Serra Club hosts regional conference at Notre Dame

BY SISTER MARGIE LAYONIS, CSC

NOTRE DAME — Over 300 members of Serra International, whose mission is to promote religious life and priesthood, came from eight states to meet the last weekend of October on the campuses of Saint Mary’s College and the University of Notre Dame. Sponsored by Regions 6 and 7 of the United States Council, the theme of the meeting was “Thirsting for Knowledge, Truth, Charity and Christ.”

The conference began with a Mass at Saint Mary’s in the Church of Our Lady of Loretto. In his homily, Father Daniel Scheidt said that it was appropriate to celebrate the Eucharist there because legend has it that angels moved to the village of Loretto in Italy to the house where Mary said yes to her vocation to be the mother of Jesus.

Dick Dornbos, one of the conference coordinators, in his remarks at the dinner following the Mass, spoke of the great faith it took to make the conference happen. He said that the primary motivation of the Serrans to promote priesthood and religious life is their love of the Eucharist. “Without priests there would be no Mass and no Eucharist,” he said.

Saturday began with Mass again in the Church of Our Lady of Loretto. Bishop Alexander King Sample, newly appointed bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, was the celebrant. He said it was providential that they gathered on the feast of the Apostles Simon and Jude. “The church is the instrument of evangelization and the successors of the apostles have a special role,” he said. “We each have a role and a place in the body of Christ, and no one is least important, but some have a special role.”

For the second straight year, the Bishop Dwenger High School girls soccer team took the state title. An assembly honoring the team has been scheduled Nov. 3 at 12:15 p.m. More news next week.

BISHOP DWENGER GIRLS TAKE SOCCER TITLE

PROVIDED BY LIZ DELANY

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Serving the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

The gift of vocation

Tony Steinacker ordained to priesthood

FORT WAYNE — The nature of vocation came into crisp focus on Oct. 28 at the ordination of Anthony Paul Steinacker to the priesthood at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

“Praise and thanks to almighty God for the gift of this vocation to the priesthood,” said the newly-ordained Father Steinacker in his remarks at the end of Mass.

After a decade of seminary work, many graces from God and the support of countless people along the way, Father Steinacker clearly had been gifted with the journey that was his vocation. And now that his calling has been realized with ordination, he will in turn make a gift of himself to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

In his opening statements at the Mass, Bishop John M. D’Arcy said that “The holy ordination of priest is a moment of love in Christ’s heart for his church.”

Bishop said regarding the priesthood, “It’s a life of love or it’s nothing. That love only grows through especially in the presence of the Eucharist.”

Praying for people in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, “that’s what keeps priests humble.”

The Mass was attended by a standing-room-only crowd of many St. Charles Borromeo and St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne, parishioners, as well as around 60 priests of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, including Msgr. William Faber, the senior priest of the diocese, whose ordination took place a little over 70 years prior to Father Steinacker’s.

Betsy Ueber, of St. John the Baptist, Father Steinacker’s home parish, said the ordination was a “beautiful ceremony from beginning to end,” adding that “Tony has been like an adopted son since birth.”

“For a vocation director, it’s a great sense of fulfillment,” said Father Bernie Galic, director of

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There is life after death

It’s what we believe and we take action to show it

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Shared faith

Passions and promise explored

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Ordination of a priest is an act of love for the church

BISHOP JOHN M. DARCY

Ordination of a new priest

There are few things more significant for a diocese or, indeed, for the soul of a bishop than the ordination of a priest. As the time I have been your bishop grows longer, that significance of an ordination and the privilege of conferring this sacrament grows more and more profound in my soul. It is a grace and a gift, which no man deserves, to lay hands on Anthony Steinacker. It was also joy that other young men who are preparing for the priesthood joined us for this service and took part in the ceremony; 18 in all, and six of them from St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne. A joyful day. We can never thank God enough for it.

An act of love

That is what it is. An act of love, not primarily for the young man being ordained, but for the church. Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit and through the church, makes it possible for another man to celebrate the Eucharist, preach the word of God, confer the sacraments and live his life as a shepherd for the people.

Let everyone pray every day that more young men of good quality offer themselves to the priesthood in our diocese, and more young men and women to the consecrated life.

A night at St. Jude Parish, Fort Wayne

I hustled over to St. Jude’s for a penance service. This was the parish mission conducted in consultation with our Office of Spiritual Development. I joined a number of priests for dinner, and was privileged to join them also in conferring the sacrament of penance. It is in these times when they make themselves available, quietly, for this splendid sacrament that our people are most grateful to our priests.

Important meetings

There are a lot of meetings when you are bishop, and the most central thing to see that, to the extent possible, they are about important matters. What is more important than our young people? This week, Cindy Black, our new director of youth ministry, joined our Council of Priests to lay out for them what she is proposing for our diocese.

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Let everyone pray every day that more young men of good quality offer themselves to the priesthood in our diocese, and more young men and women to the consecrated life.
ORDAIN
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

vocations for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. “I often say that I feel like a woman giving birth, only I carry the seminarians for nine years instead of nine months.”

Martin Wheeler and wife Melissa carried their young daughter to witness the ordination. Wheeler, himself a former seminarian, said of the new Father Steinacker, “He’s truly a gentleman. He’s always friendly and open.” Melissa added “I was excited to come. It was great to see the crowd in the aisles. There were so many people.” A teacher at Bishop Dwenger High School, Melissa says the students have quite an affinity for Father Steinacker, who visits the school on a regular basis. “He’s a lovely man,” she says.

St. Charles parishioners Anna Martinez and Cynthia Hope felt that Father Steinacker’s ordination was “cool.” Martinez, a student at Snider High School, said, “Father Tony is pretty nice. The ordination was cool.” Hope, Bishop Dwenger student agreed, saying, “Yeah, I’d never seen anything like this. It was really cool.” They both are happy to have the newly ordained priest in the diocese.

Seminarian Jake Runyon believes the new priest is a great blessing to the church. “I’ve known Tony for five years. This is a wonderful day,” he says. “He has helped me a lot and I am so proud of him. It’s great.”

“He’s been a tremendous prayerful influence in all our lives in the seminary,” said seminarian Kevin Bauman. “He’s the most detailed person — that I really know. He’s just a thoughtful, goodhearted man.”

Deacon Bob Lengerich said, “It’s been an honor to be in the seminary with Tony all of these years, and it was an honor to be the deacon to call him forth to ordination. But the greatest honor is going to be to serve as a priest — God and bishop willing — in this diocese for many years.”

Father Steinacker’s dad, Jim, said wistfully, “It’s the most beautiful day of my life.”

Father Steinacker’s uncle, Father Kramer Schmitt said it was a happy day for Tony, the family, church and of course, himself. “Mary Steinacker, Father Tony’s mom, said simply, “Wonderful!” It was a doubly special day for her as she celebrated her son’s ordination as well as her birthday. She was all smiles when, at the reception those in attendance sang “happy birthday” to her.

The joy of the day was evident on the face of the newly ordained priest as he arrived at the reception in the Grand Wayne Center following the ordination. When asked what it was like to be Father Steinacker replied, “Extremely joyful! It’s been very humbling, I just thank God for this beautiful day.”

Mass of Thanksgiving

Father Steinacker’s Mass of thanksgiving was held at St. John the Baptist Parish in Fort Wayne on Oct. 29.

Father Steinacker is a lifelong parishioner of St. John the Baptist and the first priestly vocation since Father William Sullivan who was ordained in 1972, recollected St. John the Baptist pastor Father Daryl Rybicki. But the parish has a strong tradition of producing religious and priestly vocations. Some of the parish’s former pastors, many who made an impact on Steinacker also present for the Mass of thanksgiving.

The parish was quick to embrace their native son and welcomed him to priesthood with a packed church and a reception following the Mass.

Father Dave Ruppert, associate pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Fort Wayne, and who was ordained last year, delivered the homily.

Father Dave began by recounting a recent event where a young child in the grocery store asked him, “Are you Jesus’ friend?” Father Ruppert said “Yes” and asked the same of the 3- or 4-year-old child. Father Ruppert said being a priest is as simple as that. Father Steinacker is now commissioned to tell others that God loves them and to teach them how to be a friend to Jesus through the Mass and sacraments.

Father Ruppert reminded those in attendance that through baptism all are called to be priest, prophet and king to others. He suggested that we might do that by looking at our lives today and the many blessings God has bestowed on us. For example, Father Ruppert lightheartedly suggested that Father Steinacker went from squeezing produce in the grocery, where he formerly worked, to discerning in the seminary and now giving and receiving hugs from those he serves.

On a more serious note Father Ruppert reminded Father Steinacker that he is Christ to others as an ordained priest and challenged him to bring all of God’s children to God by meeting them in their path in life and guiding them to God through his words and actions.

Deb Wagner contributed to this story.

Today’s Catholic conducts digital subscription survey

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — Today’s Catholic, the official publication of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, is conducting a pilot study to explore digital distribution of the newspaper.

Digital distribution involves producing a PDF (portable document format) that is delivered through e-mail or web page mailed. The e-mailed version looks exactly as the printed mailed copy, but offers a few perks.

All the Web site and e-mail addresses within the document are hyperlinked. This means, for example, if a reader would like to sign up for a seminar whose promotion appeared in Today’s Catholic, the reader would simply click on the e-mail address and sign up. Some examples include the announcements. If a Web site is listed, such as www.diocesefwsb.org, a click on the link will lead the reader directly to the Web site for instant purchase, instant signup, etc.

One reader in Michigan contacted Today’s Catholic with a grievance that the newspaper was arriving a week late to his home and wanted to participate in the study. With the receipt of the first digital version, he reported that he was very excited about the delivery and the hyper linked Web addresses and e-mails.

Another reader, a participant receives the digital version in Iraq, where he serves in the U.S. military. Instead of waiting a week or longer to receive the paper, he receives the digital version before most receive it in the mail.

Another positive of the digital version is readers can adjust the size of the print to their satisfaction on their computer screens. For those who receive the print version, there are no plans to stop producing the hard-copy edition. The pilot study began in cooperation with the Office of Campus and Young Adult Ministry. About 10 people are participating and the results have been favorable among the group. And a few adults over 40 also participated with very favorable comments. A recent announcement from Today’s Catholic added more people to the survey, but at least 500 participants are needed.

If subscribers to the print version would like to participate in the survey, they will receive the digital version as well as the printed mailed version. Today’s Catholic also encourages non-subscribers, young people, people who live outside of the diocese, to sign up. On occasion, the newspaper will ask for feedback from pilot study participants. Participants must have a high-speed Internet connection. Most files are 3 to 5 MB in size.

The Catholic Press Association, which serves more than 730 Catholic publications, is also very interested in the pilot study results. Digital delivery, as well as the new podcast, are exciting means of evangelizing to all ages, and the Today’s Catholic staff is excited about the opportunities offered through these technologies.

The survey will continue through January 2007. At that point, those who are participating will be mailed a subscription fee to receive the digital version.

To be a part of the pilot study, contact Francie Hogan at fhogan@fw.diocesefwsb.org or visit the Web site for information at www.diocesefwsb.org

Upcoming bishops’ meeting at a glance

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A quick glance at the main items the U.S. bishops will have on their agenda when they meet in Baltimore Nov. 13-16:

• Celebrated Mass Nov. 12 at the nation’s first Catholic cathedral, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, marking the 200th anniversary of its dedication.

• Statement on “Married Love and the Gift of Life,” reaffirming church teaching against contraception.

• Statement on receiving the Eucharist worthily.

• Statement on pastoral ministry to those with a homosexual inclination.

• Directory for Music and the Liturgy.

• Revitalization of committee of U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

• 2007 USCBB budget.

• Reduced 2008 diocesan assessments for USCBB operations.

• Strategic plans and priorities for USCBB for 2008-2011.

• Revision of some Advent readings in the Lectionary for Mass.

• Release of $335,000 for next phases of national study on causes of new acts of clergy sexual abuse of minors.

• Election of USCBB secretary and new committee chairmen-elect.
Mother Teresa helps physician find love and compassion

BY DIANE FREEBY

NOTRE DAME — A successful career in medicine, wealth and prestige, a loving wife and daughter — that must be a recipe for success, right? Wrong.

Cardiologist Paul Wright discovered the way to achieve true fulfillment when he traveled from Youngstown, Ohio, to Tijuana, Mexico and began a five-year friendship with none other than Mother Teresa.

Dr. Wright, a 1972 graduate of the University of Notre Dame, returned to campus Oct. 26 and told a group of students the story of his spiritual quest, and how Mother Teresa “cured” a man whose profession usually had him working to cure others.

The Steubenville, Ohio, native explained how in 1992, despite his success as a cardiologist, he was feeling a void in his life. Dr. Wright, then 40, said he tried to fill that void with wealth and prestige, but all that did was bring on more stress.

“As a physician, I had no prerequisites for my own unhappiness,” he said.

So Dr. Wright did what few of us would ever actually do: he found a way to meet with Mother Teresa in person to find the answers to his question. Dr. Wright recalled of their conversation with the sister who answered the phone at the Tijuana homeless shelter where Mother Teresa was recuperating from recent heart problems.

“I used the magic word,” said Dr. Wright. “When I asked if I might come talk to Mother Teresa, I also explained that I was suffering and needed help.” Unknown at the time to Dr. Wright, he had hit upon the main tenet of Mother Teresa’s order, the Missionaries of Charity: to alleviate the suffering of others. Despite Mother Teresa’s poor health, Dr. Wright’s request to visit was granted.

“It was time for Dr. Wright, he had hit upon the main tenet of Mother Teresa’s order, the Missionaries of Charity: to alleviate the suffering of others. Despite Mother Teresa’s poor health, Dr. Wright’s request to visit was granted.

With all my heart, I wanted to know what a perfect human being was looking like,” recalled Dr. Wright of that first visit with Mother Teresa. “I wanted to touch the hands of a woman so close to God. Then I asked the question that had been burning in my heart for so long. Could she tell me how Jesus would judge me at the moment of my death?”

Mother Teresa smiled and explained that the answer to the doctor’s question was the very foundation and purpose of her Missionaries of Charity.

“She opened the Bible to Matthew, chapter 25,” said Dr. Wright. “At the time, I didn’t know Matthew from John from Frank.”

Mother Teresa summed up the point of the verse as she took the doctor’s hand. “Jesus said whatever you do for the least of my brothers and sisters, you do for me.”

Mother Teresa told Dr. Wright that God will judge all of us on how we loved and how much compassion we had for our brothers and sisters.

Dr. Wright called this moment his epiphany. He realized it was his responsibility to do everything he could to alleviate the suffering of others, to be a compassionate physician.

Change did not happen overnight. Upon returning home four weeks later, Dr. Wright did

have a clear purpose of life, yet that sense of inner peace and happiness continued to elude him. He knew it would take work and he began by scrapping his plans to build a mansion. Instead, the doctor made modifications to his family’s modest ranch home.

Dr. Wright also began a program that provided clothing donated to the poor in all parts of the world. He also modified his medical profession, not cutting back on anything you do for the least of my brothers and sisters, you do for me.”

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Dr. Wright also began a program that provided clothing donated to the poor in all parts of the world. He also modified his medical profession, not cutting back on the hours but by cutting out the things that got in the way of his mission. Dr. Wright also realized he didn’t always have to be a chimpanzee, to be conversing with God. “When I spend four hours seeing patients in my office,” said Dr. Wright, “and I do it trying to alleviate their suffering, that work is prayer.”

In addition, he also established several medical programs in his area designed specifically to help the poor and the underserved. Dr. Wright stressed the idea of compassion to the students in attendance at the University of Notre Dame lecture.

“One day, when you go out as professionals,” he advised them, “be careful about the people and groups you’re joining. Your life can become very complex and unfulfilling if you choose poorly.”

He also urged students to assess their own God-given talents when choosing a profession. “Focus on a career that you enjoy, and that allows you to serve others.”

Meanwhile, Dr. Wright’s friendship with Mother Teresa continued to grow. He not only started ways to ship donated clothing to Tijuana and Calcutta, but he became her personal physician whenever Mother Teresa visited the U.S. As he monitored and helped treat the tiny nun, she continued to treat him spiritually as well. When Dr. Wright asked her how he could become a better physician, she gave him an answer he would remember forever.

“You never forget who it is you are touching,” she told him. Dr. Wright realized at that moment she meant God within humanity.

According to Dr. Wright, true wisdom is seeking (and finding) a purpose in life. He repeated the words the mother told him as he addressed the students. “If it’s not for Christ, it’s not worth doing.”

Dr. Wright was awarded the Catholic Bishop’s Voice of Hope Award in 2003, an award bestowed upon an individual who reveals excellence, creativity and leadership in charity and justice. The following year, the University of Notre Dame Alumni Association awarded him the Thomas J. Dooley Award.

Dr. Paul Wright, a cardiologist from Ohio and a University of Notre Dame graduate, met Mother Teresa and gained a new perspective on his life and career after talking with her. Mother Teresa told Dr. Wright that God will judge all of us on how we loved and how much compassion we had for our brothers and sisters.

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Your Real Estate Needs...
St. Adalbert celebrates being named Magnificat School

BY JENNIFER OCHSTEIN

SOUTH BEND — The University of Notre Dame and St. Adalbert Catholic School in South Bend have formed a five-year alliance. St. Adalbert, named a Notre Dame Magnificat School, will be assured resources from Notre Dame to increase enrollment, student achievement and decrease faculty turnover, according to Aaron Wall, assistant director for ACE Educational Outreach at Notre Dame.

Currently, St. Adalbert serves 155 pre-kindergarten through eighth-grade students, who are taught by 12 teachers. "The Magnificat program uses current resources of a Catholic university to keep at-risk Catholic schools open," Wall said. The primary resource Notre Dame is offering, according to Jeny Sejdinaj, principal at St. Adalbert School, is in the form of an instructional coach, Nancy Masters.

Masters, who is a teacher in residence at Notre Dame, will be putting in 20 hours each week with teachers at St. Adalbert. She will observe classes and they will observe her teaching style, while she helps set professional development goals for them.

Sejdinaj said teachers’ time with Masters will not be evaluative; rather the goal is to develop individualized professional development plans for each of them. Notre Dame will also provide St. Adalbert with $45,000 over the next five years, with $20,000 coming to the school this first year, Sejdinaj explained.

That money, she said, will be used to improve technology at the school. The rest of the money will be used after teachers and administrators meet to assess the school’s needs.

Furthermore, said Sejdinaj, staff from Notre Dame will meet with St. Adalbert staff and school board members to discuss how the board can be more effective, increase the school’s Catholic identity, coaching for middle school morality and ethical development programs.

"If you look at the big picture, this will help us to become more attractive, and that will help bring in more students," Sejdinaj said. "And if the teachers are supported they’ll be happier."

According to Wall, the Magnificat program is an outreach of the ACE program, or Alliance for Catholic Education, at Notre Dame. ACE is a two-year service program that allows college graduates to teach full-time at Catholic schools. In return, students of the ACE program receive a tuition-free master’s in education degree from Notre Dame.

Magnificat schools must have an ACE-trained principal, like Sejdinaj, and have a number of ACE-trained teachers, said Wall. John Genisc, an ACE-trained teacher who is teaching at St. Adalbert, said the Magnificat program is significant because more resources will be going toward schools that can be rebuilt for faculty and students.

“Students will receive an education from teachers who will be learning at the same time,” said Genisc, who fills a number of roles at the school including seventh-grade home room teacher, middle school science and math teacher, and boys physical education and health teacher.

Holy Cross Father Chris Cox, pastor at St. Adalbert Catholic Parish, said he’s thrilled with the partnership.

“It gives us the opportunity to take the resources of a great Catholic university to help an inner-city school,” Cox said. And parishioners are just as happy about the partnership. "I think it’s wonderful," said Irene Rybicki, a parishioner at St. Adalbert. "I think it will improve the school."

Karen Sikorski, a 1969 graduate of St. Adalbert School and a 1977 graduate of Notre Dame, said having the support of the university is a valuable resource. “Notre Dame is so important to the community, and having them support us is really an encouragement,” said Sikorski.
Mexican cardinal calls fence along U.S.-Mexican border shortsighted

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Building a fence along the U.S.-Mexican border is a shortsighted move that may hurt the U.S. economy and shows a serious lack of respect for the dignity of armed men ready to shoot on sight those who try to cross it, certainly is not respectful of the dignity of the human person,” said Mexican Cardinal Javier Lozano Barragan. The cardinal, president of the Pontifical Council for Health Care Ministry, spoke about the fence in an Oct. 29 interview with “Avvenire,” the Italian Catholic daily newspaper. President George W. Bush signed a bill Oct. 26 authorizing construction of the fence along a total of 700 miles of the U.S.-Mexican border. Cardinal Lozano told “Avvenire” the bill’s passage and signing were a sign of a “lack of intelligence” in U.S. efforts to find solutions to its border problems as well as a lack of political courage to take a moral stand just before the November elections.

Commission looks for balance in English liturgical translations

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Work on a new English translation of the Mass continues to seek a balance between a highly formal prayer language and preserving liturgical phrases that have become part of an English consumer’s vocabulary, said Australian Cardinal George Pell of Sydney. Cardinal Pell chairs the Vox Clara translation commission, an international group of bishops who advise the Vatican on English liturgical translations. Vox Clara met Oct. 23-26 at the Vatican to study translations developed by the International Commission on English in the Liturgy. Describing many of the texts as “outstanding,” Vox Clara members also said they gave the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments an “extensive commentary on certain problems” found in the translations. Cardinal Pell told Catholic News Service Oct. 27: “It is important to try to get the car that there are small problems. They are not major problems at all.”

Advocates demand better pay, conditions for U.S. farmworkers

ROME (CNS) — Consumers should pay more attention to the origins of the food they purchase, said the executive director of the St. Louis-based National Farm Worker Ministry. “I think for the average consumer it’s really easy to forget. Out of sight, out of mind. It’s easy not to pay attention” to how food gets to the consumer, Virginia Nesmith said in a telephone interview with the Catholic Worker, newspaper of the Joilet Diocese. Nesmith said it is essential that consumers remember the estimated 2.5 million farmworkers in the nation who harvest by hand about 85 percent of fruits and vegetables. She said a farmworker’s annual wages range between $10,000 and $12,000, barely above the federal government’s poverty level of $9,800 for an individual. Farmworkers who get paid per bushel get no reimbursement for sick days, a rainy day or a bad crop.

Pope says Christians must heal divisions to be sign of hope

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christians have a responsibility to heal their divisions so that they can be a real sign of hope for the world, Pope Benedict XVI said. “Those who profess that Jesus Christ is lord are tragically divided and cannot always give a consistent common witness,” the pope said during an Oct. 27 meeting with representatives of the world’s major Christian communities. The Conference of Secretaries of Christian World Communions held its annual meeting in Rome. Since 1957, the conference has brought together top officials of the international offices of 18 Christian churches and denominations for informal discussions. The secretary of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity has represented the Vatican at the meetings, which also include representatives of the Anglican Communion, mainland Protestant federations, the Salvation Army, Orthodox churches, Seventh-Day Adventists, Mennonites and others.

Metropolitan: Negative view of ‘uniatism’ not to be applied to people

MOSCOW (CNS) — A Russian Orthodox leader said Orthodox feelings about Eastern Catholic churches should not be applied to Eastern Catholics. “We should distinguish between the attitude to people and the principle of ‘uniatism,’” said Metropolitan Kirill, chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate’s Department for External Church Relations. “The negative attitude to ‘uniatism’ cannot be applied to people.” “Uniatism” is a term primarily used by Orthodox for the model of church unity used in the formation of the Eastern Catholic churches in recent centuries. “The idea of overcoming the 11th-century schism between Orthodox and Catholic churches is an excellent one. But to restore unity with Rome, our own unity was broken,” said Kirill, who heads the Diocese of Spokane, Wash., said Cardinal Arinze asked Pope Benedict about the matter during a June 9 audience, “and we gave a response in the negative.”

Synod council hopes to have preparatory document ready by January

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Although the next world Synod of Bishops meeting is two years away, an international group of cardinals and bishops hopes to have its preparatory document ready by the end of January. In early October, the Vatican announced that Pope Benedict XVI had set the synod for Oct. 5-26, 2008, and had chosen the theme: “The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church.” Members of the synod council, who are either elected by their brother bishops or appointed by the pope, met Oct. 10-11 at the Vatican to begin preparing for the 2008 meeting. They came up with a general plan for the “lamentatio,” or outline, and questionnaire that will be sent to bishops’ conferences throughout the world for comment. The responses will be used to draft the synod’s working document. An Oct. 24 Vatican statement said council members urge “the faithful to consider the word of God in liturgy, in preaching, in catechesis, in theology, spirituality,” public and private meditation, inculturation and ecumenism.

Cardinal Keeler discusses accident that took life of his friend

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore said he believes his longtime friend who was killed in a mobile accident in Italy had a premonition about his own mortality and was ready to be with the Lord. The 75-year-old cardinal made the comments during an Oct. 23 press conference, his first public appearance to specifically address the automobile accident in which his right ankle was broken and one of the car’s traveling companions, Father Bernard Quinn, was killed. The driver of the car, Mrgr. Thomas H. Smith, 75, broke several ribs in the Oct. 7 accident. Another vehicle struck the passenger side of the car in which the three accused American clerics were riding. Father Quinn, 78, mentioned at least four times during his trip to Italy that he was prepared to go to the Lord, Cardinal Keeler said at the press conference. “I found it strange, because we were having such a wonderful time,” the cardinal said. “He must have had a premonition of it. He was ready. That gives us an enormous amount of consolation.”

Catholic Workers urge bishops to demand new military law be rescinded

PANORA, Iowa (CNS) — At the first national Catholic Worker gathering to be held in 10 years, participants issued a statement urging the U.S. bishops “to demand the eradication of the Military Commissions Act,” a new law governing how the U.S. military tries enemy combatants in Afghanistan and Iraq. “We Catholic Workers are outraged at the recent passage of the Military Commissions Act, which subjects not only prisoners held by the United States in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to indefinite detention with no hope of appeal,” said the statement drafted by representatives of more than 50 Catholic Worker houses and more than 300 Catholic Workers and friends meeting in Panora Oct. 19-22. The act allows abusive interrogation methods which clearly violate the Geneva Conventions, strip prisoners of their corpus rights and provides immunity to the torturers,” it said. The Military Commissions Act of 2006 was signed into law by President George W. Bush Oct. 17.
St. Vincent de Paul Society to celebrate 60th anniversary

FORT WAYNE — The St. Vincent de Paul Society in Fort Wayne will celebrate its 60th anniversary on Saturday, Nov. 11, with an open house at the thrift store, located at 1600 South Calhoun St. From 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., Doughnuts and coffee will be served. From 11 to 1 p.m., hot dogs will be served.


Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation established locally

SOUTH BEND — Every woman should have the opportunity to prevent and to treat breast cancer.

Based on that belief, members of Junior League and RiverBend Cancer Services joined together to bring Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation to Northern Indiana.

The newly-formed Komen Northern Indiana Affiliate will cover a 27-county area spanning the entire upper third of the state. The purpose of the local organization is to increase awareness of breast cancer and the importance of breast health and to educate the public on the services that are currently available.

“In addition, Komen will generate funds that will be used locally,” said Nancy R. Hellyer, president of the newly created Komen Board and CEO and president of Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center.

“Through a grant process, we will distribute funds to organizations in Northern Indiana that work to prevent the incidence of breast cancer.”

The Komen Affiliate and Board will work to increase awareness and are aware of close-to-home breast health services. The affiliate will be able to provide grants to organizations that provide direct services including mammograms, clinical breast exams, proper diagnosis and, if necessary, treatment.

The Komen Northern Indiana Affiliate office is located at 610 N. Michigan St., Suite 204, South Bend, 46601, and can be reached at (574) 289-9828. For more information on the Komen Foundation, visit the Web site at www.komen.org.

Write a will, a guide to leaving a legacy workshops set

FORT WAYNE — Two workshops in Fort Wayne will bring in volunteer attorneys to assist participants in writing a will and how to include a charitable bequest in the will.

The first workshop is slated Tuesday, Nov. 7, from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Bass Mansion on the campus of the University of Saint Francis.

The other is slated at St. Vincent de Paul School in Fort Wayne on Nov. 6-10 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

A charitable bequest leaves a portion of property such as an insurance policy, pension plan or IRA account to a charity. Participants will learn how they can leave a gift to a charity and still leave something to their family. In some cases, charitable gifts may actually decrease inheritance taxes.

At the University of Saint Francis, those interested in participating should make an appointment by calling (260) 489-3537 ext. 247. No walk-ins will be accepted without an appointment.

Saint Mary’s College Music Department presents choral concert

NOTRE DAME — Saint Mary’s College Department of Music presents its annual Fall Choral Concert featuring the Saint Mary’s Women’s Choir, Collegiate Choir and Bellacappella. The performance takes place on Thursday, Nov. 9, at 7:30 p.m. at O’Laughlin Auditorium in the Moreau Center for the Arts. It is free and open to the public.

The Women’s Choir is a select 40-voice ensemble that regularly commissions and performs new works for women’s voices. They have appeared in concert at Carnegie Hall three times since 1999. The Collegiate Choir performs primarily on campus, giving at least one concert per semester and performing in the annual Service of Lessons and Carols. Bellacappella is a student-run ensemble started in spring 2006 and designed to entertain audiences with popular music for all ages.

The Moreau Center for the Arts celebrates its 50th anniversary throughout the 2006-2007 season. Named in honor of the Very Reverend Basil Anthony Moreau, CSC, the founder of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, the facility consists of O’Laughlin Auditorium, Little Theatre, Moreau Art Galleries, studios, workshops and classrooms. For more information about any event at the Moreau Center for the Arts, please call (574) 284-4626 or visit www.moreaucenter.com.

Annual sisters recognition dinner

HUNTINGTON — The Saint Joseph–St. Elizabeth Charity School announced that 39 students have been named 2006 Great Lakes Scholars.

Great Lakes Scholars was established to inspire children to achieve with the hope that it motivates students to a young age level to show that achievement counts, hard work matters, and actively participating in school and community events is important.

Lois Widner, principal of St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, said “This is an increase from our previous year. The Great Lakes Scholars Award is a wonderful opportunity to recognize the achievement of our students.”

The students receiving such designation are the following: Kris Andordier, Clare Andrews, Claire Arrnolds, Anne Childress, Kacey Connolly, Alex Fletcher, Brooke Gabrek, Cameron Gallaway, Amanda Gigli, Sarah Gigli, MitchellGilbert, Taylor Gillie, Julia Hellingr, Drew Hentz, Emily Hentz, Bailey Hill, Tony Hoch, Cara Hoyer, Andrew Krach, Emily Krach, Patrick Krach, Anesa Lazoff, Elizabeth Masson, Anna McNamara, Nancy McNamara, Peter McNamara, Rachel Morgan, Andrew Morken, Colleen Quigley, Samantha Rahrig, Austen Rangel, Kelsom Reiss, Sam Scheuer, Luke Scheer, Zach Schenkel, Holley Taylor, Jessica Tebben, Jacob Torkeo and Alexander Yaney.

Redeemer Radio gets a power boost

FORT WAYNE — Fort Wayne’s Redeemer Radio, Catholic Radio 1450 AM, recently announced that it is completing several major upgrades at its transmitter site, increasing the effective transmit power substantially. A new state-of-the-art solid-state transmitter has been installed, as well as a new AM processor. As a result, a much stronger signal is now being broadcast. This means that the station can now be heard in localities that could not previously hear the signal. For those areas that were previously receiving the signal, the station now sounds clearer and stronger.

According to Redeemer Radio President Chris Langford, “The station is sounding really strong. We have received reports that the signal can now be heard much more clearly in Huntington and in the counties outside Allen County. This is a wonderful opportunity for Redeemer Radio to reach many more listeners with the truth and beauty of the Catholic faith. We welcome everyone to tune in and hear much stronger the broadcast sounds.”

Lourdes pilgrimages announced by Santa Maria Council 553

SOUTH BEND — For more than 49 years, the Santa Maria Council 553 of the Knights of Columbus has conducted a program of aiding physically handicapped people by sponsoring them as pilgrims to Lourdes in France.

For the trip are raised annually through the Lourdes Charity Ball, which the council holds in February.

Recipients of the pilgrimage this year were April Boughton, a student at Northside High School in South Bend, and Shirley Roushelang, a woman who has been confined to a wheelchair for years.

The pair were selected for the trip by a council committee headed by K.C. Ponciesz and eight other members. — EJD
Renovations are a community project at St. Casimir Parish

BY JENNIFER OCHSTEIN

SOUTH BEND — With many hands making light work, the congregation at St. Casimir Parish is renovating the church.

And, according to Ann Marie Sommers, who’s on the pastoral council at St. Casimir in South Bend, the sense of community among parishioners has grown stronger.

“Catholic is community,” Sommers said recently on a Saturday workday at the church, where she was covering wooden benches that were recently given fresh coats of paint. “We need to be a community for our worship.”

Indeed, early on parishioners from St. Adalbert’s in South Bend were also helping out. Jesus Kujada, who owns a concrete business, is doing the concrete work on the church floor at cost, saving the congregation money. Members of his family were helping move pews and statues out the way. Some of his family members also attend St. Casimir, which is paired with St. Adalbert, sharing staff between them.

Kujada said it felt good to help. But he was also proud that his grandson, who attends St. Casimir, could one day tell his own children that his grandfather poured the floor in the church.

Jim Matthews, of South Bend, who was helping out too, said many parishioners were worried that others in the church wouldn’t be able to complete all the work that needed to be done.

“And they were worried we wouldn’t get the help that was promised,” Matthews said.

Bob Audenaert agreed that many parishioners thought “we bit off more than we could chew. But it’s been working nicely.”

Help arrived in the form of manpower, along with parishioners providing food for the others who are working.

“It’s truly what God meant,” said Sommers, who’s great grandfather was one of the Polish immigrant members of the church in 1898 and helped dig the basement of the church when it was built in 1925. “These are truly all his people.”

According to Paul Fujawa, an engineer who’s a member at St. Casimir, hiring a contractor would’ve cost the parish between $80,000 and $100,000 to complete the work. Instead, they’re doing much of the work themselves, and so far they’ve spent $24,000, said Fujawa.

The parish has been saving money for six years to make the renovations, the first since an overhaul in 1983, said Sommers.

Work on the church has and will include painted benches, new tile, concrete floor, new lights in the sanctuary, work on the bell and sound system. With the work, said Sommers, parishioners know the church will live on for generations to come.

St. Casimir was a humble man, and like their patron, St. Casimir parishioners try to take on that humility, said Sommers.

“We’re humble, but we get things done,” said Sommers. “We fight the good fight.”

Parishioners at St. Casimir in South Bend move pews Saturday before a work day. Parishioners are renovating the church, built in 1925 by Polish immigrants.

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Apostolic nuncio visits Josephinum

COLUMBUS, Ohio — One hundred and fifty seminarians at the Pontifical College Josephinum experienced a landmark event in their journey to priesthood when Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States, visited the seminary on Oct. 22-23. The visit was the archbishop’s first since his appointment as apostolic nuncio in December 2005 by Pope Benedict XVI.

Upon his arrival to the Josephinum, Archbishop Sambi was formally received in St. Turibius Chapel by the seminarians and the priest faculty who are responsible for overseeing the formation programs. Rector-President Msgr. Paul J. Langsfeld, STD, welcomed the archbishop.

The Josephinum’s relationship with the Holy See began with founder Msgr. Joseph Jessing’s petition to make the Josephinum a pontifical school in 1893, the same year that Pope Leo XIII named the first apostolic delegate to the United States. Since that time, each apostolic delegate and nuncio has played a significant role in the life of the seminary.

Over the years the Josephinum has changed in many ways to meet the needs of the time. “Through all of the change one of the constants has been the cordial relationship we have always had with the apostolic delegates and nuncios,” said Msgr. Langsfeld.

“I am happy to be here,” the archbishop’s opening sentence became a theological theme of his first address to the seminarians. “Show you are happy to live,” he told them. “It should be a great message — your smile is a message. The source of all happiness is our faith: Happy to live, because happy to believe. You know what you have to do — to feel that life is a gift and life is a lesson to continue in you with the qualities and the capacities that God has given you to continue the mission of our Lord, Jesus Christ. I am happy, because you are the hope of the church.”

On Sunday afternoon, Kevin Bauman, a second-year theologian from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, escorted the nuncio on a tour of the buildings and grounds of the Josephinum. An open house was scheduled.

“I am happy, because you are the hope of the church.”

— ARCHBISHOP PIETRO SAMBI

Seminarians from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend pose with Archbishop Pietro Sambi at the Josephinum. In the photo are the following, from left, Jacob Meyer, Andrew Curry, Benjamin Muhlenkamp, Kevin Bauman, Bob Lengerich, Archbishop Sambi, Gabriel Hernandez, Jason Freiburger, Matthew Coonan and Fernando Jimenez.

Seminarians from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend pose with Archbishop Pietro Sambi at the Josephinum. In the photo are the following, from left, Jacob Meyer, Andrew Curry, Benjamin Muhlenkamp, Kevin Bauman, Bob Lengerich, Archbishop Sambi, Gabriel Hernandez, Jason Freiburger, Matthew Coonan and Fernando Jimenez.

Over 50 Catholic-Christian singles were in attendance at the GAP gathering at St. Elizabeth Church on Friday, Oct. 20. They enjoyed a chili dinner, cards and a pumpkin carving contest. The GAP is a social group for singles ages 40-60ish and meets the third Friday of every month.

PASSIONIST SPEAKS IN COLUMBIA CITY

Father John Schork, CP, a Passionist priest from Chicago, speaks at St. Paul of the Cross Church in Columbia City. St. Paul of the Cross, the parish’s patron, founded the Passionists, and Father Schork spoke about the saint at every Mass the weekend of Oct. 22, the saint’s feast day.

HOLY CROSS COLLEGE

ROME

Through The Ages Tour
A One Week Trip for Adults
March 9-16, 2007

This spring, we will once again sponsor a trip to Rome for adults. The trip is customized for adults with four tour options available.

The trip is part of a course entitled Rome Through the Ages available for adults and college students. The course is optional and adults can audit it free with reservation for the Rome trip.

Edgerton’s Travel has designed our trip which includes:

• Ground and air transportation (Alitalia Airbus)
• 6 nights in Hotel Smeraldo • Breakfast daily

Besides attending a general papal audience, sight-seeing includes: St. Peter’s Square, Basilica, Grotto; Roman Forum; Colosseum, Pantheon; Capitoline, Palatine, Aventine, famous Roman churches, Vatican Museum, Sistine Chapel. St. Paul’s outside the Walls and the Catacombs, and much, much more.

• Four customized tour options available for each person
• Pat Adams, Director of Continuing Education, will be the tour host.
• Trip cost is $2599 per person - a $300 deposit is due December 2, 2006 - final payment January 19, 2007

To enroll and/or request a complete schedule, contact Pat Adams at 574-239-8364 or padams@hcc-nd.edu
**Opening Prayer**

O God, I pray that I will find a sense of self that makes me glad to be who I am and yet restless for whom I will become. Make me simple enough not to be confused by disappointments, clear enough not to mistake busyness for freedom, honest enough not to expect truth to be painless, brave enough not to sing all my songs in private, compassionate enough to get in trouble, humble enough to admit trouble and seek help, and joyful enough to celebrate all of it, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Adapted from prayer by Ted Loder, “Guerillas of Grace”)

Scripture: Mt 6: 9-15

**Commentary**

It’s hard to escape the fact that I’m a child of the 1960s, given that I started high school in 1963 and got married in 1969... a Baby Boomer from the generation that got married in 1969... a Baby Boomer from the generation that

As a newly married woman, I was part of this passionate time and the cause of equal rights for women. I passionately believed in the power of words and images — for good or bad, I became convinced that children were “socialized” into stereotypical roles from the moment they took their first breath and vowed that our children would be brought up gender-neutral: no pink and blue clothes; no dolls only for girls and trucks only for boys; tears were acceptable; violence was not. The guys did chores and learned to cook and iron; the girls mowed the lawn and learned to change oil and use tools... likewise in school, no distinctions or exceptions based solely on gender.

Our church, on the heels of the Second Vatican Council, grappled as well with women’s issues. Women began to question the patriarchal tone of our liturgies, our documents and teaching. Sensibilities were raised on all levels, and the limitations of the English language became clear as well as many struggles to express theological concepts in more inclusive language and images.

Here, too, I rebelled against my childhood image of God: an old man with long white hair and beard, dressed in white robes with a gold crown on his head, sitting on a throne in the sky. I tried hard to find a new image that would be more inclusive of God’s feminine aspects. I was passionate that the church needed inclusive terms to help women accept their God-given roles as equal members of the Body of Christ. And when we say the word “Father,” we use another relational term that speaks of love and birthright, of life and connection.

We know that as loving parents we have obligations to instruct our offspring as they grow and mature... so, too, does God’s relationship with us as a loving Father. We must never use the word Father in regard to God cheaply, easily and sentimentally. God is not an easy-going parent who tolerantly shuts his eyes to all sins and faults and mistakes. This God, whom we can call Father, is the God whom we must still approach with reverence and adoration, and awe and wonder. God is our Father in heaven, and in God there is love and holiness combined. (William Barclay, “The Gospel of Matthew,” pg. 204)

Now, getting back to my passion for language and images, I still believe in the power of words, not just with such militancy anymore. I still believe in the equality of men and women, but not without the complementary nature of men and women together. I still believe that women, each according to her gifts, are a vital part of our church as together men and women, ordained and lay, work to build up God’s kingdom on earth. I still believe in passion as a force for transformation, but with honesty and openness to alternative visions and tempered with equal parts of humility and willingness to learn.

And I try very, very hard not to “fall with the door in the house” anymore because I’ve learned (the hard way) that it can be ever so humiliating to stumble and fall.

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**Passion and promise**

By Linda Furge

**Jubilee Pilgrim Cross**

The Jubilee Pilgrim Cross visited the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ Ministry Center in Donaldson from Oct. 15-17. During this time, the ministry center held several events to honor the anniversary, including a rosary vigil, an ecumenical prayer service and a prayer walk.

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**Examination of Conscience, Closing Prayer and Evangelizing Action Items**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. • Am I willing to give myself time to be aware of God’s presence in my life? • Am I willing to hear God’s voice over my own? For spiritual renewal: Take time each day to praise and thank God for the person you’ve become and reflect on what God is asking of you. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us... Likewise, it was passionate that the church needed inclusive terms to help theologize concepts in more inclusive language and images. Here, too, I rebelled against my childhood image of God: an old man with long white hair and beard, dressed in white robes with a gold crown on his head, sitting on a throne in the sky. I tried hard to find a new image that would be more inclusive of God’s feminine aspects. I was passionate that the church needed inclusive terms to help women accept their God-given roles as equal members of the Body of Christ. And then scientific studies began to show that, contrary to prevailing wisdom, men and women are not created equal in all respects and there are some limitations that have nothing to do with society’s influence, but that our thought processes are inherently different with men generally better at logic and women generally better at language, that our bodies are naturally designed for different purposes and our evolutionary process, that our built-in hormones can profoundly affect how we act and that parents modeling an equal relationship is so much more important than simply controlling words or toys.

Likewise, I’ve learned that imaging God as “Father” is as much about a relationship as it is a cultural term. Jesus lived his whole life modeling his loving relationship with the Father. The only prayer Jesus gave us begins “Our Father.” So what was he trying to teach us? Trying to teach me? Right from the very beginning of the prayer, Jesus teaches about relationship. By using the words “Our Father,” Jesus helps us to recognize our relationships with other persons. Christ doesn’t say “My Father,” he says “Our Father.” And when we say the word “Father,” we use another relational term that speaks of love and birthright, of life and connection. We know who God is and who we are. This powerful word does not signify simply a distant force or an ideal other than God... and that our built-in hormones can profoundly affect how we act and that parents modeling an equal relationship is so much more important than simply controlling words or toys.

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Bereave (bi-řēv’), v.t. [BEREAVED (-rēvd’)] or BEREF (-rēft’), BEREAVING], [ME, bireavien; AS, bereafian, to deprive, rob; be- + reafian; akin to G. berauben; 1. to deprive or rob, as of life, hope, happiness, etc. 2. to leave destitute or forlorn, as by loss or death. 3. [Obs.], to take away by force.

There is life after death

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — Don Brososky knew the moment he saw Mary in their freshman class at Monroeville High School that they would someday marry. The tall, blonde 14 year old swept her off her feet with roller skating dates, hayrides and movies. Mary, a twin, was the eighth of 13 children and devoutly Catholic. Don was the man of the house looking after his four siblings and ailing mother following his father’s early death. Night shift work after school hours kept his family afloat.

Following high school graduation, Mary and Don began work at a local company, and after courting through five years of all that life had to offer, the two exchanged marriage vows in May of 1957. They were 19 years old, and together they created a wonderful life.

Now, two years following the death of her beloved Don, Mary looks back on her life with him and recalls her husband’s innovative and insatiable thirst for knowledge. “Don was creative and intelligent. He loved to learn,” she says with warm memory.

She quickly adds hardworking, dependable, trustworthy and loyal to her description of her husband, who was known to have a natural talent for fixing things. A jack-of-all-trades, Mary’s soul mate of 47 years earned a living over the years as a union electrician, post office security officer, city park policeman, barber, locksmith, jeweler and coin appraiser. Even when illness confined him to bed, his resourceful nature had him at a sewing machine stitching bags to sell.

Death has not diminished Mary’s love for Don as she creates a new life for herself. “Don was clever, funny, tall, blonde 14 year old swept her off her feet. He was a clown, but underneath he was such a softy,” she says. He was friendly to all, including his beloved nephews and nieces.

But there was something else about Don that endeared him to Mary early on: his faith. “He was different than other men, wholesome. He didn’t drink or swear. He didn’t even tell dirty jokes,” says Mary. Don was known as a thoughtful, compassionate man.

His faith grew out of a chance meeting with a minister in his eighth-grade year, when he committed his life to Jesus. Don began to study the Bible and evangelized at every turn. Following his courtship with Mary, he enrolled in Catholic education classes and was welcomed into the Catholic faith a week before their wedding day.

In the following years, several moves took the two to Indianapolis, Kansas City, Lenexa and eventually Fort Wayne, where in each city they became involved in parish activities from eucharistic ministry to retreat testimonies and more.

“Don read the Bible every day of his marriage,” says Mary, as she recounts the times when they would lay awake nights discussing some important spiritual topic. “He helped me become who I am today.”

But life wasn’t always easy for the devoted couple. Don’s health became an issue early in their marriage with many challenges including heart attacks, diabetes and countless surgeries. Mary remained steadfast through it all and became the bread winner of the family saying, “God has blessed me so many times with jobs.” And she adds lovingly, she was blessed in another way. “Don never gave up ... When I think back, how he retained his faith and humor through all this, it’s amazing!”

Following Don’s death, after years of caring for her ailing husband, Mary found herself alone. In need of support she joined a widows group that she says “felt like the right spot for her.” She bonded with the women there and for several months mourned her husband creating a new life for herself.

During that time, this humble woman experienced fear, sadness, loneliness and even physical illness. Her antidote was prayer. “I sat in Don’s chair and read his Bible. I have a prayer list of people I pray for and I praised and thanked God for his blessings.”

Some time after the first anniversary of Don’s death, while praying for a direction in life, Mary discovered a job posting in her church bulletin at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish. “Our church rarely posts job ads. It was for greater at Covington Memorial Funeral home and was definitely God’s work.”

Following an interview and much prayer, Mary was hired at the funeral home and has found a ministry there that only Providence could have designed. As a greeter Mary ministers to the bereaved in a very personal way.

“I see their grief and can console them. I understand grief,” she says. Many have returned weeks after to thank Mary for her kindness. She appreciates the opportunities there and feels her service benefits her own healing process as well.

Mary is learning to adjust to her new life after Don’s death. Her faith continues to offer her hope and her ministry gives her purpose. To others who mourn, this caring, spirited woman offers, “Pray and trust in the Lord. Even your smallest concerns can be given to him. He will answer.”

Mary Brososky finds solace in her husband, Don’s chair where she has prayed and read his Bible each day since his death in 2004. Brososky, who works for a local funeral home, finds reaching out to others who grieve gives her purpose and healing.
FORT WAYNE — Death is the great equalizer. Death is the endless mystery ... and death is always on personal stand by for those who are called to assist others as funeral directors or cemetery administrators.

Dick Koschnick, manager of the Chapel Hill funeral home and cemetery in Osceola and Larry Fisher, sales manager for the Catholic Cemetery of Fort Wayne, are in agreement that although they deal with death on a daily basis, each funeral becomes a reminder of their own mortality and to live accordingly.

Members of a funeral home staff must be empathetic more so than sympathetic, insists Koschnick, and to get involved in a family’s grief is a failure to serve. “We assist others at an extremely difficult time, but we are not counselors. We can recommend counselors if needed, but our job is to cover all details and to guide the family at a stressful time.”

When asked about mistakes mourners sometimes make, Fisher and Koschnick were in further agreement that, in grief, there is a tendency to overspend to compensate for the failure to say goodbye to the loved one and that excessive spending denies funds, which may be needed for children or other needs of the family.

Dealing with death as a certainty of the future and dealing with it as a sudden reality presents an extreme contrast. When a funeral and burial are arranged by the individual or couple planning their own service, guesswork disappears, as do disagreements among survivors as well as lingering doubt about decisions made in haste and under stress. Advance planning also guarantees the cost of a funeral and burial.

In his work at The Catholic Cemetery of Fort Wayne, Larry Fisher deals, for the most part, with Catholics, but continues to be impressed, in the case of mixed marriages, at how close non-Catholic spouses feel to Catholicity and how easy and comfortable they feel, knowing that there is a place for them in the Catholic Cemetery.

Koschnick, who plans funerals for those of all faiths, observes that all creeds have one thing in common, and that is a profound respect for the deceased.

Perhaps this is because that as a way of life they participate in the corporal work of mercy; burying the dead and that they believe that though death is the doorway to heaven, human language cannot express the joy that is found there.
Amy McInerny, an attorney and founder of the Women's Injury Network (for women injured by abortion) uses her legal skills to promote a culture of life. “Ninety-percent of abortions are done in clinics where nothing is regulated. Women are being injured on a daily basis. It is up to us as Catholics to combat the abortion industry's rhetoric with truth and mercy,” said McInerny at a recent lecture at the University of Notre Dame. McInerny will speak Nov. 9 at 7 p.m. in room 156 of the Doermer Center at the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne on “Abortion and Women: Rhetoric vs. Reality” as part of the New Eve Project.

“Women are being injured on a daily basis. It is up to us as Catholics to combat the abortion industry's rhetoric with truth and mercy,” said McInerny at a recent lecture at the University of Notre Dame. McInerny will speak Nov. 9 at 7 p.m. in room 156 of the Doermer Center at the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne on “Abortion and Women: Rhetoric vs. Reality” as part of the New Eve Project.

“Please don’t hesitate to call us for a complete listing of area Counselors, Support Groups and related agencies.”
Family’s faith legacy offers hope to others

By Kay Cozad

FORT WAYNE — John and Susan Gentry will be the first to tell you that God’s grace and mercy are sufficient. This they know from experience. Over a year and a half after they lost their son in a tragic auto accident, they continue to praise the Creator while sharing their faith and hope with others.

The Gentrys have been married for 26 years and raised six beautiful children. Susan comes from a strong Catholic background while John converted to Catholicism following the birth of their first child. John, Susan and their four siblings were immediately surrounded by family and friends and clung to each other for strength as they planned the service for their beloved son and brother. “The world all but came to an end that day,” recalls John.

The funeral Mass was standing-room only as the family recounted the blessing Zach had been to their family and so many others. Words like selfless, kind and humble were used to describe Zach as he was remembered as a champion for the underdog.

“Zach had so many friends, but if there was a kid sitting by himself, Zach would ask him to join the others,” says John. Susan adds, “We never worried about him. He was full of life, always busy and had a peace about him.”

As an active member of traveling baseball and soccer teams Zach “knew and cared about everybody,” they say. The Gentrys feel God planned Zach’s life, saying, “Sports let him touch so many lives. God was glorified through him with so many people.” A special aspect of Zach’s life in his adolescent years was his faith.

It all began in earnest about three years ago following a community auction to kick off a community auction to raise money for area charities in Zach’s name.

In times of need, serving the communities of South Bend, Mishawaka, Elkhart, Osceola, Granger and beyond...
Acceptance, new pastimes help overcome loneliness after loved one dies

BY LISA M. BETSCHE

When a loved one passes on, many older adults face the challenge of learning to live without the person who meant so much for the first time. If they were part of a couple, this is a particularly big adjustment. Loneliness may be profound and difficult to overcome.

If you are in this situation, following are some tips that can help:

- Give yourself permission to feel all the emotions that surface, including resentment and frustration. Recognize that there will be good days and bad days, and be extra good to yourself on the bad ones. Prepare a list of things to do on such days—in addition to all the tasks you will have to do, as well as tasks or projects that will give you a sense of satisfaction (like simplifying various areas of your home).
- Accept the reality of your situation. Don’t dwell on the past, as it does nothing to help you and prevents you from moving forward.
- Get out of the house every day.
- Look after your physical health: eat nutritious meals, get adequate rest and exercise regularly. This will help ward off depression. Consider joining a dinner club, fitness center or exercise class, which also combats isolation.
- Cultivate some solitary pastimes, such as crossword puzzles, woodworking, gardening, writing or sketching. Learn to enjoy your own company, recognizing that it’s possible to be alone without feeling lonely.
- Sign up for an adult education course or lessons that interest you—for example, gourmet cooking, pottery or modern jazz. (Check out the programs available at the local recreation center or senior center as well as educational institutions.)
- Learning something new can be energizing and confidence boosting, and in the process you might make new friends.
- Get involved in your community by volunteering—perhaps with a neighborhood association, church group, charitable cause, pets or house or environmental issue. Or look for a job if you’re able-bodied and finances are a concern.
- Take the initiative in calling friends and relatives to talk or arrange to get together. Instead of waiting for invitations, extend them.
- Do nice things for others, especially those who are also going through a difficult time. This takes your mind off your own situation, boosts your self-esteem and strengthens relationships.
- Find at least one person you can talk to openly, who will listen and understand. Consider joining a community support group for widows, or an Internet one if it’s hard to get out or you prefer anonymity.
- Write down your thoughts, feelings and experiences in a journal, chronicling your journey of self-discovery and growth.
- Nurture your spirit by doing things that bring inner peace, such as meditating, practicing yoga, reading something uplifting, listening to soothing music or communing with nature.
- Turn to your faith for comfort, whether it’s through private prayer, reading the Bible, attending Mass more often or talking with your pastor. Pray for guidance and strength in dealing with challenges.
- Take things one day at a time so you don’t get overwhelmed. Plan your days so you don’t have too much free time on your hands.
- If you don’t like coming home to silence, leave the television or radio on when you go out. Just a pet, cats and dogs provide companionship and affection, and give you a sense of purpose. Owning a dog also ensures you get out of the house and get regular exercise, facilitates socialization and offers security.
- If feelings of isolation persist, look into options such as taking in a boarder, sharing accommodation with a relative or friend, relocating to a condominium or apartment in a senior living community or, if your health is frail, moving into a retirement home. Don’t make such a major decision hastily, though.
- If you are a caregiver and put your personal life on hold, now is the time to reinvest in yourself, resuming former interests or pursuing new ones, and nurturing neglected relationships as well as expanding your social network.
- Whether or not your loved one’s death was anticipated, the reality of being on your own may initially seem overwhelming and perhaps frightening. However, with time, patience and trust in God’s grace, you will be able to successfully adapt to your new circumstances. You may even end up growing in ways you could not have imagined.

Lisa M. Petch is a clinical social worker and a freelance writer specializing in spirituality, mental health and seniors’ issues.

TRUTH
CONTINUED FROM PAGE E1

Christians, we have to love these women,” McNerny went on to quote Pope John Paul II’s “Gospel of Life.” “The message there is forgiveness and mercy,” said McNerny. “We are all called to do something,” McNerny told the students and faculty in attendance. “If we come to act out their faith if approached by a friend or acquaintance facing a crisis pregnancy.”

“Even if you don’t have the answers yourself, go with that woman to a place like the Women’s Care Center where counselors are trained to help.”

Lisa Everett, co-director of the Office of Family Life, commented further on the many options in this area. “Women’s Care Center provides an ultrasound. Ninety-four percent of women who see their baby on an ultrasound don’t have an abortion.”

McInerny recognized the different sensitivities we all bring to the table, and our individual circumstances. We are all called to pray for an end to abortion, some are also called to work politically. Others might work hotlines, do research, write a check, or teach and take responsibility for proper formation of our children. “This is what we need to do to build a civilization of love.”

McInerny added one more challenge. “How are you going to help Christ carry this cross?”

The talk was sponsored by the Office of Family Life and the Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture. The same lecture is scheduled in Fort Wayne on Nov. 9 at 7 p.m. in room 130 of the Doermer Center at the University of Saint Francis as part of the New Eve Project.
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The best contribution Catholics can make in society is to be unashamedly Catholic. For there are some principles, which cannot be sacrificed, and teachings, which cannot be compromised without weakening the very witness of Catholics, in a democratic society and, thereby, the vitality of the republic itself.

Bishop Luers students take a stand for Darfur

BY ABBEY KRYDER

For several weeks, Bishop Luers’ students had heard Aggie Pryor make announcements acting as an advocate for the new group that has made its way to the halls of the school. Students Taking Action Now: Darfur (STAND) is the student response to the horrific situation occurring in Darfur, Sudan.

There, in northeast Africa, genocide is happening. Civilians have been driven from their homes to neighboring countries to escape the horror of the Sudanese government. At least 200,000 people, and as many as 400,000 have been unjustly murdered.

The Sudanese government has targeted the civilian population of many African tribes because of a rebellion that occurred in 2003. Furthermore, members of a government-supported group called the Janjaweed have now begun to target innocent civilians in an act of genocide. The Janjaweed are also inflicting crimes against humanity.

STAND is working to end the genocide in Darfur with four main objectives: to increase awareness nationally and globally, to raise funds to support victims, to urge political action, and to organize student efforts to gain the effects mentioned above. It is an organizational formation that includes high school and college students.

For the SND chapter at Bishop Luers, this has been an important opportunity to work for the cause of justice. STAND is a national organization that has taken action.

Blessed Rupert Mayer

1876-1945 Feast – November 3

In deference to his father, this German was ordained a diocesan priest first, then entered the Jesuits in 1900. He led parish missions in Germany, Switzerland and the Netherlands, and was wounded as a chaplain in World War I. After the war, he worked in Munich with the poor and unemployed, directed a men’s sodality, and spoke out against the rise of Adolf Hitler. The Nazis arrested him three times, imprisoning him at Sachsenhausen and in an abbey. He was freed in May 1945, but had a heart attack while saying Mass Nov. 1.

Abbey Kryder is a junior at Bishop Luers and writes for the Knight Times.

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@fw.dioecesefwsb.org

[Editorial]
The best contribution to society is to be truly Catholic.

Almost from the moment the Emperor Constantine granted official status to the Christian faith in the beginning of the fourth century, there was among some Christians a hope — later discovered as misplaced — in the promise of the Christian Empire. One need only read Eusebius of Caesarea’s orations on the position of the emperor in the divine plan to witness this remarkable yet ill-founded fervor: the emperor and his empire were myopically viewed by Eusebius and others, as well as chosen and privileged instruments of the divine will for the human race.

However, the sack of Rome by the Goths in A.D. 410 prompted a bishop from the provinces to undertake a serious and sustained examination of the role of the church in society. Augustine’s “City of God,” a hefty tome, nonetheless repays the reader’s efforts, offered a much less sanguine view of the possibilities of a “Christian Empire.” One of Augustine’s clear purposes in writing was to convince believers that an alliance between the church and any political system, party or figure is dubious at best: a “Christian Empire” by its very nature lacks the capacity for critical self-reflection.

Remaining good citizens of the empire, Catholics are called to exercise a healthy suspicion of all political movements and actors, recognizing the fallen nature not only of individual but also of collective ambitions. Christians, Augustine stressed, live as peregrini (pilgrims or, more accurately, resident aliens) in this life and should recognize the limits inherent in human efforts to make this world “perfect.”

The kingdom of God, initiated by the Incarnation and present but not yet in its fullness, cannot be produced or effected solely by human efforts, no matter how well-intentioned. Thus, Christians should understand the limitations of politics and the political enterprise in healing the deepest problems that vex the human heart and contemporary society.

Catholics then should be equally circumspect about all politicians, parties and movements, scrutinizing them carefully in light of the Gospel and the received tradition of the church. That is, they should be suspicious of politicians who can so blithely divorce vita from doctrina — their “personal views” from their public persona. It is, after all, precisely the unity of vita and doctrina, which offers the clearest witness of the truth and power of the Gospel; the saints and martyrs are evidence of this.

Political parties, driven by their desire to gain office (and, once there, to remain in office), are careful to cultivate particular constituencies, driven by their respective interests within this vast web of groups within society. This should force Catholics to remain shrewd (“wise are serpents” was Jesus’ actual advice) in recognizing the motives (often less than hidden) of candidates and parties in vying for office and in attempting to curry favor with constitutuents.

Catholics have a serious obligation to be good citizens and to participate in public life and discourse. Catholics who make the constituents. Vying for office and in attempting to curry favor with constituents.
God guides us to eternal life

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

31st Sunday
Mk 12:28b-34

The book of Deuteronomy is the source of the first reading. One among the first five books of the Bible, or one among the books of the Pentateuch, Deuteronomy contains for Jews the basic revelation of God about life. Moses is central in these books. He led the Hebrews from Egypt, where they had been enslaved and oppressed, and guided them across the stai Sinai Peninsula to the Promised Land. He led them not because they had chosen him, or because he somehow had assumed the role of leadership. Rather, God commissioned him.

Not only did Moses lead the Israelites to their own land, the land God had promised them and reserved for them, but also he taught them the Law. Against the teachings of Moses were not merely the thoughts of Moses himself, but the very words of God conveyed to humanity by Moses.

In this reading, Moses, speaking for God, reveals the central reality of God’s covenant with the people of Israel, the Law. The other two great calls in the Old Testament, the calling of Abraham, and the calling of David, are part of the creation of the nation of Israel, and they also belong to the people of God. But the call of Moses is the central call of God to the people of Israel.

The Law is the expression of God’s love for his people. It is a call to love God above all else, and to love others as self.

The SUNDAY GOSPEL

READINGS

1. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church the soul can only have its origin in:
   a. philosophy
   b. religion
   c. God

2. The very fact that humans can do these things points to the existence of a soul:
   a. be aware of truth and beauty, have a sense of moral goodness, possess freedom and a conscience
   b. love and hate, hunt and gather, reap and sow
   c. manipulate his environment, interact with other creatures

3. The Catechism of the Catholic Church warns teachers to not... imagine that a single kind of soul has been entrusted to them. What does this mean?
   a. There are two types of soul, those of the average Catholic and those of the “perfect” like saints.
   b. Clearly humans have more than one soul each.
   c. Teaching methods must be adapted to the student’s situation

4. Who produces a child’s soul?
   a. The parents
   b. God
   c. The U.S. Department of Soul Security

5. What characteristic is basic to every human soul?
   a. It is white
   b. It is immortal
   c. It is corporeal

6. What, according to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, is the treasure of a person’s soul?
   a. The creed
   b. Their earthly treasure or accumulated wealth, minus debts
   c. The esteem of the community

7. The church teaches that the soul is the essence of the person, and because of the soul:
   a. The physical body can live
   b. Man is doomed to fail
   c. Everyone must be saved since the soul’s destiny is to be with God

8. Christ took on this type of soul when he was incarnated as a human:
   a. The soul of an angel as a human soul would not suffice.
   b. A fully human soul
   c. A phantom soul, as he needed a soul on earth

9. In an analogy, the Catechism of the Catholic Church indicates that “What the soul is to the human body, the Holy Spirit is to:
   a. The soul of an angel as a human soul would not suffice.
   b. A fully human soul
   c. The body of Christ, which is the church

10. A person cannot receive some sacraments more than once because they do this to:
    a. destroy it
    b. imprint a spiritual mark or indelible character on it
    c. It is corporeal

ANSWERS: 1.c, 2.a, 3.c, 4.b, 5.b, 6.a, 7.a, 8.b, 9.c, 10.b, 11.b, 12.a, 13.a, 14.b
Drinking water does not break the Communion fast

Is it wrong to drink water during Mass? Is there any sort of fast for water? Many people in our choir have water with them. Is that fine? — E.H., Fort Wayne

Water does not break the Communion fast, and therefore, there is no problem with drinking water during Mass. However, in the case of the choir, if the choir can be seen by the congregation, I believe that, for the sake of reverence, choir members should be surreptitious in their consumption of water during the Mass.

What is the meaning of the word “Catholic”? Why must there be a special name for Catholics when the basis is Christ? — E.F., Fort Wayne

Jesus died and rose around the year A.D. 30. When Jesus then sent the Holy Spirit upon Mary and the apostles, the church was born. By the power of the Holy Spirit, through the preaching of the apostles and other disciples, Christian communities began to spread around the Roman Empire. In the year A.D. 42, persecution of Christians by the Romans broke out in and around Jerusalem. Many followers of Christ fled to have in which was a city in what is now the country of Turkey. It was here that followers of Christ were called “Christians” for the first time. However, the Scriptures never speak about the “Christian Church.” They refer simply to the “church.”

Soon after this, however, the church of Jerusalem split up into springing up during this time. Some of these groups, for example, began teaching that Jesus was God but not human. These were called Gnostics. Others taught that Jesus was neither human nor God but somewhere in between. These were called Arians. Obviously, these groups were driven out of the teaching of the church, which had been handed down from the apostles. So that there would be no confusion about what was teaching the truth, “the church” began to call itself “the Catholic Church” in order to distinguish itself from those teaching falsehood like the Gnostics and the Arians. This “Catholic Church” remained rooted in the teaching of the apostles and their successors, the bishops, in union with the Bishop of Rome, the successor of St. Peter. The word “Catholic” itself means “universal.” This means a couple of things.

First, the truth of Jesus Christ is not just for a few special people here and there. “Catholic” means that in and through the church, all people in every place who are every time are called to this truth.

Second, it means that in the Catholic Church resides the fullness of the faith of Jesus Christ. In other words, in the Catholic Church resides everything that Jesus wanted and asked for to become holy in this life and go to heaven in the next (for example, the sacraments, the special role of Mary, the Scriptures, etc.).

We can see, then, that nearly from the beginning of the Apostles down to our own day, the church that Jesus Christ founded on the apostles has been called the “Catholic Church.”

Today’s Catholic welcomes questions from readers. Please e-mail your questions to editor@dioceseoffortwayne.org or mail them to Today’s Catholic, That’s A Good Question, P.O. Box 1169, Fort Wayne, IN 46886. Include your name, city and an e-mail address or phone number so we can contact you if necessary. Anonymity will be preserved upon request.

— Father Mark Gutierrez, pastor of Our Lady of Good Hope Parish, Fort Wayne, answered this week’s question.

TEMPERATURE DIFFERENCES

I don’t think I’ve ever met a married couple which really agrees about the temperature of the house. She likes it as hot as Tahiti while he covers on the sofa under a layer of fleece. They’re silently thinking, “Well if he would just get up and do something he wouldn’t be so cold.” He’s thinking... well, what is he thinking? I don’t know. I’ve got her perspective all over.

Often, it’s a silent war of the thermostat. She stumbles through the room and gives the thermostat a nonchalant push down. He saunters through the room and gives the thermostat a look and a smile and checks on the kids. She thinks it’s cold. He’s thinking... well, what is he thinking? I’ve got his perspective all over.

I believe the groundwork for this interesting interplay is often set during pregnancy when a woman is hot from carrying the baby and extra weight around, and has increased circulation. Her metabolism-speeds up. Maybe it never goes back. Having had kids myself, I may not be too far off from this phenomenon. I’ve already caught my husband sneaking the temperature up on our thermostat. He doesn’t dare! He! I had just pushed it down.

Why did God do this— make us so different, male and female? — T.E., Bristol

Why did God do this — make us so different, male and female? — F.A.T., Bristol

According to the Bible, why did God make us different? — K.T.A.

According to the Bible, why did God make us different? — K.T.A.

I will say this; God made us different because I see a lot of good qualities. He may occasionally throw me clean clothes into my bed when they were, after all, left on the closet floor. And besides, he’ll take the next step and launder them. He has already ice cream on demand during my chemotherapy and, after the birth of our seventh child he commented, as he knelt on the kitchen floor scrubbing it, “Wow. You do a lot of our lives together or at least teach us the art of compromise. Maybe there’s more to learn in our differences than in our sameness.

The next time my husband complains that he’s chilly, and I’m scorching hot, I might, just might, nudge up the heat anyway. At least I’ll invite him in the kitchen to cook. It is, after all, warmer by the stove. As a last resort I’ll remind him of the age old quote; “If you can’t stand the heat get out of the kitchen.” Then I’ll smile sweetly, toss him a sweater and suggest we go out for a walk. It’s something that I’ve been known to snap easily on a particularly hormonal day.

Married life is full of differences, and heat or the lack thereof, is only one small issue to be contended with. Money issues, in-law situations, child rearing ideas and division of labor are only a few of the many potential topics for disagreement. Maybe God believes these disagreements are a part of the whole. I’ll never know.

SUMMING UP LAWS

LETTER

Continued from page 14

other Colorado bishops also have been vocal in their support for a proposed state constitutional amendment that would define marriage as the union of one man and one woman. Similar proposals are before voters in eight other states this year.

“Anything less than a state constitutional amendment defining marriage this year will enable state judges and legislators to potentially redefine marriage — even against the will of the people,” said the three Colorado bishops in an Oct. 21 letter.

In a commentary on the question, “How would Jesus vote?” Bishop John W. Yanta of Amarillo, Texas, said the U.S. Catholic Catechism for Adults has the answer.

“Catholics must participate in political life and bring to bear upon it — by their voice and their vote — what they have learned about human nature, human dignity and God’s will for human beings from his self-revelation,” Bishop Yanta said, quoting the catechism.

“The righteous, true Christians and faithful Catholics vote their faith as Jesus expects,” the bishop added.
Father Mark Gurtner:

Meeting Pope Benedict a great blessing

ROME, Italy — Having traveled to Rome, I had the opportunity to attend the Wednesday general audience with the Holy Father on Oct. 11. There were about 30,000 people in attendance at St. Peter's Square.

It was a glorious day. There was not a cloud in the sky. The husband and wife that I had traveled with and I had great seats very close to the place where the Holy Father was to speak. The pope gave his speech in five languages.

After his speech, the Holy Father slowly made his way around to greet some of the pilgrims. I was fortunate enough to have made my way to the front of the barricade.

When the Holy Father came by, I was able to speak a couple of sentences to him, “God bless you, Holy Father. You are Peter.” He spoke back to me in English saying, “God bless you,” and then I kissed his ring as is tradition when meeting the pope.

It was certainly the thrill of a lifetime to have met the Holy Father and to have spoken with him, even if only briefly. I was struck by his face, which was absolutely beaming with joy and love as he passed among the crowd.

I consider this meeting a great blessing in my life, and thank the Blessed Mother who I believe arranged this encounter for me.

Shechem can trace its history as capital of northern kingdom of Israel

What was the capital of the northern kingdom of Israel after it split from Jerusalem?

Jeroboam I (B.C. 930-910) was the first ruler of the northern kingdom of Israel. He erected his capital at Shechem. Shechem was the choice of the two Josephite tribes where Joshua b. C. 1190 had previously made a covenant of fidelity with God. A stome of witness had been erected in memory of the event. Theummified body of Joseph, the son of Jacob, which the Israelites took with them as they left Egypt was buried at Shechem, that was near the border of the two Josephite tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh.

Shechem was located east of the Jordan River. Shechem was the capital of the northern kingdom of Israel after it split from Jerusalem. At Penuel the patriarch Shechem or Nablus.

Baasha who became the new king (909-886) and killed off the entire house of Jeroboam I. Baasha transferred the capital to Tirzah or Tel-el Farah, seven miles from Shechem. Father Murphy-O’Connor notes it in B.C. 876 and named the city. At Penuel the patriarch Shemer and built his new capital by two powerful springs. Shechem was located east of the Jordan River.

What was your favorite primary influence in becoming priest?

FATHER RICHARD HIRE

What is something interesting about being a priest?

A Christian steward lives by faith. What does it mean to have faith? To have faith in God is difficult to understand unless we consider what it means to have faith in another human being. The element of faith within the relationship of another human being involves propositions — what the other person says, explicitly or implicitly, about his or her intentions regarding the other person.

Certain propositions are necessary to initiate and to maintain a relationship. Whether or not the other believes the propositions is crucial to whether or not one believes the person making the proposition. For example, if one person says I want to be your friend, accepting the proposition is true will lead to a deeper relationship with that other person.

Consider a couple planning to marry. Each one’s faith in the other sets up certain expectations that will carry out the roles within the relationship. The fulfillment of those expectations then leads to a mutual trust between them. That mutual trust is a foundation for fulfillment to this common life in which each depends on the other to keep his or her commitments. Within that relationship, the other evolves and that faith always promises and expects performance. As those promises and expectations are fulfilled, it leads to hope which likewise leads to love.

Faith in God is based on the same principles of that interpersonal relationship. God initiates the relationship by first of all putting us in existence and then sustaining our life with all the things that we need. Throughout our existence, he gives us certain revelations about his love for us. Most, if not all, of our experiences through life are revelations of God’s love for us. Many are so common and basic to our needs that we take them for granted and we do not even recognize them to be connected to our Creator, like air, food, shelter, clothing, family and friends.

Our faith in God is the acceptance of this relationship that we have with him that he initiates. Of course, a nonbeliever may say that they do not accept the relationship, or even believe in the existence of God. That would be like completely ignoring another person’s statement, “I want to be your friend.” The response may even be, “I do not believe that you exist.”

A person must recognize God’s communication in order to enter into the relationship. That invitation comes in God’s word in prayer, in the Gospel, through the sacraments, and the teachings of the church. To accept the invitation is to welcome God’s promises and performances in the relationship of faith.

To live by faith does not mean that we are passive recipients. This relationship with God, like any other relationships, promises and expects performance that leads to hope, which leads to love. God’s promise to love and care for us is fulfilled by his performance of doing so. Through God’s communication-prayer, Scriptures, sacraments, and church teachings, we can know what God expects of us and how we should live, in order to maintain our relationship with God. This is a relationship in some regard of give and take. Yet, the reality is that we will never “out give” God.

A Christian steward trusts God’s communication, accepts his gifts gratefully, knows that God loves him or her, and then accepts his or her role within the relationship, especially making promises to God and fulfilling those promises in faith and love as a way of life.

Because we call ourselves Catholic Christians, we infer that we have made a choice. Because we claim to be believers, we have entered more deeply into this relationship with God. No one is compelled to enter into this relationship, just like no one is compelled to enter into any other relationship with any human — it is a choice.

Meet The Priest

Father Robert D’Souza

Ordained to the priesthood: March 19, 1973
Associate Pastor, St. Jude, Fort Wayne
Chaplain, Parkview Hospital

What is your favorite scriptural passage?

“I am the light of the world...”

What are your favorite foods?

vegetables and fruits

What is something interesting about yourself that most people might not know?

After high school, I wanted to become an engineer. God had other ideas.

How do you want to be addressed?

Father Bob or Father Robert

What is your favorite reading material?

news magazines and priestly magazines

What do you do for relaxation?

golf, art, and music

Do you have a pet?

no

What is your favorite food?

bacon and eggs

What is the best part of being a Catholic?

the call to serve
Sports

Eagles soar to take CYO championship

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — The 2006 championship game was truly a showdown featuring two of the CYO powerhouse: the Eagles from St. John Fort Wayne (9-0) vs. the St. Vincent Panthers (8-1).

In a huge voice after the game, Carroll credited the St. Vincent Panthers with playing an excellent defensive game. “We got to the 7-yard line and they’d hold us on a fourth down. It was a real dogfight. We’d hold them. They’d hold us.” It was a lot of back-and-forth, back and forth as the minutes ticked off the clock.

The entire game was a defensive battle. The half-time score was 0-0.

Carroll went on with the play by play. “In the third quarter, Eagle quarterback Alex Stroczek kept hitting our key receivers (Hunter Tobe, Marquel Cooper, James King) to come up with a nice pass play to get us out of the next hole. We started on our own 15, mounted a real nice drive, which ate up most of the third quarter. With less than a minute, we scored on a 1-yard plunge by Steve Kienzly. Alex hit the PAT.” The score was now 8-0.

In the fourth quarter, the Eagles drilled it to midfield, but penalties stalled the drive. At fourth and eight St. John went for it. St. Vincent’s tough defense stopped the drive with over three minutes left in the game. St. Vincent ball.

But Eagle Coach Hoh and his defensive front forced St. Vincent into a “3 and out” keeping the heat on the Panthers as they’ve done all year long. The feisty Panthers went on to score on a 40-yard pass from Patrick Ryan to Evan Fiechter. Russell Cooman made the PAT. At the end of regulation the scoreboard read 8-8. This created an overtime situation — each team got four plays from the 10-yard line. St. Vincent won the toss and elected for St. John to take the ball first. On their second play, the Eagles ran a sweep to De’Angelo Byrd. Byrd reversed course and scored a 9-yard touchdown. Stroczek again made his PAT. 16-8 Eagles.

St. Vincent ball. The Panthers were ready to answer. In the first three plays, the Panthers were held by the Eagles. But Patrick Ryan managed to score on a quarterback sneak making it 16-14. The PAT was missed; game over. St. John Fort Wayne wins their 32nd straight game.

The rest of the defensive line for each team was a huge factor in the championship game. It’s always said that games can be won or lost on the line of scrimmage. Lebamoff felt both teams did an extremely good job controlling the line of scrimmage.

“They stopped us from doing what we were trying to do offensively and we did the same to them with a grindlock at half time and at the end of regulation.” He said he was proud of all 44 of his players. “We got the points on the board this season. We win as a team. We lose as team.” Carroll concluded, “I’m very proud of these young men. They’ve worked very hard to win this championship.”

“The ’06 Eagles broke the consecutive CYO win record early in the regular season and they have a piece of history,” added Carroll. “It’s very difficult for a football player to be part of an undefeated team and they deserve all the credit as well as the quality coaching that has guided them through. It has been a tremendous team effort.”

Panthers claim first ICCL championship

BY ELMER J. DANCH

SOUTH BEND — St. Anthony’s football Panthers now can proudly display their first Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL) football championship in history.

They defeated a perennial challenger in the Holy Cross Crusaders, 17-8, in the post-season tournament finals at Mishawaka Marian field. Along with their first outright ICCL crown in history, they can now also display their first co-championship of the regular season. The Panthers spearheaded their victory with Sean Hart’s two spectacular passes for touchdowns. Peter Gillis snared one for 15 yards and a touchdown. Antonio Wina got the other one for another 20 yards, with just over a minute left in the game. The play came on fourth down and 8 yards. The Panthers at the time were leading 9-8. It was a play that surprised everyone in attendance.

Tyler Sorocco started the scoring with a field goal and later booted the extra point after a touchdown.

Meanwhile, the feisty Panthers kept the Crusaders at bay for most of the game with their stout defense. A crucial goal line stand late in the third quarter, with the Panthers leading 9-0 was a key factor in the win. Connor Demarais scored for Holy Cross, with A.J. Fitzpatrick kicking the extra point. The Panthers finish 7-1, and the Crusaders finish 6-2.

In the junior varsity semifinal playoffs, Mishawaka Catholic defeated St. Anthony, 22-0, and Holy Cross swamped Holy Family, 44-6.

The annual diocesan playoffs with the Fort Wayne Catholic Youth Organization champions will be held Sunday, Nov. 5, at the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne.

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Flicka explores family themes

BY DAVID DICERTO

NEW YORK (CNS) — “Flicka” (20th Century Fox) is a warm-hearted family film in the tradition of “National Velvet” and “The Black Stallion.”

Based on the enduring children’s book, “My Friend Flicka,” by Mary O’Hara, the story has already been adapted twice before, first as a 1943 movie starring Roddy McDowall and then as a 1950s television series.

Director Michael Mayer stays true to the spirit of O’Hara’s tale, but makes some substantial changes, updating the setting from early 1900s’ Montana to present-day Wyoming — lustrously photographed — and switching the gender of its young protagonist, Ken McLaughlin. The character is now a strong-willed girl, Katy (Alison Lohman).

She returns home to her family’s expansive ranch after a semester at a prep school where her daydreaming brought her precariously close to flunking.

While out riding in the mountains, she encounters a spirited wild mustang that she names Flicka (Swedish for “beautiful young girl”). She quickly bonds with the horse.

Defying her tough but loving dad, Rob (Tim McGraw), Katy is determined to tame the filly. Concerned for his daughter’s safety, he sells Flicka to a rodeo. Katy’s blatant disobedience, with Katy’s blatant disobedience, but apart from some heated arguments it’s good to see a positive portrayal of a stable and loving family headed by nurturing and devoted parents. A wonderful film for all.

The script avoids excess sentimentality, exploring — at times in an elegiac way — themes of family bonds, youthful ambition and the passing of the American West.

Some parents may find fault with Katy’s blatant disobedience, but apart from some heated arguments it’s good to see a positive portrayal of a stable and loving family headed by nurturing and

The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

David DiCerto is on the staff of the Office for Film & Broadcasting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. More reviews are available online at www.usccb.org/movies.

Alison Lohman and Tim McGraw star in a scene from the movie “Flicka.”
WHAT’S HAPPENING?

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

DEVOTIONS

Memorial Mass to honor deceased South Bend — The Daughters of Isabella, Notre Dame Circle 572, will honor deceased members with a memorial Mass on Monday, Nov. 6, at 5 p.m. at Corpus Christi Church. The celebrant will be Father Camillo Tirabassi. The monthly meeting will follow in the Peterson room.

Pre-Advent holy hour and evening of reflection at St. John’s Fort Wayne — St. John the Baptist, 4000 Fairfield Ave., will have an evening of reflection, Seeking Peace: Waiting Joyfully, on Sunday, Nov. 12, at 6:30 p.m. Mary Pohlman, pastoral associate at St. Jude Parish, will give the reflection. Refreshments will follow.

Little flower holy hour Fort Wayne — Fr. Glenn Kohrman, pastor of St. Mary of the Lake, Culver, will celebrate the holy hour at MacDoughal Chapel on Tuesday, Nov. 7, at 7:15 p.m.

MISC. HAPPENINGS

Group planned on grief and holidays South Bend — The Center for Hospice and Palliative Care, Inc. will offer Hope for the Holidays – Maneuvering Through Grief, a six-week support workshop designed to address issues and situations that come with the holidays and special days after the death of a loved one. The workshop will be Tuesday evenings 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Nov. 14 through Dec. 19 at 111 Sunnybrook Ct. Registration is requested by calling the Life Transition Center at (574) 255-1064 or (800) 413-9083.

Matthew kelly to speak Huntington — Sv. Peter and Paul Parish will have Matthew Kelly as a guest speaker on Sunday, Nov. 26, at 7:30 p.m. There will be a reception and book signing by Matthew after his talk.

Choral evensong performed at Ascilia Domini Chapel Donaldson — The choir of St. Joseph Church of Mishawaka, directed by Mike Mittleman, and the Ascilia Domini Chapel directed by Mary Lou McCarthy will join together to sing for a special choral evensong service Sunday, Nov. 12, at 4 p.m. in the Ascilia Domini Chapel. For information, contact Mary Lou McCarthy at (574) 936-9936 ext. 164.

Faith at the Philadelphia South Bend — St. Joseph Parish, will host an ongoing series of talks that explore issues of faith in a relaxed, café environment from 7:30 p.m. at the Philadelphia Café on Ironwood and Edison streets. Enjoy some delightful confessions and spiritual connections. On Wednesday, Nov. 15, the topic will be: When in a violent world do we believe in the afterlife. A look at our belief in the afterlife.

Knavs plan fish fry Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 451, 601 Reed Rd., will have a fish fry on Friday, Nov. 3, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. The cost is $6 for adults, $3 for children and under. Fish, two sides and beverage included.

Furnraisers Sno Flak Bazaar Huntington — St. Mary Parish, 903 N. Jefferson St., will hold a Sno Flak Bazaar, Sat., Nov. 4, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Sun., Nov. 5, from 9 a.m. to noon. Crafts, raffle, and bake sale. Homemade apple dumplings, sandwiches, ham and bean, potato or vegetable soup available.

Fall festival planned South Bend — St. Casimir Parish, 1308 W. Dunham St., will have a fall festival on Sunday, Nov. 12. Chicken dinner served from 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. by advance ticket sale only. Adults: $7, children (5-12) $4. Tickets can be purchased at the parish office. Also featured will be games of chance, raffles, prizes and a pastry booth. Dancing to music by the Jim Deku Trio from 2 to 5 p.m.

Spaghetti dinner planned South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5570 will have a spaghetti dinner, Thursday, Nov. 9, from 4 to 6 p.m. Adults $7, children 5-12 $2.50. The Council is located at 5202 Linden Ave., one block east of Mayflower Road.

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Chaplain. He is co-founder of the Chaplaincy of the Archdiocese of

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Rosary Sodality plans craft, bake sale a raffle and silent auction
Fort Wayne — St. Joseph Church, corner of Brooklyn and Hae Ave., will have a craft and bake sale on Saturday, Nov. 18, noon to 7 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 19, 8:30 a.m. to noon in the church basement. Turkey bingo will follow in the school cafeteria.

SAINTS DAY

Friday, December 1, 2006
8:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
Visititation day open to all 8th grade students interested in attending Bishop Dwenger.

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Wednesday, November 15, 2006 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
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Monday, November 20, 2006
10:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
Mass for students and families of Mayflower School.

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