

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Diocese and parishes place emphasis on vocations during jubilee year

BY ANN CAREY

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.

See more on vocation initiatives.

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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 on vocations and the Called by Name program, urg-

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MICHELLE DONAGHEY

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, Zackary Barry, Bishop John M. D'Arcy, Tink Coonan, Kevin Bauman and Vocation Director Father Bernie Galic; and second row, Andy Budzinski, Matt Coonan, Matthew Soberalski, Jacob Runyon, Jason Freiburger, Jacob Meyer, Paul Mankowski, Ben Muhlenkamp, Cristian Reyes and Bob Lengerich. Not pictured are Gabriel Hernandez and Fernando Jimenez.

HARD WORK IN BIG EASY



CARINA BRUDI

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 commit ourselves and our dioceses to welcom-

ing 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.

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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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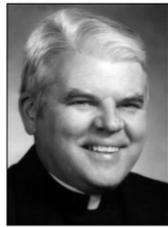
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The field is ripe for the harvest of religious vocations



NEWS & NOTES

BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

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 this 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 spiritually. Our Catholic Charities has played a strong role in reaching out to them.



Bishop John M. D'Arcy after his first Mass as a priest with his mother and father in 1957.

This diocese has always welcomed the immigrant. In reading the manuscript of the history of our diocese which is being written for the jubilee, one sees this everywhere. Indeed, my own parents were immigrants. I recall their speaking of the prejudice that they experienced, although I think it was less painful than what our new immigrants have undergone. I also recall their joy, reflected on and spoken about down the years, when they became citizens of this great country. After a trip to her homeland, my mother often recalled with joy the words she heard as the ship landed in New York Harbor. "American citizens first." Always faithful to their culture and the nation of their birth, this was the great land of opportunity, and they never forgot it. Nor have we, their children, ever forgotten it.

The jubilee edition

Last week's edition of our wonderful newspaper was sent to every home in the diocese. We hope it will bring an increase in subscriptions. I also hope our regular subscribers will talk it up with their friends and relatives. Why not give a gift to a member of your family or a friend?

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 those 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 filling in 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 WOODEN

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

God, can shine through them in all its brightness," he said.

Pope Benedict asked for special prayers for vocations to the priesthood, a ministry

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

POPE BENEDICT XVI

that is essential for the celebration of the sacraments and, therefore, for the ongoing

life of the church.

"It is not surprising that where people pray with fervor vocations flourish," he said.

LETTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

An immigrant church

The Catholic Church, especially in the United States, is an immigrant church, a pilgrim people on a journey of faith, hope and love, 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 gathers all of the dispersed children of God into one family of faith (Jn 11:52).

Unity in diversity is our vision. Looking at the history of Catholicism in our country, we call attention to the waves of immigration that shaped the character of our nation and of our local churches. We also note that the immigrant experience, 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 educational backgrounds. Many left their homelands because of fear of persecution. They are seeking a new life filled with hope, prosperity and the ability to live, work and raise their families.

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

As a Catholic community we vigorously support our nation's right and responsibility to provide secure borders for the protection of our people and to guard against those who would do us harm. At the same time, we reject positions or policies that are anti-immigrant, nativist, ethnocentric or racist. Such narrow and destructive views are profoundly anti-Catholic and anti-American. They oppose the principles of human dignity and freedom that are the foundation for our American way of life — a way of life that has historically been extended to all who have come to our shores seeking life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness in a just and prosperous society. Such divisive and exclusionary attitudes are also profoundly anti-Catholic because they deny the dignity of human persons who are made in God's image. They also contradict the essential unity and catholicity to which we are called as members of the one family of God.

Welcoming the stranger among us: a call to conversion, communion and solidarity

Every member of the Catholic community in the state of Indiana regardless of his or her place of origin, ethnic or cultural heritage, economic or social position, or legal status should be welcomed as Christ himself and should be encouraged to feel a genuine sense of membership and belonging in

our parish communities and dioceses. The new immigrants remind us of our ancestral heritage as children of immigrants and of our baptismal heritage as members of the body of Christ.

On Jan. 22, 1999, in Mexico City, Pope John Paul II stood beneath the figure of Our Lady of Guadalupe and proclaimed a message of hope to all the peoples and nations of the Americas. In his apostolic letter, "Ecclesia in America" ("The Church in America"), the late Holy Father spoke of the diverse gifts and talents of our people, the natural beauty and vast resources of our land, and the many distinctive cultures and traditions that have contributed to the way life is lived in the great metropolitan centers, small towns and rural villages in which we live. As members of one family, Pope John Paul reminded us, we are called to conversion, communion and solidarity as brothers and sisters in Christ.

We believe that preaching and living the Gospel will lead the peoples and nations of the Americas "to a daily vision of the risen Lord, present and active in the world, especially in the poor, in the stranger, and in the migrant and refugee" — "Ecclesia in America," Apostolic Exhortation, John Paul II, Jan. 1999.

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 no differently than the natives born among you; have the same love for him as for yourself; for you too were once aliens in the land of Egypt. I, the Lord, am your God" (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 Nazareth, fleeing into Egypt, is the archetype of every refugee family. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, living in exile in Egypt to escape the fury of an evil king, are, for all times and all places, the models and protectors of every migrant, alien and refugee of whatever kind who, whether compelled by fear of persecution or by want, is forced to leave his native land, his beloved parents and relatives, his close friends, and to seek a foreign soil" — "Exsul Familia Nazarethana," Apostolic Exhortation, Pius XII, August 1952.

Immigration has been a constant feature of America's history. In accord with the teachings of sacred Scripture and consistent with Catholic tradition immigrants should be met with a welcoming attitude. We affirm with Pope John Paul II that "the church in America must be a vigilant advocate, defending against any unjust restriction of the natural right of individual persons to move freely within their own nation and from one nation to another. Attention must be called to the rights of migrants and their families and to respect for their human dignity, even in cases of non legal immigration" — "Ecclesia in America," Apostolic Exhortation, John Paul II, Jan 1999.

We call to mind the complemen-

tary teachings of the church: the right of a sovereign state to control its borders in furtherance of the common good; the right of human persons to migrate so that they can realize their God-given rights. Therefore, the state may impose reasonable limits on immigration. But the common good is not served when the basic human rights of the individual are violated.

Principles guiding reform

The principles drawn from these teachings guide us in the search for solutions to immigration issues:

- Persons have the right to find opportunities in their homeland.
 - Persons have the right to migrate to support themselves and their families.
 - Sovereign nations have the right to control their borders.
 - Refugees and asylum seekers should be afforded protection.
 - The human dignity and human rights of undocumented immigrants should be respected.
- Pope John Paul II has said: "... it is very important that public opinion be properly informed about the true situation in the migrants' country of origin, about the tragedies involving them and the possible risks of returning. The poverty and misfortune with which immigrants are stricken are yet another reason for coming generously to their aid." — "Undocumented Migrants, Message of Pope John Paul II for World Migration Day," 1996.

As Catholic bishops, we wholeheartedly support efforts to further develop our nation's laws concerning the migration of people to 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 borders or to adequately provide for our nation's security. Change is urgently needed. We Catholic Bishops of Indiana remain committed to working at the local, state and national levels.

We pledge our support for the clergy, religious and lay leaders 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 for all who come to us in need of Christ's love.

We rejoice in the cultural pluralism that is our own Catholic heritage. We commit ourselves to conversion, communion and solidarity as we welcome our new neighbors and work to ensure that they enjoy the economic, religious, social and political opportunities that belong to them as free people made in the image and likeness of God.

Public policy in the United States

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

The need for reform of our immigration system is evident. It

Solemn Proclamation for the opening of the Jubilee Year

As bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, while observing also my 50th year as a priest, I hereby solemnly proclaim the opening of our Jubilee Year.

I ask Christ our Savior, and the prayers of all, that it may be a year of holiness; a year of prayer and thanksgiving; a year of reconciliation and evangelization; and a year seeking to draw back to the heart of the church those who, for whatever reason, have gone astray.

I call the whole diocese to assemble at the University of Notre Dame on Aug. 18 of this year for a diocesan Eucharistic Congress. This will be marked by catecheses and instructions; by the periodic recitation of the rosary at the Grotto of Our Lady; by the celebration of the holy Eucharist for the whole diocese; and by periods of prayer and eucharistic adoration.

I also urge all to observe the Jubilee Cross, which, for two years now, has traveled across the diocese, from parish to parish, reminding us of the words of Christ, "If I be lifted up I will draw all to myself."

I declare that the logo featuring Mary contemplating the face of the Savior on the cross, taken from St. Patrick Church in Fort Wayne, a symbol of all the beautiful art in our diocese, be prominently displayed as central to our time of prayer.

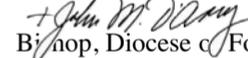
I ask everyone to pray that more young men will open their hearts to the priestly vocation, and young men and women become open to the call of the consecrated life.

I entreat the Most Holy Trinity to bring blessings upon our diocese through this year, blessings that will last far beyond these 12 months.

I ask that on Dec. 8, 2007, the feast of the Immaculate Conception, our whole diocese, every parish and institution and every holy place be consecrated to Mary, Mother and Virgin, under the title of the Immaculate Conception, the patronal feast of our diocese.

I give thanks to God to be the pastor of this diocese in this blessed moment, and I ask everyone to pray that I and all our priests will be good shepherds for our people, and that the faith will grow ever stronger in this holy place.

Most Reverend John M. D'Arcy



Bishop, Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

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;
- changes to the family-based immigration system to reduce waiting times for family reunification; and restoration of due process for immigrants.

Immigrants in this country without proper documentation should be provided opportunities to obtain legalization if they demonstrate good moral character. Earned legalization should be achievable and independently verifiable.

Many migrants come to the United States to fill jobs. The U.S. experience with temporary workers' programs has been fraught with abuses. There should be a more rational and humane system by which laborers from other countries can enter the country legally — including temporary work permits — to fill jobs in the labor force.

We are compelled to raise a troubling issue. Currently, U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents must endure many years of separation from close family members whom they want to join them in the United States. The backlog of available visas for family members results in 10, 15 or more years of waiting before a visa becomes available. There should be a reduction of the pending backlog and more visas available for family reunification purposes.

Public policy in the State of Indiana

Similarly, we bishops of Indiana, have deep interest in issues affecting new immigrants to our state and issues that need to be debated in our General Assembly.

Some elements of immediate concern include:

- driver's permits for undocumented immigrants who must drive to work in order to feed and clothe their families
- driver's permits needed for securing automobile license and insurance
- a broader process for immigrants to obtain legal documents for ownership of property beyond the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV)
- access to health care and education for immigrant children
- equal access to protective and emergency services for immigrants

A pilgrim church

With all the vibrancy and enthusiasm of our youthful church, we stand with migrants and refugees here in Indiana because we share their experience — in our history and in our spirituality — as the pilgrim people of God.

Brothers and sisters, join us! Join us in meeting Jesus in our new neighbors. Join us in entreating our Lady of Guadalupe, the patroness of the Americas, for help and wisdom as we embrace our new neighbors. Join us in inviting our new neighbors to embrace us, no longer strangers to them, as joyful brothers and sisters made so by our common baptism in the Lord.

Pope urges today's Wise Men to shape a world based on Christ

BY JOHN THAVIS

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.

The Wise Men were mysterious but important figures as the church began its mission of bringing Christ to the world, he said. Then he posed the question, "Who are the Wise Men of today?"

He answered by identifying three classes of leaders: political authorities, people of intellect and science, and the leaders of the world's faiths. All three categories are important as the church continues its task of transforming the world, he said.

"Two thousand years later, we can recognize in the Magi a sort of prefiguration of these three dimensions that make up modern humanism: the political, scientific and religious dimensions. The Epiphany shows them in a state of 'pilgrimage,' that is, a movement of searching that has its

ultimate point of arrival in Christ," he said.

The world has changed dramatically since the birth of Christ, the pope said. Today a global civilization is emerging that no longer has Europe or even the West at its center, he said.

The explosion of mass media, a key component of this new civilization, has connected people around the globe and created an immense flow of information, but also seems to obscure humanity's ultimate goals and weaken the capacity for critical judgment, he said.

The pope noted that the Second Vatican Council in its closing messages in 1965 made a point to address politicians and scientists, asking them not to forget God in their work and not to forget Christ as the great builder of peace and order in the world.

Today, he said, it is particularly important to add to this list the leaders of the great non-Christian religions, "inviting them to confront themselves with the light of Christ, which came not to abolish but to bring to completion what the hand of God has written in the religious history of civilizations."

"Christ is the light, and light cannot obscure but only enlighten, clear up, reveal. No one therefore should be afraid of Christ and his message!" he said.

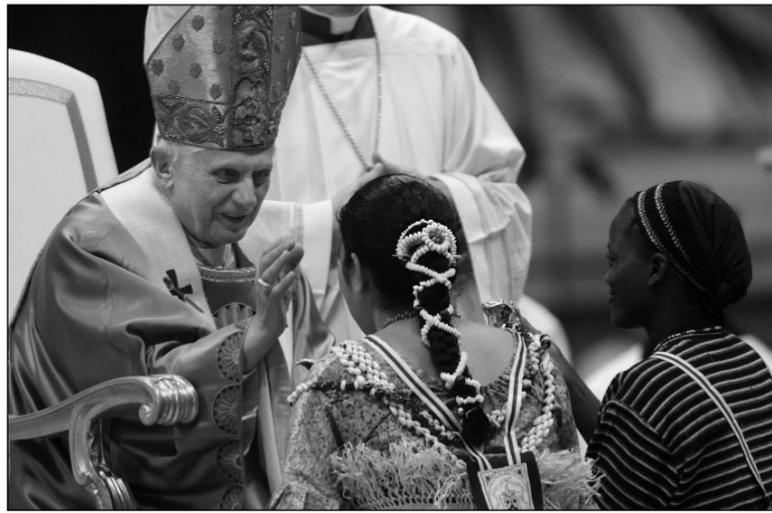
He added that, even if Christians through the centuries had fallen short of Christ's own teachings and betrayed him with their behavior, that does not lessen the importance of his message but only throws it into higher relief.

After the Mass, tens of thousands of Italians streamed to St.

Peter's Square to listen to the pope's noon prayer and to visit the Vatican's giant Nativity scene. The Epiphany, a national holiday in Italy, is largely dedicated to children, and the square was full of young people.

The pope said it was important for parents and educators to promote a missionary spirit among Catholic children. He noted that the Epiphany was dedicated to the Holy Childhood Association, a children-supported missionary organization that works in 110 countries, and thanked young people for their support of works that are designed to aid the world's needy.

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.



CNS PHOTO/TONY GENTILE, REUTERS

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.

VOCATION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ing parishioners to pray for the success of the program. He then distributes a form on which parishioners place the names of young people they believe would make a good priest, brother or sister, even if the parishioners have never discussed the topic with the person they are recommending. The forms are returned to the parish and then sent to the diocesan vocations office. All of the individuals recommended will be invited to attend an information evening sponsored by the vocation office.

Father Galic, who also is pastor of Holy Family Parish in

South Bend, told *Today's Catholic* that sometimes it takes someone else to make the suggestion to a person that he or she would be a good priest, brother or sister. And he is encouraged by a growing openness to considering vocations that he and other vocations staff have observed in the young people of the diocese and in their parents.

This attitude is evident in the annual vocations visits to Catholic high schools and grade schools that have been going on for the past 12 years, Father Galic said. For those visits, a priest, a sister and sometimes a brother go to every fifth and eighth grade classroom and every freshman and junior classroom to raise interest in vocations.

"Initially it was difficult to engage the students in conversation," Father Galic said, "but they've become so accustomed to our visits over the years that now there's a tremendous interchange with them — so much so that we encourage our speakers to be very brief to allow more time to address the issues the young people raise.

"So, if a young person is in Catholic school for grade school and high school, he is visited and addressed by someone from the vocation department four times during his school experience, and many of them are anxious to engage us in discussion."

That discussion quite often involves questions about how the visiting priests and religious discerned their own vocations and how other people responded, particularly their parents. The young people also are interested in the training priests and religious receive, and they want to hear about what the priests and religious do in their spare time and

what outside interests they have.

"For many students, it's the only time they'll have an opportunity to engage a priest or brother or sister in conversation," Father Galic said. "For many of them, their exposure to a priest is limited to Sunday Mass."

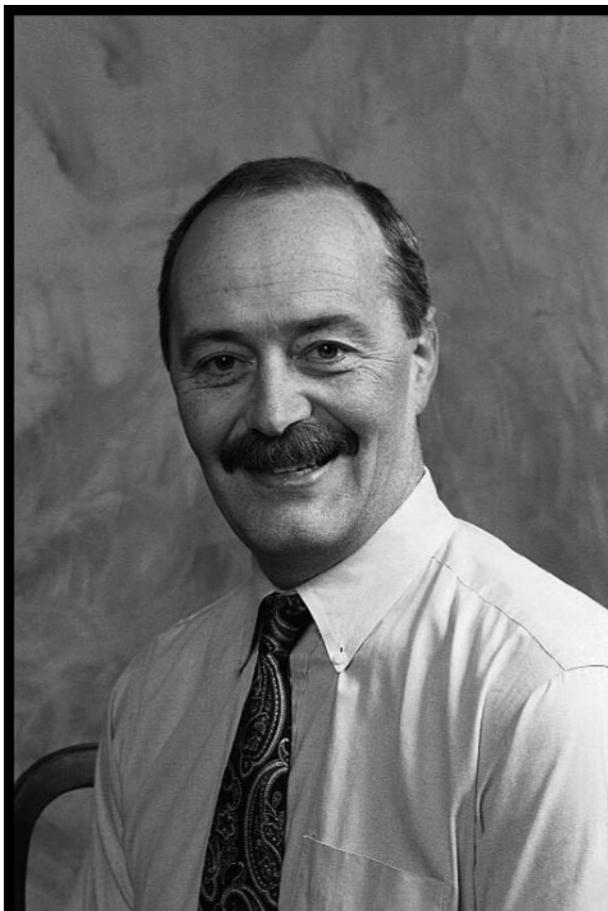
Another initiative that has helped inform young people about the priesthood is the Andrew Dinner. Named for the apostle who brought his brother, Peter, to Jesus, the Andrew Dinners take place twice a year in Fort Wayne and South Bend and involve priests inviting young men they think may be interested in the priesthood to attend the dinner with the bishop, other priests, seminarians and other young men. The dinners are casual events at which the men can visit informally and one or two priests tell the group about their own vocation journey.

Father Galic said that after one of the first Andrew Dinners, a young man told him: "You should do this more often: This is the first time I've seen priests without vestments on."

Father Galic also is encouraged by what he sees as a growing trend toward parental support for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. He believes this change is due in part to the charisma of Pope John Paul II, who encouraged young people not to be afraid to answer God's call.

"I think parents are in tune to that also," he said, adding that there is more openness to church ministry from adults than he has seen in 10 to 15 years.

Thus, during this Sesquicentennial Jubilee Year, the diocese plans to embrace and celebrate that openness by increasing vocation outreach and prayer.



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CNS PHOTO/ALBERTO PIZZOLI, REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI baptizes a baby in the Sistine Chapel at the Vatican Jan. 7. The pope spoke extemporaneously at the ceremony on the meaning of the sacrament.

Pope 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 scoop onto the heads of 13 infants and pronounced the words welcoming them into the church. Most were children of Vatican employees.

He held a prepared text in his hand as he gave his homily, but referred to it only sporadically, preferring to ad lib as he did the year before. One by one, he explained the symbols of the sacrament, then spoke about its central meaning.

In a sense, he said, Christians are “adopted” by God the Father in baptism. In a similar way, the church should be seen as the mother of this family, he said.

“Thus we see that Christianity is not only a spiritual or individual reality, a simple subjective decision that I make, but is something real and concrete and material. The family of God is constructed in the concrete reality of the church,” he said.

The pope asked the parents and godparents of the newly baptized to be vigilant so that the children grow up knowing how to love and serve God.

He suggested that the Catechism of the Catholic Church might be an aid to religious education, but said parents teach their children above all by their own example. Despite the hectic pace of modern life, they should also make room for family prayer, he said.

“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 FILTEAU

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.

Cardinal F. James Stafford, a Baltimore native who will mark his 75th birthday July 26, has been the Vatican’s major penitentiary since 2003. Ordained a priest in 1957, he was made a Baltimore auxiliary in 1976 and bishop of Memphis, Tenn., in 1982. He became archbishop of Denver in 1986, president of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, 1996-2003, and a cardinal in 1998.

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:

- Ruthenian Bishop Andrew Pataki of Passaic, N.J., Aug. 30, 2002.

- Bishop Manuel Batakian of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Nareg in New York for Armenian Catholics, Nov. 5, 2004.
- Bishop John J. Leibrecht of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, Mo., Aug. 8, 2005.

- Bishop Carl F. Mengeling of Lansing, Mich., Oct. 22, 2005.

- Bishop Raphael M. Fliss of Superior, Wis., Oct. 25, 2005.

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

- Archbishop Thomas C. Kelly of Louisville, Ky., July 14, 2006.

- Bishop Charles V. Grahmann of Dallas, July 15, 2006.

- Archbishop Oscar H. Lipscomb of Mobile, Ala., Sept. 21, 2006.

- Bishop Victor Balke of Crookston, Minn., Sept. 29, 2006.

- Bishop John W. Yanta of Amarillo, Texas, Oct. 2, 2006.

The nine other currently active bishops, in addition to Cardinals Egan and Stafford, who will turn 75 in 2007 are:

- Bishop John J. Nevins of Venice, Fla., Jan. 19.

- Auxiliary Bishop A. James Quinn of Cleveland, April 8.

- Auxiliary Bishop John M. Dougherty of Scranton, Pa., April 29.

- Auxiliary Bishop Gilbert E. Chavez of San Diego, May 9.

- Archbishop Elden F. Curtiss of Omaha, Neb., June 16.

- Bishop James A. Murray of Kalamazoo, Mich., July 5.

- Bishop James M. Moynihan of Syracuse, N.Y., July 6.

- Bishop John M. D’Arcy of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Aug. 18.

- Archbishop Alfred C. Hughes of New Orleans, Dec. 2.



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February 3, 2007	9:00-11:00 a.m.	Open Registration (Library)

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CITIZENS OF TWO WORLDS

San Francisco auxiliary bishop to head Salt Lake City Diocese

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Auxiliary Bishop John C. Wester of San Francisco has been named the new head of the Diocese of Salt Lake City by Pope Benedict XVI. Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States, announced the appointment 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 telegrams of condolence to the Catholics of Kinshasa and to the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, to which the cardinal had belonged. Cardinal Etsou-Nzabi-Bamungwabi was known as a leading voice 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 the Iraqi capital of 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 Babel College for Philosophy and Theology, and the patriarchal major seminary, Simon Peter, were to be transferred to Arbil, said a Jan. 4 report by the Rome-based AsiaNews news agency. The two institutions had been closed for several months

NEWS BRIEFS

ARCHBISHOP RESIGNS AT MASS IN WARSAW CATHEDRAL



CNS PHOTO/PETER ANDREWS, REUTERS

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.

because of a lack of security and increasing violence in Baghdad. The seminary's rector and vice rector had 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 Ngozika 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 the issue 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 execution not 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.

Vatican agency says 24 church workers died violently in 2006

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Catholic Church personnel continue to be killed as they work in mission lands or among society's most disadvantaged groups, although they are more often the victims of violent crimes than of persecution for their faith. Fides, the news agency of the Vatican's Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, said that over the course of 2006 it had registered the deaths of 24 priests, religious and lay workers "who lost their lives in a violent way." The murdered church workers, it said, are often "the victims — at least apparently — of aggression, robbery or theft perpetrated in

social contexts marked by particular 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 less 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 Auriesville, 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 \$21 million to \$106 million. He briefly headed two non-Jesuit colleges 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 Mount St. Mary's College (now University) in Emmitsburg, Md.

Amniotic-fluid stem cells hailed as another embryo alternative

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The recent announcement by scientists at Wake Forest and Harvard universities that the amniotic fluid surrounding a child in the womb can be the source of medically useful stem cells is just the latest in a series of studies showing the research value of the byproducts of live birth, according to the deputy director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities. Richard M. Doerflinger told Catholic News Service Jan. 8 that various studies have shown that the placenta, cord blood, the umbilical cord itself 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." "With 4 million live births 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 included 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 share, Saturday, Jan. 20, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the University of Saint 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 jenn@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 straight National Team Academic award. The award is given to programs that have a team GPA for both the fall semester and spring semester above 3.0.

"To be ranked fourth in the nation out of 1316 soccer programs is quite an accomplishment," USF head coach Ken Nuber said.

The other colleges ranked were Central Michigan with 3.73, Pomona-Pitzer Colleges with 3.65 and Toledo University with 3.63.

"There are 1,316 collegiate women's soccer programs, so to rank that high shows the dedication our team has to academics," Nuber added.

The Lady Cougar soccer program also has seven NAIA Scholar Athletes, the highest number in the country. They are Abigail Bigelow, Michelle Austin, Nikki Castillo, Megan Garrett, Alex Hornstein, Whitney Patterson and Stacey Rider.

Knights to support another pilgrim with annual Lourdes Ball

SOUTH BEND — The 42nd annual Lourdes Charity Ball,

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For the past 11 years, parishioners from St. Mary of the Assumption, Decatur, and students from St. Joseph School have participated in a shower of Christmas greetings for the nursing home and homebound parishioners. Shown in the photo is Mary Ann Inskeep who, with the help of others, sorts all the cards and readies 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.

sponsored by Santa Maria Council of the Knights of Columbus will be held Saturday, Feb. 17, in the downtown ballroom of the council.

Entire proceeds of the ball will go towards sending a physically disabled pilgrim to the shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in southern France. Since the ball's inception, a total of 65 persons have been recipients of the trip.

The Mike Vaszari Combo will provide the musical entertainment. K.C. Pocius is general chairman. Reservations can be made by calling (574) 293-0467. — EJD

South Bend Serrans salute seminarians

SOUTH BEND — The Serra Club of South Bend paid a special salute to the 18 diocesan seminarians who are focusing their careers on becoming priests in the Catholic Church at the club's annual Mass and dinner during Christmas week at Holy Family Parish.

The celebration honored the seminarians, their families and pastors in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Bishop John M. D'Arcy celebrated the Mass and congratulated the seminarians for their perseverance in seeking a religious vocation and also their parents for encouraging them on a

Christ-like career.

At the luncheon for more than 80 people, Serra Club president Ron Moser also pointed out that the current number of seminarians in the diocese is the largest in recent years and praised the efforts of Father Bernard Galic, diocesan director of vocations and pastor of Holy Family Church, for his tremendous efforts in the program. — EJD

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 Donaldson. The program is scheduled from Friday, Feb. 2, at 7 p.m. to Sunday, Feb. 4, at 1 p.m. The program fee is \$160 for a single room, \$130 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 (574)

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 reformation 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 parents and grandparents had focused upon teaching respect through example and living."

- Jan. 29, "Professional and Catholic?" — Jim Fitzpatrick is co-owner of Quality Dining and the interim director for the diocesan Office of Worship. Jim will explore how to maintain Catholicism in a secular world, especially in the workplace.

- Feb. 5, "Indulge Yourself" — Marilyn Fech returns to look at indulgences — where they came from, how they affected the development of the church, the rationale for them, and why we don't hear much about them anymore.

- 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 religions?

Wednesday Night Live returns

COLUMBIA CITY — Wednesday Night Live with Father Larry begins its winter series Jan. 31 at St. Paul of the Cross Church, 315 S. Line St., Columbia City. The topic will be immigration. This continuing series of informal discussions about our Catholic faith is held every other Wednesday at 6:45 p.m., immediately following 6:15 Mass. Childcare is available upon request. For information, call (260) 244-5723.

USF hosts Thomas Allen photography exhibit

FORT WAYNE — The School of Creative Arts at the University of Saint Francis announces an opening reception for an exhibition curated by the Foley Gallery of New York featuring contemporary works by 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 prop books from Allen's photographs. His still lifes, made with beaten up thrift store paperbacks and an X-Acto knife, primarily include figures from pulp fiction novels and obscure illustrations. Tom Allen will discuss his unconventional work and the exhibit on Thursday, Feb. 22, in the Rolland Art Center, room 115 at 7:30 p.m. as part of the Closer Look Lecture Series.

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QUEEN OF ANGELS HOSTS SUCCESSFUL TOY DRIVE



PROVIDED BY LIZ MYERS

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-tinted smile.

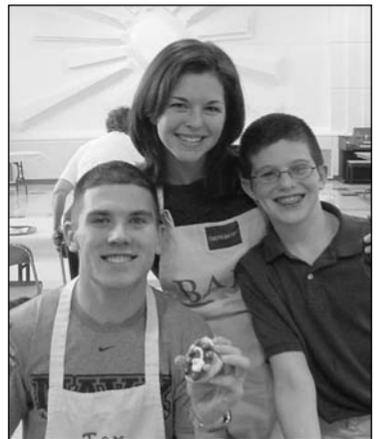
The students were helped with decorating by Thomas Flynn, home on leave from the Naval Academy and a graduate of St. Michael and his sister, Katie, a senior at DePauw University, also a graduate.

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 kinder-



IDA CHIPMAN

Thomas Flynn, left, displays a decorated cookie while assisting his siblings Katie Flynn and Daniel Flynn in the annual event at St. Michael School, Plymouth. The school has made a Christmas tradition of decorating cookies for elderly residents of the local Shady Rest Home.

garten students gave a performance on Friday, Dec. 22, for their parents and friends.

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Do you have a 'call waiting?'



THE CUTTING EDGE

SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

Many years ago, the Sisters of Mercy used the question "Do you have a call waiting?" as a theme for a marketing campaign to recruit members for their religious congregation. I think it is a good title for this column during January when the church in the United States celebrates vocation awareness.

The fact of the matter is that each of us has a "call waiting" that only we can answer. One of the major tasks of young adulthood is to discover God's call in our lives. It is not as easy as answering a phone call from God. Wouldn't that be nice? It takes hard work. We must make time for prayer, reflection and serious discernment.

In my campus and young adult ministry and also when I did vocation ministry for my community, the Sisters of the Holy Cross, I was often asked how a person discovers God's will and plan for his or her life.

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, ordained or consecrated life as a religious brother, sister or priest. Most people discover their call 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. We do this 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 broth-

er?" or "You would 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 and said she 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 would be much easier if one were good and the other evil. For instance, valuing marriage and loving children 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.

A good way to start is, after praying about the pros and cons of each option, listen to the way you are drawn. What feels right? What gives you peace? I remember one of my professors during graduate school at Boston College, a wonderful priest, saying that the deepest desire of our hearts is usually God's will for our lives.

Recently I was viewing a videotape about community life and the presenter said it another way. She said the key to discovering one's vocation in life is to discern which lifestyle will make us happy, healthy and holy. To be happy really means having inner joy and loving my life (most of the time). A

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 life and I have a desire to grow in relationship with him.

As we begin this New Year let us pray that we will strive to be holy, happy and healthy witnesses of God's unquenchable love as we renew or strive to discover God's particular call for our lives.

What call is waiting for you?

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

The crucifix in your cubicle: How faith and work coalesce

NBC's Emmy-winning comedy series "The Office" portrays work in all its mind-numbing dullness, punctuated by a slow-moving clock, lame insult swapping and a know-it-all coworker.

Many viewers relate.

And if they're seeking that fresh start in 2007, they just might file their two weeks.

Work is the pursuit that defines us, informing an introduction with a handful of assumptions and an invariable follow-up question. Work is the place we spend the majority of our waking hours. And when the "9 to 5" that Dolly Parton lamented begins well before 9 a.m. and extends to

6 p.m. or 7 p.m., work can be the source of "hardness of heart," Pope Benedict XVI warned.

Hardness of heart happens when a job splinters a person's skills and values, the pieces of a personality that beg to be integrated.

We bring more than a skill set to a job; we bring a belief system, too. "The whole person, body and spirit, participates in (work), whether it is manual or intellectual," Pope John Paul II wrote in his 1981 encyclical "Human Work."

Faith informs work in various ways. It keeps us from cussing when the computer crashes. It compels us to credit a coworker for a successful project. It drives us to seek a solution to a difficult task. It prods us to be honest with

the time sheet, to resist office gossip, to practice patience.

Faith inspires us to preach the Gospel at all times — even on the job — and, as St. Francis of Assisi put it, to use words if necessary.

Ultimately, work allows us to draw close to our Creator, humbling advancing "the discovery of the resources and values contained in the whole of creation," Pope John Paul II wrote. The talents 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

Work that stems from the brain and connects with the heart bears a fingerprint that is holy.

with earnestness and tap into our God-given gifts. When an architect designs a stunning structure. When a counselor dispels self doubt. When a teacher enlightens a student. When a nurse tends to the ill.

Work that stems from the brain and connects with the heart bears a fingerprint that is holy. Whether we sit in a corner office or a crowded cubicle, we can each illuminate God's glory.

I'm struck by Pope Benedict's first public words upon his election. Standing on that balcony, facing an overwhelming audience and a daunting task, he leaned on



TWENTY SOMETHING BY CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

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 to act even with insufficient instruments comforts me..."

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

There's no how-to manual to follow, just the sense of a blank screen, an empty slate waiting for our signature.

Amid the haze of uncertainty, I can grasp one truth: A career can be steeped in spirituality. The pursuit of a paycheck and success also can be a personal offering to the Lord.

Even if newsmakers like Enron's Jeffrey Skilling separate work and values, we can intertwine them. And we'll feel better — and work better — when we do.

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

Seminarians find different paths to discernment

BY MICHELLE DONAGHEY

SOUTH BEND — Anyone who thinks that Catholic television isn't a valuable tool for evangelization should talk to Timothy Chupp, a seminarian who was raised Mennonite and is now studying to be a priest.

Chupp saw the rosary on EWTN one evening after coming home from work late one night.

"The outward expression of prayer was so neat. Every day I would turn on EWTN," Chupp said. "Eventually I saw a television 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 their faith seriously."

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

He is currently attending Immaculate Heart of Mary College in Winona, Minn.

While not all seminarian stories are as dramatic as his, every seminarian has a special story to tell of how they decided upon a religious vocation.

"The first time that I really ever thought of the priesthood happened when I was about 15," said Josephinum seminarian Jacob Runyon. "I went to World Youth

Day in Denver and remembered thinking that the priesthood was something that I needed to check into. However, I didn't really follow up on that 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 daily Mass and pray about his vocation.

"This is the best place to hear a call from God, at the Mass. By the end of that Easter season, I was applying for entry into the seminary," he noted.

"I spent two years studying at the University of Dayton before entering the seminary," said Immaculate Heart of Mary seminarian 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 Marianist 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.

Family Faith

THE FAMILY MEAL The words "dinner's ready" have become a forgotten phrase in many households, one we seem to only hear around the holidays. Today's hectic lifestyles make it difficult to get everyone in the family to sit down together for dinner. Now, research is showing that eating together is a tradition worth making time for because the benefits far exceed simple nutrition.

Pray, talk and live the faith

Seminarians' parents encourage an environment of vocation awareness

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, suppers 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 trying to influence your child, parents of seminarians add.

"You don't want to push them in any direction," said Julie Lapp, 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 Besancon Parish, near New Haven, frequently would talk about vocations. He would suggest that parents should not say, "When you grow up and get married"; but rather, "When you grow up, if you 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 helped him more than anything," said Susie Lengerich, mother of transitional Deacon Bob Lengerich.

Living the faith daily 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."

"I think the most important thing we did was show that we loved our God and our church," said Terri Coonan, mother 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 life," said Terry 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 time to answer such a call when the world is telling young people to be self-centered. It seems such a good fit — God's will always is!"

SEMINARIAN SPEAKS AT ANDREW DINNER



TIM JOHNSON

Tink Coonan explains his journey to discerning the priesthood at a presentation he made at the Andrew Dinner held Dec. 29 at St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Fort Wayne.

Seminarian Ben Muhlenkamp, who attends Pontifical College Josephinum, left, is seated with Father Tony Steinacker, ordained in October 2006, and is assigned as associate pastor at St. Charles Parish. Young men — high school, college age or older — at the invitation of their pastors, attend the dinner. The evening included a video released by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, talks by Jake Runyon and Coonan, a talk by Bishop John M. D'Arcy and Father Bernie Galic, director of the vocation office, and evening prayer. St. Pius X, Granger, hosted a similar dinner on Dec. 27.

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR SEMINARIANS



MARK WEBER

Elaine and Tony Herber, parishioners at St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel, Fort Wayne, joined others from their parish and St. Rose Parish, Monroeville, who signed Christmas cards sent to 18 diocesan seminarians. The project was arranged by the Hessen Cassel Knights of Columbus. Donations were accepted, and the money received was combined with funds from the Knights, allowing each seminarian to receive a check for \$50 with his Christmas greeting.

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 fulfillment 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 priesthood 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, N.Y., "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 Blase J. Cupich of Rapid City, 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. Skylstad of Spokane, Wash., USCCB president, said "the challenge of fewer 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 a man who appreciates his own gift of priesthood?"

Religious brothers and sisters: Meet two

BY TIM JOHNSON

To provide a perspective on religious life in an order, *Today's Catholic* invited Holy Cross Brother Christopher Dreyer and Sister of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration Jacinta Krecek, to participate the following interview. Here are their vocation stories.

Brother Christopher Dreyer, CSC

NOTRE DAME

— Brother Christopher, a native of Indianapolis, is a graduate of Cathedral High School, Indianapolis, and director of student counseling services at Holy Cross College, Notre Dame. Brother Christopher has a bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame 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.



BROTHER CHRISTOPHER DREYER, CSC

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 portrayed 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 vocation 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 community service projects. One offered understanding when I discussed my inner conflicts. Several inspired me to teach. These men were compassionate, authentic and spiritual. I found in them what I wanted to be.

Today's Catholic: Describe your past and present ministries.

Brother Christopher: As a Brother of Holy Cross for the past 30 years, I was a teacher, pastoral minister and counselor at Saint Joseph's High School for 14 years. As a licensed clinical social worker, I worked at an outpatient 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 community service projects — especially when they've involved children and adolescents — such as repairing plumbing, carpentry and electrical problems in homes of those who cannot afford licensed professionals, constructing a wheelchair ramp and playground equipment for the F.I.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 course on community service at Holy Cross College so that others may also serve.

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

Brother Christopher: In addition to my teaching responsibility 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 medical, psychological and mental disabilities that may interfere with their academic aspirations.

Today's Catholic: Tell us about the community.

Brother Christopher: I live with other Brothers in Holy Cross Village, an intergenerational community created to help fulfill our mission to improve the quality of life for members of the community especially seniors. As a member 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 college, 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 accommodations for students with disabilities, 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 abusive relationship. I think Holy Cross College has served students such as these exceptionally well for the past 40 years. As instructors, administrators and directors we are "educators in the faith"

especially to the poor, afflicted and oppressed.

Today's Catholic: What would you tell a person joining a religious order?

Brother Christopher: Jesus said: "You shall love the Lord your God with your whole heart, with your whole soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. The second is like it; "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Mt. 22: 34-39). Our outstretched body forms a cross, which has both a vertical and a horizontal dimension, the vertical representing our relationship with God and the horizontal, others. Our heart, soul and mind lie in the vertical axis, our outstretched arms and hands in the horizontal one. I believe that God has called me to discover, accept and appreciate the unique person God has created to me (the vertical axis) and to help others do the same (the horizontal axis). Being a Brother of Holy Cross enables me to do this: I invite others to the same.

Today's Catholic: What qualities are needed?

Brother Christopher: The brothers who taught me at Cathedral High School during the 1960s-70s were compassionate, authentic and spiritual. I believe those qualities are still needed today.

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

Sister Jacinta Krecek, OSF

Today's

Catholic: How did you know you had a religious vocation?

Sister Jacinta: It took time to discern. After a conversion experience during my senior year in college when I was involved in a prayer group, I began praying more, specifically to know God's will. Also, my senior year, I was invited to a couple retreats at the sisters' motherhouse. I registered for the retreats, but ended up not going. Nevertheless, the vocation director had my name and address and began writing to me. Her words inspired me and at the same time, I was open and searching for more meaning in my life.

One day, it all came together in a sudden thought: "I could be a sister!" I hadn't thought about it for myself before, but it seemed to click, and I had great joy. A priest I consulted said to give it time and if the idea persisted, then do something about it. The thought wouldn't go away, so I decided to go visit the vocation director who had been writing to me. I kept going back to visit when I could but struggled with indecisiveness for about a year and half. Finally, I realized that although God wasn't going to give me a lightning-bolt experience as a clear sign, I certainly couldn't discount all the little nudges and graces that added up over time to point me in this direction. I came to understand that the Lord doesn't force us to do



SISTER JACINTA KRECEK, OSF

anything. He gently invites and then waits for our response. It's a mutual love relationship. When I finally had the grace to respond then I was very much at peace.

Today's Catholic: Why did you choose the congregation Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration?

Sister Jacinta: These sisters, who were stationed at my home parish in Lafayette, taught my parents in school and were friends with my grandparents. When I switched from public school to Catholic school for fifth to eighth grade, I also had some of the sisters as my teachers. Although it wasn't until after I graduated from college that I began thinking about religious life, this community of sisters were the first ones I turned to when the "call" came.

When I visited the sisters I experienced their joy in being together. I experienced their prayer, especially devotion to Jesus in the Eucharist. When I visited the sisters' retirement home, I saw the special care and appreciation given to those who are elderly or ill, and I witnessed the positive spirit, wisdom and prayer of those who were suffering. Overall, I could resonate with the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi.

Today's Catholic: Sisters have a variety of roles in the church. Tell us about your role in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Sister Jacinta: My current ministry is in the diocesan Office of Campus/Young Adult Ministry. Our staff goes to non-Catholic campuses to support the Catholic students who are there. I serve at Indiana Tech in Fort Wayne and Tri-State in Angola. We promote

MEET TWO, PAGE 14

We Pray for Vocations



Won't You Pray With Us?

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+

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Young Voice

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SCHOOL is located in Fort Wayne. The school has 728 students in grades 1-8. Sandra Guffey is the principal. Additional information is available at the Web site www.saintv.org/school or email school@saintv.org, or by calling the school at (260) 489-3537.

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 and was trying to even out the back and kept cutting off hair. By the time her mother was done cutting, Mrs. Amick barely had any left on the back of her head.

When she first came to St. Vincent's, the cafeteria was not yet completed, so the students had to pack their lunch every day until the cafeteria was finished. They also brought their breakfast with them.

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



PROVIDED BY ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SCHOOL

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.

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 stu-

dents 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.

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 paint 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 lines;
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 BREANNA 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.
Soon I hear a little crackle in my heart.
It's Christ saying I'm smart.

The Aliens

A POEM BY DEREK GLOUDEMANS

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.
I was on my way to school one day,
When I heard a peculiar sound.
Before I fully understood,
I had flung myself to the ground.
Then boom there went the entire block,
As I started running here.
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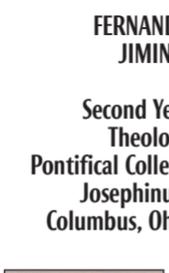
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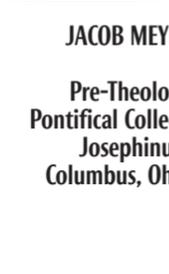
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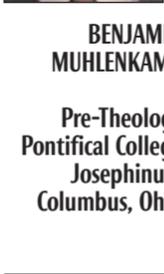
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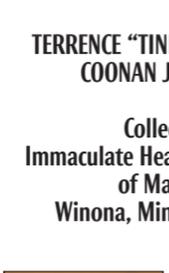
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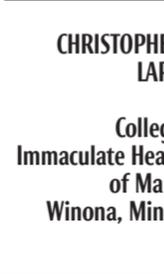
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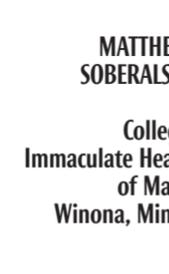
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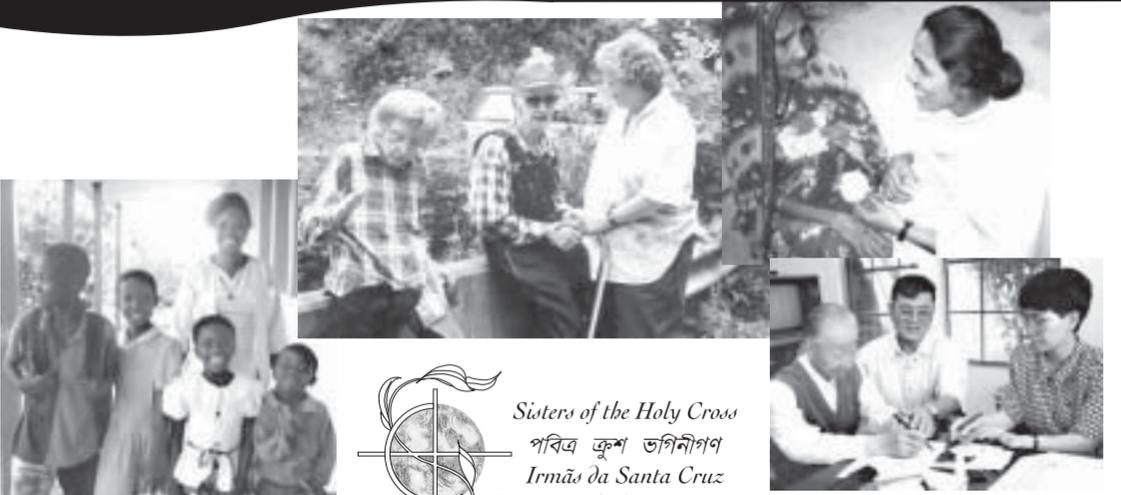


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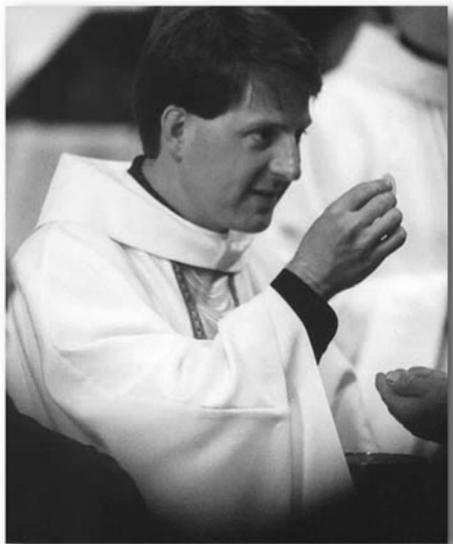
CONVENTUAL FRANCISCANS JOIN SEMINARIAN LUNCH



MICHELLE DONAGHEY

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.

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(Lk 11:3)

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ANSWER
THE CALL

MEET TWO

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

spiritual, social, and service opportunities for all young adults throughout our diocese.

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.

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: 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: If someone were considering joining a religious order, what would you tell them?

Sister Jacinta: They need to look for a community that is solidly rooted in the teachings of the Catholic Church. They need to spend time with the community and ask questions. They should experience how the sisters pray, how they love one another and how that love flows out to others in service.

Today's Catholic: What qualities make a good sister in the new millennium?

Sister Jacinta: As always, being a contemplative-in-action — being transformed by God's love and letting that love flow out to others. As for the times we live in ... Pope John Paul II called us to a new evangelization, and so we need to be ready and willing to share our faith in Jesus Christ. He also spoke of the new springtime in the church. It's important to be full of hope and to foster renewal — like St. Francis who was called by Christ to "rebuild" the church. Especially as Franciscans, we are called to promote peace and unity.

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TODAY'S CATHOLIC
ENCOURAGES
VOCATIONS

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 joined 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 prayed and even more 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 to some specific calling.

I began to be a little concerned about my 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.

He told me that if a man is considering a call to priesthood, the best place to discern that call is in the seminary.

So I applied to the diocese, passed all my psychological exams and was accepted by Bishop John M. 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.

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

JAKE RUNYON



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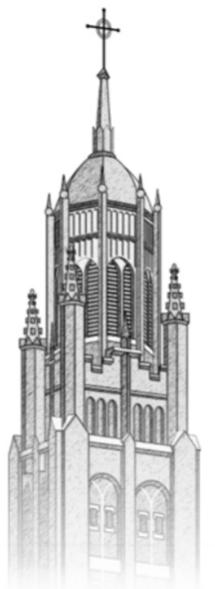
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Seminarians installed as lectors, acolytes

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 participate in instruction of catechesis to prepare 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 expose the Blessed Sacrament for 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 Hernández, (the bishop) and Fernando M. Jiménez. Andrew J. Budzinski was intalled as a lector.

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



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God loved us first, ... and this love of God has appeared in our midst."
Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est*

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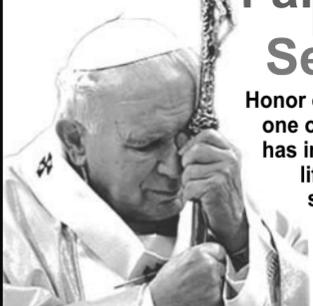
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ROBERTA DAVIS

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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"The harvest is great, the laborers are few."

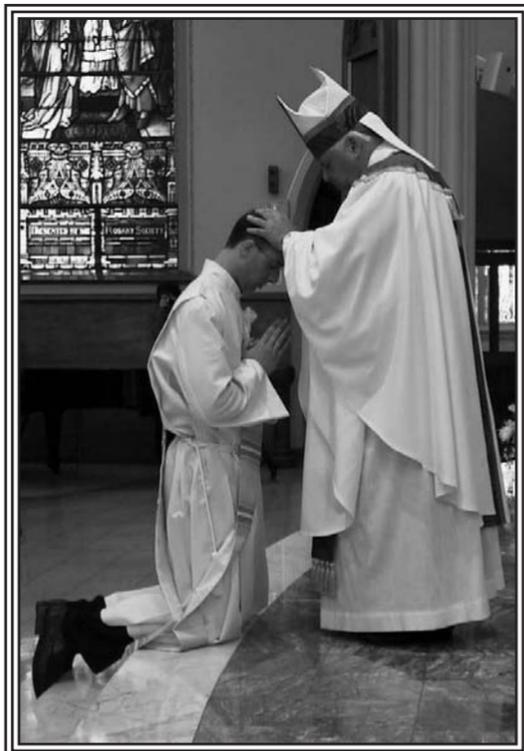
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-Pope John Paul II

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EDITORIAL

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, which should exercise it above all by a fully Christian life. 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 or even discouragement of religious vocations. If parents treat the fostering of religious vocations as something unimportant, then their children will too. 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 who may be calling.

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 opens 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 attributed to embryonic stem-cell research.

Embryonic stem cells are back in the news. The new 110th U.S. Congress would like the federal government to provide funding for embryonic stem-cell research. Members of both parties are pushing for expansion of federally-funded embryonic stem-cell research and have vowed to overturn a presidential veto.

There is a lot of rhetoric on the American airwaves by television and film personalities to promote embryonic stem-cell research. We must always favor what is ethical and moral.

The South Bend Tribune reported Jan. 6, that U.S. Rep. Joe Donnelly, who represents South Bend, is undecided on his position regarding expansion of the federal funding. We encourage contacting Congressman Donnelly and with the request not to vote in favor of using federal funds for embryonic stem-cell research. A vote was expected possibly as early as Jan. 11.

Let's encourage all our U.S. representatives to be good stewards of our nation's finances and to use these funds in adult stem-cell research, which offers promise, rather than destroying the embryo for research that offers a questionable and objectionable promise.

Today's Catholic editorial board consists of Bishop John M. D'Arcy, Ann Carey, Don Clemmer, Father Mark Gurtner, Father Michael Heintz, Tim Johnson, Vince LaBarbera and Msgr. J. William Lester.

COMMENTARY

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

Tales from a wounded city

BY DON CLEMMER

In the months since Hurricane Katrina, Today's Catholic has documented the plight of the city of New Orleans and the rest of the Gulf Coast through national stories and the accounts of people from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend who have traveled to the region to assist in the recovery. On Dec. 26-30, 2006, Today's Catholic assistant editor Don Clemmer traveled with a mission group to New Orleans to work on homes damaged by the hurricane. His trip marked the first visit by a Today's Catholic reporter to the site of the devastation.

Coming into New Orleans under the cover of darkness with just the lights of the city glimmering in the distance, you could almost imagine that nothing was wrong. But we hadn't just spent our entire day after Christmas, 35 people ages high school to middle age, cramped into three conversion vans, struggling to regulate our body temperatures and keep restroom stops to a minimum for 18 hours, to visit a city 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. Joseph United Methodist Church in Fort Wayne — our lodgings, likewise, were at Aurora United Methodist Church in New Orleans' Algiers district — but the presence of Pentecostals, one other Roman Catholic than myself and other denominations gave the trip 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 goes out and brings Christ to the world. During our work on the trip, our differences blurred, and our relationship as functioning and cooperating parts of the body of Christ came into sharp focus.

Traveling across the city's downtown on the first workday of the trip, one had to look closely even to notice that anything was wrong. Those in the van who had gone on the trip the year before commented that it was good to see a repaired Superdome and actual roofs instead of blue FEMA tarps. When we reached the neighborhood where our particular crew would be replacing the roof of a house, things seemed relatively normal, that is until I looked past the spraypainted symbols on the houses' exteriors and saw that every house on the street was a shell, gutted to the studs and concrete.

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 the condition of the boards that had been beneath our feet, as we probably would not have plodded along the rooftop so boldly otherwise.

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 forest along both sides 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 house across 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 crew had removed all of the furniture and torn out most of the walls, leaving me to help take wheelbarrow after wheelbarrow of soggy insulation and wall

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.

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, stood only a line of freestanding front porches with no houses attached, which immediately conjured up a vision of houses being ripped off their foundation in the first rush of water from the collapsing levee.

Taking the same highway back out of the city, this time in daylight, we were able to see just how far the damage stretched, how wounded the city really was. In New Orleans, the wound inflicted by Katrina is healing, but slowly and unevenly. The more touristy downtown and French Quarter seem okay, but entire neighborhoods still lie in ruin. Like blood rushing from other parts of the body to heal a wound, so the body of Christ has a responsibility to continue its flow of support to the Gulf Coast and the city of New Orleans. Only then will this wound ever be healed.

Ita of Killeedy

died c. 570

feast — January 15

Originally named Deirdre, she earned the name Ita, which means "thirst for holiness." Her story has much in common with that of St. Brigid, another great Irish abbess. For many years Ita headed a community of dedicated women at Killeedy in County Limerick. She ran a school for small boys who were taught "faith in God with purity of heart; simplicity of life with religion; generosity with love." St. Brendan the Voyager reportedly was her student. St. Ita'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 nations 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 way," Galassi said Jan. 3, the 20th anniversary of the day he presented his credentials as 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 Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Vatican secretary of state.

The early January date for the pope's speech to the diplomatic corps and the formal dinner for the secretary of state that evening mark the one time of year when

almost all of the 175 ambassadors and four special representatives gather together.

Galassi arrived at the Vatican in 1980, serving as San Marino's representative until being named ambassador when his country and the Vatican established full diplomatic relations in 1986.

In 1980, he said, the Vatican exchanged ambassadors with just over 90 countries.

By the end of 2002, the number had increased to 174, thanks particularly to the new nations and the newly democratic nations in Eastern Europe. But the expansion of the diplomatic corps also was due to the upgrading of relations with the United States and Israel.

After a decade in which new diplomatic ties were frequently announced, the number stayed at 174 from 2003 until the very end of 2006, when the Vatican and Montenegro announced Dec. 16 that they would exchange ambassadors.

Galassi said that when he arrived at the Vatican fewer than 45 of the ambassadors lived full-time in Rome.

Even today, about 70 countries have ambassadors living outside Italy, serving both as ambassador to the Vatican and to another

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 more than invite each other to 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.

"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.

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Trust Jesus with every worry



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Jn 2:1-11

When this third section of Isaiah was written, the Hebrew people had just emerged 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 died, or 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 Babylonia 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 upset the arrangement by sinning.

Despite their sinfulness, however, God was constant. He provided.

For its second reading this weekend the church presents a passage from St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians.

Leading the Corinthian Christians to genuine fidelity was a considerable challenge for the Apostle Paul. In reaction to rivalries and arguing in Corinth, Paul wrote what has become a blueprint for Christian living. He reminded the Corinthians to whom he wrote that each of them has special gifts and opportunities. Such diversity was welcome since it meant that there were so many occasions for individual believers to bring the sweetness of the Gospel into the world. Paul even lists different skills and talents to make his point.

St. John's Gospel supplies the third reading.

Unique to John, the story of the miracle at Cana in Galilee long has been seen as the first of the Lord's miracles. It is the recorded beginning of the Lord's public ministry. The emphasis usually lies upon the marvel of the changing of the water into wine. This indeed was remarkable. But the story has other powerful lessons.

A great lesson is about Mary. John's Gospel never names her. It always simply refers to Mary as "the mother" of Jesus. This is not an oversight. It stresses her unique role as the Lord's earthly parent.

The response of Jesus to the obvious embarrassment of the host in not having enough wine for the guest can be puzzling. Was the Lord indifferent to the host's distress? His reply only stressed that the messianic mission was not to provide for human partying and festivity, but to draw all to God in much more important ways.

Nevertheless, Mary enters the picture. First Jesus hears her and acts upon her concern. Secondly, her faith is unqualified and frank. She trusts the Lord, telling the servers to do whatever the Lord orders them to do.

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 all loved God in return.

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.

Mary instructs us that we can go to Jesus with any worry. But, she tells us, as she told the servants, that we must follow the Lord and trust the Lord.

READINGS

Sunday: Is 62:1-5 Ps 96:1-3,7-10 1 Cor 12:4-11 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

Wednesday: Heb 7:1-3,15-17 Ps 110:1-4 Mk 3:1-6

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

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

Saturday: Heb 9:2-3,11-14 Ps 47:2-3,6-9 Mk 3:20-21

CATEQUIZ'EM

By Dominic Camplisson

On Jan. 2, the church remembers St. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen. This quiz looks at Basil.

1. **St. Basil was from an unusual family, because two of his brothers were:**
 - a. saints
 - b. monks
 - c. Christians
2. **Basil is referred to as one of these Fathers:**
 - a. Armenian
 - b. Cappadocian
 - c. Italian
3. **Basil was alive during a strong, though declining, paganism. When was that?**
 - a. the 4th century
 - b. the 12th century
 - c. the 16th century
4. **Basil was educated in several places, one of which was this new capital of the (Eastern) Roman Empire:**
 - a. Rome
 - b. Athens
 - c. Constantinople
5. **Basil first became one of these:**
 - a. monks
 - b. pagans
 - c. centurions
6. **Then he adopted this more rigorous lifestyle:**
 - a. a tribune
 - b. a gladiator
 - c. a hermit
7. **His friend was this church leader:**
 - a. Gregory the Great
 - b. Gregory of Nazianzus
 - c. Gregory the Hermit
8. **It is rumored that this emperor, wishing to see paganism restored, tried to interfere with Basil:**
 - a. Augustus
 - b. Julian the Apostate
 - c. Constantine
9. **It was a bishop who called upon Basil to come into public life, to oppose this heresy:**
 - a. Catharism
 - b. Protestantism
 - c. Arianism
10. **In doing so, Basil had to oppose this ruler:**
 - a. Valens, the Roman emperor
 - b. Marcel, king of the Muppets
 - c. Offa, the King of Denmark
11. **At the end of his life, Basil held this church office:**
 - a. deacon
 - b. priest
 - c. bishop
12. **In addition to the heresy mentioned in 9 (above) Basil disputed with those who believed the Holy Spirit was not divine. They had this great name:**
 - a. Spirit dissenters
 - b. Filioquists
 - c. Pneumatomachi
13. **Basil had many buildings erected to care for the poor near this city and See:**
 - a. Caesarea
 - b. Scythia
 - c. Gaza
14. **Because he corresponded with the originator of this additional heresy, Basil was at times thought, erroneously, to hold heretical views, derived from:**
 - a. Islam
 - b. Apollinarism
 - c. Brigandatism
15. **Although this council was concluded after his death, Basil's efforts against a heresy (9 above) were seen to bear fruit when this controversy was mostly ended by the Council of:**
 - a. Constantinople
 - b. Istanbul
 - c. Trent

ANSWERS:

1.a, 2.b, 3.a, 4.c, 5.a, 6.c, 7.b, 8.b, 9.c, 10.a, 11.c, 12.c, 13.a, 14.b, 15.a

Driving out demons was part of healing work of Jesus

Why did Jesus spend so much time healing the sick and driving out demons? E.R., Mishawaka

In his brief public life of 2 1/2 to 3 years, Jesus spent a great deal of his time teaching and working miracles. In his teaching Jesus brought us the word of God to show us how to live and to tell us of a life beyond the grave. In his miracles, Jesus gave us the power of God to help us physically, by curing our ailments, and spiritually, by warding off the devil. This power of Jesus, seen in his miracles, is given to us through the sacraments Jesus himself instituted. These sacraments help our bodily and spiritual health. They help us stay away from sin and grow in holiness.

The Old Testament prophet Isaiah spoke of God delivering his people. "Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared; then will the lame leap like a stag, the tongue of the dumb will sing." God made his people a "light for the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, and to bring prisoners out of confinement." The New Testament and the tradition of the church see Jesus fulfilling these prophecies and thus showing all he is the

promised messiah and savior of the world.

So when the followers of St. John the Baptist asked Jesus if he were the messiah, Jesus replied: "Go and report to John what you have heard and seen: the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead rise, the poor have the Gospel preached to them."

The people of the Bible felt that Satan held dominion over the world from the fall of Adam to the coming of Christ. The Dead Sea Scrolls also show the world divided into the dominions of light and darkness. At the temptation of Christ, Satan showed Jesus the kingdoms of the world from the mountaintop and said: "To you will I give all this power and glory; for to me they have been delivered and to whomever I will I give them." We would expect, then, that Jesus would work miracles involving the expulsion of demons. Jesus said: "But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you." Thus no one working through the power of the devil is going to be casting out devils. By expelling demons, Jesus shows he is working for God. We

THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION

must remember, too, that, since Jesus was the Son of God made man, we would expect the devil to be out in full force.

In the world of the Bible, physical evil, such as sickness, deformity or death, was seen as part of the realm of Satan. Before the fall, Adam and Eve did not suffer with sickness, nor would they have undergone a bodily death. Sickness, suffering and death are punishments for original sin, a sin committed at the persuasion of the devil. Thus when Jesus cured the paralytic at Capernaum, he also forgave his sins. By curing physical ailments, Jesus was conquering Satan.

Since sin brought death into the world, Jesus also shows his power over death by raising up Lazarus, the daughter of Jairus, the son of the widow of Nain and even himself on Easter Sunday. Through his

death and resurrection, Jesus saves us from sin and death and takes us to heaven.

Because of the fall of man, disorder also entered the realm of nature. God said to Eve "in pain shall you bring forth children." God said to Adam "in toil shall you eat of the ground." The ancients believed Satan ruled the forces of nature. So when Jesus showed power over the forces of nature, by calming the storm at sea, walking on the water, multiplying the loaves and the fishes, causing a miraculous catch of fish, changing water into wine, he showed that God has arrived to save his people and Satan is defeated.

These miracles also helped people believe in Jesus. Nicodemus said: "Rabbi, we know that you have come as a teacher from God,

for no one can work these signs you work, unless God be with him." Even Jesus himself told the apostles at the Last Supper "believe in me because of the works I do."

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

Today's Catholic welcomes questions from readers. E-mail your questions to editor@fw.diocese-fwsb.org or mail them to *Today's Catholic*, That's A Good Question, P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne, IN 46856. Include your name, city and an e-mail address or phone number so we can contact you if necessary. Anonymity will be preserved upon request.

Meeting Mozart

The Bloomsbury critic, Lytton Strachey, was the father of the modern practice of biography-as-assassination. Writing amidst the cynicism caused by World War I, Strachey's "Eminent Victorians" set the model for pathography by taking down four hitherto-beloved 19th century heroes: Florence Nightingale, Cardinal Henry Edward Manning, Thomas Arnold and General Charles ("Chinese") Gordon. Strachey's victims' posthumous reputations have fared rather better than his, in the decades since "Eminent Victorians" was published in 1921. Still, the Strachean instinct to dissect (and then deride) men and women widely regarded as admirable and noble continues to this day, as do Strachey's characteristic emphases on emotion, personal relationships and modernist "authenticity" over talent, a sense of duty and religious faith.

This literary plague may, in fact, be receding, at least in the United States: think of the admiring biographies of Washington, Adams, Hamilton and Lincoln published in recent years. One remaining victim of Stracheyism, however, is the man who was arguably the greatest musical talent in history, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. How many people have read his story through the psychoanalytic fog of the 1984 Peter Schaffer/Milos Forman film, "Amadeus," in which Mozart is portrayed as a flatulent, boorish, man-child genius stalked by a jealous fellow-composer of lesser gifts, Antonio Salieri? It's all twaddle, and often vulgar twaddle, but at least you can close your eyes and listen to the music.

Which is, as always, sublime. Whenever I've visited the slough of despond, Mozart has been an

unfailing restorative — as he is a welcome companion in life's moments of unrelieved joy, and at every point in between. So, as we close 2006, a year that marked the 250th anniversary of Mozart's birth, let's just forget Amadeus and its imitation of Lytton Strachey by way of Sigmund Freud, and concentrate on the music. Herewith, then, a very brief Mozart Sampler, for those interested in meeting a genius on his own terms:

- The operas. They're time consuming, but it's permitted to cheat a little by getting the highlights of the main Mozart operas in the Teldec CD "Opera Collection," directed by Nikolaus Harnancourt. Complement that with one of my favorite recordings, the Mozart opera "Overtures" CD on the EMI label, with Neville Mariner and the Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields.

- The symphonies. Mozart took the symphonic form as far as it could go before Beethoven dramatically recast it in his Third. So I'd suggest starting towards the end of Mozart's symphonic production, with #31 (the "Paris" symphony), #35 (the "Haffner"), and #36 (the "Linz"); then move on to #38 (the "Prague" symphony) and #41 (the "Jupiter").

- The concerti. Once again, Neville Mariner and the Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields do a brilliant job in two double-CD collections on the Philips label, "Mozart: The Great Piano Concertos." Then try Christopher Hogwood and the Academy of Ancient Music performing the flute and harp concerto, the flute concerto #1, and the bassoon concerto on a L'Oiseau-Lyre CD, before turning to Hogwood again for the clarinet and oboe concerti on another L'Oiseau-Lyre disc.



GEORGE WEIGEL

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

Those less inclined to authentic instrument recordings can find most of the Mozart wind concerti on a two-disc Decca 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 unfinished "Great Mass" and "Requiem."

It's often said that the angels play Bach on holy days and Mozart for the sheer joy of it. I couldn't agree more. One more thing, if I may. Query to Richard ("The God Delusion") Dawkins: do you really think Mozart is the accidental, if fortuitous, product of galactic biochemistry?

George Weigel is a senior fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

By Patricia Kasten

Gospel for January 14, 2007

John 2:1-12

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C: the wedding feast miracle at Cana. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

CANA	GALILEE	JESUS
WINE	NO WINE	WOMAN
MY HOUR	STONE	JARS
THIRTY	GALLONS	FILL THE JARS
WATER	TASTED	BRIDEGROOM
SERVES	GOOD WINE	DRUNK FREELY
UNTIL NOW	GLORY	CAPERNAUM

FILL THE JARS

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

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LETTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

"I do not engage in negotiations for weapons consignments, but for improving the lot of the human person, promoting social justice, solidarity and love," Galassi said.

The ambassador said being dean of the diplomatic corps "is a great satisfaction," particularly because of the kind of people countries tend to nominate as their Vatican ambassadors.

Galassi is a surgeon and, while serving as ambassador, taught surgery in Rome until

reaching the mandatory retirement age of 69 in 2005.

"Many of the ambassadors to the Vatican are not career diplomats, but personalities in their own country. Most have a high level of education and culture," he said.

Close to 20 ambassadors began their service at the Vatican in 2005. A half dozen of them earned their university degrees in law, but there also were several who studied literature.

More than half of the new ambassadors were career diplomats, but several were university professors; two of the new ambassadors had served as mayors; the group also included a physician, a pharmacist and an engineer.

Sports

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.

St. Therese team: 'we really play hard' says coach

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — Action heated up at St. Joseph, Hessen Cassel, Saturday, Jan. 5, in the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) boys Blue League. St. Therese lost a tough game to St. Aloysius 15-32. St. Therese fell to 1-3 in the Blue League and 3-5 overall.

"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 Mendoza,

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 half-time 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 Benoit Academy. Curry had 29 points in the victory and Benoit remains undefeated.

Corpus Christi, St. Joseph of Mishawaka, remain unbeaten squads

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 performances 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 spree of Parker Derenney for the gold team.

Holy Family Blue defeated St. Matthew Black, 30-8; St. Jude Green downed Holy Cross Blue, 31-17; St. Anthony Maroon beat St. Anthony Gold, 27-19; Christ the King White beat Christ the King Blue, 28-15; and St. Thomas Maroon outlasted St. Joseph, South Bend, Blue, 29-26.

Standings through Jan. 7

John Bosco East

St. Anthony	3-1
St. Joseph, South Bend	3-1
St. Matthew	1-3
St. Thomas	0-4

John Bosco West

Corpus Christi	4-0
Christ the King	2-2
Holy Family	2-2
Holy Cross	1-3

Martin De Porres East

St. Joseph, Mishawaka	4-0
St. Pius	3-1
St. Monica	2-2
St. Bavo	0-4

Martin De Porres West

St. Jude	3-1
St. John	2-2
St. Michael	2-2
St. Adalbert	0-4

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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 Jaun 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

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 Kim Pryzbylski, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools, Diocese of Gary, 9292 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 folk.

Being cast in this role 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 notables in 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, lay evangelical preacher and prison

minister who worked in the Richard Nixon administration.

Nevertheless, how Catholics and evangelicals approach their faith is disparate. Peter Feuerherd, a Catholic press veteran, tackles this apparent conundrum of living the faith differently yet having similar concerns in "Holyland USA: A Catholic Ride Through America's Evangelical Landscape" (Crossroad, \$16.95).

Holy Land, a biblically themed amusement park in Florida provides the bookends of Feuerherd's yearlong investigation of traveling the country to try to understand the evangelical world. With Old and New Testament stories as the driving force for Holy Land, it must seem contrived to a Catholic, who, if looking for faith in all the right places, can visit Rome or visit thousands of different shrines and Catholic places across the world. (Our family rarely has difficulty finding some holy place to visit during vacations or weekend trips.)

But then evangelicals don't have that 2,000-year history to fall back on. Though they could, as could any Protestant, non-Catholic too often ignore the early days of the church as though it might undercut their current denomination, which, without trying to be too snide, it actually does.

Feuerherd visited evangelical churches, including the famous megachurch Willow Creek in the Chicago suburbs, with a congregation of several thousand. (Another

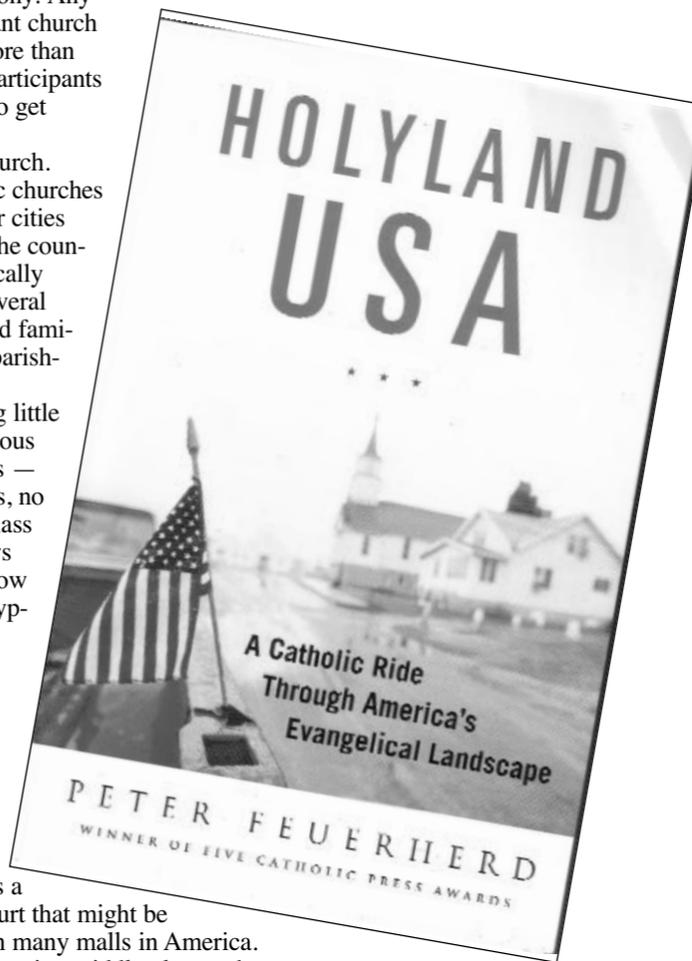
bit of irony: Any Protestant church with more than 1,000 participants seems to get labeled megachurch. Catholic churches in larger cities across the country typically have several thousand families as parishioners.) Offering little in religious symbols — no icons, no stand-glass windows — Willow Creek typically offers "down-home sermons," lively music, and includes a food court that might be

found in many malls in America. Trying to give middle-class, suburban Americans spiritual comfort food, biblical characters might make an appearance in sermons on occasion, but doctrine or deeper faith issues are generally ignored.

If Catholics and evangelicals are going to work in communities or politics to address similar concerns, an ecumenism which helps each group understand the other is good. In this book, though, Feuerherd seems not to be sure how far we can or should go in this area. He's somewhat conflicted on some of the positions of the

Catholic Church, and now that his daughter has left the church and joined an evangelical community, he may be searching for even more answers than addressed.

As a travelogue, the book has some interesting insights about different people across the country. As an essay on where the two denominations may be headed, it's a little thin. Depending on what you hope to get out of reading this book, you may or may not want to pick it up.



NEW YORK (CNS) — Following are capsule reviews of movies issued by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting.

"Pan's Labyrinth" (Picturehouse)

Cinematographically stunning adult tale set in 1944 Spain about an unhappy 11-year-old girl's (Ivana Baquero) emotional escape into a maze — either real or imagined — overseen by a faun (Doug Jones) attended by insect-fairies that help her cope with the horrors of the marriage of her ailing pregnant mother (Ariadna Gil) to a vicious fascist officer (Sergei Lopez) assigned to root out resistance fighters who are secretly aided by his housekeeper (Maribel Verdu) and physician (Alex Angulo). Though the main story outline is familiar in its classic structure, it is given new life by director Guillermo Del Toro's deft balancing of the harsh real world with the girl's mysterious parallel universe which sheds light on the former, and there are poignant elements of sacrifice and redemption. Subtitles. Rough and crude language and some profanity, several brutally violent episodes, torture, several murders, a nongraphic amputation, a mercy killing, occult plot aspects and graphic childbirth scenes. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

DIRECTOR Office of Worship

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend seeks a Director for the Office of Worship.

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is comprised of 14 counties located in the northeast corner of Indiana with a Catholic population in excess of 150,000 souls and 82 parishes. The Diocesan Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception is located in Fort Wayne, Indiana with the Co-Cathedral of St. Matthew located in South Bend, Indiana. The Office of Worship is responsible for preparing diocesan liturgies for the Cathedral and the Co-Cathedral, such as the Rite of Election, Chrism Mass, Church dedications, Ordinations, clergy funerals and other Diocesan celebrations. The office advises parishes, diocesan departments, schools, groups and organizations in preparing liturgies at which the Bishop presides, and helps in their preparation of liturgies and rituals, prayer services, and the Liturgy of the Hours.

The Office of Worship is also responsible for Workshops on topics related to liturgy and music that are held throughout the year.

The Director of the Office of Worship also acts as an advisor to the Bishop concerning liturgy and works in consultation with the Diocesan Liturgical Commission and the Master of Episcopal Ceremonies to advise the Bishop, Clergy and Laity.

In addition, the Director will supervise and administrate a departmental budget and a staff of one and a half full-time people as well as various other ad hoc personnel.

The interested candidate must be a practicing Catholic and possess high energy, interpersonal skills, and organization. A Bachelor's degree in Liturgy or related field is preferred. A strong track record of personal experiences in the field of liturgy will also be considered.

Compensation for this position will be based on previous experience. Interested applicants should send their resumes and other pertinent information to:

Search Committee c/o Carol Flora
52553 Fir Road - Granger, IN 46530
Deadline for response is March 1, 2007

Father Jan Michael Joncas to speak at Liturgy Day

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

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 min-

isters and anyone involved in parish ministry to learn about the new changes coming.

Cost is \$25 and advance registration is required.

See ad below for registration or for more information, visit www.diocesefwsb.org/WORSHIP.

Liturgy Day 2007
Gathering Faithfully Together
With Father Jan Michael Joncas
February 3, 2007
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church
225 Gilliam Dr.
Warsaw, IN 46580

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 to the Office of Worship by that date.

Register on-line at:
www.diocesefwsb.org/WORSHIP/registration.htm

Registration Form for Liturgy Day 2007

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State & Zip _____

Phone: _____

Name & City of parish: _____

Registration Fee: \$25.00
Payment Must Be Enclosed With Your Registration
Make your check payable to
"Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend."

Please return this form to:
Office of Worship, Attn: Liturgy Day
P.O. Box 390, Fort Wayne, IN 46801

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.diocesefwsb.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 Snead, faculty member at the University of Notre Dame, will speak on stem-cell research. A free simple supper of hot soup and bread will follow. For more information, call Bill Schmitt at (574) 232-6777.

Ed Fox fish and tenderloin dinner supports music boosters
Fort Wayne — An Ed Fox fish and tenderloin dinner will be held Friday, Feb. 2, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Bishop Dwenger High School cafeteria. Adults \$7, children \$5 and children 5 and under are free.

Bishop Dwenger presents Lip Sync party to support Saints Alive
Fort Wayne — The Lip Sync party will be held on Saturday, Jan. 20, in the Bishop Dwenger gym. Performers should contact Bob Tomlinson at (260) 489-9672. Guests are invited to attend the event with doors open at 6:30 p.m. Dinner served at 7 p.m. Admission is \$50 per couple at the door. Those interested in attending after the basketball game with no dinner may attend for \$30 per couple. For information contact Saints Alive at (260) 483-7001.

Casino night raises funds
Fort Wayne — The St. Vincent de Paul Parish athletics fund raiser and casino night will be Saturday, Jan. 27, 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 or grieving people from 9 to 11 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 300 W. Wayne St. On Feb. 24, 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
South Bend — The St. Matthew travel club will attend BODYWORKS at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago on Saturday, Jan. 27. Bus leaves St. Matthew Cathedral at 8 a.m. and returns about 7 p.m. Price includes motorcoach, general admission to museum, admission to BODYWORKS exhibit, admission to Omnimax presentation 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

REST IN PEACE

Auburn Eloise G. DeKoninck, 72, Immaculate Conception	Jane F. Reynolds, 88, Cathedral of the Immac. Conception	South Bend Esther V. Niedbalski, 83, St. Adalbert
Bristol Jack T. Howard, St. Mary/Annunciation	Florence O. Harkenrider, 81, St. Peter	Margaret Giantomaso, 100, St. Joseph
Elkhart Eleanor M. Carr, 88, St. Vincent de Paul	Goshen Rosemarie C. Starr, 43, St. John the Evangelist	Louise T. Strychalski, 93, Christ the King
Espinoza Lopez, infant, St. Vincent de Paul	Granger Chester Majewski, 87, St. Pius X	Catherine E.V. Foley, 91, St. Anthony de Padua
Fort Wayne Vincenzo Di Ianni, 75, St. Charles Borromeo	Mishawaka Richard E. Andrzejewski, 75, St. Joseph	Lowell Tom, 60, St. Anthony de Padua
Kathleen A. Showen, 52, Sacred Heart	Leon C. Maenhout, 86, St. Bavo	John N. Bryan, 88, Little Flower
Joan M. Campbell, 79, St. Charles Borromeo	New Haven Marilyn L. Lampe, 72, St. John the Baptist	Aquina Van Holsbeke, 88, St. Anthony de Padua
Phyllis J. Heidenreich, 73, St. Henry	Thomas A. Miller, 75, St. John the Baptist	Warsaw Oliver Arnett, 71, Sacred Heart
Violet M. Nicholls Kingsley, 88, Our Lady of Good Hope	Hilda L. Schnelker, 87, St. John the Baptist	

Julia Roszkowski at (574) 243-0743 for information. Register online at www.wwme-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 required reservations call (260) 493-1914.

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.

Singles investigate latest craze
Fort Wayne — Beat the winter blahs and join the "GAP", a social group for single Catholics in the

40-60ish age range. Come for an evening of fun as we investigate the latest craze on Friday, Jan. 19, at 7 p.m. in the St. Elizabeth parish hall. Bring a finger snack or drink to share. For information call (260) 432-7346 or e-mail gap4565@msn.com.

Trivia night returns
South Bend — Corpus Christi School will host a Trivia Night on Saturday, Jan. 20. Tailgating begins at 6 p.m. and game play begins at 7 p.m. Cost is \$100 per table, maximum of 12 players per table/team. Registration forms available in school office or call Christine Zmyslo at (574) 273-2931.

Life chain planned
Goshen — The Holy Innocents pro-life action and Elkhart County right to life groups have planned a silent prayer march around the sidewalks of the Goshen court house on Saturday, Jan. 20, from 11 a.m. to noon. No graphic signs permitted.

Knights plan spaghetti dinner
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a spaghetti dinner on Friday, Jan. 19, from 5 to 7 p.m. Adults \$6, children (5-12) \$3. Dinner includes spaghetti, salad, garlic toast and coffee. Carry-out available.

DEVOTIONS

Little Flower Holy Hour
Fort Wayne — Father Robert Schulte will celebrate the Holy Hour at MacDougal Chapel on Tuesday, Jan. 16, at 7:15 p.m. Father Schulte is rector of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

Centering prayer held each week
South Bend — Centering prayer is held every Tuesday from 4-5 p.m. at Little Flower Chapel, 541191 N. Ironwood Dr.



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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*