SOUTH BEND — When Guadalupe Zepeta and Humberto Delgado were doing volunteer ministry in their respective parishes, little did they dream that someday they would work for the diocese.

Guadalupe Zepeta

Guadalupe, Lupita for short, Zepeta was recently hired to serve as a campus and young adult minister.

Speaking of Zepeta’s position, Linda Furge, director of campus and young adult ministry for the diocese, says, “With a substantial increase in numbers of Hispanic teens and young adults in the South Bend area, we are hoping that Lupita will encourage and strengthen Hispanic Catholic young adult ministry in area parishes and across the diocese.

“She will also enhance our long-standing Catholic presence at Bethel and Goshen Colleges with her ability to effectively interact with and relate to Catholic young adults and college students from both cultures,” adds Furge.

Zepeta comes to this position with a rich background. She is a native of Mexico City and studied dentistry and public health. She practiced dentistry there for several years — some of them working with the poor — before she and her husband, Jesus, came to the United States.

When they arrived in the area, she continued her education. At Ivy Tech she took an academic skills advancement course and studied English as a second language at Elkhart Community Schools, Goshen College and Indiana University, South Bend.

She and her husband and their two sons are parishioners at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Elkhart where she has ministered for several years.

“We encourage and strongly support Hispanic Catholic young adult ministry in our diocese and across Indiana,” says Bishop John M. D’Arcy.

With the announcement of the beatification of Father Basil Moreau, founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross, the congregation families have declared a year of rejoicing and spiritual renewal. Story on page 5.

FATHER MOREAU TO BE BEATIFIED IN 2007

PROVIDED BY CONGREGATION OF HOLY CROSS

New faces minister to the diocesan Hispanic population

HISPANIC, PAGE 20

Rock-n-Soul Fest draws area teens

Michigan City festival kicks off with concerts, prayer

Remembering 9/11

Bishop recommends anniversary Masses

Home schooling

Directives published by Bishop D’Arcy

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Oasis park shares Christ through skateboarding

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Huntington Catholic cooks up recipes for success

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With great anticipation diocese looks forward to sesquicentennial

BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

Coming soon

Very shortly we will begin the observation of our sesquicentennial. These 150 years since Pope Pius IX founded with a solemn decree the Diocese of Fort Wayne have been a journey of faithful worship and service. As you know, for many years this decree included what is now the Diocese of Gary (which will also be celebrating its 50th this year) and the Diocese of Lafayette. There were two dioceses in the state at that time — Indianapolis and Fort Wayne. Lafayette was declared a diocese in 1945 and Gary in 1957. Lafayette at that time was largely a rural area crossing the state. The second bishop, remarkably came from Brooklyn, N.Y. His name was John Carberry. He was later the cardinal-archbishop of St. Louis. Lafayette now includes areas north of Indianapolis, which expanded in recent decades, so it is both urban and rural. The original diocese was Vincennes. Gary was cut off in 1957, and the original bishop was Andrew Gregory Grutka, who had been a priest of this diocese and, among other things, served as pastor in St. Vincent in Elkhart. In 1960, Bishop Leo Pursesley successfully petitioned the Holy See to have the name changed to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, with a co-cathedral — St. Matthew in South Bend.

A cross

A cross is being carried from parish to parish. This is to emphasize a central theme, which is taken from the direction given by Pope John Paul II during the millennium. The theme is, “Behold the Face of Christ. His steadfast love endures forever.” Pope John Paul II said he only had one pastoral plan for the new millennium, and it was holiness.

All holiness and graces come from Christ; so a beautiful image has been designed, under the guidance of Linda Furge, by Kristina Schot, a Purdue graduate and a member of our Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Parish. The image was taken in great part from a beautiful sculpture at our St. Patrick Parish in Fort Wayne. The reference to Christ’s "steadfast love" came from Psalm 117, and is what I chose as an episcopal motto when I was ordained a bishop 31 years ago. Thus, we hope that our focus during the year of celebration will be centered on Christ, for all holiness comes through him.

The centerpiece

On Aug. 18, 2007, we will have a Eucharistic Congress, as we did in the Jubilee Year 2000. That day is remembered with great joy. It will be celebrated at Notre Dame, and we hope that the whole diocese will pilgrimage to that holy ground. There will be no Saturday afternoon Masses and no evening events that day, but all will gather for a day of prayer, instruction and worship.

As was done previously, there will be cat-echesis instruction, throughout the day given by theologians and pastors on various topics. There will be eucharistic adoration at one of the university chapels and the rosary will be prayed every half hour at the Grotto of Our Lady. Also, as celebrated in 2000, the sacrament of penance will be available throughout the campus grounds as well as in the more traditional confessional within the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

Other events

As previously announced in all our parishes, the sacrament of confirmation will be conferred in September in each of our two major cities — at the Allen County Memorial Coliseum in Fort Wayne and at the Joyce Athletic Center in South Bend. Priests will administer the anointing, and bishops from all our dioceses will be invited as well. I will have the privilege of presiding and leading this beautiful event.

There will be special Masses of anointing of the sick, so the sick and elderly will be made a central part of this celebration. We hope that the video for the Annual Bishop’s Appeal next year will take up the theme of this anniversary.

History

Joseph White, Ph.D., a well-known historian and a native Hoosier has been working for four years on the history of this diocese. It is nearing completion, and now we are discussing what should be done in recording the past 22 years, when I have had the privilege of being the bishop here. Dr. White explained to me that since it has a jubilee of 150 years, it must be written up to the present. He explained to me, and other historians have agreed, that a historian does not like to write about what we call current events, yet the past 22 years have been fascinating and historic. He said it would be more journalism than history. I am presently writing a kind of afterward, touching on big events of these 22 years. It is like being back in the doctoral studies, except that I am working in great part from memory, keeping it general and, I hope, objective.

Vocations

There is also the matter of vocations. I have met with Father Bernie Galic and his recent completions. Letters, must not exceed 500 words. All let- ters must be signed and include a phone number and address for verifica- tion. We reserve the right to edit letters for legal and other concerns.

Mailed letters to: Catholic, P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne, IN 46801-1169; or e-mail: editor@fw.diocesefwsb.org

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595-4881B
Pastoral letter on homeschooling with appropriate statutes

Bishop D’Arcy, after intense consultation, has prepared a document for those who catechize their children at home. Copies can be obtained from the bishop’s office or the diocesan Web site www.diocesefw.org.

One of the most serious responsibilities of a bishop is that of teaching the faith. In recent years, we have been blessed with a series of documents, which have called the whole church to a deeper understanding of the art, science and holy ministry of religious instruction, more properly called catechesis.

Always in first place, there is the command of Christ who, before ascending into heaven, entrusted to the apostles the command to make disciples of all nations and “to proclaim to humanity what they had heard, what they had seen with their eyes, what they had looked upon and touched with their hands.” (Pope John Paul II “Apostolic Constitution Catechesi Tradendae” 1) This mission is always before us, and is before the bishop in a special way.

In our own time, we have had the example of that exemplary catechist, Pope John Paul II, who, at the very beginning of his pontificate, entrusted to the church this ministry that he, himself, had embraced as a young priest. “Catechesis has always been a central care in my ministry as a priest and as a bishop.” (Catechesi Tradendae 4) During his pontificate, he presented us with the Catechism of the Catholic Church, which he described as a “sure norm for teaching the faith,” as well as a “sure and authentic text for preparing local catechists.” – Pope John Paul II, “Apostolic Constitution Fides Depositum,” 3 on the “Publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.”

In our diocese, with the help of a grant from our Sunday Visitor, there have been extensive programs of preparation of catechists for, without well-trained teachers, the documents will not come alive. This extraordinary woman represents a fine patroness for both parish-based and home-based catechesis.

This Christocentric purpose of catechesis is central. It binds all of us – bishop, priest and those who teach in Catholic schools or programs of religious instruction. It also binds parents. Thus, in prayer and personal communion with Jesus Christ, as well as in reading and study, the catechist finds the source of this ministry in Christ. “We must therefore say that in catechesis it is Christ, the Incarnate Word and Son of God, who is taught – everything she is taught with reference to him – and it is Christ alone who teaches – anyone else teaches to the extent that he is Christ’s spokesman, realizing Christ to teach with his lips.”

Every catechist should be able to apply to himself the mysterious words of Jesus: “My teaching is not mine, but he who sent me.” – Pope John Paul II, “Catechesi Tradendae,” 6

All catechists, then, are called to present a word that is not their own but one that they have received, accepted and believed. Through prayer and study, they grow in their ability to teach the faith that comes from Christ. Indeed, they are teaching Christ himself, and their communion with him, with his teaching and with his church remains always the source of their instruction.

Home-based catechesis

In our country, there has arisen the phenomenon called “home-schooling” or, as referred to in the National Directory of Catechesis, “home-based catechesis.” In preparing these guidelines, I have consulted on two occasions with our Presbytery Council and sought the advice of our priests, as is my obligation. I also met with a group of parents who believe in and practice home-based catechesis.

In addition, one of my priests, Father Mark Gurtner, JCL, has written his licentiate thesis in canon law on this subject, and I have consulted with him and read his dissertation. I have also consulted closely with our Office of Catechesis and with the director of this office, Sister Jane Carew, an experienced catechist, known for her leadership in the formation of catechists.

The need for collaboration and harmony

The goal of all must be a harmonious and collaborative effort for the child. Always the child. He or she is the recipient of the word of God. It is the word of God, and the child receiving the word of God, that must always be before us. We must honor the right of the child to receive sound catechesis.

The right of Christ to see that the child receives sound and comprehensive instruction in full communion with church teaching must also be honored and given the first place.

Then there is the right of parents. As the primary educators of their children, parents have the right and duty to choose the kind of educational environment that they determine best suits their child. Parents are the architects of their children’s faith and, as such, they have a unique and essential role in their formation.

This project is thus an example of the new evangelization, as Pope John Paul II described it in Amoris Laetitia, where he said: “Every catechist should be able to apply to himself the mysterious words of Jesus: ‘My teaching is not mine, but he who sent me.’” – Pope John Paul II, “Catechesi Tradendae” 5

This statue of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton is found at the parish in Fort Wayne. This extraordinary woman represents a fine patroness for both parish-based and home-based catechesis.

Bishop D’Arcy encourages 9/11 memorial Masses, prayers

Dear Pastors,

I know you are all aware of the painful date of Sept. 11 when we will observe the fifth year since that terrible attack on our country, resulting in the deaths of so many people from this country and all around the world.

There should be some observance in our parishes. May I recommend prayers on the previous day, Sept. 10 and a Mass for peace and for the eternal salvation of those who were killed in this terrible attack. Such a Mass can be on Sept. 10 or 11, or both.

I will celebrate the regular noon Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception for this purpose.

So please be sure we draw, for these two days, our people to prayer for peace and also for those so terribly afflicted and for their families.

Sincerely yours in our Lord,

Most Reverend John M. D’Arcy

NEW YORK (CNS) — Since Sept. 11, 2001, the Catholic Church has worked steadily to overcome terrorism by examining the root causes behind the phenomenon, said the Vatican’s nuncio to the United Nations.

Archbishop Celestino Migliore, who has served at the United Nations since 2003, was at the Vatican on the day of the attacks in 2001, working as undersecretary for relations with states. He immediately called the U.S. Embassy to the Holy See to express his concern and solidarity.

“At the very beginning nothing was known about the motives nor the perpetrators, but from the circumstances, the target and the modalities of the attack, there was a clear perception that this was going to be an event full of consequences,” he said.

As for the notion that the events of Sept. 11 “changed everything,” the archbishop said that at the time such a statement meant little. Five years later, he said, it is clear that Sept. 11 “was an epoch-making event that upset the priorities of the world community and quickly skyrocketed security as our top concern.”

But we must examine the attacks of Sept. 11 critically, he

Nuncio says church is fighting terrorism by examining its root causes

BY BENEDICTA CIPOLLA

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Resolving such questions, swiftly and justly, nations can rob terrorists of the oxygen of hatred and of grievances, real or imagined, by which they attempt to legitimize their evil deeds and recruit the impressionable.”

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HOME
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

dren’s educational needs. “If Catholic parents choose to provide catechists for the children in their home, the catechism must be both complete and crucial. The bishop of the diocese, the pastor of the parish, the parents, and children, all have specific responsibilities that must be respected and considered in home-based catechesis. The home-based catechesis of children is a cooperative effort between the children, their parents, parish leadership and the diocesan bishop. Parents who choose to be not only the primary educators of their children but also their catechists must adhere to all guidelines for catechesis outlined by the diocesan bishop.”

— National Directory of Catechesis

The church always respects the rights of the parents as the first educators of their children and also respect the right and obligation of the bishop to oversee and guide the catechetical instruction. The bishop is the primary catechist in the diocese. His mission comes from Christ and the apostles to proclaim the Good News to every creature, and also to see that the faith is taught accurately in his diocese. The church always respects the catechists as outlined by the diocesan statutes and this pastoral letter on catechesis.

Responsibilities of the pastor

The pastor, in close communion with the bishop, has the responsibility to see that all the children in his parish are properly catechized and prepared for the sacraments. At all stages, but particularly at the time of preparation of the sacraments, he must, through his own efforts assisted by others, be sure that the children have a sound and proper understanding of the sacrament that is to be received.

Parents who intend to home school should present themselves and identify themselves to the pastor at the beginning of the first grade. If one parent is non-Catholic, that parent should also be made welcome. At this meeting with the pastor or his delegate, parents should share with the priest the methods they are choosing to employ and the texts they will be using.

The same procedure should be used for the sacrament of confirmation. Those who are home-schooling, should meet with the pastor or his delegate at the beginning of the year that confirmation is normally received in the parish. And make sure they should share with the pastor or delegate the methods they are choosing to employ and the texts they are planning to use. The text should be consistent with the Catechism of the Catholic Church and should be among those texts approved by the Bishops Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism.

Catechetical guidelines and texts

The diocese provides catechetical guidelines that indicate the content required at each of the grade levels. These guidelines precede textbook issues, which are a significant tool in the teaching of that subject. The guidelines can be obtained from the parish catechetical leader.

The diocesan Office of Catechesis recommends text books, but not just any text books. It recommends those that have gone through a review, under episcopal approval to make sure they are consistent with the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

If the parents feel the child is not ready for the sacrament, the pastor should provide whatever help is needed in order to bring about this readiness. There is an ancient principle in the church that matters like this. In Latin, it reads, “Sacramenta Propria Homines.” It can be translated, “Sacraments are Proper Human Beings.” So, every effort should be made to help the child move toward a state of grace so he or she is ready for the sacraments.

In general, the pastor is to make the spiritual richness of the parish available to the parents so they can best fulfill their catechetical duty.

As bishop, I am very encouraged by the programs for training catechists in this diocese. Those who home-school are catechists, and are hereby encouraged to participate in every opportunity to form themselves and grow as catechists. This diocese offers a significant number of such opportunities, such as the following:

Education for Ministry Program (several years of formation based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church)
Special formation days and events for training catechists
I also recommend that home-schooling parents have their own copy of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. This is an excellent catechetical resource.

If it is the wish of the parents and their child, home-catechized children are to be included in solemn reception of first holy communion along with every other parish child. It would be wrong, for example, to say that those who are home schooled should receive communion another time. They are also invited and encouraged to participate in the sacraments and the liturgy of the parish.

As bishop, I am very encouraged by the programs for training catechists in this diocese. Those to be confirmed are to receive this sacrament with the parish confirmation class.

If conflicts should arise between parents and the pastor concerning the implementation of these norms, they can be avoided if kindness and understanding are presented between all parties and catechizing parents. If such a conflict continues, the matter may be referred to the regional vicar.

The instruction of children in the home from the youngest age remains a great blessing in the Catholic Church. As children come home schooled from the moment when our parents knelt down with us at night and taught us to pray, make the sign of the Cross, brought us to church to show us the Christmas crib, explained the crucifix and had good reason to use the traditional catechetical outline for the sacraments. If the parent feels the child is not ready to receive the sacrament, he must work with the parents to bring the child to this position.

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A concluding word

I recently visited the grave of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. This extraordinary woman represents a fine patrimony for both parish-based and home-based catechesis. She taught the faith to her own children. I also saw the rock on top of a high hill on which it is said she sat while giving religious instruction to the children of the parish.

I ask your prayerful intercession and that of the great catechist, Pope John Paul II, that all our children may root themselves in the life of the church and live it all their lives.

I hereby promulgate these statutes and this pastoral letter on Sept. 15, 2006, the solemnity of the Assumption. They will be effective as particular law for the Diocese of Fort Wayne—South Bend on Sept. 15, 2006.

Bishop John M. D’Arcy
Congregation of Holy Cross declares year of rejoicing, spiritual renewal

Father Basil Moreau, founder of Priests, Brothers and Sisters of Holy Cross, to be beatified in 2007

NOTRE DAME — The Venerable Basil Anthony Moreau, CSC (1799-1873), founder of the Priests, Brothers and Sisters of Holy Cross will be beatified in Le Mans, France, in 2007.

On April 28, 2006, Pope Benedict XVI approved the promulgation of the miracle attributed to the intercession of the Venerable Basil Anthony Moreau (1799-1873), founder of the men and women’s congregations of Holy Cross. This promulgation prepares the way for the eventual beatification of the venerable founder of the Holy Cross Family that will take place in the diocese of Le Mans, France, during the year 2007. The date of the beatification, has yet to be confirmed by the Vatican authorities.

Father Hugh W. Cleary, CSC, superior general of the Congregation of Holy Cross, along with the congregational leaders of the Marianites of Holy Cross (LeMans, France), Sister Mary Kay Kinberger, MSC; Sisters of Holy Cross (Montreal, Canada), Sister Kesta Occident, CSC; and Sisters of the Holy Cross, (Notre Dame), Sister Joy O’Grady, CSC, declared, “In preparation for Father Moreau’s beatification, the congregational leaders of our Holy Cross family declare a year of prayerful rejoicing and spiritual renewal beginning on the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, Sept. 14, 2006, and ending on the feast of our Lady of Sorrows, Sept. 15, 2007.”

They added, “Let us celebrate together the life and rich legacy of our founder. During this year of spiritual animation and grace, let us recommit ourselves to our extraordinary vocation as apostolic consecrated religious of Holy Cross.”

Father Cleary also called for the Congregation of Holy Cross (priests and brothers) to intensify their prayers as individuals and local communities for the cause and for the beatification of the founding father. He called for each institution to sponsor at least one major vocation gathering to encourage young people to reflect prayerfully and seriously on the possibility of God’s invitation to them as consecrated life within the church.

Father Moreau’s cause for beatification was first introduced on the diocesan level in Le Mans, France in 1946. However, it was not until 1955, that the cause was presented for consideration by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints in Rome.

This congregation studied the life, the writings and the spiritual legacy of Basil Moreau, and after a definitive presentation of the study on the founder’s virtues in 1994, the congregation recommended to the late Pope John Paul II on Jan. 11, 2003, that he declare Basil Moreau’s practice of the theological and cardinal virtues to be heroic in nature.

Pope John Paul II issued the declaration and bestowed on the founder of Holy Cross the title of Venerable on April 12, 2003. After further study and the unanimous acceptance of a miraculous cure attributed to Venerable Basil Moreau’s intercession, the Congregation for the Causes of Saints recommended to Pope Benedict XVI on Nov. 8, 2005 that Basil Moreau be declared Blessed.

Background on Father Moreau

Basil Moreau was born in Laige-en-Belin, a town in the diocese of Le Mans, France on Feb. 11, 1799. He died in Le Mans on Jan. 20, 1873. As a priest of the diocese of Le Mans and seminary professor, he established the Association of Holy Cross consisting of two societies, one of men (brothers and priests) and the other of women, both having as principal ministries the education of youth and evangelization. The congregation of priests and brothers of Holy Cross received definitive approbation by the Holy See in 1857. The Marianites of Holy Cross were approved 10 years later in 1867.

In 1869 the Marianites of Holy Cross in Indiana received their autonomy and became the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross; in 1883 the Marianites in Canada became the branch known as the Congregation of the Sisters of Holy Cross (Sœurs de Sainte-Croix).

Since their inception, the four congregations making up the Holy Cross Family have grown and spread throughout the world.

The men and women of Holy Cross have begun and still maintain educational institutions as well as important social and pastoral ministries in North and South America, Africa and Asia. It is through their commitment to the vowed life, their zeal for the mission and the diversity of ministry that the priests, sisters and brothers of Holy Cross continue to live out the vision of Venerable Basil Moreau, who saw his religious family as a “a mighty tree that constantly shoots forth new limbs and branches and is nourished by the same life-giving sap” (Moreau, 1854) and as visible manifestation of the union and interdependence of both the Holy Trinity and the Holy Family.

It is for this reason that he dedicated the priests to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the sisters to the heart of Mary and the brothers to St. Joseph and the entire congregation to Mary under the title of Our Lady of Sorrows.

It should be noted also that Pope John Paul II beatified two Canadian members of the Holy Cross family: Blessed Brother André Bessette, founder of Saint Joseph Oratory in Montréal, and Blessed Mother Marie Léonie Paradis, founderess of the Marianites of Holy Cross.

For further information on Basil Moreau and the Congregations of Holy Cross, please contact: www.holycrosscongregation.org; www.marianites.org; www.vcsisters.org; or www.thesistersofholycross.org.

MIGLIORE
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

said, rather than simply denounce them.

“Just as every other epoch-making event — various totalitarianisms, the Holocaust and genocides of the 20th century, the collapse of the Berlin Wall — lead us to reflect, to remember and to draw lessons, likewise the whole human family is called to reflect on 9/11, to delve into its unconventional root causes, and to not be afraid of tackling first those root causes that most bruise and hurt our good conscience,” said the archbishop.

Because the war on terror often involves stateless enemies, the United Nations has had to adapt itself to this new reality. Archbishop Migliore said the world body is drafting a convention on terrorism that will identify “means to dissociate groups from resorting to terrorism or supporting it, denying terrorists the means to carry out an attack; deter states from supporting terrorist groups; develop state capacity to prevent terrorism; and defend human rights in the context of terrorism and counterterrorism.” So far disagreement has surfaced on the definition of terrorism, the issue of noncombatants and the right of self-determination, he said.

One of the tests of the document, if and when approved, will be the implementation of the U.N. Security Council resolution that requires the disarmament of the Hezbollah militia in Lebanon, Archbishop Migliore said.

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**New beginnings: Italian cardinal to take over as secretary of state**

**VATICAN CITY (CNS) —** Pope Benedict XVI’s papacy opens a new chapter Sept. 15, when Italian Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone takes over as secretary of state. It’s arguably the most important and most important appointment to date, and it reunites him with a man who for many years was No. 2 at the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Does that mean the Vatican is about to turn into one great intellectual fiefdom? An Italian journalist dared to pose that question to Cardinal Bertone in August. The cardinal didn’t really answer, but he suggested the doctrinal experience wouldn’t hurt in the great task of announcing the Gospel “in its entirety” in every country of the world. Cardinal Bertone, 71, is at the center of what might be the longest and most scrutinized transition in Vatican history. The pope offered him the position last December, mulled it over and accepted earlier this year, and the pope announced the appointment in June, some three months before it took effect.

**Two cases of alleged miracles claim intercession of Archbishop Sheen**

**PEORIA, Ill. (CNS) —** Documentation of two alleged miracles attributed to the intercession of the late Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen were sent to Rome this summer as part of the promotion of his sainthood cause. The cases claiming the archbishop’s intercession involve a woman from Champaign and a baby in Pittsburgh. The cases were investigated and documented and, following ceremonies in Peoria and Pittsburgh, documentation was sealed and prepared for delivery to the Vatican Congregation for Saints’ Causes for further study. The ceremony in Peoria was witnessed by several members of the Sheen family and officials promoting the sainthood cause. During the ceremony, folders containing more than 500 pages of witness testimony and medical data regarding the Champaign case were packaged and sealed. Archbishop Sheen, a native of El Paso in the Diocese of Peoria, gained worldwide fame as a radio and television host and author. He died Oct. 3, 1970. The Diocese of Peoria officially launched his cause for canonization in September 2003.

**Pope urges priests to take heart in church’s history of survival**

**CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) —** Pope Benedict XVI said parish priests discouraged by a decline in religious practice should take heart in the fact that the church has survived centuries of persecution and trial. Not even the Nazi dictator Adolf Hitler could destroy Catholicism, although he wanted to, the pope said. The pope made the comments in a question-and-answer session Aug. 31 with priests of the Diocese of Albano. The encounter took place at the papal summer residence in Castel Gandolfo, which is part of the Albano Diocese. Most of the questions touched on pastoral problems common across Italy, including the challenge of getting Catholics to Mass on Sunday and attracting young people to church activities. The pope said it was important for pastors to draw encouragement from the church’s long history. The church’s early flowering in North Africa and Asia Minor, for example, has long disappeared, but Catholicism has gained new strength and vigor in the rest of Africa and in parts of the world, he said. “The faith is stronger than all the currents that have come and gone,” he said.

**Pope says visit to Germany to be personal, chance to thank people**

**VATICAN CITY (CNS) —** Pope Benedict XVI’s September trip to Germany will be a pilgrimage to southern Germany featuring 14 liturgies or religious encounters and only three public secular events. That fact alone says a lot about the pope’s homecoming visit and about his entire papacy to date. From Sept. 9 to 14, the 79-year-old pontiff will return to his Bavarian roots, stopping in Marktl am Inn where he was born, in Altötting where he used to pray at a local shrine, in Regensburg where he taught and in Munich where he entered the church. Along the way, he will preside over a string of public Masses, prayer services, processions and blessings. The visit is predominately personal and religious, and the pope explained why in a recent interview with German TV and radio. “I want to see again the places where I grew up, the people who touched and shaped my life. I want to thank these people,” the pope said.

**Auxiliary bishops say situation in Darfur not yet resolved**

**YAOUNDE, Cameroon (CNS) —** Despite a May peace agreement meant to end the conflict in the Sudanese region of Darfur, refugees who fled into neighboring Chad are not returning to Sudan, said aid workers. Small groups of refugees are still staging into Chad, and huge numbers may be preparing to leave if a cherished element of the offensive starts, said a Catholic relief organization in eastern Chad. The situation of refugees is increasing,” said Agbonot, the team leader for CRS’ emergency team in Anok, in eastern Chad. “The situation in Darfur is not solved.” In an Aug. 31 telephone interview, Agbonot said that at the moment refugees are crossing the border in groups of 10 or 20. Fighting among rebel groups, some of which did not sign the May 5 Darfur Peace Accord, and increased banditry by militias and armed gangs have increased since the peace deal was signed. The United Nations says the number of refugees in Darfur inaccessible to aid workers is rising steadily because of the upsurge in violence as well as a lack of funds.

**On eye of immigration hearing, religious leaders pray for justice**

**OWENSBORO, Ky. (CNS) —** “We do not pray in anger,” said Msgr. Monahan at an ecumenical prayer service in Owensboro the night before a congressional hearing was held in Evansville on immigration. “We do not pray for despair,” he added. “We pray in hope that all will be treated justly by our laws.” The Aug. 29 congressional hearing was one of 21 scheduled throughout the country. It was led by Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., who chairs the House Committee on the Judiciary, Reps. John Hostettler, R-Ind., and Steve King, R-Iowa, were present, as was Rep. John Conyers Jr., D-Mich., the ranking minority member. The hearing’s topic was “The Reid-Kennedy Bill: The Effect on American Workers’ Wages and Employment Opportunities.” Four expected witnesses gave prepared testimony. No one from the audience was permitted to speak. Monahan, executive director of the Catholic Conference of Kentucky, was one of the speakers at the Aug. 28 evening service at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro. The theme of the service — “Every Man and Woman Is the Image of God” — was also the title of a joint pastoral letter of the Kentucky bishops issued Aug. 29.

**Vicar general in Madison Diocese named bishop of Sioux Falls, S.D.**

**WASHINGTON (CNS) —** Pope Benedict XVI has named Msgr. Daniel Dignan, vicar general of the Diocese of Madison, Wis., as bishop of Sioux Falls, S.D. Bishop-designate Dignan succeeds the Rev. Stephen Wenskuhn, who was appointed bishop of Saginaw, Mich., in December 2004. Msgr. Martin Krebs, chairman of the apostolic nunciature in Washington, announced the appointment Aug. 31. Bishop-designate Dignan, 54, was ordained Sept. 12, became a Catholic at age 39 and was ordained to the priesthood later. Prior to entering the church, he had been an Air Force intelligence officer serving in Vietnam from 1967 to 1972, winning the Bronze Star Medal. He was also legal counsel and policy director for Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson from 1991 to 1999. From 1990 to 1997, he was a professor of law at the University of Wisconsin. From 1997 to 1983, Bishop-designate Dignan practiced law in Madison. As the Office of Church and Civic Affairs, Bishop-designate Dignan described his adult life as being marked by two phases. “One was in the secular sphere that included military service, civil law practice and government office. The second was in the Church sphere that included conversion that changed and redefined my life,” he said.

**Bishop grateful for S.D. governor’s stay of execution**

**PIERRE, S.D. (CNS) —** South Dakota Gov. Mike Rounds issued a reprieve Aug. 29 in what would have been the state’s first execution in 59 years. Rounds said the state’s attorneys were preparing for execution by lethal injection was outdated. The stay of execution for 24-year-old Elijah Page lasts until after July 1, 2007. Bishop Samuel J. Aquila of Fargo, N.D., apostolic administrator of Sioux Falls, S.D., said he was grateful for the stay and hoped it would allow “time for an even fuller discussion about the appropriateness of the death penalty in South Dakota.” In a statement after the governor issued, he said, “The Catholic faith teaches that the death penalty is rarely, if ever, justified. The legal system in the United States is capable of protecting society by incarcerating violent offenders for life.”
Around the Diocese

New University of Saint Francis Chaplain Installed

Bishop John M. D’Arcy officially installs Father John Stecher as chaplain of the University of Saint Francis at the university’s opening convocation Mass Aug. 30. Father Stecher, formerly of the Diocese of Davenport, Iowa, has worked in campus and young adult ministry for most of his career and will be a part of the Campus Ministry program at USF.

FOOT NOTE:

Matthew 25 Health and Dental Clinic’s new, state-of-the-art retinal camera used with diabetes patients allows the clinic to provide more screenings and earlier intervention — benefiting its 680 patients with diabetes.

According to the American Diabetes Association, patients with diabetes are much more likely to suffer from glaucoma, cataracts and retinopathy, which can cause anything from vision loss to blindness. For this reason, annual eye exams are critical.

“Before the retinal camera, we were able to provide only 30 percent of our patients with retinal screenings through ophthalmology appointments,” said Dr. Amy Dawson, medical director. “Within the first two months of having the camera, we added another 15 percent onsite. Our goal is 100 percent.”

What’s more, the retinal camera enables Matthew 25 to maximize the time and expertise of its ophthalmologists — dominating their time to screen patients.

“With the retinal camera, we can save our ophthalmologist visits for patients with problems — not just for routine retinal screenings. Plus, with our electronic medical record, we can forward information about the patient’s eye problems before their visit.”

The retinal camera takes just a couple of minutes, and the photos are taken during the patient’s regular diabetes visit.

The photos enter into Matthew 25’s electronic records and are forwarded to Dr. Jonathan Walker, retinal specialist, who logs on once a week and reads all the films. If he sees any abnormality, he contacts Matthew 25’s staff so they can arrange an ophthalmology appointment for the patient.

“Good diabetes care is very intensive for the patient and the healthcare provider,” said Dawson. “The retinal camera makes it less of a burden for the patient in terms of convenience and for Matthew 25 in terms of resources. The more we can get done in one sitting, the better.”

“The camera also benefits our community — because with the screenings, we reduce the percentage of blindness and eye complications. It’s a preventable problem with this screen.”

The Lutheran Foundation donated the $18,000 for the retinal camera, and Walker was instrumental in writing the grant.

凡尔赛、奥古拉兹、梅瑟和信托人和顾问的代理。"
Volunteers from Little Flower Church pose for a picture while moving a pile of rubble left by Hurricane Katrina away from a house to the road where it was to be picked up. This was one of the odd jobs the group did around and in between their main work at Our Mother of Mercy Parish in Pass Christian, Miss.

There the church was moved off its foundation and badly damaged by over 12 feet of water, and the rectory was destroyed. The social hall at the church was the only building standing, and it was badly damaged.

“Our work there was preparing walls in the hall and classrooms for painting, assembling office furniture, mold remediation, cleaning kitchen equipment and bathrooms, cleaning out mountains of debris outside, scraping and cleaning windows, putting down baseboard. In other local homes some groups tore old roofing off and put on new, built a shed and moved wood piles. They moved mountains of debris into dumpsters.”

“Probably the most interesting story about the work we did is that the kids felt like they hadn’t done that much,” said Odell. “In the prayer service I led before we began our work, I told everyone that if they were there to simply do work and show how much they could do, they would be disappointed. They needed not only to love these people by working, but by also listening to their stories and just be present to them.”

When asked what their “highs” and “lows” during the trip were and what touched them, the youth were quick to give their answers. Ethan, like Allie, couldn’t keep taking pictures of the devastation. “Pictures just don’t do justice, seeing 10 foundations in a row and no grass,” he said noting that the best point of the trip was “getting a lot of work done, looking at a destruction with hindsight, brings you back to earth, we take for granted what we have, Mother Nature can take it all away.”

“Of all the missions trips (he’s been on) this one was the hardest,” said Dan, who said he was touched “meeting one of the ladies at church, wasn’t somber, but still content even though they had lost everything, not giving up hope.”

“Meeting all the people we did, they didn’t complain with the little they had. It is hard to accept all the reasons now why I complain,” said Luke.

Ivana said her greatest “high” was “working and seeing the happy faces. And hearing ‘thank you.’”

“We were surprised by the expressions of gratitude by the people we served directly, but were taken aback by expressions of gratitude by waitresses, service station attendants and just random people,” said Odell. “Everyone was deeply moved by the outsourcing of generosity and love they experienced not only from us, but from many groups over the last months. We are very glad we went to Mississippi, and I think we’d be open to doing it again. Another group is considering a trip over the Christmas break. We’d love.”

Pope: Interreligious prayer meetings are needed even more today

ASSISI, Italy (CNS) — On the 20th anniversary of the first interreligious prayer meeting in Assisi, Pope Benedict XVI said the initiative had been a “prophetic” way for various faiths to witness against conflict and war.

The pope said such gatherings were needed even more today, when younger generations of all faiths must learn that prayer “does not divide, but unites” and that religion must never be used as an excuse for violence.

The pope made his comments in a message Sept. 4 to the 20th Interereligious Prayer Meeting for Peace in Assisi, Italy. Sponsored by the Sant’Egidio Community, the two-day encounter brought together more than 50 representatives of various world religions.

The pope’s message offered a strong endorsement of the interfaith meetings that began in Assisi in 1986, surprising some observers. Vittorio Messori, a well-known Italian Catholic writer, had reported that as Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the future pope had strong doubts about the 1986 meeting and felt it emphasized spectacle over faith.

But in his message, Pope Benedict said Pope John Paul II had correctly perceived the value of having leaders of different religions gather to send a message that true religion builds bridges and has nothing to do with violence.

“His invitation for a choral witness to peace served to clarify, without any possibility of misunderstanding, that faith can only be a source of peace,” he said.

The 1986 meeting and those that followed also highlight- ed the importance of prayer in changing human hearts and helping to clear the often difficult path to peace, the pope said.
Teens find Michigan City concert to be ‘soulful’ event

BY DIANE FREEBY

“Too long, we’ve kept our God to ourselves. Put the shields of faith he gave us – ‘Up on the shelf. But we wanna live for Christ, wanna do what’s right. Gonna join his army rise up and fight.’"

MICHIGAN CITY — Those are the lyrics to Amare Vitam’s anthem “Rise Up,” one of many the guitarist performed Aug. 19 at Rock-n-Soul Fest 2006. Govero joined Catholic funk band Crispin, Father Stan Fortuna, Amanda Vernon and others for an all-day concert held at Michigan City Marquette High School. Oh, and don’t forget the real presence, “God was in the house,” reported one Amare Vitam, Promotions spokesperson. “We were definitely riding on a wave of prayer!”

About 400 young people, families and religious gathered at the Scholl Center for a day featuring all kinds of Catholic music, from rap to rock and everything in between. A youth band sang stirring renditions of both the rosary and the Divine Mercy chaplet. A chapel for perpetual adoration was onsite, with a monstrance blessed by Pope John Paul II himself. There were also opportunities for confession and Father Stan concelebrated the vigil Mass. While the concert was geared for all ages, the focus was clearly on the youth. Teenagers read at Mass and no fewer than six young men served as altar boys. It was the epitome of new evangelization ... inviting young Catholics to embrace their faith in all its orthodoxy.

People came from all over the Midwest — Iowa, Illinois, Michigan and Indiana. A group from Corpus Christi Parish in South Bend arrived just in time to hear Vernon sing. “I love how she can get down and get funky and still be worshipping,” said sixth-grader Erica Veen.

“Deception and lies are the devil’s methods.”
FATHER STAN FORTUNA

Vernon’s message of chastity and the gift of saving oneself for marriage especially resonated with the girls, who later sported stickers reading “I’m worth waiting for!”

Vernon wrapped up her session with a touching song and the story of how two young people met in college, became friends and fell in love. They defied cultural pressures and remained chaste until after they were married. Then Vernon revealed how 20-years and seven children later, her parents were still reaping the rewards.

Catholic radio talk-show host Dr. Colleen Kelly-Mast used skits and humor to drive home the idea that our sexuality is truly a gift from God. “Our beauty reflects the beauty of our Creator,” she reminded the crowd. “Our problem in today’s society is not that we desire too much, but that we desire too little. Chastity provides us with true freedom.”

Rock-n-Soul Fest is the culmination of months of prayer and hard work. Through generous donations, creative fund raising and ticket sales, Amare Vitam raised enough money to bring bands and musicians from as far away as Texas and New York. But concertgoers were treated to so much more. The joyful noise continued from within the Scholl Center all afternoon and into the evening. Crispin lead singer Daniel Di Silva gave a talk on the theology of the body just prior to Mass. “This Mass, this night, your very life will never be the same. It’s up to you,” he said.

Worshippers then took part in a reverent but spirited eucharistic celebration. Father Stan Fortuna, in his animated New York accent, had everyone’s rapt attention. In his homily, Father Stan talked about the spiritual warfare going on every day. “Deception and lies are the devil’s methods,” he explained, then pointed to the war on terrorism. “Today, we can’t see the enemy. What airplane? Which airport? What suitcase?”

But also reminded us the devil does not have the last word. Father Stan quoted Pope John Paul II: “The Eucharist is the mystery of light ... be not afraid!” Father Stan also referred to writings of Pope Benedict XVI (or B-16 as Father Stan affectionately calls the pontiff.) “Evil cannot exist by itself. The only way there can be evil is to take away something good. Evil has no power on its own.”

Father Stan elaborated, “If there was no good in the world ... do the math ... there would be no evil. When God made men and women in his own image, that was good. But we have to be vigilant against the attacks of evil, which come in all shapes and forms.”

Following Mass, Father Stan tuned up his guitar and with a crowd of young people at his feet and the lights dimmed, Crispin closed out the evening, keeping even the group of Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration from Mishawaka out way past their normal bedtime. They take turns getting up around the clock to be with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament of the altar.

“I think it was nice to see all ages here,” said Sister Ruth. “It was neat to see the kids involved in the music and praising the Lord. I loved the spontaneity of the musicians and how they are spreading the Gospel through music.”

Plans are already in the works to make Rock-n-Soul Fest an annual event, with musicians already making plans to return and new groups lining up. For more information, go to www.wordgallery.net/amarevitam or call Rachel at (574) 232-7047.

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“Jesus said... not just the adults, but the kids, too.”
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People came from all over the Midwest — Iowa, Illinois, Michigan and Indiana. A group from Corpus Christi Parish in South Bend arrived just in time to hear Vernon sing. “I love how she can get down and get funky and still be worshipping,” said sixth-grader Elizabeth Norton. “I love how she can be serious one minute, and then rock on.”

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History of Huntington Catholic

Huntington Catholic School has a long history of educating students in Huntington area. St. Peter & Paul School began in 1849. Ten years later, the actual school building was erected in 1858 and in 1887 the parish school was established. St. Mary School began in 1897 with the Sisters of Providence teaching 116 children. In 1931, the Sisters of Providence left and the Sisters of St. Francis Seraph (now the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration) came to teach at St. Mary School. During the 1985-87 school years, St. Peter and Paul and St. Mary Catholic Churches consolidated their schools, with St. Peter and Paul housing grades prekindergarten to four, and St. Mary housing grades five through eight. The name of St. Peter and Paul’s school building was changed to the Primary Building. The name of St. Mary’s school building was changed to the Middle Building. Huntington Catholic School is one school with two buildings.

The two parish schools were consolidated to improve the overall educational process by better utilizing financial resources, teacher talents and promote Catholic unity in the community. Huntington Catholic School serves families from Huntington, Whitley, Allen and Wells Counties. Enrollment today at Huntington Catholic in grades prekindergarten to four, and St. Mary housing grades five through eight. The name of St. Peter and Paul’s school building was changed to the Primary Building. The name of St. Mary’s school building was changed to the Middle Building. Huntington Catholic School is one school with two buildings.

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Recipe for a terrific teacher

By Kenzie Stephan, Fourth Grade

Here is how to make a terrific teacher:
9 cups of happy
4 cups of funny
4 cups of nice
A pinch of only gives one page of homework a night
1 bag full of terrific
A helping of her noticing and being impressed with your good work
Pour the ingredients into a bowl. Mix it well, and you will have a terrific teacher.

By Matt Hunt, Fourth Grade

10 cups of homework giving
1 cup of fun
3 cups of good cursive writing
2 tablespoons of thinking and knowledge
300 cups of paying attention to her students
Mix it all up. Bake it for about 30 minutes. Take it out and you will have a successful teacher.

By Alex Justice, Fourth Grade
5 cups of telling funny jokes
10 cups of niceness
9 cups of no yelling
7 cups of fun homework
11 cups of helping us understand our homework
20 cups of good teaching
Mix it all together and out comes Mrs. Grube.

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NORTHEAST IN GEORGETOWN ———— NORTHWEST IN PINE VALLEY

HUNTINGTON CATHOLIC SCHOOL is located in Huntington. The school has 210 students in grades preschool through eighth. Jason Woolard is the principal. Additional information is available at www.huntingtoncatholic.org, e-mail to fwahcs@comcast.net or by calling the school at (260) 356-1926.
FORT WAYNE — The sprawling mass of dilapidated buildings that make up the old Tokheim complex off of Wabash Avenue aren’t the first place a person would look for a safe and healthy recreational atmosphere for young people. Nor is the cavernous gym space, complete with grinding rails, ramps, chain-link fencing and graffiti, the sort of place one might hope to find a Christ-centered ministry. But these are exactly the goals of the directors of the Oasis Xtreme Park, the indoor park for young skateboarders, inline skaters and BMX bikers.

Now in its second year of operation, the nonprofit interdenominational ministry is open four days a week and staffed by volunteers, mostly from its board of directors.

“Most of the guys on the board have a passion for it through their kids,” explains Tom Trentadue, a parishioner of St. Jude Catholic Church, Fort Wayne, whose work supervising at the park began through his son, Austin. Now a freshman at Snider High School, Austin was one of many area youth who were attracted to a makeshift skate park set up by Pastor Per Guldbeck in the parking lot of Grace Christian Church on Reed Road in Fort Wayne. Guldbeck too had set up the facility because his son was interested in skateboarding and soon realized that, with so many young people regularly congregating in one place, it was the perfect outlet for a Bible study.

In time, accordingly to Trentadue, God provided the new ministry with a building, the old recreation center for Tokheim employees. Through a generous grant from John Popp of Perfection Bakeries, the ministry was able to obtain the building at a reduced price and set to work on the massive renovation required.

According to Trentadue, this is where the diverse professional backgrounds of the men on the board proved useful. A certified public accountant, Trentadue can readily handle finances. The other Catholic on the board, Jim Robertson Jr. of St. Peter Parish, is an electrician who helped to rewire the building and continues to do electrical work where needed around the facility.

The building and the park itself have a raw, unfinished feel to them, which is just the right atmosphere for skateboarding and BMX biking, Trentadue notes. The park has attracted increasing numbers of young people, so much so that it may be time for some changes.

“We’re trying to get enough money so that we can hire a full-time director,” says Trentadue, who traveled to Lubbock, Texas, with Pastor Guldbeck in late August to make a presentation for a grant they’ve requested from a Christian organization. They have yet to hear the outcome, but Trentadue says they are hopeful for what it could do for their ministry.

“We’re at that level where you really need that full-time person to take it to that next step.” He explains that the person would be in charge of promotions, finding sponsors, finances, supervision and other areas.

The ministry at Oasis Xtreme Park is refreshingly simple. Outside of just providing a safe, supervised place for young people, the park holds short Bible studies prior to its Wednesday and Thursday night skating and biking sessions. During the weekend open skating and biking sessions, the park holds “180 sessions,” where the park is closed down midway through the night to go through a Scripture reading. This is followed by discussion, fellowship and a prayer. These sessions, notes Trentadue, are where it is most significant that the young people at Oasis Xtreme Park range from those who go to church every week to those who do not go at all.

“Our approach is the evangelistic approach. It’s been a soft approach. We’re just sharing. And it’s been really neat to do some Bible readings with some of these kids. You know, the first time, they just sit there. But they come back. And they’re curious. And then the fourth or fifth time that we’re doing these things, these guys are really into it.”

That it is presenting Christ to those who may not know him, Trentadue adds, is one of the really beautiful aspects of the Oasis Xtreme Park ministry.

Another part of the ministry that could be considered profound is its interdenominational nature, that it has managed to bring together Christians of different backgrounds to work side by side in ministry. The answer seems to lie in a path that even Pope Benedict XVI has recommended for Christian unity, to remain focused on Christ.

“It’s been smooth,” Trentadue says of the relations between churches, noting that the park hopes to reach out to more church communities as their membership grows.

“No one group or teaching or belief has come in other than that Jesus is here. That’s number one. And we’re here for the kids. Everybody loves the kids with a passion. They want to provide a place for the kids.”

Jim Robertson Jr. and Tom Trentadue, the two Catholics on the Oasis Xtreme Park board, stand next to a graffiti design done by Trentadue’s son, Austin, at the park. Both Robertson and Trentadue were drawn into work with this interdenominational ministry through their kids’ love of skateboarding.
Moms nurture Catholic motherhood

BY DAVID A. WEMHOFF

NOTRE DAME — There’s a new addition to the family at Sacred Heart Parish, Notre Dame. It’s called “Catholic Moms in Action.”

“We want to build and nurture the idea of being a mother and living like a Catholic mother,” said Michelle Joyce. “The group is about being Catholic and supporting each other while our children see their moms being of service to others in accordance with the faith,” explained Kristi Kubick.

And, Kristi said “Catholic Moms in Action gives mothers an opportunity to be involved with those of the same faith and holding the same value system.” Michelle and Kristi are cofounders of Catholic Moms in Action. Michelle is the mother of Ian, the wife of Timothy, and a scientist. Kristi is the mother of Aubren, Silas and Ealin, the wife of Brian, and is a social worker who helps at Hannah’s House, a home for unwed mothers. Kristi is from the South Bend area, and Michelle moved to the area about two years ago.

Being a mother is tough especially in this day and age, and one of the things that families have lost over the years is the ready availability of helpful advice. “Now, so many are transplant from other places and they are away from their families. In the old days, families and neighbors, the whole neighborhood were there to support Catholic moms,” said Michelle.

Infants, youngsters, teenagers and adult children all come with their unique challenges, and it is a sure thing that someone, somewhere in the parish has encountered any of a number of the different issues that each phase of life brings. So, Catholic Moms in Action remedies this situation by inviting mothers, of all ages, to join and to share their wisdom with other moms in the parish. That way, years of practical experience are not lost, but are put to good use.

“We are not restricted to young mothers. We can learn so much from older mothers and get support from each other,” said Kristi. Indeed, whether your children are in diapers or in college, all moms are welcome.

Earlier this year, when the Sacred Heart Parish nurse, Diane Beach, said the mothers’ group was starting to disband and needed help, Michelle and Kristi were faced with a question. What do we do? Kristi said that question was answered when she said to Michelle, “If you do it, I’ll do it.” And so the rest is history, but not without some excitement.

For instance, at the first meeting on Aug. 3, Kristi and Michelle thought they would be the only ones there with Diane Beach. But they were wrong. Four mothers showed up. And, since then, two more have expressed a concern to join. “They’ve had their second meeting and are planning a lot more events this fall, to include a fundraiser.”

The group plans on having guest speakers address specific parenting issues, religious topics, or other current concerns moms and families have. One of the present areas of interest is to identify the good schools in the South Bend area, and how to enroll one’s children in them.

And there will be plenty of opportunities for socializing and service, too. Planned are a Mom’s Night Out, which is an opportunity for mothers to support one another through an evening of activity; an Expectant Mothers’ Night, which is a chance for mothers to ask questions or discuss concerns with experienced mothers or a guest speaker; Meals for Moms, in which meals are provided for mothers with newborns or expectant mothers on bed rest; family gatherings at which moms and their families come together every few months for Mass or a potluck supper; and service projects that allow moms to live out their Catholic faith by providing service to other families, children, parents or local service agencies.

Michelle summarily says it all by saying, “We celebrate the vocation to motherhood and set a good example for our children.” Certainly an idea whose time is now, Catholic Moms in Action is something which, as Kristi and Michelle summarize it, “will spread to other parishes. “We hope to build and nurture the idea of being a mother and living as a Catholic mother.”

Financial advise in funding a Catholic education

As Catholics we have long known the value of parochial schools and faith-centered institutions of higher education. We are thankful for the opportunity to bring up our young people with a solid spiritual and academic foundation. We also know that the price of that education continues to climb.

The pain is especially keen when we look at sending the children off to college. Be it a secular state school or a private Catholic college, the one constant is the ever-increasing cost of a good education. Academic and athletic scholarships may be in the prayers of parents and students as they confront this reality. However, planning and pre-funding an education is the best strategy and easier today than most realize.

Many have started using 529 College Savings Plans. These are programs sponsored by individual states that allow for tax-free growth of dollars invested for college education. The 529-plan allows the donor to control the funds and to change the designated educational beneficiary of the account if necessary. This is a desirable feature as an account owner may redirect the dollars to another beneficiary if the original designee experiences a change in educational outlook.

These accounts may be funded by parents, grandparents or anyone else committed to the child’s education. The earnings on the account are free from taxes as long as the dollars are used for approved educational expenses. While all states currently offer a tax program, they are not necessarily created equal. Some states offer tax breaks at the state income tax level for contributions made. Indiana law has recently changed to allow a 20 percent tax credit up to $1,000 effective January of 2007. The contribution limits to a 529 plan vary from state to state, and such contributions are subject to the federal gift tax laws.

Each state that sponsors a plan has aligned itself with a fund provider. Some offer very good value in the form of investment performance and cost. Some are expensive and underperforming. As such, it pays to do one’s homework in selecting a 529 plan or seek the counsel of a financial advisor.

Another vehicle available to savers is the Coverdell Education Savings Account. This is the modern iteration of the Education IRA. Deposits are limited to $2,000 per year and are nondeductible. If the contributor is an individual, the $2,000 limit phases out ratably between $95,000 and $110,000 of modified adjusted gross income (50% phaseout for joint filers). The investment choices with Coverdell ESA’s are far broader than the 529 plans as they may be invested in virtually any marketable security.

Withdrawals are free of federal income tax and may be used for primary education expenses as well as college and technical schools. This is a powerful point of differentiation for families planning on a parochial high school. Contributions must cease when the beneficiary reaches 18 and any unused funds are paid directly to the beneficiary at age 30.

It is possible to establish both plans for a student and may be an effective strategy to fund a Catholic education at the primary and college level.

Five years later, where are we spiritually?

As readers will see on page 3 of today’s Today’s Catholic, Bishop John M. D’Arcy will have a 9/11 memorial Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne at 12:05 p.m. remembering those who lost their lives at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and in Shanksville, Pa., five years ago.

Our bishop has asked parishes to have a similar Mass over the weekend or on Sept. 11. Almost everyone remembers where they were, what they were doing at the moment of the disaster. Most of us spent that day in fear and wondering what would happen next. Many said, “I am afraid.” Many turned to God for solace.

Bishop D’Arcy reminded us that week, “We see here the presence of evil, but our faith tells us that where sin abounded, grace did more abound, that good is more powerful than evil.” Pope John Paul II said at the time his hope was that “this incredible and desperate act would lead everyone to reflect on the anti-human, anti-Christian nature of violence, of all violence, which leads to nothing.”

And as part of a papal message that following Sunday, Pope John Paul II said, “To all I solemnly repeat the Gospel injunction not to be conquered by evil, but to conquer evil with good.”

Five years later, let us take stock. What have we done to address injustice — in our own country, throughout the world? What have we done to uphold the dignity of every human, from conception to natural death? What have we done to uphold the dignity of every human throughout the world? Have we acted out of love for our fellow man? Have we acted out of revenge?

We are also reminded that if we truly want peace, we need to find peace within ourselves. That can only be done through our relationship with God. Our “Cutting Edge” this week gives us some tips in truly talking to God in a way we would talk to a friend.

We also need to know our God. We do this by hearing his word, receiving our Lord in the sacraments, especially the Eucharist in which Jesus becomes a part of us in such a way that we take him out to the world with us in everything we do. If we do this, we do not have anything to fear.

Interestingly, the first reading this Sunday, Is 35:4-7a, offers words of encouragement: “This says the Lord: Say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes with vindication; with divine recompense he comes to save. With the first sound of his approach the people dance with joy.”

The Gospel that day talks about Jesus putting his finger into the man’s ears and, spitting and then touching his tongue, saying, “Be opened!”

Open our ears, and our eyes as well, open to the healing words of our Lord, and may our tongue proclaim his glory in all that we say.

Five years later, however, I have to reflect on the ways of war and those who support them. Whatever my political affiliations, I recognize that there is the will of humans and the will of God and that often these wills contradict.

Furthermore, secular authority can never be compared to a moral authority, which seeks not to be popular but to adhere to the truth as it is revealed. As an American Catholic, I should value the opinion of the highest religious authority on earth, the man I believe to be the Christian messiah on earth. Through the acceptance of his word, I am asked in discerning God’s will.

I must remember that both Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI were young men during World War II, yet each sought to turn away from the traditional weapons of war and seek solace in the church. Instead of guns and bombs, these men clung to the rosary and the power of the Catholic Church. They embraced the suffering of their day and prayed for the strength to do God’s will.

Is this my prayer? Am I prepared to accept the challenge of the cross? This year I reflect on the five-year anniversary of the tragic events of Sept. 11. That newborn baby, whose safety in this world was uncertain, just celebrated its fifth birthday and grows strong through God’s mercy.

While the day will certainly invoke sadness and anger within me once again, this year I have the benefit of perspective. I know that if I ask for Our Lady’s intercession through the prayer of the rosary that she will not abandon me. I know that time spent in meditation in front of the Blessed Sacrament is not wasted.

I choose to mark this anniversary with a revival of spiritual warfare, a weapon more powerful than any created on earth.

Brittney Andersen Fort Wayne

Today’s Catholic welcomes letters from readers. All letters must be signed and include a phone number and address for verification. Today’s Catholic reserves the right to edit for clarity and length. Address letters to: Today’s Catholic • P.O. Box 11169 • Fort Wayne, IN 46856-1169 or e-mail to: editor@4w dioceascatholic.org

Peter Claver
1580-1654
feast – September 9
This Spanish-born saint of the slave trade entered the Society of Jesus in 1601. After studies in Barcelona and on Mallorca, where the Jesuit portar, Alphonsus Rodriguez, urged him to go to the New World. Peter went to South America in 1610 and was the first Jesuit ordained in Cartagena, Colombia, a port of entry for West African slaves. Peter ministered to this desolate human cargo aboard the ships and ashore before they were sold, feeding, comforting and baptizing, by his own count, 300,000 slaves. He and St. Alphonsus were canonized in 1888.

Commisariat of the Holy Land thanks diocese

Dear Bishop D’Arcy,

God give you peace!

I am in receipt of your check in the amount of $72,990.23, representing the gifts of the people of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend to the Jerusalem Mother Church for the 2006 Good Friday collection. This gift will not only assist in the preservation of the Holy Places but will also help the people to whom the Franciscan Friars of the Holy Land minister.

In the name of the frars and those to whom they minister, I express our deepest gratitude to you, Bishop D’Arcy, and to our sisters and brothers in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, who continue to give most generously to help those who are in need. May God bless and reward all of you.

With deep appreciation, much devotion and a promise of prayer for you and the people of God in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, I am yours,

Sincerely and gratefully,

Susan G. Berghoff
Commissariat of the Holy Land St. Louis Region

Parishes need more social justice efforts and actions

In James Davidssone’s article “The Catholic puzzle: What it is and why it exists” in the Aug. 27 issue, he summarizes the book, “Taking Faith Seriously.” I agree with the summa-
Is evangelization taking root?

**RESEARCH FOR THE CHURCH**

JAMES D. DAVIDSON

CATEQUIZEM

By Dominic Campbell

On Sept. 13, the church remembers St. John Chrysostom. This quiz looks at his life and times.

1. John was a bishop, but he also belongs to this select group:
   a. Doctors of the Church
   b. Popes
   c. Ordained married men

2. What does “Chrysostom” mean?
   a. Anointed by the Divine
   b. Transformed
   c. Golden-mouthed

3. Why was he given that title?
   a. He was reputed to have been confirmed (chrismated) by Jesus in a vision
   b. He was the “Chrysalis” who went from public sinner to saint in a year
   c. Due to the eloquence and power of his preaching

4. When did John live?
   a. Mostly in the 4th century, dying in 407
   b. Mostly in the 8th century, dying in 807
   c. Mostly in the 12th century, dying in 1207

5. Where was he from?
   a. Tyre, where his father was a leading merchant
   b. Antioch, where his father was a senior military officer
   c. Athens, where his father was a judge and deacon

6. John, though called early to religious life, had to defer for this practical reason:
   a. He was married and needed to divorce his wife first
   b. He had to look after his widowed mother
   c. He was illiterate and had to learn to read and write Greek first.

7. Although in a terminal decline, this force was still around when John became a priest, and so he preached against it:
   a. Islam
   b. Judaism
   c. Paganism

8. John took to living in a cave as a hermit, but had to give it up because:
   a. The austere lifestyle ruined his health.
   b. The invading Muslims had made caves unsafe.
   c. The cable TV reception was not good enough.

9. Despite not wanting the position, John was appointed to this office:
   a. Byzantine emperor
   b. Patriarch of Constantinople
   c. Tsar of all the Russians

10. He left the reformed church, enforcing discipline. However he soon alienated the upper strata of society by doing this:
    a. He opposed extravagant clothing and loose morals.
    b. He insisted that his flock become vegetables.
    c. He outlawed the use of icons and changed the liturgical language to Coptic.

11. One of those he upset was Eudoxia. Why was she significant?
    a. She was the emperor’s mother.
    b. She was the mother superior of the first monastery in Constantinople.
    c. She was the emperor’s wife.

12. After a great deal of political maneuvering, Chrysostom was forced to do this:
    a. Become Orthodox
    b. Give up his office and go into exile
    c. Renounce the clerical state and marry his second cousin Hagia Sophia

13. Yet second thoughts and perhaps fear of divine retribution are believed to have caused Eudoxia and others to do this:
    a. Have him executed
    b. Have him reinstated
    c. Enter a monastery in repentance

14. Due the nature of Byzantine politics, which were, well, Byzantine, he was forced out yet again and exiled. Where did he end up?
    a. He collapsed and died at Pontus, on his way to the very borders of the empire.
    b. He ended up in England, as it was the usual punishment destination for Greeks.
    c. He ended up in Belgium, where his lack of Flemish censored out his oratory.

**ANSWERS:**

1. a, b, c 
2. a, b, c 
3. b, c 
4. a, b, c 
5. b, c 
6. b, c 
7. b, c 
8. a, b, c 
9. b, c 
10. a, b, c 
11. b, c 
12. a, b, c 
13. a, b, c 
14. b, c, d
When Christ returns in glory, there will be the Last Judgment

**THAT’S A GOOD QUESTION**

over, Satan is released to seduce the nations. With the pagan nations, Satan invades Jerusalem, but God hurls Satan into a pool of burning sulphur forever.

The New American Bible says this period of 1,000 years is not to be taken literally. It symbolizes the long period of time between the chaining up of Satans (a symbol of human corruption) and victory over death and the forces of evil and the end of the world. During this time God’s people shall reign visibly in the glorious reign of God, which is present to them in virtue of their baptism — victory over death and the forces of evil.

The practice of interpreting the Book of Revelation literally concerning the 1,000-year reign is called millenarianism. The pre-millennialists say that in the 1,000-year reign will follow the Second Coming of Christ. The post-millennialists say the 1,000-year reign precedes and prepares the way for the Second Coming.

E. Livingstone says millenarianism is seen in the early church among the heretical gnostics and Montanists. But as emphasis was put on the world’s pleasures the visions of the Apocalypse were rejected. A reformation, a revival against millenarianism began with the Christian theos of the Quakers and was completed by St. Augustine of Hippo. Later at the time of the Protestant Reformation, the Anabaptists, the Moravian Brethren were millenarians. In Germany the millenarianism was advocated by the Pietist movement of the 18th-century. In the 19th-century, millenarian ideas arose in America.

The New Cathocism of the Catholic Church says that at the Second Coming of Christ, the Church returns in glory, there will be the Last Judgment. The Last Judgment will reveal that God’s justice triumphs over all the injustices committed by his creatures. After the Last Judgment, the righteous will reign for ever with Christ, glorified in body and soul.

**Leaving things in God’s capable hands**

When you trust God, you will find he sometimes gives you very good things. This may sound obvious, but it’s not something we always easily believe. Think about it. When someone says, “We’ll leave it (a situation) in God’s hands,” what do you usually think? The phrase is a resignation to God’s will, a supposition that God has a plan for us. It indicates expecting the worst. “Uncle Mort is so ill. There’s nothing we can do.” We’ll leave it in God’s hands.” Or “The hurricane is scheduled to hit the coast. We have no recourse. We’ll leave it in God’s hands.” It’s a resignation to God’s will, no doubt, but usually we’re saying that if we trust God he’ll just bungle it. We must control things ourselves.

Well, what? Sometimes leaving a situation in God’s hand produces a result so great and amazing that it is wonderful that you couldn’t possibly have come up with it yourself. In my case, “putting things in God’s hands” gave me precious time with my husband who that never would have happened had I tried to control things myself. Let me explain.

After my recovery from cancer, my husband David wanted me to go with him to a spa. I had always said no because I was terrified to fly. I prayed about it, and felt God was almost saying go with me. It was the least I could do after all the support David had given me. I took a leap of faith and said okay, telling David, “Go ahead and book it. I’ll meet you there.”

As we drive to the spa, I am so reminded of the words of Isaiah, “He will swallow up death forever and destroy the enmity and will bring the many to the Mountain of the Lord.”

That morning David had to drive to Los Angeles for business, so I planned on going with him. “Don’t come with me,” he said, gently. “It will be so boring to wait for me in the city.”

“Well, what do I do?” I asked. “Don’t come with me,” he said, “He emphasized the words “do” or “wait.”“Do what people at a spa and resort do.”

“Do what do they do?” I asked and wondered. My only conception of what people at a spa do was a spa bath, perhaps staying a spa weekend. As I read the menu my eyes widened. “Facial, body wrap, detoxifying mud wrap, fitness equipment, massage, manicure, essential oils, aromatherapy, fresh fruit, flavorful water ...” I was delirious with the thought of the possibilities. “These are expensive,” I began, but David immediately cut me off. “Theresa, fill up your day,” he said, “We’ll splurge this once.”

Then he kissed my forehead and left. At first I just sat there, frozen on the bed. Then I burst into laughter, and, turning my attention back to the menu, I carefully chose a detoxifying mud bath, which promised to “tidy the body of chemical toxins.” Perfect after the months of chemo.

And so began a luxurious day at the spa. I must tell you this. Old habits die hard. Later on, when I approached the pristine private pool, clear and blue, surrounded by beautifully manicured flowerbeds and shrubs, I instinctively selected a place near the shoreline, where I could keep a good eye on the kids. But wait! I was alone. I could choose any place I desired.

So I turned my lounge chair around to face the bright sun and for the first time in at least a year, indulged deeply and calmly. The kids were safe and well cared for. I was relaxed. David was coming soon to get me. I was in remission. Life was good.

By the time David returned to take me to dinner I was as loose as a goose. The kids were playing in the beautiful town of Rancho Mirage and enjoyed the pool. What a perfect day! I was worked out in the fitness center together. We played golf and took walks. Like cool water in the desert to a dehydrated man was this trip for us.

Praise God for “leaving it in his hands.”

**SPOKE PLAINLY**

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

By Patricia Kasten

**EVEYDAY CATHOLIC**

**THERESA A. THOMAS**

**SCRIPTURE SEARCH**

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B: a man was speechless and unclean impeded. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

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

By Patrick Kasten

**DAVIDSON**

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14**

that requires them to become involved in other people’s religious lives. I turned to Nancy Ammerman’s new book, “Pillars of Faith,” for data on the extent to which evangelization activities related to Catholic parishes. Ammerman compares mainland Protestant, conservative Protestant and African-American Protestant congregations with Catholic and Orthodox parishes on a number of issues. Two issues that have taken root in mainline Protestant congregations and only 5 percent of African-American Protestant congregations consider “spreading the faith” a high priority. It is a high priority for only 12 percent of mainline Protestant congregations and only 6 percent of Catholic parishes. Although 39 percent of conservative Protestant congregations consider “spreading the faith” a high priority, the African-American Protestant congregations sponsor local evangelization activities only 15 percent of the time, compared to 65 percent of mainline Protestant congregations and only 5 percent of Catholic parishes do.

Thus, it seems that evangelization has not yet taken hold in many parishes. Has it taken hold in your parish? If it has, your parish is one of many others on this matter. If it hasn’t, I wonder to bet there is some resistance to the language and/or the behavioral expectations associated with evangelization.
Bowling in heaven: Keeping loved ones close

As children, my siblings and I pretended that thunder meant Grandpa Jim was bowling in heaven.

If it was extra loud, we would gleefully declare, “It’s Grandpa!”

When my grandfather died, my mom was 19 years old. She wrote down some memories of him to share with her future children. It worked; growing up, Grandpa Jim captured our imagination and evoked our admiration.

His picture is perched in the corner of Grandma’s living room, across from the fireplace. He is a steady presence — black hair, a freckled face and bright eyes — smiling down on our gatherings.

When my brother, Tony, graduated as valedictorian this spring, Mom showed him that her dad wore when he accomplished the same feat. Grandpa was right there with Tony.

The bittersweet reality of death is that the loss never ends. But if we do our part, neither do the memories.

Five years ago, nearly 3,000 Americans died in an attack, that shook our countries to its core, families and friends were lost. Sons and daughters.

Joe Hodges, 54, a firefighter from Staten Island, served at Ground Zero. Its impact was profound, he told me. “Family, we take life — every little thing. I couldn’t hug my kids enough that whole year.

New York City officials recently released the tapes of 1,613 emergency calls made as the World Trade Center burned. I can’t imagine the bittersweet pang of hearing the voice of a deceased loved one — so distinct, so intimate, so lovely.

Catholics believe in the sanctity of life from the womb to the tomb.

Young adults often take life for granted. We fly along, feeling invincible. But one sight makes me pause: a roadside memorial. A cross and bouquet stuck in the ground serve as a sober reminder. Life can end in the jerk of a wheel, the blink of an eye. My hope is that each roadside memorial represents a tiny fraction of an ongoing tribute, that stories of continually spill out, provoking laughter and sustaining a spirit. “She would’ve loved this play.” “He would’ve loathed this policy.”

Last spring, I took a basilica tour. When the leader collected our lunch money, she paused by a priest. Without hesitating, the woman sitting beside me, Ruth, jumped up and paid for him. “Isn’t your birthday coming up, Father?” she asked. When Ruth retold the story, she told me, “That’s what Bill would’ve done.” Bill, I learned, is her deceased husband.

What a beautiful, model response to death, to remember a person’s admirable traits and live them out.

I spoke with a bereaved mother, Patty, who’s been doing just that. Her 11-year-old son Jacob was abducted nearly 17 years ago. Since then, the math teacher has given educational speeches, funded a support group and persuaded the passage of federal legislation to protect children.

Patty told me her motivation: “I’m fighting for Jacob and the world he knew and believed in — and it was good.”

The church is bound by a communion of saints: St. Paul, Mother Teresa, Aunt Helen, Grandpa Jim and us pilgrims on earth, striving to do them proud.

I wonder what moments bring loved ones back for others — when they smell a pipe, when they lick their mixing beaters, when they shoot the moon in cards, when the Cubs play the Cardinals.

And when it storms, my grandpa Jim knocks those pins down.

Christina Capecci is a graduate student at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill. E-mail her at christinacap@gmail.com.

Queen Jezebel fostered the worship of the pagan god Baal

Why is Queen Jezebel considered so wicked?

Queen Jezebel is the wife of King Ahab of Israel (B.C. 874-853) who was the son and successor of King Omri of Israel (B.C. 885-874). This queen has even lent her name to the English dictionary. A “jezebel” is an impudent, shameless or abandoned woman.

Queen Jezebel was the daughter of Ethbaal, the king of the Sidonians in Phoenicia or modern Lebanon. The term “Sidonians” often includes the inhabitants of the Phoenician coast, including the ancient cities of Tyre and Sidon. Ethbaal is mentioned in Phoenician inscriptions and Assyrian literature.

The coastal city of Tyre, 30 miles south of Beirut, means “rock.” Phoenician purple dye originated in Tyre. Carpenters from Tyre built palaces for Kings David and Solomon, as well as the Temple in Jerusalem. L. Keen mentions the superb Roman ruins at Tyre that include a temple to the pagan god Melkart, the Phoenician Hercules.

When Jezebel became queen, she fostered the worship of the pagan Canaanite god Baal and brought into Israel 450 prophets of Baal whom she supported. Ahab erected an altar to Baal in the temple of Baal, which he built in Samaria and also made a sacred pole. Then Jezebel tried to do away with the worship of the true God Yahweh and wanted to exterminate the prophets of Yahweh. When Naboth of Jezreel refused to sell his land, Jezebel engineered his murder so Ahab could acquire the land. Jezebel’s actions stirred up the wrath of Elijah, the prophet of Yahweh, and she tried to do away with him too.

Father John McKenzie says Jezebel was a strong-willed woman with a powerful influence on Ahab. It seems that Ahab had little interest in religion and let Jezebel do as she wished.

J. Pritchard mentions that Tyre and Sidon were wealthy and powerful through their producing and selling luxury goods of the highest quality. The Phoenicians were sought after as partners in political and commercial alliances. Thus the marriage of Ahab and Jezebel from Tyre brought great wealth to Samaria and the kingdom of Israel.

Collaboration between Phoenicia and Israel made economic sense because Israel could supply agricultural products like corn, wine, oil and balsam. Along with this economic alliance came the infiltration of paganism, but this happened elsewhere. For example, the ruler of Damascus in Syria set up a stela to Tyre’s pagan god Melkart, the same deity worshiped by Queen Jezebel.

B. Metzger mentions that, when Israel was exposed to Phoenician culture, a cosmopolitan court society emerged at Samaria where Ahab built an ivory house. Excavations at Samaria revealed some 500 fragments of ivory, many carved in Phoenician style.

Ahab eventually was killed in battle by an archer. Ahab is mentioned by King Shalmaneser III of Assyria as one of the allied kings at the battle of Karkar in B.C. 853.

B.C. 853 Jezebel was later killed when King Jehu of Israel (B.C. 843-816) demanded a few men to push her out of the palace window. Jehu is pictured on the Black Obelisk of Shalmaneser III of Assyria.

What is your favorite reading material? Who is your favorite author? What do you think is the best part of being Catholic? The Catholic Church is where you receive the true word of God and the real graces of the sacraments that help you get to heaven.

What is your favorite prayer or scriptural passage? The Hail Mary and “Love one another as I have loved you.”

How do you prefer to be addressed by laity? Father Dick

Shakespeare.

What is your favorite prayer or scriptural passage? The Hail Mary and “Love one another as I have loved you.”

How do you prefer to be addressed by laity? Father Dick

Meet The Priest

Father Richard Hire

Ordained to the priesthood: May 30, 1970
Pastor, Queen of Peace, Mishiwaka
What was the primary influence on your decision to become a priest?
I was interested in religion, wished to be close to Christ, and I enjoyed the Mass.

Why do you like being a priest?
You deal with all types of people of different ages at important moments of their life, like baptisms, schools, first Communions, weddings, illnesses, crises, funerals. You also have more time to be close to God.

Do you have a special interest or hobby?
I like world travel, because I can visit places of the Bible and church history. I also collect educational materials on these places.

Do you have a pet?
No, but my family lives on a lake where I can experience a lot of wildlife.

What do you like to do for relaxation?
Travel and spend time at the lake.

What is your favorite reading material? Who is your favorite author? Travel, history, biblical archaeology, plays, dictionaries and encyclopedias; William Shakespeare.

What do you think is the best part of being Catholic?
The Catholic Church is where you receive the true word of God and the real graces of the sacraments that help you get to heaven.

What is your favorite prayer or scriptural passage? The Hail Mary and “Love one another as I have loved you.”

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You deal with all types of people of different ages at important moments of their life, like baptisms, schools, first Communions, weddings, illnesses, crises, funerals. You also have more time to be close to God.

Do you have a special interest or hobby?
I like world travel, because I can visit places of the Bible and church history. I also collect educational materials on these places.

Do you have a pet?
No, but my family lives on a lake where I can experience a lot of wildlife.

What do you like to do for relaxation?
Travel and spend time at the lake.

What is your favorite reading material? Who is your favorite author? Travel, history, biblical archaeology, plays, dictionaries and encyclopedias; William Shakespeare.

What do you think is the best part of being Catholic?
The Catholic Church is where you receive the true word of God and the real graces of the sacraments that help you get to heaven.

What is your favorite prayer or scriptural passage? The Hail Mary and “Love one another as I have loved you.”

How do you prefer to be addressed by laity? Father Dick

Meet The Priest

Father Richard Hire

Ordained to the priesthood: May 30, 1970
Pastor, Queen of Peace, Mishiwaka
What was the primary influence on your decision to become a priest?
I was interested in religion, wished to be close to Christ, and I enjoyed the Mass.

Why do you like being a priest?
You deal with all types of people of different ages at important moments of their life, like baptisms, schools, first Communions, weddings, illnesses, crises, funerals. You also have more time to be close to God.

Do you have a special interest or hobby?
I like world travel, because I can visit places of the Bible and church history. I also collect educational materials on these places.

Do you have a pet?
No, but my family lives on a lake where I can experience a lot of wildlife.

What do you like to do for relaxation?
Travel and spend time at the lake.
Sports

KNIGHTS’ GOLF OUTING BENEFITS ST. MARY’S SOUP KITCHEN

Our Lady of Good Hope Parish hosted its second Annual Charity Golf Outing, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council 12417, on July 9. Again this year, the recipient was the St. Mary’s Soup Kitchen, which has been a long-standing beacon of hope in the community by serving meals to an average of 1,200 individuals a day. In addition to the 52 ing vecs from more than 20 local businesses and individuals. Pictured above is Our Lady of Good Hope pastor, Father Mark Gurtner, center, presenting a check for $2,205 to Diane Day, director of the St. Mary’s Soup Kitchen. Also pictured from left, are Father Phillip Widmann, pastor of St. Mary Parish, Tony Henry, pastoral associate, and Mike Desch, Grand Knight of Council 12417, right.

ICCL kicks off season

SOUTH BEND — The Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL) opened its official football season on Sunday, Sept. 3, with games played at Marian and Saint Joseph’s high schools. The following varsity, seventh-and-eighth- grade results were posted on the ICCL Web site:

The Mishawaka Catholic Saints won over the St. Matthew Blazers, 22-18. Tim Wilson scored two touchdowns, one on a 75-yard kick-off return, to lead the Saints. Coley Schultes threw a 49-yard pass to Ben Brewers for the winning score. Andrew Davidson kicked two extra points. Chase Parker scored on runs of 20, and 31 to lead the Blazers. St. Matthew also scored on a Thomas Krueger 30-yard pass to Lee Henry.

The Corpus Christi Cougars won over the Holy Family Trojans, 12-6. Scott Coppa’s 15-yard touchdown pass to Jimmy Reagan started the scoring for the Cougars. Mario Navarete also scored on a 37-yard run in the win. Collin Skodinski’s 85-yard kick-off return was the lone score for Holy Family.

And the St. Anthony-St. Joseph Panthers beat the Holy Cross-Christ the King Crusaders, 16-8. Sean Hart scored on a 8-yard run, and also threw for 53-yard strike to Peter Gillis to lead the Panthers to victory. Tyler Sorocco kicked two extra points in the win. Connor Deamers scored on a 8-yard run, with A.J. Fitzpatrick kicking the extra point in the loss. The B-team results for the fifth and sixth grade teams reported the following results from games played Sept. 3 at Marian and Saint Joseph’s high schools:

- St. Matthew Blazers defeated the Granger Catholic Titans, 6-0. Joseph Ernst scored on a 23-yard run to lead St. Matthew in the win.
- The Corpus Christi Cougars defeated the Holy Family Trojans, 6-0. The Cougars were led by Jeremiah Johnson’s 3-yard touchdown run in the win.
- The Holy Cross-Christ the King Crusaders beat the St. Anthony-St. Joseph Panthers, 19-0. Henry Turner scored on runs of 14 and 8 yards to lead the Crusaders. Mike Swift also scored, with Ryan Wobbe adding the extra point.

ICL Web site.

CITY/WALK is sponsoring “Raising Funds for School Wellness” for prekindergarten through college institutions. Schools in Indiana can earn $9 for every $10 pledged. The 2nd annual Get Fit. Stay Fit.1 Mile/5K/10K event will be held Saturday, Oct. 21, at New Haven High School and will include a tasting party with “good choice” food samples from 4 to 6:30 p.m. Admission is $15 for individual and $55 for a family of four or more. For information, visit the Web site at www.city-walk.org or contact Kerri Zurbach at kerri.zurbach@verizon.net.

Raiders, Panthers remain unbeaten in second week of CYO football

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — At press time, three of the four winning Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) coaches had checked in with highlights from Sunday, Sept. 3.

The Raiders from St. John New Haven remained undefeated as they beat St. Jude 16-0. Nick McCarthy scored both touchdowns this week with a 4-yard run in the first quarter and a 13 yarder in the third. Greg McCarthy kicked both extra points.

Defensively, Josh Pranger had two quarterback sacks and recovered a fumble in the fourth quarter. Alex Wharton caused a fumble in the opening quarter, which was recovered by Greg McCarthy. St. Jude is now 0-2. Also at Zolnier Stadium, the defensive coordinators for the JAT team, Andy Niezer and Eric Dorman, did a fine job shutting out Queen of Angels/Precious Blood (0-2) and leading JAT to its first victory of the season. All of the scoring was done in the first half when the scoreboard read 30-0. Dan Rodenbeck chatted up a pair of touchdowns for the winners. Quarterback Eric Sorg had another and Carl Deser, the fourth.

After last week’s loss to St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne, JAT head coach Jerry Niezer said, “Now we know what we need to work on this week. They (St. John) were a very good team, very well coached, very quick, and very well prepared.” JAT must have worked on the right things and Niezer was pleased everyone saw lots of playing time in this week’s win. He hopes to carry the momentum into next week when they face St. John New Haven (2-0).

The unbeaten St. Vincent Panthers were victorious again, this time over St. Charles stamping them 38-0 in the 2:30 game. The talented, Evan Feichter was busy again gelling offensively with the signal caller, Patrick Ryan. Scoring was as follows: Feichter, 88-yard run from Ryan, 8-yard run from Ryan, 3-yard run from Ryan, and also threw for 53-yard strike to Peter Gillis to lead the Panthers to victory. Tyler Sorocco kicked two extra points in the win.

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Why do we make prayer so hard?

THE CUTTING EDGE
SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

There are literally hundreds of books written on prayer and how to pray. Lots of people spend more time reading about prayer than they actually pray. Why do you suppose that is? The people buying these books obviously see prayer as a value but find it difficult.

On a recent retreat I received an insight into this matter of prayer and why we value it while at the same time we seem to avoid it. A reason could be that many of us still operate out of the Greek understanding of life split into body and soul. We tend to divide our lives into two categories, spiritual life and our normal life. We see our spiritual life as separate from our everyday life and fail to integrate both parts of ourselves. We “work on” our prayer life as if it were divorced from the rest of our life.

Having said that, let’s ask ourselves how we define prayer. What is our routine? Is prayer something we do before, during or after Mass? Is it a time to sit or kneel down for a certain amount of time and struggle to chase all thoughts, other than God, from our minds?

Do we see prayer mostly as an obligation or “putting in our time with God”? Imagine a woman who gives her husband 15 minutes a day. During that time she reads the same stuff to him. When she is finished she does not think about him until again the next 15 minutes. Their relationship would probably soon become boring and unfilled.

I think this often happens in our relationship with God. We try to carve out some time for him, successfully or unsuccessfully, during our day and then often do not think about God until we are in church at our next prayer period.

Prayer is meant to nourish our relationship with God and not be limited to a time or place. Think of how we nurture our other relationships. One thing I am quite sure of is that very few of us talk to our friends with canned, already composed words. To develop a good relationship with someone we must spend time with that person and share about our lives, our joy and pain, our hopes and dreams. We talk about what is happening in each one’s life’s and our thought of that other person is not limited to our physical presence together.

Why should our relationship with God be that much different? Why do we try all kinds of prayer methods? Somehow we often look at the saints and measure our prayers against theirs. We often fail to recognize that much of their prayer was basic conversation with God. They simply, profoundly, made God the center of their lives.

Often our prayer becomes monotonous or boring so we give up. It doesn’t have to be that way. I think that the best thing each of us can do to deepen our own relationship with God is to set a realistic amount of time for prayer each day and use it to share with God the ordinariness of our lives, including our thoughts and feelings. It is our time to be real with God. We can learn and do meditation, centering prayer, etc., but we should never neglect this regular conversation with God. And don’t forget, it is okay to talk to God at other times during the day. Pretend you are calling him on your cell phone.

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

NEW YORK (CNS) — Following is a recent capsule review issued by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Office for Film and Broadcasting.

“Crossover” (Sony)

Urban drama about lifelong Detroit friends Cruise and Tech — a college-bound basketball prodigy (Wesley Jordan) and a high-school dropout (Anthony Mackie) with dreams of his own — who enter an underground “streetball” tournament run by a smooth-talking promoter (Wayne Brady) to dethrone a tough-as-nails champion (Phillip Champion), jeopardizing Cruise’s promising future. Written and directed by Preston A. Whitmore II, the film is commendable in its endorsement of education and integrity over money and fame, but some energetic hoop sequences aside, the effort is weighed down by a tiresome, predictable story that includes some sexual content, including a subplot involving an out-of-wedlock pregnancy, lewd dance and suggestive moves, suggestive wardrobe, spa-like candle light and humor and an instance of profanity. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13.

“Lassie” (Roadside/Samuel Goldwyn)

Handsome adaptation of Eric Knight’s original novel, “Lassie Come Home,” about an impervious Yorkshire mining family (Samantha Morton, John Lynch and Jonathan Cake), who enter World War II that reluctantly sells its beloved dog to a rich nobleman (Peter O’Toole) who takes the dog to Scotland where the collie escapes and attempts the impossibly long trek back home. Writer-director Charles Sturridge has assembled a fine, mostly English cast, including Edward Fox, Kelly Macdonald and Jemma Redgrave, and two appealing youngsters, Mason and Hester Olgren. The scenic vistas are breathtaking and the story appealing, making this fine family viewing, though discerning adults may be bothered by a disjointed narrative, some plot turns that defy credibility, and an awkwardness in both script and direction that places it several notches below the classic 1943 MGM version. A brief sequence of Lassie being beaten with a belt, a nongraphic scene where the miners urinate to throw some hunting dogs off the scent of an escaping fox, some mildly crass content, some mild violence and the death of a dog. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classifies the film as a-L — limited adult audience. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG.
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, PO. Box 11169, Fort Wayne 46856; or e-mail: fhogan@fw.diocesefwsb.org. Events that require an admission charge or payment to participate will receive one free listing. For additional listings of that event, please call our advertising sales staff to purchase space.

St. Therese Fall Festival
Fort Wayne — St. Therese Parish, 2304 Lower Huntington Rd., will have a Fall Festival on Saturday, Sept. 9, from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Children’s games and food booths open until 4:30 p.m. Madeline’s Toybox will perform at noon and 3:30 p.m. Auction at 1 p.m. and bingo from noon to 3 p.m. and 50/50 cash raffle and other prizes. Dinner grilled from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mass at 5 p.m. followed by over 21 music and beverages until 11 p.m.

Traditional chicken dinner
Ege — A pit roast stuffed with chicken and ham dinner will be held at Immaculate Conception Parish, County Road 400S, four miles west of Laotto, on Sunday, Sept. 10, from noon to 5 p.m. Bingo, games, raffles and drawing for quilt.

Charity luncheon held
South Bend — The Daughters of Isabella Notre Dame Circle 572 will hold their 59th annual charity luncheon “Lavender and Lace” on Sept. 16 at noon at the Blue Heron at Blackthorn. Tickets are $25. Call (574) 287-1487 for reservations by Friday, Sept. 8. All proceeds benefit the developmentally challenged of St. Joseph County.

Card party and luncheon planned
South Bend — The Altar/Rosary Society of St. Casimir Parish, 1308 W. Dunham, is sponsoring a card party on Sunday, Sept. 10, at 1 p.m. A plate lunch and dessert will be served. Donation is $4 and tickets available at the door. Bring your own cards.

Natural Family Planning classes
South Bend/Ellkart — Natural Family Planning classes will begin on Tuesday, Sept. 5, from 7-9 p.m. and Tuesday, Oct. 3, from 7-9 p.m. in the first floor Education Center of Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center’s South Bend. Classes in Spanish will begin on Monday, Sept. 11, from 6-8 p.m. at the St. Vincent Outreach Center in Ellkart. There is a $15 fee for the initial session. For registration and information call The Natural Family Planning program office at (574) 234-5411 or Evelyn at St. Vincent at (574) 389-9634 after 1 p.m. Individual appointment for instruction can also be arranged.

Jewels from the treasure chest
Fort Wayne — A bookclub will meet at a local coffee house once a month beginning Sept. 18, and discuss and read excerpts from “The Treasury of Catholic Wisdom,” by Father John Hardin, SJ. Call (260) 422-2959 or e-mail justadoerum@hotmail.com for information.

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

Diocesan guitar workshop planned
Fort Wayne — “Demystifying Guitar Chords” will be held Saturday, Sept. 16, from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Church. Designed for intermediate and advanced players, the diocesan guitar workshop will teach you how chords are constructed and how to read advanced chord symbols. The workshop will discuss reference materials in your hands that will aid you in your journey to chord mastery. Register online at www.dioceseweb.org/WORSHIP/musicians.htm or by mail. Cost is $15 per person. For further information, contact Keri Jehle at (260) 432-5113 ext. 325.

Alzheimer’s memory walk
Fort Wayne — The Alzheimer’s Association will have a memory walk on Saturday, Sept. 9, at Foster Park. Call (260) 420-5547 to register or make a donation.

St. Anne Society plans luncheon
South Bend — The St. Anne Society will have a luncheon card party on Sunday, Sept. 10, at 1 p.m. at Our Lady of Hungary School. Doors open at noon. Donation of $5. Bring your own cards.

Knights plan spaghetti dinner
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 11043 will have a spaghetti dinner on Friday, Sept. 15, from 5 to 7 p.m. Adults $6, children (5-12) $3. Dinner includes spaghetti, salad, garlic toast and coffee. Carry-out available.

fall festival sponsored by Harvest House
Kendallville — Harvest House will sponsor a fall festival, Wednesday, Sept. 27, at Immaculate Conception Parish. Doors open at 10 a.m. and Mass will be at 11 a.m. followed by lunch, entertainment and door prizes. Tickets are $10 and need to be reserved by Sept. 18 at 763-4711.

Christ Child Society begins cloth a child campaign
South Bend — Martin’s Supermarkets, Notre Dame Credit Union and Teacher’s Credit Union will offer paper dolls for $1 to assist the Christ Child Society in purchasing clothing for underprivileged children. The paper dolls will be available through September and October.

Knights plan Oktoberfest
Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 11043 will have an Oktoberfest on Saturday, Oct. 14, from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Most Precious Blood School gymnasium, 1529 Barthold St. Tickets are $6 for adults, $4 for children under 12.

Queen of Angels seeking crafters
Fort Wayne — Queen of Angels Parish will have a holiday bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 11. Eight-foot tables will rent for $25. Call (260) 484-2035 or (260) 436-5172 for information.

A Calm Night in Nashville
On June 10, 2007, join your Spiritual Directors Father Bob Dohrman, Father Jerry Nienhaus, and other Canada Catholics on this 15-day vacation including a seven-day deluxe Alaska Cruise with Holland America Line and a seven-day Pacific Northwest vacation with Your Man Tours. Mass will be celebrated daily while on board ship for those in the group who wish to participate. Your group will fly into Salt Lake City starting a six-night motor coach tour of the Pacific Northwest visiting Salt Lake City (including the Mormon Tabernacle, Beehive House and Great Salt Lake), Jackson Hole, Wyoming; Grand Teton National Park; West Yellowstone; two days in Yellowstone (Old Faithful) National Park; Montana; Lake Coeur d’Alene; the Grand Coulee Dam; Washington; the Cascade Mountains. and British Columbia. In Vancouver you will board your five-star ship, HAL’s m.s. Zuderdan.

Next would travel through a wondrous maze of forests and glacier-carved fjords, past charming coastal villages, motoring whales and dolpins along the way. (Skagway, Ketchikan and spectacular Glacier Bay)

After the cruise you’ll take a scenic drive to Seattle, spending one night before flying home. Prices for this 15-day vacation start at only $1048 (person, double occupancy). Included is the seven-day deluxe Alaska cruise, seven nights in quality hotels, lots of escorted motor coach sightseeing throughout the Pacific Northwest, transfers, baggage handling, port charges and taxes. Add $50 round trip airfare from Ft. Wayne.

Want more information? Call: (574) 291-2923

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