Pope discusses Middle East, morality in interview

Expresses hopes to travel to the Holy Land ‘in a time of peace’

BY JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a lengthy TV and radio interview, Pope Benedict XVI called for an end to fighting in the Middle East and said he hopes to travel to the Holy Land “in a time of peace.”

The pope also explained some of the priorities of his papacy, saying he was convinced the church needs to frame its moral teachings in a positive way and shed the image of an institution that always says “no.”

The interview with German media was broadcast Aug. 13, eight days after it was recorded at the pope’s summer villa in Castel Gandolfo, Italy. It was aired in advance of the pope’s scheduled visit to his native Bavaria region of Germany Sept. 9-14. Translations of the German transcript were made available by the Vatican.

The pope addressed a wide range of topics, including ecumenical cooperation, the role of women in the church, and the unifying function of the papacy. He also offered some personal insights into the burdens of being pope.

“It really is tiring,” he said of his schedule. But the 79-year-old pontiff said he enjoyed the continual encounters with bishops, politicians and other personalities “who want to talk to me personally.”

Seated on a gilded throne, the pope looked at ease as he fielded questions from four reporters, including a correspondent from Vatican Radio’s German program.

St. Aloysius, Yoder, presented a Christian teen concert Aug. 11 to launch the Summerfest. Popple provided the entertainment and welcomed middle and high school teens to join them on stage for “Awesome God.” Frankie and the Holy Rollers also provided live music, a first teen-oriented event in the festival history.

A ground breaking ceremony to celebrate the construction of the new education and parish center at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church took place on Saturday, August 12th following a Mass celebrated by Bishop John M. D’Arcy. The new center will house more space for education classes as well as a full-sized gym. Pictured breaking ground from left are: Father Bernard Ramenaden, OSB, and Father Dave Ruppert, both associate pastors, Bishop John M. D’Arcy and pastor, Father Jim Shafer.

FORT WAYNE — An especially exciting day awaited parishioners of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church on Saturday, Aug. 12. In the midst of a beautiful sun-drenched day of family activities at the 13th annual Setonfest, a special ground breaking ceremony for the newest building project took place on the east lawn of the church complex.

Bishop John M. D’Arcy joined the parish family to celebrate an evening Mass before the ceremony. The Knights of Columbus, who in partnership with the diocese have extended a loan to finance this long-awaited project, led the procession, which included St. Elizabeth’s pastor, Father Jim Shafer, along with associate pastors Father Dave Ruppert and Father Bernard Ramenaden, OSB.

In his homily, Bishop D’Arcy highlighted the history of the parish, as well as commending the two “exemplary pastors” of the parish, Father Bob Schulte, founding pastor and current pastor, Father Shafer. The bishop went on to remark of the energy and vitality of the families in the church community reminding them of the eucharistic adoration, open doors for worship and huge crowds at the Masses, saying “Jesus is why we built this church.”

Following Mass, the congregation was invited to process to the east lawn of the church property for the ground breaking ceremony, which included speeches, Scripture, a blessing by the bishop and hard hats and shovels for turning the dirt.

This ever expanding church community welcomes
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

A kind invitation from Father James Shafer, the exemplary and gifted pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, a parish I was privileged to establish, brought me on a lovely August afternoon, a song of a day, to that community of faith. Although arriving early, the parking lot was full. This was SetonFest, an event similar to what is held in many parishes at this time of year — a kind of festival. It is a fundraiser but also brings together families. I was asked to come to celebrate Mass, and to offer a good reflecting and a blessing for a very large expansion of the school, creating catechetical space and an even activity center, which is a modern name for a gym, and various other effort. The cost will be somewhere in the $5 million range, and the parish has already had a successful campaign linked with our Legacy of Faith campaign.

What was central was the Eucharist. Because of the SetonFest and so many people there for the groundbreaking, the church was even more full than usual. People everywhere. Children everywhere. Father Jim told me that the average age of parishioners is somewhere in the mid-20s. What was especially evident was the warm family spirit that I spoke on the holy Eucharist; the Eucharist looking back and remembering the death and resurrection of Christ; the Eucharist that present sacrificially but truly, his death and resurrection; the Eucharist looking forward to heaven. Indeed, a promise of eternal life.

How about the following words from Pope John Paul II in his “Ecclesiae de Pastoralis”:

“The Eucharist is on Christ in the Eucharist need not wait until the hereafter to receive eternal life; they already possess it on earth, as the fire-rites of a future holiness which will enrich man in his total being for the Eucharist we also receive the pledge of our bodily resurrection at the end of the world. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life and will live for me up to the last day.”

(John 6:55-56)

A great future of the Eucharist comes from the fact that the flesh of the Son of Man, given as food, is his body in its glorious state after the resurrection. With the Eucharist we digest, as it were, the ‘secret’ of the resurrection, for this reason St. Ignatius of Antioch rightly defined the Eucharist fluid and medicine of immortality, an antidote to death.”

— Pope John Paul II, “Ecclesiae de Pastoralis”

With St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Eucharist is central

warm, affectionate, gracious and lovely woman. She knew the cross and suffering in his life. Her extraordinary presence in the Episcopal Church brought her to God. It was the Eucharist that brought her to Catholicism. Listen to the words which I quoted in my homily that she wrote about her first holy Communion.

“25 March. At last Anaphora, at last God is mine and I am his! Now let all go to round — I have received him. The awful impressions of the evening, before, of not having done all to prepare; and yet, my governor, the transports of confidence in his goodness. My God! The last breath of life will I not remember this night of watching for morning dawn, he would hearten the heart so precious gone; the long walk to town; but every step count-ed, nearer that street, then nearer that tabernacle, then nearer the moment he would enter the porch, poor little dwelling is all his own — and when he did, the first thought I remember was: ‘Let God arise, let his enemies be scattered’ — for it seemed to me my king had come to take his throne, and instead of the hurdle, tender welcome I had expected to give him, it was but a triumph of joy and gladness that the deliverer was come and my defense and shield and strength and salvation made mine for this world and the next.”

J. J. Dirvin, “The Soul of Elizabeth Seton: A Spiritual Portrait”

Afterward came the groundbreaking and then a wonderful social event. This is the latest step that will be a donation land by the Gallucci Family; the purchase of more land; the building of the church; the enlarging of the church; the building of the rectory; and now, the extension of the school. Twenty-six acres consecrate to Christ. A joyful afternoon.

St. Joseph Parish, Hessen Cassel

Off early the next morning for the short drive south to Hessen Cassel and the installation of Father Thomas Lombardi. Father Thomas is a major league coach, but also a very fine preacher and pastor. This is a wonderful parish with a marvelous spirit, well cared for in recent years by Father Ed Erpelding, who was both a fine pastor and excellent fiscal manager.

My homily was similar to that at St. Elizabeth in the Holy Eucharist. I also recollected the words of the martyrs of Abitene in Africa in the fourth century when they were being prepared for death during the persecution of Diocletian, who made it a capital crime to build a church, read the Word of God or celebrate the Eucharist.

When asked why they had done this, a certain eminence came forward and said, “We cannot live without Sunday.” Neither can any of us live without Sunday. Part of our work makes us; it is our love for our church, so we really understand the Eucharist as food and strength for our journey. The Eucharist should also be understood as a sacrifice, as well as a celebration of His presence.


BISHOP JOHN M. D’ARCY

To try to keep reading. Someone gave me a book by Father John Neuhaus entitled “Catholic Matters.” It is a reflection on the journey, reasons for meeting the Catholic Church. It also includes his diary in Rome during the funeral of Pope John Paul II and the election and inauguration Mass of Pope Benedict XVI. I found it to be a gracious and positive book.

“Milestones!” This is marvelous book. It is a memoir of Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, who was Pope Benedict XVI. It is a sensitive man with a deep love for his family and for the church. An extraordinary theologian, he recollects the life of his family under Nazism, his own journey to the priesthood, the sufferings he has experienced and, above all, his love for and pursuit of theology as a student and a professor of Bonaventure. Joseph Ratzinger was a peritus, or expert, at the Second Vatican Council and recounts those days and the days that followed with great understanding. This is a short read and a good book, I recommend it to everyone.

By the way, both of these books may be found in our wonderful Catholic Bookstore. I hope you have visited there. It is located in our new Archdiocese Noll Catholic Center. They not only have great literature, but crucifixes, rosaries and books about it.

Speaking of the book by Cardinal Ratzinger, may I share with you this note from Father Al McBride. Father McBride is a distinguished theologian and author of many books. He serves on the board of our Sunday Visits. As he left Fort Wayne bound for the blessed place called Cape Cod, I gave him a copy of “Milestones.” Here is the beautiful note he sent to me. Note especially the pope’s words about us parents.

“Thanks for your book gifts, especially ‘Milestones.’ I devoured it at the Cape and it was subsequently read by fathers Mike and John Foley from Worcester and they liked it a lot and we had many good conversations about it. Benedikt is filled with insights such as his touching tribute to his parents at the funeral of Pope John Paul II. I am very much for the faith that the pure and unalienated humanity that the faith allowed to mature in my parents.”

His comment on lovers: the problem of Marxism at fulfilling human freedom and the many good conversations about it. Benedikt is filled with insights such as his touching tribute to his parents at the funeral of Pope John Paul II. I am very much in love with the faith that the pure and unalienated humanity that the faith allowed to mature in my parents.”

Today’s Catholic

With St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Eucharist is central

BISHOP JOHN M. D’ARCY

With St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Parish was the church’s belief in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist that drew this extraordinary woman to the church. Elizabeth was a woman of the Eucharist as food of life and therefore grace, for without it we live without Sunday. Part of our work makes us; it is our love for our church, so we really understand the Eucharist as food and strength for our journey. The Eucharist should also be understood as a sacrifice, as well as a celebration of His presence.

Eucharistic Bread as ‘a medicine of immortality, an antidote to death.”’


The ups and downs of August. Only two games behind. But, oh, that pitching. How we can win a pennant when you give up seven or eight runs a game? We will stay faithful to the end. See you all next week.

Anne’s Home for 15 years. He loved it and was very beloved by the people to whom he brought it as a gift from his wife Mary Franklin enjoyed talking, and the people there loved to hear him. He was very faithful in celebrating Mass with them every day. This was an exemplary priest who had nothing in him but goodness and a kind of innocence. I always asked him if he was playing any golf. I was told he could hit the ball longer off the tee than I could and he was a blessed priest in our diocese. I will celebrate the Mass at St. Anne’s, and later in the week a Mass will be celebrated at St. Anthony’s because of the great love of his family is there and that is the parish where he grew up. Safe home, dear Frank, safe home. May the angels lead you into paradise and may the martyrs receive you at your coming.

Reading of books

Baseball report

The ups and downs of August. Only two games behind. But, oh, that pitching. How we can win a pennant when you give up seven or eight runs a game? We will stay faithful to the end. See you all next week.
hope to visit it in a time of peace," he said.

The pope said that although he’s never felt strong enough to plan much longer trips, he would do so if he feels he can “communicate a message.” He confirmed that he would visit Brazil next year for a meeting of Latin American bishops, saying his presence there would help “strengthen the hope that’s so alive in that part of the world.”

Asked why, during a recent visit to Spain, he didn’t specifically address hot-button issues like gay marriage or abortion, the pope said he wanted to present a posi- tive message and not overempha- size the negative.

“Christianity, Catholicism, isn’t a collection of prohibitions. It’s a positive option,” he said.

“We’ve heard so much about what is not allowed that now it’s time to say: We have a positive idea to offer; that man and woman are made for each other,” and that marriage develops as a “joyful and blessing-filled encounter between a man and a woman,” he said.

When the church does oppose social or political developments, he said, it should “say it first in a positive way” and make sure people understand, for example, that marriage between a man and a woman “is not a Catholic inven- tion” but a value shared by all cul- tures.

The pope said the church’s basic challenge in modern society is to try to bridge the gap between technological progress and moral- ity.

“I believe that the real problem of our historical moment lies in the imbalance between the incredibly fast growth of our technical power and that of our moral capacity, which has not grown in propor- tion,” he said.

“That’s why the formation of the human person is the true recipe, the key to it all. I would say, and this is what the church proposes,” he said.

He said teaching “know-how” is never enough.

“If we only teach how to build and to use machines and how to use contraceptives when we shouldn’t be surprised when we find ourselves facing wars and AIDS epidemics. Because we need two dimensions: simultaneously we need the formation of the heart,” he said.

In the battle against AIDS and other social ills, the pope suggest- ed that the church’s role is misrep- resented or misunderstood as a negative one.

“We offer treatment, treatment to AIDS victims too, and we offer education, helping to establish good relationships with others. So I think we should correct that image that sees the church as spreading severe ‘noes’,” he said.

The pope said a basic problem affecting Western society was a new wave of secularization and a loss of the sense of the sacred. Some African and Asian cultures, he said, are “terrified” by the West’s rational approach and its coldness toward God.

He said the church needs to underline that “believing is beauti- ful” and show that the Christian faith in the West is an integrating faith in the West, a “rescue” and “power”, he said.

The idea is to motivate people with models of holiness, without overloading them with too many figures.

“I can imagine some wonderful films about the lives of saints, he said.

Speaking about relations with the Evangelical Church in Germany and about ecumenism in general, the pope said a priority today is for Christians to work together to clarify and put into practice “ethical directives” in society. Moreover, Christians must also “witness to God in a world...that has problems finding him,” he said, demonstrating their belief that “humanity is not an evolution- ary product that turned out badly. We are the image of God.”

Addressing a question about the role of women in the life of a pope, he said: “I’m not a man who constantly thinks up jokes. But I think it’s very important to be able to see the funny side of life and its joyful dimension and not to take everything too tragically. I’d also say it’s necessary for my ministry,”

INTERVIEW CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

National collection Aug. 26-27 to aid hurricane-affected dioceses

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The needs of two dioceses affected by Hurricane Katrina “remain stag- gering and extremely urgent,” the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops said in announcing that the bishops had approved a special national col- lection for the weekend of Aug. 26-27.

Bishop William S. Skylstad of Spokane, Wash., said, in a July 10 memo to his fellow bishops that “the needs for Gospel-driven recovery in the Archdiocese of New Orleans and the Diocese of Biloxi (Miss.) are great now as they were immediately after the storms which caused them.”

American Catholics donated $26 million in the national collection for victims of hurricanes Katrina and Rita last September, but those funds went primarily to humanitarian relief, he said.

Bishop Skylstad said the 2006 national collection — approved by the bishops during their June meeting in Los Angeles — would give Archbishop Philip M. Hughes of New Orleans and Bishop Thomas J. Rodi of Biloxi “greater discretion in meeting the church’s recovery and rebuilding needs within these two dioceses.”

Sixty percent of the funds collected will go to the Archbishop of New Orleans and 40 percent will be given to the Diocese of Biloxi.

Bishop Skylstad said that in the Mississippi diocese, with only 70,000 Catholics, church- owned structures sustained more than $70 million in damage. All but five of the 433 church-owned structures in the diocese were destroyed or severely damaged.

In New Orleans, Archbishop Hughes estimated $52 million in uninsured flood damage to build- ings that the archdiocese is trying to reopen now. Buildings whose reopenings have been delayed sustained another $70 million in uninsured flood damage, he said.

“These costs place even greater burdens on people already overwhelmed by grief, dislocation and discouragement," Bishop Skylstad said in his memo.

Archbishop Joseph A. Fiorenza, retired head of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston and chairman of the bishops’ Task Force on Hurricane Recovery, was to prepare a report by Sept. 1, 2007, “on the status, distribution and disposition of the funds collected,” the memo said.

In a report to the bishops in Los Angeles, Archbishop Fiorenza said, “While the dioceses affected by Katrina and Rita are reporting significant progress in rebuilding and recovery, extraordinary needs remain throughout the region.

“Donor intent has understand- ably concentrated on humanitarian relief, but the demand is critically important; however, ‘bricks and mortar’ projects ... are placing exceptional burdens on the diocese- sons,” he added.

Bishop Skylstad closed the memo by quoting from an unnamed bishop in the hurricane-affected region: “Critical to the ongoing recovery is to keep the journey of the struggling people of this great region before the minds and hearts of the Catholic faithful. Their homes, their industry and their hearts are bro- ken.”
Priest finds church to be its people, rather than just an institution

BY JENNIFER ORCHSTEIN

NOTRE DAME — If it weren’t for his study of a modern martyr, Holy Cross Father Bob Pelton’s focus may have turned out a little different.

But it seems that from the time he first came in contact with Archbishop Oscar Romero in 1979 at an international conference of Latin American bishops, Father Pelton was fascinated. “I saw him while he was still alive,” said Father Pelton, 85, who teaches theology at the University of Notre Dame, where he is also director of Latin American North American Church Concerns at the Kellogg Institute.

About a year later, Archbishop Romero was dead. Romero was the Catholic archbishop of San Salvador, El Salvador and was martyred in 1980 for aiding the poor and speaking against the government’s violent treatment of the poor in that country.

Archbishop Romero’s apparent transformation was when he became Archbishop in 1977 by becoming close to the people of the country and realizing that the church was not an institution, Father Pelton said, drew him in. “You had the evolution of a person taking place,” said Father Pelton, who has published several books including his most recent called “Archbishop Romero: Martyr and Prophet for the New Millennium.”

Father Pelton said Archbishop Romero began to suffer with his countrymen as he came to the conclusion that the church is its people rather than an institution. During his homilies, Archbishop Romero began to report on those killed and denouncing the deaths and the government because of the deaths.

Father Pelton, who is a member of the Catholic Charities Board for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, said he may have not become as conscious of immigration issues as he has, had it not been for his study of Archbishop Romero and getting to know Romero’s friends over the years.

“He influenced me to be more faithful in my ministry in service to others and to lead a life more involved in faith and the Gospel,” Pelton said.

And, Pelton suggested, there is a relationship between what Archbishop Romero saw in the human rights viola- tions of his countrymen and the current issues of immigration.

Father Pelton said he knows the issue is a complex one and can’t be solved by a few recommendations.

But, he said, “we don’t solve the issue by putting up a higher barrier,” an apparent illusion to a decree to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. He does not propose eliminating legal barriers.

What he does suggest is abandoning a hard-line approach, while including legal and human dimensions of the argument.

Father Pelton said immigrants from Latin American countries don’t necessarily want to come to the U.S. and leave behind their wives and families. But many feel they must in order to make enough money to send back to their families.

Father Pelton was recently in Ecuador and was “received warmly” by Ecuadorians. “I felt us to be as welcoming as circumstances admit,” said Father Pelton, noting that he is not in the least supportive of criminals and drug runner who try to cross the border with those legitimately looking to make a better life for themselves and their families.

And the model of leadership Archbishop Romero had was having a courteous dialogue and treating people with differing opinions with respect — may be able to teach us all how to interact when it comes to issues of immigration.

“If I’m a positive influence, you’ll be a positive influence,” said Father Pelton, who’s working on a project to bring to video a documentary of U.S. civil trial of Archbishop Romero’s killer.

“That style of leadership calls for courage,” Father Pelton, who was ordained a priest in 1949 after observing priests who lived exemplary lives in his home parish, said it’s a model all of us can learn from.

“It was a model for me in terms of how to be a minister.”

Tuck Hopkins is one of more than 30 Barnes & Thornburg attorneys providing legal services to their fellow parishioners in the Diocese of Fort Wayne - South Bend.

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Neris Gonzales finds opportunity to promote ECOVIDA

BY JENNIFER OCHSTEIN

SOUTH BEND — For Neris Gonzales, the victim of torture in El Salvador in the late 1970s and early 1980s, finding the right place to settle has been a journey. She moved from Chicago to South Bend, where she is working at St. Adalbert Parish to extend ECOVIDA and the concept of the community garden, nutrition and permaculture to South Bend.

A tortured history

Gonzales was pregnant in December 1977 when she was abducted by El Salvadoran National Guardsmen. She was imprisoned, tortured with cigarette burns, electric shock and had her fingernails pulled out. She said in broken English from her new office at St. Adalbert. She was raped repeatedly. All of this because she was teaching other peasants in San Nicolas Lempa in El Salvador to read and use numerals.

“People were trying to teach the majority of El Salvadoran landowners how to care for the environment and nutrition. Here she will share her experience of what it means to be a farmer.”

Gonzales had the opportunity to meet with Archbishop Romero, and she often called him to report human rights violations that would then be denounced during his homilies.

“I am proud to have worked with them,” Gonzales said, “I continue their work today.”

Her day in court

Gonzales, along with other El Salvadorans who were tortured in the late 1970s and early 1980s, filed a lawsuit in Florida against two retired El Salvadoran generals — Jose Guillermo Garcia and Carlos Vides Casanova. In 2002, they won the lawsuit and were awarded over $54 million for the wrongs committed against them, but they have yet to collect any of the money.

Gonzales said she has also testified before Congress regarding torture of civilians.

Looking toward the future

Now Gonzales, who is executive director of ECOVIDA, works to show people how taking care of the environment is really taking care of themselves.

“Ecology is important for human and natural development,” Gonzales explained.

She said using the environment is not only catastrophic for the nature but for humans too. Gonzales said there were two reasons she decided to move to South Bend from Chicago — extending the reach of ECOVIDA and she needed to get away from such a large city.

“I needed peace in a smaller city,” Gonzales said. While she said she thinks Chicago is a beautiful place, she needed to have more opportunities to be in contact with nature.

“No more concrete,” she said. What is Chicago’s loss is South Bend’s gain.

According to Holy Cross Father Chris Cox, pastor of St. Adalbert in South Bend, he’s met many survivors of torture but none as whole and well adjusted as Gonzales.

“She’s been a tremendous lay minister in the church,” Father Cox said. “She’s had a powerful experience of what it means to be a Catholic lay person. She has the capacity to really bring some new dimensions to the parish.”

Part of that new dimension is starting an after-school program in which Gonzales will teach organic farming, teach nutrition and eventually set up a greenhouse on property owned by the parish as well as community gardens throughout the neighborhood.

Gonzales, who was pleased that Father Cox has been so accepting of the environmental and nutrition programs she offers, said she will teach the theories behind gardening, nutrition and how to care for the environment during her first year working with the parish.

“Next year we will put the theory into practice,” Gonzales said.
Indonesia postpones executions of Catholics after papal appeal

JAKARTA, Indonesia (CNS) — Hours after an appeal by Pope Benedict XVI, Indonesian officials issued a last-minute stay of execution for three Catholics, but said they would be executed after Aug. 20. Gen. Sutanto, the national police chief, announced the stay Aug. 11 for Fahruannya Tibo, 60, Dominggu da Silva, 39, and Marinsu Riwu. 48. The three were sentenced to death after being convicted in 2001 of murdering 200 Muslims in May-June 2000 in the Poso area, in Central Sulawesi. Christian-Muslim clashes from December 1998 to December 2001 in and around the area killed hundreds of people, with estimates ranging as high as 2,000. The Supreme Court upheld the death sentences of the three, and Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono rejected their plea for clemency Nov. 10. Hours before the stay was announced, the Vatican released the text of a telegram sent to Yudhoyono and signed by Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary of state. In the pope’s name, Cardinal Sodano asked Yudhoyono to intervene “on humanitarian grounds.”

Pope sends French cardinal to Lebanon, asks for prayers

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI is sending a personal envoy, Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, to Lebanon to offer special prayers for peace at Masses Aug. 15, the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Saying the pope continues “to follow the tragic events in the Middle East,” the Vatican announced Aug. 11 that the pope asked French Cardinal Roger Etchegaray, retired president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, to go to Lebanon. Pope Benedict asked the cardinal to assure the government “that every person is protected” and all those in the region who are “suffering” of his closeness in prayer and solidarity with them. He also asked Cardinal Etchegaray to pray with them “for the great intention of peace,” the Vatican statement said. His Aug. 10 visit will have an essentially religious character and will include, if possible, “a meeting” with the president. The celebration of Mass Aug. 15 at the Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon in Harissa, 17 miles north of Beirut, will shift to education, outreach, information-sharing and linking adoption-related efforts and resources to: advocate for worldwide adoption; to millions of homes in 110 countries.

Ontario bishop to seek laicization of priest who abused young girls

CHATHAM, Ontario (CNS) — Bishop Ronald Fabbro of London, Ontario, pledged to seek the laicization of a priest convicted of 47 counts of indecent assault, as well as revoking the diocese’s policy on how to deal with clergy sexual abuse. The bishop made the prom- ises at Mass Aug. 6, the feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord, in a homily to the congregation at St. Ursula Church, one of the parishes where Father Charles Sylvestre committed his crimes against young girls. Father Sylvestre, 83, pleaded guilty Aug. 3 to 47 charges involving girls ages 9-14. The assaults took place between 1954 and 1985 in parishes in Chatham, Windsor, Pain Court, Sarnia and London. Sentencing is still to come. Only the Vatican can return a priest to the lay state. “I sincerely apologize to the victims and their families for the abuse they endured at the hands of Father Sylvestre and for suffering the consequences of that abuse over the years,” Bishop Fabbro told the congregation. “I apologize as well for the failure of the church to protect the victims and their families from Father Sylvestre.”

San Francisco Catholic Charities takes new direction in adoptions

SAN FRANCISCO (CNS) — San Francisco Catholic Charities announced Aug. 2 that it would no longer be involved in the child adoption activities of home studies, family and child matching, adoptive placements or finalizations, the last formal step of the adoption process. Instead, it said, its adopt- ive-related efforts and resources will shift to education, outreach, information-sharing and linking prospective adoptive parents to county and private adoption agen- cies. The shift allows the agency to continue promoting adoption without entering areas of conflict between the church’s teaching about adoption by same-sex couples and civil laws requiring adopt- ion agencies not to discriminate against such couples when placing adoptive children. San Francisco Archbishop George H. Niederer, chairman of Catholic Charities and the Catholic Youth Organization — the full name of the archdiocesan agency — said in media interviews that he told board members in March that the agency could not be involved in direct adoptions, but he wished to find ways to serve the adoption community that were compatible with both Catholic moral teaching and the require- ments of civil law.

Church has room for those struggling with homosexuality, speakers say

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — The church makes room for men and women who struggle with homosexual temptations, a priest and a psychi- cian told a group in St. Louis July 28 at the annual conference of Courage at St. Louis University. Courage is a ministry that provides spiritual support for men and women with same-sex attractions who are striving to live chastely and accord with Catholic teaching. Father John Harvey, a moral the- ologian and founding director of Courage, and Peter Rudegeair, a clinical psychologist, addressed the conference. Father Harvey, an Oblate of St. Francis de Sales, is a Catholic Charities takes new direction in adoptions
Beginning Catechists Workshop offered

FORT WAYNE — Mary Barnes, director of religious education for St. Jude, Fort Wayne, has given beginning catechists workshops in past years. Beginning catechists are able to experience how to bring the message and love of Jesus Christ to the children of the diocese through Mary’s years of experience.

These sessions are offered at no cost to the parish or catechists. The Office of Catechesis will absorb all cost, but registration is required.

In the South Bend area, the Beginning Catechists Workshop will be on Saturday, Aug. 26, from 8 a.m. to noon at the Catholic Education Center. To register by Aug. 22, contact Jaclyn Irving by calling (574) 295-9994 ext. 1 or by e-mail at jirving@fw.diocesefwsb.org.

In the Fort Wayne area, the Beginning Catechists Workshop will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 29, and Thursday, Aug. 31, from 6:30 to 9 p.m., at the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center. To register by Aug. 25, contact Janice Martin by calling (260) 399-1411 or by e-mail at jmartin@fw.diocesefwsb.org.

Magazine offers unique writing contest for high school students

LaPORTE — True Girl magazine is providing an opportunity for high school students to put their thoughts and see their names in print. The magazine has plans to feature an article titled “I Love My School,” composed of writings by students who attend Catholic, public or home schools.

In an effort to highlight the unique and diverse learning environments from which our Catholic youth receive their education, the feature article will give students a choice to voice what they love about their school in their own words.

The contest will run from Sept. 1 through Dec. 1. Submissions must be written by a high school student, and should include the author’s name, address, e-mail contact, phone number, school name, school address and school phone number. Articles should be 500 words.

Three winners will be chosen for publication — one Catholic school student, one public school student, one homeschooled student.

Winners will have their name, picture and school information published along with their article. Send submissions to Brandi Lee, Editor-in-Chief, True Girl, 703 Michigan Ave., Suite 2, LaPorte, IN 46350 or via e-mail to brandi@truegirlonline.com.

Woodworking Carves Way Into Students’ Schedules

AROUND THE DIOCESE

JERID MILLER

Three young men — from left, Mark Blocker, Andy Herber and Alex Ceravolo — from Ss. Peter and Paul Parish in Huntington, gather for a wood carving lesson. Father Ron Reider, OFM, Cap., who has been carving most of his life, directs the young men in carving, giving them advice and encouragement as they carve their ideas into the basswood. The male students in grades 8-12 have been meeting for several weeks and will continue through the year. They hope to use some of the items they create to sell and raise money for charitable organizations around the holidays. In addition to teaching these young men a craft, the purpose of the group is to develop relationships between eighth graders and high school students, so that, as the students transition into high school youth activities, they will already know and have rapport with high school students.

Welcome Weekend also provides leadership and mentoring opportunities for current students. The orientation committee consists of 19 Holy Cross College sophomore, juniors and seniors who volunteer their time to help the new students learn about college life.

During Welcome Weekend, new students will learn about the history of Holy Cross College, go to sessions about college life and how to be successful, go on a canoe trip on the St. Joseph River and just hang out.

Central Catholic class of ‘61 hold golf outing, reunion

FORT WAYNE — The Central Catholic High School Class of 1961 is hosting an All Class Golf Outing on Friday, Sept. 22, at Brookwood Golf Course on the corner of Ferguson Road and Bluffton Road (Highway 1). Tee time will be at noon. Price is $35 per person and includes 18 holes of golf and golf cart. Skins and beverage cart will be available. Pair up your own foursome or be placed. Both men and women are invited. Prizes will be awarded.

For more information call Bill Sorg at (260) 638-4554.

The class will celebrate their 45th reunion on Sept. 23 at the Grand Wayne Center at 6 p.m. Loren “Klemm” Connell, OFM, will provide a reflection for the deceased members of the class at St. Mary Church.

The deadline for reservations has been extended to Sept. 8. For information call Rita Jansen King at (260) 747-5049.

Notre Dame receives AmeriCorps grant

INDIANAPOLIS — The University of Notre Dame’s ACE Professional Corps has been awarded a National Direct grant for 2006-07. The award, one of 11 recently announced by the Corporation for National and Community Service, will provide education awards for up to 185 ACE Professional Corps members across the country.

ACE Professional Corps members work as teachers in underresourced parochial schools across the country for two school years, during which they receive a living allowance of approximately $900 per month and a post-service stipend of $5,000. In addition to their service, members receive an education award worth $4,725 to be used only for repayment of student loans.

“I’m excited that Notre Dame, one of our great Indiana institutions, is part of the ACE and the Corporation’s national demonstration program,” said Paula Parker-Sawyers, executive director of Indiana’s office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, “this demonstrates how faith-based groups and government can work together to address community needs.”

ACE and the Corporation for National and Community Service have been partners since 1994, when ACE was selected as a national demonstration program by the corporation.

Welcome Weekend offers leadership and mentoring opportunities for current students.
Ritter’s supports Sisters of the Holy Cross’ mission

BY SISTER MAGGIE LAVONIS, CSC

NOTRE DAME — Ritter’s Ice Cream franchise owners Peter Loomis and Bob Jaques are trying to do their part to reach out to others and help make the world a better place. This summer, Ritter’s Ice Cream stores in South Bend and Mishawaka have continued to designate certain days during the summer to help raise funds for charitable organizations. One such organization, benefiting from Loomis’ generosity, is the Sisters of the Holy Cross based at Saint Mary’s in Notre Dame.

The congregation’s CSC Fund provides seed money to the ministries of its members throughout the world for projects that assist people in need. Many of these projects fund tuition for needy children to attend schools in developing nations. These monies, mainly raised through the generosity and generosity of benefactors, also support projects that teach the unemployed poor skills to help them make a living for themselves and their families. Sisters from various religious congregations were the pioneers who built the Catholic school system in the United States. Now that the schools are in the capable hands of the laity, many congregations, including the Sisters of the Holy Cross, are expanding their ministry of education to peoples of other lands.

On Sunday, Aug. 20, Ritter’s will give the CSC Fund a percentage of the sales for that day, including the purchase of gift certificates. Anyone who buys ice cream from a Ritter’s store will not only receive a delicious treat, they will also assist the Sisters of the Holy Cross in their mission of service to those in need.

Buying ice cream on this day is one way people educated in Catholic schools, especially those run by the Sisters of the Holy Cross, can say thanks to the many women who dedicated their lives to educating them.

LEGENO OF MARY REPRESENTED AT ST. JOSEPH COUNTY 4-H FAIR

The South Bend curia of the Legion of Mary hosted a Catholic information booth at the St. Joseph County 4-H Fair in South Bend from July 31-Aug. 5. Free rosaries, scapulars, medals, holy cards and leaflets were distributed to hundreds of fair visitors. In the photo, Mary Freienstein and Jean Tork at St. Anthony Parish in South Bend tend the Legion of Mary booth. The curia has been represented at the fair for over 50 years. The Legion of Mary is an international, apostolic organization for practicing Catholic men, women and children. For more information about the Legion of Mary, call Chester Mackowiak in South Bend at (574) 287-9204 or Connie Acierto in Fort Wayne at (260) 486-1001.

Priest shares faith journey with South Bend Serrans

BY ELMER J. DANCH

SOUTH BEND — Dedicate yourself to a prayerful life and, most important, focus on God, was the spiritual message of Father Charles Herman to members of the Serra Club of South Bend.

Now an associate at Holy Family Parish in South Bend, Father Herman said he was a teacher for 23 years before giving careful consideration to a religious vocation, and he was 50 years old before he was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop John M. D’Arcy on Nov. 29, 1997.

“A native of St. John, where he grew up on a dairy farm, Father Herman told the Serrans that his Catholic upbringing played a very significant part of his life as well as attending Catholic grade school.”

“Throughout my high school and college career at Indiana State University, I envisioned a teaching career, and I had the good fortune to teach for 23 years,” he said. “I also had visions of a calling from God, and it came at a point where it was most difficult to give up a teaching career that I really enjoyed. But when it came, I gave it up to enjoy the seminary at St. John Seminary in Brighton, Mass.”

After ordination, he was assigned to St. Joseph Catholic Parish in Fort Wayne and then to Immaculate Conception Parish in Auburn. And this year he was assigned as an associate at Holy Family Parish in South Bend, “which I thoroughly enjoy.”

South Bend Serrans expand membership

SOUTH BEND — Joining the expanding membership of the Serra Club of South Bend at recent installation ceremonies were Penny Cyr and Ned Schubring of St. John Baptist Parish in Fort Wayne, George A. Resnik, former district governor of Serra and Serra president Deacon Ronald J. Moser conducted the ceremonies. — EJD
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
The Good News in Education

Diocesan schools celebrate Good News

BY FATHER STEVE KEMPINGER, CSC

The television commercials, “Back to School” sales and the August weather announce to the world that it is time for school to begin. Forty-four schools across our diocese begin to come to life. Administrators, teachers and support staff begin to prepare for the exciting day when students of all ages begin the new school year. For me, this is a very special new school year as I start my new ministry as superintendent.

Catholic Schools: The Good News in Education is the national theme for Catholic Schools this year. The logo features an open book, symbolizing both the Bible and knowledge and underscoring the Christ-centered foundation and academic excellence of Catholic schools. In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, the good news shines forth in 44 schools and is reflected upon the 13,500 students who walk through our doors every school day. We have over 900 teachers that through their professionalism, personal sacrifices and daily witness to the faith, model for our students the Christ-centered foundation that integrates learning and faith.

The good news in education is reflected in the outcomes that are our students. Catholic schools make a major impact on their students and how they perform as compared to other students nationwide. This is witnessed in their performance on standardized tests such as the ISTEP+. Recently in the news we see that a majority of our schools have been recognized by the state of Indiana as showing “exemplary progress” towards their accreditation status. Study after study has shown that Catholic school graduates continue their faith lives in parishes across our country and are more likely to volunteer or provide some service to the poor. Catholic schools continue to bring the good news well after graduation.

I have been asked on several occasions what is the best way to help our Catholic schools. The answer is simple. Participate in the life of your parish. By going to Mass regularly, a person is modeling for our young people what it means to be a faithful servant of Christ. In practicing Christian stewardship by sharing your time, talent and treasure, with your parish, a person educates our young people on the importance of giving back to God a portion of all the gifts that God has given us. On average, the tuition at our schools only covers two-thirds of the cost to educate our students. Using your envelopes, participating in the Annual Bishop’s Appeal and Legacy of Faith campaigns help make up the difference. Your participation in the life of your parish makes you part of the good news in education.

By our common baptism, we are called to go and preach the good news to all nations. The second suggestion for helping our schools is just as simple as the first. Spread the good news in education by telling others all the good things that are occurring at our schools. The individual message from one parent to another is the best marketing a school can have. Our successes speak for themselves; all that is needed is the invitation. Be a part of the good news in education by inviting others to experience it themselves.

I never imagined that I would hold such a position in educational leadership. My vocation as a religious and priest was grounded in my vocation as a teacher. As a Holy Cross religious, I truly believe in our founders words of wisdom. Father Basil Moreau, CSC, called on his fellow religious to be educators in the faith by educating the minds and hearts of students. My prayer for this school year is that every child’s mind and heart will be touched by the love and wisdom that Christ offers each of us.

BY FATHER STEVE KEMPINGER, CSC

Father Steve Kempinger, CSC, is the superintendent of Catholic Schools, Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.
Six diocesan elementary schools welcome new leadership

As the 2006-2007 school year opens around the area, the elementary schools in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend are anticipating an exciting new year. Staff and students alike are welcoming new principals in six elementary schools.

Ali Bergman

In Fort Wayne, Ali Bergman will take the helm at Most Precious Blood School. She brings a background of business administration as well as six years of teaching experience to the position. She, with the positive and enthusiastic staff, plans to work toward increasing enrollment as well as increasing the Catholic identity of the student population of this preschool through eighth grade elementary.

Bergman also believes “community is first” and plans to work closely with the pastor there to bring the parish and school together as community. She and her husband, Kelly, and their three children reside in Garrett where they attend St. Joseph Parish.

Jane Sandor

St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne welcomes Jane Sandor as administrator. With a master’s degree in educational leadership, 11 years of teaching experience and two years in administration, Sandor feels she was called to lead the staff and students of St. John. She and the dedicated staff there plan to create longevity in school and family.

Parish and school cooperation are very important to her. “They are partners together as community.” She and her husband, John, and their three children reside in Garrett area, the elementary years to insure a solid faith in later life. She is a long time member of St. Vincent Church.

Steve Donnelinger

Steve Donnelinger has accepted the principal’s position at St. Jude School in South Bend, where he and his wife, Kelly, have been members of the parish for six years. With an academic degree from Notre Dame, Donnelinger taught fourth grade for four years in the Catholic schools before deciding to “step out and take a leadership role.”

St. Jude was a perfect fit. Because the school has undergone several transitions in the recent past, he intends to “ensure the strength and health of the school” and his vision for the future includes, using innovative curriculum, integrating subject areas, service outreach and the facilitation of better communication between school and family. He hopes to increase the faith component “one step at a time.”

Suzan LaPeer

Also in South Bend, Corpus Christi opens its doors with Suzan LaPeer as administrative head. She comes to the South Bend from the Diocese of Gary and brings 15 years of teaching experience and 21 years in administration.

The sense of family is strong among the staff of the school of over 400, says LaPeer. She adds that she believes that the purpose of Catholic education is to uplift and continue to “provide the quality education it has put out over the years.”

Charles Grimm

Charles Grimm, incoming principal of St. Aloysius, Yoder, agrees with LaPeer, saying, “Catholic education is so strong in the fundamentals and we can talk about God.”

Grimm, a member of St. Mary Parish, Decatur, lives with his seven-year-old Lab, Zoey. He holds a master’s degree in education and administration and 15 years of teaching experience including reading readiness and development direction. Grimm also brings six years of administrative experience to the job. His vision for St. Aloysius School is to increase enrollment and continue to “provide the quality education it has put out all these years.”

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Theresa Carroll

Theresa Carroll, St. Bernard School’s new principal, in Wabash, holds a master’s degree in administration and supervision and has completed the Prospective Principals’ Program. Carroll brings 14 years of teaching experience to her new post where she intends to work to continue the “high academic standards they already have there” where she feels the family environment keeps her close to God. Carroll has one son and is a long time member of St. Bernard Parish.

Prospective Principals Program

The Prospective Principals Program is a two year program offered through the diocesan Catholic Schools Office. Several of these new principals have completed the training that includes an overview of budgeting, reviewing policy and procedures, community relations, legal issues, supervision involvement and board meetings.

The candidates also have the opportunity to shadow a veteran principal. The second year of the program involves leadership personality testing and nurturing the faith as spiritual, academic and instructional leaders. The training is made possible through a grant from Our Sunday Visitor.

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University of Saint Francis extends a gift to Catholic school teachers

BY SISTER JANE CAREW

The 44 Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend aspires to have “Catholic identity” as the number one priority. In the four Catholic high schools, all teachers of religion must have or be working toward a master’s degree in theological studies. Thus, 25 competent teachers along with theologically astute pastoral ministers and priest chaplains become the leaders and leaven of faith formation. In many Catholic elementary schools full-time religion teachers trained through a two-year program, Education for Ministry, and based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church and Scriptures, competently teach grades 6, 7 and 8 religion full time.

A growing opportunity has arisen for all elementary Catholic school teachers through the education department at the University of Saint Francis. For the past three summers they have given three master’s level credits for a course, which focuses on methodology for the teaching of religion as well as religious content. The state of Indiana accepts this course as one of two needed every five years for license renewal. For a very reasonable cost, teachers are strengthened in their faith and taught the major issues of methodology as developed in the 2004 edition of the National Directory for Catechesis for use in the United States.

In dialogue with the University of Saint Francis, the Catholic Schools Office helped to establish the first summer course in June of 2004. This was held in Kendallville at Immaculate Conception Education Center. Eighteen teachers responded positively, but few were from South Bend because of the longer daily ride. Last summer the course was attended by 18 in Warsaw with very positive results. However, the same frustration of two hours of driving each day was expressed. South Bend teachers encouraged us to have a course given there.

Listening to their promptings, the Catholic Schools Office in collaboration with the Office of Catechesis ventured to offer the course titled “The Mystery of God: The Journey of the Catholic Educator” in both Fort Wayne and South Bend. Applications began to accumulate wanting to keep the class around 25 in number. In Fort Wayne the application deadline was mid-June and resulted in 29 registrations. As the deadline for registrations came to closure, 25 signed up in Fort Wayne and 50 in South Bend. Registration was coming in from 25 schools.

Classes began June 19 with four-hour sessions each day for two weeks. Fort Wayne teachers met at the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center with Meg Hanlon from the religion department at Bishop Luers High School as presenter. The Fort Wayne teachers had an added bonus of visiting the Cathedral Bookstore during their breaks.

In South Bend, Vicki Schwab from Marian High School’s religion department taught 24 teachers at Marian. Greg Doyle of the Institute for Church Life at the University of Notre Dame agreed to teach the third group of teachers at South Bend. As time progressed, all the news seemed very positive. Evaluations at the closure confirmed this. One teacher stated that her “passion for teaching religion was strengthened.” She is thankful every day to teach religion, but this course reinforced for her how important this work is. “The course was more than I imagined it could be. Everyday was packed full of great information.”Another teacher stated in her evaluation, “This course has impacted my faith in God because I can defend my faith more due to the knowledge I have gained.”

Another teacher wrote, “I learned so much about the doctrine of the Catholic faith and the history of the church. The Apostles Creed means so much more to me now as I understand the struggles the church went through to protect our beliefs.” Yet another teacher stated, “This course has given me the scriptural background for many of the beliefs I hold dearly in my heart. My passion for God is already a vivid part of my life … I love how I have been taught to evaluate and give evidence for these beliefs.” All the evaluations gleaned these types of statements.

Each teacher listed the strengths of the program. In each class the three presenters were individually affirmed as being passionate about their faith, fantastical teachers, knowledgeable about their subject matter and providing great methodology and resources.

Assignments, projects and group discussions strengthened the learning methodology. Teachers enjoyed meeting others from surrounding schools and new friendships were formed. Many expressed a new confidence in teaching the faith. Many teachers want to encourage others on their staffs to take advantage of this wonderful experience next summer.

In three summers 105 teachers have completed the course and gained a requirement for license renewal.

The diocese thanks the University of Saint Francis for such a gift. Also recognized in gratitude is Greg, Vicki and Meg for witnessing and modeling the ideal of being faith-filled catechists. Many children will benefit from all these instructors gave to their groups.

Instructor Vicki Schwab of Marian’s theology department moderates the course, “Understanding the Mystery of God: The Journey of the Catholic Educator.” The course was offered in South Bend and Fort Wayne this summer. Pictured, from left, are Judy King of Holy Family School, Kathy Leyes of Corpus Christi School and Mary Dombos of Holy Family.

A NEW YEAR, SOME NEW FACES. SAME GREAT SPIRIT.

On behalf of the administration of Saint Joseph’s High School, I would like to welcome the new and returning students, faculty and staff to a new academic year.

The administrative team is looking forward to continuing our long tradition of excellence in academics, faith and service.

Susan Richter
Principal

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Wednesday, August 23rd
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Early Registration for Fall Classes

On behalf of the administration of Saint Joseph’s High School, I would like to welcome the new and returning students, faculty and staff to a new academic year.

The administrative team is looking forward to continuing our long tradition of excellence in academics, faith and service.

Susan Richter
Principal

SAINT JOSEPH’S
HIGH SCHOOL
The tradition of excellence continues
EDITORIAL

The priority of peace over discord

Because we live in a world so torn by discord and conflict, we might assume that this is simply the way things have always been and, in fact, somehow the way God intended it, and that peace and harmony are necessarily the product of division and conflict.

Yet an important doctrine of our faith is that it was not so in the beginning and was not intended so by the Lord; that is, as Father Robert Barron, a priest and theologian from Chicago has written, a truly Catholic faith affirms the priority, both temporally and ontologically (in the very structure of reality), of peace.

All the discord and division we experience — beginning with the internal contradictions that mar our own inner lives to the military conflicts in Lebanon, Iraq, the Sudan and elsewhere — are ultimately the product of, and witness to, human sinfulness. As a result of the fall, the entire cosmos has been wrenched as it were, and conflict and confrontation might appear second nature to us. Yet this is not how it was intended in the beginning, and the accounts related in the first four chapters of Genesis teach us in a powerful way that alienation, discord, and envy and the violence, which attaches ultimately to these, have afflicted the human family seemingly since the beginning — but also that it was neither the way things were in the beginning nor the way God intends them at the end.

To live in the here and now as citizens of God’s city, members of his kingdom, is to embrace the temporal and ontological priority of peace. It means we must undergo the conversion not only of our hearts, but also our imaginations, which are often trapped in the “dog-eat-dog” world view whose origins can be found in Cain’s prelude to Abel’s death. By grace, we are released from the tired and cramped constraints of a fallen imagination, we can live, think, feel and conceive of things not under the worn rubrics of power, domination, personal advantage and self-interest (all aspects of what St. Augustine called the “libido dominandi” — the desire to dominate and manipulate others, found in us individually and writ-large in societies and cultures), but under the ban of agapic love, which Pope Benedict has reminded us is the only sane and salvific alternative in the face of so much human sadness.

Peace, St. Augustine taught, is “tranquillitas ordinis,” the harmony found in the right ordering of things, beginning with the right ordering of our lives. Sin, disordered love, has introduced disorder into our lives and our world on a massive scale. The true beginning or starting-point for peace in our world must begin with personal conversion: the commitment, under grace, to order our lives rightly in accord with our vocation to holiness in God’s original plan for the human family.


COMMENTARY

Cathedral plans lending library

A lending library of Catholic materials is now being developed at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne. Donations of books, tapes and a few periodicals for children and adults are sought on these themes: Our Blessed Mother, the Bible — history and commentaries; church documents and papal writings; biographies of the popes, saints and other significant figures; prayer/devotion books; inspirational works and spiritual development, among others.

Individuals wishing to donate items may bring their book materials to the parish office in the Cathedral Center between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., weekdays. You may call the parish office, (260) 424-1485, to leave a message or to inquire further about the project.

Thank you for your interest in our efforts. Your gifts will be seriously appreciated. Items will be prepared and made available for lending to interested library patrons from our parish and beyond. Any gift received, which is not within our scope, will be passed on. We look forward to announcing the grand opening of our library sometime in the fall, 2006.

Pauline Flynn
Cathedral Library Committee
Fort Wayne

Committee on Church in Latin America sends thanks

Dear Bishop D’Arcy,

Thank you for the most recent contribution of $70,651.48 to the 2006 Collection for the Church in Latin America. As of this date, the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend has contributed a total of $70,651.48. Our Collection on the Church in Latin America is most grateful.

As you know, one of the committee’s major responsibilities is to provide grants to projects that address the pastoral needs of the faithful in Latin America and the Caribbean. It is through your support and financial gifts to the work of the Committee on Church in Latin America that we were able to support a number of projects.

Thank you once again for your generosity and support.

Rev. John R. Manz, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago
Chairman Committee on the Church in Latin America

Pope’s translated book worth reading

BY MICHAEL HEINTZ

I am sometimes asked what the best “starting point” is for understanding Pope Benedict’s thought. Until quite recently, I usually suggested reading “Salt of the Earth” or “God and the World,” two book-length interviews by the journalist Peter Seewald. However, one day quite by chance I came across the first one more recent than the second, which is a bit more challenging on the reader. However, a recent and slender volume only lately appearing from Ignatius Press provides the best introduction and orientation to the thought of the man who became the 264th successor to St. Peter.

Originally published in German in 1965, “What It Means to be a Christian” has only this year been translated for the first time into English. This little book contains the text of three homilies given during Advent, 1964, to college students gathered at the Cathedral at Munster. To my mind, these three talks capture the key features and lineaments of the thought of Joseph Ratzinger, ideas which one can trace in development, among others.

The first homily contends that the life of the Christian is one of perpetual Advent, where Christ is always the one who comes, and that in the life of the believer the easy-made distinctions between “saved” and “reprobate,” between “redeemed” and “unredeemed” are far less clear. In fact, each believer experiences in the very fiber of his being this rift between what is redeemed and what has yet to be redeemed. The reader can see this macrocosmically, so to speak, in our world today, riven with conflict, violence and sadness.

He concludes by suggesting that God’s two most basic modes of revelation are his creation and what Ratzinger calls his “hiddenness” — the fact that God has chosen to reveal himself in human history in the most unexpected and unlikely of ways: the seemingly insignificant people called as Israel in an infant born in the outskirts of an obscure village in a backwater province of the ancient world; in a Man who dies an ignominious death on a cross.

His second homily emphasizes that to be a Christian is to be “for” others, to be available to them, to exist for them. The occupational hazard of being a believer is to think that the divine gift of faith has been given for our own use — as though we are to sit back, complacent and self-satisfied, confident in the faith we have received. Rather, one is given the faith precisely, Ratzinger urges, to be at the service of the other. To acknowledge that “God loves me” entails enormous responsibility and necessarily demands a lifestyle that is unapologetically called for (a theme we can see clearly in his first encyclical).

His last homily introduces a concept dear to Ratzinger’s thought and which he calls “Introversion to Christianity,” and which he calls “the law of superabundance.” Drawing on Mt 5:20, where Jesus suggests that the righteousness of his followers must possess a superabundance (peris-seuion) not found in that of the scribes and Pharisees, Ratzinger suggests what the divine gift of Christian is not the desire to fulfill the precept of the moral law, but the desire to go beyond the mere precept, to seek the good without any “calculation”; in short, without the calculus of self-interest. And it is precisely in this way that the essence of the Christian life can be understood as agapic, self-emoting love.

While in my mind, Joseph Ratzinger’s “Introduction to Christianity,” a demanding read, which nonetheless repays the effort, is perhaps his finest work, “What It Means to be a Christian” is perhaps the most accessible, most beautiful and most compelling exposition of his view of the life of a believer today. Everyone should read it.

Father Michael Heintz is the rector of St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend.

* WOWWW! SAY A PRAYER THAT WE CAN STAY UP HERE FOREVER, MOM! *
We must eat to have eternal life

**THE SUNDAY GOSPEL**

**MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION**

**20th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Jn 6:51-58.

The Book of Proverbs furnishes this weekend’s first reading. Its origins are interesting. As time passed, and as events unfolded, many Jews left the Holy Land, the land they believed had been God’s gift to their ancestors, for places with greater economic opportunity and perhaps more personal freedom. Jews at home in the Holy Land increasingly had to contend with the presence of persons whose cultural and religious ties were elsewise. By invasion, or merely by migration, people not of Hebrew ethnicity or religious belief had come into the land.

A series of biblical works arose, occasioned either by the need to confront paganism, or to convince readers of the credibility of the ancient Jewish religion in the face of contesting pagan theologies and value systems.

Proverbs expresses human logic and wisdom, but only to the extent, it insists, that God’s revelation, as heard from Moses and the prophets, constitutes the greatest wisdom. Wisdom, of course, is the human ability to perceive reality, and to act on it.

Proverbs presents wisdom as if wisdom were a person. It is the author’s effort to say that wisdom comes from God. Only God possesses true wisdom. For its second reading, the church this weekend offers us a passage from the Epistle to the Ephesians. At times, it is easy to presume that the earliest communities of Christians were marked by harmony and unity, in action and in belief. The evidence from the New Testament is abundant in telling us that the contrary prevailed.

Not all the first Christians were angels on earth, by any means. They did not always love each other. They quarreled. They disputed. And they did not always act in unions.

Thus, the theme of conciliation and common cause, based firmly on faith in the Lord Jesus and love for each other and for all people, runs throughout the Pauline literature.

This weekend’s reading from Ephesians is within this framework. It calls all the Christians of Ephesus to morality and to faith. St. John’s Gospel provides the last reading. It is a compelling, magnificent Scripture. It beautifully follows the reading of last weekend and that of three weekends ago. These past readings, and the reading for this weekend, are wonderful in their messages of our needs, of God’s lavish provision for our needs, and of the implications for the Eucharist.

This weekend’s reading frankly states that many who heard Jesus could not understand, or accept, the admonition that of have eternal life they must “eat the flesh of the Son of Man.”

Nevertheless, Jesus persisted. Only those who eat the flesh of the Son of Man, and drink the blood of the Son of Man, will live.

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**THE VATICAN LETTER**

**JOHN THAVIS**

Boys from all over Italy come to the Vatican to serve from late June to early August. Services for the remainder of August and early September is in the hands of a group of altar boys from Malta. Clearly, they are the first day teaching them everything they need to know to serve Mass in St. Peter’s, including where to enter the basilica, what vestments they need to wear and where the various altars are located, Father Radice said. Although some of them know some of the responses in Latin, “he” said. Usually after having written to...

**LETTER, PAGE 14**

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**CATEQUIZ’EM**

By Dominic Campillos

In the month named for Augustus Caesar, this quiz looks at Caesars.

1. Why is Julius Caesar not featured in the New Testament?
   a. Because he was a pagan and Jews refused to recognize him as a ruler.
   b. Because he claimed to be a god.
   c. Because he was dead well before the New Testament age.

2. Which Caesar ruled when Jesus was born?
   a. Augustus
   b. Tiberius
   c. don’t know

3. How do we know?
   a. Because Luke’s Gospel is clear that Augustus demanded a census “of the whole world.”
   b. Because he was Caesar when Jesus died, so it in only fitting he was there when Jesus was born.
   c. Because the chronology of the Bible is vague. It could have been any Roman emperor.

4. This Caesar was the emperor who ruled shortly after the death and resurrection of Christ?
   a. Augustus
   b. Tiberius
   c. Julian the Apostate

5. This Caesar was the one who reigned when Jesus was put to death:
   a. Tiberius
   b. Julian the Apostate
   c. Domitian

6. And this Caesar was the one who exiled John to Patmos:
   a. Tiberius
   b. Julian the Apostate
   c. Domitian

7. This emperor, who was notorious even amongst pagans, blamed the Christian community for burning Rome and is the best candidate to be the Beast (666 and all):
   a. Galba
   b. Otho
   c. Nero

8. Amongst the Jews, including the disciples, “Caesar” often referred to this, rather than a person:
   a. The law
   b. The political authorities, government
   c. Gentiles in general, more specifically polytheists

9. What did Jesus note included a likeness of Caesar?
   a. the Holy of Holies
   b. the statue of Tiberius, which was placed in the Temple by Herod
   c. a coin

10. What did Jesus advise doing with those things that belonged to Caesar?
   a. They should be cast out as graven images.
   b. They should be worshipped since there was no harm, if you knew they were just men.
   c. They should be “rendered unto” (given to) Caesar.

11. Caesarea was named after Augustus. Who built this syphonic path?
   a. Herod the Great
   b. Herod Antipasta
   c. Pontius Pilate

12. Although sometimes details are missing about the disciples, we learn this unusual fact about Philip who resided in Caesarea:
   a. He had four cats and a dog that looked like a cat.
   b. He had four unmarried daughters all who were gifted with prophesy.
   c. He was the first polymagist to become a disciple, and his three wives were amongst the first deaconesses.

13. The fact that he had appealed to Caesar was, according to Apregia, the only reason that this man could not just be freed:
   a. Jesus
   b. Peter
   c. Paul

14. Caesarea Philippi is another Holy Land city, and thought to be near the scene of this significant statement by Peter:
   a. Hey Judas, I can see your house from here.
   b. You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.
   c. Man does not live by bread alone.

15. It is also likely near this same town, in the area of Mt. Herodes, that this significant transformation event took place:
   a. The flagellation
   b. The baptism (changing of wine into water)
   c. The Transfiguration

**ANSWERS:**

1. c, 2. a, 3. b, 4. a, 5. c, 6. c, 7. b, 8. c, 9. c, 10. a, 11. a, 12. b, 13. c, 14. b.
Two New Testament Jameses create confusion through history

I'm confused about the apostles James and James, who was killed in Jerusalem and who was buried in Spain? D.W., South Bend

There are many Jameses mentioned in the New Testament, and there have been arguments throughout the history of the church about which of the Jameses are separate individuals and which are the same person.

James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John were called the sons of Thunder, possibly because he was taller. James and John were with Jesus throughout his ministry.

Marriage, courts and the amendment

Monte Pedro 2,470 feet high. In A.D. 813 the tomb and bones of James were found. There were reports of miracles, and soon great throngs of people were flocking to Santiago to honor the relics of St. James. King Alfonso III had a basilica built above the tomb of James in A.D. 896. So Santiago became the most important place of pilgrimage in the Middle Ages next to Rome and Jerusalem. James became the patron saint of Spain.

The way of James was the path of the Spanish cities of Pamplona, Burgos and Leon. The pilgrimage route was lined by monasteries, churches and hostels maintained by the Benedictines, secular orders and local bishops. The 12th-century Armenian cathedral of St. James in Jerusalem is the shrine of the head of James. There is another member of the Twelve Apostles called James, the son of Alpheus. He was present in the Upper Room at Jerusalem after the Ascension of Jesus when Matthias was elected to take the place of Judas Iscariot.

James, the son of Alpheus, has often been identified with James, the brother of the Lord, who was head of the Christian community in Jerusalem, but many modern scholars feel they are two separate people. The risen Christ appeared to James, the brother of the Lord, and this James freed the new gentle Christians from all but four Jewish obligations.

This James was martyred in A.D. 62. He was thrown down into the river Tormes and drowned in the Temple area wall and clubbed out of his misery by a fuller in the valley below.

There is also the name of the father of Levi or Matthew the apostle. Father John McKenzie feels these two Alpheauses are two separate people. James, the son of Alpheaus, is connected with Philip the apostle and their family. St. Philip and James is celebrated on May 3.

Today’s Catholic welcomes questions from readers to pose to Father Richard Hare, Father Michael Heintz, Father Mark Gurtner and the Office of Worship. Please e-mail your questions to editor@fw.diocesekbf.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 on all mail. We will contact you if necessary. Anonymity will be preserved upon request.

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Ruth is an example of fidelity, piety

What is important about Ruth that she gets her own book in the Bible?

The story of Ruth begins with Elimelech, a Judean who settled in Bethlehem in what is now southern Israel. Because of a famine there, Elimelech took his wife Naomi, his two sons Mahlon and Chilion southeast to the plateau of Moab, a field north and south of the Arnon River, which marks the border between Moab and the land of the Amorites. The closest living relative to Elimelech’s field, died without issue. Naomi decided to return to the land of her fathers. She and her two widows, Naomi’s daughters-in-law Orpah and Ruth, came with her to Bethlehem. Ruth then made an oath: “Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people and your God my God.” In abandoning her country and its gods, she entered into a great way. To say Ruth is a picture of fidelity and piety is no exaggeration.

At Bethlehem Ruth meets Boaz, a wealthy landowner and a relative of Naomi. He takes an interest in Naomi and her two daughters-in-law who came with her from Moab. Boaz is her kinsman by marriage and has the right to redeem Elimelech’s land. This is one of the highlights of my life. But the four best years of my life were those that ultimately tie it all together when those reunion invitations go out in the mail. I’m sure not every Marian graduate has felt this way. But I bet the majority has. I’ve always told our players that as Marian students, we should feel like we have an advantage on the baseball field. Some may consider that a bit arrogant and a put-down of other schools. It’s not intended to be that. But the fact is that at Marian, we don’t have to deal with some issues that other schools deal with. We know that every day we walk into a classroom, we’re walking into an environment that is conducive to learning. We walk into an environment where the sense of self-worth is heightened by the teachers and administrators. Obviously we’re talking about a pretty good group of people. But it’s also the Marian environment that fosters a spirit of togetherness. And quite frankly, I don’t think that spirit of togetherness can be created quite like that without the strong sense of family that exists within the school.

While you’re a student at Marian, you look at the discipline applied as administrators as a benefit. But when you leave Marian, get married and have kids, you realize that a Marian High School education has value that can’t be measured by a price tag. For my wife and me, it wouldn’t matter how much it cost to send a son to Marian. No price would be too high for the lifelong rewards that come with it.

Our baseball team is, general-ly speaking, comprised of kids who want to contribute to the team. No one wants to put the team’s well being ahead of their own, and want to do the right thing. Of course, there are exceptions to the rule, but that is one of the challenges that faces coaches. But I always know that we have enough character and enough good kids to achieve success.

We certainly don’t win them all. We’ve averaged nearly 20 victories per season, yet we’ve lost some to good national championship games.

But the one thing we’ve had no problem with is instilling in our players the pride that comes with being a Marian Knight. We're proud to be Marian Knights, now and forever.
BY G. DAVID BOKHART
AND BILL SCOTT

FORT WAYNE — Teams around the Mid-States Football Association look at the University of Saint Francis (USF) football team and see the glass as half empty.

USF opposition considers the Cougars vulnerable after the departure of the second-class of seniors — 19 of them who were 49-4 the last four years. USF head coach Kevin Donley has a different perspective. He feels the glass is half full though he must replace six starters on offense and four on defense in the ninth season in program history. USF will face a schedule that includes five teams that featured winning records in 2005 and the NAIA Championship Series qualifiers.

Filling up that glass would mean an 11th consecutive MSCFA Mideast League title and an eighth consecutive NAIA Football Championship Series berth.

“It is their turn,” Donley said referring to Derrick Alderman, Eric Hooks, Jeff Wedding, Brian Smiley, Mickey Cassiday and Doug Wasylk just to mention a few players on defense. “They’ve got strengths and talents and they’ve seen what it takes to be winners. They have helped make us a winning program playing on the scout teams.”

“Now they’ve got a chance to put their ability to the test to a new national goal — winning a national championship and bringing it back to Fort Wayne — is still out there, still motivating our players and staff.”

“It’s not as if they don’t have help,” Donley said. “A wise, savvy football coach at Ohio State once told me you can figure on one loss for every freshman you start, but we changed that thinking in 2002 with a new quarterback in charge.”

That 2002 Cougars team went 10-0 after the graduation a talented batch of seniors.

Now Donley isn’t so bold to predict a fifth straight unbeaten regular season, but he is confident in the ability and potential in both the returning players and newcomers, which includes 11 young men who were on either the North or South team in the mid-July Indiana All-Star Classic.

USF welcomes back a very solid defense including two NAIA First-Team All-Americans — inside linebacker Brian Kurtz and interior lineman William Knepper. Paul Carter, who tied for the NAIA lead in interceptions in 2005 with nine, also returns on defense along with 2005 sacks leader Vincent Price, Cody VanDeursen, Tim Farrell, Mark Drobac and Matt Millhouse.

Kurtz, Knepper and Carter were named Football Gazette pre-season first team All-America.

“The big difference on defense is we’ve got more experience returning from 2005,” Donley said. “We’re fortunate to have so much experience and talent back. It should take some pressure off our offense, especially early in the season.”

Whether it is Hooks or Wedding at quarterback, they do have two experienced receivers to throw to in Zach Rainey and Bo Thompson. Up front the leader is center John Wolf, a full-time starter in 2005, along with part-time starter Smiley and Luke Lichtensteiger, who saw significant playing time as a freshman in 2005.

The Cougars reported to start final preparations for the ninth season on Aug. 16. They will play six home games and six road games during the season, but open on the road at William Penn on Sept. 9. All USF football games can be heard on radio station WSYY 106.3 FM.

USF fall sports in capsules

FORT WAYNE — The following are capsules for the rest of the University of Saint Francis (USF) fall athletics programs. Schedules can be accessed at www.sfu.edu/athletics.

Soccer — Women

After ending 2005 on the brink of advancing to the NAIA National Championships, head coach Ken Nuber and the Cougar women’s soccer team hope to use a penalty-kick loss to Cornerstone University in the NAIA Region VIII semi-finals as motivation to complete the job this season and book a trip to Olathe, Kan., for the 2006 national tournament.

“That loss really hurt the team. We had the game won and then fell asleep in the final minutes,” Nuber said. “We improved in a lot of ways last season, but our mental toughness is an area of concern now as we look to put it all together.”

Leading USF to that end will be senior captain and four-year starter Michelle Austin, who has anchored a very stingy Cougar backline since her rookie campaign in 2003. As a junior, she and then-sophomore goalkeeper Stacey Rider led a record-breaking defense, which kept 15 opponents off the scoreboard and set a school-record consecutive score-less minutes streak. A capable

molecule of attacking players return, joined by the largest freshman class in recent memory, to form a championship-quality roster ready for the challenges of the Mid-Central Conference schedule and beyond.

USF’s leading returning scorers are central midfielders Laura Leffers, a junior, and sophomore Mary Whisler, who combined for 15 goals and 17 assists in 2005.

Volleyball

Confidence, health, depth — the University of Saint Francis volleyball team will count on all three elements to erase the memory of consecutive sub-.500 seasons after winning the Mid-Central Conference championship in 2003. The sting of losing 2005 seniors Sarah Davis and Hillary Smith is soothed by the return of a solid nucleus of letter-winners and the addition of a heralded rookie class — which has been compared to the group that led the Lady Cougars to the league crown three seasons ago.

Relatively young last year with then-freshmen Cecilia Tienken and Amanda Wiley forced to lead the attack, USF lacked confidence and a killer instinct late in matches, which resulted in five different five-game defeats. The Lady Cougars twice led 2-0 — versus eventual MSC champ Bethel College Sept. 14 and against Mount Vernon Nazarene University Sept. 24 — before surrendering the final three games of the match.

“Inexperience and youth contributed to those five-game losses and we must become better finishers,” coach Hector Kiely said. “Too many times we let games slip from our hands and your confidence can only take so many heart-breaking defeats.”

After an injury-riddled 2005, the Lady Cougars are healthy and a re-tooled roster will provide plenty of quality depth at every spot on the court. One of 2004’s top performers, Jessica Enterline, played in four matches before being sidelined by a shoulder injury and sophomore Courtney Longardner played with pain throughout the campaign before undergoing off-season surgery.

Soccer — men

Though the Cougars are on the young side with just three seniors and nine junons back, head coach Mitch Ellisen and assistant G. David Bokhart, a Bishop Luers grad, are confident USF can improve on a 4-15-3 record in 2005. Team captains Zach Christman and Brandon Ingram have led the way to get the Cougars back on the winning track. Other key returnees include Joe Carter (Bishop Dwenger), Nick Fowler, Marty Wyss, Jovan Jeftich, John Thede, Bryan Blanks and Nick Swanson. Key newcomers include junior college transfer Amos Rodriguez and Indiana Tech transfer Dusan Friga, and freshmen Nick Anderson and Tyler Lash.

Tennis

The Lady Cougars return an experienced squad with five starters in singles from 2005 intent on moving up in Mid-Central Conference competition. Britny Delaney, a two-time MCC Tournament finalist at No. 1 singles, returns for her senior season. Other returnees include Leah Prezbindowski (senior, No. 3 singles), Krista Varnau (junior, No. 2 singles) and Kelly DeArmond (senior, No. 4 singles) and Andrea Yoder (sophomore, No. 5 singles). The Lady Cougars are coached by Ryan Bolyn and Kristin Harrow, USF was 2-7 overall in 2005, 1-7 in MCC play.

Golf

The USF men are out to improve on a 2005-06 season that included an NAIA Regional berth. Corey Potts, Michael Domenico and Alex Fanning are the top returnees for second-year coach Chad LaCross. On the women’s side, LaCross and new assistant coach Michelle Smith welcome back four of the top five golfers from the program’s inaugural season in 2005-06 and a collection of newcomers that give the Lady Cougars an opportunity to be among the best teams in Region VIII.

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Cross country

James Kearney and Alexandra Hornstein are the top two returnees for second-year coach Sarah Thrall, who is confident USF’s team will show notable improvement over 2005. Other returning athletes to watch include Justin Clark and Jon Exner for the men and Abby Rauch and Tiffany Bremer on the women’s side. To watch include James Duingel, Roger Norton and Amy Roberts.
FORT WAYNE — Fort Wayne's Redeemer Radio AM 1450, has obtained the exclusive rights to broadcast Notre Dame football and men's basketball on its radio network in the Fort Wayne market. The station also announced today that it will broadcast Redeemer's full schedule of SAC high school football this season, featuring games involving Bishop Dwenger and Bishop Luers high schools. Redeemer Radio will air live the full schedule of all three sports, including play-by-play announcement.

Redeemer Radio is the local affiliate for Westwood One Radio Sports, an exclusive radio network for Notre Dame football. Don Crogui returns for his second stint as “the Voice of the Irish,” having once again been named a play-by-play announcer during the 1974-76 seasons. Former Notre Dame and American television back Allen Pinkett remains as the color analyst for the broadcasts, his sixth consecutive season in that role. Indiana WNDU-TV sports director Jeff Jeffers joins the broadcasts this year as a contributor to the pre-game, half-time and post-game shows. The regular season begins Sept. 2 at Georgia Tech and concludes on Nov. 25 at USC. Redeemer Radio’s coverage will include the network’s pre-game and post-game shows.

Redeemer Radio, also the local affiliate for Notre Dame’s own radio network, will air the Notre Dame men’s basketball schedule for the 2006-2007 season to be announced. Again, Redeemer Radio’s coverage will continue throughout the playoffs, potentially including coverage of non-SAC games.

In announcing the sports coverage, Redeemer Radio president Chris Keller said, “Redeemer Radio’s mission is to serve our community from a Catholic perspective. We are working to partner with Catholic schools from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and the local area. As we broadcast our pre-game and post-game shows, we hope to highlight the benefits of Catholic education and its role in building community for expanded coverage of our area sports teams. We are very excited about bringing Notre Dame football and basketball to your living room.”

Businesses or individuals interested in on-air sponsorship of Redeemer Radio’s sports programs may contact the station at (260) 436-2784.

Wide receiver Jeff Samardzija enjoyed a breakout campaign in 2005 and returns to the Irish for his senior season in 2006. He led Notre Dame with a school record 15 touchdown catches last season en route to garnering All-America honors.

Repeater Radio to carry Notre Dame, high school sporting events

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Fans can attend ND pre game luncheons

SOUTH BEND — Football fans will have an opportunity to attend seven pre-game football luncheons on Fridays preceding the seven home games of the Notre Dame Fighting Irish this fall at the Joyce Center on the campus of the University of Notre Dame.

All luncheons will begin at noon and end by 1:30 p.m. Cost for each luncheon is $20. Ten persons will be seated at a table, and reservations can be made by person or for a group. The deadline is Aug. 11. Reservations can be made by mail to the Notre Dame Athletic Business Office, 112 Joyce Center, Notre Dame, IN 46556.

The opening luncheon preceding the Penn State game will be Sept. 8. Subsequent luncheons will be Sept. 15 (Michigan), Sept. 29 (Purdue), Oct. 6 (Stanford), Oct. 20 (UCLA), Nov. 3 (North Carolina) and Nov. 17 (Army).

Cougars No. 2 in VSN Preseason Top 25

GRAND ISLAND, Neb. — The University of Saint Francis (USF) football team will enter its ninth season as the No. 2 team in the Victory Sports Network (VSN) preseason NAIA Top 25. Topping the poll for the third season in a row are the Carroll College Fighting Saints. Georgetown is No. 3 followed by Sioux Falls, and McKendree rounding out the Top 5.

The USF football team will play at Bishop D’Arcy Stadium on Oct. 7 and Walsh at Bishop D’Arcy Stadium on Nov. 4.
Book champions the ambitions of Fort Wayne bishop

BY YORK YOUNG

What we know about our church history is often woefully underwhelm- ing. What we know about our local church history may be even more so. Fort Wayne Catholics have a lot to be proud of in the form of one of the most influen- tial bishops the United States has ever seen — Archbishop John Francis Noll.

In a new release about his life entitled “Champion of the Church,” by noted Catholic writer Ann Ball, published by Our Sunday Visitor ($14.95), the company he founded, Noll’s legacy can be seen in many places. He founded a charitable institution that is still operating; he helped raise millions of dollars for the national Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.; he was one of the founding members of what today is the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops; and he founded The Priest magazine, a professional journal that assists priests in their roles as pastors. Locally, his legacy is present in the Victory Noll Sisters and their motherhouse in Huntington, where he is buried, as well as in Our Sunday Visitor, which produces six periodicals and 30 new book titles a year, and provides more offering envelopes to churchgo- ers than any other com- pany in the country. Just last year, a building was purchased in downtown Fort Wayne by the diocese to bring together its diocesan offices, which had been spread over several loca- tions. The building was named the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center.

Noll set out to educate Catholics and non-Catholics on what it really meant to be a Catholic. His dedication to both his parish and all people was soon noticed by the bishop, who sent him next to St. Mary Parish in Huntington. It was there that he began to develop an idea of putting words into print to counter anti-Catholic tracts that were making the rounds.

After buying a press in Huntington, he quickly put together a periodical that rolled 35,000 copies off the press on its first run in May 1912. Our Sunday Visitor newspaper, still published in Huntington, reached 1 million copies in 1961. Although changing technology and local production of newspapers by dioceses has changed the Catholic press world dramatical- ly, Our Sunday Visitor still has the largest circulation of any national Catholic newspa- per.

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WHAT’S HAPPENING?

WHAT’S HAPPENING carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. Send in your announcement at least two weeks prior to the event. Mail to: Today’s Catholic, P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne 46856; or e-mail: fhogan@fw.dcfeofwbs.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 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 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 social environment where mature single Catholic-Christian men and women can enjoy Christian fellowship within group boundaries. For information e-mail gap4565@msn.com or call (260) 432-7346.

Home schoolers to meet South Bend — Catholic Home Schoolers Michiana will hold their annual planning meeting for the 2006-2007 academic year at 7 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 21, at the Francis Branch Public Library on Ironwood Road in South Bend. New members welcome. Call Amy McInerny for more information (574) 247-4922.

Jewels from the treasure chest Fort Wayne — A book club 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 Hardin, S.J. Call (260) 422-2959 or e-mail: justadorehim@hotmail.com for information.

Music boosters need vendors for craft bazaar Fort Wayne — The Bishop Dwenger Music boosters are opening their 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 beginning Aug. 6.

Fort Wayne — All Masses beginning Aug. 6.

100 Club kicks off membership Monroeville — St. Rose Church is accepting memberships to the 100 Club for 2006-07. A $100 donation should be sent to St. Rose 100 Club, 206 Summit St., Monroeville, IN 46773, and is limited to the first 200 members. You must be 21 years old. Membership entries into 50 weekly $100 drawings. You are allowed to enter as many times as you wish in the calendar year. One half of the proceeds go to tuition reduction and the other half goes to families in need of tuition assistance and capital improvements at St. Joseph School. For information, call (260) 623-3605, Ind. Dept. Rev. Lic. 106224.

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Seminarians find their hearts lead them to priestly discernment

BY LAUREN CAGGIANO

FORT WAYNE — They seem like normal college boys: Terrence “Tink” Coonan, 21, and Chris Lapp, 20, of St. Vincent de Paul Parish, enjoy the typical collegiate activities like sports, socializing and road trips. However, to most, they are anything but ordinary, for Coonan and Lapp are seminarians at Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary (IHM), located at St. Mary’s University at Winona, Minn., on the Mississippi River.

The call to be a seminarian was a “long and slow” process for both young men. After 12 years of Catholic education at St. Vincent de Paul School and Bishop Dwenger, they both chose to pursue a degree in engineering at the University of Dayton, a Catholic Marianist school. It was during their time at Dayton that they really started to question their vocation.

Tink believes that the “seed was planted” in grade school by his parish priest, Father John Kuzmich. Then at Bishop Dwenger, Father Mark Gurtner as the school’s chaplain and youth group leader was a spiritual mentor. A particular milestone was when Gurtner gave Coonan the “Christian Prayer” book, which is the book priests use to pray several times a day. “They’ve always been there,” says Coonan about his pastoral support.

Lapp shared the details of his spiritual journey to the seminary. His uncertainty about his vocation particularly heightened during his year at the University of Dayton. “God will provide the means,” Lapp believes.

According to Coonan, it was leaving friends at the University of Dayton that was the most difficult. “There is no good way to prepare for that. It was hard but you could definitely feel the support,” Lapp worked through with the changes through prayer. “It was a lot of prayer,” he recalled. One of the most pivotal moments was breaking up with his college girlfriend.

It was through faith and trust in God that both men adapted to the changes. In Coonan’s words, “You know God’s going to take care of you through it all. Coonan thought of it as leaving one community for another. The University of Dayton is known for its strong sense of community, so entering a new community was not foreign to him.

“God will provide the means,” Lapp believes.

Lapp and Coonan described a typical day at the seminary. Both rise between 5:30 and 6:30 a.m., then offer their morning prayers and attend Mass. Following worship, they eat breakfast at the seminary, attend morning classes and eat lunch on campus. In between classes, the seminarians do homework, run errands, exercise and enjoy leisure activities.

The evening routine includes an evening prayer, dinner and some free time. Coonan enjoys exercising, playing his guitar and catching up on correspondence. “In the evenings, I usually write e-mails,” he said. It’s early to bed for the young, for they must be well rested to do it all again the next day.

While Coonan and Lapp seem to have found their niche in Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary, they still miss aspects of the University of Dayton and college life in general. Coonan said that he misses the Marianist brothers because they were role models in his spiritual life.

Two brothers in particular, Father Heft and Brother Tom were mentors. “I was pretty close with Father Heft and Brother Tom,” Coonan said. He was also a regular at Marianist dinners and a participant in a “Live-In Weekend,” in which interested students can shadow a priest or brother for a weekend to get a taste of the vocation.

After experiencing a year at the seminary, Coonan and Lapp can provide some insight about the experience. Coonan suggests that a young man contemplating the vocation should invest a great deal of prayer and dialogue.

“Pray about it, but also talk about it with people you can trust who you know will give you honest information,” he said.

Both young men agree that visiting the campus is critical. “Visiting is really important,” Lapp affirmed.

“Visit and experience these kinds of things,” Coonan added.

Most of all, they both agreed that faith and trust will guide anyone, regardless of vocation. “Don’t be afraid of where God calls you. Grow in holiness and in your relationship with God,” Coonan advises.

Furthermore, they both stressed that taking this leap of faith is not a firm commitment to the priesthood, rather a commitment to discernment. The seminary is a place for young men to ponder their faith and determine whether or not they are called to the priesthood. "You have nothing to lose with trying,” he said.

“Time is never wasted,” Lapp added.

Coonan will graduate from St. Mary’s University of Minnesota in May 2007 and Lapp will follow the year after. If they discern a call to the priesthood, they will go on to study another four years at Pontifical College Josephinum, a seminary in Columbus, Ohio.

In the meantime, this summer Coonan and Lapp worked about 40 hours a week at the Catholic Cemetery on Lake Avenue doing yard work. Coonan said that working at the cemetery has been an integral part of his faith formation. For him, encountering death everyday is a reminder of the reality of our mortality.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary students, Chris Lapp and Terrence “Tink” Coonan were motivated to discern the priesthood. They left friends at the University of Dayton to study at Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary and St. Mary’s University of Minnesota in Winona, Minn.