Diocese and parishes place emphasis on vocations during jubilee year

BY ANN EARLY

SOUTH BEND — A systematic program to promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life has been in place in this diocese for over a dozen years, but during this Sesquicentennial Jubilee Year, special emphasis will be placed on vocations.

Every parish is being asked to devote at least one holy hour a month to prayer for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Further, all parishes are being called on to implement the Called by Name program in February, in which parishioners recommend young men and women they believe have the qualities to become a priest, brother or sister.

The Called by Name program was developed by the Serra Club, which has taken a leadership role in engaging laity in promoting and praying for vocations. The program was further refined by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Vocations and has been utilized sporadically in some parishes in the diocese over the past few years.

This Sesquicentennial Jubilee year, Bishop John M. D’Arcy is encouraging implementation of Called by Name in every parish. According to Father Bernard Galic, vocation director for this diocese, the initiative works this way: The pastor gives a homily by Name in every parish. According to Father M. D’Arcy is encouraging implementation of Called by Name in every parish. According to Father Bernard Galic, vocation director for this diocese, the initiative works this way: The pastor gives a homily in which he implores the faithful to pray for vocations.

The Called by Name program has been in place in this diocese for over a dozen years, but the new initiative is being especially emphasized during the Jubilee Year.

TheCalled by Name program in February, in which parishioners recommend young men and women they believe have the qualities to become a priest, brother or sister.

The diocesan seminarians gathered for rosary, Mass and a luncheon hosted by the South Bend Serra Club on Dec. 28. In the photo are, left to right, front row, Tim Chupp, Drew Curry, Chris Lapp, Zachary Barry, Bishop John M. D’Arcy, Tink Coonan, Kevin Bauman and Vocation Director Father Bernie Galic; and second row, Andy Budzinski, Matt Coonan, Cristian Reyes and Bob Lengerich. Not pictured are Gabriel Hernandez and Fernando Jimenez.

HARD WORK IN BIG EASY

Today’s Catholic assistant editor Don Clemmer works on a roof as part of a recent mission trip to New Orleans. The account of Clemmer’s journey — the first by a member of the Today’s Catholic staff — can be read on page 18.

Indiana bishops release pastoral letter on immigration

I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me: Meeting Christ in New Neighbors

Then the king will say to those on his right, “Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.” Then the righteous will answer him and say, “Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?

When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you?

When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?” And the king will say to them in reply, “Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.” — Mt. 25:34-40.

We Catholic bishops of Indiana recommend ourselves and our dioceses to welcoming others as Christ himself. Together with all our sisters and brothers throughout the state of Indiana, we embrace an authentic and enduring form of Hoosier hospitality that goes beyond superficial slogans to the heart of what it means to be a community of faith that welcomes all who wish to share our way of life.

In his first encyclical, “Deus Caritas Est” (“God Is Love”), Pope Benedict XVI reminds us that there is an intimate and unbreakable connection between love of God and love of neighbor. Because God has first loved us — completely and unconditionally — we are compelled to love one another. And in loving our neighbor, we meet the person of Christ.

Who is my neighbor? Not simply someone who is familiar and close at hand. Not simply someone who shares my ethnic, social or racial characteristics. In the Gospels, we learn that our neighbor is anyone who is in need — including those who are homeless, hungry, sick or in prison. A neighbor may well be a complete stranger whose background, experience or social standing is very different from ours.
The field is ripe for the harvest of religious vocations

To welcome the newcomer

There are no strangers in the Catholic Church. Jesus offered himself on the cross for the salvation of all. This is the foundation for the pastoral letter, which is released today and is presented on the cover and page 3 in this newspaper and in other Catholic newspapers throughout the state. In this pastoral letter, the bishops, our teachers, come to grips in a matter faithful to the Gospel and to the long-standing teaching of the church with phenomena of recent years. We know that this influx, which increases daily, represents legal problems for our government. We neither condone nor support anything illegal; but we are moral teachers, teachers of the truth. The truth underlying this letter is the dignity of every person as created by God and redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ. We see this influx as a pastoral and spiritual opportunity.

We have supported initiatives, which are legal and moral and which are doable. The same teaching authority, which has spoken out in this state and across the country and the world on the dignity of the child in the womb now speaks out on the dignity of those people flooding our diocese and our churches.

They come with families. I have seen their little children at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Warsaw; St. Patrick, Fort Wayne; St. Patrick, Ligonier; St. John, Goshen; St. Adalbert, South Bend; St. Vincent de Paul, Elkhart; St. Anthony, Angola; St. Joseph, LaGrange; St. Joseph, Fort Wayne and other churches. We have priests, sisters and laity who are trying to help them settle in. Our Catholic Charities has played a strong role in reaching out to them.

BISHOP JOHN M. D’ARCY

Vocation Sunday

This is the weekend set aside for reflection on vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life. While we are encouraged that we have 18 young men in the seminary (this is a correction from last week when I said there were 17), and while this is the largest number during my 21 years of service here and, while they all seem to be men of quality and strength, men who would also make good husbands and good fathers, we need many more. I am grateful to the good Lord that these vocations are beginning to come. Much credit must go to our priests, especially those who are focused on youth ministry and have worked in our high schools. They are convinced, as am I, that the field is ripe for the harvest. God is attracting young people, and part of the attraction is that they see the need in our diocese.

I also hope that these congregations which have served here historically, especially the Holy Cross Fathers, who came to this area over 150 years ago, even before the diocese was officially established, will benefit from our efforts this year to foster vocations to the priesthood.

My schedule

While preparing these notes, I am also getting ready to drive to St. Martin de Porres Parish, Syracuse, where I will offer the Saturday evening Mass and be available for confessions. This is part of fulfilling a promise for Father Terry Place, who has a serious cancer and is recovering in a nearby nursing home. Keep him in your prayers. I hope to visit him and then head for South Bend where, on Sunday, I will officially open the Jubilee Year at St. Matthew Co-Cathedral Parish.

Then, I am off to Boston to visit my family. While there, I will celebrate Mass for my golden jubilee at nearby St. Columbkille’s Catholic Church. I will return on Jan. 15 looking forward to living this Jubilee Year with you.

Alas, the Irish beaten by the terrible Tigers. More work to be done. The only beneficial thing of such an outing is that it opens up what must be done for the future. A blessed New Year to you all. See you next week, I hope.

People do not need to be perfect to be called to a vocation

BY CINDY WOODDEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — One does not have to be perfect to be called to a vocation in the priesthood or religious life, but one must recognize that God calls each person to repentance and holiness, Pope Benedict XVI said.

“Human frailties and limits do not represent an obstacle” to having a vocation, “as long as they contribute to making us more aware of the fact that we need the redeeming grace of Christ,” the pope said in his message for the 2006 World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

The day dedicated to praying for vocations to the priesthood and religious life was celebrated May 7, 2006, in most countries; the pope’s message for the day was released March 30, 2006 in Italian.

From Jesus’ time, Pope Benedict said, God has called individuals to dedicate their lives totally to serving God and their brothers and sisters.

God’s call is not addressed to the perfect, but to those open to God’s love, which changes human hearts and makes them capable of communicating the love of God to others, the pope said.

“The church is holy even if its members need to be purified so that holiness, a gift of life of the church, God, can shine through them in all its brightness,” he said.

Pope Benedict asked for special prayers for vocations to the priesthood, a ministry that is essential for the celebration of the sacraments and, therefore, for the ongoing
**An immigrant church**

The Catholic Church, especially in the United States, is an immigrant church, a pilgrim people on a journey. We are a church of people, not just titles, of fellow travelers on the way to our heavenly home, the kingdom of God. As members of Christ’s body, the church, we are an exceptionally diverse group of people who are called to unity in Christ who are called to unity in Christ, which is deeply rooted in our country’s religious, social and political history, is changing.

These new immigrants are diverse in their origins, but they also reflect a wide range of skills, experiences and backgrounds. Many left their homelands because of fear of persecution, and when they came to America, they were filled with hope, prosperity and the ability to live, work and raise their families.

The new waves of immigrants have challenged our society and our church to remember where we come from and that there are the children of immigrants and where we are headed as people who are on the way to a better and more secure world characterized by unity, peace and prosperity for all.

As a Catholic community we vigorously support the right and responsibility to provide secure borders for the protection of our own and those among whom we stand as good shepherds for our people, and that the faith will grow ever stronger in this holy place.

**The teachings of our faith**

Our commitment to human life and the dignity of immigrants is rooted in Scripture and the social teachings of our church. “When an alien resides with you in your land, do not molest him. You shall treat the alien who resides with you as the natives born among you; have the same love for him as for the native, for you too were once aliens in the land of Egypt,” (Lev. 19:33-34). The church’s dedication to caring for migrants was explained by Pope Pius XII when he said “the émigré Holy Family of Christ long ago established an archetype of every refugee family. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, living in Egypt, is the image of every man who seeks refuge from the fury of an evil king, are, for all times and all places, the models and protectors of every migrant, alien and refugee.”

As Catholic bishops, we wholeheartedly support efforts to develop our nation’s laws concerning immigration so that they recognize our country. Current laws and immigration policies are inadequate to protect the rights and dignity of immigrants and their families. They also fail to properly maintain our border and to provide for our nation’s security.

Change is urgently needed. We Catholic Bishops of Indiana need to nurture laws that treat all, local and national levels. We pledge our support for the church and the immigrants who collaborate with community organizations, church agencies and other religious groups on behalf of the rights of immigrants in the workplace, schools, public services and legal system.

Advocacy on behalf of our new neighbors is completely consistent with our church’s historic role as a place of sanctuary, hospitality and refuge. Many of us have turned our gaze to need in Christ’s love.

We rejoice in the pluralism that is part of our Catholic Church’s history. In accord with the teachings of scripture and consistent with the Catholic tradition, we must move freely within our own nation and from one nation to another. Attention must be called to the rights of refugees and others who are fleeing persecution and for respect to their human dignity, even in cases of non legal immigration.

**Public policy in the United States**

We have deep concern for those who will be affected by proposed changes to our immigration system which we hope will be debated in our Congress.

The need for reform of our immigration system is evident. It should include the following elements:

- a broad-based program of earned legalization for undocumented persons;
- a temporary worker program with appropriate protections for both U.S. and foreign workers;
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VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI said the age of globalization is challenging political, scientific and religious leaders to shape a new world order based on spiritual values.

This means an encounter with the “light of Christ,” which can reveal the deepest values of all cultures, the pope said.

“To all people of our time, I want to repeat today: Do not be afraid of the light of Christ!” he said.

The pope made the remarks at a Mass Jan. 6 on the feast of the Epiphany, which marks the manifestation of Jesus as savior to the world. In his sermon, he recalled the New Testament account of the three Wise Men or Magi, guided to Bethlehem by a star, who were the first to come and adore Jesus.

After the Mass, tens of thousands attended the Epiphany in St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican Jan. 6. In his homily, the pope said that the age of globalization is challenging political, scientific and religious leaders to shape a new world order based on spiritual values.

The pope also extended a Christmas greeting to Eastern Christians who follow the Julian calendar and were preparing to celebrate the birth of Christ Jan. 7.

**VOCATION CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

Pope Benedict XVI blesses young people during Mass on the feast of the Epiphany in St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican Jan. 6. In his homily, the pope said that the age of globalization is challenging political, scientific and religious leaders to shape a new world order based on spiritual values.
Pope Benedict XVI baptizes infants, calls baptism invitation to human freedom

BY JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI closed out the Christmas season at the Vatican with an annual Mass to baptize infants and kept up a tradition of his own — an extemporaneous sermon on the meaning of the sacrament.

Baptism is not some “magical” rite of words and water, but a lasting invitation to human freedom to cooperate with the Holy Spirit, the pope said Jan. 7, the feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

As the cries of babies echoed through the Sistine Chapel, the pope poured water from a gilded chalice into a ciborium as he spoke extemporaneously of the sacrament, then spoke about its central meaning.

“Every child who is born brings us the smile of God and invites us to recognize that life is his gift, a gift to welcome with love and to protect with care, forever and in every moment,” he said.

Later, speaking to thousands of people from his apartment window above St. Peter’s Square, the pope encouraged adult Catholics to remember the commitment that began in baptism, which he said is primarily to “listen to Jesus” and to follow his teachings.

This is the way to holiness, the vocation of every Christian, he said.

Up to 25 U.S. bishops could retire for age reasons in 2007

BY JERRY ELITEAU

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Up to 25 U.S. bishops, including five cardinals, could retire because of age this year.

There are 14 still-active U.S. bishops, including three cardinals, who have already turned 75. Eleven more, including two cardinals, will celebrate their 75th birthday in 2007.

At age 75 bishops are requested to submit their resignation to the pope.

Cardinal Adam J. Maida of Detroit turned 75 March 18, 2005. He was bishop of Green Bay, Wis., before he was made archbishop of Detroit in 1990. He has been a cardinal since 1994.

Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore turned 75 last March 4. Formerly bishop of Harrisburg, Pa., he has been archbishop of Baltimore since 1989 and a cardinal since 1994.

Cardinal Bernard F. Law, archpriest of St. Mary Major Basilica in Rome and a cardinal since 1985, turned 75 Nov. 4. A former bishop of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, Mo., he was archbishop of Boston from 1984 until his resignation in 2002 in the wake of the clergy sex abuse scandal there. He was named to his Rome post in 2004.

Cardinal Edward M. Egan of New York, whose 75th birthday is coming up April 2, will celebrate 50 years as a priest later this year. He was made a New York auxiliary bishop in 1985, bishop of Bridgeport, Conn., in 1988, archbishop of New York in 2000 and a cardinal in 2001.


Pope John Paul II often asked cardinals to stay on the job after they reached the age of 75. So far Pope Benedict XVI has given no indication that he will change that practice. Even when a cardinal retires in his 70s, he remains an active member of the College of Cardinals, eligible to enter a conclave and vote for a new pope, until age 80.

The 11 other active U.S. bishops who are already 75 and the dates of their 75th birthday are:

• Auxiliary Bishop Emil A. Wcela of Rockville Centre, N.Y., May 1, 2006.

Eleven more, including two cardinals, who have already turned 75.

There are 14 still-active U.S. bishops, including five cardinals, who could retire for age reasons in 2007.

Eleven more, including two cardinals, will celebrate their 75th birthdays in 2007.


Bishop Dwenger High School
Preferred Dates for Freshman Registration

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<tr>
<td>January 23, 2007</td>
<td>6:30-8:30 p.m. St. Vincent and Precious Blood</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 23, 2007</td>
<td>6:30-8:30 p.m. St. Charles and St. John New Haven</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 24, 2007</td>
<td>6:30-8:30 p.m. St. Jude, Queen of Angels, Others</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 3, 2007</td>
<td>9:00-11:00 a.m. Open Registration (Library)</td>
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If for some reason you are unable to come on your assigned day, you may choose any of the other available dates and times. Registration will take place in the cafeteria unless specified otherwise.

1300 E. Washington Center Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46825
P: (260) 496-4700
F: (260) 496-4702
www.bishopdwenger.com
ARCHBISHOP RESIGNS AT MASS IN WARSAW CATHEDRAL

Archbishop Stanislaw Wielgus and Cardinal Jozef Glemp arrive for Mass at the cathedral in Warsaw, Poland, Jan. 7. Archbishop Wielgus, who was to be installed as the new Warsaw archbishop during the service, instead resigned from the post. A church commission had found evidence that he cooperated with Poland’s communist-era secret police.

San Francisco auxiliary bishop to head Salt Lake City Diocese
WASHINGTON (CNS) — Auxiliary Bishop John C. Wester of Salt Lake City has been appointed the new head of the Diocese of Salt Lake City by Pope Benedict XVI, the Congregation for Bishops announced Jan. 8 in Washington. Bishop Wester, 56, is to be installed in Salt Lake City March 14 in ceremonies at the Cathedral of the Madeleine. At a news conference in Salt Lake City, he said, “I look forward to forging friendships with you and all our sisters and brothers in Christ in the years ahead. I am definitely the “new kid on the block,” he added. “I have a lot to learn and I therefore must be an attentive listener to you, the priests and deacons, religious and faithful. He also addressed the news media briefly in Spanish, noting that many of the Catholics in Utah are Spanish-speaking.

Pope calls deceased Congolese cardinal ‘eminent son of Africa’
VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Congolese Cardinal Frederic Etsou-Nzabi-Bamungwabi of Kinshasa, who died Jan. 6 of pneumonia in a Belgian hospital, was an “eminent son of Africa” who devoted his life to preaching the Gospel and serving the African people, Pope Benedict XVI said. The cardinal, 76, had been hospitalized for complications related to diabetes. Pope Benedict sent a telegram of condolences to the Catholics of Kinshasa and to the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, which the cardinal had belonged. Cardinal Etsou-Nzabi-Bamungwabi was known as a dynamic and forceful advocate for reconciliation in his own war-torn nation, the Democratic Republic of Congo, formerly Zaire, and throughout Africa’s Great Lakes region. A memorial Mass for Cardinal Etsou-Nzabi-Bamungwabi was scheduled for Jan. 9 in Brussels, Belgium. His body was to be flown to Kinshasa Jan. 11 where a memorial Mass was scheduled for Jan. 14 with the funeral Mass and burial to follow Jan. 15.

Chaldean patriarchate transfers seminary, university to northern Iraq
ROME (CNS) — Continued violence against Catholic priests and church property in Baghdad has prompted the Chaldean Catholic Patriarchate of Baghdad to move the city’s theological university and seminary to northern Iraq, Iraq’s only Christian theological university, the Pontifical Biblical Institute of Rome, announced Oct. 27. The move is to be delayed due to funding, according to Arbil, Jan. 4 report by the Rome-based AsiaNews news agency. The two institutions had been closed for several months because of a lack of security and increasing violence in Baghdad. The seminary’s rector and vice rector had both been kidnapped in September and December, respectively; the two men eventually were released unharmed. AsiaNews said the move “had been in the pipeline for some time,” but the decision was not made official until Jan. 4.

Helen Osman named USCCB secretary for communications
WASHINGTON (CNS) — Helen Osman, communications director for the Diocese of Austin, Texas, editor of its diocesan newspaper, The Catholic Spirit, and current president of the Catholic Press Association, has been named secretary for communications of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, effective Aug. 1. Her appointment was announced Jan. 3 by Msgr. David J. Malloy, USCCB general secretary. “Helen Osman has done outstanding communications work in Austin and in her many duties with the CPA,” he said. “She has great vision about the constantly developing use of all forms of media in the apostolate of the church. I am confident she will provide extraordinary leadership to the communications ministry of the conference.” Osman said she was “humbled” by her upcoming role and called it a “wonderful opportunity.” In a Jan. 3 telephone interview from her office in Austin, she said she was excited to be part of the team at the USCCB even though it was not something she initially aspired to do.

In new book, Nigerian priest decries racism he finds in America
ST. LOUIS (CNS) — It is time for U.S. churches to combat racial injustice in their country and among their congregations, says a Catholic priest from Nigeria who has studied the problem. Holy Ghost Father Cajetan Nwozia Ihewulezi resides at Sts. Teresa and Bridget Parish in North St. Louis and serves as a hospital chaplain while doing graduate studies. He is the author of a new book, “Beyond the Color of Skin: Encounters With Religions and Racial Injustice in America.” In his book, which came out in November, he looks at his experiences as an outsider. Father Ihewulezi came to St. Louis four years ago as a graduate student, first at St. Louis University, where he earned a master’s degree in historical theology, and then at Aquinas Institute of Theology, where he is earning a doctorate. He said some hospital patients don’t want a black priest anointing them. “I see the churches, not just the Catholic Church but American churches, as having neglected the issue of civil rights and racial justice. It is as if they feel everything is OK. But in actuality negative things are still happening, and the continued silence calls for a renewed evaluation,” Father Ihewulezi said.

After Saddam hangs, Vatican says no executions now way to justice
VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Executing someone guilty of a crime “is not the way to restore justice and reconcile society,” the Vatican spokesman said after Saddam Hussein was hanged Dec. 30. Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi said, “A capital execution is always tragic news, a motive for sadness, even when it involves a person found guilty of serious crimes.” In a formal statement issued shortly after Saddam’s death was announced, Father Lombardi said, “The position of the Catholic Church against the death penalty has been reaffirmed many times.” The death penalty not only will not restore justice in Iraq, but also can “increase the spirit of vengeance and sow new violence,” he said. “In this dark time in the life of the Iraqi people one can only hope that all leaders will make every effort so that in such a dramatic situation spaces will open for reconciliation and peace,” he said.

Social context marked by particula violence, human degradation and poverty, which these peace-makers tried to alleviate with their presence and their work.” The total of 24 murdered church workers was just one fewer than that reported in 2005, it said. While Fides said it was not declaring the deceased to be martyrs in the formal sense of those recognized by the church for being killed out of hatred of the faith, it hoped people would remember and pray for them.

President of Jesuit college in New Jersey dies after fall at home
JERSEY CITY, N.J. (CNS) — Jesuit Father James N. Loughran, 66, president of St. Peter’s College in Jersey City since 1995, died at his home on campus from a fall down a staircase. His body was found Dec. 24 at the foot of the stairs and the cause of death was diagnosed as blunt force trauma from the fall. His funeral Mass was celebrated Dec. 30 at St. Aedan’s Church in Jersey City, with burial afterward in Asheville, N.Y., where the Jesuits have a retreat house and the National Shrine of the Jesuit Martyrs of North America. From 1984 to 1991 Father Loughran was president of Loyola Marymount University, a Jesuit institution in Los Angeles. During his tenure there he raised the university’s endowment from about $22 million to $106 million. He was buried at a Jesuit college as well. In 1992 he served as acting president of Brooklyn College, a public college in the City University of New York system, and in 1993-94 he was interim president of St. Mary’s College (now University) in Emmitsburg, Md.

Anomiotic-fluid stem cells hailed as another embryo alternative
WASHINGTON (CNS) — The recent announcement by scientists at Wake Forest and Harvard universities of the isolation and culture of stem cells surviving a child in the womb can be the source of medically useful stem cells, the researchers say, just the latest in a series of studies showing the research value of the byproducts of live birth, according to the dean of the Jesuit bish-ops’ Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities. Richard M. D’Antonio, president of Catholic News Service Jan. 8 that various studies have shown that the placenta, cord blood, placental membranes and other byproducts of birth “may all contain very versatile stem cells, with many of the advantages of embryonic stem cells without the practical disadvantages or moral problems.” Scientists harvest millions every year in our country alone, an ample supply of these cells lies readily at hand, he added. The study was reported Jan. 7 in the online edition of the journal Nature Biotechnology and includ- es research by scientists at the Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine and Children’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School.
Homeschooling support group hosts curriculum fair

FORT WAYNE — For Catholic homeschoolers or those considering homeschooling, the Catholic Homeschool Support Group, NICHE, is having its annual curriculum fair Jan. 20, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the University of St. Francis Doermer Center room 156. This is a free event with snacks and door prizes.

Childcare is available at a cost of $6 for the first child, $8 for two children and a maximum of $10 for three or more children. The charge covers the entire curriculum share. The childcare service is being offered so parents may attend together and connect with Catholic homeschool parents.

Over the lunch hour, children will need to be with their parents. A chili and corn bread lunch will be served as a fundraiser to pay for the costs involved in putting on this year’s event. Lunch costs are $4 per person with a $10 family maximum.

Please RSVP for lunch and childcare to Jenn MacDonald at jen@highlanddove.org or by calling 260-485-8828. RSVP isn’t required to attend, but will be a great help for planning purposes.

USF women’s soccer ranks No. 4 academically among all schools

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis women’s soccer team has the fourth best grade-point-average in the United States including all divisions of collegiate athletics.

The Lady Cougars have a 3.62 GPA. The National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) announced that the USF program has earned its ninth No. 4 academically ranking that high shows the dedication of the student-athletes and the efforts of Father Bernard Galic, diocesan director of vocations and pastor of Holy Family Church, for his tremendous efforts in the program.

Lindenwood hosts 12-Step retreat

DONALDSON — Registrations are now being taken for a “12-Step Compulsive Eating and Eating Disorders Retreat” to be held at the Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center in Donalson. The program is scheduled from Friday, Feb. 2, at 7 p.m., immediately following 6:15 p.m.,pent. The retreat fee is $150 for a single room, $120 per person for a double occupancy room and $80 for a commuter.

The weekend is designed as a time away from work and home to focus on where you are in life and in your recovery. The focus of the retreat will be on the spirituality of the 12 Steps, which are recognized as the foundation of the most successful recovery programs.

For more information or to register, contact Lindenwood at (260) 935-1780 weekdays, e-mail: lw@lindenwood.org or visit www.lindenwood.org. Deadline to register is Jan. 26.

Catholicism Revealed winter sessions begin

FORT WAYNE — The fall session of Catholicism Revealed at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Wayne yielded much success with over 300 participants. The parish is now sponsoring the winter sessions.

Each session begins at 7 p.m. and offers a 60-minute presentation with another 20-30 minute question-and-answer session. A 30-minute evening prayer service precedes each presentation.

Catholicism Revealed topics for Winter 2007 Session include the following:

• Jan. 15, “Made in His Image” — Father Michael Heintz, rector of St. Matthew Parish in South Bend and a teacher at Marian High School in Mishawaka and in the theology department at the University of Notre Dame, will present a look at the Christian vocation and the formation of the soul through grace. What does God expect of us in our vocation of married life, priesthood and single life?

• Jan. 22, “Dignify Your Child” — Marilyn Fech, a Bishop Luers High School teacher and RCIA speaker, says about this session, “A historian from the year 2506 looks back on the 21st century in America and explains how things could have been improved if par- ents and grandparents had focused upon teaching respect through example and living.”

• Feb. 12, “The Beauty of Your Salvation” — Marilyn Fech will conclude the winter session with this beautiful topic. Salvation is a term we hear a lot about. What is it? How do other religions think their people are saved? What do Catholics think about the salvation of those who belong to other reli- gions?

USF hosts Thomas Allen photography exhibit

FORT WAYNE — The School of Creative Arts at the University of Saint Francis announces an open- ing reception for an exhibition curated by the Foley Gallery of New York featuring contemporary photographer Thomas Allen on Saturday, Jan. 27. The reception begins at 7 p.m. in the John P. Weatherhead Gallery at the Rolland Art Center off Leesburg Road. The exhibit runs through Feb. 25.

Also on display will be actual props from Allen’s photographs. His still lifes, made with random objects and designed for exhibition, include figures from pulp fiction novels and obscure illustrations. Tom Allen will discuss his uncon- ventional work and the photography process on Saturday, Jan. 27. The exhibit runs through Feb. 25.

Around the Diocese

DECATUR PARISH DELIVERS 4,000 CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

For the past 11 years, parishioners from St. Mary of the Assumption, Decatur, and students from St. Joseph High School have participated in a shower of Christmas greetings for the nursing home and homebound parishioners. Shown in the photo is Mary Ann Inskeep, Woodcrest Evergreen resident Anna McDonald who, with the help of others, sorts all the cards and reads them for delivery. She is shown with Sister Margaret Rose Donnelly, SSND. Woodcrest Evergreen resident Anna says, “I received 53 cards,” while Dolly has her room decorated with cards. Jane, in an assisted living facility, had another idea and hung her cards on a large Christmas tree rather than ornaments.

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QUEEN OF ANGELS HOSTS SUCCESSFUL TOY DRIVE

The eighth grade class at Queen of Angels recently led a successful toy drive at their school before Christmas. All the donations were given to Riley Children’s Hospital in Indianapolis. The class also collected gift cards from the students that were donated to A Hope Center in Fort Wayne.

St. Michael’s students decorate cookies for Shady Rest Home

BY IDA CHIPMAN

PLYMOUTH — Jake Frantz, 11, knows why he is spending the afternoon decorating Christmas cookies. “Cookies will pick up the spirits of the old people out there at Shady Rest,” he said. “I am glad we are doing what we can to do that.”

Jake is one of 24 fifth graders in St. Michael School who spent a December Tuesday afternoon decorating homemade cookies with a variety of frostings, candies and toppings.

Mary Beth Kolter, the fifth grade teacher at St. Michael for the past three years — and for 11 years before at Argos Elementary teaching fourth, fifth and sixth grades — warned her students “not to pile on layer after layer of icing. That will make them sick!”

Her well-intentioned advice was not taken too seriously, especially by her son.

Nathan Kolter, 10, said, as he swirled the green stuff thickly on the cookie, “Everybody knows that icing makes you feel better.”

His friend, Jake, agreed, shaking his head and smiling an oddly green-tinged smile.

The students were helped with decorating by Thomas Flynn, home on leave from the Naval Academy and a graduate of St. Michael and his sister, Katie, a senior at DePauw University, also a graduate.

The cookies are one of several Christmas projects undertaken by the students of St. Michael. They have conducted three food drives and, for the past two weeks, collected toys for families of the Neighborhood Center. On Thursday, Dec. 21, the children’s choir of grades 5 through 8, sang Christmas carols for the patients at Miller’s Merry Manor and Pilgrim Manor nursing homes.

The students have also held two concerts. The choir and band have performed a Christmas pageant and the first through fifth grades put on a play, “Miracle on Bethlehem Street.”

The preschool through kindergartener students gave a performance on Friday, Dec. 22, for their parents and friends.

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Queen of Angels hosts successful toy drive

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THE CUTTING EDGE

SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

F

First and foremost, it is important to remember that God calls everyone. Each of us received the most important call of all when we were baptized. In that primary sacrament of our faith, we became members of Christ’s body, the church. Every baptized person is called to help build the reign of God in this world. It is not just the role of religious brothers and sisters or those who are ordained. Through the sacrament of baptism we all share in the priesthood of Jesus Christ and in his mission of revealing God’s love to the world. Our challenge is to discern how God wants each of us to live this call?

The majority of the baptized live their Christian call as married people, but some are called by God to live, the single, or consecrated life as a religious brother, sister or priest. Most people discover their vocation by listening to the deepest desire of their hearts. Some just know deep within that they are called to share life with one special person and to raise a family in the sacrament of marriage. Others feel a passion to give their entire lives to the Lord through prayer, community and service to the people of God.

It is important to listen to the many ways God reveals God’s call to us. Do we take by taking time for quiet, reflective prayer and by seriously considering what others say to us about our lives. One needs to take seriously questions or statements like, “Did you ever think of being a priest, a sister, a brother?” or “Would you make a wonderful mother or father?”

When I was in high school one of my teachers, a Sister of the Holy Cross, asked me what my plans were after graduation. I told her I thought I should consider religious life. At first it was a shock, but then I began to seriously reflect upon that possibility, and here I am many years later.

Discernment of God’s will is not easy because we are usually choosing between two or more good options. It could be much easier if one were good and the other evil. For instance, valuing marriage and loving careers doesn’t automatically count one out of religious life or priesthood. The ministers of God’s church must be warm and loving as was Jesus.

Ultimately, work allows us to draw closer to the Lord, humbling advancing “the discovery of the resources and values contained in the human person,” Pope John Paul II wrote. The gifts God gave us are our tools to execute his unique design for our lives.

Whether scientific or artistic, entrepreneurial or managerial, every career has the capacity to be Catholic when we execute it for the Lord.

“Dear brothers and sisters, after the great Pope John Paul II, the cardinals have elected me, a simple, humble worker in the vineyard of the Lord. The fact that the Lord knows how to work and loves even with insufficient instruments comforts me...”

That fact also comforts young adults embarking upon careers, wrestling tangled ambitions, unscathed ideals and unpredictable reality.

“Dear brothers and sisters, after the great Pope John Paul II, the cardinals have elected me, a simple, humble worker in the vineyard of the Lord. The fact that the Lord knows how to work and loves even with insufficient instruments comforts me...”

There’s no how-to manual to follow, just the sense of a blank screen, an empty plate waiting for our signature. And even with uncertainty, I can grasp one truth: A career can be steeped in spirituality. A pursuit of success and survival also can be a personal offering to the Lord.

Even if newspapers like Enron’s Jeffrey Skilling separate work and values, we can inter-twine them. And we’ll feel better — and work better — when we do.

What call is waiting for you?

Young Adult Perspectives

healthy life is one that enables me to use my gifts and grow into the person God wants me to be. A holy life is one that gives God an important place in my first inclination,” said Jacob Runyon who after graduation from high school, worked for about five years.

Being asked to be an RCIA sponsor for his brother-in-law, Runyon decided that he would attend Mass and pray about his vocation.

“This is the best place to hear a call to God, at Mass. The day after that called me, I saw the rosary on EWTN one evening after coming home from work late one night. The outward expression of prayer was so simple but I knew it was right. Every day I would turn on EWTN,” Chupp said. Eventually I saw a television conversion Mass. I saw it and was attracted by it and what was going on. I saw such reverence for what they were doing.

Watching the television influenced Chupp to desire to learn more about the Catholic faith. He visited a bookstore to learn more and went to Mass at St. John the Evangelist Church in Goshen and ended up in the RCIA program. As a participant in the RCIA program, Chupp related, “Here’s this church that takes its faith seriously.

Chupp joined the church and received “all three sacraments Easter night.”

He is currently attending Immaculate Heart of Mary semi-narian Tink Coonan. “I was studying computer engineering while taking some theology courses on top of the workload as would fit. During college, I was part of a peer-ministered organization called Catholic Life focused on spiritual growth in community.

“There, I continued to discern and also met and grew very close to the Maristian religious order,” Coonan said. “My decision to apply for the seminary happened during Christmas break of my sophomore year.

“I chose this life because I believe that God is calling me to it,” Coonan said. “I want myself and others to be happy, and I know that this can only be accomplished by doing what God asks of me, what he created me to be.” added Coonan.
ENCOURAGEMENT FOR SEMINARIANS

BY MICHELLE DONAGHEY

SOUTH BEND — Pray, talk and live your faith, but let them choose their life vocation.

Parents of seminarians were happy to share their advice and opinions about what parents and others could do to encourage vocations from within their parish communities as well as their own homes. They spoke with Today’s Catholic during a break between Mass and a Serra Club luncheon held Dec. 27 at Holy Family Parish in South Bend for the seminarians and their parents and guests and the Franciscan friars.

Prayer definitely works says Mary Runyon, mother of Jake. “I have been praying for vocations everyday for many years,” said Mary. She noted that the “specific prayer” starts with the words, “Oh God, grant that one of my sons becomes a priest.” Not only did she daily say the prayer, but also has handed the prayer to many people over the years. “When a neighbor heard that Jake was entering the seminary, she said, ‘Your prayer!’”

While parents who hope their children will enter religious life should pray, that is not the only thing they can do to encourage a child to go into religious life said Ed and Sue Soberalski, parents of Matt. They stressed that as parents they be actively involved in the parish.

“Get involved in your parish and make sure that your parish has programs for teens. Whatever you can do to make these kids want to go to church and be part of the church makes a big difference in your lives,” said Ed Soberalski, father of Matt.

“Do things as a family, supper together and going to church together. When my kids started to go to Life Teen Mass, we started to go with them. Always be there,” Sue said.

Being present and involved is good, but don’t go overboard try ing to influence your child, parents of seminarians add.

“You don’t want to push them in any direction,” said Julie LaP, mother of Chris. “Sometimes kids have a tendency to go the opposite. They have to go where their true love and true calling is. Be open to whatever that calling is. We don’t always know what the right thing is as parents...”

Mary Runyon said that Father Thom Lombardi, then pastor of St. Louis Beaumon Parish, near New Haven, frequently would talk about vocations. He would suggest that parents should not say, “When you grow up and get married. That leaves the door open in a child’s mind for an option rather than marriage,” she said.

Parents should always be available to their children in regard to their faith, too.

“Talk to him (or her). Bob and I always used to sit out on the porch and he’d ask me questions about religion and I would answer him the best I knew. And he tells me now that it helped him more than anything,” said Susie Lengerich, mother of transitional Deacon Bob Lengerich.

Living the daily life will directly influence children, no matter what vocation they choose. “You have to live your religion,” said Susie. “If God gives you a vocation, hopefully it will come through.”

“Establish an environment in the home where faith is important and where priests are viewed in a positive light,” said Terri Coonan, father of Tink and Matt Coonan, two brothers who are diocesan seminarians.

“Establish an environment in the home where faith is important and where priests are viewed in a positive light,” said Terri Coonan, father of Tink and Matt.

“If we did anything to encourage a vocation, it was to instill a love of Catholicism,” said Mary Runyon, who adds “I think his decision is awesome. It is such a difficult decision to make. It’s a call when the world is telling young people to be self-centered. It seems such a good fit — God’s will always is.”

New vocations film encourages priests to be ‘Fishers of Men’

WASHINGTON (CNS) — With the mid-March 2006 premiere of “Fishers of Men,” an 18-minute film on DVD that shows many facets of a priest’s daily life, “all the elements are in place” for dioceses to join in a new vocations initiative and recruitment project sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, according to the head of the USCCB Secretariat for Vocations and Priestly Formation.

Father Edward J. Burns, executive director of the secretariat, said the Priestly Life and Vocation Summit: Fishers of Men project is intended to renew priests’ sense of fulfillment in their vocation and to encourage them to draw on that satisfaction to invite other men to pursue the priesthood.

The project was developed by the USCCB Committee on Vocations.

“Through workshops for priests, the goal of this project is to renew and regenerate the priestlyhood in the United States,” Father Burns said.

“‘It is intended to help priests articulate the joy in their vocation that the overwhelming majority of priests feel and to give them confidence that if they extend the invitation to consider the priesthood, they will find that Catholic men today, especially young men, are open to the challenge,’” he added.

Produced by Grassroots Films of Brooklyn Heights, “Fishers of Men” features testimony by several priests on the importance they place on their own vocation and a dramatic re-enactment portraying how a priest can inspire a vocation through his service to someone in need of priestly ministry.

Msgr. David J. Malloy, USCCB general secretary, described the film as “extremely moving” and added, “It reminds us why we became priests. I would love for my nephews to see it.”

The film also is intended to be used by priests in discussions with men considering the priesthood.

“The vocations secretariat sent each of the 195 dioceses in the United States a resource kit for the project in three-ring binder form. It contains sample letters, interview questions, timelines, a model agenda for a daylong summit and a sample PowerPoint presentation.

When the project was first announced in October, Bishop Blake C. McNeil of Exit, S.D., chairman of the vocations committee, said its purpose was “to renew in us priests and bishops an awareness of how treasured the gift of priesthood is” and “to encourage us all... to urge other men to consider the vocation which we have received as a gift.”

In an address to the full body of bishops last November, Bishop William S. Sklystad of Spokane, Wash., USCCB president, said “the challenge of fewest priests is a reminder of how important it is to encourage vocations.”

“Who can more surely invite another man to be a priest than a man who is a priest?” he asked.

“And what priest is a more attractive inviter than one who appreciates his own gift of priesthood?”
Religious brothers and sisters: Meet two

BY TIM JOHNSON

T o provide a perspective on religious life in an order, Today’s Catholic profiles Holy Cross Brother Christopher Dreyer and Sister of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration Sister Jacinta Kreek, to participate the follow-
ing interview. Here are their voca-
tion stories.

Brother Christopher Dreyer

NOTRE DAME — Brother Christopher, a native of Indianapolis, is a graduate of Cathedral High School, Indianapolis, and director of student counsel-
sing services at Holy Cross College, Notre Dame. Brother Christopher has a bachelor’s degree from Indiana University and master’s degrees from Indiana University and Western Michigan University. He is a LCSW (Licensed Clinical Social Worker) from the state of Indiana. He entered the Brothers of Holy Cross Aug. 14, 1974, made his first vows on July 10, 1976, and made his final vows on Sept. 11, 1982.

Today’s Catholic: Why did you choose to become a Brother of Holy Cross?

Brother Christopher: St. Christopher, the Christ-bearer known as the “Patron Saint of Travelers,” was frequently por-
trayed with the “Baby Jesus” perched on his shoulders carrying the infant across a stream. Although St. Christopher has been debunked by some in the Catholic Church because of the lack of evidence that he actually lived, there are some of us who hesitate to deny his existence. Like the saint, I’ve desired to bring Christ to others, and the best “fit” for me to do that is by being a Brother of Holy Cross.

Today’s Catholic: At what point did you feel that you had a voca-
tion to be a religious?

Brother Christopher: This desire began when I attended Cathedral High School in Indianapolis, which was then conducted by the Brothers of Holy Cross. I was attracted to Holy Cross because the brothers influenced me in many ways. Several brothers helped me with various commu-

nity service projects. One offered understanding when I discussed my inner conflicts. Several inspired me to teach. These were compassionate, authentic and spiritual. I fell in love with all that I wanted to be.

Today’s Catholic: Describe your past and your education.

Brother Christopher: As a Brother of Holy Cross for the past 30 years, I was a teacher, pastoral minister and counselor at St. Joseph’s High School for 14 years. As a licensed clinical social worker, I worked at an out-
patient mental health agency, Holy Cross Counseling Group and now at Holy Cross College. Today’s Catholic: How do you utilize your talents and gifts?

Brother Christopher: As a Brother of Holy Cross, I have been actively involved in commu-

nity service projects — especially when they’ve involved children and adolescents, such as repair-

ing plumbing, carpentry and electro-

nic problems in homes of those who cannot afford professional help, constructing a wheel-

chair ramp and playground equipment for the F.J.R.E. Home, a supervised visitation facility for children who have been abused, and remodeling the kitchen and bathrooms of Safe Station, an emergency shelter for teens in crisis. In addition to performing community service, I teach a religious studies course and serve as Academic Dean of Holy Cross College so that others may also serve.

Today’s Catholic: What is a typical day like?

Brother Christopher: In addition to my role as the Academic Dean at Holy Cross College, I counsel students to help them reach their goals while traversing turbulent times. As a licensed clinical social worker, I have been a strong advocate for those who have suffered psychological and mental disabilities that may interfer-

e with their academic aspira-

tions.

Today’s Catholic: Tell us about the community.

Brother Christopher: I live with other Brothers and Holy Cross sisters at Holy Cross Village, an intergenerational com-
munity created to help fulfill our mission to improve the quality of life for members of the community especially seniors. As a mem-

ber of the village, I interact with other religious and lay men and women in a variety of settings — social, pastoral and spiritual.

Today’s Catholic: What are your hobbies? how do you spend your free time?

Brother Christopher: I’ve been landscaping areas around the col-

lage, remodeling some of the interior rooms and constructing a gazebo, outdoor volleyball pit and planters. I like to photograph nature scenes, ski and snowshoe and spend time on the shore of Lake Michigan.

Today’s Catholic: Tell us about your role and others’ roles at Holy Cross College.

Brother Christopher: Part of my role as the director of Student Health and Counseling Services at Holy Cross College is not only to facilitate the necessary accom-
mmodations for students with dis-

abilities, but also to educate others about people with disabilities. In addition to disabilities, many students’ turbulent times occur outside of themselves: single mothers trying to attend to their children, folks struggling with staying “clean and sober” while dealing with the additional stress presented by college, and people attempting to put their lives back together after surviving an abu-

sive relationship. I think Holy Cross College has served students such as these exceptionally well for the past 40 years. As instruc-

tors, administrators and directors we are “educators in the faith”

especially to the poor, afflicted and oppressed.

For information on the Brothers of Holy Cross write: Vocation Director Holy Cross College, P.O. Box 460, Notre Dame, IN 46556.

We Pray for Vocations

We pray for vocations of religious and lay men and women who wish to allow the Lord to direct their life, to be people who renounce all to follow him in a chosen vocation.

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Won’t You Pray With Us?

The Knights of Columbus are in solidarity with Pope Benedict XVI Our bishops, and our priests.

Norman Stoffel - State Deputy Rev. Ron Rieder, OFM - State Chaplain

SISTER JACINTA KREEK, OSF

Sister Jacinta Kreek, OSF

Today’s Catholic: How did you know you had a religious vocation?

Sister Jacinta: It took time to dis-
cern. After a con-

sideration process, the vocation director had my name and address and began writing to me. Her letters arrived at the same time, I was open and searching for more meaning in my life.

Today’s Catholic: What qualities are needed?

Sister Jacinta: The broth-

ers who taught me at Cathedral High School during the 1960s-

70s were compassionate, authen-

tic and respectful of the needs and issues of people who are marginal-
Young Voice

Teacher, former St. Vincent student, takes a look back 50 years

BY WHITNEY WALKER

FORT WAYNE — As we commemorate our 50th anniversary at St. Vincent de Paul School, we think about what St. Vincent’s is now and what it was 50 years ago. Even though the school has gone through many changes over the years, one thing has not changed — the special people who are part of it. These are the people that have made St. Vincent what it is today.

I would like to introduce you to someone who has been at St. Vincent School from the very beginning. That person is Beth Amick. I got the chance to sit down with Mrs. Amick and talk to her about her experiences as a student and as an employee.

Mrs. Amick went to St. Vincent the very year it opened in 1956 as a fourth grader. The first school started with only four grades so her class was the first to graduate from St. Vincent’s in 1960. A fellow classmate of Mrs. Amick’s was Ms. Colette Vance who currently teaches computer classes at the school.

Mrs. Amick remembered an embarrassing moment she encountered as a student. Her mother was cutting her hair before confirmation in fourth grade but they brought their breakfast to school. When she first came to St. Vincent’s, the cafeteria was not yet completed, so they had to fast before Mass from midnight the night before, which is why Mrs. Amick barely had any left on the back of her head.

Another memory from that time was that they had Mass every day. Back then, they had to fast before Mass from midnight the night before, which is why they brought their breakfast to school. “We would go to Mass, come back to school and eat,” Mrs. Amick reminisced. “Then we had lunch. I don’t see how we got anything else done.”

After her college education, Mrs. Amick went on to teach English and French at Carroll High School. She proved to be an extraordinarily caring teacher.

Principal Sandra Guffey’s son Shawn was a junior at Carroll in Mrs. Amick’s class when his father went through surgery and later died. Shawn, once a straight A student, began struggling in school and in life. “Mrs. Amick showed compassion and caring toward Shawn and helped him get through that difficult period of his life,” Mrs. Guffey said.

After retiring from teaching five years ago, Father John Kuzmich offered Mrs. Amick a job as the head of religious education. Mrs. Amick immediately accepted the job.

“She confesses, “One of the reasons I was ready for a change was I was tired of grading the seemingly infinite number of papers a high school English teacher receives every day.” She also admits, though, that one thing she misses about being a teacher is seeing her students every day. She said, “I miss really knowing the students.”

Despite that she is very happy with her job and would not want to change it, Mrs. Amick wants St. Vincent students to know that she really cares for them and wants them to be happy and do well in life. She also wanted to share some advice. She wants students to be true to themselves and not to change themselves just to be popular.

“Be nice to people and stay the course.” She adds, “People who are themselves and strive to be their best in all aspects, end up being happier than the people who change themselves just to be popular and to fit in.”

On a final note, Mrs. Amick believes that St. Vincent’s is a wonderful parish and will keep growing not only with each new parishioner, but in its faith as well.

Whitney Walker is a seventh grade student at St. Vincent School in Fort Wayne.

Religious Education Director Beth Amick returns to St. Vincent de Paul School every day bringing her granddaughter Wynn, who is a first grade student. Attending the school has become a family tradition these past 50 years.

PROVIDED BY ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SCHOOL

THE ART OF POETRY

My Art Day

A POEM BY PAGE DI RENZO

Art is a way to show your feelings.
To think of something I look at the ceiling.
I use pencils, markers and crayons.
My point goes splash when I put it in cans.
One time I drew a picture that looked like a ball;
And it was so good they hung it in the hall.
I also drew a funny talking cat;
She was meowing on a maroon mat.
Drawing is like different times;
There are all different kinds.
There are also different kinds of shapes;
I can draw different capes.
I had to write a poem, that's a kind of art;
But when I sit at my desk and draw, I feel very smart.

My Journey

A POEM BY BRIANNA BACKSTROM

I am in my journey to find Christ, you see.
Would you like to join me?
I hope to find him super soon,
So I look in every room.
I look up and down and all around when
Upon my face there comes a frown.
My eyes get bleary;
They start to worry.
For it's Christ I need to find
In this crazy time.
Now I realize my search is wrong
For it will go on and on.
I'm searching for a person or a man.
When I should be realizing God's plan.
Lord, I will do all the good I can do
To spend my afterlife with you.
So I look in every room.
Would you like to join me?

The Aliens

A POEM BY DEREK GLOUEMDANS

They came from a distant planet,
But they wanted to own earth.
And though we did not know it,
They had watched us since our birth.
They looked like big black bugs,
With their radiating teeth,
Their Long Proboscises, their stubby noses,
Their hair spread out like a wreath.
And though we did not know it,
But they wanted to own earth.

When I was on my way to school one day,
Their hair spread out like a wreath.
Their Long Proboscises, their stubby noses,
Their hair spread out like a wreath.
I was on my way to school one day,
When I heard a peculiar sound.
Before I fully understood,
Their hair spread out like a wreath.

Then boom there went the entire block,
I had flung myself to the ground.
Before I fully understood,
Their hair spread out like a wreath.

I was on my way to school one day,
When I heard a peculiar sound.
Before I fully understood,
Their hair spread out like a wreath.

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CONVENTUAL FRANCISCANS JOIN SEMINARIAN LUNCH

Conventual Franciscan novitiates join Bishop John M. D’Arcy after Mass at Holy Family Parish on Dec. 28. Pictured left to right in front are Friar Nicholas Romeo, Friar Jacob Johnson, Friar David Moore and Friar Francis Mikosz. Second row left to right are Friar Nader Ata, Bishop D’Arcy, and Father Robert Melnick while Father Henry Madigan stands in the back.

Today’s Catholic: How do people react when they see your habit?
Sister Jacinta: I’ve had people in the grocery store thank me for wearing the habit.

Today’s Catholic: Tell us about community.
Sister Jacinta: We have our local community here in Fort Wayne of nine sisters. Five live on campus at University of Saint Francis (USF) and four of us live off campus, nearby. We enjoy doing things together — movies, concerts, walks, bike riding, campus activities etc. Once a month we have an evening of spiritual discussion on a particular topic, and usually once a week some of us gather for faith-sharing based on the upcoming Gospel for Sunday Mass.

Being at USF, our schedule includes variety. When students are here, we eat together in the campus cafeteria for supper, and when it’s closed we take turns cooking. Sometimes we have Mass on campus and other times we go out to various parishes. It takes some planning and discussion to synchronize activities. We share the housework and take turns shopping.

As a province (which includes around 120 sisters in Indiana and Illinois), we come together at least four times a year for Community Days, including the annual jubilee celebration and profession days (when the sisters make their temporary or final vows). We gather at the Mount, our motherhouse in Mishawaka.

Today’s Catholic: What is a typical day like?
Sister Jacinta: Each day includes Mass, Morning and Evening Prayer, which we pray together as a community when possible. It also includes time for eucharistic adoration, personal prayer and spiritual reading. We also have supper and conversation together as a community most days. Other than that, my days are not “typical” because my work schedule is very flexible and takes me to a variety of places.

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Seminarian talks about his vocation, his calling

BY JAKE RUNYON

I was born Aug. 27, 1978, to Terry and Mary Runyon, and in the following 18 years of my life, I was raised by 10 more Runyon children (11 total: five boys, six girls), and as a member of the Tippmann family, I have hundreds of cousins. I lived near Fort Wayne my whole life and was constantly surrounded by my family. This life of faith and family has helped me to be able to follow the voice of God.

The first time that I seriously considered the seminary and priesthood was during the World Youth Day celebrations in Denver. I saw many priests gathered together to welcome John Paul II, and I began to see myself in their place.

However, I would love to be able to say that I always knew I wanted to be a priest, but that is not true. In fact, I went through high school and worked for five years before entering the seminary. During those times I was more interested in money and cable TV than I was in Christ and my call to holiness. I continued to go to Mass on Sundays. But that was the extent of my life as a Christian — I rarely did I participate in the life of the church.

This life of aimless wandering came to a halt when in the summer of 2000. My brother-in-law decided to enter the RCIA program. And since he needed a sponsor, he approached me and asked me to accompany him on his way to baptism. I was extremely reluctant to be his sponsor because I thought it might make some demands on me — for instance we were to meet once a week for classes. I did agree, however, and my life has never been the same.

Over the next year I learned more about my faith, and I learned about God — the one who made me, designed me and was leading me, I began to be a little concerned about God — the one who made me, designed me and was leading me. I began to be a little concerned about a vocation, because for whatever reason I did not feel so much called to the married life, but to celibacy and the priesthood. This was a frightening proposition since it meant leaving so much behind.

At that time I had recently signed a lease on a new car, a lease on a new apartment, and I had a well-paying, exciting job working the paintball industry. For me, priesthood meant leaving behind many things.

But the gnawing question came back: what am I called to do? And for every time that I answered the question saying that I was not going to be a priest, I found that the question quickly returned.

So for Lent in 2001 I decided to go to Mass every day with the following intention: “Lord I have no idea what you want me to do. Please tell me!”

More and more I felt the urge to contact the diocese. So I e-mailed the vocation director, Father Bernie Galic, and I told him “I kinda sorta thought that maybe God might be calling me to consider the seminary...”

This e-mail had to be about the most vague message Father Bernie has ever gotten. In fact, I was hoping that he would send me a pamphlet or a book and I could continue discerning without really doing anything about the prompting of the Lord. Instead, Father Bernie wrote me back and told me that he wanted to learn more about me and he asked me to meet with him for dinner.

By this time the world seemed to be spinning. I did not really know where the Lord was leading me. I had much unrest in my life. I did not think I was supposed to go on the way I had been living. I was hoping to put off any decision for quite some time.

And in the midst of all of this, Father Bernie wants to meet for dinner. I reluctantly agreed and found that after talking with Father Bernie, he thought I was a good candidate and that I should apply to the diocese.

“By this time the world seemed to be spinning, I did not really know where the Lord was leading me.”

I applied to the diocese, passed all my psychological exams and was accepted by Bishop John H. D’Arcy in July of 2001.

Needless to say, it was a very exciting year for me.

And from the time I said “yes” to Father Bernie about filling out the applications, the turmoil in my life started to go away. In fact, I can honestly say that I have not had a bad day since I have entered the seminary. The peace that comes with knowing that I am where God wants me is indescribable, and it is my prayer that each of you finds this peace in your own life.

It is amazing to see the Lord working in my life as I continue down the road of my vocation. This road has taken me to Boston, Winona, Minn., and Columbus, Ohio. I have no idea what lies ahead on this road. Truthfully, this uncertainty is a great blessing, I find that God has made me free to follow him wherever he leads me, which is exactly where I want to go.

Jake Runyon is a second year theology student at Pontifical College Josephinum.

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COLUMBUS, Ohio — Theologians were installed into the positions of lector and acolyte at the Pontifical College Josephinum by the Most Reverend Thomas J. Olmsted from the Diocese of Phoenix on Nov. 19, 2006. The Mass and installation were held in St. Turibius Chapel in the company of visiting priests, families of the candidates, as well as benefactors and friends of the Josephinum.

Once termed minor orders, the positions of lector and acolyte are conferred to first and second year theologians prior to their diaconate and priestly ordinations.

Once installed as lectors, the first year theology students are commissioned to read the Word of God in liturgical assembly and to assist in preparing laymen and women to receive the sacraments. During the ceremony, the candidates knelt before Bishop Olmsted, who held the Lectionary out for them to touch, and said, “Take this book of holy Scripture, and be faithful in handing on the word of God so that it may grow strong in the hearts of his people.”

The candidates for acolytes are second year theologians are entrusted with the duty of attending to the altar and to assist the deacon and priest in Mass as well as distribute Holy Communion as a special minister. They may also instruct any laity appointed to adoration and have the authority to instruct any laity appointed to assist in Mass.

The candidates approached the bishop and knelt before him as he held a paten with bread in it and said, “Take this vessel with bread for the celebration of the Eucharist. Make your life worthy of your service at the table of the Lord and of his church.”

Seminarians from 12 dioceses received ministries during the liturgy.

Theologians were installed into the positions of lector and acolyte at the Pontifical College Josephinum by the Most Reverend Thomas J. Olmsted from the Diocese of Phoenix, center front, on Nov. 19, 2006. Installed as acolytes were, from left, Jacob D. Runyon, Gabriel Hernandez, (the bishop) and Fernando M. Jimenez. Andrew J. Budzinski was installed as a lector.

At the far right is Msgr. Paul J. Langsfeld, rector and president of Pontifical College Josephinum.

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ST. PATRICK CHURCH INVITES FATHER STEINACKER TO SPEAK

Father Cyril Fernandes, left, of St. Patrick Parish, Arcola, had invited recently-ordained Father Tony Steinacker, center, to speak Dec. 3 to the parish youth about his vocation. Father Steinacker offered the Mass for Father Eugene Koers, who passed away one year ago. Father Steinacker spoke of his vocation and how his uncle, Father Adam Schmitt, right, who also celebrated the Mass, as well as Father Koers, helped and encouraged him to follow his vocation. Father Koers had been a pastor at St. Patrick prior to retiring and is missed by many.

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-Pope John Paul II

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Families have a special role in fostering vocations

The Second Vatican Council reminded the entire church that, “the duty of fostering vocations pertains to the whole Christian community. It is exercised above all by a faithfully Christian family. The principal contributors to this are the families which, animated by the spirit of faith and love and by the sense of duty, become a kind of initial seminary, and the parishes in whose rich life the young people take part.” Thus, it is clear that families have a special role to play in the fostering of vocations.

Two extremes must be avoided in the family regarding vocations. On the one hand, families should never demonstrate a laxity toward religious vocations, and parents must be vigilant in voicing their disapproval of religious vocation to their children. Their wisdom will tell them that the fostering of religious vocations as something unimportant, their then children will will. Even more disturbing would be the Catholic parents who discourage their children from considering a religious vocation. In this kind of family environment, it would be difficult, if not impossible, for a child to hear the voice of God who may be calling them to religious life.

The other extreme to be avoided is a forcing into religious life from the family. Although this is no longer common in our day and age, it is worth mentioning. Jesus invites one to follow him in religious life. He never forces, and, so too, our families should foster an atmosphere of invitation, of listening for the voice of the Lord. This is the call to vocation.

One of the most important things that a family can do in order to foster vocations is to pray together regularly. This prayer time should not be limited simply to meal time, but rather the family, even in the midst of busy schedules, must find time to pray in an extended way.

An old, but most worthy suggestion, is that families pray the rosary together every day. By praying and meditating on God’s love in an extended way, God infuses new life and love into the family daily. This helps to heal hurts and fosters forgiveness. It also allows God to teach children about prayer through the family and give their hearts to hear his voice.

As someone once said about the current situation in the church, “We do not have a vocations problem. We have a listening problem.”

God still calls young men and women to serve his church, but in today’s noisy society it is difficult for many to hear him speak. In the family that prays together, children learn to listen to the voice of God.

Refresher course: adult stem cells vs. embryonic stem cells

First, let’s do some clarification. It is important to know the difference between adult stem cells and embryonic stem cells.

The Catholic Church is not against all stem-cell research. Utilizing adult stem cells — that is the stem cells found in bone marrow or umbilical-cord blood — has proven successful in treating dozens of human illnesses, and, according to a statement released by the Missouri bishops before the 2006 election, “shows promise even for conditions such as spinal cord damage, cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis and Parkinson’s disease. These cells can be obtained without any harm to the donor and without any violation of the moral law.

The church’s objection is with embryonic stem-cell research, which poses ethical and moral objections. When cells are taken from the embryo, its life is destroyed. To date, no cures of illnesses can be obtained with nothing wrong. We had come, 16 months after the initial devastation of Hurricane Katrina, to visit a city that was wounded — wounded and still in need of the healing our little church mission group, or anyone, could bring.

A friend had invited me on the trip, which was sponsored by St. John’s University in New York and the Catholic Church in Fort Wayne — our lodgings, likewise, were at Aurora United Methodist Church in Orleans’ Algiers district — but the presence of Pentecostals, one other Roman Catholic than myself and others of other faiths, added an ecumenical flair that highlighted the nature of church not as an exclusive club where one goes to get saved but as a saving force that works among all the people.

On the second day, I switched to the other crew, whose job was to gut a house that had gone largely untouched since Katrina. On the trip out to the site, I saw what had been a foreboding bridge of Interstate 10 now reduced to a sea of black, mangled trunks and occasional branches, a desolate vision stretching out for miles beneath a hazy gray sky.

The second neighborhood bore much clearer signs of devastation, such as the muddy water level running along houses and garages at about eye level. The street from our site had a hole punched out of its roof, which, someone explained, was how the owner had escaped during the flooding.

By the time I reached the second site, the city was measured in fragments out to the mountain of debris on the curb. Up to this point, I thought I had seen devastation, but this assessment, if not wrong, turned out to be incomplete on our last day in the city, when we traveled into the Lower Ninth Ward, an area at the foot of the Mississippi River levee where the poorest of the poor in New Orleans had lived and where houses had floated off their foundations and smashed into each other as — I was told — 20 feet of flood water engulfed the area.

In the family that prays together, children learn to listen to the voice of God.

How strange that I would have to travel 900 miles to climb onto a roof, something I could have done in Fort Wayne, but just never got around to doing. My inexperience, along with a touch of acrophobia, limited usefulness to only certain tasks such as scraping off shingles and tar paper with a shovel and gathering the scraped-off debris on the ground — I pulled what must have been close to 20 nails out of the soles of my work boots as a result of the last task.

Once a section of the old roof had been scraped away, the more skilled members of our crew would replace boards that had been water damaged. Fortunately for us, it was not until this point that we saw and could condition the boards that had been beneath our feet, as we probably would not have plodded through the rooftop so boldly otherwise.

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Again, I was shocked to hear the veterans of earlier trips talk about how much better this wasteland of a place looked. Many of the properties had been cleared, and the houses that remained were far from inhabitable. On a torn-off roof, the word “HELP” screamed out at us in neon paint. At the edge of the neighborhood, along what used to be the first row of houses facing up toward the levee, there was only a line of freestanding front porches with no houses attached, which immediately conjured up a picture of people trying to stay off their foundation in the first rush of water from the collapsing levee.

In the family that prays together, children learn to listen to the voice of God.

Iota of Killeedy

died c. 570

feast — January 15

Originally named Deirdre, she earned the name Iota, which means "thirst for loneliness." Her story is told in connection with that of St. Brigid, another great Irish abbess. For many years Iota headed a community of dedicated women at Killeedy in County Limerick.

She ran a school for small boys and girls with a "sweet faith in God with purity of heart; simplicity of life with religion; generosity with love."

St. Brendan the Voyager reported her as her student. St. Iota’s legend stresses physical austerity and includes some rather fantastic miracles.

Ambassadors have diverse backgrounds

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — At first glance, the ambassadors accredited to the Vatican seem to be a group of elegant, older men gracefully ending their diplomatic careers in a posting filled with pomp and circumstance.

The suits with tails, the swords, the plumed hats, sashes and medals highlight the formality of public occasions and the long tradition of sending envoys to the Vatican, said Giovanni Galassi, dean of the Vatican diplomatic corps and San Marino's ambassador to the Holy See.

“But we also must have something real to say; we must serve the world in some genuine way,” Galassi said Jan. 3, the 20th anniversary of the day he presented his credentials to ambassador to Pope John Paul II.

Galassi was not thinking about his anniversary — “Frankly, I forgot” — but was busy writing the speeches he was to give Jan. 8 on behalf of the diplomatic corps to Pope Benedict XVI and to the Vatican is unique, he said.

“We are not called by our governments to work on economic agreements or commercial treaties, but to share our concerns for the human person,” he said.

THE VATICAN LETTER

CINDY WOODEN

European country or European-based U.N. agency.

Still, that leaves more than 100 ambassadors in Rome full time, and Galassi said they do not receive invitations to each other's receptions, although there are plenty of those as well.

“Many of the ambassadors host debates and cultural and artistic events to present the richness of their countries,” he said. “Also, groups of ambassadors meet regularly for philosophical and religious discussions with the help of a few monsignors. These are an enrichment for each one of us.”

Diplomatic service at the Vatican is unique, he said.

“The early January date for the pope’s speech to the diplomatic corps and the formal dinner for the Pope Benedict XVI and to the Vatican seem to be a group of international friends,” he said.

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jn 2:11

When this third section of Isaiah was written, the Hebrew people had just been rescued from a terrible period in their history. Their homeland, divided into two kingdoms after the death of King Solomon, had been overrun by the mighty Babylonian Empire, centered in today’s Iraq.

Many were killed, in the conquest. Others were taken to Babylon, the imperial capital. There these exiles, and then their descendants, languished for four generations until political fortunes changed. The more powerful Persians conquered Babylon itself.

As a result, the exiles were allowed to return to their homeland. The prophets did not see the sequence of events leading to this happy release as merely coincidental or the result of human political maneuvers. Rather God provided for it. God has promised to protect the people. The people then heed the arrangement by sinning.

Despite their sinfulness, however, God was constant. He provided. For his reality this weekend the church presents a passage from St. Paul’s First Epistle to the Corinthians.

So, this reading reveals the power and mission of Jesus, as well as the perfect response to the Lord, namely that of Mary.

Reflection

The church has celebrated the feast of the Nativity at Christmas. The Lord has been born. The Son of God has become flesh. Last weekend, in observing the feast of the Epiphany, the church joyfully proclaimed to us that the Lord came to show all of us the unlimited love of God for us.

This weekend, in the words of Isaiah, the church tells us that earthly life would be beautiful if we could only live as the Lord had intended.

How do we love God? The story of Cana tells us. Jesus teaches us that no human situation should distract us from the fact that being with God is our destiny and therefore our priority.

Many instruct us that we can go to Jesus with any worry. But, she tells us, as she told the servers, that we must follow the Lord and trust the Lord.

READING

Sunday 5b 6:21-5 Ps 96:1-3,7-10 1 Cor 12:1-11 Jn 2:1-11

MONDAY: Heb 5:1-10 Ps 110:1-4 Mk 2:18-22

Tuesday: Heb 6:10-20 Ps 111:1-2,4-5, 9,10c Mk 2:23-28


Thursday: Heb 7:25-8:6 Ps 40:7-10, 17 MK 3:7-12

Friday: Heb 6:8-13 Ps 85,8,10-14 Mk 3:13-19

Saturday: Heb 9:23, 11-14 Ps 472:3, 6-9 Mk 3:20-21

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Driving out demons was part of healing work of Jesus

George Weigel

Those less inclined to authentic instrument recordings can find most of the Mozart Wind Concerto on a two-disc Deutsche CD entitled “Mozart Wind Concertos.”

Sacred music. Whatever biographers say about Mozart’s connections to Freemasonry, I defy anyone to listen to his motet, “Ave, Verum,” and draw any conclusion other than that he was a sincere (if sometimes confused) Catholic believer. Try the “Ave, Verum” on the Philips CD, “Exsultate Jubilate,” with Sir Colin Davis, the London Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, and Kiri Te Kanawa, which also gets you the “Vesperae Solennes de Confessore” and the “Kyrie in D-Minor.” As for the many Mozart Masses, the “Coronation Mass” is probably the best start for the neophyte, before tackling the much-admired “Great Mass” and “Requiem.”

It’s often said that the angels play a host of sacred music and Mozart for the sheer joy of it. I couldn’t agree more. One more thing, if I may. Query to Richard Dawkins: “The God Delusion.” Dawkins said you do really think Mozart is the accidental, if fortuitous, product of natural selection? I defy anyone to listen to his motet, “Ave, Verum,” and draw any conclusion other than that he was a sincere (if sometimes confused) Catholic believer. Try the “Ave, Verum” on the Philips CD, “Exsultate Jubilate,” with Sir Colin Davis, the London Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, and Kiri Te Kanawa, which also gets you the “Vesperae Solennes de Confessore” and the “Kyrie in D-Minor.” As for the many Mozart Masses, the “Coronation Mass” is probably the best start for the neophyte, before tackling the much-admired “Great Mass” and “Requiem.”

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“We went 2-2 in the preseason tournament hosted by Queen of Angels. Since then we’ve been working on playing a complete game. We can go three strong quarters or play a great half, but can’t always come up with a win,” said assistant coach Dave Luegring.

This year’s roster lists 13 seventh and eighth graders for St. Therese. Mike Palmer is the head coach and his three sons also help out. “We have great eighth grade leadership from Gabe Menilioza, Dustin Luegring, Sean Driscoll, Caleb Shutt, Ramiro Delira and Michael Diss,” reports Luegring.

When asked about the team’s strengths this season, Luegring said, “We are big inside and really play hard.” St. Therese will be off this weekend and faces Most Precious Blood on Jan. 20. St. Aloysius’ Eric Sorg led all scoring with 15 points.

In the second game, St. Louis-St. Rose could not adjust to a Ram’s second half press after taking a 20-13 halftime lead. Huntington Catholic beat the Twins 46-27. Collett and Landon had 12 points each.

Finally, the Reds from Most Precious Blood had too much to handle with Shannon Curry and the Phoenix from Benson Academy. Curry had 29 points in the victory and Benoit remains undefeated.

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Phone 574-282-1082 • FAX 574-282-1083
e-mail: john.stackowicz@kofc.org

Saint Paul Catholic School
Faith in Education

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

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BY ELMER J. DANCH

SOUTH BEND — Corpus Christi’s basketball Cougars leaped into the undisputed possession of first place in the John Bosco West division, and St. Joseph of Mishawaka duplicated the feat in the Martin De Porres East as the 2007 portion of the Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL) was off to a flying start Jan. 7.

Both teams are the only unbeaten squads in the ICCL and are sending signals that they are going to be tough to reckon with this season.

Matching the two teams in performance were two individuals who topped the individual statistics. Greg Weaver of St. St. Joseph of South Bend rolled in 22 points to lead this team to a 58-38 victory over Holy Cross. Tim Wilson of St. Joseph of Mishawaka popped in 21 points as the team beat St. John the Baptist, 54-24.

Corpus Christi had to battle all the way to edge St. Thomas of Elkhart, 38-30, in a tight defensive struggle. Matt Mackowiak tossed in 14 points for the victors and Jordan Grise collected 12 for the Spartans.

In other games, in the John Bosco West, Christ the King beat St. Anthony, 52-39, behind the 12 points of Max Matthew and A.J. Fitzpatrick looped in 11. Robert Mischler had 13 points for St. Anthony.

Holy Family downed St. Matthew, 30-21, in another rigid defensive tussle. Colin Skodinski had 13 for the winners. Hank Blum had 10 for St. Matthew.

In the Martin De Porres East, division leader St. Jude swamped St. Bavo of Mishawaka, 47-11, behind the 10-point scores each of Chase Parker and Michael Hoffman.

St. Michael of Plymouth dropped a 33-19 decision to St. Pius of Granger. Vinnie Rulli tallied 12 points for St. Pius. St. Monica of Mishawaka nipped St. Adalbert, 35-32, behind the tips of Derrick Henry who cashed in the winning points in the waning minutes.

In the Colors Division, St. Thomas White edged St. Thomas Gold, 29-28, in overtime despite the valiant 16-point scoring sprees of Parker Deremeny for the gold team.


Standings through Jan. 7

| Team                  | Record | Winter | Winter
|-----------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| John Bosco East       | 3-1    | St. Anthony | 3-1
| John Bosco South      | 3-1    | St. Joseph | 3-1
| John Bosco West       | 3-1    | St. Matthew | 1-3
| St. Joseph           | 0-4    | St. Thomas | 0-4
| Martin De Porres East | 3-1    | St. Jude | 3-1
| Martin De Porres West | 2-2    | St. John | 2-2
|                      | 2-2    | St. Michael | 2-2
|                      | 0-4    | St. Adalbert | 0-4

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Phone 574-282-1082 • FAX 574-282-1083
e-mail: john.stackowicz@kofc.org

Parish Ministry Position
CENTER DIRECTOR

Evansville, Indiana

This position requires a bi-lingual individual with education and experience in parish ministry, grant writing, fundraising, and administration who will effectively develop the new Juan Diego Latino Center in partnership with HOLA and service groups. Send resume to:

Nancy Oskins, Parish Manager
NATIVITY CATHOLIC CHURCH
3635 Pollack Avenue
Evansville, Indiana 47714 (812) 476-7186

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 11276 HOSTS FREE THROW CONTEST
A free throw contest, for boys and girls ages 10-14 will be held on Jan. 20 at St. Joseph Church on Brooklyn Ave. in Fort Wayne. Signup starts at 10 a.m. and participants must have birth certificate for proof of age. Questions may be addressed to Robbie McCarty (260) 436-9342. The event is sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 11276.

Catholic Elementary and Middle School Principal
Saint Paul Catholic School, Valparaiso, Indiana

Saint Paul Catholic School seeks a Principal for grades kindergarten through eighth in a growing city in Porter County, Indiana. Founded in 1867, Saint Paul Catholic School moved in August, 2006 to the parish’s new education center with 14 state-of-the-art classrooms, computer lab, science lab, art room, library, competition-size gym, and cafeteria. Current enrollment is 350 students.

Successful experience in Catholic school administration; visionary and collaborative leadership; strong communication skills; and technology experience are essential. The successful candidate will be expected to work well with the staff, support the leadership of the pastor, and collaborate with the school board. An Indiana Administration License is preferred. The Principal will be an active and practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church and involved in our community. Salary and benefits are commensurate with education and experience.

Interested and qualified candidates are asked to submit a letter of interest addressing the requirements/skills listed above, resume, and names, addresses, and telephone numbers of five references to Tim Pryzybski, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools, Diocese of Gary, 5292 Broadway, Merrillville, IN 46410. Resumes must be postmarked no later than February 13, 2007. Review of applications will be completed by February 22, 2007, with interviews beginning in March.
Exploring the evangelical world

Book recounts one Catholic's yearlong journey

**REVIEWED BY YORK YOUNG**

Catholics and evangelical Protestants have found themselves in a new position over the last 10 years or so. Once upon a time, the two groups were clearly not cordial to one another. But the cultural landscape has changed such that the two groups more and more find themselves taking similar positions on some political issues such as abortion and gay marriage. And they are two groups in which it is still not verboten to be criticized, nay, condemned and disparaged — in the secular media. In a bit of unidentified irony, tolerance only goes so far when the mainstream media is discussing religious folks.

Bengt cass in this has put Catholics and evangelicals in the same room more often now. The high profile moment in this coalition is still the Document “Evangelicals and Catholics Together,” written and signed by heads of both camps in the early 1990s, the most visible of which were Father Richard John Neuhaus, founder of the religious journal First Things, and Charles Colson, a high profile moment in this coalition.

As a travelogue, the book has some interesting insights about different people across the country. As an essay on where the two fathers may be searching for even more than a common language, it actually does.

Father Jan Michael Joncas will offer presentations on the revised Order of Mass approved by the United States Council of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in June of 2006. Father Joncas is known for his music that has touched thousands of Catholics such as “On Eagles Wings” and “Take and Eat.” He is an associate professor of theology at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn., and he also teaches at the University of Notre Dame. This is an opportunity for clergy, liturgists, musicians, pastoral ministers and anyone involved in parish ministry to learn about the new changes coming.

**Liturgy Day 2007**

**The diocesan Office of Worship will host Father Jan Michael Joncas who will speak about the new forms of celebration of the Mass at the Feb. 3 Liturgy Day. The event will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 225 Gilliam Dr., Warsaw.**

Father Jan Michael Joncas will offer presentations on the revised Order of Mass approved by the USCCB.

**Registration Form for Liturgy Day 2007**

Name______________________

Address______________________

City, State & Zip______________________

Phone______________________

Cost: $25.00. All registrations must be paid in advance.

No money will be accepted at the door.

**Registration Deadline is January 24, 2007**

All Registrations and payments must be received by the Office of Worship by that date.

See ad below for registration or for more information, visit www.diocesefwsb.org/WORSHIP.
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What’s Happening?

What’s Happening carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. Send in your announcement at least two weeks prior to the event. Mail to: Today’s Catholic, P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne 46856; or e-mail: fhogan@fw.diocesefwsb.org. Events that require an admission charge or payment to participate will receive one free listing. For additional listings of that event, please call our advertising sales staff at (260) 456-2824 to purchase space.

Misc. Happenings

Award nomination deadline extended
Fort Wayne — The “Father Tom O’Connor Light of Christ Award” deadline for nominations is extended to noon on Friday, Jan. 19. The committee is seeking persons of faith, high-school age or older, whose activities serve as an example to youth in the area of peace and justice. Application guidelines are available online at www.diocese-fwsb.org and from the St. Mary Church office, (260) 424-8231.

Annual right to life march, program
South Bend — The annual Right to Life March and Respect Life Program will be held on Sunday, Jan. 14. The march starts at Knights of Columbus Council #553, located at 553 E. Washington, at 2 p.m. and proceeds to St. Joseph Church for a brief prayer service and then returns to Council #553 for the respect life program, which starts at 3 p.m. Associate professor Carter Sneed, faculty member at the University of Notre Dame, will speak on stem-cell research. The University of Notre Dame, 202 E. Main St., South Bend, will have a Polish style dinner on Saturday, Jan. 20, from 6 to 11 p.m. at the parish hall located at Auburn and Wallen roads. Texas hold em, black jack, dice, big wheel and more. Admission ticket of $15 pre-sale or $20 at the door includes food by Casa and refreshments will be available. Must be 21. For tickets or information contact Todd Martin at toddm@cse-nh.com.

Winter fantasy guard show
Fort Wayne — Bishop Dwenger High School will host Winter Fantasy, a color guard show on Saturday, Jan. 27, beginning at 11 a.m. and runs all day. The event is free.

Polish style dinner buffet planned
South Bend — The St. Hedwig Rosary and Holy Name Societies will have a Polish style dinner on Sunday, Jan. 28, from noon to 2 p.m. at the Hedwig Memorial Center. Tickets are $10 per person. Children 12 and under free. Cash bar. For tickets call Gene at (574) 232-6546 or Sal at (574) 287-4821 by Jan. 22.

Bereavement education series planned
Fort Wayne — Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home will offer a series of free presentations of interest to bereaved people from 9 to 11 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 300 W. Wayne St. on Feb. 4, 11, Feb. 18. Kay Cozad will speak on “Learning to Live after the death of a spouse,” March 24, Dar Richardson will speak on “Understanding your Grief.” April 21, Ken Prather will speak on “Memories that Heal.” And on May 26, Bonnie Knuth and Lili Carroll will speak on “When Mourning Dawns.” For information contact Lili Carroll at (260) 435-3222.

St. Matthew travel club takes trip
Fort Wayne — The St. Matthew travel club will attend BODYWORKS at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago. The tour begins at 7 p.m. in the St. Elizabeth parish hall. Bring a finger snack at 6 p.m. Admission to museum, admission to BODYWORKS exhibit, admissions to lunch and a box lunch. Adults $60, seniors $55 and children $50. Please call Sister Agnes Marie to register at (574) 259-5427. Registration and payment due by Jan. 14.

Opportunity for married couples
South Bend — A Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend for couples will be held Feb. 9-11 at the Signature Inn just north of Notre Dame. Contact Mike and Julia Roskowski at (574) 243-0743 for information. Register online at www.wmme-ni.org.

Knights plan dinner theatre
Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus will have a dinner theatre production titled “Dead In The Water” Saturday, Jan. 20. Cash bar opens at 6 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. and show time is 8 p.m. Tickets are $40 per couple. For more information call (260) 491-1914.

Drive-through carry-out fish dinner
Fort Wayne — The St. Joseph Hessen Cassel Knights of Columbus will have a drive-through carry-out fish dinner on Friday, Jan. 19, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Dinners will be $6.50. For information call (260) 639-3352.

REST IN PEACE

Auburn
Elise G. DeFonionick, 72, Immaculate Conception
Bristol
Jack T. Howard, St. Mary/Annunciation
Elkhart
Bianca M. Curr, St. Vincent de Paul
Espinoza Lopez, Infant, St. Vincent de Paul
Fort Wayne
Vincenzo Annanni, 75, St. Charles Borromeo
Kathleen A. Showen, 52, Sacred Heart
Joan M. Campbell, 75, St. Charles Borromeo
Phyllis J. Heidenreich, 73, St. Henry
Violet M. Nicoll, Kingsley, 88, Our Lady of Good Hope
Julia Roskowski at (574) 243-0743 for information. Register online at www.wmme-ni.org.

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Singles investigate latest craze
Blahs and join the “GAP”, a social life group. Call (260) 744-2114.

To Today’s Catholic...
Vigil for Life

Sunday, January 21, 2007

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne
The Most Reverend John M. D’Arcy, Main Celebrant
Mass at 5:00 p.m. • Benediction - 7:00 p.m.

Cathedral of St. Matthew, South Bend
The Reverend Michael Heintz, Main Celebrant
Mass at 5:30 p.m. • Benediction - 7:30 p.m.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
(immediately following Mass)

The Mass will mark the 34th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision of Roe v. Wade which legalized abortion in our country. Please come and pray for a renewed respect for human life in our nation.

Sponsored by the Office of Family Life