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PARISHES MERGE

St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in South Bend, shown above, will merge with St. Jude Parish. Bishop John M. D’Arcy will preside at the last Mass at St. Mary at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 28. After Mass, parishioners will travel to St. Jude Parish for a welcoming prayer service and dinner. The decree announcing the merger is on page 3.

Proclaim the Gospel message, experience Christ, serve others

Notre Dame taskforce lays out strategic plan for elementary and secondary Catholic schools

BY ANN CAREY

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Youth rally for life

Young people pray and march for life

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Catholic presence to legislators

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Faithful steward retires

Spearheaded Catholic presence with troubled youth

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Sesquicentennial

St. Mary of the Assumption and St. Jude featured

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Catholic Schools Week

Get ready to celebrate your Catholic education

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VIGIL, PAGE 4

Vigils for life celebrated in diocese, Washington

BY MARK PATISON

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Despite the fact abortion has been legal throughout the United States for 34 years, there are “reasons for rejoicing,” primarily because of lower abortion rates and increased public opposition to abortion, said Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia.

Cardinal Rigali, chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities, was principal celebrant and homilist at a Jan. 21 Mass on the eve of the annual March for Life. It was held at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington.

“The rate and number of abortions in the United States continue to decline, most notably among teens,” he said to applause during the homily. He said many teens “are wisely choosing to abstain from sexual activity” because of religious and moral values and also to avoid sexually transmitted diseases.

“To be free of disease, to be free of the fear of an ill-timed pregnancy, to be free of a broken heart — this is the freedom that we want for our young people, and we rejoice that it is unfolding,” he added to further applause.

“Another reason to rejoice is that the American people are becoming more pro-life. According to a significant poll last year, general support for Roe v. Wade fell under 50 percent for the first time since 1973,” Cardinal Rigali said, eliciting more clapping.

Bishop John M. D’Arcy delivers the homily at the annual Vigil for Life Mass Jan. 22 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne. At the Mass, commemorating the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision, Bishop D’Arcy called the unborn “the poor and oppressed of our generation.”

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WYatt, PAGE 3
Fifty years a priest, a golden jubilee is special

BISHOP JOHN M. D’ARCY

Fifty years

It comes to me almost as a surprise. On Feb. 2, it will be 50 years since the day I was ordained a priest of Christ forever. There were 78 in our class, 52 for the Archdiocese of Boston. There were so many that we had to be divided into two churches. I was ordained at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross through the imposition of hands by the unforgettable Cardinal Cushing. I can remember the place where my family sat and the joy of my dear parents.

It was the custom then to go back to the seminary and spend a final night there. One of the new priests would give benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. In the morning, we all celebrated our first Mass in the seminary. When we returned from the cathedral, the seminarians would kneel, row upon row, to receive our first blessing. It was a joyous time. In the summer, I like to slip into St. John’s Seminary and spend some time in the chapel there, thinking of the brave and good men who studied there and praying for them.

A golden jubilee is special. How could one ever expect that he might live that long and, through the special grace of God, be in good health and be able to carry out the priestly ministry every day?

I recall with special joy a conversation with Pope John Paul II at an “ad limina” visit when we bishops had lunch with him. I asked him what message he had for our priests. “Tell your priests,” said the pope, “that the greatest day for the pope was not the day he was made a bishop or pope, but the day he was ordained a priest and could offer Mass for the people.”

An act of love

The ordination of a priest is an act of love, not primarily for the priest but for the people. The ordination makes possible the celebration of the Eucharist, thousands of times by priestly service of the one ordained.

Understood only in prayer

We will observe this special moment together as a diocese on the Sunday after Easter with a Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. My family and some of those ordained with me, my companions of a lifetime, will come. With due respect for the winters in Indiana and New England, it seemed best to wait until springtime.

I was afraid, however, that this special moment of observance of the day might pass by without reflection. That is the kind of life I live. Like so many of you, I am sure, every day is intense. So, I will observe a few days of prayer at one of the religious houses in our diocese—just quiet prayer of thanksgiving in a place where there is exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Prayer and, hopefully, some rest, I will thank Jesus Christ for this gift and confess my unworthiness to him. I will give thanks for my parents and my sisters and that I was led by the hand of Christ to this wonderful place as your bishop.

Of course, in those few days, I will also pray for you and that Christ might give us more vocations to the holy priesthood.

Central to Catholic identity is the teaching of the faith. Is the Catholic faith taught clearly? Is it taught systematically? Are there examinations and papers to be written?

What we all must strive for and what must be the focus of everyone — administrators, teachers and pastors — is the Catholic identity of our schools. Central to Catholic identity is the teaching of the faith. Is the Catholic faith taught clearly? Is it taught systematically? Are there examinations and papers to be written?

In addition to this, there is the sacramental life through the Eucharist and the availability of the sacrament of penance.

A great help to me over the years in fostering Catholic identity has been my meetings with the Council of Catholic Teachers. I have found that this is a central concern for them and for our schools office.

The presence of the priest in the school is something that can never be relinquished. Our priests are overworked as it is and they have many things to do, but I am grateful that our priests find time each week to be in our schools, from even teaching religion to the senior classes. I hope this will continue.

A historic beginning

I drove west on a snowy Sunday to Sacred Heart Parish, Warsaw. This was to give the first presentation to a group of men who are beginning a formation program to become deacons. This first semester will be on prayer and meditation, it will help them to understand what it is they are seeking. These men have been gathered after first consulting all the priests in the diocese for their names. Thus a program of screening and discernment is present at the very beginning. We asked priests to tell us who among them might be a worthy candidate for this holy office. Only then did the screening begin.

One might ask, and one of these exemplary candidates did ask, why I waited so long. It is a good question. When I came and from the report I had received from the apostolic nuncio, I believed that it was necessary to place clearly in focus the ministerial priesthood. This is done by bringing exemplary candidates and by strengthening the priestly life of those who are ordained.

This is what I have tried hard to do, and Christ has blessed us. We have a marvelous presbyterate, dedicated men who are very humble and hardworking. They are a blessing upon us. Also, we have splendid candidates, and our numbers are growing thanks to prayer.

With that made clear, we now undertake a small class of candidates for the diaconate. It is a major project to prepare these deacons well. There must be psychological screening and an admissions policy. Each one must have a spiritual director. There also has to be a strong academic program and pastoral formation. Finally, there must be an evaluation of the men as they go through the program so that the bishop may receive recommendations that are not superficial.

We have begun. We hope this one small class will be a model for whatever may follow. Please keep it in your prayers.

After giving the opening class with a focus on faith and also the identity of a deacon and how it differs from the identity of the priest and the baptized lay person, and how it must always be centered on humble service, I hustled back to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne and celebrated Mass. Then, along with Father Robert Schulte, the rector of the cathedral, I led a eucharistic Holy Hour for Life.

By the way, did you happen to see on television — EWTN — the celebration of the holy Eucharist at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Washington? Huge crowds and so many young people. Very encouraging. Many came from our high schools and also from Notre Dame.

This week, I began my pastoral visit to the high schools. We always begin at Bishop Luers High, and it was a joy to be there with Mary Keefee, our excellent principal. Luers is a place of learning and faith.

I promise special prayers for you on Feb. 2. I will celebrate the noon Mass at the cathedral and then speak to the Serra Club, which helps foster the vocation of diocesan and religious women.

Congratulations to the Colts. A good thing for their wonderful coach and quarterback.

Even though my prediction proved incorrect, I will be rooting for the Colts against the Bears. See you all next week.
Culture of life means changing hearts, president tells March for Life

WASHINGTON (CNS) — “A true culture of life cannot be built by changing laws alone. We’ve all got to work to change hearts,” President George W. Bush told marchers packing several square blocks of the Mall and overflowing onto side streets turned the previous day’s snowfall into acres of muddy slush.

Among featured speakers was U.S. Sen. Brownback, a Kansas Republican whose appearance at the microphone sparked huge cheers from a large Kansas delegation just in front of the stage. Hundreds of people in all parts of the crowd waved “Brownback for president” signs, reflecting support for his decision to make a bid for the Republican presidential nomination next year.

“We need a culture of life that respects all life … from conception to natural death,” said Brownback, a Catholic.

“The unborn person is unique, is sacred, is born and he or she deserves protection,” he added.

Later Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kan., who also attended the rally, spoke privately with the senator.

The archbishop told Catholic News Service that he “thanked him for making the sacrifice for rural Catholics who are facing so many different pressures, including abortion.”

“We support the values he stands for,” Archbishop Naumann added. “We need people like him.”

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Catholic schools provide the fullest and best opportunity “to provide an atmosphere in which the Gospel message is proclaimed, community in Christ is experienced, service to our sisters and brothers is the norm, and thanksgiving and worship of God is cultivated.”

The report also underscores the bishops’ statement that the vitality of the church is “inextricably linked” to the health of its Catholic schools because they provide the most effective way to evangelize and form holy men and women, and that Catholic schools will continue to play a vital role in American civic life, for they demonstrate how to form good citizens.

However, the report is realistic, acknowledging that Catholic schools face “complex, interrelated challenges” external to the schools, such as fundamental demographic shifts, the changing role of religion in the lives of American Catholics, increasing educational choices, and the “pressing responsibility” to embrace the growing Latino population.

Those external pressures, the report continues, influence the four major internal challenges facing Catholic schools today:

- Strengthening Catholic identity; attracting and forming talented, faith-filled educational leaders; ensuring academic excellence; and enhancing school’s effectiveness so that they are accessible to all families who choose them.
- Recruit and form a new generation of effective Catholic teachers by continuing and improving the ACE program and disseminating it to other universities.
- Recruit and form effective Catholic school principals by expanding the ACE Leadership program to a 26-month master’s degree program in educational administration.
- Establish the Notre Dame Initiative for the Academic Improvement of Catholic Schools to provide expertise in implementation of effective assessment, curriculum and instruction.
- Build a national initiative to strengthen the Catholic identity of schools and help strengthen religious instruction with the help of Notre Dame’s Institute for Church Life and its Center for Education.
- Develop partnerships with individual Catholic schools through efforts like the Magnificat program or other models, in which Notre Dame helps to improve a school’s leadership, academic quality, financial management and pastoral care.
- Tap into Notre Dame’s marketing expertise to help Catholic schools attract new students.
- Attract the Latino community to Catholic schools with assistance from Notre Dame’s Institute for Latino Studies and the Institute for Educational Initiatives.
- Develop the ACE Consulting Initiative to provide expertise in marketing, governance, board training, management, strategic planning and investing.
- Start a National Parish School Leadership Team Workshop to convene pastors, principals and school board presidents to discuss and learn best practices in marketing, leadership, strategic planning, financial management, etc.
- Investigate how to access public funds and resources for Catholic schools through tax credits and educate the public on the social justice aspects of school choice.
- Establish the Notre Dame Program for Pastoral Formation and Administration for ACE and a member of the taskforce executive committee, told Zone 7B, “Building a bridge of understanding between Catholic schools and the larger culture is very positive, and demand for the report has been overwhelming.”

The program, which has prompted a second printing of 5,000 copies, has received “very positive and demand” from Catholic dioceses.

The report contains proposals that have to be implemented in their entirety to provide expertise in marketing, governance, board training, management, strategic planning and investing.

The taskforce report is posted on the Notre Dame Web site at www.president.nd.edu/catholic-schools/.

Decree of merger for St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, South Bend, Ind., and St. Jude Parish, South Bend

According to canon 1512.2 of the Code of Canon Law, “the diocese of the proper assistant bishop is competent to erect, suppress or alter parishes...” The Second Vatican Council, in its Decree on the Pastoral Office of Bishops in the Church, “Christus Dominus,” number 52, teaches that in creating or in any way changing the status of a parish, the bishop is to be motivated by his concern for the salvation of souls. This teaching was expanded upon by Pope Paul VI in his apostolic letter, “Ecclesiae Sanctae 1.,” number 6. “Every person, by effort should be made that parishes where, because of too great a population or too large a territory or for any cause whatsoever, apostolic activity can be exercised only with difficulty or less effectively, should be suitably divided or dismembered, provided that these parishes which are too small should be united as conditions and circumstances demand.”

The merger of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, South Bend, Ind., and St. Jude Parish, South Bend, Ind., will strengthen the pastoral care of the area and add resources at St. Jude’s, which will make possible the strengthening of the educational and pastoral ministry of St. Jude’s.

This decision was made after consultation with members of the parish on July 30, 2006, and then consulted the members of the diocesan council of priests at the 11:30 a.m. Sunday Mass. It was advertised beforehand so as many as possible could attend. Among those in attendance were Father Michael Heintz, the pastor, and Father John Delaney, the incoming pastor.

There had been previous consultations with the pastor and the vicar. In addition, visit St. Mary’s Parish on previous occasions to consult about the future of the school.

Due to the present shortage of priests, it is not possible to place a priest in all the parishes of our diocese. It is necessary to distribute the priests properly while the addition of 22 priests from Notre Dame has helped, most of these priests stay for a limited term. Accordingly, the joining of parishes to strengthen pastoral care needs consideration and, in this case, need is to be implemented.

A further reason is financial. Taken into serious consideration was the request that St. Mary of the Assumption has a debt to the diocese of $61,000. In the most recent fiscal year, this debt was $48,000, and $26,000 if we eliminate the cost of the school.

In light of the need to better distribute our priests and the serious financial condition of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, which has continued to deepen, the close proximity between St. Mary’s and St. Jude’s and the need to strengthen pastoral care in the area, it was believed to be necessary to consult further.

On Oct. 26, I convened the Presbytery Council of the Diocese for the purpose of consulting with them regarding the status of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, South Bend, Ind., and St. Jude Parish, South Bend, Ind., in accord with canons 127 and 1512.2. The matter was presented for advice. Archbishop Naumann was asked individually for his advice. The advice of the council, without a dissenting opinion, was to merge St. Mary of the Assumption Parish with St. Jude Parish.

Several years ago, a committee, under the leadership of Bishop Daniel Jenky, CSC, recommended several mergers, including the merger of St. Mary of the Assumption with St. Jude’s.

Therefore, after careful consideration of the advice of the Presbytery Council as well as the input of the various members of the parish communities of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish and St. Jude Parish and the aforementioned committee, I decree the following:

1. The undersigned bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, in virtue of my pastoral office and in conformity with the Code of Canon Law, after consultation with the Presbytery Council in accord with the norm of law, as well as with various members of both parishes and communities, do hereby decree that St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, South Bend, Ind., is merged with St. Jude Parish, South Bend, Ind. The effective date of the merger will be Jan. 1, 2007.

2. The name of St. Jude Parish, and its territorial boundaries will be:

- Beginning at the intersection of Trunk Railroad and Indiana 223 (Crumstown Highway) and moving clockwise: Trunk Railroad to Grant Street to Indiana Avenue to Brookfield Street to Prairie Avenue to Gertrude Street (which becomes Linden Road) to Norfolk and South Railroad Line to Donmoyer Street to Twycenkham Street to Clayton Drive to Weekley Drive to Byron Drive to Sampo Road to Western Turn Drive to Ironwood Road to Kern Road returning to Indiana 223 (Crumstown Highway).

Further, the merger with canon 121, St. Jude Parish will assume all assets and debts of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish.

Further, I decree that all parish records and registers from St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, South Bend, Ind., will be transported to St. Jude Parish, South Bend, Ind., where they will be maintained and preserved in accord with the norm of law.

Most Reverend John M. D’Arcy
Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

BY JERRY FITLEAU

WASHINGTON (CNS) — “A true culture of life cannot be built by changing laws alone. We’ve all got to work to change hearts,” President George W. Bush told tens of thousands of participants in the 34th annual March for Life Jan. 22.

Bush spoke by phone at the beginning of a two-hour rally on the National Mall preceding the marchers’ slow, peaceful trek around the Capitol to the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court.

With temperatures hovering right around freezing, the
VIGIL  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“More and more citizens are coming to question abortion and to recognize — as a starting point for deeper conversion — that there is something radically wrong with abortion and the support given it by our laws,” he added.

“In the midst of the enormous challenge posed by threats to life, there are new reasons to hope that the truth of God’s law will prevail as a great light in our nation as our people move increasingly toward valuing human life from its earliest and most vulnerable stages onward. This indeed is cause for rejoicing in the Lord!”

The church’s position on abortion is “one of profound concern for the unborn and deep compassion for all those affected by abortion,” Cardinal Rigali said. “With utmost respect we express in the public debate our strong conviction that something terribly wrong has weakened our nation — something that flagrantly violates human rights and human dignity, in addition to the law of God.”

The cardinal blasted “the so-called freedom of choice” that resulted from the Supreme Court’s Roe v. Wade decision in 1973, which legalized abortion across the country. “Could we think of anything more innocent or more incapable of harm or of being a weapon than the child who cannot even cry out in the womb when the destructive force comes close to it?”

Bishop D’Arcy referred to the unborn as “the poor and oppressed of our generation.” He also quoted Pope John Paul II’s message on the “Gospel of Life:”

“If we dare to think of anything more innocent or more incapable of harm or of being a weapon than the child who cannot even cry out in the womb when the destructive force comes close to it?”

Bishop D’Arcy continued to say that Jesus calls people to follow him by loving and taking care of the poor, the oppressed, the disabled and also the child in the womb.

Don Glemmer contributed to this story.

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

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Young people attend the vigil Mass for life at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington Jan. 21. The vigil and several Masses preceded the 34th annual March for Life in the nation’s capital Jan. 22. The events solemnly marked the 1973 Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion across the country.

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MARCH  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Among the more than 20 Catholic bishops at the rally were Cardinals Justin Rigali of Philadelphia and Sean P. O’Malley of Boston. Archbishop Raymond L. Burke of St. Louis, who led the rally’s final prayer before the start of the march, thanked the marchers for their “daily engagement in the fostering of human life ... without exception, without compromise.”

The theme of this year’s march was “Thou shalt protect the equal right to life of each innocent human in existence at fertilization. No exception! No compromise!”

Nellie Gray, who has led the March for Life since its inception in 1974, said she warned abortion advocates back then that they were on a “slippery slope” that would also lead to euthanasia.

Among people she introduced on the stage were Bobby Schindler and Suzanne Schindler Vitadamo, the brother and sister of Terri Schindler Schiavo, the Florida woman who two years ago died after her life support was removed by court order at her husband’s request, despite efforts by her natural family to keep her alive.

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Archbishop Buechlein shares vision on welcoming immigrants with lawmakers

BY BRIGID CURTIS AYER

INDIANAPOLIS — Most Rev. Daniel M. Buechlein, OSB, Indianapolis archbishop and chairperson of the Board of the Indiana Catholic Conference shared his vision of welcoming immigrants with Indiana lawmakers during a Jan. 17, legislator luncheon at the Westin Hotel hosted by the Indiana Catholic Conference.

“Immigration reform is not only a complex, but a controversial issue,” said Archbishop Buechlein. “We Catholic bishops of Indiana recommit ourselves and our dioceses to welcoming others as Christ would have us do.”

In the Gospels, we learn that our neighbor is anyone who is in need — including those who are homeless, hungry, sick or in prison. A neighbor may well be a complete stranger whose back story, experience or social standing is very different from ours,” said Archbishop Buechlein.

“We Catholic bishops of Indiana recommit ourselves and our dioceses to welcoming others as Christ would have us do,” said Archbishop Buechlein.

“Let’s face it, we are all immigrants. We have to be sensitive toward the immigrant and work together to strike a balance between placing limits on non-citizens while at the same time finding a way for others to become citizens,” said Sen. Deig.

Regrettably, the archbishop’s presentation, Rep. Candeleria Reardon said, “It’s nice to see the Catholic Church extending a welcoming hand to the immigrant community.” Rep. Candeleria Reardon attends St. Thomas More Parish in Munster.

Sen. Jeff Drozdow (R-Westfield) said, “I support helping the immigrants become citizens as long as they want to become citizens. The federal government doesn’t really dropped the ball on this issue and they expect the states to act.” Sen. Drozdow attends St. Maria Goretti Parish, in Warrick County.

One immigration reform bill being considered by the Indiana General Assembly is HB 1253, the employment of illegal aliens measure. House Bill 1253, authored by Rep. Vern Tinch (D-Terre Haute), which the Indiana Catholic Conference also opposed the bill because its ultimate target is the immigrant.

House Bill 1253 will be eligible for amendment and passage in the House during the week of Jan. 22 through Jan. 26.

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Vatican City Jan. 19, the pope said that Catholic bishops to work out dialogue with the nation's world who are praying and work-gratitude for all those around the 200 problem children with new families. Cardinal Murphy-O’Connor said that closing the agencies was a “very avoidable” outcome. He said the bishops believed it would be “unrea-sonable, unnecessary and unjust discrimination against Catholics” if the government insisted that they must act “against the teach-ing of the church and their own consciences by being obligated in law to provide such a service.”

After venturing into world of blogs, Boston cardinal now has podcast

WASHINGTON (CNS) Cardinal Sean P. O’Malley of Boston, already believed to be the first U.S. cardinal to have his own Web log, or blog, is apparently the first U.S. cardinal to have his own podcast. While Cardinal O’Malley may be unique among the highest levels of the U.S. Catholic hierar-chy, the archdioceses they head are keeping abreast of the newest communications technologies. During the holidays the Boston Globe reported that Boston Cardinal O’Malley, the Archdiocese of Boston’s video arm, would make available downloadable Christmas video mes-sages from Cardinal O’Malley in English, Spanish and Portuguese, with regular podcast recordings to start this year. For those not in the Archdiocese’s target area, they may also offer direct download or streaming of their content.

Students’ forum promotes understanding of people on society’s margins

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) — In an English class last year, a group of students from Jesuit High School in Portland established a move-ment to increase respect and jus-tice for those who are not main-stream members of society. Now students from the school and their schoolmates and the wider com-munity understand and champion people on society’s margins, the poor, the homeless and those per-secuted because of religion, sex-ual orientation, race, culture or gen-der. Their school’s Students’ forum now has podcast。“It was a chance for students to voice opinions and students respected one another,” said Bennett. “We are trying to extend that to the whole community.”
The Sisters of the Holy Cross at St. Mary’s College Convent hosted the annual Moreau Day Celebration for priests, brothers and sisters of Holy Cross serving in the South Bend area. Sister Joy O’Grady, CSC, congregational leader for the Sisters of the Holy Cross, pictured at podium, was the ceremonial leader of the “The Life and Legacy of Father Moreau: A Celebration in Word and Song.” Father Basil Moreau will be beatified in LeMans, France, on Sept. 15. A local celebration will be held at Sacred Heart Basilica, Notre Dame, on Sept. 30. Priests, brothers and sisters of Holy Cross along with seminarians and Holy Cross Associates are pictured at the Church of the Loreto, St. Mary’s, Notre Dame.

HOLY CROSS COMMUNITIES CELEBRATE MOREAU DAY
Octogenarian recognized for ministering to troubled youth

FORT WAYNE — Over 100 youth, staff and volunteers gathered Sunday, Jan. 14, at the Youth Facility for an annual program hosted by St. Vincent de Paul Parish Youth Detention Ministry. The ministry was the brainchild of Bob Swindler, who created the volunteer program with the help of a few fellow parishioners.

“it was his idea,” says Judy Kruck, who works with Swindler in the ministry. “He had the vision for the ministry at St. Vincent and had a way to carry it through.”

Swindler, who is stepping down this year, was honored at Sunday’s program with a plaque commemo- rating his years of service. At age 86, he says, “I believe in the ministry and hate to leave, but I feel it’s time.”

Hailing from Indianapolis, Swindler met his wife, Betty, of 57 years while in the armed services. Following his tour of duty, Swindler completed his college education earning a degree in business. His work history includes business and accounting positions in companies that had his young family, growing to include four children, moving from Indianapolis to Tennessee and back to Indiana. Upon arrival in Fort Wayne in 1968, the family joined St. Vincent de Paul Parish where they continue to be active members.

Following his retirement in 1985, Swindler continued offering his business savvy as a consultant where needed but focused more on his volunteer work. He and Betty are active members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, where they team to visit those in need. It was at one society meeting over a decade ago that Swindler learned of the Prison Fellowship and immediately signed up to partici- pate. The group consisted of vol- unteers from several area churches and brought Bible studies to the youth at the correctional facility at its former location in downtown Fort Wayne. Swindler says, “I was the only Catholic in the group. But it didn’t matter — we all worked together.”

Over the years as that group diminished, and the correction cen- ter moved north to a new facility on Venture Lane, Swindler decided to approach his pastor at St. Vincent, Father John Kuzmich, for permission to create their own ministry.

“Bob felt it deeply in his heart to help the kids,” recalls Kruck. In 2001, with the support of the parish, Swindler organized a pro- gram called Youth Detention Ministry, consciously avoiding the use of words such as prison and inmate.

Bulletin announcements helped recruit volunteers but Swindler says, “There was not much trouble getting volunteers. It spread by word of mouth.”

Using his superior organization- al skills from his accounting days, Swindler scheduled the volunteers, numbering over 20, to visit the youth facility in groups of three. Each Sunday morning visiting vol- unteers invite interested boys to join the hour-long Bible study and discussion group. Swindler says some Sundays up to 20 boys use masses provided by St. Vincent Church to investigate the Sunday readings.

According to Eric Anthony, safety coordinator of the center, the new facility has a capacity to house 130 “students.” The average age there is 15, but the range includes boys from 12 to 21, with offenses from truancy to theft. Swindler is adamant that he has never felt threatened during any of his visits there. “The boys are quiet, really no problem,” he reports.

The most important aspect of the ministry, says Swindler, is “to show the boys someone cares about them.” But he admits, “I got more out of it than I gave them.”

He is pleased that in addition to mentoring the boys, his knowledge of the Bible has grown over the years due to his research for the sessions.

Fellow Youth Detention Ministry volunteer, Laura Heidenreich, says Swindler is a great and humble man. “He is humble, so full of the Holy Spirit, so sincere and serious. The boys love him. He is one of a kind.”

St. Vincent de Paul Society member and friend, Carol Hurst agrees saying, “He’s fair and dis- cerns well need. He’s always available at the drop of a hat, the most selfless person I know.”

The octogenarian quietly says he “enjoys working with kids” and has also been involved with the Study Connection through Fort Wayne Community Schools for over 10 years, where he assisted with homework and mentored stu- dents in need. His friends say he is a father figure to the youth who many times come from broken homes. He also assists with volun- teer scheduling and entertainment for patients at the Byron Health Center and has been known to bow his head at eucharistic adoration from time to time.

As he steps down from these long held positions in these worth- while programs, Swindler unpre- tentionously looks forward as he approaches his 87th birthday. His passion for the ministry is evident when he says, “There is a need for this ministry, and it will continue, I would encourage other (St. Vincent de Paul) conferences to form this type ministry.”

For more information on volun- teering for, or starting a Youth Detention Ministry in your parish call St. Vincent Parish at (260) 489-3537.
Catholic Schools Week is a time where we celebrate what we are and what we do in Catholic schools across our nation. It is a time to honor our schools and highlight our mission and traditions. The theme for our schools this year is “Catholic Schools: The Good News in Education.” This theme underscores the Christ-centered foundation that all of our schools are built on and is the focus of our mission to bring the message of Christ to a world that hunger for the good word.

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is part of the largest private school system in the United States. Here in the diocese we have 44 schools, 40 elementary and four high schools, with an enrollment of 14,200 students. We are the 19th largest school system out of 339 in the state of Indiana. With close to 1,000 teachers and administrators, our focus always remains on the individual child. Each and every one a true gift from God.

Let us explore and celebrate the Good News in Education. We can see the Good News in Education in our parishes. Being Christ-centered schools, the schools in our diocese sustain their daily lives rooted in the sacraments. Our grade schools receive their spiritual nourishment through the parish. Children attend Mass every week and have religion class or catechesis everyday. Sacramental preparation takes place in second and seventh grade.

Our high schools continue the traditions that are started in grade school and expand students’ minds with the teachings of the church through four years of required religion.

Parishes have a large part in sustaining our schools. Each of the grade schools receives a financial subsidy from their parish. The tuition paid by parents is not the true cost of educating their children. The difference is made up by the weekly stewardship of parishioners and participation in the Legacy of Faith and Bishop’s Appeal contributions. As one family, the parish and the diocese work together to bring the good news to the next generation of Catholics.

Another source of Good News in Education is the support we receive from people and organizations in our local community. Individuals, businesses and organizations have recognized the importance of a Catholic Education in their local community and economy.

Supporters in Freedom 22, Guardian Angel Fund and others provide funds for scholarships that are used to support students that might not be able to attend our schools. The Good News is that Catholic Schools are recognized by others as having value in educating future generations of young people.

The Good News in Education also includes our students. The Good News can be seen through students’ academic endeavors, their growth in their Catholic faith, and their progress toward a values-filled life. Each year our students have consistently scored above the state average on the ISTEP+.

Several of our schools scored in the top 5 percent in the state of Indiana. This year St. Jude, Fort Wayne, joined Bishop Dwenger High School and Saint Joseph’s High School as a National Blue Ribbon School. Many people contribute to the academic excellence but it is our students who are truly the Good News in Education. Vocations are very important for the future of the Church. Our schools offer many opportunities for students to consider a possible future in religious life or the priesthood. Father Galic and the diocesan Office of Vocation work hard providing literature and visiting our schools. Many of our seminarians and recently ordained are products of our four high schools.

Parishes are present in their schools and lead the parish community toward the importance of Catholic schools. It is also important to note that our bishop is committed to our high schools by assigning a priest to be a chaplain. These dedicated priests are not just on the sidelines but are in the classrooms where their very presence is an example of the importance to future vocations.

Finally, the Good News in Education can be seen in our staff that is essential to the success of our schools. These include teachers, administrators, secretaries, bus drivers, crossing guards, cooks and janitors. This group of people keeps our schools running and has dedicated their lives to a future generation. They have made large sacrifices in carrying out their vocation as “educators in the faith.” The good news is that through a faith-filled and professional staff, we will all benefit as our children grow in mind and spirit under their care.

The Good News in Education is a time to reflect on the wonderful gifts that God has given us through our schools. The people that have experienced our schools go forward in our world that is hungry and in need of the presence of Christ. With the tools and experience they have gained in our schools a student is ready to face the challenges of the world and modern society. The good news is that together we can continue this unique endeavor of passing on the faith to our children.

Holy Cross Father Stephen Kempinger is the superintendent of Catholic schools for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.
Bloom recognized around the diocese for exemplary teaching

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — Most Precious Blood School is 109 years old and enjoys strong neighborhood ties as it continues the business of educating its student body ranging from pre-kindergarten to eighth grade. Held to a high standard of academic excellence, the 190 students there receive their Catholic education from a superior staff of teachers. One teacher, Jessie Bloom, is the school’s beloved first grade teacher. She has been recognized this year with not one, but three outstanding teaching awards, including the Light of Learning Award, the Outstanding Allen County Educator for the diocese and Indiana NewsCenter’s Golden Apple Award. Though Bloom is thrilled about the awards, she says humbly, “It’s not about awards. It’s about what I do.” Bloom has been teaching first grade for 17 years and says she knew she would be a teacher from early in her childhood. “In first grade, I was a struggling reader. I knew someday I wanted to help other children be successful,” she recalls. With the help of her teachers, Bloom learned to love reading and went on to pursue a college education.

After her marriage to Phil, Bloom went from full-time student to full-time mom with the birth of their two children, Jacob and Jennifer. After raising the children, she returned to college to earn her teaching degree at age 36.

Following graduation she agreed to teach first grade for one year at Most Precious Blood and has been there ever since. Bloom is no stranger to Most Precious Blood School. She and her family grew up in the area. “My dad went to school here. I went here and my children went here,” she says proudly. Of teaching in her old neighborhood school, she adds, “It’s nice knowing the families... It’s a community. It does take a village to raise and educate a child. We all work together as a family.”

This year Bloom’s class holds 16 “very intelligent” students, all of whom are delighted to have this special teacher. From student to student, they all agree that Mrs. Bloom is “really nice and teaches us things we don’t know.”

“She loves us,” they say.

In her brightly decorated, book-filled classroom, Bloom’s soft spoken and loving voice seems to draw the best from the students as they ponder their work.

Her faith, Bloom admits, plays a large role in her love of teaching. “The Holy Spirit is my guide and part of my vocation here,” she says. Raised by devout Catholic parents, Bloom credits her mother, a convert to the faith,
NewsCenter’s Golden Apple Award.

County Outstanding Educator of the Year Award and Indiana teaching awards including the Light of Learning Award, the Allen there for 17 years and has been recognized recently with three outstanding teaching awards including the Light of Learning Award, the Allen County Outstanding Educator of the Year Award and Indiana Newscenter’s Golden Apple Award.

Jessie Bloom stands in her first grade classroom at Most Precious Blood School holding her Golden Apple Award. Bloom has taught first grade for 17 years and has been recognized recently with three outstanding teaching awards including the Light of Learning Award, the Allen County Outstanding Educator of the Year Award and Indiana Newscenter’s Golden Apple Award.

with teaching her to love Jesus as a person and reading the Bible. The dedicated award-winning educator believes in the value of Catholic education and says, “There is a freedom to talk about Jesus and faith and how he works in our lives. I know for some it’s a sacrifice. But they’ll never regret it.” Bloom was instrumental in bringing a special program, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, to Most Precious Blood where she and another trained instructor teach pre-kindergarten through second grade students in the “atrium” to know Jesus personally.

Shortly before the Christmas holidays, an assembly was held to announce that Bloom had been selected for the Light of Learning Award. This award is presented annually to outstanding teachers who contribute to the excellence of Catholic education. Bloom received a plaque and has been invited to a special banquet to discuss Catholic Schools Week. She was left “speechless” as it was announced that she was named the Year Award for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Of receiving the second award she says, “I share this with all the staff.”

More recently Bloom and her class attended an all-school assembly called, to discuss Catholic Schools Week. She was left “speechless” as it was announced that she was the recipient of the Indiana Newscenter’s January Golden Apple Award, which included a plaque and a $50 savings bond. Her gratitude is evident as she speaks of the awards, but she’s quick to remind all that the staff at Most Precious Blood is her support, saying, “They are all talented and as much a part of my success.” But the real sparkle that lights her eyes shines when she speaks of teaching her students at Most Precious Blood. “Everyday, I want the kids to be safe, have fun, learn something new and love Jesus.”

The Christian education community of Saint Joseph Grade School believes in the individuality of each student. It is a collective effort by all: Teachers and parents. They all work together to guide a child toward a spiritually, academically, emotionally and socially sound education.

Kindergarten through eighth grade
After School Program 3:00 - 6:00
OPEN HOUSE • SUNDAY
JANUARY 28, 2007
11:30 - 2:00
216 North Hill Street • South Bend • 234-0451

SAINT JOSEPH SCHOOL
Holy Cross College Student Government Association purchases evacuation chair to assist students with disabilities

NOTRE DAME — Holy Cross Brother Chris Dreyer is the director of student counseling services at Holy Cross College at Notre Dame. He does a lot on campus, from his vocation as counselor to his “hobby” landscaping. One role he takes very seriously is acting as an advocate for students with disabilities. Brother Chris aims to make Holy Cross a comfortable environment for all.

Although it isn’t required by the Americans with Disabilities Act, Brother Chris really wanted evacuation chairs in the college’s classroom building. An evacuation chair is used to transport students who require a wheelchair down stairs, or even back up if needed. An ordinary wheelchair is not designed for that. Although the college has an elevator in the classroom building, in an emergency the elevator might not work.

Brother Chris decided to ask the Student Government Association if they might see the need and help his cause. “They didn’t even hesitate,” he says.

On the spot, the group decided to fund one chair for $2,196, making the contribution in Brother Chris’s name, in gratitude for all the hard word he has done on campus.

SGA president Jared Sawyer ’08 says, “We try to look out for the students’ needs and help and represent the whole student body.”

A dedication for the new evacuation chair will be held Thursday, Jan. 25, at 3 p.m. in Holy Cross College’s Vincent Classroom Building.

The college is very blessed to have an evacuation chair, however two would be ideal for the main classroom building. Those interested in donating funds toward a second chair are asked to contact Brother Chris Dreyer at cdreyer@hcc.nd.edu or (574) 239-8383.

USF announces scholarship opportunities

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis has announced scholarships for students who will be attending the university in the 2007-2008 academic year.

• Lilly Room and Board Scholarship — a scholarship in the amount of a traditional double room for any Lilly Scholar who lives on campus
• University of Saint Francis Second Bachelor’s Degree Grant — a $2,500 grant to students who are full time and have already received a bachelor’s degree
• University of Saint Francis 21st Century Grant — a minimum of $4,500 in institutional funding to students who are 21st Century Scholars (includes academic, athletic or other aid from USF)
• University of Saint Francis Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship — a scholarship up to $10,000 to full-time undergraduate students who are members of Phi Theta Kappa and have a minimum GPA of 3.5 (students must be working on a higher degree at USF)
• Catholic Heritage Scholarship — a scholarship of up to $3,500 to students who have attended Catholic school in Allen County (students must be full-time undergraduate students without a prior bachelor’s degree)
• Tom Jehl Lifetime Sports Academy Scholarship — two full-tuition scholarships and multiple scholarships up to $3,000 to students who have participated with the Lifetime Sports Academy, have participated in volunteer activities and have a high school GPA of 2.7 or higher.

Other qualifications may be required for consideration. Please visit www.usf.edu/financialaid/ for more detailed information, contact the office of financial aid at (260) 434-3283 or e-mail finaid@sf.edu.
Christian brother and teacher

Mark Niemoeller exemplifies non-Catholics in Catholic school

BY DON CLEMMER

FORT WAYNE — Mark Niemoeller insists that had someone told him 20 years ago that all three of his kids would graduate from a Catholic high school, he would have made a face and said, “Who do you think you’re talking to?”

A fair response, as Niemoeller is a devout Missouri Synod Lutheran minister. But all three of his kids did graduate from a Catholic high school — Bishop Luers in Fort Wayne — due in large part to the other major item on his resume. For the past decade, he has been the Latin teacher at Bishop Luers, and the program has flourished under his care, now including a fifth-year course for students who studied Latin in middle school.

According to John Gaughan, assistant director of high schools for the diocese, Catholic schools are looking for the best teachers in their subject areas. This may be a Catholic in good standing with the church or a non-Catholic who agrees to respect the Catholic Church and its teachings and abide by its tenets. In the four diocesan high schools, non-Catholics represent 28 percent of the total faculty.

In the classroom, a non-Catholic teacher would never be asked to violate his or her conscience by teaching something he or she does not believe. On the other hand, if a student were to ask a question on a controversial topic where the teacher’s views might clash with Catholic teaching, the teacher is to direct the student to a priest or theology teacher.

When Mark Niemoeller first entered this environment as not only a non-Catholic, but a non-Catholic minister in the fall of 1997, he and Luers principal Mary Keefer had what he calls some interesting conversations. “We agreed that I wouldn’t ever have to compromise my faith, apologize for my faith,” but that proselytizing would be contrary to both of their missions, recalls Niemoeller. He also had to buy some shirts and ties, as they agreed that he should not regularly appear in the clerical collar of his ministry work.

From there, Niemoeller embarked on a journey that he calls “almost indescribable.” It has been one in which he has not only been able to build a solid Latin program, but also develop a great rapport with students, faculty and staff. This rapport has led numerous people to seek him out over the years in more of a counseling role, something Niemoeller says he has always been “haunted” to do.

While Niemoeller receives a fairly constant flow of questions from students about his Lutheran background, and once a year, he gets an opportunity to discuss these issues in a formal setting when Luers theology teacher Marilyn Fech invites him to her church history class to help present the lesson on Luther.

“It’s just awesome to have that opportunity,” says Niemoeller, “and then to field questions and to realize we do have Christian brothers and sisters. There are so many similarities and a very common heritage that we share.”

It is in this greater understanding of Catholicism that Niemoeller says he has grown tremendously in his time at Luers. And he believes that he too is appreciated as a Lutheran, noting that Bishop D’Arcy has always been very cordial to him, even sending him old Latin missals, nothing that he knows Niemoeller will use them the right way.

And since Latin is a language greatly associated with the Catholic faith, Niemoeller has worked the Mayflower — St. Jerome’s Latin translation of the Bible — into his upper-level classes. He says it is “overwhelming to see students begin to do readings and see the light that Scripture brings, especially through the images of another language.”

Outside of his work at Luers, Niemoeller has continued his work as a Lutheran minister. Oddly enough, his teaching has not hindered his ministry, but actually opened up new avenues, as it makes him an ideal candidate to serve as interim pastor at various churches. Over the past 10 years, he has served Lutheran communities in Defiance, Antwerp and Van Wert in Ohio, Three Rivers, Mich., as well as Logansport, Peru and Hudson in Indiana.

“I’ve really been able to travel and get to do some things that I never thought I’d be able to do,” says Niemoeller, “and a lot of it’s because of being here at Bishop Luers.”

He is currently assisting a small Lutheran congregation near Three Rivers, Mich., and getting an opportunity to do some things that he never thought he’d be able to do, sending him to see the light that Scripture brings, especially through the images of another language.

“Who do you think you’re talking to?”

Mark Niemoeller, Latin teacher at Bishop Luers High School for the past 10 years, works with one of his classes. Niemoeller, a Missouri Synod Lutheran minister, has found his time at Luers a gift that has strengthened his faith and his appreciation of other Christians.
From the pulpit to the chalkboard

Yoder priest ignites artistic expression

BY TIM JOHNSON

YODER — Pastor, religion teacher. Students at St. Aloysius School in Yoder are accustomed to seeing Father Dominique Carboneau in those roles. But this year, he adds another role — art teacher.

At the beginning of this school year, St. Aloysius School was in need of an art teacher. With a new principal, some budget constraints and time quickly drawing near on the new school year, Father Carboneau offered to take the art classes for the 80-plus pre-kindergarten through eighth grade students at the rural southern Allen County school.

Father Carboneau is no stranger to artistic talent. “I’ve always been an artist,” he told Today’s Catholic. “My formal training ended with high school, but I had an awful lot of training in high school.”

That training included nine semesters — every art class offered — at Wawasee High School, a program that Father Carboneau described as “phenomenal.”

“I’ve always thought a good teacher is someone who loves the subject matter, but one for whom the subject matter did not come easily,” Father Carboneau said. “Sometimes if something comes too easily, too intuitively, you don’t always have a good sense of the struggle to master something — where if you really have to struggle to become like an artist, it gives you a lot of insight on how to help a lot of others to acquire skill.”

In no time at all, Father Carboneau has managed to excite the creative side of the students and has drawn out talent they never realized they had. He has amazed parents and the staff at the school.

“I am thrilled to have Father Dom teaching art to our students,” St. Aloysius Principal Chuck Grimm said. “Father Dom is extremely dedicated to teaching his classes every week. He has looked at the standards that need to be taught for art and has put a lot of thought into what he is doing in his classes. The one thing that he makes all of the students do is to visualize how things can and should look from different points of view.”

A day in class

On a Tuesday morning, Father Carboneau can be observed teaching the pre-kindergarten and kindergarten children special concepts — how to use the entire piece of paper (as opposed to a corner). The “little squirts,” as Father Carboneau affectionately calls them, are rewarded with a special blessing on the top of their heads when they do their task well. Then the seventh grade students enter the room, teen attitude in tow, and are soon pulling out their watercolor or pencil drawings. Some pieces are ready to frame, and Father Carboneau works with a group of students on that aspect.

“They never complain about this class,” St. Aloysius teacher Kathy Hartman told Today’s Catholic. And Hartman, who teaches the upper grades, knows this is a group uninhibited to voice a complaint.

“Not every child in grade school is going to be an artist,” Father Carboneau said. “But being able to think in the same ways as an artist is helpful.”

Father Carboneau’s art classes are centered to help the students think in analogical terms. “I think, increasingly in the world, things are more and more digitized and it patterns our minds so it becomes increasingly difficult to think analogically or proportionately,” Father Carboneau said. “And so it is very difficult for children to make comparison between one reality and another reality, and analogical thinking and proportions are at the basis of any symbolic thinking.”

From third grade on, Father Carboneau works with the students in thinking from the right side of the brain. From there, they worked with colors, making comparisons to colors and then producing water colors, drawings or pastels. “We don’t do any type of craft work,” he said, which is geared more toward production. “Making and creating are two different types of operations,” he added.

What others are saying

“He makes us think with our right side of our brain instead of our left side,” St. Aloysius student Dominic Frecker said. “We usually think with our left side.”

The fifth grader recently amazed his parents, Brian and Jodie Frecker, with a watercolor project. The art project stems from a picture selected from National Geographic and is a watercolor of a stingray from below with the sun coming through the water.

Before unveiling the artwork at the school’s Christmas party, Father Carboneau would pique the Freckers’ interest. Jodie Frecker noted that from past experience she would have said her son “is not well endowed in the art department.”

“Generally he has disliked art,” said Brian Frecker. “He never really took any interest in it at all.”

After the Christmas gathering, Jodie said, “I would not have been able to pick out my child’s artwork,” and she plans to frame and hang the artwork.

Father Dominique Carboneau, pastor and art teacher at St. Aloysius, Yoder, demonstrates to the pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students how to use the full space of paper and how to draw in circles in preparation for a scribble art project.

PHOTOS BY TIM JOHNSON

Father Dominique Carboneau, pastor and art teacher at St. Aloysius, Yoder, demonstrates to the pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students how to use the full space of paper and how to draw in circles in preparation for a scribble art project.

PHOTOS BY TIM JOHNSON

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Sushi never tasted so good

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — The city is buzzing with the news. One of its own has been chosen as a finalist in a national recipe contest. But this is no ordinary contest. The contestants range in age from six to 12 year olds, and the recipes—believe it or not, involve peanut butter. Don’t let the main ingredient fool you though. The finalists’ creations are surprisingly innovative and nutritious.

Alexandra Yoder, a shy but excited sixth grader at St. Vincent de Paul School, has been named one of the top ten finalists in America in the fifth annual “Jif Most Creative Peanut Butter Sandwich Contest.” Chosen from among thousands of entries, Yoder says she is surprised and happy about the announcement.

Yoder, who celebrated her 12th birthday this month, has been cooking with her mom, Vickie, for several years. “She’s always in the kitchen cooking with me. We love to cook,” Vickie reports. The young chef’s list of favorites include pasta, sushi, desserts, and of course, peanut butter. “I pack my lunch everyday and I usually bring a peanut butter sandwich,” she says smiling.

So when her mom told her about the Jif contest, the young Yoder set to work in the kitchen. Using ingredients she found in the refrigerator, Yoder’s creative spirit took over. Having become a fan of sushi a few years ago, she incorporated the idea of a wrap into her recipe. She first experimented with a combination of strawberry cream cheese and peanut butter spread on a tortilla wrap, but found it thick and difficult to roll. Taking her cue from straw’s appearance and ease of preparation. Then in mid-December the Jif representative phoned to announce her place in the top ten finalists.

“I was at school when they called. My mom and dad told me when I got home,” Yoder recalls. Her friends at school stood in disbelief as she told them that night at a school game where she led her team to victory. “I want to make it to the top five, so I can go to New York,” she says. Her parents and older brother Michael hope for her success as well.

In addition to cooking, this 12-year-old is an avid reader and an avid football player, too. She has been chosen as a finalist in the “Most Creative Peanut Butter Sandwich” contest by the Jif www.jif.com website. The contest is sponsored by the Jif brand of peanut butter. The contest attracted entries from all over the country, and ten finalists have been chosen to compete for a $25,000 college scholarship. The finalists’ recipes will be voted on by the public through the Jif website, with the winner announced on February 6.

Each entry was evaluated on creativity, nutritional balance, taste, appearance and ease of preparation. The ten finalists were announced last week, and will be flown to New York City to compete in the final round of the contest. The final round will take place in New York City on March 12, and the winner will be announced. The grand prize winner will receive a $25,000 college scholarship, and all five finalists will enjoy a Jif gift basket.

Alexandra Yoder’s recipe is called “Rolls Sushi Style.” The creation has won her a top ten spot in the finals of the national “Jif Most Creative Peanut Butter Sandwich Contest.” The top five finalists chosen by on-line voting will vie for the $25,000 college scholarship fund grand prize in a cook-off in New York City in March.

The recipe, she had the perfect snack. A nutty, crunchy treat that is not only delicious but also nutritious. The combination of peanut butter and strawberry’s sweetness creates a unique flavor that is sure to please even the most discerning palate.

Don’t let the main ingredient fool you though. The Jif Most Creative Peanut Butter Sandwich Contest is open to everyone, and anyone can enter.

For more information, visit the Jif website at www.jif.com or call 1-800-JIF-0919.

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Catholic Schools Week January 28 - February 5, 2007

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St. Joseph School

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Open House & Pre-Registration for grades Pre-K-6 Sunday, February 4, 2007 (11:30 AM - 1:00 PM)
1 (8 inch) crepe
5 tablespoons strawberry cream cheese
5 tablespoons Jif peanut butter
40 (1/4 inch) pieces of fresh strawberries
6 (1/2 inch) pieces of bananas
1 tablespoon granola
2 long pretzel rods (to use as chopsticks)
1 small container chocolate yogurt (to use as dipping sauce)

Spread cream cheese over crepe. Top with peanut butter and smooth over cream cheese. Sprinkle strawberries and bananas over peanut butter. Top with granola. Roll up sushi-style and chill in refrigerator for 5-10 minutes. Cut rolls.

Use pretzel rods as chopsticks and dip in yogurt.
Bishop Luers High School adds lift for students

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — Traditionally, the beginning of each school year at Bishop Luers High finds prankster upperselling sending “elevator passes” to unsuspecting freshmen. But that tradition will be foiled when the high school completes the installation of a lift this month as part of a $3 million capital improvement to the school. Elevator pass-holders from previous years can finally cash in on their tickets.

One of the first beneficiaries of this capital improvement is Stephanie Wyatt, freshman at Bishop Luers. Wyatt, youngest of Larry and Kim’s eight children, is following the family tradition. All seven of her siblings have graduated or are currently attending the high school. But her educational experience is a little different. Wyatt, who will celebrate her 16th birthday next month, was born 11 weeks early and later diagnosed with cerebral palsy. Wyatt hopes to study journalism in college.

Wyatt, who has a full schedule of freshman classes and theater arts, to achieve grades that have placed her on the first quarter honor roll. Stephanie Wyatt, freshman at Bishop Luers High School, is confined to a motorized wheelchair due to the effects of cerebral palsy and looks forward to the installation of the new lift. The lift, part of a $3 million capital improvement to the school, will provide her access to the upstairs freshman hall for classes.

Wyatt remarks that although she was initially distressed, thinking the installation was solely for her, she was pleased to learn that it will accommodate all the students and staff with mobility needs. She looks forward to using the lift to attend classes in the freshman hallway, and says, “I’ll be able to see the upstairs of the school and get to know more freshmen. I think the other kids and teachers will be happy to stay up there, too.”

Principal Keefer feels the lift will enhance Wyatt’s freshman learning experience as well, saying, “I’m thrilled that the lift will enable Stephanie to get upstairs for her classes.” And this freshman will be in good company as those students who must use crutches will also have access to the lift for ease of transport.

Keefer reports, “This year, more than ever, it seems that we have had more students on crutches than in past years. It is difficult to get up the stairs on crutches. This lift will enable those young people a safer way to get to the second floor.”

Current inability to attend classes upstairs has not deterred this forthcoming young woman, who has a full schedule of freshman classes, including many honor classes and theater arts, to achieve grades that have placed her on the first quarter honor roll. In addition to her studies she enjoys reading and writing stories and participates regularly in therapies to stretch and strengthen her muscles. Following graduation from Bishop Luers in 2010, Wyatt hopes to study journalism in college.

Of the $3 million capital improvements to the nearly 50-year-old Bishop Luers High School building, including replacement of the original heating system, many find that the lift is a significant initial venture in the accessibility to academic excellence the school provides.

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~ Spring play/talent show Any student can participate
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DENVER, Colo. — From Jan. 29 to Feb. 4, Catholics around the country will observe Catholic Schools Week. But what tends to go unobserved during these seven days is the name of the Redemptorist saint who established the system of Catholic schools in this country in the 1850s.

St. John Neumann, CSsR., the fourth bishop of Philadelphia, embarked on a project he considered to be his most important in 1852 — the establishment of a system of Catholic schools. Bishop Neumann was very concerned that religion as a subject for study had been virtually eliminated from the public schools. As an active pastor and confessor, Bishop Neumann was aware of the dangers posed by this void in the curriculum. He feared that the whole system of public instruction represented a threat to the faith of Catholic children. One of Bishop Neumann’s first steps was to set up a central board of education in his diocese. Besides the bishop, the board consisted of the pastor and two laymen from each parish. They would have general supervision over this new system of schools throughout the diocese. The board would recommend a general plan of instruction and have some say over the distribution of funds. But it was the pastor who hired the teachers and paid their salaries.

Some of the teachers employed came from the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis, which Neumann founded. They taught from Neumann’s text for the classes, what would become the Baltimore Catechism. Because of Bishop Neumann’s efforts, the number of Catholic schools jumped sharply in Philadelphia. When he arrived as bishop, there were about 500 children in Catholic schools throughout the diocese. Eighteen months later, there were 5,000.

This parochial school system model eventually became the standard used throughout the United States, and it stands as one of Bishop Neumann’s most important accomplishments. St. John Neumann’s feast day is Jan. 5.
WASHINGTON, D.C. — There will be 19 fewer schools celebrating Catholic Schools Week in New Orleans this year, thanks to the continuing ravages of Hurricane Katrina. That’s the bad news.

On the bright side, Catholic schools have been a beacon of hope in a storm-torn city. The first school to reopen the week after the hurricane was Cathedral School. Administrators there welcomed hundreds of students, most of them newcomers and most non-Catholics, refugees from untouched public schools and the children of the first responders — the firemen, policemen and city workers who were charged with bringing the city back to life.

Yet the situation remains so severe that Dominican Father Neal McDermott, who heads the archdiocesan educational endeavors, asked the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) to alert Catholic educators nationwide to appeal for their help.

“It’s a year and a half later,” said Father Neal, “but only 200,000 of the 455,000 pre-Katrina population has returned.”

He added that insurance shortfalls and complicated federal government grants for homeowners are the impediment. Out of 78,000 requests, fewer than 200 had been granted after a year.

“You’ve found that when we open a school, people return,” said Father Neal. Although school enrollment has gone from 49,000 pre-Katrina to 41,000 today, families are clamoring for schools. Many parents shuttle their youngsters more than 50 miles from temporary housing so that they can attend the Catholic school of their choice.

Father Neal hopes that once Catholic educators learn of the plight, they will encourage parents and students to send the two most valuable commodities needed: money and prayers. Father’s hopes for the generosity of the Catholic educational community are well grounded. A hurricane relief fund mounted by NCEA last year raised more than $1.1 million — funds given by students for student needs. NCEA leaders personally distributed the money to New Orleans and several other dioceses impacted by the storm last year.

“That money has been a Godsend,” noted Father Neal. “It’s been used to pay tuition for families that have lost everything; it’s been a resource for uniforms and school supplies for children who are homeless; it’s helped save families living in cars.”

The archdiocese has been in the vanguard in terms of reviving the city. At the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, D.C., the Catholic Church was credited for its quick response to opening schools and parishes. Archbishop Alfred Hughes celebrated Mass in a parking lot for 1,500 parishioners who lost their church in the flood — just so that they could return to their old neighborhood and begin to feel hopeful.

In several areas where people can’t live because of flood damage and where churches remain shuttered, the archdiocese has opened Central Schools made up of five or six parishes. One such school — Our Lady of Prompt Succor — opened with 25 students and now has 350. Visionary plans also are underway for a new Holy Cross High School, to be built on 20 acres of land where a destroyed parish stood with a grade and high school. All will be demolished for new school.

“The potential is there,” said Father Neal. “We simply need more spiritual and financial resources to unlock it.”

In terms of prayer, the educator said it is needed now more than ever. “There is a certain sense of helplessness that develops when conditions continue to deteriorate and it appears that many have forgotten the plight of all — especially the young,” added Father Neal.

As to the money, Father Neal said that is vital as well for students in schools and parish programs. He added that some schools and parishes across the country may wish to adopt their counterparts and provide financial and spiritual support in a more personal way.

Because of the unreliable postal service in the Gulf area, money for the New Orleans relief fund should be sent to: Dr. Karen Ristau, President, National Catholic Educational Association, 1077 30th Street N.W., Washington, D.C., 20007. Attn.: Dr. Ristau's association represents more than 200,000 educators nationwide who serve 2.5 million students in Catholic schools. She observed that too often contemporary culture seduces children into thinking it’s all about me.”

“Children must be taught responsibility but also should see it in action from parents and other adults whom they respect,” she added.

The NCEA leader has these suggestions for parents and teachers:

- Explain responsibility to your students and children. Define your understanding of the word and give examples of how young people can serve as responsible students, neighbors and citizens of the community — and world.
- Promote community service programs in schools. These initiatives should not be optional but a planned component of the school year. Faculty can encourage students to embrace service opportunities that reflect their abilities and interests. Fourth-graders may adopt the residents of a nursing home as grandparents; eighth-graders can embark on a neighbor-ood clean-up program.
- Remember that service begins at home. Parents are the first educators of their children and are the best role models when it comes to service. Family activities may be as elaborate as leading the fund raiser for the city’s Special Olympics — or as basic as serving dinner in the community’s homeless shelter.

“Whatever parents do, they should talk about it with their children,” said Dr. Ristau.

“And when they’re old enough, the children should be encouraged to participate as well.”

The Washington educator added, “Community service opportunities are everywhere and serve as a powerful way to teach religion and character development to young people.

Established in 1904, NCEA is the largest private professional education organization in the world, representing 200,000 Catholic educators serving 7.6 million students in Catholic elementary and secondary schools, religious education programs in parishes and colleges and universities.

For more information on the situation in New Orleans, contact: Father Neal McDermott at this e-mail address: cformation@archdiocese-no.org.

Catholic educators urge schools to add fourth ‘R’ to curriculum

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The traditional “Reading, Writing and ‘Rithmetic” has long been the core curriculum in American schools. Now one leading Catholic educator has suggested that the nation’s 95,615 elementary and secondary schools add a fourth “R” — responsibility.

Dr. Karen Ristau, president of the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA), said, “Responsibility goes way beyond basic accountability such as making the bed or doing a homework assignment on time. It should encompass having empathy for one’s neighbors and fellow students. It should translate into active participation in community service activities.

A former college professor, teacher and administrator in both elementary and secondary schools, Ristau’s association represents more than 200,000 educators nationwide who serve 2.5 million students in Catholic schools. She observed that too often contemporary culture seduces children into thinking it’s all about me.”

“Children must be taught responsibility but also should see it in action from parents and other adults whom they respect,” she added.

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Tulsa Catholic schools test tablet computers

BY AMANDA WILLIAMS

TULSA, Okla. (CNS) — Paper and pens may soon be a thing of the past for students at Benedictine-run Monte Cassino School, a Catholic elementary school in Tulsa that is conducting a pilot project incorporating tablet computers in classrooms.

In July 2006, the school’s third-grade teacher, Vikki Calvert, attended a National Educators Computing Convention, where she learned about tablet computers and how they can enhance classroom learning. The convention drew more than 17,000 other participants and was the largest gathering in the country for educational technology.

She shared her findings with Benedictine Sister Mary Clare Buthod, the school’s director, who immediately got on board.

“I saw such promise in the program and how it could help organizationally challenged students to succeed,” Sister Mary Clare said.

A tablet computer is a notebook or slate-shaped portable computer. The user can operate it by touching the screen with a finger or stylus, instead of using a keyboard or mouse.

The next step was obtaining the technology. School officials did not want to finance the new technology through tuition. Instead, they used proceeds from school fundraisers and a donation from a Hewlett-Packard foundation to purchase 72 tablet computers via a special arrangement with Hewlett-Packard.

The computers were distributed to Calvert’s third-grade class, a fifth-grade science class and teachers of the sixth, seventh and eighth grades.

Technology Director Nancy Stutsman oversaw the process and credits Calvert with pioneering the project.

“She received the tablets at the end of October so really had no time to prepare but has done an amazing job seamlessly incorporating the new technology into the curriculum,” she told the Eastern Oklahoma Catholic/Tulsa’s diocesan newspaper.

Stutsman said the project has full support from school families and that one parent even donated a network upgrade to support the high-tech devices.

The pilot project has also attracted the interest of a professor at the College of Education at Oklahoma State University who is interested in monitoring the tablet learning process. In October, pretests were administered to students assessing skill levels in writing, chart and graph comprehension, research and general technology use. Post-tests will be conducted in May measuring any degree of change.

Third-graders are using their tablets for journal entries, spelling words, music and art. They are even learning how to read charts and graphs with Microsoft Excel database software.

“I just had to tweak my lesson plans a bit to incorporate the tablets into the class,” said Calvert.

“Since we started using the tablets the students have been begging for homework,” she added.

In class, teachers are able to view any student’s screen from their teaching station as well as project their computer screen onto the white board at the front of the class for task demonstration.

If teachers observe a student struggling with an assignment, they can send an electronic message with instructions to the individual student’s screen.

The function, along with the ability to erase mistakes directly on the screen, takes pressure off students, allowing them to focus more on the content of their work instead of stressing about the process, said the technology director.

Students have learned how to routinely get their computers out and loaded at the beginning of class — even navigating the system and opening the appropriate folders.

Top responses from third-graders when asked what they like best about the tablets were that they could “flip (them) over and write, touch the screen, send in homework and (the computers) are easier and better than pencil/paper.”

The fifth-grade science class works with the tablets in groups.

Third-graders Tobe Nightengale, left, and Gaby Lawson familiarize themselves with their new tablet computers at Monte Cassino School in Tulsa, Okla. The school is conducting a pilot project incorporating tablet computers into the classroom environment and may make pen and paper obsolete.

Students have huddled around the computers engrossed in decoding a letter from Benjamin Franklin, determining the effectiveness of various types of heat insulation or conducting a series of glass-lens experiments.

The long-term plan is to incorporate tablets into every classroom from third through eighth grade. For now, the school is looking toward next year when the goal is to have two complete grades using the computers, not just individual classes.

Students are engaged and motivated, she said.

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EDITORIAL
The duty to share the good news in education

Many assume that the duty of “marketing” our Catholic schools is a duty assigned to an individual parent, teacher or school principal. I view “marketing” as a task that involves the parents who send their children to Catholic schools and even the students themselves who attend the schools.

In a sense, this “marketing” goes far beyond promoting a school, it is primarily evangelization. It is something we are called to do.

When one of our high schools attends a state sporting competition, Bishop John M. D’Arcy, when speaking at school rallies, always reminds students that when they are in Indianapolis sporting their school’s jerseys and school colors, they are representing their school, representing what that school stands for. Others outside of that school community are watching and actually critiquing their behavior, their sportsmanship, their representation of Christianity and Catholicism. The old saying, “more is expected of Catholic school students,” still applies today. All of us are ambassadors of the schools they attend. They serve as a witness to how “we practice what we preach.”

When students share with their friends in the neighborhood or at other outside activities what they are learning and doing in school, they are serving as ambassadors.

The same is true with parents who can be the best ambassadors for their Catholic school.

Word-of-mouth promotion certainly is the best form of advertising. For example, let’s say you are planning a vacation to the ocean, would you trust the advice of a friend who knows you, understands your likes or dislikes, more than the advice of a complete stranger?

It is good to share with our friends and families the positives of our schools — to talk about how the students pray before lunch at the start of class, or to talk about how they attend and participate in the school Mass as proclaimers, singers, musicians, altar servers. Many parents will go to work late so they can attend the school Mass when their child participates in such activities. You never knew the seed that could be planted when sharing with a coworker.

“My son was a proclaim at Mass this morning and I had to hear him read.”

It is good to express how, when assisting your child with religion homework, you actually were re-catechized or learned something new about our faith. Talk about this sometime around the watercooler.

Our Catholic schools have achieved much academic success, but they also provide a spiritual foundation. They prepare our secondary grade students for first Communion and reconciliation. They prepare our seventh graders for Confirmation. They stress service to others.

These are the things that is taught that our Catholic schools; it is Christ who is the center of our Catholic schools, as he is the center of our homes. And our schools reinforce what is valued at home. And it is Christ who gives us the good news.

Would you share the good news of Catholic education with your friends and families?

Fifty years a priest

On Friday, Feb. 2, Bishop John M. D’Arcy, publisher of Today’s Catholic, will mark his 50th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. We congratulate Bishop D’Arcy and thank him for his years of guidance, especially to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. A public celebration is scheduled Sunday, April 15.

Hear ye, hear ye, read all about it!

The Feb. 4 issue celebrates Catholic Press Month. Renewal envelopes should be in your church envelope packet. Please note on your label, the last four numbers — such as “0407” — would indicate your paper expires April of 2007 and your subscription would be up for renewal. Please make checks payable to Today’s Catholic.

During this Sesquicentennial Jubilee Year, we wish every Catholic household to subscribe to the newspaper. And, through the Aug. 18, Eucharistic Congress, the pinnacle of the 150th Eucharistic Congress. On Aug. 12, the newspaper will contain the registration packet for the Eucharistic Congress.

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THE VATICAN LETTER

JOHN THAVIS

The long awaited spokesman of God

The long awaited spokesman of God doesn’t impress little or no impression on modern Christians.

Most people, in fact, seem to relate more to the concept of purgatory, where sinners alone for their faults in a final reckoning, than to a paradise that lacks any sense of interior struggle, he said.

Throughout the ages, Christian pictorial representations of heaven, with placid rows of angels, have always seemed bland compared to the interesting if gruesome goings-on in hell or purgatory.

The Bible, Father Buzzetti pointed out, has little to say about heaven, and most of its references to paradise are in images: life, the feast or the heavenly Jerusalem.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says the lack of specific description is part of the point. “The mystery of blessed communion with God and all who are in Christ is beyond all understanding” (No. 1027).

But Father Buzzetti argued that this vision is unlikely to fascinate or attract anyone. What it should, if reaching paradise is still a goal for contemporary Christians.

One major problem with heaven in the eyes of many Christians is the idea that family ties, particularly marriage, no longer count. According to the Gospels, Jesus told his disciples that those in paradise neither marry nor are given in marriage, but will be like angels.

That has led many to assume people married in this life will become free agents in the next.

But Father Cantalamessa took a different view in a commentary last fall. He said Christ’s words leave open the possibility that marriage — like friendship or family relations — will be transfigured, not nullified, in heaven.

Even spouses whose marriages were difficult and the source of suffering may find that, in heaven, the distresses drop away and true love is experienced for the first time, Father Cantalamessa said.

Father Buzzetti took a similar viewpoint, arguing that even most of the prophets, his remarks about the Old Testament.

1. Most Catholics, Father Buzzetti said, understand heaven as a dull routine of eternal repose — were making their analysis on extensive passages with pastors, who told him the traditional images of heaven — a vision of God, a banquet or eternal repose — were making

2. Few better definitions of love, this ability unique to humans in their capacity for self-giving and the brilliance with which he impressed. But then Jesus recalled a story clearly states, appears in the Gospel. Imperfections fade away.

3. The modern church, he said, does question from a different angle: Carlo Buzzetti, has approached the vision of human destiny.

4. The Book of Jeremiah provides a goal for contemporary Christians.

5. But Father Cantalamessa took aim at John Cantalamessa, who said Christ's words are figuted, not nullified, in heaven.

6. That has led many to assume people married in this life will become free agents in the next.

7. But Father Buzzetti argued that this vision is unlikely to fascinate or attract anyone. What it should, if reaching paradise is still a goal for contemporary Christians.

8. Monastics live as:

   a. monks
   b. canons
   c. deaconesses

9. Central to this activity for many is:

   a. living a common life with others
   b. being gifted in healing
   c. withdrawal to a degree from the world for spiritual purposes

10. The term “white martyrdom,” when applied to monasticism, referred to it as a substitute for what?

   a. the green martyrdom of the earliest monks who brought agriculture to Western Europe
   b. the blue martyrdom of those monks who died at sea spreading the word
   c. the red martyrdom of those killed for the faith by pagans such as Romans

11. Although there were many fathers of monasticism, this man’s rule came to be the basic for most western monasteries:

   a. Anthony
   b. Cassian
   c. Benedict

12. Eastern monasticism flourished, but was slightly different to Western. What was one key difference?

   a. in the East the monks did not generally belong to separate distinct orders.
   b. in the East the monks could be married.
   c. in the East the monks often practiced Islam or Buddhism with permission.

13. What was the effect of the Reformation on monasticism?

   a. After a short while, monasticism took off in the main Protestant churches.
   b. After a short time, monasticism virtually vanished in the Protestant churches.
   c. After a short time, all the monks in Europe joined the Reformation.

14. The swift decline of monasticism in England was precipitated by this one person:

   a. Pope Benedict XII
   b. Archbishop Basil Hume
   c. Henry VIII

15. What is the status of monasticism today?

   a. Alas, it is athing of the past.
   b. It is still in existence, but only in three countries.
   c. Monasticism survives in many nations, both East and West, and with renewed vigor in places.

ANSWERS:

1. a. holy, holiness
   b. alone, living alone
   c. Godly, serving God

2. a. religious vocation to the priesthood
   b. rejection of the hierarchy of organized religions
   c. withdrawal to a degree from the world for spiritual purposes

3. There are two types of monasticism — emerital and cenobitical. What does emerital refer to?

   a. living alone as a hermit
   b. having no role other than prayer
   c. being gifted in healing

4. And what is cenobitical monasticism?

   a. living common life with others
   b. living in a non-religious environment
   c. living amongst non-believers and pagans

5. What are male monastics usually called?

   a. monks
   b. canons
   c. deacons

6. And women monastics are usually called:

   a. nuns
   b. canons
   c. deaconesses

7. Monastics live as:

   a. celibates
   b. married men
   c. polymaths

8. In most communities, although monks may have jobs, what is their main occupation?

   a. knitting
   b. making beer
   c. praying

9. Central to this activity for many is:

   a. the Divine Office
   b. the keeping of sheep
   c. the role of Brewer master

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ANSWERS:
At the recent U.S. bishops’ meeting, their document for ministry to homosexuals affirmed the dignity of homosexuals and reiterated the teaching that the orientation itself is not sinful, but that the act is disorderly. My question is, does the church teach that this disorderliness applies only to physical acts? For instance, in a marriage, the husband and wife have expressions and feelings of their love for each other outside of the sexual expression of it. They feel the same affection for their spouse, “feno,” but an all-consuming “agape.” Would the church teach that a homosexual person is capable of feeling “agape” for another if the disorderliness is not part of the equation? — E.E., Fort Wayne

First of all, it is important to realize that homosexual persons are held to no higher a standard of chastity than heterosexual persons. Often, it is assumed that the church somehow expects something “more” of homosexuals — be it chastity or some other virtue. This is not the case. It asks only the same commitment to chastity by no means: it asks only the emotional and physical love of one’s spouse. Chastity is a commandment of love. Love is a gift of the self. The same is true for everyone.

The awful truth is that often the problem is not the sin, but the corruption of society. The Church, now being scrutinized are moral clergymen were involved with the communist secret police, the Catholic Church in Poland can regain its stewardship during the communist era, the revelations of clerical cooperation, and their steadfastness was far worse than others. Poles understand that there were betrayals both church and society. Particularly, the world knows some- thing every Pole, and every seri- ous student of modern Polish his- tory, already knew: not everyone imagined that they could “use” its stewardship during the communist era, the revelations of clerical cooperation, and their steadfastness was far worse than others. Poles understand that there were betrayals both church and society. Particularly, the world knows some- thing every Pole, and every seri- ous student of modern Polish his- tory, already knew: not everyone imagined that they could “use” its stewardship during the communist era, the revelations of clerical cooperation, and their steadfastness was far worse than others. Poles understand that there were betrayals both church and society. Particularly, the world knows some- thing every Pole, and every seri- ous student of modern Polish his- tory, already knew: not everyone imagined that they could “use” its stewardship during the communist era, the revelations of clerical cooperation, and their steadfastness was far worse than others. Poles understand that there were betrayals both church and society. Particularly, the world knows some- thing every Pole, and every seri- ous student of modern Polish his- tory, already knew: not everyone imagined that they could “use” its stewardship during the communist era, the revelations of clerical cooperation, and their steadfastness was far worse than others. Poles understand that there were betrayals both church and society. Particularly, the world knows some- thing every Pole, and every seri- ous student of modern Polish his- tory, already knew: not everyone imagined that they could “use” its stewardship during the communist era, the revelations of clerical cooperation, and their steadfastness was far worse than others. Poles understand that there were betrayals both church and society. Particularly, the world knows some- thing every Pole, and every seri- ous student of modern Polish his- tory, already knew: not everyone imagined that they could “use” its stewardship during the communist era, the revelations of clerical cooperation, and their steadfastness was far worse than others. Poles understand that there were betrayals both church and society. Particularly, the world knows some- thing every Pole, and every seri- ous student of modern Polish his- tory, already knew: not everyone imagined that they could “use” its stewardship during the communist era, the revelations of clerical cooperation, and their steadfastness was far worse than others. Poles understand that there were betrayals both church and society. Particularly, the world knows some- thing every Pole, and every seri- ous student of modern Polish his- tory, already knew: not everyone imagined that they could “use” its stewardship during the communist era, the revelations of clerical cooperation, and their steadfastness was far worse than others. Poles understand that there were betrayals both church and society. Particularly, the world knows some- thing every Pole, and every seri- ous student of modern Polish his- tory, already knew: not everyone imagined that they could “use” its stewardship during the communist era, the revelations of clerical cooperation, and their steadfastness was far worse than others. Poles understand that there were betrayals both church and society. Particularly, the world knows some- thing every Pole, and every seri- ous student of modern Polish his- tory, already knew: not everyone imagined that they could “use” its stewardship during the communist era, the revelations of clerical cooperation, and their steadfastness was far worse than others. Poles understand that there were bet
The way for St. Thomas. Jordan Grise with 10 points led while Ben Brewers with 16 and had 11 points for the winners, Elkhart, 41-39. A. J. Fitzpatrick

J. DANCH

SOUTH BEND — All four division leaders in the Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL) maintained their top positions, although two of them, St. Jude of the Martin De Porres West and St. Anthony of John Bosco East divisions, had losses pinned to their records.

St. Joseph of Mishawaka, unbeaten in six games, topped St. Jude, 37-18 runaway and unbeaten Corpus Christi of the John Bosco West division tripped St. Anthony in a 47-33 free scoring game. Tate Belegrante of Corpus Christi singled the nets with 24 points as well as the top individual performance of the day. He was the seventh player this year to score more than 20 points per game.

Christ the King held on to second place in the John Bosco West division by edging St. Thomas of Elkhart, 41-39. A. J. Fitzpatrick had 11 points for the winners, while Ben Brewers with 16 and Jordan Grise with 10 points led the way for St. Thomas.


John Bosco East St. Anthony 3-3
St. Joseph (SB) 4-2
St. Matthew 1-5
St. Thomas 1-5

John Bosco West Corpus Christi 6-0
Christ the King 4-2
Holy Family 3-3
Holy Cross 2-4

Martin De Porres East St. Joseph (Mish) 6-0
St. Pius 5-1
St. Monica 2-4
St. Bavo 0-6

Martin De Porres West St. Jude 4-2
St. John 3-3
St. Michael 4-2
St. Adalbert 0-6

ST. MONICA COACH FINDS REWARDS IN COACHING VOLLEYBALL For Maureen Delahany of St. Monica Parish, Mishawaka, coaching a girls’ volleyball team in a real pleasure. The St. Monica volleyball Comets wound up the season by winning the Colors Division of the ICCL overall championship with a sensational 20-1 mark. Prior to the Comets two titles, they also won the Mishawaka St. Joseph Holiday Tournament with an impressive 4-0 record. “Coaching girls’ volleyball teams is a real pleasure for me,” said Delahany. — EJD

ICCL teams maintain top positions

BY ELMER J. DANCH

B Y M I C H E L L E C A S T L E M A N

FORT WAYNE — In Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) boys’ action, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel remained undefeated in Blue League play with a big win over St. Aloysius. This sets up a show-down Saturday for the league title when the Squires face the Phoenix from Benoit.

Lady Eagles

Coach John Adams is in his third season with the lady Eagles from St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne, seventh grade team. This year’s roster includes Katie Kuras, Alex Clinger, Abby Oberley, Rachel Crouch, Sarah Woodfill, Anna Einfeld, Morgan Skordos, Johanna Deakin, Brooke Ridley, Meaghan Adams, Catherine Barnett and Genna Schoening.

“I really enjoy working with this group of girls,” said Adams.

They’re all wonderful to be around and they work hard to improve their skills.”

Overall, the team has won four games and had four losses. They are 2-2 in White League CYO play. Their goals include having fun and improving their individual skills each practice As a team, they plan to be competitive and “play better this week than we did last week.”

The assistant coaches are Jeanne Skordos and Randy Crouch.

Scoreboard

St. Joe Hessen Cassel 33; St. Aloysius 28 (boys)
St. Joseph, Decatur, 37; St. Vincent 32 (Fuelling 10) St. Joseph, Decatur, 37; St. John, New Haven, 22 (girls)
St. John, Fort Wayne, (19-0) 32; St. Vincent 18 (sixth grade boys)

ST. JOSEPH SQUIRES SETS THEIR EYES ON BLUE LEAGUE TITLE SHOwDOWN

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EOE
“Three” (Fox)

Pedestrian thriller about a seminary student (Marc Blucas) being stalked by a serial killer who’s targeted him as retribution for some dark secret buried in their shared past, while a police psychologist (Justine Waddell), whose brother was also a victim, races to crack the case. Director Robby Henson’s adaptation of author Ted Dekker’s spiritually accented novel scores points for not indulging in the exploitative lurid excess common to this genre, yet despite a twist ending, the movie’s flat writing, competent but colorless performances and overall made-for-TV vibe generate only low-grade suspense. Some violence, including several explosions and a shooting, mildly disturbing images and a few mildly crude expressions.

The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A—III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13.

MOVIE CAPSULE

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  4111 Parnell Avenue
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  Casa Grille
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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, PO. Box 11169, Fort Wayne 46856; or e-mail: fhogan@fw.diocesefwsb.org. Events that require an admission charge or payment to participate will receive one free listing. For additional listings of that event, please call our advertising sales staff at (260) 456-2842 to purchase space.

Ed fox fish fry
Monroeville — A fish and tenderloin dinner will be Friday, Jan. 26, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Monroeville Park 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.

Knights plan fish fry
Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 451, 601 Reed Rd., will have a fish fry on Friday, Feb. 2, from 3 to 7:30 p.m. The cost is $7 for adults, $3 for children 12 and under. Fish, two sides and beverage are included.

Knights plan fish fry
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 6153 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on Friday, Feb. 2, from 5 to 7 p.m. Adults $7, children (5-12) $3. Chicken strips for $7 and shrimp for $8 will be available.

Drive through chicken dinner
Fort Wayne — St. Joseph Hessen Cassel will have a drive-through braisted chicken dinner at the hall on Friday, Feb. 2, from 4-7 p.m.

Italian dinner benefits school
Walkerton — St. Patrick School will host a benefit Italian dinner on Saturday, Jan. 27, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the American Legion. Tickets are $10 and are available at the door or at the parish office. Silent auction, tip boards and raffles. All tickets are entered for door prizes. All proceeds benefit the school.

Fish and tenderloin dinner
Fort Wayne — St. Peter Church will have a fish and tenderloin dinner by Ed Fox on Friday, Feb. 16, from 4-6:30 p.m. in the pavilion, corner or DeWald and Warsaw streets, which is handicapped accessible. Tickets are $7 for adults, $4 for children ages 5 to 10, under 5 eat free. There is a $25 max for larger families.

FUNDRAISERS

Wish upon a star at dance
Fort Wayne — St. Jude School’s dance and silent auction ‘Wish Upon a Star at Dance’ starts at 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 16, at the gymnasium of St. John Paul II School, 1020 Wilber St., will have an open house on Sunday, Jan. 28, from noon to 2 p.m.

St. Henry will celebrate a 50 year 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.

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TV MASS GUIDE FOR FEBRUARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>FEAST</th>
<th>FORT WAYNE CHANNEL 33 - WISE 10:30 A.M.</th>
<th>SOUTH BEND CHANNEL 16 - WNDU 10:30 A.M.</th>
<th>“Catholic Comment” airs, Sundays at 7:30 a.m. on WNDU and at 11:00 a.m. on WOWO, 7:30 a.m. on WBT, 9:00 a.m. on WNDU</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 4</td>
<td>Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time</td>
<td>Father Bruce Piechocki St. Francis Xavier Pierceton</td>
<td>Father Daniel Scheidt St. Pius X Granger</td>
<td>WBT 11:00 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 11</td>
<td>Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time</td>
<td>Father Dominique Carboneau St. Aloysius Yoder</td>
<td>Father Christopher Young St. Patrick Walkerton</td>
<td>WBT 9:00 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 18</td>
<td>Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time</td>
<td>Father John Kuzich St. Vincent de Paul Fort Wayne</td>
<td>Father Christopher Cox, CSC St. Adalbert &amp; St. Casimir South Bend</td>
<td>WBT 7:30 a.m. &amp; WNDU 11:00 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 25</td>
<td>First Sunday of Lent</td>
<td>Father John Overmeyer St. Patrick Fort Wayne</td>
<td>Father Edward O’Connor, CSC Corby Hall Notre Dame</td>
<td>WBT &amp; WNDU 7:30 a.m. &amp; WSBT 10:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Rest in Peace

John C. Baldenegro, 93, Queen of Angels
Edward Daszynski, 88, St. Jude
Glenda W. Casey, 91, St. Vincent de Paul
William M. Kenna, 92, Holy Cross
Jaye A. Collins, 86, St. Joseph
Casimir R. Spychalski, 80, Holy Family
Thomas E. Yarman, 66, St. Jude
Stanley F. Zurath Jr., 62, St. Adalbert
Alouette Eisaman, 82, St. Charles Borromeo
Alice G. Kowalski, 94, St. Hedwig
Joon Lim, 95, St. Stanislaus
Barbara J. Lamb, 76, Christ the King
Warsaw — Exquilo H. Delgado, 65, Our Lady of Guadalupe
In the postwar years of World War II, Americans were amazed with new products. In 1948, a device called the Polaroid Land camera produced instant pictures. Favorite moving pictures of the time included “Easter Parade,” “Gentlemen’s Agreement” and “The Treasure of Sierra Madre.”

In South Bend, Father William Voors got a phone call from Bishop Leo Pursley telling him to begin a study for a new parish on the south side of South Bend, which would be called St. Jude’s; and on Dec. 5, 1948, in the Southmore Community Building, the first Mass was celebrated with what was to be the founding community of the new parish.

In July, 1949, Father John J. Szot was assigned as first pastor for 110 registered families. On the feast of the Assumption, 1950, a groundbreaking ceremony was held for a combination school and hall which would serve as a temporary church.

Sweat equity went into the construction of the new building, with men from the parish salvaging lumber and other materials from a chapel donated by the Franciscan Sisters of Mt. Alverno. This represented a significant savings for the new parish.

The cornerstone was blessed Oct. 29, 1950, on the feast of Christ the King and sealed on Nov. 1, 1950, on the feast of All Saints. The first Mass in the new church was said by Father Szot on April 22, 1951, and the church was dedicated the following June 10.

On April 8, 1956, another groundbreaking ceremony saw the beginning of a new parish school, which opened the following September with 100 students in the first four grades.

As St. Jude’s looks forward to its 60th anniversary, it will grow in another way by welcoming members of nearby St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, which after 125 years in South Bend, is being surpressed.

Formal liturgical ceremonies will commemorate this merger with a Mass and dinner at St. Jude’s on Jan. 28.

### St. Mary of the Assumption, South Bend, Est. 1882

German Catholics in South Bend in the mid-1800s were a nomadic clutch of Catholics, walking several miles to Notre Dame for a sermon in German, but after assisting in the construction of a wooden church for St. Patrick Parish on Western Avenue, they were rewarded with a 9 a.m. Mass reserved for them there with Holy Cross Father Joseph Carrier, preaching in German.

This ceased when Father Carrier volunteered to be a chaplain in the Civil War, and for the next 12 years this group was deprived of sermons in their native tongue.

In 1872, an event in Cincinnati changed this situation when Joseph Dwenger, a Precious Blood priest and a former missionary was ordained a bishop and appointed as the second bishop of Fort Wayne. Being German himself, Bishop Dwenger was sympathetic to the needs of German Catholics in South Bend and, through his efforts, arranged for Holy Cross priests to provide for the German Catholics at St. Patrick Parish.

The next need was for a church of their own and in 1882 a cornerstone was laid for “Maria Himelfahrt Kirche,” St. Mary of the Assumption. The three altars were built by a Holy Cross Brother at Notre Dame. Bishop Dwenger said the first Mass in the church on May 11, 1884, for about 50 registered families. By 1900, there were nearly 900. Membership remained solid until the late 1940s when the moves to the suburbs caused many families to join churches closer to their homes.

This decline was followed by the shocking announcement in 1957 from the federal government that by right of eminent domain, St. Mary’s on Taylor Street would be forced to vacate its property to make way for a low-cost housing project.

Bishop Pursley, the parish trustees, the Holy Cross provincial and Msgr. John Sabo, dean of the South Bend deanery, all consulted on where to relocate and picked a 42-acre lot on Locust Road. They may have made a better choice had they flipped a coin. Their conclusion to build south of the city instead of north was 180 degrees off target. Growth went to Granger, and the new St. Mary’s languished.

Now, after 125 years, the parish will be merged with a neighbor, St. Jude Parish as sticks and bricks stay, but living stones move on.