By Michelle Castleman

FORT WAYNE — Counting the entire Bishop Dwenger student body and staff, special guests — Bishop John M. D’Arcy, Father Stephen Kempringer (superintendent of schools), John Gaughan (assistant director of diocesan high schools and former Bishop Dwenger principal), a host of parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, little Zoe Wisniewski, the Fort Wayne media — nearly 2,200 fans packed the house to celebrate the Saints. And celebrate they did.

In a Friday, Nov. 3, afternoon pep session, Bishop Dwenger fans rocked the house as the band, flag bearers and cheerleaders energized the crowd with the school fight song, “When the Saints Go Marching In.”

First, each member of the 11th-place boys cross country team was announced one by one. The boys were escorted through the smoke (dry ice) to their places of honor. The incredible, Ben Reifenberg was last to be recognized for his ninth-place individual finish at the Terre Haute state meet.

As the 2006 IHSAA (Indiana High School Athletic Association) state champion girls’ soccer team was called from the stage by Bishop Dwenger Spirit Club emcees Ben Hecke and Rachael Patrick, a thunderous applause erupted as each of the Saints entered the gym to the tune of “We are the Champions.”

Dwenger principal), a host of parents, grandparents, Bishop John M. D’Arcy, Father Stephen Kempinger, the Office of Worship, and the Office of Catechesis to work collaboratively. The Office of Worship would be responsible for the liturgical rites and the Office of Catechesis for comprehensive catechetical instruction. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults would be responsible for a conversion process that reaches back to 1987, when Sister Jane started as director of catechesis.

FORT WAYNE — The second edition of “Making Disciples: A Comprehensive Catechesis for the RCIA Catechumenate” published through Our Sunday Visitor may be brand new, but for its editor, Sister Jane Carew, director of the Office of Catechesis for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, the ideas and principles in the book represent work and a vision of the subject of catechesis that reaches back to 1987, when Sister Jane started as director of catechesis.

Bishop John M. D’Arcy was relatively new to the diocese at that time, but he saw the need of the Office of Worship and the Office of Catechesis to work collaboratively. The Office of Worship would be responsible for the liturgical rites and the Office of Catechesis would be responsible for a comprehensive catechetical instruction.

By 1993, work had begun to compile an RCIA catechesis that reflected the concerns of the bishops of the United States. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults 75 #1 addresses the desired formation. This is “a suitable catechism planned to be gradual and complete in its coverage, accommodated to the liturgical year and solidly supported by celebrations of the word.” Thus, “Making Disciples” has fulfilled this vision, respecting the need of the conversion of mind and heart as it would lead those in formation to a profound sense of the mystery of salvation.

The challenge that existed was the popularity of a lectionary-based catechesis. Based on each Sunday’s reading, the lectionary provided the direction. However, there was no guarantee that a catechumen would be exposed to the full spectrum of what a person should know as they desire entrance into the Catholic Church. It is a matter of justice that people be exposed to all the church teaches, for example in the areas of Catholic morality. Keeping the bishops’ vision, “Making Disciples” also provides a learning objective, comprehensive catechetical instruction.
Before Baltimore conference, bishop installs Goshen pastor

BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

A day on the road

Off early on a cloudy Sunday morning up U.S. Route 33 to Saint John, Goshen, for the installation of Father Chris Smith. He has been pastor there since August, but this is the first day of mutual convenience. It was a pleasure and a joy to be in this lovely Indiana town. Among the attractions is Goshen College. The town has a large population of Mennonite, a group of Christians devoted to world peace.

Father Tony Steinacker, ordained into the holy order of priests on Oct. 29 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne, offers a special blessing to Mary Caprio, Bishop John M. D’Arcy’s oldest sister, at the reception following the ordination Mass, held at the Grand Wayne Center. Caprio hosted several of the seminarians, including Father Steinacker, who studied at St. John’s Seminary in Boston, to meals and an occasional baseball game at Fenway Park.

The Brothers of Holy Cross

The following day I celebrated Mass at the downtown South Bend chapel. It was then a joy to drive to the property on which the Holy Cross brothers have lived for 160 years. They came to teach and evangelize and to serve this diocese and the worldwide church with heroic spirituality during all those years.

On this day I came to bless a new chapel. I was quite taken at what has happened to the land around Holy Cross College. On the one end there is erection of new residences for students as well as classrooms. There are also a large number of homes in what is called Holy Cross Village. It has become a retirement community. There is a chapel there with Father Ken Grabner, CSC, serving as chaplain. The chapel is located in a central place. Proper care for the elderly and finding a good place to live in the afternoon of life have become problems in our society. As they have done so often in the past, the Holy Cross Brothers are addressing this problem. It was easy to see the close bond of community between the brothers and the senior citizens who are there. This one person told me, “We have Mass here every day and it is a delightful place to live. We are near our family, and what could be more important than this?” I will be back at the same residence in a few more days for a meeting with the religious superiors who reside in our diocese.

Off to Baltimore

By the time you read this, I will be in Baltimore for the annual meeting of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. I am delighted with the change of venue. For the 31 years I have been a bishop, our annual meeting has been in Washington, D.C. Baltimore, however, is the first diocese of this country, and the first bishop was John Carroll, whose relative Charles Carroll of Carrollton was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. Among the joys this week will be the rededication of Bishop Carroll’s church, the celebrated basilica, which has been restored by Cardinal Keeler. It will be dedicated on Sunday night. Cardinal Stafford, a Baltimore native, will represent Pope Benedict.

We have a number of important things to speak about at our meeting. I will attend a workshop on youth. Also, we are discussing and seeking further guidance on the aftermath of the painful crisis the church went through a few years ago. We will be discussing a statement on homosexuality and also on conditions necessary for the reception of holy Communion. I am sure there will be much about this in the press. I will do my best to keep you informed.

I also hope to get a few hours of rest and some walking around Baltimore. I plan to see you all next week.
Indiana Catholic Conference releases education statement on parental choice

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indiana Catholic Conference sees a lack of parental control in educational Hoosier children and urges parents, grandparents and interested citizens to call the conference and ask for a policy change that supports parental control in educational schools and also to pay tuition for children. The conference called “Educational Dilemma in Indiana: A statement on Parental Choice in Education” which was released on Nov. 14, 2006 in the Indiana Catholic Conference.

The statement reads, “The state recognizes the right of parents to choose the most appropriate educational opportunity best suited to the needs of the child, and in keeping with parental values, whether in elementary and secondary school or college or graduate level. The state should also protect that right.”

Education policy and practice in Indiana must be responsible for their children’s education in elementary school and high school and the mandates local civic entities provide funding for public schools. A public school’s funding is determined by the number of pupils attending a given school often times called a school’s enrollment. In essence, the state dollars are allocated based on student numbers. As the bishops’ statement points out, “Students, not institutions, are the focus of state funding. Hoosier students attending church-sponsored schools do not receive state assistance.”

The state of Indiana recognizes the involvement of the poor and vulnerable in the community. In Zelman vs. Harris, the court said, “With just a few more ‘yes’ votes, school choice in Indiana could have become a reality during 2005 session. We need the wealthy, Indiana parents do not have a meaningful right to choose schools for their children.”

During the 2005 session of the Indiana General Assembly, an effort was made to include the Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC) and the Indiana Non-Public Schools Association for the passage of legislation to provide non public school scholarships and education tax credits for Hoosier families but the measure failed.

The school choice bill, Senate Bill 281, authored by Sen. Teresa Lubbers (R-Indianapolis), which was defeated by a narrow margin (45-54) in the House on April 11, 2005, would have provided tax credits to low and middle income Hoosier families who wanted to send their children to a nonpublic school of their choice.

Because of the narrow margin, Glenn Tebbe, ICC executive director said, “With just a few more ‘yes’ votes, school choice in Indiana could have become a reality during 2005 session. We need for the wealthy, Indiana parents do not have a meaningful right to choose schools for their children.”

In 2006, the Indiana General Assembly considered a $1,000 per child tuition tax credit, HB 1381, which passed the House education committee on a partisan vote (6-5). If parents were to have a work—or earned a refundable income tax credit for education expenditures for qualified dependents enrolled in kindergarten at a school of choice, including a nonpublic school that is voluntarily accredited and a public school where the child is required to pay transfer tuition.

The tax credit would have been available for the first time in the 2005-2006 school year and in keeping with parental values.

Because of the need and exhaustion of other public government support, Catholic Charities will assist with payment. For every dollar contributed by Catholic Charities, NIPSCO will match one dollar.

As you know, the cost of natural gas has greatly increased over the years. For low-income families, this is a great burden and this program will be a significant benefit to them.

Catholic Charities is responsible for providing approximately $33,000 for this program. To reach that goal, they need your help. Our parishes have participated in this program over the years. For parishes involved in stewardship, this is a most appropriate contribution.

In the winter of 2005, Catholic Charities assisted 114 families, and in the winter of 2006, we have already assisted 130 families. Each year, Catholic Charities goal is to assist as many families as possible, depending on the amount of the bill and financial ability.

Parishes can contribute in different ways. This can be done through a second collection, a basket could be placed at the back of the church or parishes can simply send a check. While this is voluntary, it is my hope that every parish will make a significant contribution. What could be more in keeping with the will of Christ than helping to provide heat for poor families? The diocese will also make a contribution. Please send your parish check directly to Catholic Charities.

For those who qualify for Gift of Warmth, the match from NIPSCO will be used. The agency will be able to determine need and direct the person to the Gift of Warmth. Thank you for your assistance in this important work on behalf of the poor and vulnerable in our community.

Sincerely yours in our Lord,

Most Reverend John M. D’Arcy

Parental Choice Web resources:
www.friedmanfoundation.org
www.indianacatholic.org
www.nipscogiftofwarmth.org
www.indianacc.org

Bishop encourages Gift of Warmth

Bishop John M. D’Arcy issued the following letters on Oct. 24, for a special collection for the will help pay heating costs for the poor in St. Joseph or Allen counties.

To pastors in St. Joseph County:

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Once again this year, many of our neighbors in St. Joseph County will be working hard for their homes. In fact, 10 years through the generosity of our parishes, we collected over $147,000 for the Gift of Warmth program. This was distributed through the St. Vincent de Paul Society of the diocese.

How important it is to all of us to rise each morning and come home in the evening to a warm house during the cold winter months. The ability to go home to a warm house at the end of the work day, you and I can make it possible for our neighbors and their children to have a warm home. Your parish will provide a means for collecting funds in your parish, and I hope you will do whatever you can, recalling the words of our Savior: “Whatever you do to the least of these is done unto me.”

With every best wish and prayer, I remain

Most Reverend John M. D’Arcy

To pastors in Allen County:

My Dear Brother Priests,

I am writing to you once again to ask your support for the Gift of Warmth program, an effort to assist low-income families in meeting rising utility costs. This is a joint effort made every year by Catholic Charities and NIPSCO. Catholic Charities meets with families who qualify for utility payments. After determining the need and exhausting other possible government support, Catholic Charities will assist with payment. For every dollar contributed by Catholic Charities, NIPSCO will match one dollar.

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Sincerely yours in our Lord,

Most Reverend John M. D’Arcy

Vatican official says death penalty would be wrong

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The head of the Vatican’s justice and peace office has told an editor of a Vatican-approved Jesuit journal it would be wrong to carry out the death penalty against Saddam Hussein.

The former Iraqi president was sentenced to death by hanging Nov. 5 in a case involving the deaths of 148 Iraqis in 1982. Cardinal Renato Martino, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, said, “For me, to punish a crime with another crime, such as killing out of vengeance, means that we are still at the stage of ‘an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth.’”

In a Nov. 5 interview with ANSA, the Italian news agency, the cardinal said both Pope John Paul II’s 1995 encyclical, “Evangelium Vitae” (“The Gospel of Life”), and the Catechism of the Catholic Church teach that modern societies have the means to protect citizens from the threat of a murderer without resorting to execution.

“God has given us life, and only can God take it away,” the cardinal said, adding, “the death sentence is not a natural death.”

“Life is a gift that the Lord has given us, and to destroy it is to protect it from conception until natural death,” he said.

“Unfortunately,” he said, “Iraq is among the few countries that has not yet made the choice of civilizing by abolishing the death penalty.”

Most Reverend John M. D’Arcy
Father Chris Smith installed at St. John the Evangelist

BY DENISE FEDOROW

GOSHEN — Bishop John M. D’Arcy celebrated a special Mass at St. John the Evangelist Church in Goshen on Nov. 5 and officially installed Father Chris Smith as pastor. Father Smith is the 33rd pastor to serve St. John the Evangelist, but this is Father Smith’s first parish.

Father Smith has been serving St. John the Evangelist since September, and Bishop D’Arcy told the congregation it was not a trial period, this was just the first opportunity in his schedule to conduct the official installation, which he called “time of blessing for Father Chris and the parish.”

The Mass was a bi-lingual service with standing room only, and Father Constantino Rocha, associate pastor, was also present.

During the homily, Bishop D’Arcy talked about Pope Benedict’s first encyclical that spoke of God’s love — not just for the priest, but for you.

“Please pray for the priest, a shepherd, who lives on the same street with you and someone so young,” Bishop D’Arcy said. “The ordination of a priest is an act of love — not for the priest, but for you.”

“Please pray for your new pastor, your gifted young priest sent to you by Christ through the bishop and pray for more good men, quality men and only such to come forth to serve,” Bishop D’Arcy requested of the parishioners.

Father Smith renewed the promises he made on the day of his ordination as part of the installation ceremony. Bishop D’Arcy asked the staff, teachers, members of the pastoral council and others who served the parish to stand and Father Smith promised to work beside them and seek their guidance as the parish moves forth together.

A standing ovation by the congregation after the official installation ceremony brought tears to the pastor’s eyes. The prayers of the faithful included prayers of continued blessings upon Father Chris. Father Smith introduced his parents, Tom and Becky Smith and several uncles, aunts and godparents who came from Huntington and Indianapolis for the special service.

On behalf of the Knights of Columbus, who were present in full regalia, Vince Traxler presented Father Smith with a key to the parish center following Mass. A reception was held in the parish center following Mass. A later reception was also planned following the Spanish Mass.

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

The whole design of “Making Disciples” can be best exemplified in a quote from St. Cyril of Jerusalem, who likened catechesis to the building of a house. “…Catechesis is like a building. Unless we methodically and carefully assemble the whole structure, we will have problems with both leakage and dry-rot. No, stones must be put one on top of the other sequentially, until the whole structure rises from the foundation: you are like stones of knowledge and you must be instructed in the doctrine of the living God, of the Judgment, of Christ, and of the Resurrection; these things are mentioned now in a kind of random way, but eventually the entire structure will fit together in a harmonious way. Unless you grasp the unity of the whole design, holding the parts together in your mind in an orderly way, your house will be a ruin, despite the best efforts of the builder.”

“Making Disciples” provides a formation in the Catholic faith that is foundational, ensuring completeness in coverage of the beautiful truths that capture the mind and heart of a believer seeking Catholicism.
Spence, Msgr. Campion named to Vatican communications council


Both new appointees have served as president of the Catholic Press Association and editor of the Tennessee Register, diocesan newspaper in Nashville, Tenn. Spence, 53, has headed the Washington-based CNS since February 2004. Before taking that post, he was in charge of more than a dozen publications as executive director of Advancement Communications at Vanderbilt University in Nashville. Prior to that he had been director of alumni publications at the university.

Before going to Vanderbilt in 1998, Spence had been editor in chief and general manager of the Tennessee Register Inc., which publishes the newspaper, since 1989. He also served as the diocese’s communications director in 1992-98.

Msgr. Campion, a priest of the Diocese of Nashville, Tenn., was editor of the Tennessee Register for 17 years until joining Our Sunday Visitor in Huntington, Ind., in 1998 as associate publisher and editor of The Priest magazine. Among his other positions and honors, he is a past recipient of the St. Francis de Sales Award, the highest honor given by the CPA, was the Vatican’s ecclesiastical adviser for the International Catholic Union of the Press; and served as a member of the Synod of Bishops for America and on the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Communications.

Msgr. Campion was CPA president from 1984 to 1986 and Spence from 1994 to 1996. The Pontifical Council for Social Communications has its roots in the 1948 establishment of the Pontifical Commission for the Study and Ecclesiastical Evaluation of Films on Religious or Moral Subjects, renamed later that year as the Pontifical Commission for Educational and Religious Films, headed by U.S. Archbishop John P. Foley, the council now deals with a wide variety of topics, including advertising, the Internet, pornography and violence, and communications ethics.

Catholic Campaign for Human Development awards grants


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Americans who recently completed terms on the council include Russell Shaw, a contributing editor at Our Sunday Visitor, and Thomas N. Lorsung, former CNS director and editor-in-chief. Also completing terms on the council include Msgr. Francis J. Mancinella, a priest of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, N.Y., who recently left his post as communications director for the Vatican and Msgr. Campion, associate publisher of the Catholic publishing firm Our Sunday Visitor in Huntington, has been appointed by Pope Benedict XVI to a five-year term on the Pontifical Council for Social Communications. He is pictured in an undated file photo.

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**COUPLED CONTENT**

**POPE PRAYS IN FRONT OF POPE PIUS XII’S TOMB**

Pope Benedict XVI kneels as he prays in front of Pope Pius XII’s tomb on All Souls’ Day, Nov. 2, at the Vatican.

States and as a symbol of religious freedom in the Belgian nation at a media preview less than a week before the basilica reopened Nov. 1. He said the reopening would fulfill “a long-held dream of sharing (the basilica) with the nation” as both a beautiful place to worship and as a reminder of the “American Revolution, when Catholics were persecuted as a devout minority.” When the cornerstone was laid for the new church in 1806, it represented “the rights of Catholics and other faiths to worship openly,” Cardinal Keeler said. At that time, Bishop (later Archbishop) John Carroll of Baltimore was the only Catholic bishop for the entire country.

POPE ASKING JESUITS TO CONTINUE MAKING GREGORIAN UNIVERSITY A PRIORITY

ROME (CNS) — Although it may tax their resources, Pope Benedict XVI asked the Jesuits to continue making the Pontifical Gregorian University a priority in their service of the church. The pope visited the university Nov. 3, addressing students, professors and benefactors, then holding a private meeting with representatives of the university who work at Gregorian University, the Pontifical Biblical Institute and the Pontifical Oriental Institute. In his public remarks, the pope spoke about his many visits to the university, beginning with a visit during his time as secretary of the Second Vatican Council and including his service as a visiting professor in 1972-73. As he did in late October speeches at the Pontifical Lateran University and to Rome university students gathered at the Vatican, Pope Benedict focused his remarks on the importance of a life of prayer for students studying theology or other subjects in preparation for a life of service to the church.

Wisconsin bishop warns priests not to support same-sex marriage

MADISON, Wis. (CNS) — As the Nov. 7 election approached, Bishop Robert C. Morlino of Madison warned priests that he would consider “any verbal or nonverbal expression of disagreement” with church teaching on same-sex marriage “as an act of disobedience, which could have serious consequences.” The bishop directed that each Mass during the Nov. 4-5 weekend include a 14-minute tape-recorded message from him in place of the homily. The message urged Catholics to support traditional marriage and to oppose the death penalty and embryonic stem-cell research. A constitutional amendment that would ban same-sex marriages and an advisory measure asking voters to tax their resources, Pope Benedict XVI has named Brazilian Cardinal Claudio Hummes of Sao Paulo, a Franciscan, to be the new president of the Congregation for Clergy. The 72-year-old Brazilian-born son of German immigrants, Cardinal Hummes will succeed Colombian Cardinal Darío Castrillón Hoyos, according to an Oct. 31 Vatican announcement. Although Cardinal Castrillón is retiring at the age of 77 from the clergy congregation, he continues to serve as president of the Pontifical Commission “Ecclesia Dei,” which ensures pastoral care to former followers of traditionalist Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre, who was excommunicated in 1988 and ordaining bishops without papal approval. The congregation for Clergy, in addition to promoting initiatives for the ongoing spiritual, intellectual and pastoral formation of diocesan priests and permanent deacons, also is responsible for the promotion of religious education through Catholic parishes.

Cardinal says late president caused problems for church

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS) — Former South African President F.W. Botha, who died Oct. 31 at the age of 90, “created enormous difficulties for the church” when he led South Africa from 1978 to 1989, said Cardinal Wilfrid F. Napier of Durban. “I have so many memories of his harshness and hard-heartedness,” Cardinal Napier said in a Nov. 1 telephone interview from Durban. Pieter Willem Botha, commonly known as F.W. or the “Groot Krookid” (Big Crocodile) for his uncompromising stance on white rule, wagged his finger in warning at the late Cardinal Owen McCann of Cape Town in 1986, Cardinal Napier said. In a meeting with representatives of the Southern African Catholic Bishops’ Conference, Botha “told Cardinal McCann, who was questioning him, to get out of the room if he didn’t like what he was hearing,” Cardinal Napier said. “I think he (Botha) felt that he had the whole Afrikaner nation behind him so he could take on anyone,” he said, noting that Botha was “notoriously difficult to talk to.”

Bishops’ president joins other faith leaders in condemning torture

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Declaring that “the soul of our nation” is at stake, the head of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and other religious leaders have called for an end to the use of torture and inhumane treatment of prisoners. Bishop William S. Skelstad of Spokane, Wash., was among leaders joining in a statement coordinated by the National Religious Campaign Against Torture. “Torture violates the basic dignity of the human person that all religions hold dear,” the statement said. “It degrades everyone involved — policymakers, perpetrators and victims. It contradicts our nation’s most cherished values.” Signers of the statement included Jewish, Muslim, Orthodox and other Christian leaders. Although Bishop Skelstad was the only Catholic signer of the statement made public Nov. 2, other Catholic organizations have signed on to the National Religious Campaign Against Torture. Participating members, with representatives on the campaign’s coordinating committee, include the Holy Name Province of the Franciscan Friars, Pax Christi USA and the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns.

**GROUP WANTS EBAY TO ENFORCE BAN THAT WOULD PROHIBIT SALE OF RELICS**

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A California group is advocating a boycott of eBay unless the online auction house enforces its own rules against selling body parts to prohibit the sale of saints relics. “They’ve had opportunities to stop the sales, and they don’t even enforce their own regulations,” said Tom Serafin, founder and president of the International Crusade for Holy Relics. According to Serafin, even a “curious search” of the popular online auction site will turn up dozens of relics “often purporting to be the bones of saints” for sale. A call by Catholic News Service to an eBay representative for a response to Serafin’s call for an boycott was not returned. Serafin said he had tried over the years to convince eBay through its former general counsel and customer service representatives that relic auctions should be taken down from the auctioneer’s pages but to no avail.

**VATICAN LATINIST STARTS GRATIS ACADEMY FOR STUDENTS EAGER FOR LATIN**

ROME (CNS) — In the heart of ancient Rome, tucked between the Pantheon and the Roman Forum, a new Academy of Latin has been established by the Vatican’s chief Latinist. On Nov. 2, U.S. Carmelite Father Reginald Foster announced “festive ac jucunde,” or “joyously and delightfully,” the opening of a new “Academia Romae Latinitatis” for all English speakers interested in learning or brushing up on Latin. The Milwaukee-born priest, who works in the Latin-language section of the Vatican’s Apostolic Camera, said told Catholic News Service Oct. 31 that he had been itching “to start something new.” When his enormously popular Latin courses were canceled at Rome’s Pontifical Gregorian University in mid-October for a lack of registered, paying students, Father Foster took that as a sign to branch out on his own and start his own school. Interested students were to meet Nov. 6 at the academy’s new venue on Via della Conciliazione to sign up for his free classes starting Nov. 7.

**FRENCH BISHOPS SAY EXPANDING USE OF TRIDENTINE MASS THREATENS UNITY**

METZ, France (CNS) — The possibility of a papal indulg- ence permission to use the Tridentine Mass threatens the unity of the church, a French bishop said, a statement from 10 French bishops. An Oct. 30 statement said the bishops from the archdioceses of Besancon and Strasbourg and the Diocese of Metz expressed “their concerns” over wider use of the Tridentine Mass pre-Vatican II rite favored by traditionalist groups. The old rite is celebrated in Latin and follows the Roman Missal of 1962, which was replaced in 1969 with the new Roman Missal. “The bishops fear that the extension of the use of the Roman Missal of 1962 makes the direction of the Second Vatican Council relative,” said an Oct. 30 statement released on the Web site of the Diocese of Metz. Moves to extend its use “would also risk harming unity among priests as well as among the faithful,” it said. The statement, signed by 10 bishops from the eastern French region, came after a provincial meeting of bishops in the city of Lons-le-Saunier Oct. 25.
Notre Dame panel ponders the faith and theory of evolution

NOTRE DAME — Is there a conflict between the Catholic faith and the theory of evolution? This question was the focus of a panel discussion at the University of Notre Dame last week that featured five Notre Dame faculty members and the archbishop of Lublin, Poland.

Archbishop Jozef Zycinski, who is an expert on the philosophy of science and author of the soon-to-be-released book “God and the Fundamental Questions of Christian Evolutionism,” agreed with the five Notre Dame professors that no conflict exists between the faith and the theory of evolution. Any conflict perceived by people is more “psychological” than based in fact, the archbishop said.

People who accept the principles of other sciences like mathematics can still be good Christians even though there is no mathematical proof of God’s existence, Archbishop Zycinski noted. The same is true of the science of evolution, he said, but he emphasized that the sciences have their limitations and cannot explain spiritual factors in life.

“Scientific interpretation isn’t enough in everyday life,” he said. “What would you explain to your students if they looked for a scientific definition of love, for instance?”

When a loving father observes his child, the archbishop continued, for him the child is not just a physical object to the father, for there is a place for feelings and emotion that can’t be characterized in the language of science.

“We have to go beyond purely scientific interpretations to discover this reality,” which could be discussed only in terms of metaphysical philosophy or theology, Archbishop Zycinski said. Thus, he concluded, there is no conflict between God and the concept of evolution.

In the panel discussion, Gary Belovsky, Professor of Biology and Gillen Director of Notre Dame’s Environmental Research Center, explained that as a Catholic, his faith is based on beliefs that can’t be addressed by science.

“What we believe we can’t always prove,” he said. But on the other hand, “We can’t believe what we know to be false.”

Kristin Shrader-Frechette, O’Neill Family Professor of Philosophy and Concurrent Professor of Biological Sciences, told the audience that there is no reason to fear scientific advancement because God is truth, and “Truth can’t contradict truth.”

Consecration renewed

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The papal nuncio to the United States, Archbishop Pietro Sambi, will officiate at the renewal of the consecration of the United States

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FORT WAYNE — St. Mary Church, Fort Wayne, in cooperation with Bishop John M. D’Arcy and the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, has announced the creation of the “Father Tom O’Connor Light of Christ Award.”

To be presented annually on March 17, the feast of St. Patrick, the award will be given to an individual whose work reflects the strong values exemplified by Father Tom in one of the following areas: peace and justice, nonviolent resolution of conflict, racial reconciliation, education, food for the hungry and shelter for the homeless. One of these categories will be designated each year for nominations. The first award for 2007 is peace and justice.

The award will carry with it a gift of $1,000 given in the name of the recipient to his or her designated project, faith community or nonprofit organization. Bishop D’Arcy said the award has been created to encourage “the next generation of Father Tom’s.”

Father Tom, who died on March 17, 2004, at the age of 74, served as pastor of St. Mary Parish for 34 years. Many consider the humble priest to be a model of Catholic faith in action in both justice and charity. He was instrumental in the creation of the St. Mary’s Soup Kitchen, which has operated nonstop since opening on July 2, 1975, and serves nearly 1,500 bowls of soup to hungry people every day. He also is credited for beginning the Matthew 25 Health and Dental Clinic, St. Mary’s Thanksgiving Day dinner for the hungry, and the annual Christmas hot distribution, which assists more than 500 families yearly.

At the death of Virginia Schrantz, who operated Miss Virginia’s Mission House, Father Tom continued her assistance to the poor under the St. Mary Parish umbrella. Also, he was co-creator of the national award-winning “East Side, West Side” program for children and families from diverse racial, cultural and economic backgrounds. In addition, Father Tom was a member of the original steering committee for establishment in Fort Wayne of Vincent House, offering transitional shelter and affordable housing for homeless families. He also worked to secure Catholic school scholarships for central city youngsters through the Bells of St. Mary’s project.

Father Tom was involved actively in ecumenical and interfaith activities, and was a strong advocate for peace, both locally as well as in the wider community. During his lifetime, he was honored with many awards and accolades, including the prestigious national Catholic Extension Society’s Lumen Christi Award, described by the society’s president as the “church’s equivalent of the Nobel Prize.”

Because Father Tom always knew the nominee well.

For the 2007 award, the committee is seeking nominations in the area of peace and justice. Each year the “Father Tom O’Connor Light of Christ Award” committee will seek nominations of persons of faith, high-school age or older, whose activities as an example and encouragement to youth in the areas of peace and justice, nonviolent resolution of conflict, racial reconciliation, education, food for the hungry or shelter for the homeless. One category will be designated each year in which to receive nominations, and only one nominee in that designated category will be selected to receive the award. The committee may, should it desire, defer selecting a winner in any given year. Application information is available online at www.diocesefwsb.org and from the St. Mary Church office, (260) 424-8231.

For the 2007 award, the committee is seeking nominations in the area of peace and justice.
Christmas events at University of Saint Francis bring tradition

FORT WAYNE — Members of the community are invited to participate in a variety of events during the Christmas season at the University of Saint Francis:
• Breakfast with St. Nicholas — Learn about the life and legacy of St. Nicholas with family and friends at breakfast in Hutzell Athletic Center. Also included is a tour of eight areas of the Bass Mansion decorated for Christmas. Admission is $15 for a family of up to four people; $20 for a family of five or more. Call (260) 434-3275 for reservations. The event will be held Saturday, Dec. 2, from 8:30 to 11 a.m.
• Living Nativity — In 1223, Francis of Assisi gathered a group of worshippers in the Italian village of Greccio in their celebration of our Lord’s birth by reenacting the first Christmas. Thus began the tradition of a Christmas crèche. The character of St. Francis will narrate the Christmas story and the gathered crowd will sing “Silent Night.” The Living Nativity will be staged next to the Pope John Paul II Center on the shore of Mirror Lake. Parking is available off Leesburg Road. No charge for admission. A petting zoo with the animals for the Living Nativity will be available for children from 5 to 6 p.m. at the Living Nativity site. The event will be held Sunday, Dec. 3, at 6:30 p.m.
• Lighting of the Lake — Vigil candles will encircle the segment of Mirror Lake closest to Spring Street for a shining symbol of Christmas for the Fort Wayne community. A candle may be dedicated at a cost of $10 per candle to a loved one, in memory of someone special, in recognition of a special occasion, or just to wish a student good luck with final exams. Local choirs and the University Singers will perform. Call (260) 434-3275 to order candles. No charge for admission. The event will be held Sunday, Dec. 3, at 6:15 p.m.
• Choral Music Concert — A concert featuring the University Singers will highlight traditional carols and classical arrangements by a variety of composers and arrangers. The concert is in Gunderson Auditorium in the Achatz Hall of Science off Leesburg Road. No charge for admission. The event will be held Sunday, Dec. 3, at 7 p.m.
• Fair Trade Alternative Shopping Bazaar — Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) present high-quality, fairly traded handicrafts from disadvantaged producers all over the world at the Fair Trade Alternative Shopping Bazaar in the Commons at the Pope John Paul II Center. The bazaar will be held Saturday, Dec. 3, from 3 to 6 p.m.
• Contemporary American Craft Exhibit — The School of Creative Arts presents the sixth annual exhibit and sale of crafts in six media: fiber, ceramics, wood, metal, glass and stone by more than 70 professional artists from across the United States. The exhibit is located in the Weatherhead Gallery in the Rolland Center off Leesburg Road. No charge for admission. The event will be held Saturday, Dec. 2, from 6 to 9 p.m. for an opening reception; Sunday, Dec. 3, from 1 to 7 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 8, from 4 to 7 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 9, from 4 to 7 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 10, from 1 to 4 p.m.
• Star of Bethlehem 2006 at the Schouweiler Planetarium — Under the Mid-Eastern sky of 3 B.C., star gazers can follow the star of the Wise Men. During the live portion of the show, planetarium staff will guide participants to the wonders of this winter’s Fort Wayne night sky. The Schouweiler Planetarium is located in Achatz Hall of Science on the Leesburg Road side of the USF campus. Admission is adults $4, senior citizens and children under 18 $3, $14 maximum per family. Call (260) 434-3255 for more information. The show is slated Saturday, Dec. 2, at 5 and 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 3, at 3 and 7:45 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 8, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 9, at 3 and 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 10, at 5 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 15, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 16, at 3 and 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 17, at 5 p.m.

SISTERS’ HABITS DISPLAYED AT THE CATHEDRAL MUSEUM

All of the religious sisters orders who ministered in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend are displayed in doll-form in full habit in the Cathedral Museum. In a letter honoring St. Mother Theodore Guérin in the Oct. 15 issue of Today’s Catholic, Bishop John M. D’Arcy said, “... I think of all the religious, especially the women religious, the sisters who have labored in this diocese. There is no question that they constitute one of the very greatest human instruments that Divine Providence has used to build up this local church, as we prepare to embrace the 150th anniversary of our diocese.” The Cathedral Museum is located on the garden level of the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center, 915 S. Clinton St., Fort Wayne. The hours are, Tuesdays through Fridays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free parking is available in the parking garage for museum visitors.
Medically challenged orphans find loving home with Bittners

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — Walk into the Bittner home and you will be greeted with squeals of laughter and constant motion, this from Brian and Michelle’s two young children, Luke and Mari. You may notice a difference between the light features of the parents and the smooth, dark skin of the children. They may not look like family by blood, but it becomes clear they are family by heart.

Luke and Mari are only two of many children, orphaned in the Philippines, who experience serious, life-threatening medical conditions. The country, known for its beautiful terrain and smiling native inhabitants, struggles with undeveloped medical technology and is unable to provide the services needed to treat these children. One local group, For the Children International Medical Mission Foundation, Inc. is working to give these children a fighting chance.

The foundation, developed and directed by Kathryn Davis, works to match medically needy children with host families in the U.S., while they receive needed medical care. The children are brought to live in a host home where they receive food, clothing and lots of love and attention. Expenses are covered by the privately funded foundation and Davis says, though there is no obligation to adopt, each of the 87 children placed with a host family since 1997 now has a new home.

The Bittners, married seven years, were introduced to the foundation’s work following the death of their 13-month-old son, Reese, who died of a medically challenging genetic disorder in 2001. After meeting with representatives of the foundation, the Fort Wayne natives signed up to host a child.

Following a rigorous interview process, the Bittners soon found themselves on the approved host list and waited for a match. Before long they received background information on a three-year-old boy who suffered from frontal nasal encephalopalaxia, a condition involving the brain. “The information was kind and compassionate,” says Michelle. March months later, with the help of Catholic Charities, in April of 2003, the boy arrived.

Though the couple was aware they were only required to care for the boy as he received medical treatment and adamantly repeats that there was never an obligation to adopt, they fell in love with Luke right away. “We wanted him the day we got him,” says Michelle. Of the language barrier, dad, Brian says, “We would pantomime at first.” He adds that the little boy learned English quickly through immersion. The Bittners bonded over the months and the child, whose given name was Brian, soon called him Luke so as not to confuse him with his host father’s name, beginning our story.

Luke’s medical treatment consisted of a grueling neurosurgery that lasted nearly 10 hours. One of his ribs was used to create the bridge for his nose. The Bittners stayed by Luke’s side throughout the five-day hospital stay and were amazed at the child’s stamina.

When asked about his surgery, Luke shrugs his shoulders. He knows the “bump on his nose” was removed and says “I love you!”

Luke’s adoption was nearing completion in July of 2005 following the two-and-a-half years of home studies, background checks and interviews by Catholic Charities. The last step in the adoption process was a return trip to the Philippines, where as Providence would have it, the family of three, meeting a tiny child named Mari, who was deaf. Needless to say, she is thriving now and her love for the children, is, of course, the love of children.

Kathryn Davis at forthechildren@lightningnet.net.

Family Faith

Mother knows best

BY MARK WEBER

LaGRANGE — As you watch your child ready to kick the ball into the net, that soccer goal each of you intently focus on, may actually be a metaphor for a barrier preventing a deeper enrichment from their environment.

In other words, “children are over-programmed,” says Rachel Stroop, a guidance counselor for Lima-Brighton Elementary School in Howe. If kids could articulate their number one need and desire, it would be, according to Rachel Stroop, more one-on-one time with a responsible adult. She sees one example of this when she enters a classroom to “borrow” a child; a one-on-one time with their number one need and desire, more of which is needed by all children.

“Stroop suggests that to get the most out of one-on-one time is to do something simple: shoot baskets, hunt for bugs, build a snowman...the idea is to get outdoors and away from TV and computer games.”

RACHEL STROOP

Stroop, more one-on-one time with a responsible adult. The child she says is ready to kick the ball.

Luke and Michelle Bittner lovingly hold their adopted children, Luke and Mari. Both children were medically challenged orphans living in the Philippines when For the Children International Medical Mission Foundation, Inc. matched them with the Bittner family, who hosted them during medical treatment provided in the U.S.

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YODER — When students of St. Aloysius School walked into their school Oct. 9, they entered a school that has been a part of southern Allen County Catholicism for 130 years. On Oct. 9, 1876, Father Ferdinand Koerdt opened the school and, according to the “Diocese of Fort Wayne” history book, the pastor himself taught for some time at the school he founded. By the turn of the former century, three Sisters of St. Agnes and later the Sisters of St. Joseph taught at the school. Today, a committed force of laity build Catholic identity and help the students excell spiritually, academically and socially.

St. Aloysius School is in a setting where rural meets urban sprawl. To the south is the farming community that brought many families to the area back in 1859 when the parish was founded. The two-room school built in 1876 was torn down and replaced by a new structure with four classrooms in 1956. Five classrooms, a library, offices and a parish activity center were added at the turn of this century.

Just as Father Koerdt taught classes at St. Aloysius, Father Dominique Carboneau, pastor, teaches religion classes and art classes to all grades.

St. Aloysius students excel in academics and its graduates enjoy success at Bishop Luers, Wayne, Norwell, Homestead and Heritage high schools.

Also, the school offers many opportunities in athletics, Scouting, school choir and student council. Last year, the Yoder students supported St. Aloysius School in Baton Rouge, La., which offered refuge to people displaced by Hurricane Katrina. The students raised over $200 on Sept. 11 and donated it to the Southwest Allen County Fire District as a token of thanks for keeping us safe in all that they do. This November, the students are collecting items to donate to the St. Vincent Sack Lunch Ministry, which operates out of the former Sacred Heart School building in Fort Wayne.

The smallness of St. Aloysius School, about 90 students, has its perks. All the students know each other. They care about each other. All the parents know one another.

The Catholic identity of the school has been passed through the generations for 130 years. It’s not uncommon to find first generation students intermixed with students whose parents, grandparents, even great-great-grandparents attended St. Aloysius School.

From horse and buggy transportation to computers and satellite connections, St. Aloysius School’s first and foremost mission is to teach and live the faith through the sacraments and to build a community where love of family creates a strong tie to the community.

The school and faculty celebrated Oct. 9 with cupcakes and milk in the afternoon, but every day is a celebration of the faith, its history and the future at St. Aloysius School.

Rules for Faithopoly

1. Start out with $500.
2. You can only have up to two houses for each property you own.
3. Start out on GO!, roll die and move spaces shown.
4. There are only four players at a time.
5. When you pass GO! collect $100.
6. If you land on “Church Offering,” or “Catequiz’t em” draw a card, follow the directions and then put it on the bottom of the pile, and if you have to give money, put it in the center of the board.
7. If you draw a “Catequiz’t em” card, answer the question and have the other players check the answer sheet to see if you are correct. If your answer is correct, collect the amount of money shown.
8. If you land on “Charity Donation” give $50 to the Charity Donation.
9. If you draw a “Church Offering” give $50 to the Church Offering.
10. The game is over when everyone runs out of money.

The game was created by Katie Burbart and Katherine Freiburger, grade 8.

Questions are created from the current week’s edition of the Today’s Catholic. The eighth graders do this as a part of their religion class for both games.

BY BROOKLYN THOMPSON, GRADE 2

Everyone should be treated as a gift from God. We need to be kind and caring because if we don’t we are being mean to Jesus. We don’t want to hurt Jesus. So, let’s not harm him at all. Let’s make people good friends. That makes us happy too.

I love being a gift from God. Let’s follow the Ten Commandments.

BY ALAYNA KELTY, GRADE 7

God made all children in his image, and we should remember that we’re not all the same and we don’t have the same needs and responsibilities. When we are mean to other people we are actually hurting God. We should all think before we say or do something.

I try to reason with myself before I act. I help out and once in a while I mess something up. My parents or brother will get mad and I want to talk back, but I know that it’s disrespectful. We are all children of God and we should all be treated like it.

Every time you think about how much God loves us, don’t you wonder what he feels like when we ridicule each other and spread rumors. If you see someone picking on someone else you should stop it. So, every time you whisper about someone remember what God wants you to do. He wants you to treat others how you would like to be treated.

God created man equal and that’s how we should treat each other. Just because we don’t wear the same clothes, have the same skin color, or have the same religion doesn’t mean anyone is a bad person. Everyone child deserves to be treated as a gift from God.
Catholic Charities offers pregnancy, adoption services

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend has been serving northeast Indiana for over 80 years. Among the many services available is the pregnancy and adoption program, where assistance is offered not only to families with untimely pregnancies but prospective adoptive families as well.

Pregnancy and adoption specialist, Linda McGahey, who heads the program, reports that in pregnancy planning, parenting and adoption information is provided and the decision is always voluntary. “We provide the information and explore the process with them. If they choose to make an adoption plan it is a voluntary decision. It is a life long commitment,” she says. Once the adoption plan is chosen, the process of selecting the right family begins.

Catholic Charities adoption program offers infant, international, self-referred and special needs adoptions and foster care for children in need. The three types of adoption offered to a birth mother include: closed, semi-open and open adoptions. During a closed adoption, the birth mother does not participate in the matching process. Though Catholic Charities does not practice closed adoptions, it does provide services to those who have closed adoptions.

The semi-open adoption offers the birth mother the opportunity to choose the adoptive parents without personal disclosure. She then has the option to stay in contact with the child’s adoptive family through the agency.

The most frequently chosen type, the open adoption, allows the birth mother to select and meet prospective parents with personal disclosure. Catholic Charities reports that approximately 95 percent of birth mothers chose the couple themselves. This type of adoption offers the option of ongoing personal contact. The two families work together to make the adoption successful for the benefit of all.

Catholic Charities adoption guidelines

• Attend adoption information meeting
• Complete application and pay fee
• Complete adoption education series
• Complete family assessment
• Receive approval of the adoption review committee
• Placed in profile book and waiting pool
• Selection by birth family
• Attend match meetings
• Child placed
• Petition filed with court
• Six months supervision
• Agency files report and consent for adoption
• Adoption finalized
• Continual contact with birth family follows

The semi-open adoption involves the in-depth process of participating in information and education classes, interviews, background checks and more. Initially, the couple attends an adoption information meeting followed by completion of the application and process fee payment of $2,000. The additional placement fee of $8,000 is due within six weeks of placement.

The couple is required to attend the adoption education series of classes offered through Catholic Charities as well as participate in a home study and rigorous interview process. Following approval of the review committee the prospective adoptive parents’ information and photos are then added to the Catholic Charities Parent Profile Book. Most couples have a child placement within one to three years following home study approval. Linda McGahey, who has worked with adoption and adoption for 15 years, employs a 14-month-old child from the Philippines while he underwent medical treatment? Their response was a resounding “yes!”

The boy, who suffered from frontal nasal encephalcele, underwent surgery and returned to the couple’s home where he was provided with loving medical care from the two. As they bonded, the Davies began adoption proceedings, “Two months after their daughter arrived from China and the family of two both became four. Less than two years later, their second medically challenged child, a three-year-old boy from the Philippines arrived. He recovered from surgery for subglottic stenosis and was legally adopted.

The children, Kathryn reports, are very close. International Medical Mission is funded by private donations that help defray the cost of the child’s travel expenses and visa and other necessary documents, which can range from $900-$1,200, depending on the child’s needs and medical treatment. The couple has received hundreds of letters and cards from families who assist the clients who seek services at Catholic Charities.”

For more information on adoption call (260) 432-5625 or e-mail lmcgahey@ccwsvb.org.
Safe Havens cry out for attention

A news article in last week’s Chicago Tribune was horrific: A 14-year-old high school freshman had hidden her pregnancy from her family, gave birth at home, and wrapped a blanket around the baby’s face to stop her from crying. She then found the dead baby in a plastic bag in the trash later that day.

There are many tragedies in this story: the tragedy of the death of a helpless, innocent infant; the tragedy of a young teenager facing an unwanted pregnancy all by herself; and the tragedy of the mother now being charged with first-degree murder.

The greatest tragedy, however, is that this sad scenario did not need to happen. Illinois and Indiana, like most other states, have “Safe Haven” laws that allow a mother to hand over an infant she does not want without fear of prosecution.

In Illinois, the law allows a mother to give a baby up to 45 days of age to personnel at a hospital, fire station, police station or health care provider’s office. The woman will not be prosecuted for abandonment or neglect if the baby is not harmed. She does not even have to give her name, and can just walk away.

A baby left at a Safe Haven location receives medical attention and is placed in a foster home by an appropriate social service agency. If the parent does not reclaim the child, the baby will then be placed for adoption with one of the many families on adoption waiting lists.

Some critics of the Safe Haven laws charge that they encourage abandonment and irresponsibility. We don’t agree. We support the Safe Haven laws as an important way to safeguard newborns, and we believe the laws give desperate mothers a responsible option for providing a safe environment for babies they feel they cannot care for.

However, a huge problem is inhibiting the Safe Haven laws. There is little to no public funding available to make people aware of the laws. Sometimes public safety officers are not even well informed, as evidenced by a recent Indiana case in which police attempted to locate a mother who had handed over her baby in full compliance with the Safe Haven law.

We would like to see a state-funded educational effort to inform all citizens that this Safe Haven option exists. This education must include all the public safety personnel and medical workers who may be called upon to accept a baby from a mother.

An educational thrust in the schools also is crucial to reach young mothers and friends to whom they might turn for advice. A school education program could be handled through health classes, school counseling centers and even posters on bulletin boards, public service spots on television and billboards also could help spread the word.

We applaud state lawmakers for passing the Safe Haven laws, but it simply is not enough to enact a law without providing the means to make the vulnerable population aware of their options. As more people learn about the Safe Haven laws, more infants will find loving homes, and more young mothers will know that they have an acceptable way of relinquishing a child they are unable or unwilling to care for. And hopefully tragedies like the one in Chicago won’t be repeated.

Church condemns the killing of human embryos

Now that the elections are over and the political wrangling has quieted, it’s tempting to forget about the many contested issues that were highlighted in many of the campaigns.

However, as responsible Christians, we need to be aware that some of the issues that sparked political debates are still very much in play, and we need to keep ourselves informed. For example, the debate over stem cell research rages on, and misinformation on the topic circulates daily.

Some of the talking heads on television have claimed that the Catholic Church is opposed to stem cell research. This is not true, for the church supports stem cell research when the origin of the cells is moral and does not harm the donor, as with bone marrow and umbilical cord cells. The stem cell research the church enables involves the cloning of human embryos.

Ironically, the only successful treatments using stem cells have been derived from cells taken from sources like bone marrow and umbilical cords, while not one successful treatment has been developed from embryonic cells. But even if the opposite were true, we must remain steadfast in condemning immoral research, whether it’s an election year or not.


Reader disappointment edited by editor’s note

The Today’s Catholic Editorial article from Oct. 25, which Bishop Elberson wrote about the ninth annual Allen County Right to Life banquet co-hosted by Bishop D’Arcy was informative. She captured the flavor of the evening. However, I was shocked with the disclaimer that followed the article.

Kissinger among those who have worked tirelessly in the right to-life movement over the past 30-plus years have received many disappointments, generally feeling that we have not always received the support this issue deserved from the church.

When the playing field is levelled making the value of the gift of life the same as the value of poverty, war care of the poor and vulnerable, economic and social justice, the rights of women, the environment, family life and global solidarity it is possible to rationalize any human behavior. Without the gift of life none of these other causes even exists. The number of lives lost daily to abortion in comparison to the lives lost due to the other issues obviously throws the equation out of proportion. That is what compels us to fight.

One of our local residents who has been faithful throughout this fight was so upset by “he didn’t get a life and get off of abortion.” His answer was something like this — “I would like to do many other things, but as long as this killing continues I can’t give up.” That thinking is reflected throughout the pro-life community. Nothing would please us more than for abortion to be illegal, but until that day comes we have to continue this battle.

I am certain the reason the previously mentioned disclaimer was added to the article, is because of politics. Many of us are not comfortable working in the political scene, but it was because of politics that abortion was legalized. Until that decision is reversed we must be involved in politics.

The Right to Life movement invites all politicians to be pro-life. It is unfortunate that most of the legislators who are willing to work to reverse Roe v. Wade, are from only one political party.

Susan Landrigan
Fort Wayne

Knights’ sponsored Lourdes journey: A pilgrimage to remember

By Jill Boughon

Through the generosity of the Knights of Columbus Santa Maria Council 555, many of our local residents were able to make a pilgrimage to Lourdes in October. Although her genetic disability is a “hidden” one, she was eager to seek Mary’s help.

My husband John and I arrived at Lourdes on Oct. 10 and the joy of reconnecting with a friend who has been living in France for more than 25 years. April was highly motivated to make a Pilgrimage to Lourdes in October. April went to daily Mass, concelebration was “complete” in order to be valid.

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VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Perhaps it is not too unusual that the Vatican, surrounded by Italy, named a parking garage after a saint.

A recent nationwide study by the Milan Chamber of Commerce showed that some 21,000 Italian companies are named after saints — 1,000 more than in 2005.

The study was published on the Nov. 1 All Saints’ Day and showed that 65 Italian businesses have “ognissanti,” Italian for “all saints,” in their name.

Several of these establishments around the country are funeral homes. In Florence there is a condominium and a hardware store called All Saints, but the names are more a matter of location than devotion, since they are both in the All Saints neighborhood.

Although it is the place where all saints have been made since at least the 1500s, the Vatican does not have a church, a building, an office or a parking garage named All Saints. The Vatican chooses more carefully.

With the exception of the Vatican’s annual feast day, the June 29 Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, only the Swiss Guard chapel — the Church of Sts. Martin and Sebastian — has a double-barreled name.

In addition to the St. Rose parking garage, the Vatican features the St. Peter Lung, Pia, Pio X, Street, St. Mark Boulevard, St. Benedict Cathedral, the Tower of St. John and the St. Charles Palace.

Besides St. Peter’s Basilica and the Swiss Guard chapel, there are churches inside the Vatican walls dedicated to the Holy Savior, St. Anne, St. Stephen, St. Egidio, St. Pius V, and St. Pius X. Of course, the names one hears most at the Vatican are those of Jesus and his mother.

In his homily for the feast of All Saints, Pope Benedict XVI said, “In truth, he — Jesus — is the blessed one par excellence.”

And he described Mary as the “mirror of every holiness.”

While people have saints they invoke when they have a special need, like calling on St. Anthony to help them find something, Pope Benedict said Christians should invoke the saints first of all to ask their help in living holy lives as the saints did.

The pope’s focus on Jesus and Mary was underlined in reaction to the results of an Italian poll on saints.

Some orthodox feathers were ruffled when the poll, conducted for the Italian Catholic magazine Famiglia Cristiana, reported that 31 percent of those surveyed said they had invoked the help of St. Padre Pio, 9 percent said Mary and only 2 percent said they had prayed to Jesus for help.

But Father Tonino Lascioni, religious education expert, told Vatican Radio it was not fair to condemn the majority when most responded to the poll; in fact, those who truly love Jesus.

The message is clear. The poor and hungry, the sick and the dead, the weak and the helpless, the lost and the damned, are the paragon of love for God and trust in God.

Reflection

The widow’s mite, read in this selection from Mark, often is used either to urge generosity in giving to worthy causes, or to define the motive for giving to the church or to another activity for a noble cause. Also, although less often mentioned, it is a story of trust in God.

These interpretations are correct. However, the lesson is not just about money and about being generous. It is also about trust. We must trust in God despite the false warnings and contrary directions sent us by the world, the flesh, and the devil.

Being generous with God also means being generous in trusting God.

Generous with God also means being generous in trusting God.
Why does the Apostles’ Creed say “on the third day Jesus rose again from the dead?” Does this mean Jesus rose more than once?

In the original Latin, the Nicene Creed currently used at our Sunday Mass reads “he rose from the dead.” The Apostles’ Creed does say Jesus rose again from the dead. Likewise the English translation of the Nicene Creed currently used at Sunday Mass reads “on the third day he rose again.” But when the catechism treats the resurrection of Jesus, it uses the heading “on the third day he rose from the dead,” omitting the word “again.”

When we consult the English dictionary, we see there are many meanings of the word “again” that go back all the way to the 13th century. One of them is “to another time or period” or “on the same occasion.” So, to consult Shakespeare’s phrase “I shall not look upon his like again.” The English dictionary contains all the possible meanings. Does this mean Jesus rose more than once?

To the Corinthians in Greece in A.D. 50, St. Paul says, “Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures; he was buried in accordance with the Scriptures; he rose on the third day.”

The saving death and resurrection of Christ is a once-for-all event. It is applied to people of future generations through the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Here the saving death of Christ is made present on the altar in an unbloody manner so the people present can receive the grace of Christ. All seven of the sacraments are a participation in the death and resurrection of Christ. Thus at baptism, when the person is lowered into the font or pool, this shows his or her going into the tomb with Christ to die in sin. As he or she is lifted up from the font, pool or river, this signifies rising with Christ to the new life of grace.

The new catechism says this paschal mystery has two aspects: 1) by his death, Christ liberates us from sin and 2) by his resurrection, he opens for us the way to a new life. This new life makes us holy and just and renews in God’s grace. St. Paul says to the Romans: “As Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too walk in newness of life.”

The new catechism also mentions that Christ’s resurrection is the source of our future resurrection at the end of the world. St. Paul says to the Corinthians: “Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.” Thus at the end of the world our body will rise in an incorruptible state and be reunited with our soul. Thus in heaven we will live with both a body and a soul. Our body will be beautiful and so will our soul, for in heaven we will not sin, but only do the good. The supernatural Mary is already in heaven with both body and soul, as a special privilege for being the Mother of Christ.

From Rottweiler to dunce

A few days after the election of Pope Benedict XVI, some friends and I gathered for a celebration at Rome’s Taverna Giulia — a favorite haunt of journalists, due in part to the fact that it serves the best black olives on the planet. I arrived a bit early and, as I walked through the restaurant’s sprawling leadership of the National Catholic Reporter, including publisher Sister Rita Larvée, editor Tom Roberts, and Vatican reporter, John Allen, with whom I had been swapping stories for years, he handed me a photo in a somewhat ebullient mood, I went over to the NCR table and invited them “to join the victory party” upstairs. They had the good taste to laugh, although it was clear that some of their company were not altogether thrilled by the conclave’s outcome. Would a papal bull condemning the next big thing in the world be forthcoming from the Apostolic Palace?

I doubt that my NCR friends imagined that a few months later, they would run an editorial positively chortling over what they called a “nullification” of the papal dunce cap and, that of my colleagues among the dread neocons/theocons, over the course of the pontificate. There was, of course, no more evidence for this than there was for latent fears, on that last day of the year, December 31, 2005, in April 2006, a new Benedictine inquisition. But, then, journalism is not an exact science and editorializing is the least exact part of journalism.

Further evidence of which was provided by yet another NCR editorial, in the paper’s Oct. 13 issue, which seemed to argue that the man so many on the Catholic Left had long taken to be “God’s Rottweiler” had suddenly become God’s Benedict XVI.

In the Holy Father’s Regensburg lecture, the editorial suggested, Pope Benedict XVI may have trafficked a bit “too much in theological abstraction,” while failing to weigh sufficiently “the complicated historical, political and social factors” bearing on the Islamic world’s (admittedly “dismal”) record on religious freedom. “Focusing exclusively on theological difference between Christianity and Islam — whether real or imagined — therefore runs the risk of oversimplifying a complex situation,” the editors warned. So what should Benedict XVI do? Appoint a group of retired and semi-retired cardinals — men who “understand the complex amalgam of politics and international diplomacy” — as roving ambassadors to the worlds within worlds of Islam.

The saving death and resurrection of Christ is a once-for-all event. It is applied to people of future generations through the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Here the saving death of Christ is made present on the altar in an unbloody manner so the people present can receive the grace of Christ. All seven of the sacraments are a participation in the death and resurrection of Christ. Thus at baptism, when the person is lowered into the font or pool, this shows his or her going into the tomb with Christ to die in sin. As he or she is lifted up from the font, pool or river, this signifies rising with Christ to the new life of grace.

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**STORY IMPROVEMENT**

Father Richard Hire, pastor of Queen of Peace Parish, Mishawaka, answered this week’s question.

**SCRIPTURE SEARCH**

Gospel for November 12, 2006

Mark 12:38-44

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B: a lesson about humility in leadership. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

**BEWARE**

BEWARE

WRONG ROBES

WRONG ROBES

PLACES

PLACES

DEVOUR

DEVOUR

SAT DOWN

SAT DOWN

TREASURE

TREASURE

RICH

RICH

LARGE SUMS

LARGE SUMS

Scribes

SCRIBES

MARKET PLACES

MARKET PLACES

HONOR

HONOR

WIDOWS

WIDOWS

TREASURY

TREASURY

PEOPLE

PEOPLE

COINS

COINS

LIKE

LIKE

SEATS

SEATS

BANQUETS

BANQUETS

PRAYERS

PRAYERS

MONEY

MONEY

PUT IN ALL SHE HAD

PUT IN ALL SHE HAD

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**LETTER**

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14**

who answered Jesus or Mary were the ones who probably did not understand the question. The list provided by responders also included St. Anthony, St. Francis, St. Paul, St. Jacinta and Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta. The survey also asked, “Do you have an image of a saint in your mind?” The response was clear: 81 percent of those polled.

Agreed, and by a larger margin of 48 percent, respondents mentioned their pictures of St. Padre Pio first, then St. Anthony, Mary, St. Francis and St. Rita.

The polling company said there were “significant differences” depending on where the responders lived.

“In the northwest, images of St. Francis are prevalent; in the northeast and on the islands, it is the Blessed Virgin; in central regions it is St. Rita; and in the south, it is Padre Pio with 71 percent” of responders saying they had his photo in their car or home. He noted that Padre Pio had been limited to Roman shopkeepers and Roman taxi drivers, Padre Pio still would have come out on top — his figure is a fixture at nearly cash registers and on dashboards.
St. Therese wins the CYO volleyball Blue League crown

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — For the past nine years, the St. Therese Crusaders have dominated the Blue League Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) volleyball tournament. They have won the championship match seven of those years and 2006 was another one of them to be marked down in the record books.

The girls finished the regular season in first place with a 7-0 record. They played St. Mary-St. Joseph in the first round beating them 25-7 and 25-18. In the semi-finals against St. Rose-St. Louis they won 25-8 and 25-11. And they beat Queen of Angels 25-15 and 25-22 for the championship.

An excited coach Lisa Palmer felt her players played their best volleyball they had played all year in the first match for the championship against Queen of Angels. She said, “The girls were awesome! Our passing game was great, which led to a lot of good set-ups and hits. We moved well and as a team did not have any dropped balls.”

The second game was much closer. Queen of Angels played very well and took the lead at one point. The Crusaders “kept their head in the game, didn’t get down and managed to pull out the win” after it was tied at 22.

Molly Dimit and Liberty McCartney led St. Therese in serving in the championship. McCartney had five aces and Dimit had four.

Shari Dennie, Kim Davis, Abby Bireley, and Kayley Colvin had four aces each. Abby Bireley, had five assists and four kills. Emily Burrows also had four kills. Kaitlin Killingsworth had five aces and four blocks.

The Crusaders scored 24 straight points, St. Vincent scored 10 points late in the fourth quarter, on a safety and a touch-down pass and 2-point conversion to close the gap. The winning on-side kick was recovered by Conner Demarais and the Crusaders ran out the clock to secure the victory.

The Crusader’s were lead by Max Matthews three touch-down passes, two of which went to Pat Kowalewski for 30 yards and 40 yards. Connor Demarais caught the last one for 13 yards. The defense was lead up front by the fine play of Thomas Davis, Gary Libertowski, Pat Manion and Tom Brown. A.J. Fitzpatrick added two interceptions, one he returned 55 yards for a touch-down.

Russell Coonan’s 11-yard run in the first quarter put six on the board for St. Vincent. They did not score again until the fourth quarter when Patrick Ryan hit Greg Kaiser on a 40-yard pass. Coonan’s PAT was good. Tony Springman also scored another two points on a safety. But it was not enough to catch the Crusaders. Russell Coonan and Greg German each had interceptions in the loss. The Panthers finished the season 8-3.

In the final game, the unbeaten St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne, CYO champs ran the score up with the first place South Bend ICCL team to take the diocesan title for the third straight year.

The Eagles scored late in the first half on a 5-yard run by De’Angelo Fincher. Alex Stonczek hit the two-point conversion to make it 30-7 at the half. On their first possession of the second half, De’Angelo Fincher scored again on a 70-yard sprint. Stonczek booted the PAT. On their next possession the Eagles controlled a drive that Steve Kiermayer completed with a 4-yard plunge off tackle. On their third possession, Liam Fazio had a 20-yard pass reception from James Knapek. Stonczek hit the PAT, scoring was capped off by Kevin German on a 20-yard scamper. Brian Nichter hit this PAT making the final score 38-0 over St. Anthony-St. Joseph. They are 7-0 with four of the kids. The most satisfying thing through the year was just interacting with the individual student-athletes and watching them develop, week by week, small, positive steps. Whether we’re joking around or getting after them, it’s great to see them respond. It’s more fun than golf,” summarized Coach Jim Carroll.

This was the St. John’s team’s 33rd straight victory, and the Eagles finished their 2006 season with a 11-0 record.

Tony Violi contributed to this story.
them “play their hearts out” all 80 minutes of every game, several times a week, all season long. Senior captain and standout goalkeeper Erin Jacobson took the floor next as the lights dimmed to view her video of the “Road to the Repeat” showing highlights from the season and special moments to remember for a lifetime.

The invited guests were then introduced and Bishop John M. D’Arcy presented the huge championship trophy shaped as the state title. They proved their point by dominating Portage 3-0 in the semifinals and finally North Central 2-1 at Kuntz Memorial Stadium in Indianapolis on Saturday, Oct. 28. The victory put the Saints soccer program in the state record books with Carmel as back-to-back champions.

The “pressure” Tone referred to was created by winning the state title in 2005. Every team the girls’ faces during season play wanted to beat the defending champs.

“It made this year’s win even better. We were out to prove last year was no fluke,” said Parr, a graduate from Most Precious Blood School along with junior Mallory Scholl. The Saints responded to the challenge and finished the 2006 regular season undefeated, captured a sectional, regional and semi-state title. They proved their point by dominating Portage 3-0 in the semifinals and finally North Central 2-1 at Kuntz Memorial Stadium in Indianapolis on Saturday, Oct. 28. The victory put the Saints soccer program in the state record books with Carmel as back-to-back champions.

Michelle Pray was the assistant coach for the Saints this year and Stephanie Woodrum was the manager.

Jason Wisnieski is a St. Therese and 1989 Bishop Luers graduate. In his ninth season as head coach, Wisnieski said he has not changed his coaching style to warrant the repeat. “We just had a great group of girls. I am very grateful to be their coach,” he said.

Megan Killion said she will always remember how Coach Wisnieski would gather the team in prayer around Mary’s statue outside the Bishop Dwenger campus before every game. On the “Road to the Repeat,” he would remind them, now there are 16 teams left...now just eight. Finally, we were the only ones left. We have an awesome coach.”

Can the Saints make it a triple crown? Only time will tell. For now, they will continue to celebrate the glory of a sweet repeat.

Redeemer Radio to carry Notre Dame and high school basketball

FORT WAYNE — Fort Wayne’s Redeemer Radio, Catholic Radio AM 1450, has obtained the exclusive rights to broadcast Notre Dame men’s basketball on radio in the Fort Wayne Market. The station is scheduled to debut on Tuesday, Nov. 28, with Notre Dame hosting Fort Wayne IPFW.

For high school basketball, Redeemer Radio’s schedule will feature an approximately even number of girls and boys games, from both Bishop Luers and Bishop Dwenger.

The Notre Dame basketball season begins at 8 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 10, with Notre Dame hosting Fort Wayne IPFW. The high school basketball season on Redeemer Radio is scheduled to debut on Thursday, Nov. 28, with the Bishop Dwenger girls hosting Columbia City at 7:45 p.m. The following is a preliminary schedule for the season:

Preliminary schedule of Bishop Luers and Bishop Dwenger basketball

Tuesday, Nov. 28

Columbia City at Dwenger girls

North Side at Luers girls

7:45 p.m.

7:45 p.m.

Southwood at Dwenger boys

SB Riley at Luers girls

7:45 p.m.

7:45 p.m.

North Side at Luers boys

7:45 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 2

Tuesday, Dec. 5

Southside at Dwenger boys

7:45 p.m.

SB Riley at Luers girls

7:45 p.m.

North Side at Luers boys/girls

7:45 p.m.

7:45 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 15

Dwenger at Luers boys

7:45 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 16

Dwenger at Harding girls

7:45 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 27

Girls Sectional

Dwenger boys at Leo

7:45 p.m.

7:45 p.m.

Dwenger boys at Blackhawk

7:45 p.m.

Girls Regional

North Side at Luers boys

7:45 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 2

Girls Semi-State

Boys Sectional

Sunday, Feb. 10

Boys Sectional

Boys Regional

Wednesday, Feb. 14

Boys Semi-State

Saturday, Feb. 17

Boys State

Saturday, Feb. 24

Saturday, March 3

Saturday, March 10

Saturday, March 17

Saturday, March 24

Redeemer Radio’s high school coverage will include pre and post game shows, special on-air guests, and updates of the scores of other high school basketball games in progress from across the region.

TODAY’S CATHOLIC

November 12, 2006

SERA CLUB PRESENTS BISHOP’S TROPHY TO BISHOP DWENGER

Nick Gray, second from left, of the Fort Wayne Serra Club presents the Serra Club Bishop’s Trophy to Bishop Luers team captains, from left, Sean Bushey, Michael Brown (holding the trophy), Kevin Metz and Andrew Mansaray.

The trophy was presented at an all-school Mass and assembly on Oct. 26. The trophy builds a friendly rivalry between Bishop Dwenger and Bishop Luers high schools in Fort Wayne in the area of competitive sports.
Respecting God’s presence in one another can change the world

Sister Margie Lavonis, CSC

The sisters in my community have a beautiful ritual they use at the rite of peace during Mass. They fold their hands in a gesture of prayer and bow to one another. Its means that “the God in me recognizes and honors the God who is in you.”

Reflecting on this practice, I can’t help but wonder how different our world would be if we really believed that God is present in every human being and that each person is sacred and loved by God. And even better that we would act upon that belief.

Like many Catholics of my generation, I was taught that we are temples of the Holy Spirit and God dwells in us. Not only is the Spirit inside us, the Spirit also works through us. We ask food suppliers to impose waists keep expanding. It’s hard to wrap my mind around. When we treat sex as just recreation, our sex partners become means to that end — they become consumers.

The Catholic Church has taken more heat over its teachings about sex than any other topic. You may be surprised then to learn that mainstream religion is on the church’s side. If people would take its teachings to the negotiating table. Countries would join together to alleviate the great problems in our world. We would help others to carry their crosses. We would not rest until problems like those in Darfur and other suffering countries were solved.

On a smaller scale, there would be no scapegoats or outcasts at school and work. We would try to work out the differences between the members and seek reconciliation. We would strive hard to be inclusive in the way we live. We would not see any person as an alien, but as a brother or sister.

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

Soul food: Finding nourishment amid empty calories

She was ready to walk down the aisle — primed, primped and powdered. The braid was moments away from her tuxedoed groom, minutes from their vows exchange and hours from their honeymoon.

And she was discussing the joy of Ranch dressing. She had been on a diamond-induced diet that began when she breathlessly exclaimed “Yes!” and involved months of hunger pangs leading up to this day.

Nor was the slim bride waiting for her cue, making the case for Ranch as a complete substitute to eating, “Eat me!”

For a food has a strange hold on us, we ask food suppliers to impose limits: 2006 became the year of the 100-calorie snack pack.

Reflecting on this practice, I can’t help but wonder how different our world would be if we really believed that God is present in every human being and that each person is sacred and loved by God. And even better that we would act upon that belief.

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The key to understanding these is that sex is a private recreational activity with no moral or spiritual significance.

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Go organic: The scientific case for Catholic social ethics

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Turkey bingo supports school
Fort Wayne — St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School will hold a turkey bingo on Sunday, Nov. 19, at St. Joseph Parish from 1-3 p.m. Win a Thanksgiving turkey, gift certificates or cash. Regular bingo cards are 25 cents. Special game cards are $1.

Christ Child Society hold cookie walk
Fort Wayne — The Christ Child Society will have a holiday cookie walk on Saturday, Nov. 18, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul parish hall located at Wallen and Auburn roads. Homemade Christmas cookies will be sold by the pound.

Fashion show at holiday benefit for Christ Child Society
South Bend — The Christ Child Society will have a fashion show by Judée’s of LaPorte at the holiday benefit luncheon on Nov. 30 at 11:30 a.m. in the Great Hall at Century Center. Raffle tickets and a silent auction will also be available. Tickets are $40 per person. Reservations needed by Nov. 16, to Marie Brady, 16122 Baywood Lane, Granger, IN 46530. All checks are payable to the Christ Child Society.

Drama department presents “Grease”
Fort Wayne — The Bishop Luers High School drama department will present “Grease” in the café on Friday, Dec. 1, at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 2, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 3, at 2 p.m. Tickets are $7 and can be purchased at any cast member or by calling (260) 456-1261 ext. 3114. Doors open at 7 p.m. Enter the building through door #3 from the back parking lot.

Day of reflection
Mishawaka — A day of reflection will be held at St. Francis Convent (across for Marian High School) on Wednesday, Nov. 29, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The theme for the day is “Praying with Scripture.” Please bring your Bible. The cost is $15 and includes lunch. Register by Friday, Nov. 24, by calling Sister Barbara Anne Hallman at (574) 259-5427.

Turkey bingo supports youth activities
Fort Wayne — St. John the Baptist, 4500 Fairfield Ave., will have turkey bingo on Sunday, Nov. 19, in the Pursley Center. Doors open at 2 p.m. Hotdogs, brats, chili, chips, beer and soft drinks. A cash raffle. Free admission.

Concert of praise and thanksgiving
Fort Wayne — Precious Blood Parish, 1519 Barthold St., will have a concert on Sunday, Nov. 19, at 7 p.m. featuring the Precious Blood choir and handbell choir. Free will offering will be taken.

Advent retreat planned
Fort Wayne — An Advent day of recollection will be held Saturday, Dec. 2, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Parish. Lunch will be served but participants are asked to bring a dish to share, a Bible and pen or pencil. Register by Dec. 1 to Bob Deck at (260) 490-9971.

Christmas boutique
Fort Wayne — St. Jude Catholic Church will have a Christmas boutique on Saturday, Nov. 25, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Over 100 vendors of handmade crafts. Food will be available.

Holiday craft bazaar
Mishawaka — The St. Bavo Home and School Association, the corner of Eighth and West streets, will have a holiday craft bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 18, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Over 40 booths, a piggy raffle and a concession stand.

XLT continues
Fort Wayne — XLT will meet for “What do you want?” on Tuesday, Nov. 28, at 7 p.m. at St. Mary Parish. All ages welcome to lift voices to the Lord with praise and worship music by Frankie and the Holy Rollers. Spend time close to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

Singles to meet
Fort Wayne — The GAP invites all Catholic-Christian men and women within the 40-60ish age range to share fun and friendship at game night on Friday, Nov. 17, at 7 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish. Please bring a finger food snack or drink to share. For more information call (260) 432-7346 or e-mail gap4565@msn.com.
Early in June, 1956, Father Joseph Jacobs stood in an empty field about one square block south of the 3500 block of Lincoln Highway West and one block west of Iowa Street. In his hand, Father Jacobs had a letter from Bishop Parsley telling him to build a church and form a parish where he stood. Uncertain of the parish boundaries and exactly how to proceed with such an order, he knew that it was his privilege to name the parish and that he would do so to honor his father and his dad’s patron saint, St. John the Baptist. After meetings with pastors of neighboring parishes Holy Cross and Holy Family to establish parish boundaries, the word went out, and on Sept. 2, 1956, the Armore School was the site of the first two Masses offered for the parishioners of the new parish. About 400 showed up and contributed $164.95. St. John the Baptist School opened in September 1957 with an enrollment of 185 in the first four grades including a double first grade. The faculty consisted of two Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration and several lay teachers. In October, Bishop Parsley blessed the church and school.

Fire has struck twice at St. John’s. In January 1957 the Community Building in Beacon Heights was set up as a temporary rectory. Father Jacobs lived there one week before an early morning fire caused heavy damage forcing the pastor to return to his first temporary residence. On April 23, 1969, a daytime three alarm fire, discovered by a group meeting in the school, destroyed the pews, floor and roof. Everything was reduced to ashes. Recovery from this disaster was in large part brought about by the 730 families that made up the parish. While the main part of the reconstruction was put in the hands of a professional crew, the determined parishioners plastered, painted, laid down tile and did general clean up amounting to 3,000 hours of loving labor. As a fitting and final touch to great effort, the eighth-grade class voted to give up their class trip and use the money for an altar for the new church. The present principal of St. John the Baptist school is an alumnus. Janet (Kwiecinski) Wroblewski was baptized at St. John, was eighth-grade class president in 1980 and installed as principal in 2003.

Christ the King, South Bend, Est. 1933

At the time of its founding in the Depression year of 1933, the name of Christ the King may have sounded a bit regal and overreaching for a parish that began as a former dance hall with membership less than 150 families. Today however, with a K-8 school enrolling 523 including students from Africa, the Netherlands, Korea, China and Vietnam, the term upscale does not do justice to the academic levels sought and the scholastic goals achieved at Christ the King School. The design and conditions of this splendid school may be somewhat responsible; all classrooms are bathed in natural light, a large art classroom with so much friendly color that it appears to have captured a rainbow. An elevator in the school and a hallway leading directly to an inside entrance to the church are added conveniences. Early childhood faith formation receives special emphasis at Christ the King Parish. A program called Catechesis of the Good Shepherd using materials made to scale for small children introduces them in a hands-on way to Scripture, the sacrifices of the Eucharist and prayer. Thus launched, religious experience is enriched by liturgy, preparation, all school Masses, monthly eucharistic adoration plus the prevailing Catholic classroom atmosphere.

This parish, which has been under the permanent care of priests of Congregation of Holy Cross, with a present parish census of 1,500 families had humble beginnings when ground was broken in 1934 when parishioners prepared the site and dug the cellar hole with a team of horses and a skid. The first Mass was said in the basement of the church after a fire in April of 1969. The first Mass was said in the basement of the church after a fire in April of 1969.

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St. John the Baptist in stained glass stands above the main entrance of the church. Above, left, shows the interior of the church after a fire in April of 1969.