Knights take pro-life cause to the streets

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
When people pray with fervor, vocations flourish

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 of 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 neighbor parish. It was larger than Our Lady of the Presentation, which was the parish of the Presentation, the former 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 parish churches, and now St. Columbkille’s is the only one left as the other two are closed. So, it was

most kind of Mege, 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 gone now. 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 everywhere 10 blocks or so. When it closed in 1941, 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.
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” bill 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 take 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 tissues, such as 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,”

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 last year 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 used to create useful stem cells. The report was published in an online edition of the journal Nature Medicine.

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 embryonic stem-cell field, researchers can scarcely point to a safe and effective ‘cure’ for any condition in mice let alone ‘true persons’ using embryonic stem cells.”

“At the same time,” he continued, “ethicaly 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 of the variability 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 crazed 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
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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 an Academy Award-winning movie starring Susan Sarandon and Sean Penn, Sister Prejean has witnessed five executions and speaks out against the death penalty.

“She saw the entire case, in and out,” Dieringer, a senior at the high school, said. “I believe life should be respected and the dignity of life should be protected.”

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, 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 (Sonner) 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’ve 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.
Catholic Charities aims to cut poverty in America in half by 2020

Poverty in the U.S.

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Today’s Catholic • January 21, 2007

BY JERRY FELTEAU

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

“Just 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 non-profits, 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 at 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 director of the 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 Charitable Foundation 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 Louisianas 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 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 year.

“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 of the Dallas Diocese, where she is a co-worker of a rival. She said a Catholic Charities mother who received help from Catholic Charities of the Dallas Diocese, where she is a co-worker of a rival. 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 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 had come 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.

Catholic Charities of the Wichita Diocese, where she works, has risen to nearly 8 million a year.

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 she works, Catholic Charities aims to cut poverty in America in half by 2020.
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 Jasi, a U.S. interfaith liaison and agricultural adviser in Baghdad, Iraq, said it was “about time Washington realized the (number of troops we) need.” And keeping 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,” 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 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 the bishops’ Office of International Justice and Peace 1991-2004, 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 that help 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 working hard to educate and support families, he said, a government policy on family life and for families is also necessary. The pope called for “initiatives that do not make it less difficult and burden some 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 of housing and increase the number of preschools and nurseries.”

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.

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 unrelenting 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 revelations 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 devastatingly true revelation that Catholic clergy had sexually abused children shocked the Archdiocese of Boston and the wider community,” he said. “At the same time that we were told the torturous news that our church leaders had not handled the sexual abuse of children with the care and justice that such a situation demands,” he added, “the truth of the abuse had to be confronted.”

Judge says abuse lawsuit against Vatican can go ahead

WASHINGTON, 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 or her employment.” The lawsuit, brought by Louisville attorney Gregory Smith 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. McMurtry described Heyburn’s decision as “historic.” However, the Courier-Journal, Louisville’s daily newspaper, quoted attorney Jeffrey J. 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 Cardinal Ivan Cardinal Ivan Dias, prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, at the opening of a Jan. 11-12 conference at Rome’s Pontifical Urbanian University. Cardinal Dias told the conference, which focused on dialogue in society and 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 in the scope of values, which basically have a common source, can people live together like brothers.” We are all Catholics who are fighting for our beliefs now, we are more open, not narrow-minded,” Bishop Bianchini said. “It’s not denying our beliefs. ‘It’s not political correctness. It’s not acknowledging a need for help 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 distracting if they don’t understand it,” the bishop said. “If they’re in a room and they were stressed out, are you helping or hindering them? That’s part of good health care — you make them feel better,” 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.

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 many 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 deepest 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 hospital’s decision to cover hospital room crucifixes if patients request it. Bishop Justin Bianchini of Geraldton said the decision to remove crucifixes from a hospital run by the order of the Society of 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. “There’s a saying, ‘If you’re not denying our beliefs. ‘It’s not political correctness. It’s not acknowledging a need for help 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 distracting if they don’t understand it,” the bishop said. “If they’re in a room and they were stressed out, are you helping or hindering them? That’s part of good health care — you make them feel better,” 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.
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, OSE, president of the university. The university has developed a task force to determine how the space will be utilized.

**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, 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.

**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 were incorporated into the changes, 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 a letter from the Fort Wayne Serra Club. “Thank you for accepting our gift. We will also be happy to send you a 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 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.

“Af you do not love the poor, you do not love God, because it is God’s heart that loves the poor,” the late Pope John Paul II once said.

For more information or to participate, contact Susan Lee at (260) 436-3632 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 registrations for the quiet day of reflection program, “Sensue the Unexpected Christ.” Using Scripture and experience as guides, this 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 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.

**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,” was one of more than 700 entries.

Her poem has been published in a book titled “Best of the Best,” which 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, as well as 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 transition.

Despite 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-Indianapolis) 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 in excess of $60 billion of life insurance in force! If you are a practicing Catholic and are eligible to join the K of C, with or without insurance experience, and would like to know more about joining our community, please call or email us.

**If you love Prime Rib, you’re really going to love the Factory!**

**Friday and Saturday from 8 to 11 pm**

**Live Jazz - Light Rock - Acoustic and Variety Sets**

**Grand Opening**

Friday, January 5, 2007

5811 Coldwater Road
Fort Wayne, IN
(260) 484-8693
Life Athletes commit to virtue, abstinence and respect for life

BY DIANE FREEDY

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 ball following a three-Rose Bowl team in one year,” recalled 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 10 kids involved in a ‘Little Bookoo Basketball’ tournament.”

Godfrey sayse respose to the 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 anything we 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 people 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 responsibility — 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
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. 120 North Lafayette Blvd. • South Bend, IN 46601 232-5433

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
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.

**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 stricken, 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 control 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 true 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.

**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

**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.

“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

**Our Lady of Good Hope Parish**

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

**Father King and the Parishioners of St. Mary of the Assumption & St. Jude Parish**

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

**St. Monica Church**
MISHAWAKA

“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 control than to avoid pregnancy.”

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As 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

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.

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

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church
Fort Wayne

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

Pray for a True Respect for All Life
ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL PARISH
Waterloo

The 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. Michael the Archangel Parish
225 South Mill Street - Mishawaka

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

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Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
F O R T W A Y N E

Pray for a True Respect for All Life
ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL PARISH
Waterloo

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.

Supporting a culture of life

Sacred Heart Parish Notre Dame

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

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

On this anniversary of the Supreme Court decision, Roe v. 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
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

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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
Support the Dignity of Human Life

Life is a Miracle

St. Charles Borromeo Church
FORT WAYNE

Mary...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

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

Saint Pius X Parish • Granger, Indiana

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

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 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

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

33rd ANNUAL
march for LIFE

featuring Nina Fuller

ST. BAVO PARISH
MISHAWAKA

God’s Greatest Gift of All

St. Bavo Parish
Mishawaka

33rd ANNUAL
march for LIFE

featuring Nina Fuller

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

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.

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Dennings 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 Dennings 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 Summi 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 comfortably 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 hometown 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 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 Dennings 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 Dennings sought a parish community they could call their own.

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.

Gary might serves as eucharistic 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 grow and made several prayer groups, Carol says. “We jumped in and now have the support of good Catholic people at St. Elizabeth’s to strengthen our faith life.”

As their prayer life and service opportunities to get involved in the community, its priests and ministers, as well as their church and community at large. The couple, 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. 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 Dennings 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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16 S E N I O R  S P I R I T  J A N U A R Y  2 3 , 2 0 0 7
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 breakthroughs.

During the first week in January, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists announced that it would recommend all pregnant women be tested to determine whether her unborn child has Down syndrome. Previously, this 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 to identify 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 newsman asked this obvious question, the doctor seemed miffed by his naivety and replied that this of course would allow “terminations” in the first trimester, when the “procedure” is easier, safer and cheaper.

So we are told that this “breakthrough” won’t be used 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 promoted by some medical personnel.

This search and destroy campaign has taken a terrible toll, for estimated 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.

We must also consider the consequences of 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 grating 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.

In two recent breakthroughs, researchers have found promising stem cells in other plentiful and moral sources like amniotic fluid. Effective treatments already have been developed from stillborn babies, not embryos, and other sources, without 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 research and instead focus support on the promising stem-cell research from moral sources.

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 every year in between, they had to sleep on a gym floor, spend long hours out in the cold and do without food or drink. Where were they going? A concert? The Motor City Bowl? Not quite. They are Notre Dame and Stanford Marching Bands on the March for Life in Washington. It marks the 34th anniversary of Roe v. Wade.

A reasonable observer might ask, “Why bother?” Maybe students just don’t have enough to do. The truth is that those students are doing something real and important.

For most readers of these columns, the 34th anniversary of Roe v. Wade is ancient history. Since that ruling in 1973, more than 42 million unborn children have been killed legally executed by surgical abortion since 2002. That is the last year for which the Alan Guttmacher Institute, 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 de-personalization principle of Roe is the principle that is driving all the current extermination of the Jews and the de-personalization 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 require 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 someone being 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 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 ace, requiring a clear boundary between what is 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 R. 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.”

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@fd.catholicweb.org
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 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 archives of Poland’s National Remembrance Institute.

Like much of Eastern Europe, the church has quietly struggled over how 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 discrediting 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 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 legacy.

When he visited Poland last...
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 teachings 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 it is that 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 financial 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 or child birth or why the baby would not understand the process of human sexuality.

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

I think it is important first of all to point out that impairment 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 sense, however, such a person will be freed of their mental, physical or genetic impediments to become a perfectly normal individual.

Moralities, including sexual morality, was designed for every person, woman and child who share in human nature. There are no exceptions here. If contraception is a means by which an individual can be free of the inescapable consequences of sexual behavior then 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. If a 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.

Let’s just get back to the moral issue. Just as the single person is expected to be celibate, so also is the impaired single person. Genital sex is not a sin qua non for a fulfilled human life. Think of the millions of men and women who have devoted their life to the service of the church. They require special caring and guidance, but they repel that care 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_diag obscene. Please supply your name, city and an e-mail address or phone number so we can contact you if necessary. Anonymity will be preserved upon request.

A loss for the Irish, a victory for Christ

BY MIRANDA BAXTER

Through the hard times 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 a victory that we were itching to bring home.

New Year’s Eve was definitely a day to remember. On the day 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 were 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 the letter from Director of Bands Dr. Kenneth Dye, was passed out. We were scheduled to practice the Holy Cross School for Boys, founded shortly after the establishment of the University of Notre Dame by Rev. John Bavon by Father Sorin himself. The letter explained that we would be traveling to the neighborhood that still hadn’t been fully searched since Katrina hit.

Houses with a spray-painted “X” marked by search teams with 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 rather noisy bunch. Somberly, we stood and left the bus. I heard someone say that the neighborhood was basically in the middle of ground zero from the hurricane.” Members of the faculty, staff and students of Holy Cross School had resided in the area 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 of how 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 head 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 an “inspired performance” as he called it (to everyone in the band it was really no trouble at all), every member of the band and staff received a Fleur-de-Lys pin and a hearty lunch of hot jambalaya.

Mentally challenged share same human dignity as person of God

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.

A mentally or physically impaired person is a gift to a family, not a liability or an unqualifiable 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 repel that care 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.

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SCRIPTURE SEARCH

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.

FULFILLED SCRIPTURE


LETTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

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

Seemingly lost in the Archbishop Wielegasz affair is the fact that last August the Polish bishops issued a long and detailed document on priest-consultants 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 this openly and 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 retribution. The jury is still out on why these recommendations were not applied to the Archbishop Wielegasz case before it became a front-page scandal.
**Sexual assault and abortion**

**BY FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK**

Real ‘tragedy’ not at Sugar Bowl

**BY TIM PRISTER**

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 for fear of crime, nor for fear to help or for living such a blessed existence compared to what the victims of Hurricane Katrina experience.

Guilt for the overwhelming desire to look, stare, gawk. It was voyeuristic, without purpose, the ultimate lure. I just had to look, wonder, imagine.

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

From many conversational exchanges, I said to one of the locals, “I’m sure you’re tired of talking about the aftermath.” He said, “No, I’m not tired of talking about it. Talking about it was cathartic. They had seen something no one else outside of that area had seen. They had lived it, and it was 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 130-mile per hour winds filled levies 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 cleared away. 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 TPW spray-painted on the side, indicating “Toxic Flood Water” within. “Cat” or “dog” spray-paint 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.

The pre-Katrina population of 455,000 has shrunk to 200,000. It’s playing the emotional card.

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 droved 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 despair.

I was witnessing the destruction of man, and the people who saw me in my nice clothing 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.

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

What is your favorite Scripture passage?

I John 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

**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?

serving 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?

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

**Meet the Priest**

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.
Sports

CYO league hit the ‘threes’

BY MICHIELE 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 gymns 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 Kiernmaier and Hunter Tobe combined for 41 points to lead the Squires while Mitch Castleman topped all scorers with 24 for the Twins.

Ben not continued their run getting from the hot hands of seventh St. Aloysius 42-37 in a Blue League “battle of the unbeaten.” Phoenix Coach Paul Gerar dot 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.

St. Joseph hold leads

BY ELMER J. DANCH

SOUTH BEND — Corpus Christi ran its unblemished record of five straight with an easy 35-26 nailbiter that was decided in the waning minutes after the team had exchanged lead three times during the first half, Collin Skodinski, who had been the mainstay of Holy Family, powered the nets for 14 points to top individual scorers. Pete Gills had 10 points for St. Anthony. Chris the King defeated St. Joseph, 32-29, by getting off to early six-point lead and nursing it to the finish. The Kings’ John Rakel collected 10 points.

In other contests, St. Thomas of Elkhart beat Holy Cross, 45-26, with Taylor Rahar 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, 39-27; and Christ the King Gold defeated St. Matthew Black, 31-16.

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 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

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/

STEWARSHIP SERVICES COORDINATOR

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 Windows, 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.
USCCB Forum examines obligation to serve all audiences

“we get fed a steady diet of ‘reality’ programs and drivel. 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 null. It has coarsened our sensibilities.”

The Rev. Robert Chase, executive director of the 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 citizen’s 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 bone 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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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.diocecesfwvb.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 tendon dinner will be Friday, Jan. 26, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Monroeville Park Pavilion. 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 DeKiso 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.

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.

Nights 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.

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 gamp4636@msn.com.

Trivia night returns
South Bend — Campus 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.

OPEN HOUSE

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:

All Saints Religious Goods
3506 South Calhoun Street
Fort Wayne, IN 46807

HELP WANTED

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Provena Health, a Catholic health system, builds communities of healing and hope by compassionately responding to human need in the spirit of Jesus Christ.
Holy Cross College Community Education

Winter is a perfect time to take an enrichment class at the college or an on-line course from home. We offer free, convenient parking, reasonable course fees, excellent teachers, and Senior Discounts of 10%. To enroll or receive complete schedule, contact Pat Adams 574-239-8364 or email: padams@hcc-nd.edu. You can see our schedule on our web site www.hcc-nd.edu. On-line enrollment is available - hit the Continuing Education button.

### Personal Enrichment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Times</th>
<th>Fee</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Painting with Watercolors</td>
<td>8 Mondays Feb 5 - April 2</td>
<td>6-7 pm</td>
<td>$89 + book</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cheapskate Chic</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$55 + supplies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Dancing: Cha Cha &amp; Waltz</td>
<td>8 Mondays Feb 5 - April 2</td>
<td>6-8 pm</td>
<td>$55 or 2 for $130</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing Down My Life Stories</td>
<td>4 Mondays Feb 5-26</td>
<td>5:30-7:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Retirement Planning Today</td>
<td>2 Saturdays March 24 &amp; 31</td>
<td>9 am - 12 pm</td>
<td>$99 + book</td>
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<tr>
<td>Basic Ceramic Techniques</td>
<td>8 Wednesdays Feb 7 - March 28</td>
<td>7-9 pm</td>
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<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>Investing for Dummies</td>
<td>4 Tuesdays Feb 6 - 27</td>
<td>7-8:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grow Your Own Orchids</td>
<td>2 Wednesdays March 28 &amp; April 2</td>
<td>6:30-8:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Calligraphy</td>
<td>6 Wednesdays Feb 7 - March 14</td>
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<td>$69 + $10 supply fee</td>
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### Languages

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<th>Times</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beginning Conversational Spanish</td>
<td>8 Tuesdays - Feb 6 - March 12</td>
<td>6-8 pm</td>
<td>$99 + book</td>
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<td>Don't Beginning Spanish</td>
<td>8 Thursdays Feb 8 - March 29</td>
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<td>Intro to Italian</td>
<td>9 Wednesdays Feb 7 - April 11</td>
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<td>Can't Italian</td>
<td>8 Mondays - Feb 5-April 2</td>
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<td>$99 + book</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beginning Polish Made Easy</td>
<td>8 Wednesdays Feb 7 - April 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advanced Beginning Polish</td>
<td>8 Tuesdays Feb 6 - April 3</td>
<td>6-8 pm</td>
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### Spiritual Life and Holistic Health

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<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tai Chi</td>
<td>8 Tuesdays Feb 6 - 10</td>
<td>6-7 pm</td>
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<td>Yoga</td>
<td>8 Wednesdays Feb 7- March 28</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pilates</td>
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<td>$50</td>
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### ON-LINE Courses

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