman and her child.
AROUND THE DIOCESE

BISHOP DWENGER HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES SENIORS

Bishop John M. D'Arcy celebrated the Bishop Dwenger High School baccalaureate Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Wednesday, May 24. Commencement exercises followed May 26 at Foellinger Outdoor Theater.

Relay for Life will be June 24-25 at Luers

FORT WAYNE — A Relay For Life event will take place at Bishop Luers High School on June 24, 9 a.m. till June 25, 9 a.m. Relay For Life is the American Cancer Society’s largest fundraiser in the fight against cancer while at the same time being a celebration of life. Teams of people camp out and individuals take turns walking or running around a track (you need to be there the full 24 hours to participate). Each team is asked to have a representative on the track at least once because cancer never sleeps.

American Cancer Society provides information 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They are the largest cancer research funding source. They provide services for cancer patients, survivors, their caregivers and those who love them. They provide transportation to and from treatments. They also provide support groups and resources.

A survivors lap will start the Relay For Life at 9 a.m. All cancer survivors are invited to celebrate life and hope by joining in the Relay for Life survivor ceremonies. This is an opportunity to be supported and support others who are facing this disease.

Those unable to join a team or participate in the celebration are asked to help raise awareness and funds to fight cancer by a donation or luminaria purchase. The luminaria ceremony at the Relay for Life will be June 24 at 9 p.m. Luminaria are $5 and can be dedicated in honor or memory of a loved one.

For more information, contact the American Cancer Society at (260) 471-3911.

FOREVER LEARNING INSTITUTE TO HOLD AUCTION

SOUTH BEND — An auction of accumulated goods of the Forever Learning Institute is slated June 24 at 2 p.m. at St. Patrick School located at 307 S. Scott St. in South Bend. The auction will be conducted by Sue’s Auction Service.

Forever Learning will be moving to Little Flower Parish Center as of July 1, and will be unable to take some of their equipment, goods and furniture, which they have accumulated over the years.

The sale will include over 50 folding and card tables, 60 polished oak chairs, student desks, books, and other miscellaneous artifacts. It will be an opportunity for the public to purchase refrigerators, a microwave oven, appliances, pictures, pottery, maps, artwork, glassware, vases, along with portable handcasting booths and one of kind handmade Christmas decorations. They also have a Rondini accor- dion and case. Included in the sale will also be collector's items of interest to history and social studies students and teachers, such as a large collection of maps and books with a complete series on WWII.

The public is invited to preview the contents of the sale from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the day of the sale. For more information, contact Sue’s Auction Service at (574) 291-4171.

Allen County Non-Public School Association honors excellence

FORT WAYNE — Students from 40 different private schools were honored for excellence in May at the Allen County Non-Public School Association (ACNPSA)’s 23rd Annual Distinguished Student Award ceremony.

Nearly 80 distinguished students from Catholic, Lutheran, Christian and independent elementary and high schools received a certificate and a medallion at the Grand Center in Fort Wayne.

School principals and other school leaders selected this year’s Distinguished Student Award winners — usually two top students from each school — from more than 12,000 students who attend non-public schools in Allen County. The participating non-public schools are free to select whomever they decide are the most deserving graduating students from eighth and 12th grades and state why in 25 words or less.

Leaders from ACNPSA help highlight the contributions non-public schools make every day. The association also showcases the quality of education teachers offer to families involved; develops relationships between the area schools, and works with local and state government to help private and public schools work together; and works to show parents the advantages of educational choices with a foundation for the Christian faith.

Distinguished students from the two Catholic high schools in Allen County include:

• Bishop Dwenger: Ashley Harrington and Erika Roy
• Bishop Luers High: Ashley Norton and Nicholas Wyss

Distinguished elementary students include:

• Benoit Academy: Tomas Lopez and DyNishia Miller
• Most Precious Blood: Camille Hilk and Brandon Smith
• Queen of Angels: Emma Derheimer and Daniel Ryan
• St. Aloysius: Kyle Sorg
• St. Charles Borromeo: Rachael Spillner and Benjamin Williams
• St. John the Baptist: Karen Rowan and Michael Welling
• St. John the Baptist, New Haven: Mallory Tippmann and Amber Wharton
• St. Joseph, Hessen Cassel: Alexandra Johnston and Andy Litchfield
• St. Joseph, Monroeville: Kristy Gerardot and Sarah Heinmann
• St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton: Austen Rang and Alex Yaney

• St. Jade: David Boby and Mzenie Peels
• St. Louis Academy: Timothy Stein and Evan Snuizenburger
• St. Therese: Alivia Baker and David Lilt
• Holy, St. Vincent de Paul: Spencer Bonahoom and Katie Morelli.

Laura Zeiger fund scholarship winners announced

BREMEN — St. Dominic youth director, Mark Wagner, recently announced that five scholarships were awarded this year to St. Dominic students from the Laura Zeiger Scholarship Fund.

“These scholarships this year are for $1,500 each and will be awarded to Jessica Brown, Levi Burkins, Pat O’Keefe, Rachel St. Germain and Brenda Wakefield. In addition, eight other scholarships will be awarded to seniors this year at Bremen High School who are active in churches throughout the Bremen community.

Those scholarships will be $750 each so that a total of $13,500 will be awarded from Laura’s scholarship fund this year. Laura included a bequest of over $250,000 for her scholarship fund in her will, which was settled recently. Her scholarship fund, with that bequest, now has over $300,000 in it and will be used each year to award scholarships to five seniors this year,” Wagner explained.

Laura Zeiger, a deceased parishioner from St. Dominic Parish, “saved the best for last” bequesting the Laura Zeiger Scholarship Fund to Bishop Dwenger High School in Bremen and the Salvation Army in Fort Wayne-South Bend. The fund was presented in a check to Bishop D’Arcy in December 2005. “Laura was a thinker,” said Bishop John M. D’Arcy.

Other generous gifts included $25,000 to the Bishop’s Appeal, $50,000 for a chapel for the new Community Hospital of Bremen (opening Spring 2006), $50,000 to the Women’s Care Center in Plymouth for the purchase of the new building they now operate for $230,000 to the Juvenile Diabetes Association, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Hope Rescue Mission, Marshall County Bank, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and Center for the Homeless, $50,000 each to Project Hospitality and the Salvation Army of South Bend and $145,000 to St. Dominic’s Parish to retire the debt on St. Isidore Hall.

MOTHERS’ PRAYER CODES

In a previous issue, a spelling error was made in the Corpus Christi parish history. Credit for designing the glass rosaries in Corpus Christi Church and the Blessed Mother rosary shrine on the parish grounds should go to Madelyn Nowinski.
Enzo Possemato performs in the bridal glen at Foster Park in Fort Wayne for the St. John the Baptist School piano recital. Thirty-three students, grades 1-8, performed classical and contemporary music at the May 24 event under the direction of Linda Miller. The piano lesson program at St. John the Baptist School is made possible by their Arts and Enrichment Committee.

Happy Birthday AMERICA!
A Musical Celebration of Independence
June 28 at 7 PM
The Cathedral Choir invites you to a one-hour concert of all patriotic music and singing at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in downtown Fort Wayne. The annual concert is free of charge. Complimentary ice cream will be served afterward.

Early seating advised

Holy Family Parish FESTIVAL
June 23, 24, 25
56405 Mayflower Road • South Bend
FRIDAY: Jonah Fish Fry - 4 - 7 PM • Rides, Games, Bingo
Outside Kitchen 5 - 11 • Wrist Band Day 5 - 11
SATURDAY: Mass at 4 PM • Rides, Games, Bingo
Outside Kitchen 5 - 11 • Music 7 - 11
SUNDAY: Polish Buffet - All You Care to Eat: 12 - 2
 Outside Kitchen 1 - 9 • Wrist Band Day 1-5
Rides, Games, Bingo
MUSIC - DJ 4 - 9
RAFFLE: 9 PM SUNDAY 2006 Pontiac G6

Busy Hands, happy hearts

SOUTH BEND — When injured or sick children arrive in the Emergency Department of Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center they receive a soft doll or a stuffed animal for comfort during their treatment. When clients of Hope Rescue Center go out to live on their own, they receive a hand-made quilt and pillow to get them started furnishing their own homes. And when the harsh winter weather arrives, nursing home residents receive lap robes to ward off the cold, and food bank clients receive “draft dodgers” to keep the frigid air from seeping in under their doors.

All of these gifts that warm the heart, soul and body are hand-made by a group of about 130 senior citizen volunteers in the “Busy Hands” program coordinated by the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of St. Joseph County. RSVP is sponsored by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and has offices and workspace in the Catholic Charities building at 1817 Miami St. in South Bend.

“Working in their own homes, or in sewing circles at churches and apartment complexes, or at the RSVP workroom, these volunteers sewed, knitted and crocheted for over 50,000 hours last year to produce the above-named items, as well as other items like hats, mittens and scarves. Local service agencies are invited to fill out forms requesting items their clients need, and the Busy Hands volunteers fill those requests for about 50 of those agencies every year.”

“Our things are not huge things ... but they are lots of little things that help a needy family continue the way of life,” explained RSVP Project Coordinator Pam Claeys.

In 2005, the Busy Hands team turned out over 14,000 items that benefited 8,600 families. And in the process, the volunteers have enjoyed the camaraderie of others in the group and thrived on their accomplishments.

Unfortunately, without an infusion of new funds, the Busy Hands program will not be able to continue this work, which seems to benefit the volunteers as much as the recipients of their handicraft.

According to Claeys, federal monies that had been used for Busy Hands will dry up this summer, and fundraising efforts have not produced enough revenue to compensate for that loss.

Therefore, RSVP is launching its first annual appeal, asking the community to help save this program. Claeys said Today’s Catholic that the raw materials for the projects — yarn, fabric, fiberglass, etc. — are donated, but funds are needed to pay the utilities and the salary of part-time coordinator, Jean Stockman. Claeys hopes to raise at least $10,000 this year.

If the Busy Hands program has to be cut back or discontinued, it would be sorely missed by the people who need the products, but also by the 130 volunteers, for the program helps them feel useful and provides a vital connection to other people. Claeys explained that many of the volunteers are widowed, and the social aspects of working alongside other volunteers helps to fill the void in their lives.

For example, volunteers Carol Moon and Liz Fribley, who come to the Busy Hands workroom three or four days a week, have become a team, working on a variety of projects together.

“This takes care of my crafty gene,” Fribley explained. “And there’s great camaraderie around here. It’s really neat.”

Volunteers for Busy Hands don’t have to have a craft skill, Claeys explained, for there is plenty of other work, too. One volunteer is 90 years old and nearly blind, but her son transports materials so she can stuff the draft dodgers in her home. Some volunteers — including several men — transport materials to home workers or finished items to agencies. Others do non-skilled tasks like sorting fabrics and yarns. And for those who want to learn a skill, a crochet class is offered every Tuesday, which includes a potluck lunch brought in by the participants.

Anyone interested in making a donation to the RSVP Busy Hands project may contact Pam Claeys at (574) 234-3111, ext. 24, 1817 Miami, South Bend, Ind. 46613.

Donations of yarn, fiberglass and fabric are accepted at the RSVP office between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Even partial balls of yarn and fabric remnants are needed and can be used in a variety of ways.

Travel to the Holy Land with Father Glenn Kohrman
(Pastor of St. Mary of the Lake, Culver)
November 13-22, 2006
Caesarea • Tiberias
Upper Galilee • Jerusalem, and more!

Register before August 5, 2006
and the price is $2,099 from Chicago
To register, contact Pentecost Tours
(Batesville, Indiana) 1-800-713-9800
travel@pentecosttours.com
Faith and Fertility

What the Church Teaches and Why

By Patrick M. Holly, M.D.

Emotional and spiritual suffering that some of you have experienced with these issues. And I understand that some of you will have had children born with the assistance of these artificial technologies. My comments are not meant to be judgmental or by any means meant to diminish the personhood of children born with these techniques. Rather, I write this article to let all of you know that there is new hope in addressing these issues that are not only very effective but also natural and ethically acceptable by our Catholic faith.

Dr. Holly and his family are members of St. Vincent Parish, Fort Wayne. Anyone interested in finding out more about NaProTechnology may reach him at his office phone, (260) 486-6197.

St. Hedwig Summer Festival

Sunday, July 2nd

Noon Till 5 PM at the St. Hedwig Memorial Center

Big Prizes • Dancing • Games • Pierogi • Cabbage Rolls • Pastry Booth • Ice Cream Booth • Money Raffle • Bingo (Noon - 2PM)

Music by the Soundsations Gala Celebration for Young & Old! Seniors

Chicken Dinners!

Corner of Western Avenue and Scott Street - South Bend

287-8935

Enjoy Lunch with "Dr. Ray Guarendi" 12:00 To 2:00 PM Tues., Wed., & Thurs.

NaProTechnology: An ethical and effective treatment for infertility

BY PATRICK M. HOLLY, M.D.

Abnormalities in these biomarkers are predictive of certain disorders of the fertility cycle such as hormonal imbalances, progesterone deficiency, infections, cervical inflammation and ovulation disorders. These abnormalities in the biomarkers can also predict these individuals that are at risk for miscarriages, infertility, PMS and other disorders of the reproductive cycle. The standardization and research of the CrMS led Dr. Hilgers to develop NaProTechnology.

NaProTechnology aims to identify the underlying causes of the above disease states and then provides individualized treatment protocols to correct the underlying abnormalities.

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Holy Cross sisters celebrate 100 years of life

BY SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

NOTRE DAME — The fountain of youth may be a myth, but breaking the century mark seems to be an attainable milestone for the Sisters of the Holy Cross. In fact, two sisters — Sister Joseph Marie Cumiskey and Sister Mary Laurentia Boyle — celebrated their 100th birthdays in May.

They joined another centenarian, Sister M. Raymond Verhalen, who will be 104 in November.

Remarkably, the oldest member died last year, four months shy of 107.

When asked the secret for their longevity, the sisters credit their faith. Each has certainly chosen Holy Cross because several factors and the world.

Most of Sister Joseph Marie’s ministry was spent in education. She taught in both high schools and colleges in Washington, D.C., and Boston. She also served as admissions director and registrar at St. Cecilia’s Academy, which later became Holy Spirit High School, in the Archdiocese of Washington.

Sister began her present ministry of prayer in 1989 at St. Angela Hall, Kensington, Md. In 1999 she went to St. Catherine’s retirement center in Ventura, Calif., and since 2001 she has resided at Saint Mary’s Convent, Notre Dame, where she prays for the needs of her community, benefactors and the world.

Sister Mary Laurentia was born on May 17, 1906, in Philadelphia, Pa. After graduation from Pierce Business College in 1925, she worked two years and then entered the conregation on June 18, 1927. Her younger sister, Mary Elizabeth, entered the community before her. They chose Holy Cross because several relatives were members of the community, including her aunts, Sister M. Seraphia (Fox) and Sister M. Lawrence (McCloskey), as well as her cousins, Sister M. Laudus (Quinn) and Sister M. Celina (Quinn).

Sister Mary Laurentia spent a good portion of her life in elementary education. In 1971 she transitioned into parish ministry at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Alexandria, Va., where she served until 1992. Involved in many ministries there, she initiated a daily 6:30 a.m. prayer group of loyal laity who prayed for the needs of the parish. Another group begun by Sister Laurentia, called Babies and Moms, was an outgrowth of her baptismal preparation for new parents. Young, stay-at-home moms came weekly to the convent with their preschool children to share their experiences.

Sister Mary Laurentia retired to Saint Mary’s in Notre Dame, after helping to care for her sister, Sister Mary Elizabeth Boyle, in her final year of life. She then performed volunteer service to the community until 1996 when she began her full-time ministry of prayer.

Sister Joseph Marie, left, chats with Sister Mary Louise Ful at her birthday party.
A story of champions

BY THERESA THOMAS

“Swing slow; it’s a backward and forward motion,” he tells them, “There you go. You have it.”

Once upon a time there was a boy named David. His dad was a golf professional, and his family lived on the fifth hole of a modest golf course. Every day David spent hours hitting golf balls, ice to green, over and over again, until the heavy orange light of the setting sun could no longer be seen, and pine tree shadows overcame him in the darkness.

When he was old enough he worked as a caddy, lugging golf bags almost twice his size. “Take the pin out,” the players would direct him. And David did. “Do you think I should use a 3 or 6 iron?” the men would ask one another, and David studied their answers and the results. He learned to read the grain of the grass and determine the direction of the wind. He watched as the better players sunk their putts, and he learned from them.

As a teenager David began working in the back room of the golf shop, washing clubs, organizing bags, passing on the golfer’s secrets to the next. By the time he turned 18, he was writing tournament programs. “Jen, breathe,” I told her.

When Jennifer approached me that morning, she looked radiant. When Jennifer graduated from college and law school, he married and tried to relegate his golfing to Saturday mornings and local tournaments, regional tournaments — he played and placed in almost every one. “What a smooth swing that boy’s got,” the older golfers would comment, “Textbook, pure textbook.” And again and again David would drive it high, hit it long and make the target.

David was captain his senior year when his high school team won the state championship. Big Ten schools offered him full scholarships to play golf for them. By age 20 he was on a plane to Scotland to play in the United States Amateur.

When David graduated from college and law school, he married and tried to relegate his golfing to Saturday mornings and an occasional tournament. As often happens when conflicting goals take hold in one’s heart, David felt pulled between golf, his job and his family. The competitive life required hours away from home, practicing. Competition was thrilling. Playing was fulfilling. Winning was deeply satisfying.

David loved the smell of the freshly mown greens, the sound of the sprinkler’s faint, fast, fast, on the lush green fairways, the gentle coo of the mourning dove, calling to its mate. In these surroundings, during his high school summers before and after work, he emulated his dad and began to hit balls at the yard markers on the driving range. His shots were solid, tuned. Like a pendulum was his swing, back and forth, back and forth, creating a soothing, predictable motion, lulling the golf ball to its intended spot.

Local tournaments, regional tournaments, states tournaments — he played and placed in almost every one. “What a smooth swing that boy’s got,” the older golfers would comment, “Textbook, pure textbook.” And again and again David would drive it high, hit it long and make the target.

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As David looked at his squinty new-born son one Saturday in the early morning sun, at the perfect time to head to the course to play a round of golf, he knew what came first in his heart. He once had thought that golf alone was his future. Now he knew his son was. David rocked his little one back and forth and back and forth in a soothing motion, lulling him back to sleep. Outside he heard the fast fist fist of the neighbor’s sprinkler, and from the kitchen his wife softly and gently called to him.

While he still manages a tournament now and then, most Saturdays are filled with mowing the lawn and paying bills and standing over his children, who now hold golf clubs. “Swing slow; it’s a backward and forward motion,” he tells them, “There you go. You have it.”

This is David’s story, but it is many men’s story too — men who lose themselves to find their purpose. Whose hobbies and talents serve them, not reign them. They may have given up a chance for worldly fame but they have truly won. Their personal fulfillment is sacrificed for the benefit of others. They show us strength in their choices and chivalry in the ordinary. Like gentlemen who step aside to give ladies the last seats on the bus, they give us their best and don’t look back.

The details of each man’s story may differ, but each champion’s sacrifice is the same.

Once upon a time there were men who released their dreams and what they thought were fairytale endings so they and their brides and children could live happily ever after. And they live among us. They are our heroes.

"Man can fully discover his true self only in a sincere giving of himself." — “Gaudium et Spes” (24), Vatican II document.

Reflections from a father of the bride

BY DICK LYLES

My shoes were shined, my suit was pressed and my toast was written. By all practical accounts, I was ready to be father of the bride this spring. But no checklist could prepare me for the powerful emotion that accompanied my firstborn’s wedding.

When Jennifer approached me that morning, she looked radiant. She was fully assembled, but suddenly she came undone; the reality of the occasion hit her and tears spilled down her cheeks.

“Jen, breathe,” I told her. “Breathe real deep.” I tried to usher her through the weepingness so we could make it down the aisle.

Soon the trumpets blared, cuing the first question. When Jennifer approached me that morning, she looked radiant. When Jennifer graduated from college and law school, he married and tried to relegate his golfing to Saturday mornings and local tournaments, regional tournaments — he played and placed in almost every one. “What a smooth swing that boy’s got,” the older golfers would comment, “Textbook, pure textbook.” And again and again David would drive it high, hit it long and make the target.

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Things I learned from my dad

BY TIM JOHNSON

I don’t know exactly when it happened, but through the years I have seemed to taken on many qualities of my dad. My dad and I shared many of the same interests from our favorite candy bar — Milky Way — to our love of music — old-time country music and bluegrass — to our love of the faith and service to our church.

As I look at my little girl, three-and-a-half, and see her picking up my qualities — some of them good and some of the not-so-good habits, I often wonder if my Dad saw those same things in me.

My dad married later in life, at the age of 40. Until that time, he farmed in northern Huntington County and took care of his mother and a grandmother who spoke only German. My mom’s uncle, who my dad helped farm, introduced my parents. I was their third child of four.

When I feel ragged and worn out and too old at 40 to chase a 3-year-old around the house or our yard, my mom reminds me that my dad was 50 when I was born. I also know that being an older dad brought wisdom of years and also a youthfulness and zest for life in later years.

I lost my dad last summer. He was 90 and lived a life not blessed with a lot of material assets, but abundant in the things that really count — faith, family and friends. So here are a just few things I learned from my dad.

Living the faith is important

I don’t recall my dad ever preaching to me. Rather, in a quiet way, he laid the groundwork by example. Back in his Huntington days, dad was active at St. Mary Church with the Knights of Columbus. At St. Aloysius, Yoder, he was the janitor and groundskeeper at the parish for many years. Dad took great pride in keeping the school spic-and-span clean. Not a scuff mark could be found on the floor. The church lawn had to be perfectly manicured including the grass trimmed around all the grave markers in the parish cemetery. Perhaps that carries on to my fastidiousness about my own lawn.

His work ethic was “give more than what is expected” — even with the small things we do in the Lord’s presence.

The parish family was important to my dad. As a music director, organist and occasional guitarista at my parish, that importance has been passed to me. Sharing time and talent is significant to me.

I also feel very blessed and humbled to take my interests in the church one step farther to serve at the diocesan level.

Music bonds

My dad played guitar. He learned to play guitar from his dad. But for many years, my dad’s guitar rested in the case under his bed. He challenged me to learn to play music and had musical instruments available in the home. His reverse psychology was “you’ll never learn to play that,” knowing well that his stubby fingers would never be able to strum those strings.

As a Catholic journalist, yes, there is more money to be earned in other fields. But like my dad, the blessings have been more than plentiful. And it is the people — staff, the people we encounter through our work, our readers’ encouragement — who bring the most delight to our efforts.

You always evangelize

Dad was an evangelist, not a preacher of words, but a messenger of hospitality. He didn’t know a stranger and could talk to anyone — that seems to be a common trait in the Johnson clan that many of my cousins share.

As a teen, I was embarrassed that he would be talking to a stranger at the mall. Now I realize that spirit of friendliness is actually an important characteristic of evangelization. Today, I would have to say the apple didn’t fall too far from the tree. His hospitality and cheerfulness is a trait I hope to further develop.

Family is first

My dad loved my mom. At the end of his life, the most difficult thing for him seemed to be leaving her.

Dad loved my little girl. She came into our lives just days before his 90th birthday. He called her his birthday present, and the two bonded and teased each other.

For us kids, he left us with nothing until he had the opportunity to share his pride in our accomplishments and our family.

I know my dad is in heaven cheering us onward to the same eternal goal. He showed us the path to get there. It’s the same path that I hope to set forth for my family.
Fatherhood is a lifetime commitment

There were no parenting instructions on what to do when a man's turn arrives to be addressed as “father.” Fears of being an inadequate father surface immediately. As you sit in a rocker at 3 a.m. holding and bonding with your tiny creature, the awesome responsibility you have undertaken begins to sink in. “Can I do this?” you ask. “Can we do this?” you ask for you and the mother. This baby only has its own annoying cry to communicate with you. It doesn’t care about the time. It is totally dependent on you for its comfort and survival. It can’t sit or stand, and its neck is not strong enough to support the weight of its head, which has a soft spot in the middle you’re afraid you might accidentally poke your finger into! Not only do you have to get past weeks of late-night feedings and constant changings, you must begin thinking about the lifetime commitment you have for this little person. What are your hopes and dreams for your baby? What will his or her talents be? Do you want your child to be a clone of you or your spouse, or will you both have the courage to let it choose its own way? With your guidance and support, of course.

The married vocation has intensified into parenthood. What makes a good parent, you question? Do you pattern your parenting after your parents or will you change some things? You begin observing other parents to learn how they handle the job in stores, restaurants or church. Do you like what you see, or will you handle a situation differently? You vow to equip yourselves with the best tools to deal with whatever comes up as you raise your child. This is one of the greatest decisions in and cultural interests the youngster chooses; and the vocation he or she pursues eventually. You find yourselves talking about these things long after baby is asleep.

Good parents should not be afraid to ask for assistance, first from the Lord who gave them their child, next from parents, relatives, friends and professionals, if need be. In that sense, “It takes a village to raise a child.”

With the birth of his child, a father’s life changes forever. He no longer is number one, if he ever was. And yet, it’s often dad’s job to provide for the family, without letting career, hobbies and other interests as well as for the Scouts but for all area youth. All the accomplishments of Troop 2 are too much to enumerate. Yes, I was at St. Vincent for 10 years. I remember one special incident.

St. Vincent Scouts continue their good work

I thoroughly enjoyed the article by Bonnie Elberon on May 21 telling the story of St. Vincent Scout Troop 2. On April 28, I had the honor and joy of attending for the first time at Notre Dame. The dinner was sponsored by the Alumni Club honoring Randy and Julie Young with the Family Exemplary Award. Randy is a ’72 graduate of the University of Notre Dame. The club recognized what Randy and Julie had done not only for the Scouts but for all area youth.

The word “vacation” originally referred to upper-class people’s practice of “moving to a summer home; getting back to basics and spending time in nature; being pampered in a luxurious setting; for the sake of adventure — spending time in adventure; or spending quality time with loved ones. Despite the benefits of such a vacation, “vacation deprivation” — foregoing some or all of the work place vacation days allotted to you — is becoming an increasingly common phenomenon. How absurd is this? After all, who wouldn’t want to take a break from work?

Some of us, too, mistakenly believe that we are indispensable, particularly in our workplace. We may not even realize how long it’s been since we’ve taken a break. Or we may perceive we need to recharge our batteries. Yet it’s easy to get so caught up in the busyness of everyday life that we forget to take a break. Hence, the need for rest. The word “rest” comes from the Latin word “restitere,” which means “to set again, set in order.”

St. Joseph, the foster-father of Jesus from the New Testament, would have been an inadequate father surface immediately. A great vacation. Our goal is to escape the rat race. Vacations are a necessity, not a luxury.

Another angle on fatherhood

These same gifts of love, unselfishness and protection from the evil and materialistic influences of the world are gifts a priest receives in his parish family as father of the flock entrusted to his care. Bishop John M. D’Arcy often says that the best thing he can do for a parish is to make it a good parish. That is an issue that the bishop takes very seriously and prayerfully when he considers assignments.

In a day and age when priests are fewer in numbers, it is important that we pray for vocations — that good men of good quality turn to the vocation. Do you see qualities in young men at your parish who would be good priest candidates? Plant a seed. The next generation is born. Children need good dads and husbands, are the same qualities that make a good priest.

Pray for our parish fathers as well. And pray that the harvest find the laborers to bring us Jesus in the Eucharist.
Do Catholics belong to territorial parishes anymore?

Canons 515 of the Code of Canon Law defines a parish as “a certain community of the Christian faithful stably constituted in a particular place, that includes all the Christian faithful of a certain territory.”

Thus, as soon as Catholics establish residence in a particular place, they are considered members of the territorial parish. They are expected to register at the parish of their place. nearest parish, become active in that parish and raise their children there.

Some researchers and church leaders have suggested that, at least sociologically, the concept of a territorial parish is a thing of the past. They claim that an increasing number of Catholics belong to non-territorial parishes. A number of reasons have been offered for this shift. Some say there is a declining sense of obligation to abide by church rules and regulations. Put differently, there is a growing sense of personal autonomy — the freedom to make up one’s own mind. According to this argument, some Catholics might join another parish because they do not like the liturgies at their territorial parish or because they simply like the pastor at another parish better.

Another theory is that the church itself is encouraging some Catholics to join parishes other than their territorial parishes. For example, parents might want to send their children to a Catholic elementary school. The only parochial school might be at a parish across town. That parish might require parents to register in the parish before they can enroll their kids in the school.

But is there any evidence that Catholics are increasingly joining parishes other than their territorial parish? Are Catholics increasingly choosing parishes on some other basis? My most recent national survey (which I conducted for the Institute for Church Life at the University of Notre Dame) gave me a chance to explore these questions. It leads to two conclusions.

First, a majority of today’s Catholics still belong to territorial parishes. Two-thirds of the registered parishioners in the study said the parish they belong to “is the closest Catholic parish to your residence.” Thirty-one percent said “there is another (parish) closer to where (they) live.”

I do not know of any other study that asked the same question, so I cannot prove that these figures represent a shift away from Catholics belonging to territorial parishes.

James D. Davidson

RESEARCH FOR THE CHURCH

Bread, wine become body, blood of Jesus

The Book of Exodus is the source of this feast day’s story. Let’s recap the story of an event that occurred as the Hebrews were making their way across the Sinai Peninsula, in flight from Egypt and slavery. To modern ears, the story may sound gruesome, giving the details as it does of the ritual sacrifice of a young bull. It is necessary to recall that these instructions were given long ago, and long ago they passed out of Jewish religious ceremonies.

However, the meaning of these ancient sacrifices still has a message. For example, the ceremony in this case required that the blood be sprinkled on the people. The idea was that life in a special way existed in the blood of a creature. It is not impossible to understand how this notion originally arose. The ancients had a very limited knowledge of physiology, but they knew that if the blood stopped flowing, the creature died; if enough blood escaped from the body due to injury, then death followed.

Offering the bull to God made the blood holy. Its blood therefore was holy, and that meant the blood somehow was touched by God’s own life. By sprinkling this blood on the people, they were “cared for” by God in a special way.

Beyond these circumstances, the lesson is that from the earliest stages of Revelation, God provided for the people to touch eternal life and strength through processes and materials they could understand and access.

The Epistle to the Hebrews is one of the New Testament’s most eloquent sources for knowledge about the person, and the mission, of the Lord. This feast’s selection is no exception. As this feast is so often, this particular passage stresses that Jesus is the perfect victim of sacrifice as well as the great high priest. The sacrifice of bulls is no longer necessary. In its place is the sublime offering of the innocent Lamb of God, Jesus the Lord.

The three Synoptic Gospels report the Last Supper and the institution of the Eucharist by giving the actual words used by Jesus, “This is my body,” “This is my blood.”

In this feast day’s case, the reading is from Mark’s Gospel. Before the mention of the meal itself, the Gospel says that Jesus sent two disciples into the city. He told them that they would see a man carrying a water jar. They should follow this man. The man will go to a house, whose owner the disciples should encounter and ask for a room in which the Lord and the disciples could gather to eat the Passover meal.

It is an interesting passage. It reveals that the Last Supper, and all that happened at the Last Supper, were utterly within the providence of God. It was no ordinary meal. God planned that it would provide the means for salvation, for uniting with Jesus.

Reflection

Biblical scholars long have looked at the words, “This is my body,” “This is my blood.” They often view it from a denominational perspective. In other words, many Protestant scholars see them as symbolic. Catholic scholars see them as literal.

However, strictly from the standpoint of the language, the words are brief, direct and clear. Look at them without any predispositions. Read them as they appear. The message is straightforward and unambiguous: the bread and wine become the body and blood of Jesus.

This having been said, this holy body and blood actually become part of the person who consumes them. In this consumption, this holy Communion, the person becomes one with Christ, and Christ with them. Christ is God. In Jesus is eternal life itself and the strength and insight to live on earth so as to reach eternity.

READINGS

11th week of ordinary time

Monday: 1 Kgs 21:17-29 Ps 5:2-3, 5-7 Mt 5:38-42
Tuesday: 1 Kgs 21:17-29 Ps 5:3-6, 11-16 Mt 5:43-48
Wednesday: 2 Kgs 21:6-14 Ps 31:20-21, 24 Mt 6:1, 6-18
Thursday: Sir 48:1-14 Ps 97:1-7 Mt 6:17-19
Friday: Hos 1:1, 3-4, 8-9 (Ps 122:6-8 Eph 3:12-14) 19:31-37

ANSWERS:

1. a. relics  b. clay statues of the martyrs  c. icons of the deceased martyrs
2. a. because usually it was to hard to find out their birthday  b. because Romans did not use birthdays  c. because that was their “birth” into life with Christ
3. a. white  b. black  c. red
4. a. because they were dead, they could communicate through the Vestals  b. They were believed to have been inspired by the Holy Spirit.
6. a. baptism by blood  b. baptism by Moroni  c. baptism by fire
8. a. Yes, because once Christianity was legal there was no need to suffer for it.  b. No, because the faith was and is still spread into hostile territories.
9. a. death for the faith in a northern (snowy) climate  b. a dedication to the aesthetic life, usually in a monastery  c. the death of any European missionary in Africa or Asia
10. a. the anniversary of a martyr’s death is commemorated. Why?  b. because usually it was to hard to find out their birthday  c. because Romans did not use birthdays
11. a. at the nearest church  b. at their tomb  c. in the arena where they had died
12. a. relics  b. clay statues of the martyrs  c. icons c. crosses
14. a. The Epistle to the Hebrews is...
Weis aims for the ‘gold standard’

BY TIM PRISTER

November 17, 2004

The Catholic Church says that Jesus Christ established seven sacraments to give us the grace of God. One of these sacraments is marriage or matrimony. Before Jesus came into the world, marriage existed as a natural custom, but it was a custom not rooted in God. Jesus then raised this natural contract to the level of a sacrament.

The reason for doing this is that marriage is very important, since the union of the bride and groom normally brings new life into the world, namely new children for both society and the church. Through the grace given in the sacrament of matrimony, the mind of the bride and groom are strengthened to better communicate and understand each other, and the will of the bride and groom are strengthened to grow in love for each other and to remain faithful for life.

Marriage is often called a social sacrament, because it helps society to function. However, it is much more. Simply, holy orders is called a social sacrament, because it provides deacons, priests and bishops for the church, so the grace-giving sacraments can be provided for the people, enabling them to be holy in this life and to make it to the next.

The sacramentality of marriage is hinted at in St. Paul Letter to the Ephesians where he compares the relationship between husband and wife to the holy and sacred relationship between Christ and the church.

“Men should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife, loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh; on the contrary, he nourishes and cherishes it, as Christ also does the church.”

In other words, Christ is the head of the church; the church is the body of Christ; and the church is one; the church teaches the mind of Christ; the church gives the life of Christ to the people; the church is faithful to Christ; Christ will be with the church until the end of the world.

Weis’ first quickly became evident. Willingham’s successor, he established an aggressive style. If he had his choice of a coach, Weis was not going to leave anything to chance.

Besides, subtlety is not exactly his style. If he had his choice of wake-up calls, he’d use a blow horn over an alarm clock.

So when the Notre Dame football players walked into the Loftus Sports Center this winter, they were greeted with a bold pep rally and the Irish nearly pulled off the unbeatable the next day despite having lost to the Trojans by 31 points each of the previous three seasons.

The Irish won the rest of their regular season games, but learned a lesson in the Fiesta Bowl and their national championship.

The Irish then won the majority of their games returning, and eventually landed a Bowl Championship Series bid to play Ohio State in the Fiesta Bowl.

It didn’t end with a victory over the Buckeyes. But with the majority of the offense returning, led by quarterback Brady Quinn and consensus All-American wide receiver Jeff Samardzija, most prognosticators believe the Irish will make a run at the 2006 national championship.

There are plenty of them, not only on the defensive side of the ball where the Irish were vulnerable to begin with in 2005. The greatest concern is at line-backer where veterans Brandon Hoyte and Corey Mays are gone, but replacements were found this spring. The secondary, exposed at the end of the 2004 season, is back together, and then exposed once again by the speedy Ohio State wideouts, remains a concern.

But this is Year Two of the Weis Era. No excuses will be accepted. If spring football practice is going to Weis, it’s that he and his staff should be able to put this team in position to make a legitimate run at the national championship.

That’s the standard Charlie Weis has set. Call it the standard of excellence, or perhaps more the standard of expectations. It has set. Call it the standard of expectations, or perhaps more the standard of expectations. It’s the only way Weis knows they would win, and he did. They won with great regularity, became the talk of college football once again, and eventually landed a Bowl Championship Series bid to play Ohio State in the Fiesta Bowl.

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In a sacramental marriage, the bride and groom are also looking toward heaven as their final end. They are trying to follow the will of God, to lead a holy life, and to foster the spiritual lives of their children by seeing that they are baptized, confirmed, and receive the holy Eucharist. In other words, the bride and groom try to keep themselves and their family in prayer, so they are prepared for death and entry into heaven.

Today’s Catholic welcomes questions from readers to pose to Father Richard Hire, Father Michael Heintz, Father Mark Garton and the Office of Worship. Please e-mail your questions to editor@tw.diocecese-wsb.org or mail them to Today’s Catholic, That’s A Good Question, P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne, IN 46856. Include your name, city and an e-mail address or phone number so we can contact you if necessary. Anonymity will be preserved upon request.
Samson was a giant peasant with extraordinary physical strength.

**Question:** Is there any truth to the story of the strongman Samson?

Samson was a giant peasant with extraordinary physical strength. The story of Samson is found in the Old Testament Book of Judges that covers the period of history from the settlement of the Promised Land by Joshua c. B.C. 1130 to the first king of Israel or Saul c. 1020.

The story of Samson is found in Judges 13-16. The father of Samson was Manoah from the town of Zorah near Shechem, in the hill country of Ephraim, between the cities of Shechem and Jerusalem. Manoah was a farmer and his wife was barren. While they were tending their vineyard, an angel of the Lord appeared to the woman and said, "You have waited too long. Now you shall have a son. He shall be a strong man whom the Philistines will hate."

The child grew up and became a mighty hunter of the Philistines. At the age of 20, he killed a young lion with his bare hands. He then went to Timnah or Khirbet Tibneh, four miles from Zorah, to secure a Philistine bride for Samson. In the vineyards of Timnah, a young lion attacked Samson and he tore it to pieces with his bare hands, demonstrating his physical strength.

At the wedding banquet, Samson made a wager with the 30 Philistine groomsmen. If they solved a riddle, they would get 30 tunics and 30 sets of garments. The men were delighted at the prospect, and they solved the riddle, in which each line contained a word that could be construed in two ways. The Philistines were furious and wanted to kill Samson, but he escaped.

Samson was buried in the grave of his father, Manoah, at Bethshemesh, meaning “house of the sun,” 15 miles west of Jerusalem. Father McKenzie describes the true Samson as a giant peasant endowed with extraordinary physical strength who carried on a private war against the Philistines. He led no armed bands and could not fight well on foot. But he was the sole pride of the Israelites in the place of Philistine dominion where he lived. He was the instrument through which God helped His people.

**What is your favorite reading material?**

G.K. Chesterton and C.S. Lewis

**What do you think is the best part of being a priest?**

Being in the church, which Jesus founded, which helps me prepare well for heaven.

**What is your favorite prayer or Scriptural passage?**

An evening prayer my father taught me when I was a little boy; other: Memorare.

**How do you prefer to be addressed by the laity?**

Father John or Father Pfister

**What is your favorite prayer or Scriptural passage?**

An evening prayer my father taught me when I was a little boy; other: Memorare.

**How do you prefer to be addressed by the laity?**

Father John or Father Pfister

**Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D.**

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

I came from a good, committed Catholic family and had a kind, friendly pastor who did a lot of good for people.

**Why do you like being a priest?**

Celebrating the Mass and sacraments and sacramentals, helping other people in their lives prepare well for heaven.

**Do you have a special interest or hobby?**

Athletics. I played many sports when I was young and I’ve remained interested in various ways as a priest.

**Do you have any pets?**

No.

**What do you like to do for relaxation?**

Watch ball games, visit with friends, play cards, have time alone for rest and reflection.
St. Elizabeth soccer teams secure title

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — The boys and girls soccer teams from St. Joe/St. Elizabeth both won the championship games for the 2006 CYO tournaments this season. This was a first in school history and a reason to celebrate.

En route to the championship, the boys’ beat St. Vincent 7-0 and the girls beat St. Vincent 7-1. The boys team won its final game, they downed St. Vincent 8-1.

The boys’ team scored 10 goals and the girls scored 10 goals.

The boys’ team included John Stecher, Jim Huth and Pete Mannes. Their philosophy for the team was to teach the basics and improve on the basics.

At the beginning of the season, the players made a list of goals. Improvement and winning a championship topped the list. The core group of eighth graders has been playing together since they were 7- and 8-years old, many under Jim Huth on travel teams.

They have lost just one game — the championship as sixth graders while together. The team will be divided now as some will move on to Bishop Luers and some to Bishop Dwenger where they hope to add more championships to their list.

Run for a Cause benefits American Red Cross

PLYMOUTH — For the second year, the Knights of Columbus, Council 1975, are sponsoring Run for a Cause, an annual event designed to raise money for a designated charity.

Last year the Women’s Care Center received over $1,400.

This year the beneficiary will be the Marshall County Chapter of the American Red Cross.

All of the participants will benefit too, Brad Serf, the race director, explained. “We felt the race was a good way to raise funds for local charities and at the same time, the event promotes physical fitness.” He should know.

Brad, 37, is a graduate of Plymouth High School’s class of 1986. He was an award-winning swimmer in the 50- and 100-yard freestyle. For the last 10 years Brad has been involved in triathlon events: running, swimming and biking.

He runs distances of three, four or five miles at 5:30 p.m. every Tuesday night at Centennial Park in Plymouth.

“We invite anyone who wants to run with us to come to the park,” he said.

Ed Rodriguez, president of the local chapter of the Knights and co-chair of the event, is another matter all together.

A PHS graduate in 1982, Ed, 42, runs track and cross-country.

After high school, he hung up his running shoes. “I’m not a runner — I’m a trotter,” he laughed. Last year the Knights’ Run attracted 65 participants. “We expect to double that this year,” Brad said.

There are three events: a 5K; a 10K Run and a 10K Run. The age groups are: 12-under: 13 to 19; 20 to 29; 30 to 39; 40 to 49 and 50 and up.

The run will begin at the Plymouth Knights of Columbus Hall, 901 E. Jefferson St., Plymouth, at 8 a.m. on Saturday, June 17. Every runner will be given a race shirt as long as supplies last.

The course is from the hall, in and around Centennial Park, and the Plymouth High School track. Knights and EMTs will be running the course at convenient stations along the way with water and Band-Aids.

The race will finish back at the hall where lunch and refreshments will be served along with the awards.

“This is just the latest of our projects,” Ed said. “Proceeds from our bingo games, fish fries and other charitable events go to fund our college scholarship program and other worthwhile causes.” The K of C donated more than $30,000 last year — “and not just to Catholic entities either,” Ed said.

The scholarships are available to any student in the county, and the Knights help the Neighborhood Center, the Marshall-Stanke Development Center, the Red Cross Bloodmobile, Right to Life, ABATE and Plymouth’s junior league softball and baseball teams. They also support St. Michael Church and School, seminars studying to be priests, Ancilla College and the Gibault School — a refuge for abused children located in Terre Haute.
**WHAT’S HAPPENING**

**ACCW 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.

**Evening of reflection and concert planned**
Bristol — An evening of reflection with Mark Forrest, Irish tenor will be Thursday, June 15, at 7:30 p.m. at St. Mary of the Assumption Church. Light snacks will follow. A concert with Mark Forrest will be held on Friday, June 16, at 7:30 p.m. Reception to follow. Free-will offering will be collected. For information call the church office at (574) 848-4305.

**Conference for separated and divorced planned at Notre Dame**
Notre Dame — The North American Conference of Separated and Divorced Catholics will be held June 29-July 1 on the Notre Dame campus. For information call (574) 631-6691.

**Living history day to celebrate St. Patrick anniversary**
Walkerton — A living history day will celebrate 150 years of St. Patrick Parish at the Freedom Fest at Hester’s Farm, 71880 SR 25 on July 1-4.

**Little Flower Holy Hour**
Fort Wayne — Father Glenn Kohrman, pastor of St. Mary of the Lake in Culver, will celebrate the Holy Hour at MacDougal Chapel on Tuesday, June 20, at 7:15 p.m.

**St. Hedwig plans parish festival**
South Bend — The St. Hedwig Parish festival will be Sunday, July 2, beginning with Mass at 11 a.m. Polish wedding food, cash bar, games, raffles and music by Soundstations will be held in the air conditioned Memorial Center until 5 p.m.

**Father’s Day brunch at K of C**
Fort Wayne — A Father’s Day brunch will be held Sunday, June 18, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 601 Reed Rd. Tickets are $7 per person, $2 for children under 12.

**Guest Sunday teaches the Mass**
Huntington — Invite a curious friend to guest Sunday at St. Mary Church on Saturday, June 24, at 5:15 p.m. or Sunday, June 25 at 8 or 10:30 a.m. Commentary explains the Mass and refreshments will follow in the Assumption Hall.

**Center for Hospice to preview volunteer opportunities**
South Bend — CHAPC CHATS: Volunteers are Mission Critical will be presented Tuesday, June 27, from 9 to 10 a.m. and 6 to 7 p.m. for adults interested in exploring volunteer opportunities with The Center for Hospice and Palliative Care (CHAPC). One hour programs will offer an overview of the numerous volunteer openings at the agency. Please RSVP to Jackie at (574) 243-3100 by June 26 if you plan to attend. Those with interest in attending CHAPC’s Patient Care Training on July 11, 13 and 18 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. are strongly encouraged to attend.

**Wednesday night live preemiers**
COLUMBIA CITY — A free summer series of informal discussions about the Catholic Faith begins Wednesday, June 21, with Father Larry Kramer on “How is the real presence real?” Mass at 6:15 p.m. is followed by discussion. Future programs will be every other Wednesday. Refreshments will be served.

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

**TV MASS GUIDE FOR JULY**

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**NEWSPAPER AD**

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

**MISC HAPPENINGS**

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**“Catholic Comment” airs Sundays at 7:05 a.m. on WOWO 1190 AM in Fort Wayne and at 7:30 a.m. on WFGI 900 AM in South Bend.

**Radio Rosary** airs M-F at 7:15 a.m. Saturday and Sunday at 7:30 a.m. on Redeemer Radio WLYI 1450 AM.

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St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Fort Wayne was actually named for two people. One was the patron, St. Charles, who was born to Italian nobility but dedicated his life to church reform and the poor. The other Charles was the father of the founding pastor, Father Edward Hession, who had the privilege of naming the new parish, and did so in honor of his dad.

Described as on the outskirts of the city when it was established in 1957, the church accommodated 680 persons and included six classrooms. The first Mass was celebrated at Christmas, 1958, although the pews intended for the new church had burned at the factory.

In the early 1960s, a convent was built for a full staff of sisters serving St. Charles, the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart whose motherhouse is in Frankfort, Ill. Today, two sisters continue at St. Charles.

On Dec. 28, 1963, fire caused considerable damage to the church, school and cafeteria. For several months that followed, Sunday Masses were celebrated at Bishop Dwenger High School while repairs were made.

St. Charles Parish was adding 100 families a year. Part of this overload was relieved in 1969 when a new parish, Our Lady of Good Hope was established and new boundaries were set. However, a new church, capable of seating 1,400 was needed and was dedicated by Bishop Pursley on Jan. 25, 1976, the first Mass having been offered on Christmas Eve 1975 with nearly 2,000 in attendance.

The former church was redesigned and now serves as a Youth Ministry Center and other school activities.

From its beginning, a unique characteristic at St. Charles was the love and respect for its founding pastor, Father, later Monsignor, Hession. He was so admired for his long priestly service in Fort Wayne and his appearances on the TV Mass, he was almost regarded as a pastor-at-large for the city. He was esteemed as a priest’s priest and is remembered fondly for his magic tricks, his humor, poetry and singing; all combined in a humble presence dedicated to the service of Jesus Christ.

This charred cross from the fire of 1963 is on permanent display in the rear of the present St. Charles Church.

St. Aloysius, Yoder, Est. 1859

Old enough to have its own country graveyard, St. Aloysius Parish in Yoder, has on its horizons clouds, cornfields and an old barn bearing a faded Mail Pouch Tobacco advertisement. To the north, however, is a busy interstate corridor where the roar of large trucks breaks the spell of simple charm cast in this rural setting. Add to this the blast of low flying military jets and the sharp contrast of the dim past and glaring present is jarring. St. Al’s, as it is fondly known, is old enough to have sent its sons to fight the Civil War and modern enough to allow its grade school students to study that war via the Internet.

Considering the means of travel in the late 1850s and that Catholic churches closest to Yoder were in downtown Decatur and Fort Wayne, worship, other than by prayer, was daunting.

The first Mass in this neighborhood on record was said in 1858 when Father Jacob Mayer, of Decatur, visited the scattered Catholics living in Pleasant Township and held services in the home of Christian Miller.

This crucifix is in the midst of a peaceful resting place for former parishioners of St. Aloysius Parish and dates back to 1878.