Bring sense of renewal to South Bend

BY JENNIFER OCHSTEIN

For their faith they stood firm. For their faith they were tortured and martyred. Canonized in 2000 by Pope John Paul II, six Knights of Columbus Priest Martyrs of Mexico were killed from 1926 through 1937 for refusing to denounce the church or God during a revolution in Mexico that brought the persecution of Catholics.

In 2005, relics of the Knights of Columbus Priest Martyrs of Mexico pilgrimage began in Mexico, commemorating the centennial of the Knights of Columbus in Mexico.

And on July 20, the relic pilgrimage made a stop at St. Adalbert in South Bend for six hours before traveling to Chicago.

“We’re thrilled to have them for that long,” said Father Christopher Cox, pastor of St. Adalbert.

The relics — bone fragments from each of the martyrs — are housed in a silver reliquary that was brought to the altar of the church for visitors to venerate and offer prayers.

“I hope the martyrs call into question all of the fascinations of the age,” said Cox.

He said the martyrs “turn upside down” all of the cares people in the United States think they have.

“The martyrs gave their lives for the renewal and transformation of Mexico,” just like there are people who are standing up for the renewal of the west side of South Bend, Cox said.

“They stood up against violence with non violence,” he went on.

The visit of these martyrs relics to St. Adalbert means a lot to a parish, whose parishioners had parents and grandparents in Mexico at the time the priests were killed, Cox said. These priests are their brothers in faith, Cox said.

The relics, he explained, call on Catholics to remember the martyrs’ lives and the sacrifices of their lives. And they call on Catholics to put their faith before their public lives.

Office of Youth Ministry hails new director

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend has announced a changing of the guard in the Office of Youth Ministry and Spiritual Formation this year. August 1 marked the beginning of a new direction for the office as it welcomes Cindy Black as its new director. Black, lifelong member of St. Vincent Parish in Fort Wayne, leaves seven years of involvement in that parish youth ministry, six of them as director.

Born the oldest of four siblings to Linda McAbee and Tom Jasper, Black attributes much of her faith formation to her grandparents, Ron and Nancy Jasper, whom she stayed with on weekends as a child. In addition to attending Mass and praying the rosary with her grandparents, she reports, “When I felt lost as a teen, grandpa told me, ‘Everything we need to know is in the ‘Sermon on the Mount.’ So I read it.’”

Her enthusiasm for youth and faith in God’s providence are evident as she describes her introduction into youth ministry. Following a Christ Renews His Parish (CRYP) retreat, Black says, “It (the retreat experience) challenged me to live my faith and serve the church.”

Soon after, Father Mark Gurtner, associate pastor of St. Vincent at the time, invited her to join the Life Teen core team supporting the youth there. Though she had no experience with teens, she readily joined the team. Her passion and focus on youth ministry grew that first year as she interacted with the prayerful youth of her parish, and she was soon asked to direct the program.

Cindy Black became the new director of the Office of Youth Ministry and Spiritual Formation on Aug. 1. She leaves seven years of youth ministry at St. Vincent Parish.

Precious Firsts

Father Joseph Gaughan makes his pledges to the church, Bishop D’Arcy and his new parish during his installation as pastor of Most Precious Blood Church in Fort Wayne. Father Gaughan’s installation marked his first assignment as a full pastor and the first ever appointment of a diocesan pastor to the church, which was operated by the Missionaries of the Precious Blood for most of its 110-year history.

BY OUSB LINDE

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Tuesday, Aug. 15, is a holy day of obligation

Get ready for fall sports

Special section highlights area high school teams

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Priests and laity invited to
canonization of Indiana saint

**BISHOP JOHN M. D’ARCY**

**NEWS & NOTES**

**Splendid news**

So now we have our very own saint. An extraordinary woman who knew suffering and lived in Indiana for only 18 years, Mother Theodore Guerin will be canonized on Oct. 15, 2006 at St. Peter’s in Rome. I was not able to go for the beatification, but it is my intention, along with the other bishops of Indiana, to be present at this event and concelebrate with the pope. We are already making plans, and we intend to open it to the laity in our diocese so they can be joined with the pilgrimage, which will be going to Rome under the direction of Archbishop Daniel Buechlein, OSB, of Indianapolis. It is my hope that a number of priests, especially in those parishes where the Sisters of Providence worked, will go to Rome.

Down the road, as we did at the beatification, I intend to have a Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne. We will invite the Sisters of Providence who have served here and the leadership of the congregation and all those, and they are many, who have been influenced by this marvelous congregation and who prayed for the canonization of Mother Theodore. She worked in Fort Wayne and came here at the request of the saint. Msgr. Julian Benoit. She can be considered the foundress of the Catholic schools in our diocese. We must pray for her, our young people and for our schools. More information will be coming later.

**A future full of hope**

How could you think otherwise after several recent events? Two of them with the University of Notre Dame and two others with the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Shortly after returning from a wonderful vacation, I was off to the Basilica of the Sacred Heart for the missioning of the new teachers of the program of the Alliance of Catholic Education. This effort, known as ACE, has trained close to 1,000 young men and women, most from Notre Dame but some from other colleges and universities. They serve in various dioceses throughout the country where it is difficult to recruit Catholics to teach in schools. Working for a small wage and returning in the summers for further education, this program has been a blessing on Catholic schools in our country. We are blessed in having ACE teachers at St. Adalbert School in South Bend as well as at Saint Joseph’s High School.

This year, Cardinal Edward M. Egan of the great Archdiocese of New York came to mission these young people, it was a joy to concelebrate with him at this annual event.

**A program called ECHO**

This new initiative, under the guidance of the Center for Church Life and its director, John Cavadini, was missioning its very first students. There were 13, I believe, from three dioceses. It is a little different from ACE because they are being trained to be catechists or, more accurately, catechetical leaders. Many of these young people have majored in theology at Notre Dame. They have worked two years in parishes, taking courses in the summer in theology and catechetics. Four served in parishes in our diocese.

No less an observer of the Catholic scene than Cardinal Avery Dulles, SJ, has written that a central need for the church is the training of catechists. ECHO is hands-on training. In addition to courses, the young people learn from pastors and catechetical leaders how to form other catechists and how to develop a program of religious instruction in the parish. They are very well trained in Catholic theology. This was the first class, soon to be known as ECHO I. This initiative, along with ACE, shows that Notre Dame is substantial and clear in its link with the church in all its reality. These two programs are a credit to the University of Our Lady. It was a joy to be a part of both them in my first days back from vacation.

**Another event**

I was at two Andrew Dinners this week. In the Gospel of John, we read that Andrew brought his brother Peter, to Jesus. The number of priests from the diocese brought young men who are interested in the priesthood. I will later give you a full report on our seminarians, but I have already met five young men for the coming year, and there are more to be interviewed. These two events held at Holy Family Parish, South Bend, and St. Joseph Parish, Fort Wayne, showed the keen interest in the priesthood by young men in our diocese.

**A new initiative**

But there is more. Last winter when I visited our seminarians at the Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, Matt Coonan shared with me two important pastoral needs. He had put together a program of youth ministry for a parish. It was very sound and focused on the Eucharist, the Scriptures and religious instruction. Matt came out of such a program at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne.

But he had another initiative. He had learned from other dioceses, especially Peoria, about retreat experiences held during the summer with a focus on vocations to the priesthood. He adapted these for our diocese and shared with me a program. “Go ahead, Matt,” I said, “Push ahead.” Although time was short, I wrote to all our priests and suggested that they call or email names to Matt. As a result, 13 young men, all high school graduates, met with our seminarians at Noll Hall. The seminarians did all the work of preparation. They gave over 100 talks, while others were given by priests. Confessions were heard. Next year, we hope to double the numbers, and we will find a larger place. Matt’s dad gave an excellent talk on the vocation of marriage, a sure help in assisting the young men in their discernment.

A program of this sort certainly shows that Christ is touching the young people. Pope John Paul II predicted this even and, under God’s grace, has helped to bring it about. It is up to us, however, to carry it out and reach ever more and more young people, not only for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life, but for various Christian vocations.

**Work continues**

Each summer, I have a personal visit with each of our seminarians. Also, I have begun the installation of new pastors. What a joy it was on Saturday evening to be at Immaculate Conception Parish, Auburn, where I had the installation of Father Babasino Fernandes. He comes to us from far away India and has been joyfully received by the people.

Over, then, to Precious Blood Parish, Fort Wayne, on Sunday morning for the installation of Father Joseph Gaughan. Father Gaughan was very beloved wherever he has been, especially in his most recent assignment at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne. Many parishioners from St. Vincent de Paul were present, a beautiful old Precious Blood Church was almost filled. Father Joe received a standing ovation. It was a joy that his father, John, and his mother, Pat, were there. Indeed, many of the Precious Blood parishioners knew John from his years at Bishop Dwenger High School, and a few also from his time many years ago at Bishop Luers High School. John is still helping part-time (almost full-time) in the Catholic Schools Office. He is a blessing for us, with the experience of over 50 years in Catholic secondary education. Father Gaughan is the first diaconal priest to be pastor of this parish.

**Can it be 20s?**

This week, we began our 20th Annual Bishop’s Appeal. I remember the committee of 10 priests and six laity who recommend ed it to me. This week we saw our video for the first time. As always, it is well prepared. St. Paul, in his Letter to the Corinthians, a portion of which he had included in a collection in our Liturgy of the Hours, raised a collection among the Corinthians for those in need. So, we are in a great tradition as we pick up this effort again. More about this as we move along.

**Woman of courage**

That describes my sister, Mary. Named after Our Lady, she has always been an inspiration to me with her strong faith. Gripped now by a serious cancer, I was able to spend significant time with her on vacation. The strength, joy, courage and faith with which she has undertaken the various therapies is an inspiration to me. Her presence at daily Mass and the recitation of the rosary with her husband, Vito, continues to sustain her. May I ask all of you to keep her in your prayers.

**As to vacation**

A delight. A chance to visit my sisters and their families. Is there anywhere in the world more precious than family, especially as we grow older? Also, I had some time with brother priests whom I have known for over 50 years. “The friend of your youth is the friend of your forever.” Two good swims in the Atlantic Ocean.

Three games at Fenway Park, although I think my team is beginning to fade out of the pennant race. Too many injuries. Too many replacements. It is great to be home again. See you all in two weeks.
Indiana bishops release new statement, DVD on death penalty

FORT WAYNE — Father Frank Kronewitter, 69, chaplain at St. Anne Home, died Monday, July 31, 2006 when he was crushed in Fatima, Portugal, with fellow diocesan priest Father Adam Schmitt. Father Adam Schmitt reportedly suffered a massive heart attack.

A native of Mishawaka, Father Kronewitter was born there May 26, 1937 to Mr. and Mrs. Eugene H. Kronewitter. He grew up in Mishawaka and attended St. Anthony de Padua Parishes. He attended St. Monica School, Mishawaka, the old Central Catholic High School, South Bend, and Saint Joseph’s High School, South Bend, after a merger of schools his junior year.

With the encouragement of Father Mike Cichon and Saint Joseph’s and his home pastor, Father Jerome Bonke, Father Kronewitter attended his senior year to Our Lady of the Lake Seminary, Syracuse, and remained there for three years. He completed his seminary training at St. Mary of the West Seminary in Norwood, Ohio. He earned a bachelor’s degree from the Athenaeum of Ohio.

Father Kronewitter was ordained to the priesthood alongside Father Edward Ruetz and two Holy Cross priests in St. Mary Cathedral, South Bend, on Dec. 23, 1962 shortly after Bishop Leo Pusley returned from participating in the first steps toward the Second Vatican Council. The ordinations were the first to be held in St. Matthew Cathedral and were held early as it was believed Bishop Pusley’s involvement in the second Vatican council II would interphere with spring ordinations.

After returning briefly to the seminary, Father Kronewitter received his first assignment, associate at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in South Bend, from June to August 1963. In August, he moved to St. Mary Parish in Huntington, where he served as assistant to Father James O’Connor for the next five years. He next served as assistan to Msgr. John Stabo at Our Lady of Hungary Church and was also appointed assistant director of ceremonies of the South Bend deanery, working closely with Bishop Pusley and later describing the bishop as “a very gracious man”.

While serving as master of ceremonies, he also served as assistant at Sts. Peter and Paul de Padua, South Bend, and from 1970 to 1976 was assistant at St. Monica, Mishawaka. In 1976, he went to St. Vincent de Paul Parish. Father Kronewitter was a member of the Dominus Paces — house of peace — to a greater Dominus Paces. Father Schmitt was known Father Kronewitter since the latter’s ordination and held him in high regard.

“Father Kronewitter was a very good man as he was, I wouldn’t be afraid of meeting our Lord,” Father Schmitt told Today’s Catholic.

Father Kronewitter was survived by two sisters, Mary Stassen of Fremont, Neb., and Charlotte Wolz of South Bend, an older brother, Ralph Kronewitter of Tampa, Fla., as well as several nieces and nephews.

Final arrangements and Mass of Christian Burial were pending at press time.
YOUTH
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Success with St. Vincent Life Teen

After much prayer, in July of 2000, she agreed. Black has, for the past six years, expanded youth outreach to include a 15-member core team, Life-nights for youth every Sunday, spring and fall retreats, “Mass and breakfast” events and a junior high Life Night on Mondays, for seventh and eighth graders. The institution of Ministry Hour on Wednesday nights met the additional needs of youth who were in leadership roles in the parish as well.

Outside activities that encourage participation from both Catholic and public school teens range from mission trips to creating care packages to be sent to college students.

It was important, says Black, for her to attend their teens’ school and socializing activities, as well. It means a lot to them to see us there. Their parents get to know us, too.”

Parish support, she adds, is phenomenal, with adults who volunteer to pray for the special intentions they receive from the monthly prayer letter she mails out. “The most important part of the program is prayer,” she says adding that every youth event begins with prayer.

RELICS
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Christine Bella, a parishioner of Holy Family in South Bend, said seeing the relics are a special grace. “For someone to give up his life for the faith is amazing,” Bella said after spending time in prayer before the relics.

Irene Wiskotoni, a parishioner of St. Adalbert, said it’s difficult to put into words her feelings about the relics and the martyrs except to say that it was brave of them to sacrifice their lives.

The martyrs, according to information from Knights of Columbus, include:

- Father Luis Bautz Sainz asked Mexican soldiers readying to execute him and three others to free one of the laymen with children. The layman was refused, was given absolution by Father Sainz and told, “See you in heaven.”
- Father Jose Maria Robles Hurtado was arrested while preparing Mass and hung from a tree the next day. He placed the nose around his own neck so that none of his captors, whom he’d forgiven, would be considered a murderer;
- Father Mateo Correa Magalan was executed after he refused to report confessions of fellow prisoners;
- Father Miguel de la Mora de la Mora was shot while praying the rosary after he signed a letter opposing the government’s anti-religion laws;
- Father Rodrigo Aguilar Aleman was hanged after being asked three times by soldiers, whom he forgave publicly, “Who lives?” He replied each time “Christ the King and the Lady of Guadalupe.” He had been caught by the soldiers burning the names of seminary students so their identities would remain secret;
- Father Pedro de Jesus Maldonado Lucero was beheaded to death for distributing ashes to the faithful on Ash Wednesday in 1937.
- Father Jose Trinidad Rangel Melendez was hanged and burned.

Rector Mateo Correa Magalan was executed after he refused to report confessions of fellow prisoners;

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis has extended its invitation to include diocesan pilgrims from Fort Wayne-South Bend. The pilgrimage to Italy is scheduled from Oct. 11-19. An advertisement is located on page 23 of this week’s Today’s Catholic.
St. Patrick, Arcola, breaks ground for parish hall on beautiful day

BY BONNIE ELDERSON

ARCOLA — Parishioners enjoyed a festive occasion for tiny St. Patrick Church in Arcola Sunday, Aug. 6, as ground was officially broken for a new parish hall. St. Patrick CCD teachers and their students took part in the groundbreaking with other parishioners observing the ceremony, which followed the 10 a.m. Sunday Mass.

Pastor Father Cyril Fernandes is thrilled at the prospect of the 15,000-square-foot addition to the existing church, one that will house eight classrooms as well as new confessional, administrative offices, conference rooms, a large area for parish gatherings and modern, accessible restrooms. The new space will be connected to the church itself, making it much more convenient for parish activities than the aging, outmoded school building on the grounds. The Knights of Columbus will take over and maintain that facility, says Father Cyril.

Early on, the pastor organized a committee of active parishioners to explore the needs of the parish and they formulated several plans before settling on the current one. Father Cyril says he was a bit reluctant at first. “Let’s do what we have,” he advised them. But finally he was persuaded that people would be supportive of the effort.

Father Cyril’s good-natured plea to parishioners during fundraising was typical of his sunny disposition. “Give it smilingly — not with a grumpy face — and it will multiply,” he told them. But still, “I couldn’t believe it,” he said of their generosity, as the funds multiplied just as he hoped they would.

Weigand Construction has begun work and expects to complete the job by February of next year. Total cost of the project is $951,573 and Father Cyril happily reports that the church already has $700,000 in the coffers and the balance in pledges so no bank loan was necessary for the immense undertaking. He points out that his parish family also recently funded a new $210,000 rectory to replace one in serious disrepair. He credits Ed Rice, chairman of the fundraising committee, and Alex Pursley, chairman of the building committee, for their diligence and hard work.

Robert Davis, who along with Patty Denihan teaches CCD classes on Sunday mornings between the 7:30 and 10 a.m. Masses, was excited about the project. She says their current quarters in the old school are far too cramped and noisy for students to think or concentrate. They’re just “not productive,” she says. And it’s difficult for teachers as well, who have to “take their classroom in a box” as they work.

With 110 pre-kindergarten through 12th grade CCD students last year and more expected this year due to the burgeoning parish family, Davis is anxious for new digs.

Pursley says that Father Cyril’s dedication to the children and his emphasis on providing more adequate space for educational needs is really what has driven the project. “That shows what our effort is all about,” he says.

Father Cyril can’t say enough about St. Patrick’s parishioners. “People have been very generous,” he exclaims. “It’s a miracle for me.”
Retired Illinois bishop led ‘culture of secrecy,’ says report

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (CNS) — Retired Springfield Bishop Daniel L. Ryan “engaged in improper sexual conduct and used his office to conceal his activities” when he headed the diocese, said an investigative report released by the diocese Aug. 2. It said Bishop Ryan, Springfield’s bishop from 1984 to 1999, fostered “a culture of secrecy ... that discouraged faithful priests from coming forward with information about misconduct” by other clergy in the diocese. The investigation did not address sexual abuse of minors by church personnel, for which the diocese has a separate process. But it found evidence of other misconduct in a few parishes and of inappropriate use of church-owned computers. The report recommended policies and procedures for dealing with criminal and non-criminal misconduct by clergy, holding parishes to tighter standards of financial accountability and creating a model diocesan policy for computer and Internet use. It stemmed from an investigation commissioned by Springfield Bishop George L. Lucas and conducted between February 2005 and July 2006.

Pope says he’s disappointed about ignored Middle East peace calls

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI renewed his appeal for peace in the Middle East and said he was deeply disappointed that calls for an imme- diate cease-fire in the war there had been ignored. Peace is both a gift of God and the product of political commitment, and all people of good will have a duty to work for an end to hostilities, the pope said at a Sunday blessing Aug. 6. Several hundred people were present for the pope as he spoke from the balcony of his summer residence in Castel Gandolfo outside Rome. In a talk that marked the feast of the Assumption of the Virgin, the pope raised the question of the Transfiguration of the Lord, the pope said Christ’s salvation was destroyed by threats directed at it by “the shadows of evil,” including fratricidal conflict in the Middle East. “We all know that peace is first of all a gift of God, to explore with confidence in prayer, but at this moment I also want to recall that peace is the task of all people of good will. Let no one shrink from this duty,” he said. Pope Benedict donated two ambulances and emer- gencies to help in the Grenfell fire, which is the worst in British history.

Bishop Thomas G. Wenski of Orlando, Fla., celebrates the opening Mass of the Knights of Columbus 124th Supreme Council Meeting in Orlando Aug. 1. More than 80 prelates joined the more than 1,000 Knights and family members at the convention.

Cardinal George has surgery, second operation to stop bleeding

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A move by the Food and Drug Administration toward making the morning-after pill available over the counter could damage women’s health and put more pressure on pharmacists who conscientiously opposed to dispensing the drug, according to the U.S. bishops’ pro-life spokeswoman. The FDA announced July 31 that it would work with Duramed, a subsidiary of Barr Pharmaceuticals that manu- factures the drug marketed as Plan B, to develop a “framework for moving emergency contraception medication to over-the-counter sales.” Women 18 and older, Deirdre McQuade, director of plan- ning and information for the bish- ops’ Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, criticized the FDA’s decision in a July 31 statement. Plan B uses large doses of birth- control pills to prevent conception up to 72 hours after unprotected sex. “But even its proponents admit that it works both before and after conception,” McQuade said, adding that women are “unaware of (the pills’) abortifica- tion action.” McQuade also said FDA approval of over-the-counter sales could place pharmacists under pressure on pharmacists who conscientiously object to dispensing drugs that kill humans at their earliest stages of development.” Barr Pharmaceuticals originally had sought approval for over-the-count- er sales of Plan B to anyone 16 or over.

Bishop: Positive changes evident between China’s church communities

SEOUL, South Korea (CNS) — Hong Kong Auxiliary Bishop John Tong Hon said positive changes are already evident in relations between China’s open and under- ground Catholic communities, but China should stop ordaining bish- ops illicitly. “If the Chinese government wants to hold dialogue with the Holy See, they should not interfere with the ordination of bishops,” Bishop Tong told 35 bishops, priests, religious and laity at a July 18-20 semi- nary just south of Seoul. His remarks were reported by UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. “The move toward dialogue is not unilateral,” Bishop Tong said. “The Search for Christian Unity: Where We Stand Today,” was organized by the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and the Federation of Asian Bishops’ Conferences. The church in China has two bishops who were ordained without papal approval earlier this year: Father Joseph Ma Yinglin of Kummung Diocese and Father Joseph Liu Xinshong of Anhui Diocese, May 3.

Cardinal George has cancer surgery, second operation to stop bleeding

CHICAGO (CNS) — After five hours of surgery to remove his can- cerous bladder July 27, Chicago Archbishop Francis Cardinal George was brought back into the operating room late that night to repair a small blood vessel in his pelvis that was bleeding. A notice from his medical team July 28 said, “Although the episode of postoper- ative hemorrhage represented a compli- cation ... it is not an unusual occur- rence and is not expected to have a significant impact on Cardinal George’s recovery.” The notice was posted on www.lhs.org — the Web site of Loyola University Chicago, where the surgery took place. The second surgery, which began shortly before mid- night, lasted two hours, the notice said. He said Dr. Robert Flanigan, who conducted the first surgery, “made the decision to institute the assis- tance of Dr. Fred Lucchette, chief of Loyola’s Surgical Intensive Care Unit. He said the decision to return to the operating room was prompted by signs of unstable blood pressure and a drop in blood count even though he was not receiving blood transusions. After the bleed- ing was stopped, “the cardinal sta- bilized,” it said. “He tolerated the operation well and is doing com- fortably this morning.”
Monroeville school applies tuition policy to children of all faiths

MONROEVILLE — St. Joseph School, the parish school of St. Joseph Parish in Monroeville, is registering new students.

New policies recently put in place include a K-8 grade school. It has an open door policy and is accepting students of all faiths. Tuition is assessed the same for parishioners and non-parishioners. Tuition reduction incentives are available to help with the cost of tuition.

East Allen County Schools transportation is available through transfers at Heritage High School in rural eastern Allen County.

At St. Joseph School “together we can make a difference in the lives of children of all faiths.” For more information about St. Joseph School, call Theresa Reiner, marketing director, at (260) 623-2310.

Society promotes Invitation to Serve

SOUTH BEND — Throughout the month of September, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul of St. Joseph County will be holding its first annual diocesan-wide Invitation to Serve. The goal of Invitation to Serve is to invite caring people to give hope to the hopeless by supplying love, food, clothing, rental assistance, utility assistance and other emergency needs, and to come together to pray with fellow society members, seeking to connect their experiences to their lives of Catholic faith.

The society hopes to gain both new members and new friends who will come together and grow spiritually through compassionate, direct encounters with the poor and suffering of St. Joseph County.

The society is active in most parishes in the diocese, nearly every state in the nation and in 131 countries. It is one of the largest Catholic lay organizations in the world. It was founded by Blessed Frederick Ozanam, a 19th-century Frenchman whose dream was to “embrace the world in a network of charity.” It was named after St. Vincent de Paul because St. Vincent was a layman and during his lifetime, he served the poor.

The sisters who will attend the ceremony Oct. 15 at the Vatican will carry with them a registry of names for anyone who wants to be included. This book will become a historic document that will be returned to Saint Mary-of-the-Woods for archival preservation. We have many, many friends, alumnae, companions and donors who may not have the time or the ability to make the pilgrimage to Rome for Mother Theodore’s canonization. We thought this might be a good way that they could join us in spirit. The registry is open for anyone who wants to participate.

We welcome people of all faiths to join us,” said Sister Ann Margaret O’Hara, general superior.

“The public’s increasing interest in Mother Theodore has been very inspiring to us and we want to be able to include as many people as possible by offering them a variety of ways to participate in the celebration,” she added.

Planners also are being developed for a local celebration in the Terre Haute area.

A new website is being developed in a local registry of names should visit the congregation’s Web site at www.sistersofprovidence.org and complete a form available there. Those without access to a computer should call the Office of Congregational Advancement at (812) 231-3781, ext. 2860.

Holy Cross College will reap the $2 million reward.

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“We are truly blessed to have loyal and dedicated benefactors. Through their generosity we were able to meet and exceed the challenge set forth by Lilly Endowment, and do it early!” says Patricia Filvely, vice president for advancement at Holy Cross College.

The $1 million given by the Holy Cross College family goes to whatever the individual donor has designated, but the $1 million match from the endowment has been designated to go toward building a student recreation center. The goal is to build a $5.5 million facility, and after the endowment match, is only about $1.5 million from reaching the funding goal.

Building the facility is a top priority for Holy Cross College administrators because the college kicks off an athletic program this fall and has joined the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics. The first teams, men’s and women’s cross country, begin competition this fall. A men’s and women’s basketball season is scheduled to launch in fall 2007.

Sisters of Providence to take registry of names to canonization of Blessed Mother Theodore Guerin

SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS — The Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods are extending an invitation to everyone to join them in spirit for the canonization of the congregation’s foundress, Blessed Mother Theodore Guerin.

The sisters who will attend the ceremony Oct. 15 at the Vatican will carry with them a registry of names for anyone who wants to be included. This book will become a historic document that will be returned to Saint Mary-of-the-Woods for archival preservation. We have many, many friends, alumnae, companions and donors who may not have the time or the ability to make the pilgrimage to Rome for Mother Theodore’s canonization. We thought this might be a good way that they could join us in spirit. The registry is open for anyone who wants to participate.

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God and athletics drafted into the life of NFL football punter

BY MICHELLE CASTELMAN

FORT WAYNE — “It’s going to take a miracle.” That’s what Eric Dorman was told two years ago when he began to inquire about how to get new uniforms for his son’s football team. Logan Dorman was a St. Therese fifth grader then and just starting to play Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) football.

Eric had volunteered to help coach the “JAT” team — made up of boys from four different parishes — St. Joseph, St. Elizabeth, St. Aloysius and St. Therese. So, that’s four different parish priests, three different sets of parent school boards and athletic directors trying to pay for a huge expense that’s not exactly in the budget.

An answer to prayers

One day early in the season, family friend, Jason Baker stopped by the Dornans for his usual haircut by Ali Dorman. He asked Logan how his season was going and noticed the small hole in the knee of his uniform pants. Baker said he’d like to help take care of that and from there things began to fall together.

Jason Baker just happens to be an NFL punter for the Carolina Panthers. And the NFL just happens to sponsor a very generous youth equipment match program. Baker’s agent, Frank Murtha, and other friends like Mark Andorfer and Eric Kennerk, a St. Aloysius graduate and sales rep for Riddell (football equipment) got involved, and this season, the JAT team will be sporting brand new uniforms and a bunch of new helmets, shoulder pads, etc.

On July 21, players got a chance to show off their new uniform and thank Jason Baker for making it all possible.

Baker was born and raised on the south side of Fort Wayne and has been a lifelong member at St. Therese Parish. He was home doing his personal workout at Homestead High School and took a break to sign autographs and hang out with the team.

When asked about the event, sixth-grade quarterback Drew Dorman reported, “It was great. He (Baker) didn’t even seem like an NFL player. I mean he was ripped and everything, but he didn’t have an attitude.”

Dorman, who has known Baker since he was a young boy, has always felt the same way about Baker. “Jason would much rather be in the shadows than the limelight. He is just a great guy — a very Christian young man, obviously very giving and humble. He is definitely interested in helping people. When he’s home, you’ll see him every Sunday at St. Therese, just sitting somewhere in the middle.”

Baker played four years of baseball and led Wayne High School to a 1995 football state championship. A punter, he received a football scholarship to the University of Iowa where he was All-Big 10 and set several school records. He received a business administration degree and also a certificate of entrepreneurship. Like most punters, he went into the NFL as an undrafted free agent.

Baker has played for the San Francisco 49ers, the Chiefs, Colts and Broncos before being traded to the Carolina Panthers where he hopes to stay for a long time. He felt last year was his personal best in the league setting a franchise record for net punting (length of punt minus length of return) and making it just one game away from the Super Bowl. Baker was also voted as first alternate to represent the NFC in the Pro Bowl (only one punter gets to do so through the foundation).

Contributions off the field

Aside from his many success-es on the field, Baker is just as concerned with his contributions off the field. Whether the Lord blesses him with 10 more years in the NFL or just one more year, his main goal is to bring whatever positive attention he can to Fort Wayne.

Baker said the NFL has a ton of resources, which he feels obligated to tap into. Like the equipment match program, he hopes to research other programs that will benefit people in Fort Wayne.

Currently, Wayne High School is a pilot for the NFL’s “Play it Smart” program, which helps student-athletes better prepare for college by placing an additional full-time counselor in the high school. Baker has also recently set up the “Catie B Foundation” in honor of his sister, Catherine, who was diagnosed with a brain tumor in 1999. He plans to raise money through the foundation for various causes including brain tumor research.

Over the years, Baker has supported the Boys and Girls Clubs of Fort Wayne and will continue to do so through the foundation. He wants people to fall in love with the cause and not the fact that an NFL player is involved. Baker feels this is the key to the longevity and success of any foundation.

God’s will be done

Baker has always felt the Lord directing his life. He believes God is in control and that he has a plan for him. He has always lived by, “Your will be done.” He would tell God, “I don’t dig it, but I’ll go with it.” It hasn’t always been easy.

Being in the NFL brings blessings and opportunities as well as challenges. During his first five years, he was released, cut and traded. He’s in an occupation...
Parishioners from St. Dominic Parish in Bremen gathered together for their annual parish Mass and picnic at Sunnyside Park. The Mass was bilingual and was held inside the pole barn building at the park where food was also served. Outdoor games were also a popular part of the picnic and include water balloon tosses for children and adults, a sack race, egg toss and a circle game similar to duck-duck-goose.

Knights install new officers

SOUTH BEND — Dedication to God and country as American patriots was the stirring message of Indiana Master Robert Lynch of Indianapolis, who formally installed new officers of the Father Nieuwland Assembly, Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus, at installation ceremonies held in the Archbishop John Carroll Council.

William Niezgodski of South Bend was installed as the 42nd faithful navigator since 1943, following a Mass celebrated by Father Charles Herman, associate at Holy Family Parish and recently named faithful friar of the assembly.

“All of you as members of the patriotic degree of the Knights have a special duty to focus on making our country as the best in the world and especially with the freedoms we have, including freedom of religion,” said Lynch.

Other newly-elected officers installed were John J. Lehner, Faithful Pilot; Raymond Sommers, Faithful Controller; Larry Landy, Faithful Pursuer; William Szajko and Joseph Ortega, Faithful Sentinels; Stephen Elek Jr., Faithful Admiral, and Thomas Lesniak, Faithful Trustee.

The assembly was first organized in 1904 as the South Bend Assembly and then in 1943 adopted the name of Father Julius Nieuwland, professor of organic chemistry at the University of Notre Dame and developer of synthetic rubber, as its patron.

The assembly will also have a special exhibit of patriotic memorabilia at the St. Joseph County Fair during the first week of August — EJD

William E. Niezgodski of South Bend, left, receives congratulations from Indiana Master Robert Lynch of Indianapolis after formally being installed as the 42nd Faithful Navigator of the Father Julius A. Nieuwland Assembly, Fourth Degree, Knights of Columbus. Also installed were, from left, Stephen Elek, Jr. of South Bend as Faithful Admiral and Father Charles A. Herman of Holy Family Parish in South Bend as Faithful Friar.

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The spiritual journey of emptiness

By Ginny Kehrmann

Opening prayer

Dear loving Father, “... what ever I can desire or imagine for my comfort, I do not expect here but hereafter. If I alone should have all the comforts of this world and could enjoy all its pleasures according to my own desire and without sin, it is cer tain that they could not last long. Therefore, my soul can never be fully confort ed, nor be perfectly refreshed except in God, the com forter of the poor in spirit and the refuge of the humble.” Lord, help me eagerly await and receive all that YOU generously and fully desire to give me. Amen. Adapted from “The Imitation of Christ,” Thomas Kempis.

Scripture reading: Mt 11:28-30

Commentary

There seems to be within most of us times of emptiness and frustr ation. It may hit us after “com ing down from the mountain” of a great accomplishment, or it may be the disappointment of dreamed expectations. We feel locked up in ourselves, confined to the ordi nary routine of our lives and sur roundings. The daily grind seems to have little meaning, and our energies seem to be used up. There is a sense of being stifled and all we feel is confused and darkness which veils his throne, and all we feel is confusion and shadow. (p. 99)

The sacred Scriptures, espe cially the psalms, reveal our human spiritual journey through these two pathways. Psalm 23 refers to the path of “green pas ters” and “safe waters” in one verse and then later on alludes to walking in the “dark valley.” In Psalm 13, David prays, “How long, Lord? Will you utterly for get me?” and at the end of the psalm says, “I trust in your faith fulness.”

As with all relationships, our journey with God brings with it a combination of emotions and feelings… some pleasant, others more uncomfortable. Our faith fulness, however, is not measured by how it feels, but by our deci sion to follow God’s designs and to trust in God’s faithfulness even when the spiritual going gets tough. In Ps 69: 1-3, David desper ately prays, “Save me, God, for the waters have reached my neck. I have sunk into the mire of the deep, where there is not foothold.” And yet David knows that God is with him as later he says, “Answer me, Lord in your generous love; in your great mercy turn to me.” (Ps 69:17) If we remain focused on God in these empty moments, we can find comfort in the persistence of God’s continual presence. Our hearts are made for God, but God’s designs are not always clear. However, he can use the struggle of emptiness to help us grow in holiness. God humbles us in our emptiness in order to trans form us.

Father Jean-Pierre De Caussade, a French spiritual writer of the 18th century, in “Abandonment to Divine Providence” wrote, “… there is a kind of holiness in which all the messages from God are bright and clear, but there is also that state of utterly quiescent faith in which all that God tells us is wrapped in the impenetrable darkness which veils his throne, and all we feel is confusion and shadow.” (p. 99)

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Father Caussade writes: “For those who have surrendered themselves completely to God, all they are and do has power. Their lives are like sermons. They are apostles. God gives a special force to all they say and do, even to their silence, their tranquility and their detachment, which, quite unknown to them, profoundly influences other people.” (p. 60.)

“Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” — Mt 5:3.

Feelings of emptiness can really be a disguise for a deepening intimacy with God. Thomas Merton identified several reasons for spiritual emptiness but wrote that “emptiness is the kingdom of heaven.” Acceptance of our own moments of spiritual emptiness can be a blessing because God allows us to see the truth of who we are in light of the fullness of truth, Jesus Christ. As we come to acknowledge and understand our spiritual poverty, we open ourselves up to receive the great gifts that God is eager to share with us. Spiritual wealth and fullness can only come from the Creator who wants to give us himself and all the joys of eternal life, but we must first empty ourselves so that God can then fill us with every heavenly grace and blessing.

Reflection and connection

How do you describe spiritual emptiness? What might you do to both appreciate and overcome spiritual emptiness? Do you recall any great saints who endured these times of suffering? For interior renewal

Take some time alone to pray. Look for a new experience of God, either through a new friend, a new place or a good book. Reaching out to others

Connect with good friends and family or a special mentor or teacher who might bring the best from you… or you from him or her. Look for, or affirm in others, signs of unexpected hope and encouragement.

Transforming society

Become a source of light to others who may not feel the pres ence of God in the ordinariness of life. Try to do all things with enthusiasm and joy, regardless of how you feel and be a conduit of God’s love to all you meet.

Closing prayer

I pray to you, Lord, for the time of your favor, God, in your great kindness answer me with your constant help. Rescue me from the mire; do not let me sink. Do not let the floodwaters overwhelm me, not the deep swallow me, nor the mouth of the pit close over me. Answer me, Lord, in your generous love; in your great mercy turn to me. Amen. Ps 69:14-18

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Provided by Immaculate Conception Parish, Auburn
Play Like a Champion Today Sports as Ministry Initiative ready to impact youth sports

BY ANN CAREY

NOTRE DAME — A new initiative developed at the University of Notre Dame is ready to impact the atmosphere of Catholic grade school sports across the country. The Play Like A Champion Today™ Sports as Ministry Initiative (PLC) is a program to train coaches, parents and parish communities to run youth sports programs like a ministry that promotes Christian values. PLC emphasizes the concept that youth sports should be an enjoyable activity that helps children grow morally and spiritually, as well as physically.

Notre Dame theologian and coaches and Notre Dame fans will recognize Notre Dame sports camps, they created the Play Like A Champion Today™ coaching video, which was produced in the late spring by Notre Dame’s Center for Ethical Education. Students at St. Jude School in South Bend helped in the production of the PLC video.

Additionally, the PLC team has worked with local parishes in South Bend to implement the program. Over the past summer, PLC representatives have offered workshops for coaches, which they will further implement in the fall as the program will go into effect in the Dioceses of Los Angeles; Dallas; Rochester, N.Y.; Erie, Pa.; and Columbus, Ohio. A parent and athletic board curriculum is also being prepared by the PLC team.

Indeed, the program teaches that a champion is not necessarily someone with extraordinary athletic ability. Rather, a champion is a person who displays the cardinal virtues of prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance. Practicing those virtues thus leads players to respect themselves, their teammates and their opponents; to give all of their effort; to strive to reach their potential; to sacrifice for the team; to be passionate about the sport; to desire to win the right way; and to care for others.

Instilling these virtues in children is the job of parents, coaches and other adults in the parish community, and the PLC educational series helps the adults accomplish that goal. This philosophy means that all members of the team get playing time, that children who are struggling get support, that players have a chance to develop skills and a sense of confidence, and that the children enjoy playing the sport.

As Moser told Today’s Catholic, when the emphasis is on doing the sports activity on behalf of the parish community, “The whole win-lose thing goes into the background.”

This summer, the first leadership conference for Play Like A Champion Today™ took place at Notre Dame and was attended by 30 people who are leaders of youth sports in dioceses all over the country. The training they received enables them to direct training workshops for coaches, which they can adapt to the needs in their home dioceses and parishes. This fall, the program will go into effect in the Dioceses of Los Angeles; Dallas; Rochester, N.Y.; Erie, Pa.; and Columbus, Ohio. A parent and athletic board curriculum is also being prepared by the PLC team.

St. Joseph Parish in South Bend piloted the PLC program last year, and will further implement the program this year, according to Mike Favorite, president of the St. Joseph Athletic Association. Coaches were invited to training sessions during the past school year, Favorite said, but coach training will become required. St. Joseph also intends to add parent training in the spring.

Favorite said that the Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL) already is doing many of the things recommended, but he would like to see the program in place for the entire league.

“When Clark [Power] talked to our athletic board, the thing that really wakes you up is when he says we need to look at our sports program as a form of youth ministry,” Favorite said. “When you put it in that context, all of a sudden you get it. You get why we have to do this the right way and get everybody on board doing this the right way.”

For more information, call the Play Like A Champion Today™ head-office at (574) 631-9981 or visit the Web site at www.PlayLikeAChampion.org.

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Prayer fortifies Catholic identity to ICCL games

BY ANN CAREY

SOUTH BEND — The many diverse grade school sporting events of the Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL) in South Bend, Mishawaka, Elkhart and Plymouth will have something new in common this upcoming school year: A prayer written by ICCL moderator Father Michael Heintz that will be recited aloud before every game by teams and coaches. Spectators at the events also will be encouraged to participate in the prayer.

ICCL president Tony Violi told Today’s Catholic that most ICCL teams already prayed on their own, but he liked the idea of a common prayer for the entire league.

So, Violi asked Father Heintz, rector of St. Matthew Cathedral, to compose a suitable prayer. Then, as president of the ICCL, Violi directed that the prayer be used before every ICCL event.

Father Heintz told Today’s Catholic that he was happy to supply the prayer, for “The most important part of the ICCL is the Catholic part, and we can use sports to cultivate people’s faith.” Father Heintz included St. Sebastian in the prayer, as he is the patron saint of athletes.

Violi said that the home team will be designated to read the prayer aloud before a game begins. “And maybe we’ll all remember to pray while there.”

“We all want to compete,” Violi explained. “I want to win, but sometimes we, as coaches and parents and fans, don’t give a good example to the kids, and I don’t like that to happen. I think if we have a prayer we all can remember that we’re Catholics and should act like it in front of our children.”

Mike Favorite, president of the athletic association at St. Joseph Parish in South Bend, told Today’s Catholic games have also hoped the prayer will impact behavior positively, and he believes the prayer will remind people of “who we are serving, and what place this has in building up our kids in the whole framework of Catholic education.”

Prayer

God our Father, help us to put forth our best effort to represent our school with class, to respect our opponents, and to grow as disciples of your Son, Jesus. Keep us safe from injury and harm through the intercession of Our Lady, the mother of your Son and our mother, too. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen. St. Sebastian, pray for us.

Baker

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Dave Mohr, who is now coaching at Woodlan High School. “This guy has the neatest story of how God has blessed his life with children. He also has been more valuable to me as a coach than anyone else. He still calls me on the phone after my games and tells me something I can do to improve. He knows me inside and out as a person.”

When mentioning other special people in his life, Baker could not leave out his parents, Bishop Luers graduates Jeff and Mary Baker. The Bakers were a hard-working, blue collar family.

Sacrifices were made so that Jason could enjoy the sports he loved to play. “Growing up, my parents logged the hours and went to all my games. They never forced me to do anything, (except get a job) when I wanted a car) they just walked with me whatever path I was going down. They have been nothing but supportive.”

God has blessed Jason Baker with a particular skill set: the ability to kick a football. “Quite trivial in the real world, but Baker believes God has bigger plans for him than just using this ability to play in the NFL. With God at the helm, Baker plans to continue making small miracles happen whenever he can.

An NFL sponsored Punt-Pass-Kick Competition will be held at Homestead High School on Sunday, Sept. 17, at 10 a.m. All proceeds will benefit the Boys and Girls Clubs of Fort Wayne. All CYO students age 8-15 are encouraged to attend. For more information contact Sofia Rodriguez at sofia@visionsmk.com or (260) 466-5600.
Villanueva has greatly improved and we have him back. Kronewitter,” said Sandoval. “Alejandro Basquez, senior tackles Rob Quackenbush and Dragoon Trail, the Marian Knights are only mean one thing at the corner of Logan and Dargoon Trail, the Marian Knights are ready for another fall campaign. Our coaches and student-athletes are working hard to improve on last year’s records,” explained Reggie Glon, athletic director and head football coach. “We all have common goals of winning in the Northern Indiana Conference and the Bishop’s All-Sports Trophy.”

Football
The football team returns 15 starters from last year’s 8-1 regular season and number five ranking,” commented Glon. “I feel we have a solid foundation to build on and our senior class has done a good job in the off season program. Our offense will return six starters including all-state lineman Jacob Jaworski and running back Blake Powell,” said Glon. “On defense we return seven starters led by All-State back Cassidy Laux, honorable mention all-conference linebacker Brannon Parker and DB Blake Powell.”

“Participation is up, we have great team chemistry and we have the kids competitive across the board,” Glon added. “The mix of experience, youth and talent should make for a great season.”

Cross country
While heavy pads and helmets garnish the football team, the cross country team simply brandishes shorts, tee-shirts and dripping sweat for first year head coach Natalie Sandoval.

“I have been with the kids throughout the summer workouts, and I couldn’t be more excited or happy with them,” said Sandoval. “We have big numbers coming out and in our case it means good depth.

“Start the 90-degree weather.

FORT WAYNE — — The last few weeks of summer bring local high schools closer to opening their doors as student athletes officially begin gearing up for fall sports. On tap at Bishop Luers High School, under the direction of longtime athletic director Matt Lindsay, are football, which he coaches, as well as boys’ cross country, soccer and tennis and girls’ cross country, soccer, volleyball and golf.

Football
The Luers football season will kick off with the usual fanfare on Aug. 18 against Wayne High School, says Coach Lindsay. Last year’s record was 8-5 with many underclassmen playing varsity so he has high expectations for this season.

Returning defensemen include senior linebackers Mike Morrison and Dan Kiermaier, senior defensive back Adrien Spencer and sophomore linebacker Tyquan Hammock.

Returning on offense will be experienced starters like senior running back Tony Basquez, senior tackles Rob Quackenbush and Aaron Myers, and junior linebacker Issac Baker, as well as junior receiver Steve Williamson.

Early tryouts saw a full complement of 60 junior varsity and varsity players and 25 freshman hopefuls, surely enough to make a coach optimistic. But Lindsay says it’s too early to make predictions about the upcoming season. With so many young players — “we’ll be learning and adjusting on the fly,” he says.

Boys’ tennis
Tennis coach Brady McArdle expects to welcome about 15 boys to fill out his reserve and varsity rosters this season and says he has some good young players coming back as well. Leading the attack on the courts will be returning seniors Brian Barker, Casey Weaver and J.T. Sabine.

It’s a short season, with 15 matches beginning with an Aug. 17 opener against South Adams High School and ending just before sectional play gets underway on Sept. 28.

Now in his second year as head coach, McArdle’s expectations for the upcoming season is straightforward. After finishing sixth in the Summit Athletic Conference (SAC) last year, this year’s goal is “to improve and to have them improve as players,” he says. Luers has such exceptional student athletes that it’s a pleasure to work with them, he adds.
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

**Girls’ volleyball**
The girls’ volleyball team went 24-8 last year, losing to Belmont High School in sectional play, so head coach John Minnick says he’s “chomping at the bit” to get started this season. He has a good nucleus of returning players including senior and outside hitter Shamon Vooes, a first-team all-SAC player and early winner of a full athletic scholarship to Xavier University in Cincinnati. Other returning seniors are conference honorable mention defensive player and “very vocal” team leader Nicki Stone, and Carly Fuelling, who also showed “great leadership” in open gym this past summer. Junior Emily Meyers, also first team all-SAC as a middle hitter, and junior Ashley Dillon, probable outside hitter, will round out the roster.

A pre-season scrimmage against DeKalb is slated for Aug. 12. Then the regular schedule kicks off, “bam,” against team nemesis Belmont on Aug. 15, says Minnick, and continues with an SAC preseason tourney Aug. 17. Despite the rigorous start, he has big plans for the rest of the year. He expect to win the conference, says Coach Minnick, so “they’ll all be gunning for us.”

**Boys’ tennis**
Fifth year boys’ tennis coach Anne Schenkel says 20 to 30 hopefuls will try out for the 2006 team, a number she’ll need to pare down to 15 or 20 for the junior varsity and varsity squads. Schenkel expects good things from junior singles players Keith Welch and Nick Maxwell, as well as returning senior Doug Eber and doubles players Sam Snyder and Dan Langston.

“It’s a quick season,” she points out, with 12 dual matches and three invitational rounds leading up to sectionals in late September and regionals on Oct. 3. Though she’d like to win the SAC, Schenkel declines to speculate on the prospects for doing so. First she wants to see other teams, see their players and see their depth. So much depends on your depth for winning points, she notes, and she’ll set the team’s goals after she makes that assessment. It’s all about good sportsmanship and having fun but she’ll expect all her players to “give 100 percent and try their hardest and most of the time they’ll win,” she says.

**Girls’ cross country**
Girls’ cross country coach Jessica Hayes says she had about 20 runners in summer conditioning, most of them juniors and seniors, so she expects that experience to pay off when the season begins on Aug. 15. Last year’s team competed at the semi-state level and did its best in 10 years, she says, so her expectations are high. Returning seniors Clare McVey and Mary Andorfer are sure to be an asset in helping the squad place as well as it did last season, says sixth-year head coach Hayes.

The cross country schedule begins Aug. 15 with the Hokem Korem Relays and continues a week later with the blockbuster five-school Luers Invitational.

**Boys’ soccer**
Coach Michael Khorshid expects 45 players to try out for boys’ soccer this week but will have the tough task of reducing that number to about 36 for his varsity and junior varsity teams. Twice-a-day practice will be rigorous before the opening match against New Haven High School on Aug. 17, he says.

With eight seniors and 10 juniors returning this year, Khorshid is sure to have some great leadership. Though he stresses that soccer is a “whole team” rather than an individual sport, he looks forward to some outstanding play from seniors Jake Capito and Chase Jones, as well as juniors Danny Khorshid, Dan Nix, Daniel Wilter and Steven Roberts.

Before last year, the boys’ soccer team had taken the SAC title four years running. No doubt they will be hungry to return to victory status this season.

**Boys’ cross country**
The boys’ cross country team won the SAC conference for the first time ever and advanced to the state finals last season, says second year coach Eric Ade, so he’s “looking forward to starting up … and seeing where it all settles out.”

Though an experienced high school and college runner himself, he says it will be a mental challenge for him as a coach to elicit the best from each of his athletes, a large complement of more than 40 this year.

“Our bright spot” will be returning senior and all-state track star Ben Reifenberg, says Ade. Also returning will be senior Joe Ryan, a “pretty good contender and probable second man,” along with Javier Mercedes who, though plagued by injuries, “will definitely be up there. Those are our leaders,” states the coach.

The season-opening Hokem Korem Relays on Aug. 17 will give them a chance to shine and for the team to show their coach what he can expect this year.

**Girls’ golf**
Girls’ golf coach Kurt Leffers, who begins his second year in the position, has high hopes for his small squad of nine this season. Winning third place in the SAC last year and sending one golfer to state competition was a highlight of the season. This year’s first match was Aug. 1, with five tournaments scheduled before the start of classes Aug. 16 and sectionals beginning in mid-September.

This year Leffers will welcome back to his lineup senior Emily Brown and juniors Megan Ryan and Ashley Gross. If the players are “willing to put some effort into it,” they are sure to improve individually and as a team and enjoy success on the links this season, he says.

**Boys’ tennis**
The boys’ tennis team will be hungry to return to victory status after four years running and to the state finals last season, says second year coach Eric Ade, so he’s “looking forward to starting up … and seeing where it all settles out.”

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The season-opening Hokem Korem Relays on Aug. 17 will give them a chance to shine and for the team to show their coach what he can expect this year.
JOSEPH
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

shorts and tee-shirts. “We have had big numbers running all summer long, 35 boys and 28 girls,” said Jerry Hoffman, cross country coach. “We have a solid core with our boys in only losing two from last season and we return Philip Langthorne who has run a 17:26.”

“The real key is our depth with 10 boys, five running under 18:30,” continued Hoffman. “It should be very competitive for the top spots.”

“As far as our girls’ team, there are a lot of question marks,” remarked Hoffman. “We do return Allison Sweeney that ran a 15:21 last season and the other girls have been working very hard during our conditioning.”

Boys’ soccer
While the girl’s cross country team looks for depth, the boys’ soccer team is bursting with returning players.

“We return seven or eight starters from last season’s team,” explained Alberto Verteramo, boys’ soccer coach. “It is a core that we can definitely build on and incorporate younger players.

“We have three key players that are being looked at by colleges in James Urbany and captains Dustin Mares and Pete Sabo,” exclaimed Verteramo. “The have played during the summer on travel teams and we add a big strong defender, Sean Leahy.

“Even our goalie, Mike Kormann worked his way into the starting spot last year,” Verteramo said. “With our nucleus and leadership we should jell into a pretty good team.”

Girls’ soccer
The girls’ soccer team has a problem any coach would love; they have 48 girls competing for spots in the program.

“We have such a nice group of young dedicated women that enjoy playing soccer,” commented Johan Kuitse, girls’ soccer coach. “We will really depend on our more experienced players to work with our younger girls.

“We return five senior starters — Lizzy Gerald, Lindsey Hydak, Meg McGue, Meghan Rensick and Kelly Roberson,” said Kuitse. “The leadership that they bring with them should help our huge junior class and talented freshmen class understand that it takes so much hard work to be successful.

“We shared the Northern Indiana Conference crown last season and we are aiming for the same goals this year,” Kuitse added. “The work ethic is definitely there.”

Girls’ golf
While the return of talent will carry the girls’ golf team, the weather may be the one thing that stands in their way of another 18-3 season.

“We have already started competitions and the first outing, we had two girls get sick because of the heat,” explained Andy Troeger, girls’ golf coach. “Once the weather cooperates, we return six of our seven letter winners from last season.

“Kimberly Lipinski and Shannon Foley were all-conference last year, and Colleen Hughes won the South Bend City Tournament,” Troeger continued. “We add transfer Annie Omson who finished sixth in last year’s state tournament and Becca Jones who has gotten off to a great start and three or four others competing for time and we have a pretty good group.”

Boys’ tennis
As the girl’s golf team enjoys their depth and experience the sectional winning boys’ tennis team seems to going in the same direction.

“We have quite a few returning and I think we will be a pretty strong team,” exclaimed Eric Mahone, boys’ tennis coach. “We lost our one and two singles players but we have returnees Griffin Jaques and Tommy Krucmar that are fighting for those spots.

“I also expect good things from our other returnees Eli Lenard in singles and James O’Conner and Oliver Temple in doubles,” continued Mahone. “With our depth and newcomer freshman Antonio Thuny we should be very competitive again.”

Volleyball
While all the teams suffered under the ozone action days, there was one coach with a big smile on her face and a dry shirt on.

“Our gym floor was being refinshed so we went one mile down the road to the air conditioning of Saint Mary’s College,” smiled Mary Kay O’Connell. “We have had some other good news recently.

“Alex Hunt, our six-foot lefty, was one of 12 players in the country to play for the United States in an international tournament that the USA won,” O’Connell added. “It was a great experience for her and great for Indiana Volleyball.

“We will add a veteran team with Jill Johns a three-year varsity player and two senior middles in Kristin Kawalewski and Shelby Davila,” explained O’Connell. “With a strong defender in Meghann Rose, we have very good chemistry, maybe even better than last year.

“Northern Indiana is so strong in volleyball we had five teams in the top 10 in the state last year,” explained O’Connell. “We have great kids with a very good work ethic and we are going to give it our all.”

Soon the hot days of summer will turn into the chill laced days of fall and the Indians of Saint Joseph’s High School will battle their rivals and foes with pride and purpose.

“Several of our teams should be in the mix for sectional honors,” claimed Goalke. “We are really expecting good things from our students not only athletically but with character and poise.”

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Boys’ soccer

The girls’ team won’t be the only ones using the beautiful new state-of-the-art facility across the street, the boys’ team also calls the pristine site home.

“Our soccer team will be young but very competitive,” explained Ben Householder, boys’ soccer coach. “We have brought in some top notch teams and will have our toughest schedule ever.”

“I think you have to play the best to become the best,” added Householder. “We have three seniors who promise experience and good leadership in Joe Cappanari, Andy Gaboury and Nico Probst.

“We are looking forward to a very good season,” said Andy Gaboury and Nico Probst. “We have six players that are third year starters Emily Libertowski and Meeghan Miller added with Libero (back row specialist) Kathleen Chelminiak round out our core players.”

Boys’ tennis

The newest member of Marian’s coaching staff, Sarah Stanchin, has the honor of directing the boy’s tennis team on their new home court.

“I’m really excited about the opportunity to coach the boy’s tennis team and to play on the great facilities at Marian,” commented Stanchin. “I have coached some of the athletes before and am glad to work with them again.

“We lost three starters from last year but our number one singles player, Michael Koscielski is back,” explained Stanchin. “We have some depth with returning letter winners — Andy Keziman, Kyle Shirk, Sean Julien, Mike Patty and Shiva Thinakel.

“We will also have some J.V. players trying to get onto the court,” said Stanchin. “Their positive experience is my goal.”

As honorable adversaries embark on the terrain that is Marian High School, they most assuredly will be greeted by highly trained, highly dedicated, highly motivated regiments of Knights.

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LUERS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

Girls’ volleyball

Second-year girls’ volleyball coach Scott Shipman will host try-outs early this month with about 50 players vying for spots on the freshmen, junior varsity and varsity squads. “I’m pretty happy with that,” he says, but admits it’s also a tough situation because some cuts will be necessary to pare down the numbers.

The team will welcome back six very talented seniors and “some pretty outstanding players,” says Shipman. Outside hitter Jenny Eckrich, along with 6’foot middle blocker Kristien Dirig, both seniors, will return, as well as opposite center Melanie Huhn, a junior, and setter Andrea Kleber.

Last year’s team won fourth place in the conference and beat Northrop High School for the first time in several years. Ten players attended volleyball camp at Purdue University this summer and did very well, so “I’m very optimistic,” says Coach Shipman. The season opens Aug. 15 against Homestead High School.

Girls’ soccer

Girls’ soccer coach Chuck Graham says his team will face “five tough games right off,” with an opening match against Carroll High School Aug. 16, followed by a tourney in South Bend and a head-to-head meeting with Bishop Dwenger High School, last year’s state champs.

Pumped by a near win in the 12-team preseason Knight Invite tournament two weeks ago, Graham’s girls are ready for a demanding season. “For a small school we play a pretty tough schedule,” he says, but with 18 players who can start at any time he has confidence in the strength of his bench and is looking for a good year.

Senior sweeper Katie Christian, who was voted one of the top players in the state by “Hoosier Futbol,” is expected to have injury-free senior Daniel Judge back in the lineup against Belmont High School and against Coach Myers says his team’s “good, positive attitude” should produce results. Leading the attack will be senior forward Dominic Galuppo, along with senior midfielders Eric Proegler and Andrew Myers and senior goalie Brad Drysdale.

Off and on the field, Myers will receive “big help” from assistants Dan Drysdale and Joe Strack.

Cross country

Though the numbers are down this season, cross country coach Linda Keuneke still has high expectations for the 30 runners who make up her boys’ and girls’ teams. Though separate, at Luers the two teams have traditionally trained together under the same coach. Keuneke assisted former head coach Tracy Edgerton for many years, taking over as solo head coach just last year. But while the two teams work out as a group, Keuneke says that she structures the workouts differently because the boys’ and girls’ events are different. She admits that the girls fared better last year, however.

Keuneke credits Edgerton for authoring the Luers Invitational, a popular Catholic five-school preseason tournament hosting Mishawaka Marian, South Bend Saint Joseph’s, Fort Wayne Bishop Dwenger and Lafayette Central Catholic High Schools.

Keuneke says she is really excited to have injury-free senior Daniel Judge back in the lineup for the boys. But since practice officially began just last week, she says opportunities on the girls’ team are still open to anyone who meets the challenge. The squads will be headed up by co-captains Judge and Laura Krummacker.

Keuneke enjoys the team spirit and camaraderie she sees among her players. As a coach and Luers math teacher, she says, “I truly like working with the kids.”

Girls’ golf

The girls’ golf team, coached by A. J. Kalver, boasted better than a .500 record and finished high in the SAC conference last year, he says. And with three varsity players back, he expects their fortunes to improve throughout the 16-event season.

Returning varsity players include top golfer Kristi O’Brien, who shot even-par 36 in the opening match last week, along with Heather Hendrickson and Haylee Eckert. Junior varsity players are Erin Springer, Mia Hannah and Morgan Tobias. Chelsea Prichard, who played last year, may yet be returning to the links. Though Kalver says he could use more depth on the squad, he is still optimistic about his golfers’ ability to score well this year.

"The will to win is important, but the will to prepare is vital."

Joe Paterno

Saint Joseph’s High School wishes the best of luck to all of our student athletes and teams as they prepare for a new season of competition.

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"The will to win is important, but the will to prepare is vital."

Joe Paterno
ICCL prepares for 61st season of events

BY ELMER J. DANCH

SOUTH BEND — Football coaches of six varsity boys teams and seven junior varsity clubs are now in the process of finalizing their rosters in preparation for official practice next month for the Inter-City Catholic League. On Sunday, Sept. 3, the ICCL will open its 61st consecutive season. Three games will be played at Mishawaka Marian High School field and three at Saint Joseph’s High School.

Volunteering organized in the fall of 1945 to help provide a recreational program for Catholic grade school athletes in the South Bend metro area, the ICCL has continued without a miss ever since. Today it continues to supervise 18 leagues in eight sports. Among the programs are softball, soccer, football, wrestling, volleyball, basketball, baseball and track.

Foremost among its core of executives and directors is William Sorukas, ICCL treasurer, who is now rounding out his 40th year. He is currently the baseball director. A member of the Indiana Football Hall of Fame, Sorukas is a High School Football Official and a member of the Notre Dame Chain Crew. In the ICCL, he has served as director of the baseball program as well as helping with logistics of other sports.

Another executive in the ICCL is Anthony Violi of Mishawaka, an accountant, who has served for 23 seasons as a football coach and for the past nine years as president of the league.

“It is remarkable how these young athletes at the grade school level look forward to competition in various sports of the ICCL,” said Violi. “They also realize they have to meet academic requirements to participate, which is very important. Even at the fifth and sixth grade levels, their spirited participation has been so keen that we had to establish a football league for the fifth and sixth grades in 1974,” added Violi.

Violi credited both Saint Joseph’s and Mishawaka Marian High Schools for making both of their fields and gymnasiums available for both football and basketball, as well as baseball in the spring. Assisting Violi, vice president of ICCL for nine years is Jeff Boocher of Holy Family Parish. He has also served the ICCL as a coach and the athletic director of Holy Family.

League championships for both football and basketball are provided by the Father Nieuwland Assembly, Fourth Degree, Knights of Columbus.

COLOR GUARD OPENS SOCCER TOURNAMENT

Girl Scouts Nancy McNamara, Kaitlyn Baumgartner, with flag, and Keirsten Baumgartner representing St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School in Fort Wayne, presented the colors at the opening of the 2006 Bishop Luers High School Knights Invite soccer tournament at the Fort Wayne Sport Club on July 22 and 23.

St. Jude teacher hosts a clinic to cheer about

BY MICHELLE CASTELMAN

FORT WAYNE — St. Jude students that see Theresa Yoder during the summer months may not recognize her. Outside of her fifth grade classroom, Yoder wears many hats.

This summer she has been busy leading cheerleading clinics for the Allen County Public Library. The clinics are part of the library’s summer reading program, “Read Around the Campfire.”

During the clinics, Yoder read a story to the children, made pompons for the craft and taught them basic cheers.

Yoder started with the library during her college summers to help pay for her tuition while she was home from St. Joseph College, Rensselaer, where she cheered at the college level. She majored in elementary education and received performance scholarships, which motivated her during her four years there.

A former gymnast at Bishop Dwenger High School, Yoder also coaches gymnastics at Summit Academy of Gymnastics.

She once ran into one of her students there from St. Jude who couldn’t figure out who she was. “I guess I look different to them when I’m not at school,” Yoder said.

Yoder attended Queen of Angels School in junior high. She is one of four children and her family attends St. Mary Parish, Avilla, where her mother teaches.

Volunteers contribute to the success of ICCL sports

BY ELMER J. DANCH

SOUTH BEND — Dedicated volunteers have been the secret to the operation of the 62-year-old Inter City Catholic League (ICCL), which will formally open the season in September with a varsity and junior varsity football season.

“When the program was launched in the fall of 1945, there were literally no playing fields available except public gridirons in both South Bend and Mishawaka and virtually the same could be said for basketball,” said Anthony (Tony) Violi, current president of the circuit, now in his ninth year as president. The fifth and sixth grade football league was established in 1974.

“Thanks to the many volunteer men and women who offered their services to a program of athletics in parish schools, we now have five programs for boys and five for girls,” Violi said.

“Both Saint Joseph’s High School and Marian High School in Mishawaka have made their football fields and gymnasiums readily available to the ICCL, and as a result, we are looking ahead to our most successful year in history,” Violi added.

Chairmen for the various programs include the following:

• Boys football, varsity and junior varsity, is headed by Violi.
• Boys basketball is chaired by Joe Kozinski for varsity, and is chaired by Greg Schultheis for junior varsity.
• Boys wrestling is chaired by John Glon.
• Boys baseball is chaired by William Sorukas for varsity and is chaired Mark Kopinski for junior varsity.
• Girls and boys soccer is chaired by Jeff Deitchley.
• Girls softball is chaired by Jim Elliott.
• Girls basketball is chaired by Ann Russell for varsity and is chaired by Mike Timm for junior varsity.
• Girls volleyball is chaired by Emily Stauffacher for varsity and is chaired by Pat Gring for junior varsity.
• Track is chaired by Mark Kopinski.

Jeff Boocher is vice president and assistant director of all sports. He has just completed his ninth year of service to ICCL. He has also served in the ICCL for many years as a coach and the athletic director of Holy Family.
Is autumn far behind?

Interleague trading ended with the end of July. Major league baseball has taken on a different look. After the all-star break, teams have settled into a pattern that will likely carry to the end of the season.

It isn’t as though there were no signs of life or interest. But many fans have somewhat given up on their respective teams and are “helping” for “next year,” and the teams are hoping them fulfill that dismal prospect by trading off important players in favor of getting some young hopefuls who may suddenly become stars the next season. Despite the continuing crowds, a certain malaise has entered in for the major sport of the summer for most Americans — major league baseball.

Fans are beginning to look forward to the fall, and the 800- pound gorilla, football, has begun to make its appearance. All the other sports have come and gone, but football is the only sport to be some portion of the populace to lace, have a secondary place in the attention of the media and the devotion of fans at every level.

From the professional ranks through college, high schools and the elementary schools, the footballs are whizzing through the air and very serious players to be are running to get in shape, and all the signs of a vigorous season are beginning to sprout up with increasing attention.

It is a shame that Catholic parent should deny an interest in whether or not Notre Dame will have a national championship team. But, the more far reaching question is whether or not the fall sports can really have a positive effect in the lives of family members.

Sports can have a positive result in the lives of young men and women when they enable the participant to be stimulated to take care of the God-given physical abilities that grace each one of us. Healthy exercise and wholesome sense of the common goals of winning, the objectives of humility in winning and of a spirit of doing better the next time when one loses. These are some of the other virtues that one can find in sports which can really contribute to the growth of the young to full manhood and womanhood. We must remember that the girls have taken their rightful place in sports and can reap all the benefits that sports can have for the race they engage in. We use these as examples of how we should be willing to sacrifice and work hard to win the only race that really matters, the race to eternal salvation.

It is important that we do not stress football over all other sports. Healthy outlets for youthful energy can be found in many other sports that grace the fall sports scene. It is difficult to put one’s sole sociological analysis of which sport will be offered in our schools during the fall season.

In some places tennis is in the spring; in other schools it is a fall sport, etc. However, we can see that the great variety of sports available helps us to select what sport best fits the abilities and the interests of our sons and daughters. It could be soccer, cross country running, golf, among other sports that may have prominence in your particular area. Sports emphasize individual improvement and excellence, and others emphasize the team sport idea.

St. Paul speaks of great efforts of athletes of his day take as they train for the day when they will face their contest. He uses these as examples of how we should be willing to sacrifice and work hard to win the only race that really matters, the race to eternal salvation.

It is important for us to let our sports programs give access to all students. Too often, our elementary schools, there is a very healthy atmosphere where anyone who wants to can join a team. They will be given a fair chance to increase their skills and always to enjoy the help and assistance given the student in the growth of physical skill, but equally important in those skills that come from being a member of the team.

We should care for our health no matter what age we might have. There are many sports that one can engage in as one grows older. Swimming is one time sport one can engage in, so likewise is swimming and probably tennis.

The true Christian must take good care of his body, created by God, made the bearer of the human person through one’s time on earth. This kind of dedication makes our sports program worthwhile and helps speed us on our way to the kingdom that God has in store for us.


Central Catholic alumni gather for all-school reunion

Who would have guessed my husband, Bob, and I would make the trip to class reunions — after all, why would we want to see a bunch of old people? Neither of us would have remembered — would have such a wonderful time at the June 2006 all-class reunion for Fort Wayne’s Central Catholic High School?

Last May, Yvonne Wagner Stanski and I met up with Mary Lu Thieme Morris and several other classmates from the class of 1965 at a local restaurant. Mary Lu’s “shoot the crow” favorite phrase brought back some fond memories of the marching band and the gang of kids we hung out with. The “center of attention” in the parade of us in a class of over 100 would have to be the “queen of hearts” — Dona O’Dwyer who proceeded with me with a bell lyre to play at the all-school reunion, I was intrigued but comfortable with this. It took a little convincing, but my husband of 35 years, Jim O’Dwyer (class of 1955), volunteered to be my Lloyd in this undertaking. Dona O’Dwyer drove from our home in Newark, Ohio, to join Mary Lu and 300 other CC alumni to help me with this project. We had a wonderful time at the second annual all-class reunion held at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum and it was an amazing experience.

For the first time, all the Central Catholic High School alumni were invited to the school to mingle, renew friendships, and receive a designed opportunity for everyone to have a chance to increase their skills. Attendees had a chance to mingle, renew friendships, view Central Catholic pictures, purchase memorabilia, attend a special Mass, eat some great food in air-conditioned comfort, win some door prizes, dance to great tunes, sing some class and school favorites and have a wonderful time.

The oldest of us in the class of 1929 was all smiles when Mary Lu presented him with a certificate of appreciation.

As for “Back To The Future,” what better way to further the opportunity to interact with folks who are both older and younger. While I was “jamming” with the band at the Cherry for the class of 1950 (electric piano), I realized what a blessing it is to be part of an alumni event that celebrates the range of ages, experiences and wisdom of the people whose values were shaped by the Catholic school system’s experiences.

A CCS Alumni Association has been formed, an office has been set up, and all CCS alumni are invited to send their $15 dues to Tony Martone, 3005 Whitegate Dr., Fort Wayne, IN 46805.

Alumni officers are the following: president, Mary Lu Thieme Morris (1965); vice-president, Leanne Oudou Mensing (1956); secretary, Sylvia Allen (1965); treasurer, Tony Martone (1951); historian, Susan Berghoff Prowant (1954); membership chair, Richard Hoeppner (1962); and office manager, Phil Charais (1963).

To ensure that you receive an invitation to the next reunion, send your updated contact information including mailing address and e-mail address to Tony Martone at 3005 Whitegate Drive, Fort Wayne IN 46856 or e-mail to: editor@fw.diocesefwsb.org.
How much of your social life revolves around your parish?

S
ome parishioners think of their parish as family. For them, the parish is a community where they meet people who are important parts of their lives. Their social lives also revolve around others in their parish. In addition to meeting with friends for coffee and donuts after Mass, they are also likely to get together with them in other settings, including their homes and local restaurants.

Yet, there are other people who belong to a parish and attend Mass time to time, but do not know other people in the parish. They do not mingle with other parishioners after Mass. Nor do they attend social functions the parish sponsors. They also do not have other parishioners over to their home for dinner. Their parish has little or nothing to do with their social life.

Of course, many parishioners fall somewhere in between these two groups. Some of their best friends belong to their parish, and some of their social life includes fellow parishioners.

I have often wondered how parishioners are distributed along this continuum. So, in my most recent national survey, I asked a random sample of parishioners the following question: “How much of your social life involves people you have met through the parish?”

Fifteen percent said that “a great deal” of their social life revolves around people from their parish. Twenty-nine percent said that “some” of their social life does. Thirty percent said “not much,” and 24 percent said “none at all.” Two percent did not answer the question.

Of course, I then wondered which parishioners were most likely to say their parish is an important part of their social life, which ones least likely to say that, and which ones were in between? So, I examined a number of demographic factors and reached three conclusions.

First, as one might expect, proximity and longevity make a difference. People who belong to the parish that is closest to where they live are more likely than people who belong to one that is further away to say that their social lives revolve around people in their parish. Also, as one might expect, the longer people have belonged to their parish, the more likely they are to report that other parishioners are an important part of their social lives.

Second, as one also might expect, marital status and family circumstances also are important. Single people, married couples and widows are most likely to say that “some” or “a great deal” of their social life involves other parishioners. Divorced Catholics and non-Catholics in their parish.

I believe that the statement about “bread of life” had great impact.

I.

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN E. CAMPPO

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jn 6:41-51

The First Book of Kings provides this weekend’s first reading. The name of the Books of Kings implies that they are about the kings of Israel. Certainly the earliest kings are mentioned. However, the purpose of Kings is to chronicle the faithfulness of the people to God during the reigns of the early kings.

Since the religious experience of Israel was the ultimate interest, these two books refer to prophets. Such is the case in this reading. The central figure is Elijah. While no general rule pertains for all the prophets whom we know by reading the Bible, as often as not they were poor. At least, their earthly livelihood was completely secondary to their vocation to be prophets. Nothing else mattered.

It is not difficult therefore to imagine that Elijah was on a journey without provisions. As this reading reveals, God provided for him. He slept for a while. When he awakened, a cake and water jug were beside him. An angel announced that the nourishment was from God.

For the second reading, the church this weekend gives us a passage from the Epistle to the Ephesians. It was an appeal to the Christians of Ephesus to live peacefully and lovingly with each other. The New Testament is filled with lessons that the church is a special community, identified by the fact that its members all have accepted Jesus as Lord and have been blessed by the Holy Spirit.

The epistle reminded the Christian Ephesians that they should live as if they were members of the one holy community of Christ.

St. John’s Gospel furnishes the last reading. The Fourth Gospel is the longest of them all. While each of the synoptic Gospels is a literary work of art, each skillfully revealing aspects and events of the Lord’s person and mission, John’s Gospel literally soars in its coherence and imagery.

Such is the case in the lesson from John for this weekend. Jesus is the bread of life. He declares this, despite the bewilderment and impatience of some in the audience. To them, such a description seemed foolish. After all, they knew Jesus. He appeared just as anyone else. They knew the origins of Jesus. Galilee was a small, close-knit society, like an extended small town. The Lord’s assertions of coming from heaven defied what many in the audience knew of Jesus.

Yet, in this powerful statement, Jesus insisted upon the divine mission, proceeding from God the Father. The Father sent Jesus into the world. Jesus alone can give eternal life.

In the Lord’s time, options for food were very limited. There was no parallel in the least between what pertained then and what most Americans, for example, know today in a time of plenty and quick and easy access to many food products.

Bread was much more important in their diets than it is modern menus. So, bread itself was as necessary. To be deprived of bread meant that a person was in genuine danger of starving.

Thus, the statement about “bread of life” had great impact.

Reflection

Human beings always have been tempted if not to ignore God altogether, then to treat relating to God, or obeying the law of God, as mere options.

In these readings the church tells us that there is no alternative to living with God, in truth and in fact. To employ again the imagery of food, knowledge of God, through Christ, is not a garment. It is vital. Jesus is the “bread of life.”

For Catholics, the reference to the Eucharist is strong. It is not out of order. Jesus alone is God among us. He is the source of eternal life. He is the source of strength in this life.

RECORDING FOR THE CHURCH

JAMES D. DAVIDSON

Jesus as bread of life has great impact

CATEQUIZEM

By Dominic Campillo

On Aug. 1, the church remembers St. Alphonsus Liguori, bishop and doctor. This quiz looks at doctors of the church.

1. What is a doctor of the church?
   a. bishop who has a doctorate
   b. any cleric who is an M.D.
   c. a saint with this special title

2. What (amongst other things) do you have to be to be a doctor of the church?
   a./licensed
   b. male
   c. dead

3. What does the designation “doctor” actually mean?
   a. The person lived a saintly life.
   b. Their teachings or writings are determined by the church to have value.
   c. They are known to have performed miracles.

4. How does time play a factor in the process of being named doctor of the church?
   a. The person must have been declared a saint at least 50 years before becoming a doctor of the church.
   b. It does not, as time is relative; all clergy have no relatives.
   c. Their writing or preaching is determined to have value to any age of the church.

5. How infallible are the writings of a doctor of the church?
   a. They may include infallible teaching, but the status of doctor does not confer that.
   b. As infallible as the pope’s, only harder to prove.
   c. Not at all, in fact the writings contain any truths at all.

6. Are there doctors of the church who are not saints?
   a. No
   b. Yes
   c. Only if they are so voted by acclamation by the College of Cardinals.

7. In the Middle Ages only this many doctors were recognized:
   a. four
   b. six
   c. 12

8. Which of these men were amongst them?
   a. Jude the Obscure
   b. Augustine
   c. Julian the Apostate

9. Which of these men were not included in the medieval doctors?
   a. Abelard
   b. Ambrose
   c. Jerome

10. When other doctors were added, this 3rd to 4th century apostolic was added:
    a. John the Evangelist
    b. Justin Martyr
    c. Athanasius

11. Which doctor is referred to as the Syrian?
    a. St. Assael
    b. St. Ephraem
    c. St. Joppa

12. This doctor is named for the birthplace of the church:
    a. St. Cyril of Jerusalem
    b. JEFFREY of Nazareth
    c. Francis of Rome

13. This doctor even has his own adjective:
    a. Carlus Theis (theistic)
    b. Thomas Aquinas (Thomistic)
    c. Leo the Munificent (Leonine)

14. Catherine of Siena is part of a minority among church doctors; why?
    a. Most are gentiles.
    b. Most were single.
    c. Most are male.

15. Despite dying very young and living a mostly sheltered life as a nun, this saint was
denamed doctor of the church in the 20th century:
    a. Mother Teresa of Calcutta
    b. Marya Young of Salt Lake City
    c. St. Therise of Lisieux

ANSWERS:
1. c, 2, c, b, 4, a, 5, d, 6, a, 7, b, 8, a, 9, c, 10, c, 11, b, 12, b, 13, b, 14, c, 15, c
Reverent silence before Mass is always recommended

Is reverence for the Blessed Sacrament still expected at mass? Am I expected to arrive early for Mass? Desiring to share the awesomeness of the chiasm Mass with our younger children, I was stunned at the visiting that occurred prior to the Mass. Even when the beautiful prelude music began, people talked louder so they could be heard over the music. Attending a Sunday Mass in South Bend, my husband and I were again appalled at the conversation that took place behind us by two retired couples prior to Mass. Are we missing something by still expecting a reverential silence in the church itself prior to the beginning of Mass?

A.B., Avila

I commend you and your family for attending and witnessing first hand the beauty of the chiasm. At Mass this bishop blesses the oils that will be used at the parish in the coming year for the anointing of all those to be baptized and for anointing those to be baptized. In addition he consecrates the sacred chrism which is used for confirmation and at the ordination of priests and bishops as well as anointing new altars and the like. Many of those attending this Mass come from the other parishes from around the diocese. Then may not be aware that the Blessed Sacrament is in the sanctuary.

Reverence for the Blessed Sacrament is required of all the faithful at all times. As to silence before Mass the General Instruction of the Roman Missal suggests as follows: “Even before the celebration itself it is commendable that silence be observed in the church or in the vestry, in the vesting room … so that all may dispose themselves to carry out the sacred action in a devout and fitting manner.” If you feel that at your parish this issue is more than confirmed perhaps you could politely ask those around you to speak quietly as you are trying to pray or you should resign with me. Doing so perhaps with a little catechesis he can address it directly with those people who choose to preach on this issue or speak about it in the parish bulletin.

THAT’S A GOOD QUESTION

Before the offertory, why does the priest only add water to his cup and omit the others after the water is poured into each? Previously, water was added to the wine prior to it being poured. Some other churches do the latter way and do some do it the former. According to what I have read on up and inquired, the omission of adding the water to the entire volume of wine to be distributed at Mass prior to the offertory is wrong. What goes? C.V.J., Decatur

The essential elements of the Mass are divided into two parts: the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. The Liturgy of the Eucharist begins with the preparation of the gifts also known as the offertory. The altar is prepared and the gifts of bread and wine that will be transformed into the body and blood of Christ as well as the gifts from the faithful for the sustenance of the church are gathered, brought forward and placed on the altar.

The deacon, or in his absence the priest, prepares the chalices. Historically, the mingling of the water and the wine symbolized the union of Christ and his church. In this prayer that is said silently by the priest or deacon who prepares the chalice further exemplifies this: “By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ who handed himself to share in our humanity.”

With the advent of the newest document on the liturgy, “Redemonstrations Sacramentum, the filling of the other chalices for the distribution of holy Communion changed from the time of this document. The breaking of the bread while the Lamb of God was recited or sung, to the preparation of the gifts or the offertory. This document did not clear up the issue of mingling the water and wine with all of the chalices or just the priests or principal chalice. We could infer from the documents that water need only be added to the chalice used by the priest since it is not a requirement to have Communion distributed under both kinds. Water is required however to be added to at least one chalice; therefore what you have seen is not wrong.

Today’s Catholic welcomes questions from readers to pose to Father Richard Hire, Father Michael Heintz, Father Mark Gurtner and the Office of Worship. Please e-mail your questions to editor@tw.diocecese-fwb.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 completely anonymous so we can contact you if necessary. Anonymity will be preserved upon request.

What Mother Teresa can teach a suburban housewife

Like most suburban housewives, I have ever woken up and driven to church. Never once have I awakened mother Teresa as she ministered to the world’s poorest of the poor. Like many others, however, I devoured books and articles about this dynamic and simple nun who pulled the dying off Calcutta’s sidewalks.

Mother Teresa took naps. There was no sign of weakness if I rest or relax. Perhaps you could politely ask those around you to speak quietly as you are trying to pray or you should resign with me. Doing so perhaps with a little catechesis he can address it directly with those people who choose to preach on this issue or speak about it in the parish bulletin.

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By Patricia Kasten

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For more information on Blessed Mother Teresa, visit her Web site: www.motherteresa.org/layout.html

TEACHERS
teresa a. thomas

everyday catholic

scripture search

by patricia kasten

gospel for august 13, 2006

john 6:41-51

following is a word search based on the gospel reading for the nineteenth sunday in ordinary time, cycle b: resurrection to jesus. bread from heaven. the words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

the jews

heaven

father

murmured

unto

son of

the bread

Jesus

raised

come

ternal life

forever

manna

my flesh

myself

Na A I E M R U N R E

A S Y S S D G E N A S

N O E T E H H L O N A S

S J A D T T S W O D L W

W F T A B E N K O N E L D O Y T N R R G E C R V R O F E

E O C E S E N E V B E H

d s b o d a e r b e t

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Davidson

continued from page 20

those who are cohabiting are least likely to say that. Catholics with four or more minors living at home are more likely than other Catholics to say that their social life revolved around fellow parishioners (quite likely other Catholics with whom they live). Finally, parishers are especially important social units for Catholics who are marginalized in terms of race, ethnicity, household income and social prominence. African-American and Hispanic Catholics are more likely than others to say their social lives revolve their parish’s. Also, the lower parishioners’ incomes, the more likely their social lives are to revolve around people they have met through the church. Higher income parishioners’ social lives are more likely to include people who do not belong to their parish. Catholics in the South and West (where there are fewer Catholics) are more likely than Catholics in the Northeast and Midwest (where Catholics are more numerous) to say their social lives involve other people from their parish. Under these circumstances, Catholics tend to seek out other Catholics, and parishers are important vehicles for doing so.

James D. Davidson is professor of sociology at Purdue University in West Lafayette.
THE CUTTING EDGE
SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

Ecumenical ‘Seeds of the Spirit’ spiritual formation at Lindenwood

BY JENNIFER OCHSTEIN

DONALDSON — Five years ago Judy Wilson was searching for something.

“Part of me just said — I needed an opportunity to grow more deeply into God,” Wilson said via e-mail.

She said later, “I felt that there was ‘something more’ for me, and I had a longing for whatever ‘something more’ was.”

Years ago I read an excellent book by Judith Voigt entitled “Necessary Losses.” She focuses on the need to grieve the many losses we experience in our lives in order to be whole persons. She points out the tendency for many people to ignore or not be too much about the pain they cause. Too many people have the tendency to go from one thing to another with little thought about the affect the new experience can have on their lives.

Losses are big and small. Death, divorce, moving, losing a job, breaking off with someone you love or to name a few.

Even changing schools or parishes or the death of a pet are losses. So too are not being the favorite and facing a new situation because of poor health or aging.

Some smaller, but not insignificant losses, would be not getting picked for the sports team or the school play or not being asked to the prom or someone’s birthday party. All of these things can cause pain.

As happy as graduation is for most students, it is also a loss. It means letting go of the familiar and facing a new situation whether it is a new school or a new job.

High school is different from elementary and college is different from high school. And life in the world is not like that of a college or university.

Transience takes energy and is not always easy—actually, it never is. Letting go is hard. It just doesn’t happen overnight. It is a process that takes time and can be very stressful. Ignoring our losses can wear us down. If we do not grieve well we can never really let go and enter fully into the new phase of our lives.

When we do not grieve our losses we can get stuck in the past and never move ahead. An example would be the first year student in college who always talks about what they used to do in her high school or the new employee who is always comparing his new job with the one he just left. It is never good when someone is in transition but it can be unhealthy when it goes on and on. The person can never enter fully into the present. When people refuse to give up the past they get stuck and can’t move on with their lives.

Sister Joyce Rupp wrote a book entitled “Praying Our Goodbyes.” It always reminds me of how important it is to ritualize our losses and to bring God into these situations. In fact, we don’t have to bring God into any part of our lives we just have to remember that God is already with us in all of our transitions and will continue to be with us, loving us at every moment, in whatever new situation we find ourselves.

I will keep trying to remember that as I pack each box and say my farewell to the old convent on West Calvert Street and to the wonderful neighbors and people of Our Lady of Hungary.

Sister Margie Lavonis, CSC, a former campus minister and vocation director, works for the Sisters of the Holy Cross communications department. mlavonis@cscsisters.org.

Ecumenical ‘Seeds of the Spirit’ spiritual formation at Lindenwood

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Ecumenical ‘Seeds of the Spirit’ spiritual formation at Lindenwood

The Seeds of the Spirit is a program called Seeds of the Spirit at the retreat center in Donaldson, just west of Plymouth.

Loretta Peters, director of the Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center, is taking registrations for a two-year spiritual formation program called Seeds of the Spirit at the retreat center in Donaldson, just west of Plymouth, Lindenwood is a sponsored ministry of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ.

The 2006 through 2007 sesion begins meeting on Sept. 16 through May 19, with a break during the summer. The 2007 through 2008 session begins meeting Sept. 15 through May 17.

The Seeds spiritual formation program seers members form seed groups, which Moffett-Moore said are the “heart of the experience” and where spiritual transformation is likely to happen. These seed groups ask, “how goes it with our souls?” They encourage problem solving and allow participants to be vulnerable to one another to experience spiritual companionship.

“This isn’t just informational,” Moffett-Moore said of the spiritual formation center. “We’re hoping people use it as an opportunity to look within.”

He said he has personally witnessed vibrant lives through the program.

“We have seen the weak made strong and the broken made whole and the thirsty given drink,” Moffett-Moore said. “I think it has touched lives and helped people grow in their faith. In the smaller seed groups it can be frightening to be utterly honest and transparent, but that’s how transformation happens.”

Wilson, who is from South Bend, said she was challenged by the program with the idea that her image of God likely reflects the way she treats others.

“When I was stretched to expand my own image of God,” Wilson said.

“Another important session that first year was on centering prayer, but I had never heard of this way of praying, of being silent before God and listening to the Spirit speak. My relationship with God has changed, has grown deeper.”

The cost of the program is $750, though three $125 payments may be made and are due each September, November and February. The price includes lunch, materials and teaching from experts in their fields.

For more information, contact Loretta Peters at (574) 935-1780, visit the Web site at www.lindenwood.org or e-mail at lw@lindenwood.org.

Part-time Immigration Caseworker

Catholic Charities seeks an individual to provide assistance in completing required documentation/paperwork for immigrants in Allen County and surrounding counties. The qualified applicant will have a Bachelor’s degree in a human services or business-related field, be detail-oriented, be comfortable working with various government agencies, and have the ability to work under minimal supervision. Excellent written and verbal skills are a must. Bilingual is preferred.

A working knowledge of word processing, spreadsheet, and e-mail application (prefer Microsoft Office) is desirable. This position will require some travel in a 9-county area, plus mandatory out-of-town training. Please send resume to:

Attn: Operations Director - Catholic Charities
315 East Washington Blvd., Fort Wayne, IN 46802
e-mail: dkrbach@ccfwsb.org
WHAT’S HAPPENING?

WHAT’S HAPPENING carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. Send in your announcement at least two weeks prior to the event. Mail to: Today’s Catholic, P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne 46856; or e-mail: tfo@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.

GAP group meets at St. Elizabeth
Fort Wayne — “The GAP” a new faith-based social group for widowed, divorced and single men and women who range in age from the 40s to the 60s, will hold a game night on Friday, Aug. 18, at 7 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Parish. Those attending are encouraged to bring a snack or beverage to share. The group meets the third Friday of each month. 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. For information e-mail gap4565@msn.com or call (260) 432-7346.

Free sports physicals
Grabill — Christian Community Healthcare Clinic, 13410 Main St., will offer free sports physicals on Tuesday, Aug. 15, from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Bring a current sports physical. Donations accepted. Call (260) 432-7346.

Back to school clothing sale
Fort Wayne — Bristol — St. Mary’s Parish, 411 W. Vistula, will have a back to school clothing sale on Friday and Saturday, Aug. 11 and 12, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. All clothing priced 75 cents or lower.

Home schools to meet
South Bend — Catholic Home Schoolers Michiana will hold their annual planning meeting for the 2006-2007 academic year on Monday, August 21 at the Francis Branch Public Library on Ironwood Road in South Bend. New members welcome! Call Amy McNerney for more information 574-247-4592.

Jewelry from the treasure chest
Fort Wayne — A bookclub will meet at a local coffee house once a month beginning Sept. 18, and discuss and read excerpts from “The Treasury of Catholic Wisdom,” by Father John Hardon, SJ. Call (260) 224-2959 or e-mail justadorehim@hotmail.com for information.

Music boosters need vendors for craft bazaar
Fort Wayne — The Bishop Dwenger Music Boosters have openings for the craft bazaar to be held on Saturday, Nov. 11. Call Terry Luebke at (260) 483-5750 for information.

Family picnic and Mass in the park
South Bend — Father Tom Jones, CSC, will celebrate an outdoor Mass in St. Patrick’s Park on Sunday, Aug. 27. Mass will be followed by a picnic and games. Tickets are $5 per person or $10 per family and must be purchased in advance. Tickets available after all Masses begin- ing Aug. 6.

Centering prayer
South Bend — Centering prayer will be held every Tuesday from 4 to 5 p.m. at Little Flower Chapel, 53683 S. Ironwood.

Lunchen held
South Bend — The St. Vincent de Paul Society will celebrate its 100th anniversary with a Legacy Lunchen to be held at the University of Notre Dame on September 7, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The guest speaker will be Rev. Edward ‘Monk’ Malloy, CSC, president emeritus of the University of Notre Dame. Unique items will be available at a silent auction. For information contact Sean Wendlinger at (574) 251-4908.

Hog roast fund raiser
South Bend — Sacred Heart of Jesus Lakeville, will have a hog roast on Sunday, Aug. 13, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sacred Heart of Jesus Church is located at 63658 U.S. 31. Call the parish office for tickets at (574) 291-2826. Adults and carry-out $8. Children age 6- 12 $3. Children 5 and under free. Tickets also available at the door.

Rummage sale planned for August
Kendallville — Immaculate Conception Parish, on Oak and Diamond streets, will have a rummage sale on Friday, Aug. 11, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Saturday, Aug. 12, from 9 to 11:30 a.m. $1.50 bag sale on Saturday.

Hannah’s House announces ND football season ticket raffle
Mishawaka — Hannah’s House will raffle off a pair of 2006 Notre Dame football season tickets through Aug. 31. Tickets are $1 for $5.50 or $7 and $20. Call (574) 254-5309 to purchase tickets or for more information.

Archdiocese of Indianapolis Pilgrimage to Italy for the Canonization of Blessed Mother Theodore Guérin
October 11-19, 2006

Trip includes
• Round Trip, economy class, non-refundable air transportation from Indianapolis to Italy. • Deluxe air-conditioned and rest room equipped motor coach transportation while in Italy. • First class hotel accommodations in Rome and best hotel in Siena. • 12 meals - 7 breakfasts - 1 lunch - 4 dinners • Hotel baggage handling for one suitcase. • Sightseeing per itinerary. • Daily Mass. • Participation in Vespers service at the Church of the Gesu. • Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Paul’s Outside the Walls. • Tour of the Vatican Museum, Sistine Chapel, and St. Peter’s Basilica. • ASSISI DAY TRIP: Full day tour to Assisi. • Celebrate Mass in the Basilica of St. Francis. • Have free time for shopping. • Wednesday: General Audience with the Holy Father. Afternoon free. Farewell dinner. Optional afternoon tour to Monte Cassino with visit to the Abbey. • Cost: 40 Euros.

TriP includes
• Round Trip, economy class, non-refundable air transportation from Indianapolis to Italy. • Deluxe air-conditioned and rest room equipped motor coach transportation while in Italy. • First class hotel accommodations in Rome and best hotel in Siena. • 12 meals - 7 breakfasts - 1 lunch - 4 dinners • Hotel baggage handling for one suitcase. • Sightseeing per itinerary. • Daily Mass. • Participation in Vespers service at the Church of the Gesu in Rome October 14. • Ticket to the Canonization of Blessed Mother Theodore Guérin in St. Peter’s Square in the Vatican. • Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Paul’s Outside the Walls, Rome, October 16. • Tickets for General Audience with Holy Father, Rome, October 18. • Local English speaking tour guide. • Insured and bonded. • Price is based on exchange rate of $1.25 per Euro.

For more information, contact Carolyn Noone
Archdiocese of Indianapolis • Telephone 317-236-1428 or (800) 382-9836 EXT. 1428 • e-mail: cnoune@archindy.org

REST IN PEACE

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www.mcelhaneyhartfuneralhome.com

TODAY’S CATHOLIC
23
I have attended St. John the Baptist School for eight years. This year will be my ninth. For some of my classmates, this will be their 10th year here.

St. John’s is a wonderful school and parish. St. John’s offers schooling for preschoolers to eighth graders. The classes are small but this allows us more attention from our teachers, which helps us learn more.

St. John’s also has a terrific sports program. We can play football, softball, volleyball, basketball, baseball and track. Even if we lose (this doesn’t happen often), we all have a blast just being on the field or court. Girls can also join the cheerleading squad.

This year we are starting a school newspaper. Last year, we started a quiz bowl team, which we are continuing with this year, and did well for being our first time doing it.

When you get into fifth grade, you have a chance to get elected to be on our student government. Students on student government get to help make choices involving our school.

St. John’s also has a faith partner program. All of the classes are paired up with another class for the year. Once a month we get together with our faith partners for a fun activity. This program gives us the chance to learn about and help each other. The class that pairs up with kindergarten enjoys a Thanksgiving feast dressed as pilgrims and Indians and later celebrates a walrus wedding when learning the letter W.

My favorite part of St. John’s is probably our teachers. All of our teachers are fun and you can tell that they care about each and every one of us. They also have fun and creative ways of teaching.

I like St. John’s, and I know my schoolmates do too.

BY ABBIE GODELLEI, EIGHTH GRADE

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST SCHOOL is located in South Bend. The school has 175 students in grades preschool through eighth. Mrs. Janet Wroblewski is the principal. Additional information is available at sjbcs5@hotmail.com or by calling the school at (574) 232-9849.

A Unique Family

BY JOSH WROBLEWSKI, SEVENTH GRADE

At the beginning of each school day many kids get out of their parents’ cars and wave goodbye. I say goodbye to my mom too except I go wait in line with my classmates while my mom goes in the school. My mom is the principal of St. John’s.

Mrs. Wroblewski, (my mom) is not only our principal but also a former student of St. John’s. She likes to joke about being “the boss” to her former eighth grade teacher, Mrs. Redman. Mrs. Redman is now teaching fifth grade and will be starting her 37th year at St. John’s. Three other teachers also attended St. John’s. Mr. Maz teaches P.E. and computers, Mrs. Hagedorn is in fourth grade, and Miss Woltman is the kindergarten teacher.

Our connection to St. John’s is also strong. My mom and my brothers and I were all baptized, made our first Communion, and are parishioners at St. John’s. Many other students have parents who also attended St. John’s. I think all of this makes my family and St. John’s a unique family.

BY JOSH WROBLEWSKI

Angelica Olivarez and Becca Zakowski are good friends as well as teammates for St. John’s softball team.