Bishop John D'Arcy and several priests from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend are participating in a new Web site audiovisual project by the Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC) of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

Currently, if one visits the USCCB Web site, usccb.org, and selects “Readings” from the various categories, the readings from the Mass of the Day are available in printed form. A visitor can choose either “Today’s Reading” or click on any day of the month. In fact, readings from the Mass liturgy are available from the current month and the three months that follow.

Scheduled to begin late this month, however, when a visitor to the USCCB Web site clicks on “Readings,” he or she not only will be able to read the text but eventually hear the readings and also view an (arch)bishop or priest give about a two- to three-minute reflection on them. The local diocese will help kickoff the special project and be represented on Fridays beginning in October and running through Easter 2007.

The idea for the project originated with Ellen McCloskey, director of production for the CCC staff, and Christopher Salvador, partner-producer-director of NewGroup Media (NGM), of South Bend, creators and producers of the Diocesan clergy participating in national USCCCB project to enhance diocesan Web sites and provide resources to parishes for groups desiring to prepare for an Evensong prayer service. The project focuses on preparing a prayer service benefitting parishes across the U.S., using the CCC Web site to provide the readings for the liturgy.

The project includes video of bishops and priests representing the USCCB jurisdictions. The video will be available on the USCCB Web site and distributed to parishes through the CCC Web site.

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is one of the participating dioceses. The project is expected to be a valuable resource for parishes and others preparing for Evensong prayer services.

Dr. Dan Quinn and Ken Jehle demonstrate a chord sequence at the third annual guitar workshop for liturgical guitarists at St. Joseph Church in Fort Wayne. This year’s workshop focused on chord mastery and included demonstrations by Quinn, Jehle and Fred Rothert of St. Mary Church in Fort Wayne.

MISHAWAKA — The 236 students at Queen of Peace School in Mishawaka won’t have to study in modular classrooms any longer.

On Wednesday, Sept. 13, school officials unveiled a completed expansion project that added 7,600 square feet to Queen of Peace School.

The addition opened four extra classrooms, a science laboratory, a combined media center and library and a study area for children. Staff will now be parked in new administration offices and teachers’ lounge. A new roof and an outdoor education center capped off the project, which cost $832,000, according to a news release from the parish.

As members of the student council cut the ribbon at an open house celebration Wednesday, students and family poured into the school out the rain to take in the school’s new look.

Mary Ann Middlestadt, mother of fourth-grader Merissa had one word for the new digs: “wonderful.”

She said the new space will give kids “more elbow room, and the science lab is awesome.”

In particular, Middlestadt said, the science lab will give students hands on experience and will enhance the students’ overall educational experience at Queen of Peace.

“We love it here,” Middlestadt said. “It’s a wonderful school and parish, and the teachers are wonderful.”

Anne Oliva, whose daughters Marie and Catherine both attend the school and whose daughter Sarah will start preschool next year, is pleased with the expansion.

“It’s nice to have all the kids in one building,” Oliva said. “And it’s nice to know we will have room to grow if classes grow.”

She’s also happy that her girls will be able to go to school at Queen of Peace through eighth grade. The new expansion will continue to allow the growth to pursue middle school academics for students.

According to Father Richard Hire, pastor at Queen of Peace School in Mishawaka, and Erin Myers, an eighth grader at the school, cut the ribbon on a school expansion project. On Sept. 13, the school hosted an open house and ribbon-cutting ceremony for parents and students.

Molly Jones, left, a seventh grader at Queen of Peace Catholic School in Mishawaka, and Erin Myers, an eighth grader at the school, cut the ribbon on a school expansion project. On Sept. 13, the school hosted an open house and ribbon-cutting ceremony for parents and students.
Grants from Annual Bishop’s Appeal fund charitable works

BISHOP JOHN M. D’ARCY

A historic parish

St. Joseph Parish, South Bend was founded by the intrepid French missionary priest, Father Edward Sorin, CSC, in 1854. We think of him, and rightly so, as the founder of the University of Notre Dame, but he was an evangelist, a preacher, and the Congregation of Holy Cross was still in its formative years when he came here in 1842 to work, he thought, among the Indians. God had more expansive plans. He founded St. Joseph Parish and St. Patrick Parish, and preached the Gospel as far as Goshen, Ind., and other places throughout the area. So, it was a special privilege to do a parish visitation at St. Joseph’s in response to the request of Father John DeRiso, CSC, the exemplary pastor, and to visit with him and Father Nate Wills, CSC, ordained a priest less than a year. We had a beautiful liturgy, with our hearts raised to God in prayer. It was a privilege to bless and commission the catechists led by the outstanding principal of St. Joseph School, Suzanne Wiwi. Also, at the conclusion of Mass, I presented grants to the various groups in South Bend, such as Catholic Charities, St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Women’s Care Center, the Center for the Homeless and so many others, which are listed on page 4. Pope Benedict XVI has reminded us that the church can no more neglect the service of charity than it can neglect the word of God, or the sacraments. These various grants were made possible by the Annual Bishop’s Appeal. A new grant this year was given to the Logan Center, which does such excellent work among handicapped children, including those with various degrees of autism. Altogether we gave out $62,000 to a total of 13 agencies. At the end of Mass, each recipient spoke a few words. Always special is Sister Marita Stoffel, OSF, who works with those in jail. She said she never fears for her safety, believing that the good Lord will protect her. We will give similar grants in Fort Wayne in a few weeks.

Two special priests

We give thanks to Father David Tyson, CSC, provincial of the Congregation of Holy Cross, and his associate, for the wonderful priests who are taking care of several parishes in South Bend. Father John DeRiso, CSC, is a native of Long Island, New York. I was privileged to meet some of the team he has put together, including Theresa Slott, his director of music, and Maryellen Kottenstette, the youth minister. This is an important parish located in downtown South Bend. The school opened this year with over 447 students. Many of them come from quite a distance. There is evident spirit of joy and service, and the worship of God is sincere and prayerful, but also joyful. Father DeRiso deserves much credit for his leadership. Father Nate Wills, CSC, recently ordained, is a real gift — and also helps at Saint Joseph’s High School. It was a joy to spend this Sunday with him and his flock.

Pope Benedict XVI has reminded us that the church can no more neglect the service of charity than it can neglect the word of God or the sacraments.

A follow-up brunch

I joined these two priests and another good friend and extraordinary pastor, Father Michael Mathews, CSC, at the famous Tippecanoe Restaurant, along with our diocesan master-of-ceremonies, Jim Fitzpatrick. Now you are talking about a major league brunch with waffles, pancakes and all kinds of sweet rolls. Unlike these three priests, I stayed with the roast beef and away from the rolls and pancakes. Of course you remember, they are athletes. They run for five or six miles several days a week. In fact, the indefatigable Father Mathews runs marathons and sometimes even makes the finish line without fainting. They were quite capable of devouring the high calories without repercussions. My running days are over, but I walk when I can.

A joyful day at St. Joseph Parish. After that, I drove to St. Matthew Parish where I gave a Mass. There was pain in the Mass at St. Jude, there was also gratitude in contemplating the life of a good man. A sense of a life well lived.

We buried Tom Jehl last Saturday from St. Jude Parish, Fort Wayne. After serving his country in the Cold War, and in marrying his sweetheart, Margie Bougher, in, of all places, Killarney, Ireland, while still in the service of his country, he returned home and set out on his vocation within a vocation. Tom built hundreds of homes and later shopping centers. He gave work to countless tradesmen and helped them to support their families. Surely his greatest gift was building his own home with six children, 22 grandchildren and one great grandchild.

There is a psalm prayed by Jews and Christians for centuries, which includes these words, “Unless the Lord build the house in vain do the builders labor.” Tom lived close to the Eucharist and, in all those years of business, lived by the same code of ethics which he had learned at St. Peter School, Central Catholic and Loras College. “He was our quarterback,” one classmate told me about his time at Central Catholic. Later in life, he established the Lifetime Sports Academy, where children could learn to play tennis, golf, basketball and other sports. He was a great contributor to the University of Saint Francis, and helped to establish the football program there.

Tom was devoted to Bishop Dwenger High School, the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and to his family.

It was all done quietly. A good business man makes work for others; in this case, tradesmen, such as carpenters and electricians, helping them to build their own homes and raise their own children. It was all done ethically and according to God’s law. So, although there was pain in the Mass at St. Jude, there was also gratitude in contemplating the life of a good man. A sense of a life well lived.

Many moments ahead

I look forward to several events. A Mass for our jubilarian priests — those who have served 25, 40, 50 and even 60 years — as shepherds of Christ. Celebration of the Red Mass for lawyers and public officials at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, asking God’s blessing upon the new term in our courts. The first meeting of the year with our Council of Catholic School Teachers. An evening of prayer and worship with our young people at St. Mary, Fort Wayne. Continuing education days with our priests presented, in this case, by the Notre Dame School of Business, under its extraordinary dean, Carolyn Woo.

Alas, the painful loss to Michigan. But the year is young and our coach is strong. Good can be brought from this performance. Perhaps a touch of reality for us all.

See you all next week.
Pope deeply regrets that his comments offended Muslims

Pope Benedict XVI said he was “deeply sorry” that Muslims were offended by his reference to a historical critici

VATICAN CITY (CBS) — Pope Benedict XVI said he was “deeply sorry” that Muslims were offended by his reference to a historical criticism of Islam, which he said does not reflect his own opinion.

The pope’s remarks to pilgrims at his summer residence in Castel Gandolfo Sept. 17 were his first public reaction to a wave of Muslim indignation over recent remarks by the pope, saying that the pope did not intend to “offend the sensibilities of Muslims.”

“These were in fact a quotation from a medieval text, which do not in any way express my personal thought,” he said.

The pope said he hoped his explanation and earlier Vatican statements would serve to “appeal and tend to clarify the true meaning of my address, which in its totality was and is an invitation to frank and sincere dialogue, with great mutual respect.”

Several Muslim leaders reacted positively to the pope’s comments, which were carried live on some Arab TV networks. Other Islamic groups said a fuller apology was needed.

In Somalia, authorities were investigating whether the killing of an Italian nun, Sister Leonella Sgorbati, was related to the controversy over the popal speech. She and her bodyguard, who was also killed, were being treated in a children’s hospital where the nun worked.

“We hope this remains an isolated case,” said Vatican spokesman, Father Federico Lombardi. Without directly linking the killing to the pope’s speech, he said the Vatican was “following with concern the consequences of this wave of hatred, hoping that it does not lead to serious consequences for the church in the world.”

In Turkey, where there had been harsh criticism of the papal speech, Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul said there were no plans to change the government’s plans to host Pope Benedict during a planned visit to Turkey this fall. It would be the pope’s first trip to a Muslim country.

In his talk at the University of Regensburg, Germany, Sept. 12, the pope’s main theme was how reason and faith must be reconciled in the West, but he introduced by quoting the 15th-century Byzantine Emperor Manuel II Paleologus on the errors of Islam and Jesus.”

Most of the Muslim negative reaction has been based on the erroneous assumption that the pope defended the quoted material, including the line that Islam brought “things only evil and harmful.”

Criticism came from Muslim leaders and representatives in many countries, including Egypt, Pakistan, Iran and Indonesia. In the West Bank, fire bombs were hurled at several Christian churches, apparently in reaction to the pope’s speech; no injuries were reported.

The pope’s decision to directly confront the controversy came after the Vatican issued two statements clarifying his speech, saying it had been misinterpreted.

A few hours after the pope returned from Germany Sept. 14, Father Lombardi said that while the papal speech contained a “clear and radical rejection of the religious motivation for violence,” it was not meant to be a critical assessment of Islam. On the contrary, Father Lombardi said, the pope’s talk focused primarily on the religious shortcomings of the West.

The Vatican’s new secretary of state, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, issued another statement Sept. 16 saying the pope respected Islam and its followers, and was unequivocally “in favor of interfaith dialogue. The cardinal said that in Germany the pope had been arguing in favor of religious values in modern cultures — a point that should be welcomed by Muslims.”

“Indeed it was (the pope) who, before the religious fervor of Muslim believers, warned secularized Western culture to guard against ‘the contempt for God and the cynicism that considers mockery of the sacred to be an exercise of freedom,’” Cardinal Bertone said.

Much attention was focused on the pope’s planned trip to Turkey Nov. 28-Dec. 1. Cardinal Bertone said he hoped the Turkey trip would take place and added: “For the time being there is no reason why it should not.”

Ali Bardakoglu, the head of Turkey’s directorate of religious affairs, who had earlier denounced the papal speech, welcomed the clarifying remarks.

“(The pope) says that he respects Islam and didn’t want to offend the sensibilities of the civilized position,” Bardakoglu said.

But elsewhere the pope’s words drew a less enthusiastic response. In Iran, a government spokesman Sept. 18 that the pope’s explanations were not enough, and that “he should say that what he declared was wrong.” In the Iraq city of Basra the same day, some 150 people joined a protest organized by a Shi’ite cleric, burning the pope’s effigy along with U.S. and Israeli flags.

Several Vatican officials expressed deep dismay that Muslim reactions were based on distorted news media accounts of the papal speech.

Cardinal Paul Peppard, who heads the Vatican council that dialogue with Muslims, said a careful reading would show that the pope had offered to Islam “an outstretched hand” in the battle against an oversecularized global culture.

“We invite our Muslim friends of goodwill to take the pope’s text in hand and read it in its entirety and meditate on it. Let us hope that this can in no way be considered an assault on Islam but is rather an outstretched hand, because it defends the value of humanity’s religious cultures, including Islam,” the cardinal said in an interview with the Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera.

The secretary-general of the Central Council of Muslims in Germany, Ausman Mavryk, said he did not see the lecture as an attack on Muslims.

Mavryk told the German newspaper “Against the background of the bloody forced Christianization in South America, the Crusades in the Muslim world, the co-option of the church by the Hitler regime, even the invention of the expression ‘holocaust’, which originally comes from the mouth of (Pope) Urban II, or holocaust me with some concern if the church would come and take a superior attitude to the extremist activities of other religious communities.”

He said he was sure the pope had not meant that.

Today’s Catholic now available as podcast

Podcast, what’s a podcast? That’s a question most of the staff at Today’s Catholic has been hearing often as we tell our friends and family about a new communication tool the newspaper has begun to use for spreading the good news.

A podcast is an audio broadcast. It can be downloaded to your computer from an Internet source called iTunes. In the case of Today’s Catholic — it can also be found on the diocesan Web site, www.dioceseweb.org.

Today’s Catholic Podcast will be 15 minutes long and includes a sampling of news and features stories from each week’s issue of Today’s Catholic.

In a day and age when people are on the go, many tell us they don’t have time to read the newspaper in depth. The podcast takes news stories and delivers the highlights in a style similar to National Public Radio or another news broadcast. The stories are time-efficient and don’t go into the detail as the stories in the newspaper, but the podcast still provides a good general glimpse of diocesan, national and world stories.

We view offering the podcast as an extension of our audience. We are offering our message, news from the official publication of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, to an audience that may rely solely on secular sources for Catholic news.

The podcast can be downloaded and listened to at the listener’s convenience through an iPod or MP3 player, or right at the computer. If a listener subscribes through iTunes, the podcast is automatically downloaded to the computer on a certain day of the week or when the subscriber opens the iTunes program after the podcast is uploaded from the Today’s Catholic office.

The iPod or MP3 player offers individuals the opportunity to listen to the newscast at their convenience — at the gym, while walking, running errands, driving.

With the 150th anniversary of the diocese just around the corner, special events associated such as the Wells of Hope, Mercy Day, regional anointings and confirmations and the Eucharistic Congress at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, we think it is very crucial to share the news through this exciting new technology.

Today’s Catholic and Redeemer Radio are also working out details of offering the podcast on the air in the future.

For the visually impaired, the diocesan Communications Office posts the podcast on their website and sends it to those signed up for the service.

The staff of Today’s Catholic produces the podcast each week, usually on Wednesday morning. Announcers include Tim Johnson, editor; Don Clemmer, assistant editor; and Kay Cozad, staff writer. Vince LaBarbera, director of communications, and Mark Weber, graphics design, assist. Francis Hogan uploads the podcast.

Diocesan staff also contribute with pieces. Ginny Kohrman and Sister Jolene Heiden, SSND, from the Office of Spiritual Development and Evangelization, create the prayer or evangelization tip.

The podcast is assembled in the editorial offices of Today’s Catholic. After the vocal pieces are assembled, background music and effects are added.

Today’s Catholic encourages you to subscribe to the podcast and please encourage your friends to subscribe.

Today’s Catholic directly to your e-mail

In addition to the podcast, Today’s Catholic is conducting a pilot study on digital delivery of the newspaper. The paper currently sends the newspaper, exactly as it appears in print, to pilot study members who were solicited to take part in the survey through the Office of Youth and Campus and Young Adult Ministry. So far, the digital version has been popular with this small group.

We are interested in expanding the pilot study, which will take place through February 2007. Those interested in signing up for the pilot study should contact Tim Johnson at editor@fw.diocese- web.org. Current readers are welcome to receive the digital version as well as the print version, but we especially encourage nonsubscribers to take part in the survey.

Those in the study should have a high speed Internet connection and be willing to answer questions posed from time to time.
Annual Bishop Appeal checks disbursed

BY DIANE FREEBY

SOUTH BEND — Gift-giving abounded at the 10 a.m. Mass con-celebrated by Bishop John M. D’Arcy, Father John DeRiso, CSC, and Father Nathan Wills, at South Bend’s St. Joseph Church on Sept. 17.

After blessing a large group of parish catechists and teachers, Bishop D’Arcy pulled out some envelopes. “We are happy to award grants to those who work for the poor and needy in our community,” said Bishop D’Arcy. “In the neediest, they have found Jesus Christ, our savior.”

Thirteen South Bend organizations were on hand to receive grants made possible by the Annual Bishop’s Appeal.

Head counselor Ellen Summer talked about a young woman who came into the Women’s Care Center, determined to have an abortion. “But when she saw her baby moving and kicking on the ultrasound screen, her heart melted and she immediately decided to choose life for her baby.”

Amounts disbursed were the following:

- $23,000 Catholic Charities (Fort Wayne-South Bend combined)
- $5,000 Children’s Village
- $4,000 Christ, our savior.
- $3,000 Family Services
- $2,000 Good Samaritan Center for Basic Learning Skills
- $1,000 Life Athletes
- $1,000 Logan Center

Charities with their representatives receiving funds Sept. 17 at St. Joseph Church. South Bend, from the Annual Bishop’s Appeal include the following:

- Front row, from left: Steve Camilleri, director of Center for the Homeless; Nicole Taulbee, Catholic Charities; Sister Marita Stoffel OSF, Center for Basic Learning Skills; Paula Giver, Little Flower Food Pantry; middle row, Bill Killilea, board president of Hannah’s House; Ellen Summer, head counselor of Women’s Care Center, and top row, Dr. Steven Anderson, Chapin Street Clinic; Peter Smith, St. Augustine’s Soup Kitchen; Sean Wendlinder, executive director of St. Vincent de Paul; Dan Harshman, CEO of Logan Center and Mike Seymansi, Chiar House. Not present for the photo is Chris Godfrey of Life Athletes.

In addition to the distribution of checks from the Annual Bishop’s Appeal, Sept. 17 was also Catechetical Sunday. Catechists received a special blessing from Bishop John M. D’Arcy at the Mass at St. Joseph Church in South Bend.

If you love Prime Rib, you’re really going to love The Factory!

Friday and Saturday from 8 to 11 pm
Live Jazz - Light Rock - Acoustic and Variety sets

RALLY CALLS FOR END TO GENOCIDE

Bishop Luers senior Aaron Ware works a table at the rally for Darfur held Sept. 17 on the courthouse lawn in downtown Fort Wayne. Attended by natives of Darfur, hundreds of Fort Wayne residents and even groups from Illinois and Ohio, the rally called for an end to the ethnic cleansing, which has claimed hundreds of thousands of lives in the Darfur region of the Sudan. Speakers at the rally included Darfur natives, area political figures, as well as religious leaders in the community including Msgr. Peter Kumarakari, a Uganda native, of St. Charles Borromeo Parish.

EXPAND

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Queen of Peace, last school year was the first year an eighth grade graduated from the school. The growth the school has experienced since it reopened in 1999 has been encouraging.

According to Mike Portolese, Queen of Peace School Board president, the school closed down in 1969 and was stagnant until the late 1990s. The school was closed when the sisters who staffed the faculty couldn’t continue, and the parish couldn’t afford to pay out-side teachers.

Since then, there’s been a boom. “The growth is beyond what we expected,” said Portolese.

And with the growth in the student population, the school build-ings can be expanded to accommodate that growth, according to Father Hire.

“Father Hire is hoping to use much of the land surrounding the school for athletic fields for students including soccer and softball.”

“The growth is beyond what we expected,” said Portolese.

BY DIANE FREEBY

RALLY CALLS FOR END TO GENOCIDE

Bishop Luers senior Aaron Ware works a table at the rally for Darfur held Sept. 17 on the courthouse lawn in downtown Fort Wayne. Attended by natives of Darfur, hundreds of Fort Wayne residents and even groups from Illinois and Ohio, the rally called for an end to the ethnic cleansing, which has claimed hundreds of thousands of lives in the Darfur region of the Sudan. Speakers at the rally included Darfur natives, area political figures, as well as religious leaders in the community including Msgr. Peter Kumarakari, a Uganda native, of St. Charles Borromeo Parish.

EXPAND

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Queen of Peace, last school year was the first year an eighth grade graduated from the school. The growth the school has experienced since it reopened in 1999 has been encouraging.

According to Mike Portolese, Queen of Peace School Board president, the school closed down in 1969 and was stagnant until the late 1990s. The school was closed when the sisters who staffed the faculty couldn’t continue, and the parish couldn’t afford to pay outside teachers.

Since then, there’s been a boom. “The growth is beyond what we expected,” said Portolese.

And with the growth in the student population, the school buildings can be expanded to accommodate that growth, according to Father Hire.

“Father Hire is hoping to use much of the land surrounding the school for athletic fields for students including soccer and softball.”

“The growth is beyond what we expected,” said Portolese.
All ages invited to XLT

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — When XLT takes place Thursday, Sept. 28, at St. Mary’s Church in Fort Wayne, high school, young adults and even older adults will find an opportunity to deepen Catholicism, the real thing.

XLT (pronounced exalt) is a popular event at St. Vincent de Paul Parish and Our Lady of Good Hope in Fort Wayne, and diocese Youth Director Cindy Black has made XLT a diocesan-wide event.

According to Black, XLT “is a time for young people, families, adults of all ages to come together, lift their voices, praise the Lord, spend time with him, listen to his word and to adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.”

Bishop John M. D’Arcy and Father Mark Gurtner, pastor of Our Lady of Good Hope, will preside over the celebration.

Black’s connection with XLT extends back to retreats she attended. “There would be 100 teens worshipping the Lord, spending time in adoration and just on fire with the Holy Spirit, and so energetic, and so excited about their faith,” Black said.

She wanted more often, not just twice a year. And she wanted other Catholics to get excited about their faith along with the young people.

“Frankie and the Holy Rollers, producers of the Annual Bishop’s Appeal video and other diocesan projects, NGM will videotape the reflections of all the arch/bishops and priests involved throughout the country. Patricia Garcia, director of distribution for the CCC staff, is producing the audio portion of the readings.

The (arch)bishop from the participating (arch)dioceses will reflect on the Sundays readings. Bishop D’Arcy will lead the diocesan contingent with reflections on the Sundays of Sept. 24, Oct. 15 and Nov. 19. The other local reading reflections include:

• Bishop William Scherer, pastor, St. Pius X, Granger — first Fridays in October, November, December
• Father Christopher Cox, CSC, pastor, St. Adalbert and St. Casimir, South Bend — second Fridays in October, November, December
• Father Mark Gurtner, pastor, Our Lady of Good Hope, Fort Wayne — third Fridays in October, November, December
• Father Michael Heintz, rector, St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend — fifth Fridays in September and December
• Father Michael Mathews, CSC, pastor, Holy Cross and St. Stanislaus, South Bend — first Fridays in January, February, March
• Father Lawrence Kramer, pastor, St. Paul of the Cross, Columbia City — second Fridays in January, February, March.

“Lights, camera, action,” are the familiar words to Bishop John M. D’Arcy and seven priests who serve at parishes in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and will provide some of the homilies for the daily readings on the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Web site, www.usccb.org. Father Christopher Cox, CSC, prepares before going under the lights at his taping in South Bend by NewGroup Media.

HOMILY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Fr. William Scherer
Diocese of Fort Wayne - South Bend

Now in our fourth generation of service, D.O. McComb & Sons has worked hard to provide the families in this community with the very best service possible. As a family-owned funeral home, we take personal pride in every service we arrange.

Call Elaine M. Herber, Broker
Voice Mail (260) 479-1162
Results 0(260)436-6363 Ex 317 R: (260) 639-6471

Four Generations of family ownership

McComb & Sons Funeral Homes

Celebrating the Lives of the People You Love

(260) 426-9494
Maplewood Park • 4017 Maplecrest Lakeside Park • 1140 Lake Avenue Foster Park • 6301 Fairfield Auburn Chapel • 502 North Main Covington Knolls • 8325 Covington Road Pine Valley Park • 1320 E. Dupont Road

Four Generations of family ownership

Catholic Edition

The original award-winning calendar used throughout the world for over 68 years.

• All of 2008 added, one page per month
• Five color printing • Complete liturgical information • Daily readings • All of 2008 added, one page per month • New for 2007 - Spanish Liturgical Desk Calendar

2007 Liturgical Calendar
AQUINAS
2306 Mishawaka Avenue
South Bend 46615
(574) 287-1091

We also have Printery House 2007 Calendars in stock.

©2002 MKJ Marketing

Four Generations of family ownership
Church leaders join pleas for action to save Darfur population

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As people around the world joined peace rallies in Darfur, Sudan, the head of the U.S. bishops’ international policy committee and others pleaded for more efforts to “end the killings, rape and wanton destruction.” Events in dozens of cities drew tens of thousands of people on or around Sept. 17, which was designated by peace groups as Global Day for Darfur.

Bishop Thomas G. Wenski of Orlando, Fla., the committee head, said despite hopeful signs of a peace agreement in the spring conflict has been mounting among rebel groups, the Sudanese military and its proxy militias, known as the Janjaweed. The offensive “has trampled innocent and defenseless civilians in the middle of the fighting,” Bishop Wenski wrote in a statement released Sept. 15 in Washington. And with the deteriorating situation, it has become “a deadly challenge to deliver humanitarian aid to the area.” Aid workers and people who have fled their homes and another million who are at risk of starvation, he said.

Newer priests are older, more culturally diverse, study finds

WASHINGTON (CNS) — According to a new study, the current generation of recently ordained priests is older and more culturally diverse than 15 years earlier.

The major theological influence on newer priests’ lives was Pope John Paul II, according to a study by Karl Rahner, who easily ranked at the top in a similar survey 15 years earlier, dropped to a distant tie for third in the new survey. The study, “Experiences of Priests Ordained Five to Nine Years,” was written by sociologist Dennis Kowalski of the Catholic University of America’s Life Cycle Institute and published in September by the seminary department of the National Catholic Educational Association.

Hoge’s findings were based on a 2005 survey to which 1,000 U.S. priests ordained between 1996 and 2000 responded. Many of the questions represented a repeat of a similar study Hoge conducted in 1990 with 1,500 priests ordained between 1981 and 1985.

Cuban cardinal asks for peace in wake of Castro’s ceding of power

HAVANA, Cuba (CNS) — As Massive protest took place across Cuba, Havana Cardinal Jaime Ortega Alamillo called for domestic peace during Cuba’s “new political situation” caused by President Fidel Castro’s temporary ceding of power. The cardinal also opposed “foreign interference” in Cuban affairs and said Catholics would continue praying for the Cuban people.

Ortega also defended the spiritual formation of people and the Catholic Church’s prayers for respect of Cuban sovereignty, for peace and for prisoners who came Sept. 8 during a Mass to celebrate the 90th anniversary of Our Lady of Charity of Cobre as Cuba’s patroness. The Mass started after 2,000 people filed down several Havana streets behind an image of Our Lady of Charity that Pope John Paul II had crowned during his 1998 visit. Accompanied by a band, they sang, prayed and shouted “vivas” to Mary. The outdoor procession, as Havana and 68 other places across Cuba are signs of some of the relaxed state restrictions on outdoor religious events as a result of the papal visit.
The priests and brothers of the Congregation of Holy Cross along with three groups of Holy Cross Sisters began a year of rejoicing and spiritual renewal in preparation for the naming of their founder, Venerable Basil Moreau, to be named “Blessed” in 2007 in LeMans, France. Father Kenneth Molinaro, CSC, the first provincial assistant of the Indiana Province of Holy Cross Priests was the celebrant and homilist at a vigil Mass for the solemnity of Our Lady of Sorrows, patrons of the Congregation of Holy Cross, at Sacred Heart Basilica, Notre Dame, Sept. 14. The Mass was concelebrated by Holy Cross priests with readings by a Holy Cross brother and a sister of The Holy Cross.

Serra Club to host regional conference at Notre Dame

SOUTH BEND — Over 300 people from eight states are expected here next month for a Midwest regional conference of the Serra Club. Serra International is an organization with 24,000 members worldwide, whose purpose is to pray for, foster and promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life. It is named after Blessed Junipero Serra, an 18th-century Spanish Franciscan missionary who was a major figure in spreading the faith in Mexico and the western United States.

The Oct. 26-29 conference is being hosted by the Serra Club of South Bend, which will welcome Serrans from Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota. Most of the conference will take place on the campuses of Saint Mary’s College and the University of Notre Dame.

The theme of the conference is “Thirsting for Knowledge, Truth, Charity and Christ.”

On Saturday, Oct. 28, the 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. conference program in O’Leary Auditorium at the Saint Mary’s campus will be open to the public for a one-day fee of $25 for adults and $20 for students, which includes a box lunch.

Guest speakers on Saturday include Holy Cross Father Theodore Hechbergh, a president emeritus of Notre Dame; Dick Lyles, an author and the executive officer of Relevant Radio, the largest Catholic talk radio network in the United States; and Charlotte Prince, Notre Dame law professor emeritus and author. Bishop Alexander Sample of the Indiana Province of Holy Cross Priests was the celebrant and homilist at a vigil Mass for the solemnity of Our Lady of Sorrows, patrons of the Congregation of Holy Cross, at Sacred Heart Basilica, Notre Dame, Sept. 14. The Mass was concelebrated by Holy Cross priests with readings by a Holy Cross brother and a sister of The Holy Cross.

Memorial service for aborted babies scheduled

FORT WAYNE — The 14th annual memorial service commemorating the deaths of the 699 babies killed this year in Fort Wayne by abortion will be held on Sunday, Oct. 1, at 2 p.m. at the Catholic Cemetery in Fort Wayne located at 5300 Lake Ave.

The service remembers the children aborted in Fort Wayne at the Women’s Health Organization between Sept. 1, 2005 and Aug. 31, 2006.

The non-denominational service gives all a chance to pause and reflect on the tragedies caused by the sin of abortion in the United States.

Breast cancer benefit held at Saint Mary’s College

NOTRE DAME — The Saint Mary’s College Department of Athletics invites members of the Michiana community to help raise money for breast cancer research while raising their heart rates. The Oktoberfest run/walk fundraiser takes place on Sunday, Oct. 1, at 2 p.m.

The 5K and 3K walk begins in front of the Angela Athletic facility on the campus. Registration is necessary, and a form can be found at www.saintmarys.edu/athletic. Participants can also register on campus the day of the event beginning at 1 p.m. by contacting Erin Sullivan at (574) 284-8910. Top performers in both the run and the walk will receive t-shirts, and prizes will be raffled after the event. Registration is necessary, and donations will be accepted. All proceeds go to local Young Survivors cancer support group.

Little Flower to host prayer and film

SOUTH BEND — Little Flower Church will host a Taize prayer and the film “An Inconvenient Truth,” about the earth on Tuesday, Oct. 3, at 7:15 p.m. The film will be shown at 7:15 p.m. A discussion will be held on how we are called to be stewards of the earth, a gift of God to humanity and all creation.

The event will be held in the Little Flower Chapel and in room 2 of the parish center. The church is located at 54191 N. Ironwood Dr., in South Bend. Please park in the upper parking lot.

Knights establish first Hispanic council

SOUTH BEND — Establishment of a Hispanic Knights of Columbus Council became a reality Sunday in St. Adalbert Parish, where 20 Roman Catholic men gathered to form the San Mateo Correa Magellan No. 14113.

Indiana State Deputy Norm Stoffel granted the state K. of C. charter for the first Hispanic council to be formally organized in the South Bend area.

The new council will be the fourth in the city of South Bend. Others are Santa Maria Council, Ave Maria Council and Archbishop John Carroll Council. Others in the immediate area include Notre Dame Council, Mishawaka Council, Queen of Peace Council in Mishawaka and St. Pius Father Badin Council in Granger.

Christopher Johnston, CSC, pastor of St. Adalbert Church, will serve as chaplain. He was instrumental in the council’s formation.

Hessen Cassel students pray for peace at 9/11 rosary

FORT WAYNE — On the morning of Sept. 11, the fifth anniversary of the World Trade Center, Pentagon and Pennsylvania terrorist attacks, the students and staff of St. Joseph Hessen Cassel School filed into the assembly room to join together in prayer. Their invocation for peace took the form of a live rosary, with each class leading a decade in union, and the eighth grade students forming the cross.

Before reciting the rosary, fifth-grader William Boyer read to the students a story from her journal, particularly significant on this day. Five years ago, on Sept. 11, her daughter Amy had been working in New York City the day the Twin Towers were fatally hit by the airplanes piloted by the terrorists.

“There are so many students who were too young to know what happened on that day,” Wyss said, “so I want to share with them the events, the emotions and the sadness that filled the air on that day.”

Tony Johnston, father of third grader Jack Johnston and full-time Air Force Reserve member, joined the students of St. Joseph School in praying the rosary.

Johnston has served one tour of duty in Qatar and two tours in Iraq. After the rosary, everyone went outside around the flagpole.

Johnston, assisted by fifth grade student Jacob Burns, raised the flag. Students sang “The Star Spangled Banner,” recited the Pledge of Allegiance, and sang “God Bless America.”

Johnston said that the day, 9/11, was every emotional for him. He feels that many have an unclear picture of what our military was doing for the US. In less than a year, Johnston’s unit will return to Iraq.

Catholicism Revealed moved to church

FORT WAYNE — The Catholicism Revealed sessions will meet in St. Vincent de Paul Church in Fort Wayne for the six Monday evening sessions from 7 to 8:30 p.m., beginning Monday, Oct. 9. This has been relocated from the spiritual center, which is under construction.

The Oct. 9 speaker is Amy Welborn.
Couples renew their marriage vows at St. Matthew Cathedral

BY MICHELLE DONAGHEY

SOUTH BEND — Around 30 couples gathered together to renew their marriage vows and to celebrate with a reception at the parish gym all had different advice on how they have made and what helps makes a good marriages. The couples gathered for the annual celebration have been married for 25 and 50 years of marriage at St. Matthew Cathedral on Sunday, Sept. 17. “Respect and be considerate of the person in the good and the bad times,” said Michael Beutter of Little Flower who was celebrating 25 years of marriage to his beloved, Bridget. Their anniversary date is Oct. 24. “With God’s help and the grace of the sacrament,” agreed Barb and Steve Fralish of St. Matthew Cathedral whose 25th will be on Nov. 14. “Look after one another,” said Doris Mitchell who was married 50 years to Bill on May 12. The couple is from Holy Family Parish. Kidding, Ladd Lovach, married to Virginia for 50 years Oct. 20 of Christ the King Parish said that he is “still serving time” but would “still sign up” if asked again. Seriously, he added that to have 50 wonderful years it took “a lot of patience, love and understanding.”

“Be a good listener,” said Frank Lakner, celebrating 50 years of marriage with his wife, Janet. The two are parishioners at St. Dominic Parish in Bremen. Lakner noted that doing that as well as other challenges in married life “is not always easy.” Jerald and Michele Warrell of St. John the Baptist, South Bend, married 25 years Nov. 7, said it was imperative that they “pray together, communicate with each other,” said Jerald. “There were a lot of red-eye conversations in the middle of the night,” adds Michele.

Bishop John M. D’Arcy in his homily noted that in married life couples help to make the Lord present in their families by the way that they live. “When we experience unselfishness between two people, it helps us to believe what God is like. God is totally giving, understanding and caring. We are all called to make it visible in our home to our own children. But remember we are not alone in this. In married life, everyday offers opportunities for selflessness, for caring, understanding, forgiveness as well as asking for forgiveness. If you try to love and care and do the right thing, you affect three to four generations and your love continues,” said the bishop.

Due to technical difficulties the advertisers on these two pages were inadvertently omitted from last weeks newspaper. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.
St. Thomas Center has new life

BY KRISTI WARD

ELKHART — Through the years it’s been a family home, a convent and a deacon’s residence. Today, the building across the street from St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Elkhart glistens in its bright new siding — a signal of its new life as the center for two important ministries. The building is actually two houses joined by a common breezeway and is shared by director of youth ministry Jackiejo Brewers, and pastoral associate Vickie Bayer. Both were on hand to welcome visitors at the building’s recent open house.

The idea for the open house came from St. Thomas’ pastor, Father Bill Sullivan. “He wants people to see the inside because most people have not been in here at all,” Bayer says. “Some people haven’t been in here since they were in elementary school to come over for a special function with the nuns — so it’s mainly so people can see the facility.”

As St. Thomas’ first pastoral associate, Bayer will have an office in the “south house.” The south will also house small group meetings and have reading rooms available on the second floor. Bayer says she hopes to hold retreats and bring in special speakers on topics where she sees a need.

“Theology of the body and parenting — those two seem to stick out first to me,” she says. “Young adult education is probably the next thing I’ll work on.”

The “north house” is the youth ministry portion of the building. At the open house Brewers shared her plans for the building and the ministry to young people.

“I’m not trying to do just a youth group,” she says. “I have seven different activities planned throughout the month just to get kids to come to anything and any time they want.”

Brewers is the mother of five boys and she says her own experience led her to design the unique program for teens.

“Because I know my own children — the sports practices, and they have to do homework — I know lots of kids out there are the same as they are,” Brewers explained. “So it kind of grew out of my own experience.”

The St. Thomas building has had a long history of successful ministries — and these new ministries look to follow right in their footsteps.

The Anthony Wayne Area Council Scout Reservation at Pleasant Lake was the host site for the annual Catholic Camporee sponsored by the Fort Wayne Catholic Committee on Scouting. The theme was “The Holy Family and Our Family.” The young men worked on the “Ad Altare Dei” religious emblem, Family Life Merit Badge, and discussed how our earthly family compares to the Holy Trinity and the Holy Family. Mass, shown above, was celebrated by Father Ted Uwakwe from St. Joseph in Garrett. The evening concluded with campfire, song and skits. For information on Scouting in your area contact Frank Serrani at (260) 432-9593 or Gary Weaver at (260) 489-7800.

St. Thomas parishioners attending the recent open house of the Pastoral Center and Youth Ministry Building got a chance to tour the renovated convent and to meet pastoral associate Vickie Bayer and director of youth ministry Jackiejo Brewers. Pictured above, from left, are Steve Spretnjak, Vickie Bayer, Bill Teague, Delores Spry and Jeanne Longbrake.

Wygant Floral co. INC.
327 Lincolnway West South Bend
232-3354 (800) 994-2687
Charge by Phone or Come in and Browse
Monday-Friday: 8AM - 5:30PM
Saturday 8AM - 5PM
FLOWERS & GIFTS FOR ALL OCCASIONS
Fresh Cut Flowers • Silk and Dried Flowers • Imported and Domestic Gifts and Candies • Plants • Gourmet Fruit Baskets • Balloons
AREA WIDE DELIVERY
Free delivery to hospitals and funeral homes
wygantfloral.com

Change Your Life...by Changing Theirs
Sharing Meadows, a Christian community for other abled adults, needs a few compassionate, loving people to live in the homes with two residents, providing companionship and supervision while teaching daily living skills. Benefits include a salary, room and board, health insurance, two days off a week on a rotating basis, four weeks paid vacation per year centered around Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas, and a bonus after each year of completed service. Retirees, recent college grads or anyone who wants to engage in meaningful, joyful work should consider it. Married couples and singles are welcome.

Join our community and make a difference in the lives of our developmentally disabled villagers while adding a new dimension to your own life.

Call Share Foundation at 219-778-2585
or email share@sharefoundation.org

“Professional Insurance Services”
KINTZ INSURANCE AGENCY
111 North Third Street • Decatur
(260)728-9290 • (260) 724-8042 • 1-800-589-5468
Kathryn Chandler, 90, has enjoyed Donaldson and Marshall County all her life

BY IDA CHIPMAN

DONALDSON— Kathryn Chandler has spent every summer of her life on her family’s farm near Donaldson.

Ninety years old on May 14, she is one of Donaldson’s oldest residents. She was third of six generations to enjoy the locale, she has lived year-round for the past 27 years on Union Road in a 105-year-old home — one of the oldest in West Township.

“Growing old in Marshall County has been a wonderful experience for mother,” her son, John J. Chandler, of Chicago, said. “She has experienced life on a farm, enjoyed the change of seasons and made lifelong friends in Marshall County. It has been the best of both worlds.”

Kathryn loves to read and look at pictures despite a debilitating stroke that has left her unable to speak. Fiercely independent, she comprehends everything. Her bright blue eyes speak volumes even when her lips cannot.

Born into a strong German enclave in Chicago in 1916, Kathryn Victoria was the only child of John and Marie (Mey) Weccard. She was only one year old when her parents were sent to her grandparents’ farm in Donaldson to live for an entire year to escape the Spanish flu pandemic of 1917-1918.

Her grandparents, Victor and Clara Mey, had emigrated from Germany in 1883. In the dairy business, incorporated now into Dean Foods, they lived in Chicago, but, as was the custom for urban Germans to have a place in the country, they would spend several weeks in the summer with other German families at the Lake Gibrith resort now known as Convent Ancilla Domini.

Marshall County reminded Victor of his native village in Germany. His friend, Philip Henrici, owned a large restaurant chain in Chicago. He had an upstairs wife who hated Indians and despised going out to the countryside.

In 1901, Henrici finally got fed up with his wife’s complaining and when Victor made an offer to buy his 640 acre farm, he sold.

A gentleman farmer, Victor grew grain and hops for the Berghoff Brewery in Fort Wayne. Every summer granddaughter Kathryn came to visit. She helped the hired family with the chores and played hostess to the extended families who would visit “The Farm” on weekends.

When Victor made an offer to buy up with his wife’s complaining and she said yes, the couple moved to Marshall County. At six years old, her grandfather taught her how to drive a horse and buggy.

Kathryn became the designated driver. When she’d come down from Chicago — against all rules of the Pennsylvania railroad — she would pack her toy colic, Prince, in a picnic basket. When the train stopped in Donaldson, the conductor would look the other way when she — and her furry passenger — got off.

The summer that she was 12, she was the only family member who learned how to drive their 1928 Packard automobile. A chauffeur usually did the honors.

“Oddly enough, I remember that afternoon every woman in the room was wearing a hat with multicolored plumed feathers. Unfortunately, that afternoon every woman in the room was wearing a hat with multicolored plumed feathers.”

“Kathryn — all after, she had been a detective — looked around and said a fellow that she determined must be the Joseph Chandler she was to meet. Then at St. Louis University, he was a decorated Army veteran of five years who had served his country in the Pacific theater. She was correct. They courted for a year and were married in St. Philip Neri Church on Nov. 27, 1948. It was sort of amazing how events in her life kept bumping into Plymouth and Donaldson. Could God be telling her to come home?

John was an accountant with the Arthur Grant Company. Among his first assignments he was to audit the Ross Hotel on LaPorte St., and the Weidner Pickle Company on Western Ave. in Plymouth.

Kathryn retired from her job to raise a family.

Very much wanting children, she miscarried babies twice. The second time, in the emergency room of a Chicago hospital, her attending physician was Dr. Lowell Peterson, formerly of Plymouth.

He told her that she would never be able to bear children and that the couple’s best choice was to adopt. Before they could make those arrangements, she found herself pregnant again and in 1951, John, her first child was born. Robert and Mary Ann (Jack) followed, each one was 15 months apart.

The Chandler family continued to come to Donaldson. They often spent time on Pretty Lake. Later, young John even bought a cottage at Pretty Lake off of Quince Road that they still enjoy.

After raising her family — all of whom spent their summers at the Donaldson farm — Kathryn and Joseph restored the homestead to its original beauty and retired on the property in 1979, dividing their time between traveling to and from Donaldson and Chicago.

After her husband’s death in 1983, Kathryn traveled extensively to visit family in Germany, in Europe and throughout the United States.

She attends Mass every Sunday morning at the Catherine Kasper Home at Ancilla Domini Convent. Kathryn enjoys her home with the assistance of two wonderful caregivers — Barbara Blacejck and Marcella Herr. She is always ready to welcome friends and family for visits.

Her son, John, a former teacher, is the vice-president of St. Ignatius High School in Chicago. He expects to retire to Donaldson. Already involved in the community, he serves as the president of the board of trustees of Ancilla College and is a member of the Plymouth Country Club. A historian, he has bought and restored a number of old buildings in Donaldson.

“That’s my hobby,” he said. “I very much enjoy this community and I look forward to living here.

“There are a lot of wonderful memories.”
Mom finds calling to religious life

BY KAY COZAD

Calling to religious life is a special vocation to serve God and man. Some who answer the call come to it in unusual ways, as in the case of Sister Alice O’Brien. O’Brien grew up in Amarillo, Texas, where as the middle child of John and Dora Birkenfeld, she and her four siblings led a typical life that included formation in the Catholic faith. She began to think of a religious life in her eighth grade year with her parents’ devotion to the church as her strongest influence.

“My folks were very faithful,” she recalls. She was, however, encouraged by her teachers to finish high school before discerning a commitment.

As life would have it, Alice met Daniel O’Brien in 1963, shortly following her high school graduation. O’Brien welcomed her new life as stay-at-home mom as their family grew exponentially with the birth of four children within six years. Their fifth child was born following a transfer from their home in Ohio to South Bend. There the family became active members of St. Matthew Cathedral. Another job change led the O’Briens to Elkhart, where the youngest of the O’Brien clan was born and for the last 23 years they have called it home.

O’Brien continued to work to provide a religious formation for her children and members of St. Thomas the Apostle. “I made an effort to keep the kids in touch with their faith,” she says. In addition to running a children’s day care in her home, she was a lector, eucharistic minister, president of the rosary society and facilitator of the pro-life group there.

She eventually worked outside the home and studied in 1986 and graduated with a diploma from Notre Dame School of nursing in 1986 and became a member of the Benedictine Sisters of Columbia, Mo., an area she has come to love. She says her relationship with God continues to change and grow. Currently she holds the vocations director position within the monastery, a job that leads her to the schools and university Newman Center. Sister O’Brien continues to visit her family, but her first obligation is to God and the community now. “I feel God has blessed me, giving me two vocations in life. I can’t think of anything I have missed,” says this sister-mom, servant of God.

Sister O’Brien will practice the monastic way of life for three years, nursing and living in community with the other sisters there. She may then renew her vows for up to seven years.

“If I still feel God calling me to this place then I make final vows,” says the sister. Final vows means a celebration with the bishop and representatives of diaconate and family in attendance.

As for now, Sister O’Brien feels at home and content as a Benedictine Sister in Columbia, Mo. She works as a vocation director, nurse and fills other positions while staying in contact with her family.

CARDINAL SODANO POSES WITH NEW VATICAN SECRETARY OF STATE

Cardinal Angelo Sodano, the former Vatican secretary of state, poses with his successor, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, at Pope Benedict XVI’s summer residence in Castel Gandolfo, Italy, Sept. 15. The pope welcomed the new Vatican secretary of state at a Sept. 15 ceremony and thanked Cardinal Sodano for his 16 years of service. The pope cited Cardinal Sodano’s “good sense, prudent wisdom and indefatigable zeal” in serving the church.

For more information, call 574-299-2250.
Father Miller makes couple’s 50th Anniversary special

BY MICHELLE DONAGHERY

MISHAWAKA — Pat and Al Skwiercz had a special priest officiate their renewal of vows for their 50th anniversary this year.

It was the same priest who married them — Father Elden J. Miller.

“I suppose a major reason for this is because I and I married before a fairly young priest,” said Pat who noted that, when they were married, he officiated at St. Joseph Church in Mishawaka where he was first assigned and remained for 17 years.

While Father Miller served at various parishes in the diocese, he eventually came back to the South Bend area, being assigned to the Queen of Peace Parish in Mishawaka where “it just so happened” the couple had settled not long after they married in Osceola. During that time, they became reacquainted with Father Miller who they kept in contact even after his retirement in 2003.

“Because we remained in contact with Father Miller, we thought it would be special to touch with Father Miller, we thought it would be special to touch with Father Miller, we thought it would be special to touch with Father Miller, we thought it would be special to touch with Father Miller, we thought it would be special to touch with Father Miller, we thought it would be special to touch with Father Miller, we thought it would be special to touch with Father Miller, we thought it would be special to touch with Father Miller, we thought it would be special to touch with Father Miller, we thought it would be special to touch with Father Miller, we thought it would be special to touch with Father Miller, we thought it would be special to touch with Father Miller, we thought it would be special to touch with Father Miller, we thought it would be special to touch with F...”

“We had a renewal of vows ceremony at a local restaurant, which included a renewal of vows and gave Al and me a special blessing.”

The Skwiercz have four children: Deborah Buckley of Avon, Colo., Andrew of Elkhart, Janice Cook of Osceola and Arthur of Monroe Township, N.J.

It was the same priest who married Al and Pat Skwiercz 50 years previous, officiates at a renewal of wedding vows held on Aug. 19 at Queen of Peace Church in Mishawaka.

Visits with newly disabled need not be awkward

BY LISA M. PETSCH

S pending time with someone who has an acquired disability — such as a speech disorder or mobility impairment from a stroke — can be awkward at first. You may not know what to say or do.

The following guide can help to ensure a positive visit, no matter what kind of disability the person may have.

Speech impairment

• Choose subjects of special interest, to motivate the person in case they are self-conscious about engaging in conversation.

• Encourage them to slow down if necessary, in order to pronounce each syllable.

• Be patient and remain calm, allowing extra time for the person to get their words out. Don’t interrupt or try to finish sentences unless they become visibly frustrated.

• Be attuned to nonverbal language that can give clues to the factual or emotional content of the message.

• Summarize the message to check if you heard it right.

• Ask them to repeat or rephrase the message if you could not make it out. Don’t pretend you understood.

• Ask questions that require a yes or no answer so they can simply nod or shake their head.

• Don’t correct every error.

• If the person is able to write, have a notepad and pen handy as a backup.

Keep in mind that your understanding of their speech will improve with repeated contact.

Hearing impairment

• Pick a location with good acoustics — rooms with carpeting and curtains are best.

• Choose a quiet area to minimize background noise.

• Use a low-pitched, loud voice but avoid shouting. Speak slowly and clearly, but don’t exaggerate.

• Be succinct about expressing yourself, and use short sentences.

• Read the person’s nonverbal expressions, since some hearing-impaired people are hesitant to ask others to repeat themselves. If it looks as if they didn’t pick up what you said, rephrase it.

Low vision

• Let them know when you are entering or leaving the room.

• If So, You Are Entitled To A Pair of Shoes Every Year.

• Use a hat or visor (to reduce glare) when accompany- ing them outdoors on a sunny day.

• Be succinct about expressing yourself, and use short sentences.

• When you’re on an outing together, describe the view as you are driving, as well as any unfamiliar environments you enter. Ask what the person can and cannot see; don’t make assumptions. If they are nervous about navigating in public, suggest they hold on to your elbow and walk half a step behind you (never grab their arm).

• When planning to eat out a restaurant, choose a place with good lighting. Otherwise, offer to read aloud the menu; include ingredients of entrees and prices.

Lisa M. Petsche is a medical social worker and a freelance writer specializing in health and senior issues.
Editorial

Lecture on ‘reason’ leads to unreasonable reaction

Pope Benedict XVI has come under fire by some Muslims for a lecture that the Holy Father delivered to the academia, “Faith, Reason and the University: Memories and Reflections.” The lecture was at Regensburg where the pope, then Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, once lectured.

The pope chose to focus on faith and reason. And the thrust of the pope’s lecture was that human reason is analogous to divine reason and understanding. Because reason is universal, it can serve as or be the basis for intercultural dialogue. It’s the one commonality with everybody.

The controversy, which served as a starting point for the pope’s reflection and was taken out of context by the Turkish media from the six-page, single spaced document, arose from a quote the pope used from Professor Theodore Khoury, who studied the dialogue of the Byzantine emperor Manuel II Paleologus and an educated Persian on the subject of Christianity and Islam. The emperor’s quotes were from a perception that pervaded the late 1300s and early 1400s — that God was sometimes seen as arbitrary, capricious and unreasonable.

The emperor, on the central question about the relationship between religion and violence in general, said: “Show me just what Mohammed brought that was new, and there you will find things only evil and inhuman, such as his command to spread by the sword the faith he preached.” The emperor, the pope discussed, “after having expressed himself so forcefully, goes on to explain in detail the reasons why spreading the faith through violence is something unreasonable. Violence is incompatible with the nature of God and the nature of the soul.”

The pope, at no point in the lecture, said he endorsed the emperor’s view. He merely went on to discuss how faith and reason are essential in the scientific world. “A reason which is dear to the divine and which regulates religion into the realm of subcultures is incapable of entering into the dialogue of cultures,” the Holy Father added.

If those upset by the comment actually read the lecture, rather than relying on a soundbyte from Turkish television, before jumping to an unreasonable conclusion, they would have discovered the pope was talking about a long-ago perception and how these perceptions have changed throughout the ages — including the separation of faith and reason are essential in the scientific world.

It is ironic that some Muslims demand the pope to apologize. Some say he should not pursue his travel plans to Turkey in November. Some have led an effigy of the pope.

One Turkish official accused the pope of trying to revive the spirit of the Crusades. The official added the pope will go down in history “in the same category as leaders such as Hitler and Mussolini.”

The reaction is owed to inattentiveness to the context of the lecture — an unwillingness to read the lecture in full and purposely ignoring how faith and reason are essential in the scientific world.

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@fwdiocese.org

Peace and love vs. conquer and convert

All Christians are under attack from fanatic Islamists whose narrow political and restrictive religious dogmas have been newly positioned in the seventh century. Radical Muslims are determined to bring the world’s cultures — establish a world Islamic theocracy. Radicals have a supreme goal to convert every Christian in the world to Islam. Radicals are told and believe it’s acceptable to murder any and all infidels who won’t convert to Islam. Radicals are convinced that there’s only one true religion and will not tolerate coexistence with any other religions. And radicals actively promote conflict and terrorism and view martyrdom as a virtue.

How does the non-Muslim world combat such a barbaric philosophy and the ongoing history of violence, war and expansionism? The root of the problem is perhaps fanatic Mullahs who teach a radical form of Islam in classrooms and at prayer meetings. Indoctrination to hate Christians starts in some cases as early as first grade. Hatred is taught in schoolbooks in most Muslim countries. Indoctrination continues through high school, on college campuses and even in the prison system. Muslims are taught and encouraged to wage jihad against all non-Muslims wherever in the world they may be located. Radicals teach their followers that Allah has a special place for Muslims who insist on hate Christians and that the Koran directs all devout Muslims to live by Sharia law, which punishes those Muslims active and even forcefully seek conversion of all non-Muslims and death to infidels. Furthermore, the law states that no religion, except Islam, is acceptable to Allah. Strict Sharia law states that a good and loyal Muslim can’t even make friends with a Christian.

As Catholics, we can’t stick our heads in the sand and hope the problem will go away because it won’t. Our government won’t do much for us unless we make enough “noise” and demand changes. This very disturbing situation must be addressed and now is the time to get active before it’s too late.

Any non-Muslims and especially Catholics and Jews are considered infidels and likely targets of radical Islam. This means that we should become proactive and prepare for the long struggle that we suspect lies ahead.

With the exception of 9/11, most of the chaos caused by radical Muslims is taking place in foreign lands where these fanatics are destroying Christian churches and killing infidels. Unfortunately, a large percentage of United States citizens think nothing will happen on our own turf. This is a false and dangerous assumption because something terrible can happen at any moment and the threat seems to be getting worse with every passing year.

Radical Muslims are adamant in their quest to conquer and convert all people of the world to Islam by all means available. By contrast, all other major religions, and especially that Catholic faith, teach peace and love.

There’s only one answer. Each Catholic has an obligation to become aware of the facts right now, and speak out to repel this type of religious terrorism. Catholics, Muslims and especially United States citizens must learn the facts to understand the consequences of our own apathy.

“Grumpies” seniors

BY VANCE LABARBERA

Many may have enjoyed viewing the 1993 Warner Bros. film “Grumpier Old Men,” followed by the sequels two years later titled, “Grumpier Old Men.” Both starred the exceptional duo of Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau, two neighbors engaged in a feud since childhood, who compete, struggle and react, they compete, struggle and react, their world is filled with litigiousness, and they compete, struggle and react. Their world is filled with litigiousness, and they compete, struggle and react. Their world is filled with litigiousness, and they compete, struggle and react.

“Grumpies,” if you will, find the rigors of life not so rigorous, but just darn annoying and so deeply frustrating they have to share a moan or have a groan. But when life becomes unbearable due to failing health, high medical expenses and other serious problems, a further extreme disposition can turn into contrariness, crankiness and even crotchiness. It is this latter disposition that is most difficult to work with which to deal regardless of age.

C. Leslie Charles, author of “Why Is Everyone So Cranky?,” says there are people who consciously choose to live a life of harmony, inner peace and happiness. There are also those, however, who unconsiously create a life filled with chaos. “You can see the visible consequences of the different kinds of choices people make,” she says. “Those who create harmony and live with a sense of optimism and an open heart. Their decisions are based on trust... They are confident and will choose to accept responsibility for their life even though it be filled with challenges that come their way.”

1. Proverbs 16, verse 20, succinctly states: “...Happy is he who trusts in the Lord!”

Vince LaBarbera is the director of communications for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.
the book was written in an effort to say that being faithful to God, and indeed worshipping the one God of Israel, represent the greatest human good.

To be convincing, the book obviously had to face the fact that evil exists in the world, because humans turn away from God and succumb to evil.

In this reading, the book describes integrity. The evil conspire against the good. The evil in the world especially detest anyone who devoutly obeys God. If nothing else, the devil challenges evil-doers. The devil provokes that holiness is possible.

Christians often assume that this passage, and others similar to it in the Old Testament, directly refer to Jesus of Nazareth, Son of God.

John the Baptist was the forerunner of Jesus. He warned the people that the kingdom would come, as Jesus taught, but they wanted to know when it would happen because “God allows it.”

The question is crucial since the Christian community long, long ago accepted the writing, and how the church officially has regarded it. The church teaches, and has taught, that James is a divinely inspired work.

The reading is clear and practical. It also refers to wisdom. True wisdom, the Greek word, is reflected, the divine knowledge. Therefore true wisdom is innocent, because God is innocent of all malice. It seeks to resolve conflicts. It seeks to respect others. It seeks truth.

St. Mark’s Gospel supplies the last reading. The reading actually has two points. The first is that essential to the personal mission of Jesus was a confrontation with evil in which the most powerful of earthly realities, namely death itself, came to Jesus. Then Jesus overcame death and all human evil. He is the victor. He lives.

The apostles, while the Lord’s special students, still were humans. Human ambition and shortsightedness trapped them. They accepted that the kingdom would come, as Jesus taught, but they wanted to rank high when the kingdom and its glory arrived. Jesus warned them that life in the kingdom would not be automatic. It surely would not be thrust upon them. They would have to deserve the kingdom by resembling in every sense in their lives the life and sacrifice of the Master.

Reflection

Tragedies, personal such as illnesses, or those involving societies such as hurricanes or wars, remind us that human nature is flawed, that humans are vulnerable, and that evil people can and sometimes wrongly do, work their will. None of this happens because “God allows it”. God gives us the freedom to destroy the divine will. When we disobey, disaster follows. Even the flaws of human nature, pain and death, itself, developed because of voluntary human sin.

These readings remind us of these facts. We defect evil, and suffer magnificently despite our human limitations, when we model our lives on the life of Jesus. This seems very attractive, until we realize that living in the example of Jesus means confronting evil, rebuking evil, but then of being victorious.

Reading

The 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mark 9:30-37

The Book of Wisdom furnishes the first reading for this weekend. This book was written in an effort to say that being faithful to God, and indeed worshipping the one God of Israel, represent the greatest human good.

To be convincing, the book obviously had to face the fact that evil exists in the world, because humans turn away from God and succumb to evil.

In this reading, the book describes integrity. The devil conspires against the good. The devil in the world especially detest anyone who devoutly obeys God. If nothing else, the devil challenges evil-doers. The devil provokes that holiness is possible.

Christians often assume that this passage, and others similar to it in the Old Testament, directly refer to Jesus of Nazareth, Son of God.

John the Baptist was the forerunner of Jesus. He warned the people that the kingdom would come, as Jesus taught, but they wanted to know when it would happen because “God allows it.”

The question is crucial since the Christian community long, long ago accepted the writing, and how the church officially has regarded it. The church teaches, and has taught, that James is a divinely inspired work.

The reading is clear and practical. It also refers to wisdom. True wisdom, the Greek word, is reflected, the divine knowledge. Therefore true wisdom is innocent, because God is innocent of all malice. It seeks to resolve conflicts. It seeks to respect others. It seeks truth.

St. Mark’s Gospel supplies the last reading. The reading actually has two points. The first is that essential to the personal mission of Jesus was a confrontation with evil in which the most powerful of earthly realities, namely death itself, came to Jesus. Then Jesus overcame death and all human evil. He is the victor. He lives.

The apostles, while the Lord’s special students, still were humans. Human ambition and shortsightedness trapped them. They accepted that the kingdom would come, as Jesus taught, but they wanted to rank high when the kingdom and its glory arrived. Jesus warned them that life in the kingdom would not be automatic. It surely would not be thrust upon them. They would have to deserve the kingdom by resembling in every sense in their lives the life and sacrifice of the Master.

Reflection

Tragedies, personal such as illnesses, or those involving societies such as hurricanes or wars, remind us that human nature is flawed, that humans are vulnerable, and that evil people can and sometimes wrongly do, work their will. None of this happens because “God allows it”. God gives us the freedom to destroy the divine will. When we disobey, disaster follows. Even the flaws of human nature, pain and death, itself, developed because of voluntary human sin.

These readings remind us of these facts. We defect evil, and suffer magnificently despite our human limitations, when we model our lives on the life of Jesus. This seems very attractive, until we realize that living in the example of Jesus means confronting evil, rebuking evil, but then of being victorious.

Reading

The 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mark 9:30-37

The Book of Wisdom furnishes the first reading for this weekend. This book was written in an effort to say that being faithful to God, and indeed worshipping the one God of Israel, represent the greatest human good.

To be convincing, the book obviously had to face the fact that evil exists in the world, because humans turn away from God and succumb to evil.

In this reading, the book describes integrity. The devil conspires against the good. The devil in the world especially detest anyone who devoutly obeys God. If nothing else, the devil challenges evil-doers. The devil provokes that holiness is possible.

Christians often assume that this passage, and others similar to it in the Old Testament, directly refer to Jesus of Nazareth, Son of God.

John the Baptist was the forerunner of Jesus. He warned the people that the kingdom would come, as Jesus taught, but they wanted to know when it would happen because “God allows it.”

The question is crucial since the Christian community long, long ago accepted the writing, and how the church officially has regarded it. The church teaches, and has taught, that James is a divinely inspired work.

The reading is clear and practical. It also refers to wisdom. True wisdom shares in, and reflects, the divine knowledge. Therefore true wisdom is innocent, because God is innocent of all malice. It seeks to resolve conflicts. It seeks to respect others. It seeks truth.

St. Mark’s Gospel supplies the last reading. The reading actually has two points. The first is that essential to the personal mission of Jesus was a confrontation with evil in which the most powerful of earthly realities, namely death itself, came to Jesus. Then Jesus overcame death and all human evil. He is the victor. He lives.

The apostles, while the Lord’s special students, still were humans. Human ambition and shortsightedness trapped them. They accepted that the kingdom would come, as Jesus taught, but they wanted to rank high when the kingdom and its glory arrived. Jesus warned them that life in the kingdom would not be automatic. It surely would not be thrust upon them. They would have to deserve the kingdom by resembling in every sense in their lives the life and sacrifice of the Master.

Reflection

Tragedies, personal such as illnesses, or those involving societies such as hurricanes or wars, remind us that human nature is flawed, that humans are vulnerable, and that evil people can and sometimes wrongly do, work their will. None of this happens because “God allows it”. God gives us the freedom to destroy the divine will. When we disobey, disaster follows. Even the flaws of human nature, pain and death, itself, developed because of voluntary human sin.

These readings remind us of these facts. We defect evil, and suffer magnificently despite our human limitations, when we model our lives on the life of Jesus. This seems very attractive, until we realize that living in the example of Jesus means confronting evil, rebuking evil, but then of being victorious.

Reading

The 25th Sunday in ordinary time

Mark 9:30-37

The Book of Wisdom furnishes the first reading for this weekend. This book was written in an effort to say that being faithful to God, and indeed worshipping the one God of Israel, represent the greatest human good.

To be convincing, the book obviously had to face the fact that evil exists in the world, because humans turn away from God and succumb to evil.

In this reading, the book describes integrity. The evil conspires against the good. The evil in the world especially detest anyone who devoutly obeys God. If nothing else, the devil challenges evil-doers. The devil provokes that holiness is possible.

Christians often assume that this passage, and others similar to it in the Old Testament, directly refer to Jesus of Nazareth, Son of God.

John the Baptist was the forerunner of Jesus. He warned the people that the kingdom would come, as Jesus taught, but they wanted to know when it would happen because “God allows it.”

The question is crucial since the Christian community long, long ago accepted the writing, and how the church officially has regarded it. The church teaches, and has taught, that James is a divinely inspired work.

The reading is clear and practical. It also refers to wisdom. True wisdom shares in, and reflects, the divine knowledge. Therefore true wisdom is innocent, because God is innocent of all malice. It seeks to resolve conflicts. It seeks to respect others. It seeks truth.

St. Mark’s Gospel supplies the last reading. The reading actually has two points. The first is that essential to the personal mission of Jesus was a confrontation with evil in which the most powerful of earthly realities, namely death itself, came to Jesus. Then Jesus overcame death and all human evil. He is the victor. He lives.

The apostles, while the Lord’s special students, still were humans. Human ambition and shortsightedness trapped them. They accepted that the kingdom would come, as Jesus taught, but they wanted to rank high when the kingdom and its glory arrived. Jesus warned them that life in the kingdom would not be automatic. It surely would not be thrust upon them. They would have to deserve the kingdom by resembling in every sense in their lives the life and sacrifice of the Master.

Reflection

Tragedies, personal such as illnesses, or those involving societies such as hurricanes or wars, remind us that human nature is flawed, that humans are vulnerable, and that evil people can and sometimes wrongly do, work their will. None of this happens because “God allows it”. God gives us the freedom to destroy the divine will. When we disobey, disaster follows. Even the flaws of human nature, pain and death, itself, developed because of voluntary human sin.

These readings remind us of these facts. We defect evil, and suffer magnificently despite our human limitations, when we model our lives on the life of Jesus. This seems very attractive, until we realize that living in the example of Jesus means confronting evil, rebuking evil, but then of being victorious.
Prayers for the dead have long history in Catholic tradition

Please explain the tradition of Memorial Masses, intentions, for the deceased? What about? What if the person is already in heaven or hell?

Anonymous

There is an ancient Christian practice of remembering the dead (this can be traced even earlier to late Judaism, as is evidenced in the Books of the Maccabees). In fact, in the Acts of the Apostles, St. Augustine mentions his dying mother’s wish that he not fret about her after her death, but rather, should he happen to be remembered, remember her at the altar of the Lord (i.e. the eucharistic celebration). Of course, implicit in this is the sense that the dead can somehow benefit from our prayers and that there is some possibility of reform or healing possible post-mortem. Our remembering the dead at Mass is then quite ancient. That our prayers can benefit the deceased is a matter of Catholic faith. How our prayers benefit the deceased is, however, a matter of speculation. It is clear that those who are already in heaven don’t need them, and those in hell cannot benefit from them.

Can you offer some tips on praying the rosary? My mind wanders and I lose my place. Should I concentrate on the prayers or on the mystery?

Distraction is a common problem in all prayer, not simply the rosary. Thomas Aquinas taught that in prayer what mattered was our intention, not our attention. That, of course, does not absolve us from trying to focus. The fact is, the rosary (and other “formula” prayers) are of great benefit because we don’t have to concoct them or make them up — they are fundamentally something “given.” These kinds of prayers can be a refuge when we don’t know what to say to God or how to pray. Further, the rosary is a great help in meditating on the events in the life of our Lord. So first of all, don’t give up. Second, the words of the prayers are meant to function as a “mantra,” (repeated words or phrases used in prayer to create a condition of meditation and contemplation) and our attention is supposed to be on the mystery itselfs. If you lose your place, there is no need to go back and “re-do” them — just refocus. And don’t be afraid to begin all prayer with an act of faith that prayer is fundamentally God’s work (the action of His Spirit within us) rather than simply something we do, make or produce.

How should parents, siblings, address a family member who is a priest in a causal or public setting? Anonymous

Family members know a priest long before he is a priest. Respect for his ordination does not mean they cannot or should not call him by his given name, “John,” or “Bob,” or “Ralph,” or whatever the case may be.

When a sure thing gives way to defeat

There never was a sure thing. How do I know that? Because I thought Charlie Weis was as close to a sure thing as there could be in the coaching world.

One awful performance like the one Notre Dame graciously offered to Michigan on Sept. 16 can happen to anyone. In reality, it not only can happen to anyone but it happens to everyone that coaches.

There’s a high school football team in an area in which I live that has strong together 135 straight conference victories. There’s an exception to every rule.

But as we observe all these games, professional and amateur, and as I go deeper into my high school baseball-coaching career, I realize just how difficult it is to win a game sometimes.

Tate Weis has had such an air of confidence about him, an aura of invincibility that when Michigan State defeated Notre Dame by 26 points and makes it look like a complete and total mismatch, you realize there is no such thing as a sure thing. Winning, or rather, winning all the time, is a very difficult to do.

That’s a very easy concept to forget these days. Talk radio, blogs and message boards have empowered coaches to vent their anger toward their rooting interest. Our society has created a nation of sports aficionados, and now we have ample venues in which to share our newfound expertise.

Let me assure you, for those who haven’t spent any time around a high school sport operating recently, there is no shortage of expertise in the game. I watch the coaches that are with that team every day. I know this is true because I’m the baseball coach, yet I have very strong opinions about the football and basketball programs.

And now, for the first time to this degree, Charlie Weis suddenly looks very vulnerable, not the all-knowing, NFL-bred genius that he has been portrayed to be. One could make a legitimate argument, without much opposition, that Weis was out-coached twice within one game span — versus Ohio State in the Fiesta Bowl and by Lloyd Carr against Michigan in the third game of the 2006 regular season. In both instances, Notre Dame looked out-manned and a bit unprepared, most especially against the Wolverines.

Does that mean Weis is a poor coach? Does that mean Weis is messed up what should be a sure thing considering the Irish were among the preseason favorites to win the national title?

Whether it’s on the high school, college or professional level, the head coach is ultimately responsible for the performance of the team. A team that gets blown out in a game in which it should win is a team whose coach did not capitalize on a fortuitous opportunity.

But winning is hard! The other teams, practice, have capable talent, teach great ideas, are motivated to succeed, and have coaches who are smart, too.

Sometimes, even when a team has several more advantages than the other team, it still loses. Why? Well, because players and coaches sometimes make mistakes that was not the case to the other team. Other times the human emotions involved in athletics, regardless how many games have been played, the number of teams that won is equal to the number of teams that lost.

Notre Dame does not have the most talented college football team in the country. I can assure...
Guilt-free pluripotent stem cells?

“Much ado about nothing” could describe the recent hype and flurry of news reports about an “ethical” way to get stem cells without harming embryos. Scientists have proposed pulling off one of the eight cells of an early embryo in order to create stem cells, while allowing the seven remaining cells to continue developing into a baby. On first hearing, the proposal sounds attractive to many. Scientists from a small biotech company called Advanced Cell Technology published a paper in the journal *Nature* in August, describing the technique.

They implied that they had done the procedure and that the embryos they used for biopsy had survived. Following publication, these claims were compared to changing scientific facts to suggest that none of the 16 embryos they operated on actually ended up surviving. Importantly, even if the experiment had worked, and even if these survived, the approach would still shatter and stall in ethical terms because young humans would end up being directly subjugated and violated in laboratory settings, in order to mine their desirable cells and properties.

Another new techniques, which rely either on de-differentiation or on the use of germ cells, offer genuinely new ways to get stem cells without any ethical objections at all.

The “embryo biopsy” approach fails to deliver because of at least four serious moral objections:

• A non-interventionist perspective is performed on human embryos. At least 90 percent of its body is removed for research, not for purposes of treating that specific embryo-patient for a known medical condition. The embryos are killed at the starting point for har-vestable raw materials, in a gesture that reduces young humans to commodities or manipulable products.

• Embryonic humans should not be generated in laborato-ry glassware. They would not be a test dish for the test dishes. The only thing current young humans could sputter and stall in ethical terms because young humans would end up being directly subjugated and violated in laboratory settings, in order to mine their desirable cells and properties.

• Other new techniques, which rely either on de-differenti-ation or on the use of germ cells, offer genuinely new ways to get stem cells without any ethical objections at all.

In order to get the single cell that is removed out of the embryo to turn into a stem cell, scientists have to “reprogram” it to a layer of human embryonic stem cells (taken from another, previously destroyed, human embryo). Thus, the procedure still relies on the procreative destruction of young humans. This is why developing a single cell may itself be totally immoral, since it is intended to be a new human being, not to become a cell, be reprogrammed, and then inserted into its mother to grow. What remains unclear is whether babies born after PGD testing are really as healthy as those born without PGD testing. Long-term follow-up studies have not been carried out on these PGD children, so it certainly premature at this time to argue that removing one of the eight cells of an embryo has no future effects on that individual.

• A fifth problem could also be mentioned, namely that the remaining seven cells of the embryo may not necessarily grow to produce a perfectly healthy baby as is commonly assumed. Many babies have been born after a procedure called preimplantation genetic diagnosis (PGD), where a single cell is removed from the embryo for genetic testing. When testing indicates that the embryo is not affected by a genetic disease, it can be implanted into its mother to grow. What remains unclear is whether babies born after PGD testing are really as healthy as those born without PGD testing. Long-term follow-up studies have not been carried out on these PGD children, so it certainly premature at this time to argue that removing one of the eight cells of an embryo has no future effects on that individual.

• Can pluripotent stem cells (the most highly flexible variety) be obtained from sources other than human embryos, and without crossing any moral lines? Absolutely. There are at least two promising ways to derive such cells. For example, in March of 2006, German scientists published a paper in the journal *Nature* describing a new way to derive pluripotent stem cells. They removed special cells called germ cells from the testis tissue, and transplanted these into human pluripotent stem cells. Shortly afterwards, a biotech company in California called PrimeCell Therapeutics reported the same results. These new methods were required at any point in the process. Another example: In August of 2006, scientists from Japan published results in the journal *Cell* indicating that by adding a combination of four differ-ent protein factors to adult mouse cells, they could change them into pluripotent stem cells. This kind of direct conver-sion of adult cells into embryonic-type cells is called dedif-ferentiation or reprogramming, and is a very promising direction for future research.

Another important step for obtaining pluripotent stem cells would be from certain mature body tissues including the bone marrow and the umbilical cord. Normally, stem cells from bone marrow and umbilical cord are not pluripo-tent, but multipotent (somewhat restricted in their possibilities for differentiation). However a growing number of researchers are finding that there may be a rare subpopula-tion of genuinely pluripotent cells that are also present in these adult sources. That is to say, stem cells as flexible as the ones that come from embryos may be naturally present at very low levels in bone marrow and umbilical cord, or at least may be derivable from such sources.

The argument that we must offer up young humans on the altar of scientific sacrifice, while always objectionable in moral terms, is becoming continually less tenable in medical terms as well.

Father Tadeusz Pachelczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuro-science from Yale and did postdoctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, Mass., and serves as the director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncbcenter.org

**Meet The Priest**

**Father William J. Kummer**

Ordained to the priesthood: May 31, 1975
Pastor, St. Michael, Plymouth

What is an interesting fact that most people don’t know about you?

I once emceed a bridal fashion show.

What is your favorite food?

Spaghetti and sausage at Casa D’Angelo.

What is your favorite Scripture passage?

Jn 21:15-19 (Peter, do you love me? Follow me?)

What is your favorite food?

Spaghetti and sausage at Casa D’Angelo. Thank you, Katie Zuber.

What is an interesting fact that most people might not know about you?

I once emceed a bridal fashion show.

How do you prefer to be addressed by the laity?

I am usually called “Father Bill,” and that is just fine. Since my school days, many use the moniker “Uncle Bill.”

**Father Richard Hire**

Hire History

**FATHER RICHARD HIRE**

Remained in Ma’rib. In the 1980s, a new dam was built, and oil production was now Ma’rib is a thriving town.

In the old village of Ma’rib today, you can see impressive stone/wooden mud buildings with stone basements with ancient Sabaean inscriptions. Outside of Ma’rib are Sabaean temples called the Queen of Sheba’s palace. Near side five and a half remains of the Temple of the Moon called the throne of the queen of Sheba. Further on is the Sun Temple or the temple of the Queen of Sheba built c. B.C. 400 Assyrian annals record heavy tribute from the Sabaens in the 8th to 7th cen-turies B.C. showing the prosper-ity of this kingdom of Sheba. Father Renze says the visit of the Queen of Sheba to the court of Solomon was mainly a trade mission. The expansion of Sabaean trade was significant, and the expansion of Israelite trade through Solomon’s Red Sea fleet and his port at Ezion-geber lying at the head of the Gulf of Aqaba precisely at the point where the Wadi Arabah opens into the gulf.
ICCL soccer reports scores for first three weeks

SOUTH BEND — Inter-City Catholic League soccer is now entering its fourth week of games. The following information was obtained from the ICCL Web site. The following are the seventh and eighth grade teams scores from the boys’ soccer for Aug. 27, Sept. 10.

Aug. 27 games

• St. Michael 6, St. Anthony 0.
  Zach Bridgegan, Gabe Vveryntck, Eric Blake and Karl Paulick all scored one goal each.
  • St. Joseph South Bend, seventh, 1.
    • St. Thomas 3, St. Matthew 7
  • St. Matthew 3, St. Joseph, South Bend, seventh, 0

Sept. 10 games

• St. Joseph, South Bend, seventh, 5, St. Anthony 0.
  St. Joseph-Corpus Christi seventh grade goals were scored by Jerome Battle (two goals), Alex Scholtes, Danny Rennbarger and Alec Fullenkamp. Shutouts were by goalies Patrick Bruneel, Nicholas Hall and Thomas Labuzienski.
  • St. Jude 6, St. Thomas 2.
    • St. Jude 1, St. Jude 0.
    • St. Jude 5, St. Thomas 2.
  • St. Jude 0, St. Thomas 3.
  • St. Jude 0, St. Thomas 7.
  • St. Thomas 3, St. Joseph, South Bend, 7th grade, 5.
  • St. Joseph 2, St. Anthony 0.
  • St. Joseph 2, St. Anthony 0.
  • St. Joseph 2, St. Anthony 0.

St. Anthony Panthers keep winning streak

BY ELMER J. DANCH

SOUTH BEND — St. Anthony’s football Panthers took over the undisputed leadership of first place in the Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL) midway in the young season and virtually appeared as the top squad in the current campaign.

The Panthers notched a 17-8 victory over a tight Corpus Christi team whose defense kept St. Anthony-St. Joseph at bay most of the way except for two outstanding scoring plays.

In the first half, Sean Hart came up with a 40-yard touchdown pass to Cody Weber for a 7-0 lead, and in the second stanza, Tyler Sorocco kicked an extra point and a 30-yard field goal. Scott Coppa scored on a 2-yard run, and Cody Weber kicked an extra point for another 10-0 advantage.

Scott Coppa completed a 50-yard pass to Chase Parker for St. Matthew. In the boys B-team division, Holy Cross-Cross Christ the King beat St. Matthew, 36-0. St. Anthony-St. Joseph, St. Joseph-Corpus Christi, 6-0, and Mishawaka Catholic beat Holy Family, 27-0.

Current standings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>wins, losses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mishawaka</td>
<td>3-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Family</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corpus Christi</td>
<td>0-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Anthony</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Eagles remain the only unbeaten CYO football team

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — As week four of the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) ended Sept. 17, St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne, Eagles remain the only undefeated team.

St. Vincent topped the undefeated wrappers with a 14-6 victory over the Holy Family Trojans.

Goals were scored by Olkowski and Matt Emo.

South Bend, seventh, 2.

Blum and Addison Wilk scored 18-7. Max Matthew broke over center for 16 yards and a touchdown, then later threw a 48-yard pass to Colton Pulaski for another one. Nick Matthews added the third score for the Crusaders on a 10-yard slant. Thomas Krueger completed a 50-yard pass to Chase Parker for St. Matthew.

In the boys B-team division, Holy Cross-Cross Christ the King beat St. Matthew, 36-0. St. Anthony-St. Joseph-Corpus Christi, 6-0, and Mishawaka Catholic beat Holy Family, 27-0.

St. John Fort Wayne continued to dominate the league as they downed St. Jude 22-0. Hughie Baldus had an interception for the Eagles. Scoring came from Nick Shaw on an 8-yard run, Alex Strongezen with a 3-yard keeper and Marquel Cooper for his fourth touchdown on the year. Alex Strongezen also made 2-3 PATs.

The scoreboard

St. Vincent beat St. John, New Haven, 28-12
Holy Cross beat Queen of Angels-Precious Blood, St. John, Fort Wayne, defeated St. Jude, 22-0.
St. JAT defeated St. Charles, 8-0.

Sixth grade action

On their home field, JAT nipped St. John FW 20-16 in recent sixth grade action.

JAT’s hard hitting defense recovered three fumbles in the win.

Both teams ran the ball well. Later in the same week, the JAT fifth graders blanked St. John, Fort Wayne, by a score of 20-0. Nic Morken scored three touchdowns in the victory.

Week 3 wrap-up

The score from last week’s 3’s game between St. Jude and Queen of Angels-Precious Blood was 30-0 with St. Jude coming out on top. Andrew McGuire scored for the first time this season, not once, but three times. Austin Dykman also had a touchdown for the winners. Sam Nussbaum led the defensive unit with two interceptions.

USF TO NAME FOOTBALL FIELD IN HONOR OF COACH KEVIN DONLEY

Sister M. Elise Kriss, OSF, president of the University of Saint Francis, has announced that the university’s football field will be named Kevin Donley Field in honor of Coach Kevin Donley. Donley developed the USF football program, which began in 1998, the first collegiate football in Fort Wayne. Under his leadership, the team has won seven league championships and accomplished four consecutive unbeaten regular seasons, including back-to-back runner-up finishes for the NAIA Championship in 2004 and 2005.

FALL FESTIVAL

St. Joseph Parish - Blakeslee, Ohio
Sunday, October 15, 2006 • 11AM - 3PM
FAMILY STYLE CHICKEN & HAM DINNER
All you can eat: Chicken, Ham, Noodles, Dressing, Cole Slaw, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Pie, Coffee, Milk
Adults $7.00, Children 6-12 $3.00 • 5 & under eat Free
BINGO • KIDS GAMES • QUILT RAFFLE • COUNTRY STORE
BLAKESLEE, OHIO: Located on State Route 34 in Ohio 2 miles east and 2 miles south of Edon or 11 miles west of Bryan. For info call 419-272-2214
“Aurora Borealis” (Regent)

Overly long tale of undomesticated Minnesota man (an appealing Joshua Jackson) who takes on a maintenance job at an assisted living facility to be near his ailing grandfather (Donald Sutherland) and falls in love with his granddad’s home health aide (Juliette Lewis), while allowing his philandering brother (Sheen Pasquale) to use his apartment for extramarital fruysts. James Burke’s downbeat film scores points for its compassionate portrayal of the elderly and their need for care and the acting is generally good, but the result is not terribly interesting. The script goes beyond empathizing with the grandfather’s fervent wish to be spared a debilitating decline into almost making a case for euthanasia, despite a morally sound ending. Despite a morally sound ending, the result is not terribly interesting.

“Black Dahlia” (Universal)

Adaptation of James Ellroy’s novel built around the never-solved, true-life case of a young Hollywood hopeful (Mia and Kim). — whose mutilated body was found in a vacant lot in 1947 — focusing on two L.A. cops (Josh Hartnett and Aaron Eckhart) who are involved in the case. The Hartnett character finds himself in a platonic menage with his partner and the latter’s long-time girlfriend (Scarlett Johansson), then falls under the sway of a seductive rich girl (Hilary Swank) who resembles the murder victim. Brian DePalma’s film-noir homage is uneven as drama (with its overly complex script), despite his customary stylish flourishes and good, if occasionally over-the-top, performances, but the pileup of sordid details, though expected in the noir genre, and sundry other lurid plot elements preclude recommendation. Rough and crude language, general decadence, sexual situations and innuendo, much violence, a couple of brutal boxing matches, some grisly imagery, a re-creation of the lesbian underworld, incest, rear nudity, murder, suicide and drug use. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is G — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

“Everyday Hero” (20th Century Fox)

Charming Depression-era animated tale about a young boy (voiced by Jake T. Austin) who sets out — with the help of a magical talking baseball (Rob Reiner) — to recover the stolen lucky bat (Whoopi Goldberg) of his idol Babe Ruth (Brian Dennehy) during the 1932 World Series. Directors Daniel St. Pierre and Colin Brady — building on work started by Christopher Reeve before his 2004 death — hit a home run with this visually positive validation of family and friendship. Despite an unfortunately high quotient of exploitive and some sexual references (mostly courtesy of the Arkin character), husband-and-wife team Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Faris have directed a refreshingly offbeat tale that, underneath the zaniness, comes over as an extremely positive validation of family and genuine values. Rough and occasionally profane words, sexual references, suicide element, a minor gay plot element, a sight gag involving adult magazines and brief drug use. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences. All ages admitted.

“Gridiron Gang” (Columbia)

Inspiring true story of a sports drama about a juvenile detention camp probation officer (Dwanye “The Rock” Johnson) who organiz- es a football team from among the teen inmates (including Jake Actor and David Thomas) to teach them discipline and teamwork, and through his tough-love determina- tion succeeds in instilling self-esteem and turning their lives in a positive direction, while competing for the regional high school champi- onship. Despite formidably plot elements, director Phil Joanou’s uplifting movie shows the heart of a winner, with emotional performances and a surprisingly strong redemptive theme of second chances. Some parents may feel the worthy mes- sage makes it acceptable for older children. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-II — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents strongly cautioned.

May we recommend . . .
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: fthogan@fdiodecesewsbo.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.

Rosary for Life commemorates Respect Life Sunday
South Bend — The diocesan Office of Family Life invites you to come pray a Rosary for Life to commemorate Respect Life Sunday, Oct. 1, at 3:45 p.m. (after the Life Chain) at the Women’s Care Center garden on Ironwood Circle. Music and meditations will accompany the rosary. Pro-life bumper stickers, brochures and other resources will be available. A collection will be taken up to benefit the work of the Women’s Care Center.

Dignity and vocation of women lecture at University of Saint Francis
Fort Wayne — The diocesan Office of Family Life is cosponsoring a lecture by Dr. Pia de Solenni on “The Personology of Pope John Paul II and the Dignity and Vocation of Women” at the University of Saint Francis on Wednesday, Oct. 4, from 7-8 p.m. in the Doermer Center, room 156. De Solenni is a noted lecturer, media commentator and winner of the Pontifical Prize of the Academies. A reception will follow in the Atrium of the new Pope John Paul II Center.

Bristol parish hosts franciscan friars of Renewal at October retreat
Bristol — St. Mary of the Assumption Parish will have the Franciscan Friars of Renewal on Oct. 23-25 for a parish renewal retreat. The renewal will include talks and opportunities for eucharistic adoration, Mass and confession. For more information, contact Father Robert Van Kempen at (574) 848-4305.

Ed fox fish fry
Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 12417, from Our Lady of Good Hope will have a fish fry on Friday, Sept. 29, from 4:30 to 7 p.m. in the church auditorium, 7215 St. Joe Rd. Adult tickets are $7 for adults and $4.50 for children. Children under 5 are free.

Breakfast brunch on tap
Fort Wayne — St. Peter Church, will have a breakfast brunch Sunday, Oct. 1, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the new pavilion at the corner of DeWald and Warsaw streets. Egg casserole, pancakes, sausage, fresh fruit, coffee, milk and juice will be served. Tickets are $5 for adults, ages 12 to 16 are $3 and under 12 are free.

Gift gathering luncheon planned
Fort Wayne — Bishop Luers High School will be having it’s ladies luncheon gift gathering party for LuersKnight on Sunday, Oct. 1, at Orchard Ridge Country Club, 4531 Lower Huntington Rd., at 12:30 p.m. with lunch served at 1 p.m. Call Bishop Luers High School office at (260) 456-1261 to make a reservation.

Notre Dame Club plans admissions information night
Fort Wayne — The Notre Dame Club of Fort Wayne will have an information night on Tuesday, Oct. 3, at 7 p.m. in the Bishop Dwenger High School library at 1300 E. Washington Rd. Katie Cavelly from the Notre Dame admissions office will conduct the presentation followed by a question-and-answer session. High school students and their parents are invited to attend. For information contact Dave Devine of the Notre Dame Club of Fort Wayne at (260) 481-6857.

Tailgate party, class of 1981 reunion and brat dinner planned
Fort Wayne — Bishop Luers High School will host a tailgate party Friday, Oct. 6, outside of the Luers cafeteria from 5:30 to 7 p.m. All Bishop Luers alumni and their families are invited. Cost is $3 per person or $12 per family. Food and beverages will be available before the homecoming game against Elmhurst. Bring a lawn chair and a memory to share. The Bishop Luers class of 1981 will hold a reunion Saturday, Oct. 7, at Catalbu Restaurant. Contact Jenny Andorf at (260) 436-1493 for reservations. A chili and bratwurst dinner will be held Friday, Oct. 13, from 5 to 9 p.m.

at Luers football field as part of the Bishop Luers vs. Bishop Dwenger football game.
St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel fall festival
Fort Wayne — St. Joseph will have a fall festival on Saturday Sept. 23, starting at 8 a.m. with slow pitch baseball and concessions. At noon there will be a country store, entertainment store, kid’s carnival, beer tent, bingo, raffle and log saw tournament. Bratwurst dinner will be served from 2 to 7 p.m. A live auction starts at 4 p.m. and Borrowed Time band plays from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m.

First Saturday devotions scheduled
Fort Wayne — The World Apostolate of Fatima will hold devotions of reparation at St. Joseph, corner of Broncoy and Hale on Saturday, Oct. 7. Confessions will be heard beginning at 7:15 a.m., meditation at 7:30 a.m., and the holy rosary at 7:45 a.m. with Mass at 8 a.m. First Saturday devotions are also held at St. Patrick, Arcola; St. John the Baptist, New Haven; St. Rose, Moundsville; Queen of Angels, Fort Wayne; and others in the Fort Wayne-South Bend area. All are welcome.

“YOUR VOTE...THEIR VOICE”
MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE 2006 BANQUET FOR LIFE
Guest Speaker: Dan Coats
Former U.S. Senator from Indiana and Ambassador to Germany
Monday, October 9, 2006
6:30 p.m.
GRAND WAYNE CENTER
DOWNTOWN FORT WAYNE

“Catholic Comment” am: Sundays at 7:00 a.m. on WOND 1190 AM in Fort Wayne and at 7:30 a.m. on WSBT 960 AM in South Bend.
“Radio Rosary” airs M-F at 11 a.m. Saturday and Sunday at 7:30 a.m. on Redeemer Radio WLYV 1450 AM

WHAT’S HAPPENING?
A mong the first wave of Irish immigrants who came to Mishawaka was iron molder Edward Mulligan who, in 1836, built a home at First and Spring streets and for the next 12 years, his parlor table was frequently converted to an altar for the celebration of Mass said by Holy Cross priests.

In 1848 a tiny house at 815 Elm St. became Mishawaka’s first Catholic church building and was called Holy Angels. This name gave way to St. Joseph’s when a new brick church was built, which was followed by the formation of a second parish, St. Bavo.

In 1908 Bishop Alerding was approached on behalf of Mishawaka Catholics who wanted a church on the north side of the St. Joseph River.

With the bishop’s approval, $5,000 was raised but the project stalled until 1915 when Father John Bleckmann, stationed in Michigan City, was assigned as pastor and purchased an old Baptist church property at 108-16 Mishawaka Ave. for $9,500. On Oct. 17, 1915, societies from the south side churches crossed the river and lent solemnity to the dedication of the first St. Monica.

As soon as the congregation was settled in, it became necessary to plan for larger quarters and by 1917, a two-story school, with church in the basement was ready on West Grove Street. School enrollment was 264.

Ten years later, the present St. Monica was dedicated in style on Oct. 2, 1927. A parade including a police honor guard, Knights of Columbus, Holy Name dignitaries and other church societies marched to the front door of the new church on Mishawaka Avenue. Pastor was Father John F. Kohl.

As St. Monica celebrated its 90th anniversary in 2005, parish records listed a significant number of religious vocations —15 sisters, one of whom, Sister Jean Christianson, returned to St. Monica as principal of the school. There were five priests, one brother and one deacon. Father Frank Kronewitter, who died recently on a pilgrimage to Fatima, attended St. Monica School.

Since 1929, St. Monica’s has been home to many Italian families; their Marie DiLoreta Society donated this statue of the saint to the parish.

St. Joseph Parish, LaGrange, Est. 1933

O nly the ghosts of those present know about the first Mass said in LaGrange County, Indiana. Picture a Jesuit in boots with his back to a fireplace as one family looked on ... or perhaps it was a summer day with an altar of planks under a tree with kneeling livestock present as seen in crib scenes, with Indians replacing the shepherds. There is nothing on record; but what is known is that LaGrange was the last county in Indiana to establish a Catholic parish, and the last to build a pioneer Catholic church ... and when it happened, folks arrived by automobile.

In 1932, Father William J. Ehrman, pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, Kendallville was a guest speaker at the LaGrange Methodist Church as part of a lecture series on major Christian denominations. He spoke to an overflow crowd and at the conclusion of the program, asked the 25 or 30 Catholics present, to make themselves known. This group became the seedlings of LaGrange County’s first missionary parish.

In August 1933, Father Francis A. Sheridan, chaplain at the Wainwright Summer Band Camp at Oliver Lake agreed to remain in LaGrange to pastor the small parish named for St. Francis Xavier, which met each Sunday in the second floor lobby of the Bir Hotel.

The following April, Father Sheridan died unexpectedly and at the request of Bishop Noll, Father Clement Orth, pastor of St. Anthony of Padua in Angola and superior of the Franciscan community there, agreed to celebrate Mass in LaGrange on a regular basis and became the first in a long line of Franciscans who would serve the Catholics in the LaGrange area.

With growth, the need for a permanent church building presented itself and with combined funds from the diocese, donors and parishioners totaling $3,000, plans moved ahead with one barrier; one donor’s offer was made on the condition that the parish be named for St. Joseph. Thus, with the parishioners’ agreement, the new church had its first Mass on the feast of its patron, March 19, 1937.

Forty years later found the parish at a new location not far from the city in a brand new church and friary celebrating the first Mass on Christmas Eve 1978.

Although the site of the first Mass in this area remains unknown, perhaps the machinery of fate dictated that St. Joseph’s Church today is on the very ground of a humble cabin where the cross first came to LaGrange.