

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Knights take pro-life cause to the streets



DIANE FREEBY

Knights from the Santa Maria Council #553 lead pro-life participants through the streets of South Bend at the 33rd annual Right to Life March on Jan. 14. The annual march included a homily by Holy Cross Father Nathan Wills and talk by University of Notre Dame Law School Professor Carter Snead.

March participants urged to pray for an end to abortion

BY DIANE FREEBY

SOUTH BEND — A return to wintry conditions Jan. 14 did not keep the Knights of Columbus from returning to the streets of South Bend for their 33rd annual Right to Life March.

Over 50 people joined them that cold Sunday afternoon. Beginning at the Santa Maria Council #553 headquarters on Washington Street, the group made its way to a prayer service at St. Joseph Church on LaSalle. In his homily, Holy Cross Father Nathan Wills urged continued prayer to bring about an end to abortion.

Father Wills urged the participants not to dwell on the sadness of abortion, but to instead pray for the lost children, their parents and those involved with the abortion industry.

"It is good that we are here," reminded Father Wills, who then referred to St. Paul's letter to the Romans. "What can ever separate us from the love of Christ? Nothing! Let us pray for the courage to fight the good fight, to speak our hearts in compassion and for an end to abortion."

After the group returned to the council headquarters, one participant made it clear why he has marched every year since the 1970's. Jerry Ball

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Pro-life movement alive and well

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All invited to last Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption Parish

BY VINCE LABARBERA

SOUTH BEND — Bishop John M. D'Arcy will preside at the last Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in South Bend at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 28. All current and past parishioners and clergy are welcome to attend, said Father John Delaney, pastor, who will concelebrate the closing Mass with Bishop D'Arcy.

It was announced Dec. 3, 2006, that after extensive consultation, St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, 3501 S. Locust Rd., is being merged with nearby St. Jude Parish. In announcing the merger, Bishop D'Arcy shared with the congregation his gratitude to them for the many years of worship and service at the 125-year-old St. Mary of the Assumption Parish.

Immediately following the Mass, parishioners will travel to St. Jude Parish, 19704 Johnson Rd., for a welcoming prayer service and a dinner. Bishop D'Arcy will take the Blessed Sacrament from St. Mary's. He and others then will process into St. Jude Church, led by a cross bearer. Also included in the procession will be the Book of Gospels, the sacred oils, the altar stone and



The sanctuary of St. Mary of the Assumption Church is shown above.

the parish records of baptisms, marriages and deaths.

During the brief prayer service at St. Jude's, parishioners of both parishes will be welcomed and blessed by Bishop D'Arcy. A dinner will follow immediately, but reservations are required, said Father Delaney, who since last July also has been serving as pastor of St. Jude. Anyone who is interested in attending the dinner is asked to call the St. Jude Parish office at (574) 291-0570 by Wednesday, Jan. 24.

KNIGHTS PROMOTE LIFE



MARK WEBER

Tom Miller, left, and Grand Knight Mike Blankman of the Hessen Cassel Knights of Columbus arranged a pancake breakfast at St. Joseph Hessen Cassel Parish, Fort Wayne, which raised nearly \$800 and was given to the Women's Care Centers of Fort Wayne.

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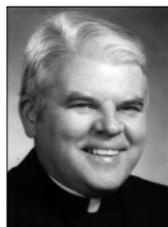
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When people pray with fervor, vocations flourish



NEWS & NOTES

BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

I hope you say the prayer.

Through the hard work of our small, but hardworking staff of *Today's Catholic*, every Catholic home received a copy of the first Jubilee Year edition of our newspaper. Included as well was a decal with our logo, the beautiful image of Christ and Mary adapted from St. Patrick Church, Fort Wayne. Also contained was a prayer card presenting on one side a Prayer for Vocations and on the other side Psalm 117, a prayer for this Jubilee Year. This prayer card was put together by Linda Furge, our director of this Jubilee Year observance and Father Bernie Galic, director of the Vocation Office and pastor of Holy Family Parish, South Bend.

Please say these prayers. We sent them out so that everyone would have them. You can put it in your prayer book or your wallet and say it when you make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament or when you say your morning or night prayers at home, or after you pray the rosary.

In last week's edition of *Today's Catholic*, there was a quote from Pope Benedict, which was taken from his message from the 2006 World Day of Prayer for Vocations. That day is not celebrated in this country until after Easter — usually the Third Sunday of Easter, I believe, when the Gospel relates to the Good Shepherd. He said, "It is not surprising when people pray with fervor, vocations flourish."

This is the spirit that has prompted us to see that every parish and every family receives a copy of this Jubilee Prayer for Vocations. I am certain and I believe with all my heart that if our diocese is on its knees this year, praying for vocations for priests and the consecrated life spiritual gifts will come and more young men of good quality who are capable of living this demanding but beautiful life will come forward and seek to follow Christ as shepherds of the flock.

We include prayers for the consecrated life, for brothers and sisters, who have played such a significant role in our diocese. We have a number of initiatives being planned throughout the year. These efforts will only bear fruit if accompanied by prayer.

A visit to family

St. Columbkille Church was the neighboring parish. It was larger than Our Lady of the Presentation, which was the parish of my family since my parents came from Ireland in the 1920s. St. Columbkille's was the mother church, large and imposing on Market Street, near the business center. They had a high school and grammar school and something

called "The Institute," which was a social center for young people. It was a thriving place. For some reason, we often went to confession there. At the other end of Brighton was St. Gabriel Parish. It included a retreat center, and my dad often made retreats there. St. Gabriel's was staffed by priests of the Passionists Order. We had these three parishes, and now St. Columbkille's is the only one left as the other two are closed. So, it was

most kind of Msgr. William Fay, the pastor of St. Columbkille's to invite me to celebrate a Mass there, near my family home. It was a great joy. Although we arranged it only in the last several weeks, it was well attended with family members and priest friends. I saw relatives and neighbors I have not seen in years. I spoke about what it was like growing up in Brighton, so many physical signs of church. Pope Benedict said it was the parish church and the activity there in his hometown in Bavaria, which prompted him to "fall in love with the Catholic Church." In Brighton you had these three impressive churches. There was also St. John's Seminary, where I lived many years as a student and later as a faculty member. Nearby was Boston College and also St. Elizabeth's Hospital, along with St. Joseph's Academy for Girls. Everywhere you ran into these physical signs of the church.

So many of them are now gone. I tried to tell the people that Jesus Christ is not gone — that he is present in the Eucharist and the Gospel and in the priests taking care of St. Columbkille's. So many friends of my parents were there. Isn't it always special when someone says, "I knew your father. I knew your mother." Growing up in that town, there were three special places — your home, your parish church and the local park or playground for sports. We had another place; namely, my father's store where I began to work at the age of nine. Like so many Irish immigrants, my father had worked for a grocery chain. There were small grocery stores every 10 blocks or so. When it closed in 1941, he and my mother courageously opened D'Arcy's Market in the next block, and I worked there every day. It was a gift to work so close to my father, but of course I did not know it at that time. We have to grow old before we see how strong God has been in our life and how he has prepared us for things to come. All part of the beautiful trip home — the Mass at a nearby parish, although it was not my home parish, I certainly felt at home there. On a rainy Sunday, the sun shined in my heart on this, the first celebration of my Golden Jubilee Year. It was a joy. Thanks be to God.

Many tasks ahead

I am preparing for my pastoral visits to the four high schools. As always, we will begin at Bishop Luers High School. Then comes Catholic Schools Week and the All Schools Mass in Fort Wayne and at Notre Dame, as well as the luncheons to help the You Can Lend a Hand program, which raises funds for our schools. Our Liturgy Day is coming up in Warsaw, and I have the privilege of giving the first class in preparation for the group of men who are candidates for the permanent diaconate. In February, I will celebrate my jubilee as a priest of 50 years as well as 32 years as bishop. I thank God for his presence and for the gift of good health.

Prediction

Patriots 27, Colts 21. Let us see what happens. See you all next week.

Let us do everything we can to influence a culture of life

It is hard to imagine that seven men led our beloved country to a situation where the taking of a human life on demand is legal. Prior to this decision, all 50 states had laws preventing, or seriously limiting, the taking of a human life in the womb.

Seven men changed it in a decision which the late Justice White, who was one of the dissenting votes, called "Raw Judicial Power." Even some who agree with the result consider the decision flawed. How do we respond? There are several ways to respond.

First, there is the response of prayer. People should pray every day for those who are drawn toward abortion.

Second, we should support and make known the crisis pregnancy centers; such as, the Women's Care Center, which has stations across our diocese and beyond. They see over 7,000 young women each year.

Third, there is teaching. Many have noticed that young people are the strongest opponents of abortion. We must continue this through our teaching in our schools and in religious education. In this teaching, science is the friend of theology and ethics.

Finally, there is the public arena. For this reason, many from our diocese will go to Washington, D.C. this week to protest on the 34th anniversary of Roe v. Wade. Let us do everything we can to influence our young people in this direction. Many young people will make this journey.

I support the Promises To Keep program, which some of our Catholic high schools are implementing. I hope we can do more on this in the year ahead. Let us do everything we can to build and sustain what Pope John Paul II called "the culture of life." May it grow in our midst during this Jubilee Year.

Bishop John M. D'Arcy

Pro-life official decries passage of 'misguided' stem-cell bill

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A pro-life official of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops criticized House passage Jan. 11 of a bill that would expand federal funding of stem-cell research that involves the destruction of human embryos, but expressed confidence that an expected presidential veto of the "misguided and unethical legislation" would stand.

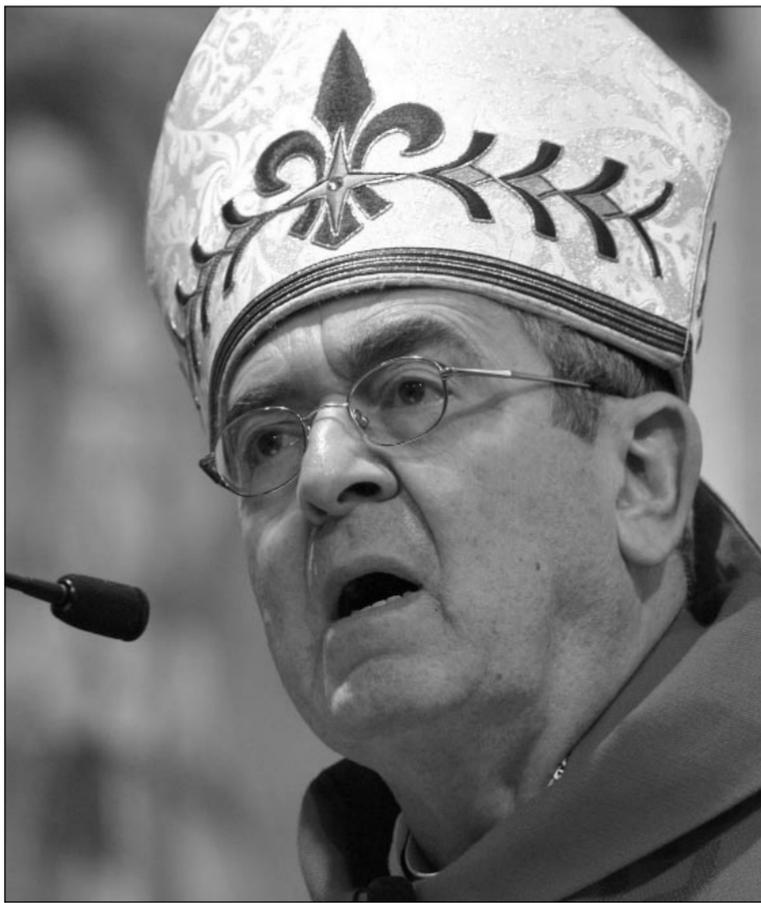
Richard Doerflinger, deputy director of the bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, said in a statement that the 253-174 vote indicated that there were not enough votes to override the veto that President George W. Bush has promised.

The bill now goes to the Senate for a vote; if it passes there, it will be sent to the White House for action by Bush.

But Doerflinger said both houses of Congress should turn their attention "to stem-cell research that poses no moral problem — constructive research that is already beginning to help patients with dozens of conditions in clinical trials."

"Unlike embryonic stem-cell research, research using stem cells from adult tissue, umbilical-cord blood, amniotic fluid and other sources is showing enormous promise and is likely to produce new treatments for patients now living," he added.

Noting that most Americans prefer stem-cell research that takes place "without harming or destroying human life at any stage,"



CNS PHOTO/MICHAEL ALEXANDER, GEORGIA BULLETIN
Philadelphia Cardinal Justin Rigali, chairman of the bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, has urged members of the U.S. House of Representatives to reject an embryonic stem-cell research bill up for vote Jan. 11 in Washington. Cardinal Rigali is pictured at the Red Mass in Atlanta in this September file photo.

Doerflinger said, "The truly statesmanlike approach to this issue would be to take up this challenge,

supporting medical progress that all Americans can live with."

During the House debate on the

legislation, Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., decried the abundance of misinformation surrounding the debate on stem-cell research and called for federal resources to go to effective, ethical stem-cell research.

Before the vote, Philadelphia Cardinal Justin Rigali, chairman of the bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, urged House members to "consider the fundamental moral line" they would cross if they approved H.R. 3, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2007.

Cardinal Rigali called it a "sad reality" that other forms of stem-cell research have received inadequate funding and attention while there has been "an exaggerated and almost exclusive focus on destructive embryo research in the political and policymaking arena."

"Even the national cord-blood stem-cell bank that Congress approved a year ago, which could benefit many thousands of Americans immediately, has received minimal funding," he said.

Other forms of stem-cell research made news Jan. 7 based on a report from scientists at Wake Forest and Harvard universities that said the amniotic fluid surrounding a child in the womb can be the source of medically useful stem cells. The report was published in an online edition of the journal *Nature Biotechnology*.

In a letter to House members dated Jan. 9 and released Jan. 10,

Cardinal Rigali said the lawmakers should support "better solutions" than the "most speculative and most divisive type of stem-cell research," that which involves the destruction of embryos.

"On a practical level, embryonic stem-cell research has been as disappointing in its results as it has been divisive to our society," he said. "After almost three decades of research in mouse embryonic stem cells and nine years in the human variety, researchers can scarcely point to a safe and effective 'cure' for any condition in mice let alone human beings" using embryonic stem cells.

"At the same time," he continued, "ethically sound research using nonembryonic stem cells has continued to advance, helping patients with over 70 conditions in early peer-reviewed studies."

"Since Congress debated this issue last summer, further evidence has emerged on the versatility of adult stem cells, and on the likelihood that they can be reprogrammed to enhance this quality," he said.

Cardinal Rigali told House members also to consider "the fundamental moral line" they will cross by approving the measure.

"The federal government has never taken the crass utilitarian approach of forcing taxpayers to support the direct killing of innocent human life, at any stage of development, in the name of progress," he added.

MARCH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

graduated, cum laude, from the University of Notre Dame in 1969. Nine months later, a motorcycle accident changed his life forever. Ball sustained severe head injuries, forcing him to leave his new job and everything he thought his Notre Dame education had afforded him. Yet through his faith, this man keeps things in perspective.

"I'm happy for my life," replied Ball, who is the fifth in a family of 12 children. "The Father was good to me, so I try to be good to him. That's why I come to this march."

Professor Carter Snead, a member of the Notre Dame law department and St. Joseph Church, addressed the group with a talk on his area of expertise, "Stem Cell Research: On the Frontier of Pro-Life Legal Issues."

Snead previously served on and continues to advise the Bush Administration as General Counsel for the President's Council on Bioethics, a White House advisory committee. He was the principal drafter of the council's 2004 report, "Reproduction and Responsibility: The Regulation of New Biotechnologies." From 2004 to 2005, Snead served as the chief negotiator and head of the U.S. delegation to the United Nations for the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights. Snead, who received his law degree magna cum laude from

Georgetown University, now focuses his research on the intersection of law and bioethics.

Giving a crash course on stem cells, Snead explained what they are, the ethical issues involved, and the resulting legal and public policies.

"Stem cells come from a variety of sources," explained Snead. "The most controversial are embryonic stem cells, produced by in-vitro fertilization, or IVF. The next step is human cloning, where an embryo is produced by a process that simulates fertilization, for express purposes of research."

Lost on the mainstream media is the value of adult stem cells, which can be obtained from the placenta, bone marrow, fat cells and most recently noted, amniotic fluid — none of which requires the destruction of a human embryo.

Public figures like Sen. Arlen Specter and actor Michael J. Fox promote the idea that all illnesses can be cured by stem cells. This, according to Snead, is an irresponsible yet effective claim. He fears this over-hyped message will only cause false hopes.

"It's still too early to know what exactly embryonic stem-cell research has achieved," said Snead. "We do know that adult stem cells have actually been used and have benefited others."

If one day science proves embryonic stem cells are the most effective way to cure disease, Snead reminded his listeners of the moral implications of creating and destroying millions of embryos.

"You don't have to be Catholic to understand why we shouldn't

destroy human beings at their earliest, or at any, stage," emphasized Snead. "An egg plus a sperm equals a new, distinct human organism with its own genetic identity. Yes, it needs to be in womb, in a hospitable environment. So do all living things."

Another media misconception, said Snead, is the issue of federal funding. He explained that no ban exists on stem-cell research, only on providing incentives to create embryos specifically for research and ultimate destruction.

"It's a federal limitation, not a ban," emphasized Snead. "It varies from state to state, similar to the pre-Roe v. Wade legal landscape."

When asked what the average citizen can do to make a political impact on this life and death issue, Snead was specific.

"Educate yourselves on the issue, then influence your local and state representatives. Ban cloning. Ban destructive embryonic research. We are for science and cures, but within an ethical framework."

The Respect Life Program wrapped up with words of encouragement from Pastor James Williams, founder of Abundant Faith Family Ministry. Ecumenical in membership, the ministry is dedicated to serving the community by providing clothing, housing and medical assistance to those in need among our community, while defending the right-to-life position.

Pastor Williams was joined by his praise team and choir to close the program in song. Everyone was then invited to stay for a simple meal of hot soup and bread.

Collection for the Church in Latin America will be Jan. 27-28

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Supporting the work of the church in the poorer areas of the world is a concrete sign of our solidarity with those who share our faith. Next weekend, Jan. 27-28, we will have an opportunity to participate in providing assistance for the pastoral work of the church through the annual Collection for the Church in Latin America.

When we consider the fact that half of the world's Catholics live in Latin America and that they are extremely poor, how can we not be moved to do what we can for our brothers and sisters who share our faith south of the border?

The money raised in this collection goes directly to support pastoral projects in 22 countries throughout Mexico, Central and South America and the Caribbean. Through grants and partnerships, this collection makes possible catechetical and lay leadership programs, youth ministry, evangelization programs and formation programs for seminarians, religious, priests and deacons. In Latin America, where there is an average of only one priest for every 7,000 Catholics, even modest grants can provide things that we might take for granted, such as paper, books or even a meeting place. The Department of Social Development and World Peace at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops also receives a percentage of this collection to fund its work on public issues of concern to the Church in Latin America, such as debt relief for poor countries, foreign aid, international trade, human rights and religious freedom.

Please know of my gratitude for your generosity in this effort as we in this hemisphere strive to live out the demands of solidarity which our late, great Holy Father, John Paul II, once expressed so eloquently: "The greatest gift which America has received from the Lord is the faith which has forged its Christian identity."

Sincerely yours in our Lord,

Most Rev. John M. D'Arcy

Questioning a society that condones murder with murder

Author of 'Dead Man Walking' speaks with Marian students

BY JENNIFER OCHSTEIN

MISHAWAKA — If you Google the words “death penalty nun,” chances are you’ll come across Sister Helen Prejean’s name.

It seems it’s a title Sister Prejean, the author of the book “Dead Man Walking: An Eyewitness Account of the Death Penalty in the United States,” never expected.

“I never really thought about social justice,” early on in her career as a nun, said Sister Prejean, who spoke about her experience serving as spiritual advisor to Patrick Sonnier. Sonnier was convicted and executed in Louisiana for murder and rape.

Sister Prejean spoke to students at Marian High School in Mishawaka about her experience with Sonnier. She also spoke at Little Flower Parish in South Bend.

It seems becoming spiritual advisor for death row inmates never entered her mind either.

Since being nominated for the Pulitzer Prize and having her book made into a Academy Award-winning movie starring Susan Sarandon and Sean Penn, Sister Prejean has witnessed five executions and speaks out against the death penalty.

Sister Prejean told Marian students and guests she changed her mind about social justice after she learned that the Gospels are laden with social justice.

“All of a sudden, I got it,” she said in a ripe Southern drawl.

She suddenly got that, under Jesus Christ’s new way of living in community together, no one would be poor because everyone shared their resources.

That’s what Sister Prejean decided to do.

Originally from and serving in New Orleans, Sister Prejean said she moved into a poor housing project called St. Thomas, also in New Orleans.

And that’s where someone

asked her if she would be interested in being a pen pal with a death row inmate, who seemed desperate for contact with other people.

She agreed, not anticipating that Patrick Sonnier would write her back.

“No one visited him,” Sister Prejean said. “His mother couldn’t because she mentally couldn’t walk into a place where they were gonna kill her son.”

So, Sonnier asked Sister Prejean to visit him.

She was later struck by Mt 25:36, in which Jesus said, “... I was in prison and you came to visit me.” Sister Prejean visited death row.

She thought he would look “mean and scowly,” but he didn’t and said to her, “Sister Helen, you came. People always say they’ll come, but they never do,” said Sister Prejean.

That’s when she said she realized Sonnier was a human being.

“We’re all worth more than the worst thing we’ve ever done,” she said. “In Christ, we’re all a new creation.”

All the while she said she saw a goodness in him.

That’s not to say she forgot about the victims he killed and the girl he raped along with his brother, Eddie James Sonnier.

Loretta Ann Bourque, 18, was raped and killed, and David LeBlanc, 16, was killed in 1977 by the Sonnier brothers.

“And I’m the spiritual mother to the two people who did this,” she told the crowd at Marian — it was something else it seemed she could hardly believe.

She saw the entire case, in which everyone involved was Catholic — from the victims and their families to the Sonnier brothers and their family — as the two arms of the cross. On one arm was the suffering victims and their families and on the other were the Sonnier brothers and their family.

She said she never visited the families because she was scared,



JENNIFER OCHSTEIN

Sister Helen Prejean, center, talks with two parents after sharing her story behind writing the book “Dead Man Walking” at Marian High School in Mishawaka.

even though she was prompted by the Holy Spirit to do so. When she saw the girl’s family at the execution, they wouldn’t look at her. The boy’s father had a different reaction. He asked her why she never came to visit with his family.

She said later that the boy’s father was the hero of her book “Dead Man Walking.” They said the rosary together and he prayed for everyone involved in the murder including the Sonnier brothers and their mother, who was continually being harassed in the community.

“I was in the presence of someone who had forgiven everyone,” Sister Prejean said of the murdered boy’s father.

He even told the convicted murderer’s mother that if she ever needed anything to call him and told her she was not responsible for the actions of her sons.

“There are people who recognize that another mother’s child is going to die,” Sister Prejean said.

Later, she said that over two years after she wrote her first letter to Patrick Sonnier, he was killed.

And she refused to call that killing any euphemism like execution.

“We need to question a society that condones murder with murder,” Sister Prejean said, adding later: “If as a society, we’re going to decide who lives and who dies we better have a way to find out the truth.”

She said most people on death row are poor, who can’t afford expensive attorneys to defend them.

“I was with (Sonnier) when he died,” Sister Prejean said later. “I’m still horrified by the crime he committed, and then I witnessed

the horror of a state killing.”

She called herself a witness to the indignity of state-sponsored killing.

“I’d never seen anything like it,” she said. “I threw up and thought ‘I’m a witness.’”

Many students, including Justin Dieringer, 18, agreed with Sister Prejean’s stance on the death penalty.

“I’m against the death penalty,” Dieringer, a senior at the high school, said. “I believe life should be

respected and the dignity of life should be protected.”

He said he had this view before listening to Prejean, but her lecture helped affirm it in his mind.

Lisa Veldman, 17, a junior at Marian, agreed.

What struck her most about the death penalty is that mostly poor are sentenced to death. She said it is not right that some people get life in prison or the death penalty depending on the cost of their attorney.

“We’re all worth more than the worst thing we’ve ever done.”

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Catholic Charities aims to cut poverty in America in half by 2020

BY JERRY FILTEAU

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic Charities USA Jan. 10 launched an ambitious campaign to cut poverty in America in half by 2020.

“The poor do belong to us. ... They are our brothers and sisters,” Father Larry Snyder, Catholic Charities USA president, told an overflow crowd at a Capitol Hill briefing announcing the Campaign to Reduce Poverty in America.

Noting that 37 million Americans — 12.6 percent of the population — currently live below the poverty line, he said Catholic Charities USA and its affiliates, working in partnership with government, the private sector and other nonprofits, will launch “a concentrated, systematic effort to cut poverty in half by 2020.”

The briefing introducing the campaign was attended by media, legislators, legislative aides and leaders of other Catholic organizations engaged in social service and advocacy for the poor.

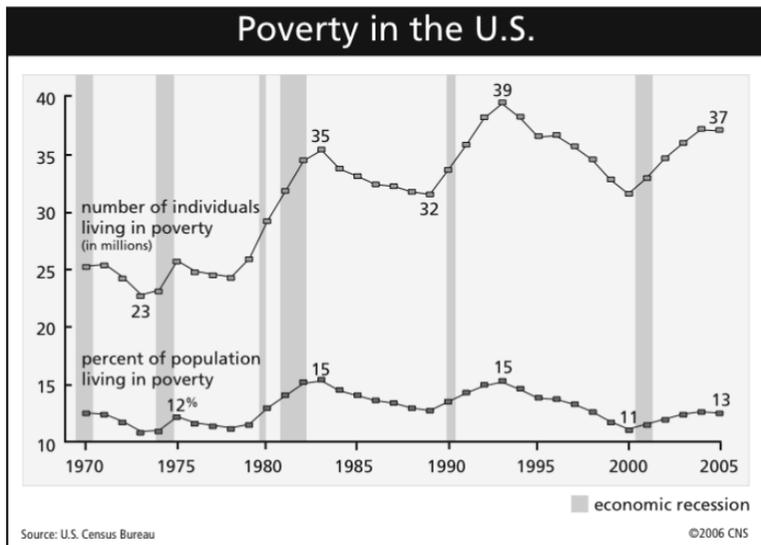
Participants received the newly released Catholic Charities USA policy paper, “Poverty in America: A Threat to the Common Good.” It sets the moral and analytic framework for the campaign and spells out specific policy proposals for a sustained drive to reverse the growth of poverty in the United States.

The briefing was held as the U.S. House was debating a bill to change the minimum wage from the current \$5.15 an hour — a rate unchanged since 1997 — to \$7.25 an hour by 2009.

Maureen Murphy, an associate division manager of Catholic Charities of Chicago, said that with housing prices in Lake County, Ill., someone has to earn \$17 an hour at a full-time job to afford a two-bedroom apartment. For someone earning the current minimum wage, that would mean working 133 hours a week, she said.

Saying that a society is judged by how it treats its poor, Father Snyder described the current situation in America as a “moral crisis.”

He said the number of people seeking assistance from Catholic Charities agencies across the country is rising faster than the amount of resources available to assist them. Since 2002, the number of people seeking emergency assistance has increased 14 percent, he said, and the total number served by Catholic Charities nationwide has risen to nearly 8 million a year.



“As a society we cannot continue to abandon” those who are poor and in need of assistance, he said.

Citing the importance of a higher minimum wage, he said, “Today too many Americans are working hard without being able to make ends meet.”

Ron Jackson, executive director of the District of Columbia Catholic Conference and a veteran lobbyist for the poor on Capitol Hill, attested to the role of government in combating poverty.

Debates whether government anti-poverty programs work have been going on since President Lyndon B. Johnson launched his Great Society reforms in the 1960s, he said.

Jackson told the group that growing up poor in Louisiana he was able to work during high school because of Johnson’s Neighborhood Youth Corps program. He said that as the fourth of five children he could not have gone on to college without the money he had saved through work in that program, which was enough to get him through the first year’s tuition and into the second.

“It was a way to lift me out of poverty,” he said.

He said one-third of the children in the District of Columbia live in poverty and last year alone the city lost about 12,000 units of affordable housing. If the nation is going to commit itself to reversing poverty, “it would be a good idea to start right in the nation’s capital,” he said.

Janet Valente Pape, chairwoman of the Catholic Charities USA board and executive director of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Wichita, Kan., said the new campaign is meant to challenge not just the church and the government, but everyone.

“We absolutely need to reverse the trend of the increasing number of poor in this country,” she said.

She called for a combination of “moral outrage and political will” to create a turning point and bring the nation “to engage in a long-overdue debate about the plight of the poor.”

In the Wichita Diocese, where

Catholic Charities served “well over 20,000” clients last year, she said, “78 percent of our clients live below the federal poverty guidelines.”

“More than 50 percent of those served in our shelters are children,” she added.

She said a Catholic Charities clinic in Wichita that serves people without health insurance used to find that most of the uninsured were elderly or unemployed. Today, “60 percent are employed and it’s going up,” she said.

Catholic social teaching does not call for complete equality of income, but it does condemn “extreme inequalities of income and consumption,” she said.

What the campaign seeks to establish is “a floor of material well-being on which we all can stand,” she said.

Stephanie Baldwin, a single mother who received help from Catholic Charities of Trenton, N.J., and now has a secretarial job

with that agency, described how Catholic Charities helped her when she and her young son were homeless, providing transitional housing and other assistance to help her get out of a cycle of welfare and get part-time work.

“I love my work at Catholic Charities,” she said. She added that the salary she is paid is fair for a secretary in a nonprofit organization, but after insurance, taxes and other deductions, her net pay of \$1,320 a month makes it a struggle every month to meet the bills for rent, food, health care and day care for her son.

When a new landlord came in last year and raised the \$900 monthly rent for her two-bedroom apartment, she said, she and her son were forced to move to a one-bedroom apartment in a more dangerous neighborhood.

“The cost of living is out of reach for more and more people like me,” she said.

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Bush's new plan for Iraq draws support, criticism

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A Catholic Army chaplain who was stationed in Iraq and a Christian Iraqi-American military adviser said they stand behind U.S. President George W. Bush's most recent plan to send more troops to Iraq. But three international policy experts contacted by Catholic News Service sharply criticized the plan and questioned whether it can succeed. "If this is what the leaders are asking for, then that's what they need," said Father Brian Kane, who served as an Army chaplain for the 67th Area Support Group at Al Asad Airfield, in the Iraqi Al Anbar region. Pauline Jasim, a military bilingual and bicultural adviser in Baghdad, Iraq, said it was "about time Washington realized the (number of) troops were never enough, and more troops are needed in Baghdad." Jesuit Father Drew Christiansen, editor of the national Catholic magazine *America* and director of the U.S. bishops' Office of International Justice and Peace 1991-98, said the plan "seems to me too light on the troops" to achieve the goal of sufficient security for a transition to Iraqi control. More importantly, "it ignores the diplomatic elements altogether," he said. Maryann Cusimano Love, a professor of politics at The Catholic University of America, Washington, and an expert on terrorism, said Jan. 11: "This is primarily a political battle about winning hearts and minds. And the military measures that he presented last night don't do anything to address the underlying problems in Iraq and, I'm afraid, are unlikely to succeed." Gerard F. Powers, director of policy studies at the University of Notre Dame's Kroc Institute for Peace and head of the bishops' Office of International Justice and Peace 1998-2004, said there "are some positive proposals" in the Bush plan and "the stated goal is the right one — a united, stable, nonsectarian government." But he said the "modest increase in troops" announced by Bush is another case of "willing the ends but not the means."

Local officials should promote family-friendly policies, says pope

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — If they really want to improve the quality of life of their citizens, city and regional officials must promote policies to strengthen families, Pope Benedict XVI said. "The intrinsic value" of the family based on marriage between a man and a woman must be better understood and supported, the pope said Jan. 11 in a speech to officials from the city and province of Rome and from the Lazio region. While the church is doing its part to educate and assist families, he said, a government policy on family life and for families also is necessary. The pope called for "initiatives that would make it less difficult and burdensome for young couples to form a family and then generate and educate their children, promote employment for young adults, contain as far as possible the cost

NEWS BRIEFS

ARCHBISHOP, CLERGY CELEBRATE MASS FOR INMATES



CNS PHOTO/MICHAEL ALEXANDER, GEORGIA BULLETIN

Atlanta Deacon Tom Silvestri reads the Gospel during a Mass for inmates at the Georgia Diagnostic and Classification Prison in Jackson Jan. 4. Atlanta Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory, left, presided at the service. Deacon Silvestri and Father Austin Fogarty, front, make regular visits to the prison.

of housing and increase the number of preschools and nurseries."

Boston cardinal calls abuse 'dark truth' in church

BOSTON (CNS) — In a column marking the fifth anniversary of the crisis over clergy sexual abuse of children, Boston Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley said that scandal was a "dark and unremitting truth" that had to be confronted. Cardinal O'Malley's comments appeared Jan. 7 as an opinion piece in the *Boston Globe*, the daily newspaper whose unrelenting expose of child sex abuse by priests in the Boston Archdiocese turned the secret of such abuse into a national crisis five years ago. Cardinal O'Malley noted that on Jan. 6 Catholics celebrate the Epiphany, "the manifestation of God's love for all humanity." "Five years ago, as we marked the feast on Jan. 6, 2002, the devastating revelations that Catholic clergy had sexually abused children shook the Archdiocese of Boston and the wider community," he said. "The contrast between the feast, which celebrates the light of Christ, and the dark and unremitting truth of clergy sexual abuse seemed, at first, impossible to accept." He added, "But the truth of the abuse had to be confronted."

Judge says abuse lawsuit against Vatican can go ahead

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A federal judge in Louisville, Ky., has denied a Vatican request to dismiss a sex abuse lawsuit seeking

damages from the Holy See. U.S. District Judge John G. Heyburn II ruled Jan. 11 that U.S. bishops and priests are employees of the Vatican within the terms of the Federal Sovereign Immunity Act. The act generally exempts other sovereign states from the jurisdiction of U.S. courts, but it allows U.S. courts to adjudicate lawsuits seeking monetary damages from a foreign country for personal injury caused in the United States by an employee of that country "while acting within the scope of his office or employment." The lawsuit, brought by Louisville attorney William McMurry on behalf of three clients who claim they were abused by priests when they were minors, is believed to be the first clergy sexual abuse suit that names the Holy See as the sole defendant. McMurry described Heyburn's decision as "historic." However, *The Courier-Journal*, Louisville daily newspaper, quoted attorney Jeffrey S. Lena of Berkeley, Calif., counsel for the Vatican, saying that calling U.S. bishops and priests Vatican employees is a "fairly weak linchpin" for the case.

Peace is not final aim of dialogue, Vatican officials tell conference

ROME (CNS) — Dialogue between religions is necessary for peace, but that is not the final aim of the Catholic Church's commitment to dialogue, two Vatican officials said. "A Christian is one who opens himself to others," said Indian Cardinal Ivan Dias, prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, at the opening of a Jan. 11-12 confer-

ence at Rome's Pontifical Urbanian University. Cardinal Dias told the conference, which focused on dialogue in societies marked by growing religious and cultural diversity, that "otherness, plurality and diversity are a richness, not a threat." Because it knows that all people are created in the image of God, the Catholic Church engages in its mission to proclaim God's love to all people and sees dialogue as part of that mission, he said. French Cardinal Paul Poupard, president of the pontifical councils for Culture and for Interreligious Dialogue, told conference participants, "Only on the basis of values, which basically have a common source, can people live together peacefully without giving up their own faith and culture."

Secretly ordained Chinese Bishop Meng dies at 103

HONG KONG (CNS) — Clandestinely ordained Bishop Joseph Meng Ziwen of Nanning, China's oldest prelate, died Jan. 7 at the age of 103. He had suffered from liver cancer. Bishop Meng was ordained a bishop in 1984, but the Chinese government recognized him only as a priest. He died at a church in Guigang, about 80 miles east of Nanning, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency. Coadjutor Bishop John Baptist Tan Yanchuan of Nanning succeeded Bishop Meng and was to preside at the funeral Mass, scheduled for Jan. 13. Bishop Meng's great-nephew, Father Joseph Meng Weicai, who had cared for the bishop since 2002, said his great-uncle had "unlimited God-given energy," as shown in his pastoral work at the nine

churches in the Guigang area. The bishop used to celebrate three Masses on Sundays at three different churches. Even after turning 100, the bishop maintained this practice until his health began deteriorating in August 2005.

World Youth Day to base fees on wealth of pilgrim's country

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — With the approval of the Vatican, organizers of the 2008 World Youth Day events in Australia will charge registration fees based on the wealth of each pilgrim's home country. "The pricing structure ensures that pilgrims from more affluent nations, including Australian pilgrims, share in a reasonable part of the costs of WYD08 and support pilgrims from less-affluent nations," said an announcement on the event's official Web site. Organizers said the four-tiered registration fee system was based on national income classifications developed by the World Bank. Pilgrims from Australia, the United States, Canada and Western Europe, but also Poland, Mexico and several Caribbean countries will be asked to pay higher registration fees than pilgrims coming from middle- and low-income countries. Pilgrims from countries in the South Pacific that have been classified either as "lower middle" or "low income" — such as Fiji, East Timor and Papua New Guinea — will be offered the steepest discount. The price list is published on the World Youth Day Web site, www.wyd2008.org.

Australian bishop defends covering crucifixes in Catholic hospital

PERTH, Australia (CNS) — An Australian bishop has defended a Catholic hospital's decision to cover hospital room crucifixes if patients request it. Bishop Justin Bianchini of Geraldton said the move by the town's St. John of God Hospital did not reflect a drift toward secularism or political correctness. "The fact that we are Catholic means we do respect people now, we are more open, not narrow-minded," Bishop Bianchini said. "It's not denying our beliefs. "It's not political correctness, it's accommodating a need occasionally on request in a room; even if it's someone that believes nothing and they see this tortured body on the cross, the visual image can be distressing if they don't understand it," the bishop said. "If they're in a room and they were stressed, are you helping or hindering them? That's part of good health care — you tend to them," said the bishop. The hospital is part of the St. John of God Health Care System, Australia's third-largest private hospital operator with 11 hospitals in two states.

St. Jude hosts Catholicism and world religions lecture series

SOUTH BEND — St. Jude Parish in South Bend will present "Catholicism and World Religions," a four-part lecture series delivered by Professor Brad Malkovsky, from the theology department at the University of Notre Dame.

The series will be held at St. Jude Church, Thursday evenings, from 7 to 9 p.m. on the following dates and include the following topics:

- Feb. 15, Introduction of Catholicism and World Religions. This lecture provides an introduction to the changes brought about by Vatican II that have led to a more appreciative approach to other religions. It will also include a general discussion of the main teachings that will be investigated more closely over the following weeks.

- March 1, Catholicism and Hinduism. Hinduism is the world's oldest religion. Participants will learn about reincarnation, different views of God, the practice of yoga, spiritual enlightenment. The lecture will explore what is compatible with Catholic faith, what is mutually enriching for us, whether Catholic or Hindu.

- March 15, Catholicism and Buddhism. Some of Buddhism's doctrines come straight out of Hinduism. Some are new: no God, no soul. This lecture will explore what the main types of Buddhism are and why does one resemble Christian spirituality more than the other.

- March 29, Catholicism and Islam. This lecture will offer an opportunity to explore one of the fastest growing and most controversial religions today. There are many commonalities between the two faiths, but also important differences centering on Christ and God's degree of involvement in the world. Participants will also learn some of the differences between Shiite and Sunni Islam.

Fort Wayne Serrans initiate vocation refrigerator magnets

FORT WAYNE — In their quest to reach out to Catholic youth, the Fort Wayne Serra Club has sponsored the printing of vocation refrigerator magnets. The magnets are being distributed to fifth graders in Fort Wayne area parishes through religious education programs.

The program was launched Jan. 16.

The magnets are being delivered with the following letter from the Fort Wayne Serra Club:

"Thank you for accepting our gift. We hope it will aid in your son or daughter's discernment to follow a life of Christian discipleship now and in the future. Please place the (magnet) on your refrigerator or other prominent place as a reminder to assist in the vocations of our beloved Catholic Church."

"Serra Club members all over the world are in prayer to encourage our young men and women to

AROUND THE DIOCESE

USF ANNOUNCES PURCHASE OF CHURCH PROPERTY



DON CLEMMER

The University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne has purchased the 50,000 square foot Abundant Life Tabernacle property at 2702 Spring St. The property is adjacent to the north side of the university's campus. "Our expanded space on Spring Street will provide additional infrastructure for the continued growth of the university," said Sister Elise Kriss, OSF, president of the university. The university has developed a task force to determine how the space will be utilized.

choose a path of religious life and fill the need to assist in blessing our faithful now and in the future," it says.

"Please pray the novena for vocations with us each day for the current priests and religious and especially for our seminarians and sisters in formation from our diocese," the letter adds.

The Serra Club's mission is to foster and affirm vocations to the ordained priesthood and vowed religious life, and through this ministry, foster and affirm its members' common Catholic faith.

Third annual Legacy Auction to support St. Joseph-St Elizabeth School

FORT WAYNE — The St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School Home and School Association will host the third annual Legacy Auction on Saturday, Jan. 27, at 8 p.m. with a silent auction, followed by a live auction scheduled to begin at 9 p.m. This year's Legacy Auction has as its theme "Building our Faith" and will take place in the St. Elizabeth Seton Parish Hall, 10700 Aboite Center Rd., in southwest Fort Wayne.

"This is an awesome opportunity for friends of St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School to come together to support our Catholic school," said Lois Widner, principal of St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School. "Proceeds from the Legacy Auction go towards larger projects that will

be a future investment for our students and school."

Some examples of these larger projects include new computers for the computer lab, and new students' desks and chairs, Widner said.

School parents, parishioners at both St. Joseph Parish and St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, and all other friends interested in supporting St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School are cordially invited to attend the Legacy Auction. Tickets for the Legacy Auction are \$25 per person, which includes an array of hors d'oeuvres and one drink ticket.

Some of the items that will be auctioned in the live auction include a unique Sri Lankan dinner prepared by a Sri Lankan priest, pizza and a movie with a newly ordained priest, and a dinner with Father Tim Wrozek, pastor of St. Joseph Parish, and Father Jim Shafer, pastor of St. Elizabeth Seton Parish. Another dinner to be auctioned is an intriguing "Murder Mystery Dinner" hosted by St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School faculty.

Items for the silent auction will be on view from 8 p.m. on. Silent auction offerings include a full orthodontic treatment, an electric guitar, an electric keyboard, a Karaoke machine, home decor, kitchen ware, dinner party ware, restaurant gift certificates and much more. To purchase tickets, contact Susan Lee at (260) 436-6362 or Jeff Krudop at (260) 436-1660.

Bishop Dwenger offers SAT prep course

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Dwenger High School is offering an SAT prep course on Tuesdays and Thursdays, beginning Jan. 23 and running through March 3. Classes will be held from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The 14 sessions include diagnostic testing, six verbal and six math lessons. The fee is \$150 and includes the text. The class is open to any high school student in the Fort Wayne and Allen County area. For more information and registration, please call the school at (260) 496-4700.

Lindenwood holds Women of Grace study, day of reflection

DONALDSON — Registrations are now being taken for the Women of Grace study.

The Women of Grace Foundational Study, authored by Johnette Bendovic, is being sponsored by the Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center and the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend Office of Spiritual Development. The purpose of the study is to explore the authentic femininity and the "genius" of women. The study will be nine Saturdays, beginning Feb. 24 (excluding April 7) from 9-11 a.m. The program fee is \$50, which includes the book and study guide. Space is limited.

Lindenwood is also taking regis-

trations for the quiet day of reflection program, "Sensing the Unexpected Christ." Using Scripture and experience as guides, the day will focus on using the senses to recognize and meet the living Lord. Father Michael Winkowski, CPPS, will facilitate. He most recently served as the pastor of St. Patrick Church in Walkerton and is now retired.

The program will be Monday, Feb. 19, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The program fee is \$21 and includes the noon main meal.

The registration deadline for both events is Monday, Feb. 12. For more information or to register, contact Lindenwood at (574) 935-1780 weekdays 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., e-mail lw@lindenwood.org or visit www.lindenwood.org.

Area teen to teach English in Argentina

FORT WAYNE — Kateri Till, a junior at Bishop Dwenger High School, is just like most teens: active on her soccer team, studying hard in school and busy with Girl Scouting. Till is unique, however, because she took all of that ambition to Argentina on Jan. 15, when she left for seven months and will teach English to impoverished younger girls there, using soccer as the means to getting them interested in education.

The activity will be the final component of her Girl Scout Gold Award project. The Girl Scout Gold Award challenges a girl to increase her knowledge, develop her leadership skills and serve her community. Nationally, only 6 percent of Girl Scouts earn this significant award, and a girl who has earned the Girl Scout Gold Award can look forward to greater access to college scholarships, paid internships and community awards.

Till was first able to visit Argentina for her soccer training. It was then that she first saw the need to do service there.

"I saw rundown shack houses, and outside, kids were playing soccer without proper equipment. They need education, and they need supplies to learn."

Till collected basic school supplies before leaving on her trip. In Argentina, she will continue school work through online distance learning. She will complete her senior year of high school in Fort Wayne after she returns in July 2007.

Student receives second place in poetry contest

FORT WAYNE — Lauren Hellinger, a sophomore at Bishop Luers High School, received second place in a poetry contest held by the Allen County Public Library. Her poem, "I Love My Library Poem," was one of more than 700 entries.

Her poem has been published in a book and is available at the Allen County Public Library. Hellinger will be honored at the Poetry Awards Ceremony to be held on Saturday, Feb. 10, at the main library in downtown Fort Wayne.

She is the daughter of Mark and Karen Hellinger and a member of the Bishop Luers National Honor Society, SADD (students against destructive decisions), student publications, Academic Bowl and peer tutoring. Hellinger participates in soccer, swimming and tennis.

Indiana Catholic Conference brings pro-family agenda to Statehouse

BY BRIGID CURTIS AYER

INDIANAPOLIS — Every January, 150 lawmakers, better known as the Indiana General Assembly, descend upon the state capitol in Indianapolis to conduct some of the state's most important business.

And every year the Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC), the church's official public policy watchdog and advocate in Indiana, gears-up to bring Catholic principles to the public square by sharing a consistent life ethic that every human being, created in the image and likeness of God, deserves dignity.

Since 1967, bringing this fundamental moral principle to light

in the legislative arena has taken many forms over the past 40 years including efforts to ban embryonic stem-cell research; efforts to reduce abortions; efforts to provide basic needs for the poor, disabled and elderly; efforts to limit and abolish the death penalty and efforts to protect the family and family life in Indiana.

Guided by the five Indiana bishops and five lay board members, Indiana Catholic Conference Executive Director Glenn Tebbe will support several pro-family, legislative initiatives including efforts to extend parental choice in education in the form of tax credits for families sending their children to Catholic schools; increase Indiana's minimum wage; work to uphold the sanctity

of marriage through a constitutional amendment, which defines marriage as a union between one man and one woman; work toward a permanent earned income tax credit for the poor; improve health care for the uninsured; and improve life for immigrant families and children living in Indiana.

The success of the ICC's pro-family legislative agenda this year will also be determined in part by the willingness of the newly-elected leadership in the House and Senate to have these bills heard in committee, which will allow the bills to move forward in the process.

Sen. David Long (R-Fort Wayne), the newly-elected president pro tempore in the Senate, replaces a nearly three-decade reign of former President Pro Tempore Sen. Bob Garton (R-Columbus) who was defeated in the primary election. In the Senate, the Republicans hold a (33-17) majority. Rep. Patrick Bauer (D-South Bend) was elected as the new Speaker of the House, when the Democrats regained a narrow (51-49) majority in the Indiana House Representatives.

Not only is there new leadership in the House and Senate this year, but there are 19 new faces, elected in 2006, who have

become part of the Indiana General Assembly.

During the next four months, both the Indiana Catholic Conference and Indiana General Assembly have a full-plate. Even though property tax relief, health care reform and education top the list of many legislators this year, state lawmakers are charged by the Indiana Constitution with accomplishing only one duty — that of passing a new two-year budget package by the April 29 deadline.

"Much of the legislative work done by Indiana Catholic Conference this year will be overshadowed by the budget making process," said Tebbe, "But because the budget affects the dignity of people in Indiana, the conference will be paying close attention to its contents."

Each week the Indiana Catholic Conference will publish the I-CAN Update on its Web page. "The conference's role is to be the eyes and ears for the Catholic Church, to help those interested stay in touch and to enable people to take part in the process," said Tebbe. "The I-CAN Update will provide a summary of legislative actions and should give people sufficient information to follow-up on those issues of personal importance," he said.

Catholic legislators in the Indiana General Assembly

INDIANAPOLIS — Out of 150 members of the Indiana General Assembly 33 of them are Catholics. Ten are state senators including Senate Minority Leader Sen. Richard Young (D-Miltown); Sen. Frank Mrvan (D-Hammond); Sen. Sue Landske (R-Cedar Lake); Sen. John Broden (D-South Bend); Sen. Joseph Zakas (R-Granger); Sen. Thomas Wyss (R-Fort Wayne); Sen. David Ford (R-Hartford City); Sen. Jeff Drozda (R-Westfield); Sen. Timothy Skinner (D-Indianapolis); and Sen. Robert Deig (D-Mount Vernon).

Twenty-three are members from the Indiana House of Representatives including Speaker of the House, Patrick Bauer (D-South Bend); Rep. David Niezgodski (D-South Bend); Rep. Ryan Dvorak (D-South Bend); Rep. Scott Pelath (D-Michigan City); Rep. Duane Cheney (D-Portage); Rep. Mara Candelaria Reardon (D-Munster); Rep. Chester Dobis (P-Merrillville); Rep. Donald Lehe (R-Brookston); Rep. Robert Kuzman (R-Crown Point); Rep. Thomas Dermody (R-LaPorte); Rep. Jeb Bardon (D-Indianapolis); Rep. Joe Micon (D-Lafayette); Rep. Sheila Klinker (D-Lafayette); Rep. Timothy Neese (R-Elkhart); Rep. Philip Pflum (D-Milton); Rep. Robert Bischoff (D-Greendale); Rep. Paul Robertson (P-DePauw); Rep. Suzanne Crouch (R-Evansville); Rep. Phil GiaQuinta (D-Fort Wayne); Rep. Matt Bell (R-Avilla); Rep. Michael Murphy (R-Indianapolis); Rep. Phil Hinkle (R-Indianapolis); and Rep. John Day (D-Indianapolis).

To track legislative action or to contact your state legislators go to www.in.gov/legislative/

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Space is limited. \$300 deposits are now due.

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ACOUSTIC AND VARIETY SETS

Contraception and abortion closely connected

BY LISA EVERETT

In the decades since Roe v. Wade was decided, many people have come to believe that contraception is part of the solution to the problem of abortion. Even within the pro-life movement, conventional wisdom often dictates neutrality or silence on the question of contraception. What is becoming increasingly clear, however, is just how closely contraception and abortion are connected. Contraception is not part of the solution to the culture of death — it is part of the problem.

The close connection between contraception and abortion can be seen on several levels. The most obvious one lies in the fact that the most effective “contraceptives” available today can also function as abortifacients. The Pill, Depo-Provera, Norplant, and even more-so “Plan B,” not only inhibit ovulation, they can interfere with the implantation of a newly conceived embryo and, therefore, induce an early abortion. How often this mechanism of action comes into play is not clear, but there is no doubt that these pharmaceutical products cause the lining of the uterus to become thin and shriveled and, therefore, unable to shelter and sustain an embryo.

Contraception and abortion are also closely linked on the level of

morality. Contraception attempts to sever the link between sex and procreation, which, if unsuccessful, can be definitively accomplished through an abortion. In his 1995 encyclical, “Evangelium Vitae,” Pope John Paul II clarified this connection:

“Despite their differences of nature and moral gravity, contraception and abortion are often closely connected, as fruits of the same tree. It is true that in many cases, contraception and even abortion are practiced under the pressure of real-life difficulties which nonetheless can never exonerate from striving to observe God’s law fully. Still, in very many other instances such practices are rooted in a hedonistic mentality unwilling to accept responsibility in matters of sexuality, and they imply a self-centered concept of freedom, which regards procreation as an obstacle to personal fulfillment. The life which could result from a sexual encounter thus becomes an enemy to be avoided at all costs, and abortion becomes the only possible decisive response to failed contraception.”

Finally, contraception and abortion are closely linked on the level of actual practice. That many peo-

ple do use abortion as a back-up to failed contraception is shown by studies that have found that among women who have abortions, over 80 percent are experienced contraceptive users, and over half say they were using a contraceptive in the month they conceived. In addition, the Alan Guttmacher Institute (the former research arm of Planned Parenthood) published data in 2000, which clearly showed that states (such as New York and California) that ranked highest in access to contraception also had the highest abortion rates in the country.

Pope John Paul II noted how closely contraception and abortion are linked on the level of actual practice in “Evangelium Vitae”:

“It may be that many people use contraception with a view to excluding the subsequent temptation to abortion. But the negative values inherent in the ‘contraceptive mentality’ — which is very different from responsible parenthood, lived in respect for the full truth of the conjugal act — are such that they in fact strengthen this temptation when an unwanted life is conceived. Indeed, the pro-abortion culture is especially strong precisely where the church’s

CONNECT, PAGE 11



PRO

LIFE

Life Athletes commit to virtue, abstinence and respect for life

BY DIANE FREEBY

SOUTH BEND — Popular culture isn’t always synonymous with virtue, but one national organization, based in South Bend, is successfully bridging that gap.

Life Athletes was founded by attorney Chris Godfrey. Married to his college sweetheart, Daria, and father of six, Godfrey played nine years of professional football following a three-Rose Bowl career at the University of Michigan.

“Life Athletes is made up primarily of professional and Olympic athletes committed to living lives of virtue, abstinence and respect for life,” explained Godfrey.

Some 300-strong, Life Athletes is for anyone who makes the Life Athletes Commitment. Godfrey believes while not everyone has an athlete’s body, we can all have an athlete’s heart.

“This means we are willing to make the little sacrifices necessary to achieve our goals,” said Godfrey. “Our talent is God-given, but our heart is what we make of ourselves. That’s what Life Athletes is really about, a fellowship of the heart and not athletic ability.”

The Life Athletes

Commitment is this:

- I will try to do what is right, even when it is difficult.
- I will give myself only to that special person I marry as my partner for life.
- I will respect the lives of others, especially the unborn and the aged.
- I will not quit or make excuses when I fail. I will try again.

Godfrey was inspired to create Life Athletes back in 1980, after facing some major challenges both athletically and spiritually.

“I had been cut by the third team in one year,” recalled Godfrey. “At that time, I made a decision to take my faith seriously. I was also motivated by seeing people around me getting hurt by making poor choices.”

During that time of reflection, Godfrey also took action. He was invited to speak to a class of eighth grade confirmation candidates about his faith

“I was very nervous about speaking in front of a group, and about something so personal as my faith,” said Godfrey. “But I did it, and I learned that it’s okay to be afraid, but it’s not okay to be a coward.”

Not all well-known athletes believe they are obligated to be anybody’s role model. Not so fast, my friend, replied Godfrey.

“We all affect one another with our actions, well-known or not,” explained the starting right guard for the Super Bowl XXI champion New York Giants. “The more well-known we are, the more our actions are magnified. We have a greater responsibility, whether we want to be a role model or not.”

Life Athletes has grown into an organization that leads others to overcome challenges faced in a secular world. In addition to providing curriculum for grades 5 through 12, Life Athletes hosts sports camps and talks to support the curriculum. Life Athletes also offers a music video, posters, a group study guide and other aids to help support members in their commitments.

Godfrey himself established a Life Athletes Club at South Bend’s Saint Joseph’s High School. Working with about 25 teens, Godfrey meets with the group monthly. In addition to being educational, Life Athletes is service-oriented and social.

“We teamed up with Notre Dame to work with Special Olympic athletes,” said Godfrey. “We’ve gone Christmas caroling, and this past spring we had about 100 kids involved in a ‘Little Bookstore Basketball’ tournament.”

Godfrey says response to the



DIANE FREEBY

Chris Godfrey works with kids on the basketball court in South Bend last weekend.

Life Athletes message has been favorable, and he is certain people know in their heart of hearts what’s right. Godfrey has some advice for young people trying to live the Life Athletes Commitment in today’s sex-saturated culture that can ignore God and treat people as objects.

“We don’t have to go along with that,” reiterated Godfrey. “We don’t want disease, divorce and death to keep us from what

we want in life. We want relationships that are built on honesty and fairness. We want relationships that last. The longer something lasts, the more real it is.

We can, with God’s help, give the best of ourselves to one another. Living the Life Athletes Commitment is our best shot at being happy in the long run.”

For more information, or to join Life Athletes, go to www.lifeathletes.org.



RETA
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Earn While You Learn
Parenting Education & Assistance
Mothers Club
Parenting Support Group

300 West High St.
Elkhart, IN 46516
Office: (574) 522-3888
Fax: (574) 293-5368

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Free & Confidential Pregnancy Testing
www.PregnancyHelpServices.com

Abortion Recovery Support
Healing the Effects of Abortion
www.RETAforLife.com

A he sacred rights of mankind are not to rummaged for among old parchments or musty records. They are written, as with a sunbeam, in the whole volume of human nature by the hand of divinity itself and can never be erased or obscured by a mortal power. -Alexander Hamilton

SAINT ROSE OF LIMA - MONROEVILLE

33rd March for Life is Jan. 27

FORT WAYNE — The 33rd annual March for Life will be Saturday, Jan. 27, starting with the pro-life rally at noon at the Scottish Rite Center, 431 W. Berry St. The event will feature Nina Fuller, author of “Special Strength for Special Parents.”

Fuller is the founder of Living Proof Testimonies and S.M.I.L.E. on Down Syndrome. She is a national speaker and author and shares full time ministry responsibilities with her husband, Andy. Nina is a gifted Bible teacher, spiritual counselor and mentor to teens and adults. The Fullers have five children, two of whom have Down syndrome.

The March for Life will follow at 1 p.m. The Silent No More Event will immediately follow the march. For more information, contact Allen County Right to Life at (260) 471-1849 or visit www.iChooSELife.org.

*Little Flower Parish,
South Bend*



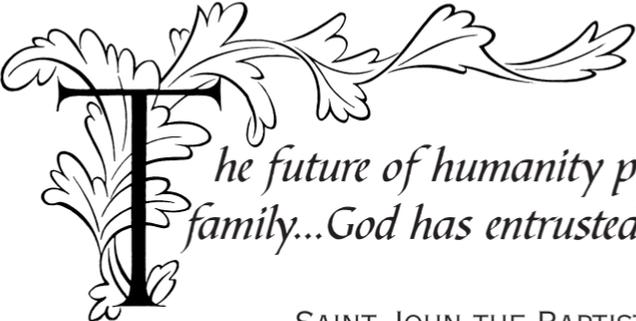
“America you are beautiful . . . and blessed . . . The ultimate test of your greatness is the way you treat every human being, but especially the weakest and most defenseless. If you want equal justice for all and true freedom and lasting peace, then America, defend life.”

Pope John Paul II

Judges 16:17

“...for I have been consecrated to God from my mother’s womb.”

St. Therese Catholic Church - Fort Wayne



The future of humanity passes by way of the family...God has entrusted its future to the woman.

Pope John Paul II

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH - FORT WAYNE

Without life, other civil rights are meaningless.

MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD PARISH
FORT WAYNE



**protect, respect, love...
Every Human Life**

STS. PETER & PAUL PARISH
HUNTINGTON

**ATTENTION
ST. JOSEPH
COUNTY!!!**

Please Help Us Stop Abortion!!!

Polls show that a majority of Americans oppose abortion on demand. But too many of our legislators have ignored the people they represent because those people have not voiced their opposition to abortion. On Monday, January 22, a peaceful march will be held from noon to 1:00 p.m. at the Federal Court House in downtown South Bend. Your participation in this event is vital to its success. If we are going to stop abortion, we must all get involved.

Please join us and let your voice be heard.

St. Joseph County Right to Life, Inc.
320 North Lafayette Blvd., • South Bend, IN 46601
232--5433

Why can't we love them all?




St. Joseph - St. Catherine Parishes
Roanoke • Nix Settlement



Our parish is dedicated to

*The Mother of Our Saviour
The Star of Hope
The Comfort of the Afflicted*

And the one chosen to guide us through the sorrows of life, including the agony brought about by abortion.

Queen of Peace, be with us.

SAINT MARY PARISH - HUNTINGTON

CONNECT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

teaching on contraception is rejected."

Just a few years before this encyclical was issued, a similar cultural connection between contraception and abortion was noted in a striking, even startling, way by the U.S. Supreme Court in its 1992 Casey decision, which reaffirmed Roe v. Wade:

"... in some critical respects abortion is of the same character as the decision to use contraception. ... for two decades of economic and social developments, people have organized intimate relationships and made choices that define their view of themselves and their places in society, in reliance on the availability of abortion in the event that contraception should fail."

This link between the promotion and practice of contraception and reliance on abortion when it fails is especially pronounced in the teenaged population.

According to a survey done for Planned Parenthood, American teenagers who learn about birth control in school are significantly more likely to become sexually active. This leads inevitably to higher rates of teen pregnancy and abortion. Going a step further and targeting teens for contraceptive "services" only makes the problem worse. Stan Weed, director of the Institute for Research and Evaluation, documented this fact in two separate studies which found that as the number and proportion of teenage family-planning clients increased, there was "a corresponding increase in the teenage pregnancy and abortion rates: 50 to 120 more pregnancies per thousand clients rather than the 200 to 300 fewer pregnancies as estimated by researchers at the Alan Guttmacher Institute. ... In that same time period, when the size of the teen population was little changed, teen abortion went from 190,000 to 430,000. ... Apparently the programs are more effective at convincing teens to avoid birth than to avoid pregnancy." Recent studies in England have reaffirmed that increased access to contraception for teens leads to higher abortion rates.

However well meaning, those who promote contraception in the hope of reducing unwanted pregnancies and abortion are rather fueling the fires of the culture of death. As Pope John Paul II put it so pointedly:

"It is an illusion to think that we can build a true culture of human life if we do not help the young to accept and experience sexuality and love and the whole of life according to their true meaning and their close interconnection. Sexuality, which enriches the whole person, 'manifests its inmost meaning in leading the person to the gift of self in love.' The trivialization of sexuality is among the principal factors which have led to contempt for new life" — "Evangelium Vitae," #97.



As a people of God, may we pray for an end to abortion.

"Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you."

OUR LADY OF GOOD HOPE PARISH

Fort Wayne

Joins with the Church throughout the world in praying for the good and life of the unborn.



It was you who created My inmost self, and put Me together in my Mother's womb; for all

These mysteries I thank you; For the wonder of myself, for The wonder of your works.

Psalm 139, 13-14

CORPUS CHRISTI CHURCH SOUTH BEND

The Parishioners of Saint Matthew Cathedral support the clear and consistent teaching of the Judaeo-Christian Tradition regarding the sanctity of human life and the obligation of believers to defend the most vulnerable members of society.



"Cease to do evil, learn to do good: seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, speak out on behalf of the widow."

Isaiah 1.17

"You shall not practice abortion nor harm the infant...nor plot to deceive your neighbor. You shall hate no one. You will correct some, pray for others, and some you will love more than your own life."

Didache 2 (c.110 AD)



*Fr. Michael Heintz
Rev. Mr. Emilio Gizzi
Sr. Agnes Marie Regan, OSF
Miss Mary Ann Retseck, Principal
Mrs. Kim Cunningham, CCD Director
Mrs. Lisa Marino, RCIA Director*

RESPECT LIFE

"The gospel of life is at the heart of Jesus' message...it is to be preached with dauntless fidelity; as 'good news' to the people of every age and culture."

-Pope John Paul II

St. Patrick Church

ARCOLA

"The choice in favor of life is not a private option but a basic demand of a just and moral society."

-Message from Pope John Paul II to Cardinal William Keeler

Father King and the Parishioners of SACRED HEART of JESUS CHURCH
63538 U. S. 31 South • South Bend

**without
LIFE
other
human rights
are meaningless.**

St. Monica Church MISHAWAKA

America:

"All of the great causes that are yours today will have meaning only to the extent that you guarantee the right to life."



Pope John Paul II

St. Mary of the Assumption & St. Jude Parish
SOUTH BEND



If one heartbeat means life, what do two heartbeats mean?

St. Louis Besancon New Haven



**Pray for
a True Respect
for All Life**

ST. MICHAEL
THE ARCHANGEL
PARISH
Waterloo

**Mother surely speaks for all
God's People with this plea:**

*"Please don't kill the child. I want the child.
Please give me the child. I am willing to
accept any child who would be aborted, and
to give that child to a married couple who
will love the child, and be loved by the child."*

-Mother Teresa,
The National Prayer Breakfast
Washington, D.C., February 5, 1994



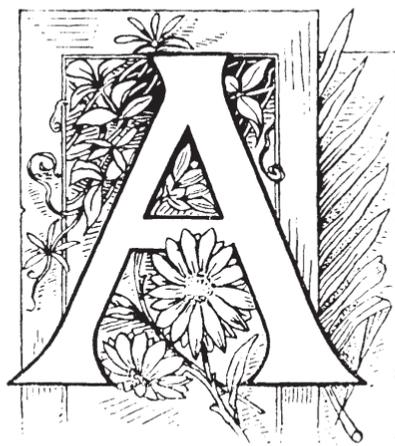
St. Patrick Church and School
801 Tyler Street, Walkerton, Indiana



he nearer a soul
is truly united to
God, the more its
sensibilities are
increased to every
being of His Creation; much more
to those whom it is bound to
love by the tenderest and most
endearing ties.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

**ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON CHURCH
FORT WAYNE**



**s believers,
how can we fail to see
that abortion,
euthanasia, and
assisted suicide are a
terrible rejection of
God's gift of life and**

**love? And as believers, how can we fail
to feel the duty to surround the sick and
those in distress with the warmth of our
affection and the support that will help
them always to embrace life.**

--Pope John Paul II,
Homily at Trans-World Dome,
St. Louis, January 27, 1999

St. John the Evangelist Parish - Goshen

Rev. Christopher Smith, Pastor

St. Mary of the Annunciation Parish - Bristol

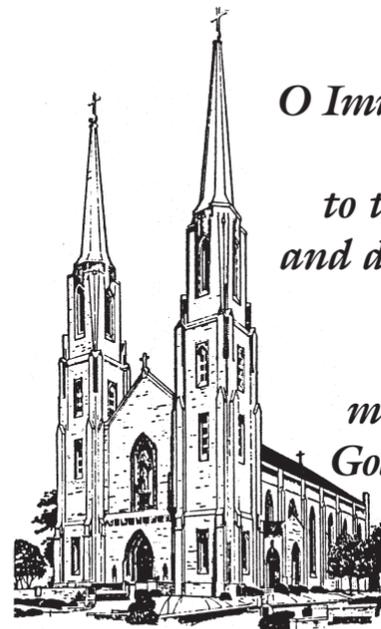
Rev. Robert Van Kempen, Pastor

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish - Elkhart

Rev. William Sullivan, Pastor

St. Vincent de Paul Parish - Elkhart

Rev. Philip DeVolder, Pastor



*O Immaculate Mary,
who was so open
to the birth of Jesus
and doing God's will,
pray for us and
for all people,
may we be open to
God's generous gift
of human life.*

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
FORT WAYNE

TODAY'S CATHOLIC SUPPORTS LIFE!

*"...God, the Lord of life has
conferred on men and women the
surpassing ministry of
safeguarding life - a ministry
which must be fulfilled in a
manner which is worthy of them."*

Pastoral Constitution on the
Church in Modern World, 51.

**St. Joseph Parish
225 South Mill Street - Mishawaka**

March for Life events planned to mark 34th anniversary of Roe

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The annual March for Life will take place Jan. 22 in Washington to mark the 34th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion.

The event will begin with a noon rally on the National Mall followed by a march along Constitution Avenue that will end at the U.S. Supreme Court. From there, participants are encouraged to meet with members of Congress to lobby on anti-abortion issues.

The theme of this year's march is "Thou Shalt Protect the Equal Right to Life of Each Innocent Human in Existence at Fertilization. No Exception! No Compromise!"

Several other events will take place both in Washington and around the country to mark the anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1973 decision.

The National Prayer Vigil for Life will take place Jan. 21 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington with an 8 p.m. Mass celebrated by Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia, who is chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

The vigil — sponsored by the basilica, the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities and The Catholic University of America — also includes a rosary for life, night prayer, Holy Hours, morning prayer and the opportunity for confession. It ends at 7:30 a.m. Jan. 22 with a Mass celebrated by Washington Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl.

On the morning of the annual March for Life, the Washington Archdiocese expects more than 20,000 Catholic teens and young adults to attend its youth rally and Mass at the Verizon Center, Washington's largest sports arena. Because so many young people have attended in previous years, there will be a second, smaller rally and Mass at Constitution Hall to accommodate the crowds.

Doors open at both venues at 7 a.m. Priests will be available for the sacrament of reconciliation at 8 a.m. and the rally will begin at 8:45 followed by Mass at 10. Archbishop Wuerl will be the main celebrant of the Mass at the Verizon Center, and Cardinal Rigali will celebrate the Mass at Constitution Hall.

Other pro-life events across the country will include an annual Respect Life Mass celebrated by Los Angeles Cardinal Roger M. Mahony at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles Jan. 20 and a second annual March for Life in Chicago Jan. 21, which will end with a prayer vigil.

Chicago Cardinal Francis E. George will join Chicago youths in Washington to participate in the annual march and rally for lunch and a brief address Jan. 21. Afterward, he will be joined by Father Frank Pavone, director of Priests for Life, for a question-and-answer session.



Today's Holy Innocents

They'll never feel the summer rain
Nor hear the river's roar.
Their birthday cakes will go unbaked
And their snowmen will be unbuilt.
They will never sit on a grandparent's lap
Or on a pony's back.
They will never hear, or sing, or write a song.
Nor will their hands ever heal a wound.
Although they'll never taste a lover's kiss,
They will know what it is to be missed.
For them, the last has come first...
For they have been denied the gift of life.

Mark Weber

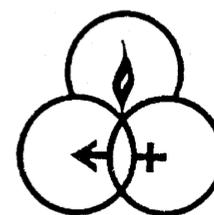
Saint Francis Xavier • Pierceton



How can anyone not adore God? In God's image He made them male and female; let us cherish and protect God's image from conception to natural death



St. Michael Parish
PLYMOUTH



HUMAN LIFE IS SACRED

"God created man in his image, in the divine image he created him; male and female he created them."

Genesis 1:27



Holy Cross and
St. Stanislaus Parish
SOUTH BEND



*All things
bright and beautiful
all things
great and small,
all things
wise and wonderful,
the Lord God
made them all.*

St. Adalbert Parish
St. Casimir Parish
South Bend



"Abortion has become the fundamental human rights issue for all men and women of good will."

Resolution on Abortion
U.S. Catholic Bishops, 1989

St. Augustine Church
1501 West Washington • South Bend



When people want to build a world ignoring God and his law, they are in fact giving rise to a situation of more and more suffering and injustice.

-Pope John Paul II
Jubilee for children

St. Mary of the Lake Parish - Culver

Supporting a culture of life

Sacred Heart Parish
Notre Dame

On this anniversary of the Supreme Court decision, *Roe vs. Wade* (1973), we are reminded that "As God recognized each of us before we were born, and called us by name, so too may we recognize the value of each human life and pledge ourselves to continue to defend and nurture God's greatest gift to us"

(1992 *Respect Life Manual*, NCCB)

BASILICA OF THE SACRED HEART
UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME





"...from the moment of its conception, life must be guarded with the greatest care, while abortion and infanticide are unspeakable crimes."

Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, 51

**ST. DOMINIC PARISH
BREMEN**

Vatican official hopes new amniotic stem-cell research proves correct

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican's top health care official expressed hope that U.S. researchers would be proven correct in asserting they could obtain medically useful stem cells from amniotic fluid.

Mexican Cardinal Javier Lozano Barragan, president of the Pontifical Council for Health

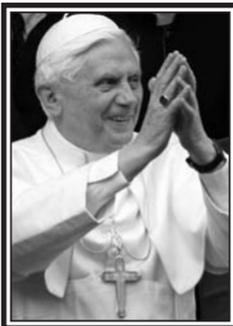
Care Ministry, told Vatican Radio Jan. 8 there would be no ethical problem with using cells from amniotic fluid as long as the procedure did not place the pregnant woman or her baby in danger.

"The ethical problem" with stem-cell research, he said, always has surrounded cells obtained by destroying human embryos.

In a study reported Jan. 7,

scientists at the Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine in Winston-Salem, N.C., and Children's Hospital and Harvard Medical School in Boston said the amniotic fluid surrounding a child in the womb can be the source of medically useful stem cells.

The U.S. research, Cardinal Lozano told the Italian newspaper *La Stampa*, "is a discovery for which we can rejoice. I con-



Along with our Holy Father
Pope Benedict XVI
the people of
Queen of Peace Parish in Mishawaka
pray that all will respect life.

**Acknowledge
God's Sovereignty
Over All Life--
Respect and
Defend Life!**



**SAINT MARTIN DE PORRES CHURCH
SYRACUSE, INDIANA**



Life is...
a precious gift from God.
Treasure and respect it!

St. Anthony de Padua
SOUTH BEND

As far as *the right to life* is concerned, we must denounce its widespread violation in our society: alongside the victims of armed conflicts, terrorism and the different forms of violence, there are the silent deaths caused by hunger, abortion, experimentation on human embryos and euthanasia.

How can we fail to see in all this an attack on peace?

Pope Benedict XVI
The Human Person, the Heart of Peace (5)
World Day of Peace, January 1, 2007

Christ the King Catholic Church
52473 SR 933 N
South Bend, IN

Respect Life Rosary
Mondays at 7:30 PM
North Chapel



"...the greatest destroyer of love and peace is abortion."

Mother Teresa
St. Patrick Parish • Fort Wayne

"...El gran destructor del amor y de la paz es el aborto."

Madre Teresa
Parroquia de San Patricio
Fort Wayne

**"THE COMMANDMENT
'You shall not kill!'
always requires respecting and promoting human life, from its beginning to its natural end."**

John Paul II



**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CHURCH
FORT WAYNE**

gratulate the researchers who have demonstrated how it is possible to make medical progress without damaging embryos."

In a statement published by the Italian bishops' conference, Dr. Antonio Spagnolo, a professor at the bioethical institute of the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Rome, said it appeared that cells taken from amniotic fluid hold the same therapeutic potential as embryonic stem cells.

However, he urged caution in declaring the new procedure ethically positive, particularly because it depends on how the cells are obtained.

"In fact, it is one thing if the cells come from residual amniotic fluid" not needed in a medically indicated test undergone by a pregnant woman, he said. "It is another thing if the researchers have submitted women to the procedure only to extract stem cells," since there is a risk the procedure could compromise the pregnancy.

Support the Dignity of Human Life

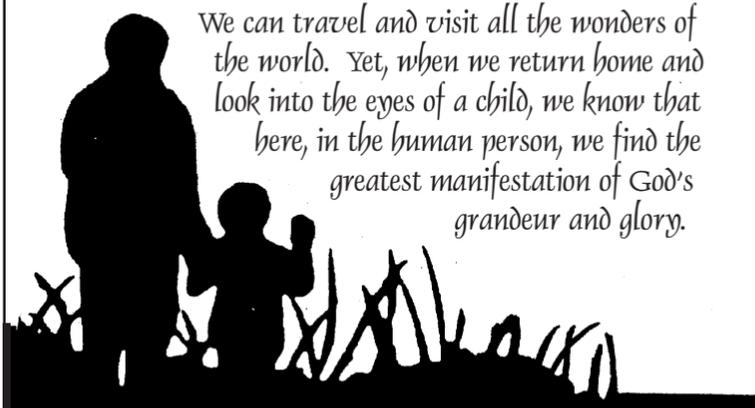


*Life is
a Miracle*



St. Charles
Borromeo Church
FORT WAYNE

We can travel and visit all the wonders of the world. Yet, when we return home and look into the eyes of a child, we know that here, in the human person, we find the greatest manifestation of God's grandeur and glory.



Sacred Heart Church • Warsaw

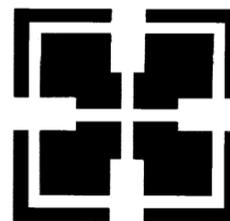


**ary...model of mothers,
Comforter
of the afflicted**

*deliver your gentle guidance to
anyone considering participation
in an abortion.*

St. Mary Parish • St. Peter Parish
FORT WAYNE

*The community and clergy
of St. Joseph Church, South Bend,
support life in all its stages,
from conception through natural death.*



St. Joseph Church 226 North Hill Street South Bend

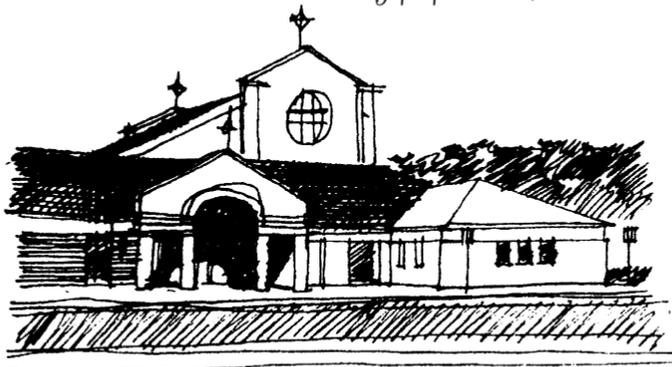
**Life is too
precious,
do not
destroy it.
Life is life...
fight for it!**

Mother Teresa



St. John
the Baptist
New Haven

*Respect life for what it is,
a gift from The Creator.*



SAINT PIUS X PARISH • GRANGER, INDIANA

LIFE



**...IS GOD'S GIFT TO US.
What we do with it
is our gift to God.
Respect Life
In all its stages.**

HOLY FAMILY PARISH
SOUTH BEND



**God's Greatest
Gift of All**

**St. Bavo Parish
Mishawaka**

**33rd
ANNUAL**

**march
for
LIFE**



featuring Nina Fuller

**Nina Fuller,
mother of two children with
Down Syndrome and author of
SPECIAL STRENGTH
FOR SOCIAL PARENTS,
will be the key speaker for this event.**

JANUARY 27, 2007

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Pro-Life Rally: Noon at Scottish Rite (431 West Berry, Fort Wayne)

March for Life: 1:00 pm

Silent No More Event: Immediately following the March

In front of the Federal Building women and men will speak about the harmful physical and emotional consequences that they suffered as a result of an abortion decision. For more information about

Silent No More, visit their website at www.silentnomoreawareness.org.

For more information, contact Allen County Right to Life at 260-471-1849

Denning's serve with grateful hearts

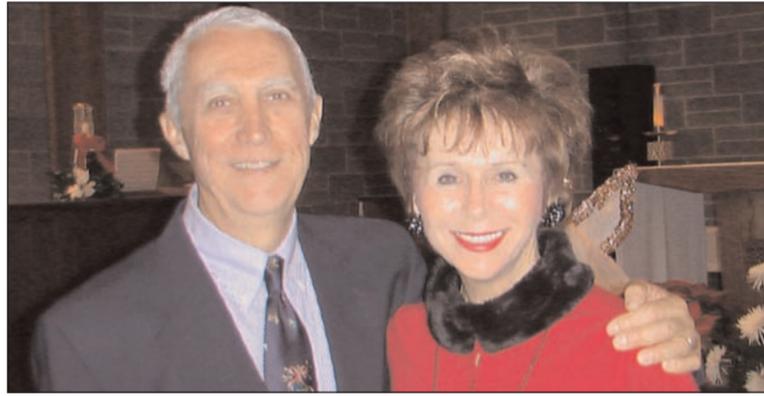
BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — Gary and Carol Denning, relative newcomers to Fort Wayne, find after several career relocations throughout their 47 years of marriage, that jumping in with both feet helps them put down roots. Carol says, "I try to live by the old adage, 'Bloom where you are planted.'"

Parishioners of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, the Denning's came to Fort Wayne in May of 2004 from Kansas City. The desire to be closer to at least some of their grandchildren brought them to the Summit City following retirement from a successful career with National Carriers. The couple, who had lived in Fort Wayne briefly 15 years ago, attended Mass at St. Elizabeth Church during visits to their son Scott's family home before their move and say they felt comfortable there from the beginning.

"Scott encouraged us to look southwest. But church was important," says Carol. Of the church communities they had belonged to in the cities they have called home, eucharistic adoration was of the utmost importance. "We had decided we liked the community here and I knew St. Elizabeth had eucharistic adoration once a week," Carol reports.

Carol, whose Catholic faith flourished in a household of "good parents and grandparents," was also influenced by the people in her predominantly Catholic neighborhood. "We had a block rosary in different homes for over 30 years. I attended Mass with my neighbors before school each day and was taught by Benedictine



PROVIDED BY THE DENNING FAMILY

Gary and Carol Denning have enjoyed their retirement the last two and a half years as parishioners of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish. They serve the parish in a number of capacities and feel that by serving they are giving thanks for their abundant blessings.

nuns who I saw as joy-filled, fun and wonderful teachers," she recalls.

Her faith, in turn, influenced the then unchurched Gary during their courtship in college. "I was influenced by the devotion of Carol and another friend, whose faith was so strong. I saw what it meant to them and wanted to look into it," he recalls.

Following weekly visits with the parish priest there, Gary says, "I felt it was right to be Catholic." And shortly before the Denning's were married, Gary was baptized and welcomed into the church.

The Denning family grew exponentially following the exchange of marriage vows in 1959 with four children in seven years. During those early years the growing family moved several times traversing the country from Missouri to California and back to the Midwest. But in each city the Denning's sought a parish community they could call their own.

"One little community in Kansas had adoration 24/7. They filled the church all hours of the day," says Carol. "It was amazing because of all the prayer."

Their involvement included adoration, lecturing, eucharistic ministry, Knights of Columbus, prayer groups and more.

Following the move to Fort Wayne the couple admits there were "tough times at first." Leaving the support of good Catholic friends left the couple feeling disconnected until their son suggested a Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP) retreat.

And after renewing their faith in the fall of 2004 at CRHP, their roots began to take hold in Fort Wayne. "We met people and saw opportunities to get involved in the parish," Carol says. "We jumped in and now have the support of good Catholic people at St. Elizabeth's to strengthen our faith life."

With the roster of service the

couple is involved in, jumping in seems exactly what they did. Gary is a member of the parish council as well as the Knights of Columbus, but much of his free time, he says, is spent at the Catholic radio station, Redeemer Radio, where he offers his skills as business manager.

Together the Denning's volunteer for St. Vincent de Paul Society where they team to visit those in need. They are members of a small-Christian community and participate in the Our Sunday Visitor study group to further enrich their understanding of the faith.

Carol enjoys proclaiming the word at Mass as well as taking the Eucharist to an area nursing home. She is a member of the RCIA team at St. Elizabeth, and of course, she spends time in weekly eucharistic adoration.

Taking note of the power of prayer at her former parishes, Carol sought permission to begin a prayer group at St. Elizabeth. The Mary, Martha, Lazarus Prayer Group is open to everyone and meets weekly throughout the year to pray for the needs of the parish community, its priests and ministries.

As their prayer life and service continue to grow the couple is seen at morning Mass most days, where Gary might serve as eucharistic minister and Carol, lector. They have taken to walking for their physical health in their retirement and have begun to recite the rosary together, making each stride a step closer to spiritual health as well.

No moss grows under the feet of these good and faithful servants as they serve their church and community at large. They encourage others to become involved saying, "You get more out of your faith if you get involved. You feel so loved when you give."

The Denning's visit their much loved four children, spouses and 12 grandchildren as much as they can and as they look to the future they say, "We have been blessed with a lot in this lifetime. You can't pay it back, but you have to give thanks. Service is a way of giving thanks."

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EDITORIAL

Beware of some so-called medical breakthroughs

Recent news from the medical field reminds us that we need to be very cautious about the motives behind some so-called medical advances.

During the first week in January, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists announced that it would recommend every pregnant woman be tested to determine whether her unborn child may have Down syndrome. Previously, that recommendation applied only to women older than 35 or those with genetic anomalies in their families.

Now, ACOG is recommending a new blood test combined with an ultrasound that allegedly identifies babies with Down syndrome with 80 percent accuracy. The new procedure is being promoted because it does not carry the risk of miscarriage that testing through amniocentesis did.

This news was reported as a tremendous breakthrough by the media, and on one telecast, the doctor discussing the new, recommended testing was absolutely exuberant, giving the impression that the early detection of Down syndrome would somehow help the unborn child or the child's parents. However, when the newscaster asked this obvious question, the doctor seemed miffed by his naivety and replied that this of course would allow "termination" in the first trimester, when the "procedure" is easier, safer and cheaper.

So, this great medical "breakthrough" really is a weapon to identify and abort an unborn child who may — or may not — be afflicted with Down syndrome.

Many people thought that the practice of eugenics had died with the Nazis. However, with legalized abortion, the slaughter of unborn children who may be "defective" has become acceptable and even is promoted by some medical personnel.

This search and destroy campaign has taken a terrible toll, for estimates say that between 80 and 90 percent of the unborn babies thought to have Down syndrome are aborted. What a terrible commentary it is on our society that we place so little value on human life, especially on the most vulnerable humans who require extra care.

And what a loss it is to society to be deprived of the valuable lessons to be learned from disabled people and to be deprived of their love. What a loss to miss the opportunity to care for someone else and to exercise the virtues that may assist our own salvation.

Perhaps no one better expresses this terrible loss than the families of people who have Down syndrome. Since the ACOG made its announcement, Internet blogs are full of testimony from the parents, siblings and extended families of people with Down syndrome. They speak in terms of their loved ones as "blessings," as cherished people who give a special meaning to life, people who show them how to love and how to enjoy the simple things of the world.

Many of the families speak of the considerable accomplishments of children who once were given little chance of a "meaningful" life. And, many adults with Down syndrome have said for years that they are shocked and offended that someone else might proclaim that their own very valuable life was not worth having.

It is disappointing and indeed disgusting to think that doctors and medical researchers are working to identify unborn children with disabilities so they can be aborted. We pray that the people who are involved in this activity will reject this heinous approach and focus instead on how to prevent and treat disabilities and how to support the families of the disabled.

We also urge all medical personnel to pursue and honor the highest ideals of their profession, including "First, do no harm."

Seek moral sources for medical research

It is gratifying to see that all the U.S. Congressmen representing districts within this diocese voted "no" last week on the bill to expand federal funding of embryonic stem-cell research, which destroys human embryos.

Democrat Joe Donnelly of Granger joined Republicans Mike Pence of Columbus, Mark Souder of Fort Wayne and Dan Burton of Indianapolis in voting "no." The 253-174 vote signals that an expected veto by President Bush will be upheld.

Even if killing human embryos were the only way to cure diseases, we must oppose such research. However, recent breakthroughs have found promising stem cells in other plentiful and moral sources like amniotic fluid. Effective treatments already have been developed from moral sources like umbilical cords, whereas no treatment has yet emerged from embryonic research.

We hope other congressmen will join those from our diocese and realize that it makes sense morally, practically and financially to de-emphasize embryonic stem-cell research and instead focus support on the promising stem-cell research from moral sources.

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

March for Life promotes justice, peace

The seats, about 250, on the buses were sold out almost immediately. The riders subjected themselves to a 10-hour trip each way. In between, they had to sleep on a gym floor, spend long hours out in the cold and do what they could for food, etc. Where were they going? A concert? The Motor City Bowl? Not quite. They are Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students going to the March for Life in Washington. It marks the 34th anniversary of Roe v. Wade on Jan. 22.

A reasonable observer might ask, "Why bother?" Maybe students just don't have enough to do. The reality, however, is that those students are doing something real and important.

For most readers of these words, Roe v. Wade is ancient history. Since that ruling in 1973, more than 42 million unborn children have been legally executed by surgical abortion through 2002. That is the last year for which the Alan Guttmacher Institute, the source of the most complete statistics, has reported. Since the early 1990s the totals have leveled out and declined somewhat. In 2002, the total was about 1.29 million. Those figures do not include the uncountable but increasing number of early abortions by chemicals, intrauterine devices and other means. The legalized execution of unborn children is a fixed reality in our law and culture. Victims from the first decade of Roe would have already attended, had they lived, their 10th college reunions.

You have rights under the Constitution because you are a person. In any civilized society where personhood is the condition for possessing rights, every innocent human being should be entitled to be treated as a person. The theory of Roe is simple. The court declined to decide whether the unborn child is a living human being. The court held instead that, whether or not he is such, he is not a person. The ruling is the same in effect as a ruling that an acknowledged human being is a nonperson and therefore has no rights. That depersonalization principle of Roe is the principle that underlay both the Nazi extermination of the Jews and the depersonalization of slaves in the Dred Scott case of 1857.

If the students in the March seek to accomplish a restoration of legal rights to the unborn child

they are embarked on an exercise in futility. The most the court will do is to let the states decide whether to allow or prohibit abortion. That would confirm the non-personhood of the unborn child, because if an innocent human being is subject to being executed whenever a legislature authorizes it, he is a nonperson.

The court will soon rule on the federal prohibition of partial-birth abortion. That case, however, is a sideshow. The issue there is not whether innocent human beings may be legally executed and not even which ones may be so killed, but rather how the killing is to be done. In any event, the restoration of legal rights to that child will

The most the court will do is to let the states decide whether to allow or prohibit abortion.

not happen because early-abortion technology is irrevocably moving abortion beyond the effective reach of the law.

For these reasons, abortion is now essentially not a legal problem but one that is cultural and — dare we say it? — religious. Here is where

the March for Life becomes a big deal and the students are doing something real and important.

The students from ND/SMC Right to Life are joining other thousands at the March for Life in giving witness not only to justice but also to peace. In his message for the World Day of Peace, Jan. 1, 2006, Benedict XVI said "(the) right to life ... is not subject to the power of man. Peace requires... a clear boundary between what is at

RIGHT OR WRONG?
BY CHARLES E. RICE

man's disposal and what is not. ... As far as the right to life is concerned, we must denounce its widespread violation. ... Alongside the victims of armed conflicts, terrorism and the different forms of violence, there are the silent deaths caused by hunger, abortion, experimentation on human embryos and euthanasia. How can we fail to see in all this an attack on peace?"

Benedict described abortion and embryonic experimentation as "a direct denial of that attitude of acceptance of others that is indispensable for ... peace." The evils named by Benedict prevent peace because they deny what he called "the requirements of the nature bestowed on man by the Creator." Legalized abortion is part of a bigger picture.

Benedict entrusted his prayer for peace to "the Queen of Peace" who is, of course, Notre Dame. As Right to Life chairman Mary Elizabeth Walter described it, the journey to the March for Life is "not so much a demonstration but a prayer." Those students embody Notre Dame at its best. They have their act together, evidently more than some faculty.

Professor Emeritus Charles Rice is on the Law School faculty at the University of Notre Dame. He can be reached at (574) 633-4415 or at rice.1@nd.edu

Vincent Pallotti

1795 - 1850

feast - January 22

This founder spent his entire life in Rome. Even as a youth he was devoted to Mary and the poor. Ordained in 1818, he taught theology at La Sapienza University before dedicating himself to religious and charitable works in collaboration with laypeople. In 1835 the Society of the Catholic Apostleship, or Pallottine Fathers, emerged from his work, and an order for women also was founded. Pope Paul VI said Vincent "anticipated a discovery by almost one hundred years. He discovered in the world of laypeople a great capacity for good work."



Saints for Today

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Tension toward communist collaborators

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The resignation of a Polish archbishop over spying revelations has highlighted a tension between judgment and forgiveness in the church, one that has taken on new meaning in post-communist Europe.

In the broadest sense, it's a tension found in the teaching of Christ, who preached forgiveness but told his followers to "judge justly" the wrongs of society.

The question emerged in a more specific way during Holy Year 2000. As the church began an "examination of conscience" to ask forgiveness for historical sins, cardinals vehemently debated whether it was proper to judge past actions like the Inquisition or the Crusades by modern standards.

In today's Poland, the timeline has been abbreviated. The alleged spying activities involve living people and living memories, many of them documented in the immense archives of Poland's National Remembrance Institute.

Like much of Eastern Europe, the church has quietly struggled over whether to examine such files and publish the findings, aware that the disclosures may damage the church in the eyes of the faithful.

Now that Warsaw Archbishop Stanislaw Wielgus has resigned after it was learned he was an informant to the communist-era secret police, the church may have no choice but to make full disclosure.

"We need to face the problem as soon as possible and with the greatest commitment, shedding light and liberating our own path from the land mines that have been placed there," said Bishop Tadeusz Pieronek, former secretary of the Polish bishops' conference.

The risk is that full disclosure of secret files, which were written by police agents in a continuing effort to co-opt church leaders, may end up disgracing good men or tainting them with suspicion. Sifting the truth from the propaganda in these cases is not easy, even for experts.

Moreover, "collaboration" is an ambiguous term that can mean different things to different people. Archbishop Wielgus signed an agreement to inform for the secret police so that he could study abroad, but he still claims he never harmed anyone by providing information.

Indeed, some have argued that pro forma contacts with police may have been a proper sacrifice

THE VATICAN LETTER

JOHN THAVIS

to make in order to maintain the church's freedom to operate in communist countries.

The question surfaced last year in Hungary, where, on the basis of newly released files, retired Cardinal Laszlo Paskai was accused of being an informant for the communist secret police from 1965 to 1974. Cardinal Paskai said simply that whatever he did was for the good of the church, and that speaking with "the powers of the state" was a necessary evil.

Which raises the question: How did Pope John Paul II handle this dilemma? The answer, according to those who knew him well, is that he had as little contact as possible with Poland's communist regime, knowing that any such dealings could damage his ministry.

When he visited Poland last

LETTER, PAGE 19

Salvation was the gift of God's love



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Lk 1:1-4, 4:14-21

The Book of Nehemiah furnishes the first reading for this weekend. As is the case in all the Old Testament books, this book has as its chief concern the reinforcement of the people's fidelity to God. In this reading, Ezra, who was a priest, called together men, women and children old enough to comprehend. He admonished this gathering to listen carefully to the Scripture.

After hearing the reading of the Scriptures, the people in this audience affirmed their faith. Ezra continued by interpreting what he had read.

Finally, Ezra and Nehemiah, called the people to rejoice. God had spoken to them. God was guiding them.

St. Paul's First Epistle to Corinth provides the next reading. Always in reading the epistles to the Corinthians it is important to consider the atmosphere in which the Christians of Corinth lived. Corinth was an important commercial center and meeting point, a very large city.

Even in the empire, in which vice and greed reigned supreme, the inhabitants of Corinth had the reputation of being exceedingly licentious.

This was the atmosphere. In many respects, the evils in this atmosphere were contagious, drawing to them many Christians. Paul mentions this fact in these two epistles.

Paul constantly had to call the Corinthian Christians away from the temptations the pagan environment surrounding them pressed upon them.

He also had to contend with the competitiveness among the Christians. They vied with each other, even in the church. They quarreled with each other. They schemed against each other. They gossiped about each other.

In this reading, Paul insists that all the baptized are in the body of Christ. However, the body has many members. Each has a vocation. There is no place for competition.

Finally, St. Luke's Gospel supplies the last reading. Midway in this reading, the Gospel directly addresses Theophilus, using the honorific "Your Excellency." Luke's Gospel seemingly was written for one person and to one person.

Scholars debate if this person had the name of Theophilus, or was it the Gospel's title, since "Theophilus" in Greek means "friend of God." In any case, the person apparently enjoyed some prestige, hence the use of the words "Your Excellency."

In this reading, Jesus appears in the synagogue of Nazareth to explain the mission of salvation. Salvation, unfolding in Jesus, was the gift of God's love, the final chapter in the long record of the merciful deeds of God among God's people.

Reflection

The church has celebrated

Christmas, the feast of the birth of Jesus, as well as the feasts of the Epiphany of the Lord, and of the baptism of the Lord. In the lessons of these great liturgical events, the church has introduced us to Jesus. It has identified Jesus. He is the son of Mary, so Jesus was a human. He was the Son of God. He was the Redeemer.

Now the church begins to tell us about salvation. It tells us how we personally should respond to salvation.

First Corinthians sets the stage. If we have accepted Christ into our hearts, we belong to God. Each of us has a personal vocation, although we may consider this term too lofty or too suggestive of a religious life. Rather, each has a vocation to follow Christ.

God provides for us in this effort. As in centuries long past, God speaks to us through the Scriptures. God speaks to us through the apostles, just as God spoke to the Corinthians through Paul.

And, finally, we find God in Jesus. He is the mirror of God in our lives.

READINGS

Sunday: Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10 Ps 19:8-10, 15 1Cor 12:12-30 Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21

Monday: Heb 9:15, 24-28 Ps 98:1-6 Mk 3:22-30

Tuesday: Heb 10:1-10 Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 10-11 Mk 3:31-35

Wednesday: Heb 10:11-18 Ps 110:1-4 Mk 4:1-20

Thursday: Acts 22:3-16 Ps 117:1-2 Mk 16:15-18

Friday: 2 Tm 1:1-8 Ps 96:1-3, 7-8a, 10 Mk 4:26-34

Saturday: Heb 11:1-2, 8-19 (Ps) Lk 1:69-75 Mk 4:35-41

CATEQUIZ'EM

By Dominic Campisson

In January the church remembers St. Francis de Sales. He served as bishop of Geneva, an area heavily influenced by Calvinism. However this quiz looks at another group of Swiss who remained staunch supporters of the church, the Swiss Guards.

1. When did the association of Swiss soldiers and the papacy start?

- a. circa 1500
- b. in the post Napoleonic period, 1800
- c. in the period between the two World Wars when the Vatican became a state

2. What was unusual about the Swiss mercenaries initially employed by the papacy?

- a. They were mostly Calvinist and at times fought against the pope.
- b. Unlike many mercenaries, they were not generally individual recruits but were organized and controlled to a degree by their home cantons.
- c. They were expected to defend but never to fight, so that their role would not violate Catholic principles, and so were never actually armed.

3. The famous dress uniform of the Swiss Guards was reportedly designed by:

- a. Monet
- b. Machiavelli
- c. Michelangelo

4. Requirements to join the Swiss guards have changed over time. One change included the extension of the recruitment pool to:

- a. all E.U. countries
- b. all Swiss cantons
- c. all German speaking countries

5. Recruits are sworn in in their native language, so these changes (4 above) have meant the recruits have been sworn in recently in

- a. Flemish, Frisian, Manx and Scots-Gaelic.
- b. German, Ruthenian, Slavonic and Chechen.
- c. Italian, German, French and Romansh.

6. Other requirements include that recruits are:

- a. unmarried
- b. married
- c. widowed

7. In addition recruits must be

- a. male
- b. white
- c. of Italian Swiss extraction

8. They must be

- a. of a Christian church which recognizes the legitimacy of Catholicism.
- b. Roman Catholics in good standing.
- c. followers of some religion.

9. Recruits must also be able to show that they have completed this:

- a. college or a university, having obtained at least a bachelor's degree
- b. a marathon or another recognized Olympic type event
- c. Swiss military service or military educational requirements

10. The service of Swiss in a foreign army necessitated:

- a. a resolution of the United Nations
- b. an embargo by the Swiss
- c. an exemption to the Swiss law forbidding military service by Swiss citizens for other national armies

11. To be selected, the guard recruit must be

- a. 18 to 25 years old.
- b. 19 to 30 years old.
- c. 21 to 37 years old.

12. They must also be at least 174 centimeters tall. What is that approximately in feet?

- a. approximately 5 feet
- b. approximately 5 feet 7 inches
- c. approximately 6 feet

13. In addition to training in modern weapons and tactics, Swiss Guards, perhaps unique amongst modern European armies, learn the use of this implement:

- a. The frying pan (for serving as chaplain or friar)
- b. the nun gun
- c. the halberd

ANSWERS:

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

Mentally challenged share same human dignity as person of God

I firmly believe in respecting life in all its forms from conception to natural death and understand the church's teaching on birth control as it applies to God's divine plan of life. However, as a parent of a mentally challenged young adult, who would be unable to care for a child, I would like to know how the church teachings on birth control apply to this population and how it supports them in making life choices. A pregnancy would not only be a physical, emotional and mental challenge for my child, but a financial one as well. The baby would have to be raised by someone other than my child, who would not understand the process of pregnancy, child birth or why the baby was taken away. Thank you for your insight. Anonymous, Fort Wayne

Your question is how does contraception, and sterilization, apply to a mentally retarded, or mentally challenged young adult? You point out that such a young person is not capable of dealing with the responsibilities, which accompany marriage and children. Thus the question becomes "What can be done to insure that this young person will not become sexually active and run the risk of a pregnancy?"

I think it is important first of all to point out that that impaired condition of a person's mind or body does not lessen the human dignity

of that person. A mentally retarded, or physically handicapped, or a person suffering from a genetic disorder shares the same human dignity as a son or daughter of God, just as you or me. Every human person is created in the image and likeness of God, and thus has infinite value.

In another world, in eternity, such a person will be freed of their mental, physical or genetic impediments and be a perfectly normal individual.

Morality, including sexual morality, was designed for every man, woman and child who share in human nature. There are no exceptions here. If contraception is wrong for a normal person, it is equally wrong for an impaired person. The same applies to sterilization.

You ask how does the church support impaired persons in making life choices, since a pregnancy would become a challenge they could not do justice to. The church applies the virtue of chastity to every group of human beings, according to their walk of life. If a person is single, then they are to be celibate and not indulge in sexual behavior. The sexual act is a spousal act, and each act is always to be open to the goodness of the unitive and procreative dimension of human sexuality.

THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION

This means that parents or guardians are to explain God's plan for human sexuality to their impaired son or daughter, according to their ability to understand. Every human being experiences his or her sexuality. What they need to acquire is an understanding of what it means, and how it is to be lived, according to God's plan for us. Basic values, explained in simple terms, are understandable to everyone, including persons with limited intelligence.

Just as the single person is expected to be celibate, so also is the impaired single person. Genital sex is not a sine qua non for a fulfilled human life. Think of the millions of men and women who have been called to the celibate life over the centuries. This will require that the parent of a "childlike adult" will watch over him or her, and clearly discourage any form of immoral behavior. Gaining self possession and self mastery is part

of the process of becoming human. There are no technological or medical substitutes for this.

Sterilization of an impaired person is just as much a form of bodily mutilation for them as it is for a normal person. We have no right to destroy our fertility. It is a God-given gift, and is always to be treasured as such.

A mentally or physically impaired person is a gift to a family and society, not a liability or an unqualified burden. They bring something unique and special to all who know them. They have a contribution to make to the world. They require special caring and guidance, but they repay that caring and guidance with the goodness and love of their person.

We see something of the mystery of life here. A "perfect" human life is much more complex

than the world understands it to be. Sexuality has only a limited role to play in human life. We are all totally dependent upon God. The impaired persons reveal this more clearly than others.

Father Matthew Habiger, OSB, provided this information.

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.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

By Patricia Kasten

Gospel for January 21, 2007

Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C: Jesus' speech to the people of his hometown of Nazareth. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

COMPILE	NARRATIVE	MINISTERS
THE WORD	WRITE	RETURNED
POWER	NAZARETH	SABBATH
PROPHET	ISAIAH	SPIRIT
ANOINTED	POOR	PROCLAIM
CAPTIVES	BLIND	OPPRESSED
YEAR	THE EYES	TODAY

FULFILLED SCRIPTURE

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A loss for the Irish, a victory for Christ

BY MIRANDA BAXTER

Though the Irish football team may have suffered a loss at the Sugar Bowl, the trip to New Orleans was not a complete waste. From the perspective of a sax in the band of the Fighting Irish, however, I believe we still left New Orleans with that victory we were itching to bring home.

New Year's Eve was definitely a day to remember. By the time we were ready to hit the practice field, many of the band members had been through various delays and cancellations trying to catch a flight to Louisiana. Everyone seemed exhausted as we climbed the buses that afternoon for our first practice in more than a month. No one was looking forward to it.

Soon the buses began to move forward, but something was different about this particular trip. Why did we have police escorts? Didn't the bus drivers know the way? As if on cue, a photo copy of a letter from Director of Bands Dr. Kenneth Dye, was passed out to everyone on the bus.

We were scheduled to practice at the Holy Cross School for Boys, founded shortly after the establishment of the University of Notre Dame by priests sent by Father Sorin himself. The letter explained that we would be traveling to a neighborhood that still hadn't been fully searched since Katrina hit.

Houses with a spray-painted "X" had been searched; numbers labeled "LB" meant that the living were found, and "DB" were dead

bodies.

When we first entered the neighborhood, everyone on the bus fell silent for a few seconds — a rather interesting experience, since the members of the saxophone section are by nature a rather noisy bunch.

Somberly, we stood and left the bus. I heard someone say that the practice field was "basically in the middle of ground zero from the hurricane." Members of the faculty, staff and students of Holy Cross School cheered and clapped wildly for us. With wide eyes I slowly took in everything around me, and I began to realize what an opportunity we'd been given to come and at the very least see this place.

As we took the field and began to run through our pregame and half-time drills, I quickly became aware that our music was echoing throughout the neighborhood. Sure enough, more and more residents filtered out of their nearby homes to see what was going on. At that point I was glad that I'd forgotten my camera that day; somehow it didn't feel right to be taking pictures of this place.

After we'd finished our practice, the headmaster of the school took Dr. Dye's microphone to personally thank us for coming. Dr. Dye then presented him with a donation of some used instruments to help rebuild the band program at Holy Cross School.

In return for our "performance" as he called it (to everyone in the band it was really no trouble at all), every member of the band and band staff received a Fleur-de-Lys pin and a hearty lunch of hot jambalaya.



PROVIDED BY MIRANDA BAXTER

Saxophones Luke Kramer and Miranda Baxter discuss the half-time formations at the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans.

Before this trip, I used to think of New Orleans as the home of jazz music, Mardi Gras and an overall party of a place. Now I know better. New Orleans is also the home of survivors. The world in all its pessimism was saddened by Katrina. The people who actually survived it were empowered. Instead of sadness and grief, our simple hello was met with bright smiles, hearty handshakes and some of the best hospitality we've ever experienced. Though we did not know it at the time, we were searching for the living among the dead. Christ has truly triumphed, as we know he always will, in a place where all seemed lost.

Miranda Baxter is a member of the University of Notre Dame's marching band and is from Mishawaka.

LETTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

year, Pope Benedict XVI no doubt already knew that the secret police files would raise tough questions for the church. He addressed the issue in a talk with clergy in the Warsaw cathedral — the same cathedral where Archbishop Wielgus announced his resignation Jan. 7 — saying it was important for the church to confess its sins openly.

Seemingly lost in the Archbishop Wielgus affair is the fact that last August the Polish bishops issued a long and detailed

document on priest-collaborators in the communist era, with guidelines to determine the moral gravity of different forms of collaboration.

It said priests who collaborated with the secret police should admit so publicly and meet with superiors to devise a way to "repair and expiate the public scandal." In some cases, it said, resignation from church office would probably be inevitable.

The process, it added, should lead to a spirit of forgiveness, not vengeance.

The jury is still out on why these recommendations were not applied to the Archbishop Wielgus case before it became a front-page scandal.

Sexual assault and abortion

I recall once hearing a story about a philosopher who visited with a group of junior-high students at a private school in the Midwest. He had a discussion with them about ethics and offered a few arguments to suggest that direct abortion was always unethical and unjust. A 14-year-old girl put up her hand and asked him if he would make an exception for rape in his position against abortion. He put the ball back into her court by asking her to carry out a kind of “thought experiment.”

He asked her to consider the hypothetical case that her own father became a rapist: “If your dad goes out and rapes somebody, and we convict him of that rape in a court of law, do you think it would be right for us to then say, ‘Okay, because your dad is guilty of that rape, we’re going to kill you, his 14-year-old daughter?’” The girl and her classmates unanimously replied, “No.” He pursued the same line of logic a bit further, asking if it would be acceptable if, instead of 14 years old, she were only 2 years old, or 2 months old. Again, they said, “No.”

Finally, he asked, “So how could I say that I’m going to let abortion happen because of rape? If I permit abortion because of rape, I am killing a child in the womb for a crime committed by his or her dad. Is that right?” His coherent and dispassionate approach helped the students appreciate the need to scrutinize their own assumptions and move beyond emotionalism when important ethical or bioethical issues are being debated.

Rape is always a grave and unconscionable crime, a tragedy of enormous proportions. If a woman becomes pregnant following sexual assault, abortion is sometimes offered as a path to fixing the rape. But the decision to encourage a second trauma after the first trauma of sexual assault represents, ultimately, a misguided response to a situation that needs to be handled with much greater sensitivity and compassion. A kind of unexamined emotionalism and anger can arise in these situations, directed towards the child, even though the child conceived in rape is an innocent bystander, and a victim of the same awful set of circumstances as the mother. He or she clearly ought not be treated as some kind

of surrogate for the rapist.

The real malefactor and culprit is always the rapist and never the child. The perpetrator of the crime needs to be apprehended and punished to the full extent of the law, and insofar as sentencing for such crimes may be too lenient in certain regions or locales, our legal system must vigorously work to correct it. Women who have suffered the indignity of rape deserve better, and trauma ought not be layered with even more trauma.

Our first obligation is to reach out in love and acceptance to the woman who has been victimized, and when a child is conceived, she and her child need our loving assistance all the more. Sometimes in certain bioethical situations, an apparently compassionate response may be offered which is, in fact, profoundly unethical. In tragic situations like sexual assault, it can be difficult to perceive the right lines, and to think with reason rather than emotions.

Oftentimes we may be tempted to imagine that a child conceived by rape would only serve as a reminder to the mother of the original traumatic event she had suffered, and that she would be “better off” without that reminder. Interestingly, however, in a study published in March of 2000, that conclusion was found to be invalid. David C. Reardon, Julie Makimaa and Amy Sobie sifted through nine years worth of testimonies gathered by the Elliot Institute and Fortress International to get a true picture of the effects of abortion on a woman who had suffered from the trauma of rape.

They wrote a book that debunks the argument that abortion is necessary or helpful after sexual assault. Co-author Amy Sobie has summarized it this way: “The vast majority of the women (and their children) who responded advanced the view that abortion is not a good solution to sexual assault pregnancies and that it often leads to further physical and emotional trauma for the women. Conversely, none of the women who carried to term expressed regret that they had chosen to give birth or a wish that they had chosen abortion instead.”

In the final analysis, rape is unable ever to justify abor-



MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

BY FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK

tion, even though in every one of the more than 55 countries that now have abortion on demand, the initial step taken was intense lobbying for the availability of abortion in so-called ‘hard cases’ — especially rape and incest.

Of all abortions performed, 99.96 percent occur for reasons unrelated to rape, so the very rare exception has been carefully employed to provide cover for all other cases. Playing the emotional card has been largely successful in the public arena, reminding us of the urgent need for a more level headed and dispassionate discussion of the real goods that are at stake. As former abortionist Dr. Bernard Nathanson once put it, “If a part of a human community were not at stake, no woman should be required to undergo the degradation of bearing a child in these circumstances, but even degradation, shame and emotional disruption are not the moral equivalent of life. Only life is.”

By respecting the life of the vulnerable and innocent child, we steer clear of the grave error in reasoning that tries to suggest that evil can justify further evil. True compassion invites us to suffer with, to be present to, and to aid the victims of sexual assault, by offering them our unconditional love, acceptance and support, rather than short-circuiting the situation in favor of easy and inauthentic “solutions.”

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did postdoctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the Diocese of Fall River, Mass., and serves as the director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.

Real ‘tragedy’ not at Sugar Bowl

Guilt.

That was the first emotion I felt when we turned down Claiborne Street in New Orleans, just up the way from The French Quarter.

Not guilty for failing to do more to help or for living such a blessed existence compared to what the victims of Hurricane Katrina experienced.

Guilt for the overwhelming desire to look, stare, gawk. It was voyeuristic, mesmerizing, the ultimate lure. I just had to look, wonder, imagine.

It wasn’t until the third day I was in New Orleans for Notre Dame’s Sugar Bowl game against LSU before a group of us ventured off to see the “sights,” almost like tourists visiting a museum.

During the first few days, I engaged in conversation with many people about Katrina-locals who had experienced it, an engineer from Kansas who was in town to help with the reconstruction, and visitors who had already seen the destruction.

Finally, after several conversations, I said to one of the locals, “I’m sure you’re tired of talking about it.” But she wasn’t. For many, talking about it was cathartic. They had seen something no one else outside of that area had seen. They had lived catastrophe beyond belief. Some 16 months later, their astonishment hadn’t faded.

The area where the Sugar Bowl media stayed — about a five-minute walk from Bourbon Street — was directly across the street from the Convention Center, where thousands of people had descended to find refuge when 150-mile per hour winds filled levees that broke/overflowed. There had been no water damage done to

that area. That was the high ground — by the river — away from where the real damage had occurred — by the lake, which is below sea level.

People shake their head in disgust since much of the destruction hasn’t been cleaned up. There were some areas where houses were still stacked upon one another when they were swept off their foundations by the floodwater.

The immediate reaction is to condemn a government that has done nothing to improve the situation. But then you drive around the areas most affected by Katrina and the magnitude is overwhelming. There isn’t enough money in this country to clean up house after house, mile after mile of destroyed and abandoned structures.

Besides, you can’t just take a bulldozer to miles upon miles of private property. Are the owners dead, have they moved away permanently, or will they eventually return to reclaim it? My engineer friend said they’re still finding bodies.

You see house after house with TFW spray-painted on the side, indicating “Toxic Flood Water” within. “Cat” or “dog” spray-painted on the house to indicate the corpse that laid within.

I felt safe in the area in which we stayed during the week in New Orleans. But just off the beaten path, it is very dangerous. Nine people were slain in New Orleans in the first eight days of 2007, despite the presence of 300 National Guardsmen and 60 state troopers who have been brought in to help stem the violence. Overall, however, the police force is down from 1,700 to 1,400.



FROM THE SIDELINES

BY TIM PRISTER

The pre-Katrina population of 455,000 has shrunk to 200,000. Literally and figuratively, much of New Orleans has floated away.

As eye opening as my experience was, it still didn’t capture the most desperate times. I didn’t see homes submerged under water, just the aftermath.

I drove back a second time to Claiborne Street and started turning down some of the side streets. I looked, I stared, I gawked. The hollow faces looked and stared and gawked back at me. I no longer felt safe, and had this overwhelming sense of danger.

I was witnessing the destruction of man, and the people who saw me in my nice rental car knew it.

When I returned home and people mentioned the tragedy in New Orleans, they were talking about Notre Dame’s performance in the Sugar Bowl.

I knew better.

Tim Prister is a 1978 graduate of Marian High School and a 1982 graduate from the University of Notre Dame, where he was the starting third baseman in 1981-82. Prister also is head baseball coach at Marian.

Meet the Priest

Father Charles A. Herman

Ordained Nov. 29, 1997
Associate pastor, Holy Family Parish,
South Bend



What was your primary influence in your decision to become a priest?

the love that my family had for the Catholic religion and the positive influence from priests and religious whom I knew

What is the most rewarding part of being a priest?

servicing God and his people

Do you have any pets?

I have a female German Shepherd named Kali. Kali is the German equivalent of Charlie.

What do you do for relaxation?

read and walk

What is your favorite reading material? Who are your favorite authors?

current spiritual works and novels of fiction, John Paul II and John Grisham

What is the best part of being Catholic?

having the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist

What is your favorite prayer?

the Magnificat

What is your favorite Scripture passage?

In 14:6 — “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Who is your favorite pope?

John Paul II

What is your favorite food?

good old plain home cooking

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

I was a high school teacher for 23 years prior to my becoming a priest

How do you prefer to be addressed by the laity?

Father Chuck

Sports

HOLY CROSS COLLEGE'S FIRST HOCKEY TEAM IS IN ACTION Although this has been a pretty mild winter, the Holy Cross College Saints have seen a lot of ice during their inaugural hockey season. Holy Cross College joined the NAIA and one of the new athletic teams is the hockey team. Led by an experienced and talented alumnus, Michael Mitchell, the team is sure to have years of smooth skating ahead. The Saints have 18 players on the hockey team and play home games at the Ice Box in South Bend. For more information about Saints hockey, go to www.hcc-nd.edu/prospects/athletics/hockey/

CYO league hit the 'threes'

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — Two different CYO (Catholic Youth Organization) boys' hoopsters made six long balls each in games last weekend during their fifth week of league play. Games were played at four different gyms including: Queen of Angels, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel, St. John the Baptist, New Haven, and at the newly-waxed floor at St. Aloysius on Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 13-14.

At Hessen Cassel on Saturday, the Twins from St. Louis/St. Rose lost a hard-fought battle to the home team 69-60 despite six treys from the hot hands of seventh

grader, Colin Stuerzenberger. Steven Kiermaier and Hunter Tobe combined for 41 points to lead the Squires while Mitch Castleman topped all scorers with 24 for the Twins.

Benoit continued their run getting by St. Aloysius 42-37 in a Blue League "battle of the unbeaten." Phoenix Coach Paul Gerardot said, "Tony Sorg has a very fundamentally sound team."

In a Gold League contest on Sunday at Queen of Angels, St. Charles squeaked by the boys from St. Joseph, Decatur, 33-32. The Cardinals led most of the game, but fell behind in the final minutes. They came back and won on a last second shot from Anthony Offerle.

The Cardinals are now 4-0 in the Gold League. St. Vincent also improved to 4-0 over the weekend fueled by Greg Kaiser's six three-pointers against St. John, New Haven. The two will face each other in a Feb. 3 match up at St. Aloysius.

Boys Gold League Standings

As of Jan. 13
(Eighth Grade-Large Schools)

St. Charles	4-0
St. Vincent	4-0
St. Jude	3-1
Decatur	1-2
St. John, New Haven	1-3
St. Joseph/St. Elizabeth	2-2
St. John, Fort Wayne	0-3
Queen of Angels	0-4

Fifth, sixth grade boys

In the fifth and sixth grade boys' CYO action, a tough St. John, Fort Wayne sixth-grade team remains unbeaten, improving to 15-0 overall with a regular season win over St. Charles 39-37 at year

end. The Eagles also won the Most Precious Blood holiday tournament beating St. Vincent 6 in the opener by a score of 35-15, then Queen of Angels 39-9 in the second round and finally topping St. Vincent 5 for the championship 42-28.

At halfway point, Corpus Christi, St. Joseph hold leads

BY ELMER J. DANCH

SOUTH BEND — Corpus Christi ran its unblemished record of five straight with an easy 35-13 verdict over St. Matthew. Andy Klimek rattled in 13 points for the winners.

St. Joseph of Mishawaka also racked up its fifth straight verdict by rolling over St. Adalbert, 55-28, leading from start to finish, although the St. Adalbert team gave the winners a scrappy fight. Andrew Olena of the Mishawakans led St. Joseph with 10 points. Jerry Alston had 12 points for St. Adalbert.

St. Jude maintained its pace in the Martin De Porres West with a handy 30-21 victory over St. Monica of Mishawaka. St. Monica held on to second place.

Holy Family edged St. Anthony in a 30-26 nailbiter that was decided in the waning minutes after the teams had exchanged lead three times during the tussle. Collin Skodinski, who had been the mainstay of Holy Family, pow-

dered the nets for 14 points to top individual scorers. Pete Gillis had 10 points for St. Anthony.

Christ the King defeated St. Joseph, 32-20, by getting off to early six-point lead and nursing it to the finish. The Kings' John Revak collected 10 points.

In other contests, St. Thomas of Elkhart beat Holy Cross, 45-26, with Taylor Krugh leading the assault with 17 points.

St. Michael of Plymouth swamped St. Bavo of Mishawaka, 49-9, as Charlie Brown tossed in 11 points; St. Pius of Granger nipped St. John the Baptist, 35-32, in overtime as Jacob Burgess burned the nets for 18 points for the day's top individual performance for St. Pius. Vinnie Rulli had 10 points for St. Pius. Alex Bauters netted 16 points for St. John.

Seven games were played in the Colors Division. St. Anthony Maroon downed Holy Family Blue, 24-19; Christ the King White beat Holy Cross Blue, 37-14; St. Thomas White tipped St. Thomas Maroon, 30-26; St. Thomas Gold

defeated St. Joseph, South Bend, Gold, 22-11; St. Anthony Gold edged Corpus Christi Blue, 28-24; Christ the King Blue beat St. Pius Blue, 39-22; and Christ the King Gold defeated St. Matthew Black, 31-16.

John Bosco East

St. Anthony	3-2
St. Joseph, South Bend	3-2
St. Matthew	1-4
St. Thomas	1-4

John Bosco West

Corpus Christi	5-0
Christ the King	3-2
Holy Family	3-2
Holy Cross	1-4

Martin De Porres East

St. Joseph, Mishawaka	5-0
St. Pius	4-1
St. Michael	2-3
St. Bavo	0-5

Martin De Porres West

St. Jude	4-1
St. Monica	3-2
St. John	2-3
St. Adalbert	0-5

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Our Sunday Visitor, the nation's largest publisher and supplier of church offering envelopes as well as a growing company, has an opening for a **Stewardship Services Coordinator**. Candidate must have excellent written and verbal communication skills. Must be a self-motivated, detail-oriented person and have the ability to handle multiple tasks. Public relations and event planning experience extremely helpful. Knowledge of Microsoft Window, Excel, and Access required. Occasional travel is required. Bachelor's Degree in Marketing or related field is highly preferred. All applicants should send a resume with salary history, on or before Friday, January 26 to Human Resources Department, Our Sunday Visitor, Inc 200 Noll Plaza, Huntington, IN 46750 or email:

hr@osv.com

Our Sunday Visitor, Inc.

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:

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EOE

USCCB Forum examines obligation to serve all audiences

BY BETH GRIFFIN

NEW YORK (CNS) — Religious groups have to harness the unity in their diversity and work together to ensure that broadcasters respect their obligation to serve the needs of all viewers and listeners — and not only those who are shareholders.

This was a conclusion at a historic round-table forum on religion and broadcasting held Jan. 9 at the WNET television studio in New York.

Representatives from two dozen Catholic, Protestant, Jewish and Islamic groups met with two com-

missioners of the Federal Communications Commission for a spirited discussion organized by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, in cooperation with the National Council of Churches and the United Church of Christ.

Media consolidation, in which large companies own television, radio, newspaper, cable and Internet outlets in a single market, is seen as a hindrance to creativity and the thoughtful portrayal of religious viewpoints and shared values.

The effect of consolidation, according to Bishop Joseph A. Galante of Camden, N.J., a former chairman of the USCCB Committee on Communications, is

“we get fed a steady diet of ‘reality’ programs and drack. We have so dumbed-down our culture that we have a deadening of spirit. What we see in no way contributes to the dignity of the human being.”

In the absence of programming that examines values, said Bishop Galante, “what we have today is a value which is no value. It has coarsened our sensibilities.”

FCC Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein said that the First Amendment requires the government to promote the uninhibited marketplace of ideas and to protect the free exercise of religion.

The Rev. Robert Chase, executive director of the Office of Communication of the United Church of Christ, said, “Despite what the media portrays, it is a myth to assume that there is a monolithic national Christian religious message. In virtually all faith groups, the foundational unit of mission and ministry is

the congregation. Local culture and events shape religious expression.

“Since 1995, the number of entities owning commercial TV stations has dropped by 40 percent and consolidation in radio is even more dramatic,” said Rev. Chase. “If ownership caps are further relaxed, airtime for diverse, locally based religious and cultural voices will diminish, washed away in a homogenization of simplistic platitudes.”

Copps described a 2003 citizens’ effort that mobilized public protest against a relaxation of media ownership rules that was proposed by a former FCC chairman.

“An unprecedented army of left and right, liberal and conservative, ... nearly 3 million of them, contacted the FCC to protest,” said Copps. The rules would have allowed a single owner to control as many as three television stations, eight radio stations, the cable system, cable channels and the local newspaper in an individual market, he explained.

Copps urged the forum participants to discuss the consolidation issue with their constituents and

organize efforts to support media policy that “recognizes their existence, covers their issues and provides them ample opportunity for expression.”

Rabbi Marc Gellman, co-host of TV’s “The God Squad” with Msgr. Thomas Hartman, said that the FCC should be pressured “to encourage creation of a true national religious channel which will give flesh and bones and heart to the notion that we can live together.”

He suggested that retired television executives create a national production house to develop talent in seminarians and get them onto Clear Channel, a big media company with radio and television stations.

Among the participants were Msgr. Francis Maniscalco, former USCCB secretary for communications and a consultant to the USCCB Committee on Communications; Msgr. Michael J. Dempsey, president of the Catholic Television Network; and Atonement Father James Gardiner, chairman of the Tri-State Catholic Committee on Radio and Television.



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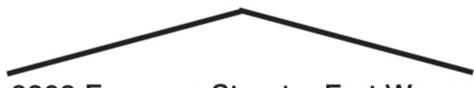
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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

FUNDRAISERS

Wish upon a star at dance

Fort Wayne — St. Jude School's dance and silent auction 'Wish Upon a Star' will be Saturday, Jan. 27, at 6:30 p.m. Join MC Bob Sweigert, beverages provided by Mad Anthony Brewing Company and music from the band Unwrapped. Tickets are \$12 per person in advance or \$15 at the door. Contact the St. Jude Parish Office at (260) 484-6609 for information. All proceeds benefit the school.

Ed Fox fish fry

Monroeville — A fish and tenderloin dinner will be Friday, Jan. 26, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Monroeville Park Pavillion. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for children 6-11. Children 5 and under eat free. Proceeds benefit the seventh and eighth grade class trip. For information call (260) 623-3447.

Fish Fry

New Haven — The Holy Name Society of St. John the Baptist Parish will have a fish fry on Friday, Jan. 19, from 4 to 7 p.m. Adults \$6.50, children 5-12 \$3.50 and children under 5 free.

OPEN HOUSE

Holy Cross School plans open house

South Bend — Holy Cross School, 1020 Wilber St., will have an open house on Sunday, Jan. 28, from noon to 2 p.m.

St. Henry to celebrate 50th Jubilee

Fort Wayne — St. Henry will celebrate a 50 year jubilee with an open house on Sunday, Jan. 28, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tours of the school, church, rectory and parish center will be offered. Refreshments available.

Youth ministry house grand opening

Decatur — St. Mary of the Assumption Parish's new youth ministry program will host a grand opening house warming party for the new youth home on Sunday, Jan. 21, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The celebration includes snacks and door prizes and is open to all sixth through twelfth graders including those from surrounding parishes. For information call (260) 7-BIBLE-4.

MISC. HAPPENINGS

Mini course on eucharistic adoration

South Bend — St. Joseph Parish will have an introductory session on eucharistic adoration for individuals and families on Sunday, Jan. 21, from 3 to 4 p.m. at the church at the corner of Hill and La Salle Streets. The session will feature a talk by Lisa Marino, St. Matthew's RCIA director, on why participate in this prayer and how to include young children. Father John DeRiso will explain the mechanics of adoration and benediction, allowing children to understand what they see. The hour will close with a short 15 minute practice adoration.

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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.

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.

REST IN PEACE

Bristol

Thomas J. Gannon, 72, St. Mary of the Annunciation

Vivian E. Ottavi, 90, St. Mary of the Annunciation

Churubusco

Freda E. Gilbert, 82, St. John Bosco

Culver

George R.E. Baldwin, 75, St. Mary of the Lake

Elkhart

Leanna M. Walerko, 83, St. Thomas the Apostle

Fort Wayne

Jill Dianne Stark, 71, St. Vincent de Paul

Robert A. Walker, 82, Cathedral of the Immac. Conception

Ann L. Skinner, 91, St. Vincent de Paul

Helen M. Clay, Most Precious Blood

Robert C. Offerle, 91, St. Jude

Rosemary T. Michell, 84, St. Therese

Paul E. Lipp, 50, St. Vincent de Paul

Mishawaka

Mary J. Gaza DeVolder, 82, St. Monica

Notre Dame

Sister M. Agnes E. Walshe, CSC, 92, Our Lady of Loretto

Jolynn Schrage, 45, Sacred Heart Basilica

South Bend

Georgiana I. Cesulka, 92, St. Joseph

Robert R. Skudlarek, 77, St. Joseph

Jeannette L. Rzeszewski, 69, St. Stanislaus

Florence P. Zygulski, 86, Holy Cross

Karen L. Georgiefski, 40, St. John the Baptist

Warsaw

Bill J. Walker, 79, Sacred Heart

Singles investigate latest craze

Fort Wayne — Join the "GAP", a social group for single Catholics in the 40-60ish age range. Come 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. Call Christine Zmyslo at (574) 273-2931.

HELP WANTED

Retail Sales

All Saints Religious Goods, a retail store specializing in books and gifts of interest to Catholics and other Christians, has need of additional retail sales clerks. Prior retail or other relevant experience required. Ability to speak Spanish helpful. Flexible schedule. Closed Sundays. Please apply in writing to:

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Personal Enrichment

Painting with Watercolors
8 Mondays - Feb 5 - April 2
5:30 - 7:30 pm
\$79 Seniors \$59+supplies

**Cheap Yet Chic
Hor D'Oeuvres with Wine**
6 Wednesdays-Feb 7-March 21
6-8 pm \$115 (includes supplies)

**Social Dancing-
Cha Cha & Waltz**
8 Mondays Feb 5-April 2- 6-8 pm
\$75 or 2 for \$130

Learn to Play the Guitar
10 Tuesdays Feb 13 - April 24
6:30-7:30 pm \$89 + book

Writing Down My Life Stories
4 Mondays Feb 5-26 6-7:30 pm
\$55 + book

Retirement Planning Today
2 Saturdays March 24 & 31
9 am - 12 pm or 3 Tuesdays
March 27- April 10 6:30-9:00 pm
\$49

Basic Ceramic Techniques
8 Wednesdays Feb 7-March 28
7- 9 pm \$99

Personal Enrichment

Investing for Dummies
4 Tuesdays Feb 6 - 27
7-8:30 pm \$49

Grow Your Own Orchids
2 Wednesdays March 28 & April 4
6:30-8:30 pm \$39

Calligraphy
6 Wednesdays Feb 7 - March 14
6:30 8:30 pm
\$69 + \$10 supply fee

Languages

**Beginning
Conversational Spanish**
8 Tuesdays - Feb 6 March 27
6-8 pm \$99 + book

Con't Beginning Spanish
8 Thursdays Feb 8-March 29
6-8 pm \$99 + book

Intro to Italian
9 Wednesdays Feb 7 - April 11
6-7 pm \$79 + book

Con't Italian
8 Mondays - Feb 5-April 2
6-8 pm \$99 + book

Beginning Polish Made Easy
8 Wednesdays Feb 7 - April 4
6-8 pm \$99 + book

Advanced Beginning Polish
8 Tuesdays Feb 6 - April 3
6-8 pm \$99 + book

Languages

Beginning Sign Language
9 Tuesday/Thursdays
5 Tuesdays Feb 20-March 20
3 Thursdays Feb 22-March 8
and March 29
All classes from 6:30-7:30 pm
\$99 + book

Computers for Seniors
**Computers
Made Easy for Seniors**
8 Fridays Feb 23 - April 13
3 - 5 pm \$65 + book

Computers
Microsoft Office 2003
8 Thursdays Feb 15 - April 4
7:30-9 pm \$75 + book



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Plans are in progress to
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8 Wednesdays Feb 21-April 11
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Seniors \$55 +book

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8 Tuesdays Feb 6 - April 3
6-7 pm \$50

Yoga
8 Wednesdays Feb 7- March 28
7:15-8:15 pm \$50

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6 Tuesdays Feb 27 - April 10
5:30-7:30 pm \$149 + book

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