

February 4, 2007

Serving the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

St. Mary's Parish celebrates last Mass

A heartfelt welcome to St. Jude Parish extended



DIANE FREEBY

St. Mary of the Assumption parishioners hug one another after the final Mass celebrated at the church. St. Mary merged with St. Jude Parish in South Bend.

BY DIANE FREEBY

SOUTH BEND — While the snow flew outside on a blustery Sunday morning, more than a few tears were shed inside St. Mary's of the Assumption Church. After 125 years, Mass was celebrated at the South Bend church for the final time Jan. 28, before officially merging with St. Jude, a few miles down the road.

Bishop John M. D'Arcy concelebrated a special 10 a.m. Mass with Father John Delaney, pastor of both St. Mary's and St. Jude's since July. The church, nestled in the basement of the school, which has since closed its doors as well, was filled to capacity. Bishop D'Arcy acknowledged the loss many St. Mary's parishioners were feeling as he prepared the consecration.

"Through this holy Eucharist, may true faith continue to grow wherever the holy Mass is celebrated," he said.

The move was still bittersweet for many at St. Mary's parishioners. Barbara Odynski has been the parish secretary for 29 years. Not only has she seen seven priests come and go, she has also enjoyed watching the children grow up and bring their own children back to St. Mary's.

"This is a very close-knit community," said Odynski, fighting back the tears. "We have a lot of good people here."

Tina Kendall has been a parishioner for 37 years, graduating from St. Mary School in 1978. Her two children also graduated from St. Mary's. Jeffrey

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'We were crying.

How could one not cry!'

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'A life of charity and goodness always attracts.'

BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY ABOUT ST. MOTHER THEODORE GUÉRIN AND THE RELATIONSHIP OF A BISHOP, POPE

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'These (essayists) are some pretty heavy hitters in the field of teaching the faith.'

SOUTH BEND NATIVE KEN OGOREK ABOUT A BOOK HE CO-EDITED

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Fort Wayne rally and march for life draws large crowd

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

FORT WAYNE — The Scottish Rite Center in downtown Fort Wayne was filled to capacity for last Saturday's Rally for Life, then emptied onto Berry Street as more than 1,000 people participated in the 33rd annual March for Life.

The pro-life rally and march is held annually to protest the United States Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v Wade decision legalizing abortion.

The rally's keynote speaker was Nina Fuller, Bible teacher, spiritual counselor and pro-life mentor to teens and adults. Fuller is founder of Living Proof Testimonies and S.M.I.L.E. on Down Syndrome. A wife and mother of five children, two of whom have Down Syndrome, she recently authored "Special Strength for Special Parents," which addresses the day-to-day challenge of raising children with special needs.

Fuller's early years prepared her for that challenge. Abused and neglected by alcoholic parents, she acted as a surrogate parent to four younger siblings from the time she was 12 years old. And that is when she

came to understand that she had been called to serve God by carrying his message about the meaning of motherhood.

Fuller calls motherhood "the most demanding, the most rewarding and the most beneficial to society."

The birth of her first child, a boy, whom Nina and her husband Andy named Jesse Thomas, was her own introduction to motherhood. Though Fuller dreamed of having a daughter, their second child was also a boy, Jacob Andrew.

Life was perfect for the young couple until a miscarriage prompted them to question God's plan for their family. Finally, she said, they were able to accept it as an event "for our good and (God's) glory." Soon after the birth of their third son, Joseph Anthony, the Fullers entered into full-time ministry, sharing and spreading God's message of life.

When Nina became pregnant once again, the Fullers found through an ultrasound that the hoped-for-baby girl she was carrying had Down Syndrome. Faith won out over fear, so terminating the pregnancy was never something they considered, and they

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BISHOP CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY IN BOSTON



PROVIDED BY JACINTO CAPRIO-LANG

Bishop John M. D'Arcy celebrated his 50th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood with family and friends while visiting his home town of Brighton, Mass. On Sunday, Jan. 14, Bishop D'Arcy celebrated Mass at St. Columbkille Parish, which is now the only existing parish in this busy section of Boston. He reminisced about growing up in Brighton and his ordination to the priesthood 50 years ago on Feb. 2, 1957.

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Catholic press mission established 81 years ago continues

BY TIM JOHNSON

Eighty-one years ago, Bishop John F. Noll brought the first diocesan newspaper into the homes of the Catholic faithful in the Diocese of Fort Wayne. At that time, the diocese covered the vast area of all of northern Indiana.

During this historical period, anti-Catholic sentiment was rampant throughout the U.S., but especially in Indiana. The newspaper was a means for the bishop to communicate with the faithful.

The purpose or goals of the diocesan newspaper that Bishop Noll expressed are as relevant today as they were back then when the paper was called *Our Sunday Visitor*.

The first purpose, he said, was "to acquaint you with important Catholic happenings of the week over the entire world."

The Catholic Church is truly universal, united through Christ in the Eucharist and the Gospel. The methods of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ vary throughout the world — in some parts of the world, it is persecuted. In some parts of the world, open practice is forbidden. In some parts of the world, the church is poised against secular values. In many parts of the world, it is the voice for human dignity. In all these struggles, the church does not compromise what it stands for — the truth. In brief form, we bring these struggles to light and understanding.

The second purpose was "to give you instruction in that popular form which makes it both very intelligible and interesting."

Today's Catholic is fortunate to utilize the talents of writers, some who have authored Catholic books or write for national Catholic publications and online Catholic Web sites. Some are veterans in different media. Their goal is to tell the faith stories of our diocese in a lively and easy-to-understand way.

Even our columnists, such as Father Tad Pacholczyk, who keeps readers updated on the complicated area of bioethics, explain these complexities in a way that helps readers grasp the nature of stem-cell research, end-of-life issues, hydration and nutrition issues. These are topics that many hear about in the workplace and especially from the home front. *Today's Catholic* wants readers to be informed of these

complex, yet daily issues.

This leads us to Bishop Noll's third purpose of the paper, "to furnish you with the answer to charges made against the church, and often called to your attention by your neighbors or fellow-workmen."

Today's Catholic wants its readers to be prepared to answer questions your neighbors and coworkers may pose. Why is the church against embryonic stem cell research? It is because a life in its most innocent and delicate form — the embryo — is destroyed. Yet our church supports adult stem-cell research, blood from bone marrow, the placenta, and has made known the promise offered by such research and cures already discovered.

The fourth purpose, "to point out the falsity

etc. This shows the vibrancy of parish life.

During this Sesquicentennial Jubilee Year, which celebrates the 150th anniversary of the diocese's founding in 1857, many events are scheduled.

Today's Catholic will be the tool that helps the people of our diocese understand their call to evangelization. In two weeks, our paper will go to all registered Catholic households in the diocese and assist the faithful in understanding Wells of Hope, Mercy Day, the 1-877 line — all events associated with the Lenten journey during the jubilee year.

On April 29, *Today's Catholic* will also be the medium that reaches all registered Catholic households once again and will deliver workshop information and help you plan and register

for the Eucharistic Congress, which is slated Aug. 18 at the University of Notre Dame. Finally, on Aug. 12, *Today's Catholic* will contain the booklet that will accompany participants to the Eucharistic Congress. It will contain the maps, worship and prayer aids, and vital information to help participants through this prayerful day.

During the year, every sacrament will come into focus to help readers gain appreciation and understanding. Next week *Today's Catholic* explores the sacrament of marriage and will assist couples preparing for their weddings and the church's expectations. The

Lenten issue will cover the sacrament of reconciliation. Later in the year, the paper will discuss the sacrament of the sick, baptism, confirmation and holy orders.

Bishop Noll's vision of a diocesan newspaper is still much alive today. Yes, in 81 years, the diocesan newspaper has transitioned names from *Our Sunday Visitor*, to *The Harmonizer* to *Today's Catholic*, but its purpose has been constant through the bishops who have shepherded our diocese, right down to Bishop John M. D'Arcy.

The bishop serves as publisher of *Today's Catholic*. It is his voice to the faithful. It is the historical account in words. And *Today's Catholic* thanks all of its readers for their loyalty, faithfulness and readership.

Bishop D'Arcy's News and Notes can be found this week on pages 10 and 11.

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?

and unsound philosophy of many things, which you read about in secular papers and magazines."

The secular press includes writers of many religions and many of no religious affiliation, and sometimes their views of Catholicism are slanted; they may have little knowledge of Catholicism. It is also often difficult to get the full range of Catholic news in the secular press, to say nothing of a public source of official church stances on issues including abortion, immigration, poverty, same-sex marriage, health care for those who cannot afford it and Catholic education.

Bishop Noll's final purpose was "to prepare you for the proper observance of the church's feasts and festivals."

Every year, *Today's Catholic* provides news about holy days of obligation, prepares readers for the holy seasons of Lent, Easter, Advent and Christmas, as well as posting parish events such as missions, guest speakers, dinners, fish fries,

Sounds of the future: Today's Catholic Podcast leads the way

In September of 2006, after 80 years of dutifully delivering quality Catholic news to the diocese, *Today's Catholic* quietly began an endeavor that took the publication into an entirely differently medium, podcasting.

The podcast premiered on iTunes and the diocesan Web site. iTunes subscribers have the podcast downloaded each week to their computer. They can listen from their computer or transfer the file to their MP3 player and listen at their convenience.

For the Catholic who says he or she is too busy to read, the podcast gives at least enough information to know what is going on across the diocese and world.

"We cannot give the details that the newspaper articles provide, but an overview or story highlight is possible," said Tim Johnson, editor of *Today's Catholic*.

Today's Catholic Podcast is designed to tantalize listeners to want to read more of the newspaper.

"Our newscast has a sort of NPR feel," Johnson said, fitting as Redeemer Radio, 1450-AM, has offered to bring the Today's Catholic Podcast to their airwaves in February.

In taking this step into podcasting, *Today's Catholic* has placed itself in the vanguard of Catholic newspapers nationwide, only a few of which include audio and video podcast versions of some of their stories on their Web sites.

The traditional, get-it-in-the-mailbox printed version of *Today's Catholic* is still the standard means by which news from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend reaches your home. But as technology continues to change rapidly, it should come to no surprise that *Today's Catholic* reporters and contributors bring an array of devices to the stories they cover — not just a pen and notepad. Reporters bring their digital cameras — film



is rarely used these days — to capture the moment for a photograph. They may record the interview on a digital video recorder, a digital voice recorder or sometimes directly into the computer. Recordings such as these — apart from providing accurate quotes for print stories — are also a raw material of sorts for the podcast.

The diocesan Web site, www.diocesefwsb.org, contains weekday news updates from Catholic News Service as well the headline stories of the week's edition. In addition, the Web site may contain additional photos that weren't utilized in a story due to space restrictions.

Archived issues of *Today's Catholic* are also available on the Web site in PDF format. The archives are maintained approximately one month out from the current publication date.



TIM JOHNSON

Reporters and photographers capture history at the Oct. 15, 2006, canonization Mass of St. Mother Theodore Guérin, foundress of the Sisters of Providence. The press meets atop the colonnade near St. Peter's Basilica. In November 2006, Pope Benedict XVI said, Catholic newspapers underline "facts and realities where the Gospel is lived, where good and truth triumph and where individuals commit their time and creativity to building real communities."

Pope cites importance of diocesan newspapers

CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Diocesan newspapers are important because they strengthen local communities and give them a voice they will not find in national publications, Pope Benedict XVI said.

Meeting Nov. 25, 2006 with the Italian Federation of Catholic Weeklies, the pope said the papers underline "facts and realities where the Gospel is lived, where good and truth triumph" and where individuals commit their time and creativity to building real communities.

The primary task of a diocesan newspaper, he said, is to "serve the truth with courage, helping the public see, understand and live reality with the eyes of God."

The challenges of modern life and the diversity of people within a diocese also must find a reflec-

tion in the diocesan paper, he said.

"Continue to be 'newspapers of the people and among the people,' stages for a loyal exchange and debate among diverse opinions in order to promote an authentic dialogue, which is indispensable for the growth of the civic and church communities," he urged.

While holding firm to the truths taught by the church, the pope said Catholic newspapers "can represent significant places of encounter and attentive discernment for lay faithful involved in the social and political arena so that they can dialogue and find convergences and objectives for joint action in the service of the Gospel and the common good."

Just before the newspaper federation's national assembly opened in Rome, Father Giorgio Zucchelli, president of the federation, announced that over the coming months 76 new diocesan newspapers would be launched.

Currently, he said, 150 Italian dioceses sponsor 161 newspapers with a combined circulation of about 1 million and close to 3,000 employees and collaborators. Several archdioceses sponsor more than one weekly publication with a standard newspaper and a publication addressed to a specialized audience or one published as an insert in a local secular paper.

The new newspapers will ensure that each of Italy's 226 dioceses has at least one publication of its own, Father Zucchelli said.

Although he recognized the project will be difficult, the priest said he expected to fund the new publications with advertising, subscriptions and newsstand sales. Benefactors also will be sought.

"We will face many difficulties, but it is worth it in order to better spread the word of the church," he told the daily *La Repubblica*.

Survey says ... digital is in

BY TIM JOHNSON

Most readers look forward to receiving *Today's Catholic* in their mailboxes, most likely on Thursdays of each week the newspaper publishes. But recently, *Today's Catholic* explored digital delivery through e-mail with a six-month pilot study.

The digital version of *Today's Catholic* comes in the portable document format (PDF) to e-mail boxes. There are advantages to digital delivery.

- **The digital version looks exactly like the print version with all original content intact.**

- **Digital recipients do not deal with postal delays.** *Today's Catholic* is delivered through the postal service as second-class mail to keep the costs at bay. There is no set-in-stone rule that the postal service has to deliver the paper as soon as they receive it, thus the variation of delivery. But the digital versions will be in your mailbox by Thursday whether you live in Niles, Mich., Texas, Florida, or you serve in the U.S. military in Iraq.

One of our Niles, Mich., subscribers told *Today's Catholic* his home received the mailed copy up to a week later. He encouraged us to share the news that the digital version comes in a very timely manner and became his preferred means of receiving *Today's Catholic*.

- **No recycling is necessary.**
- **The size of print is limited only to the size of the computer monitor's screen settings.**

- **Some people leave it on their desktops of their computers.** "I can keep it on my desktop and use it to take short breaks, read it in snippets," wrote one pilot study participant. Another survey participant told *Today's Catholic*, "I find it easier to read throughout the week when I am checking e-mails."

- **Makes archiving easy.** Did you ever read an article and weeks, perhaps months later, want to look it up for a piece of information? The PDF version allows you to do a search on the computer for key words. One survey participant reported to *Today's Catholic* that he found it easy to archive and access material when he needed it.

- **Web site and e-mail addresses are activated.** Everything from ads to articles in the print version of

Today's Catholic includes Web sites and e-mail addresses. In the digital version of *Today's Catholic*, clicking on a Web address will take the reader immediately to that Web site. The same is true for the e-mail addresses. Need a change of address? Click on Kathy Voirol's e-mail address on page 2. Or send editor, Tim Johnson, an e-mail by clicking on his e-mail address.

- **Never get newsprint ink on your fingers.**

One survey participant told *Today's Catholic*, "Although we still receive the printed edition, the digital version has several advantages that we enjoy: the pictures are better resolution; we can search for names, events, etc., we can archive the PDF files and refer to past issues without having to go through a big stack of old papers."

Now, not every digital pilot survey participant was totally pleased. Out of about 50 participants, one asked to be removed from the digital list preferring to hold the newspaper in his hands. That's a good point. A reader cannot hold the digital version in his hands. Even the editor prefers to hold the newspaper in its printed version — but we do all of our searches in the PDF format.

One other disadvantage is that the subscriber needs a high speed Internet connection, either DSL, Fios or cable. The files average 3 to 6 MB. Some may be even larger this spring and summer as we celebrate the jubilee. It would be difficult to download such a file with a dial-up connection to the Internet.

The pilot study ended in January. To subscribe to the digital version, please visit the diocesan Web site at www.diocesefwsb.org and follow the *Today's Catholic* link. The cost is discounted to \$18 per year, \$16 for seniors.

One of our digital subscribers serves in the military in Iraq. When his father requested the paper be sent to him, we knew digital delivery would keep this serviceman in contact with his diocese with greater ease and efficiency. If you know of a serviceman who would like to receive the digital version of *Today's Catholic*, please contact Tim Johnson at editor@fw.diocesefwsb.org. *Today's Catholic* will send a piece of home as well as some prayers to those serving in our military.

Bishop D'Arcy, Today's Catholic publisher, encourages renewal, new subscriptions

My dear people,

We are engaged in an historic year. It is the 150th anniversary of our diocese. Many people have received a copy of a special edition of *Today's Catholic* signaling this historic year.

The newspaper will explain everything. The progress of the Traveling Jubilee Cross through the diocese, the Eucharistic Congress, the various catecheses and instructions, which have to be given. It will show the various diocesan-wide efforts, which will occur throughout the year, for example, the program to bring back the practice of the faith to those who for whatever reason have fallen away from Sunday Mass.

This newspaper tells us what is going on in the Catholic Church. What is the church's attitude toward embryonic stem-cell research? What is the reason for this attitude? How do we explain it to others?

What about the church's position on moral issues at the end of life? Why is the pope going to Brazil? What happened on his visit to Turkey? Is the pope really against Islam? Is it true that people in Western Europe don't go to Mass? What about the situation concerning the Polish bishop who resigned? What is the meaning of this? How does this relate to

our own country?

What is the strength of our diocese fiscally? How are the results of the Legacy of Faith being distributed to parishes and other institutions? How much has been received to the Legacy of Faith? How is it being catalogued? How much has already been returned to parishes? How much will be returned in the future? In this age of transparency, it is appropriate that the people know as much as possible about the church's financial situation. Everything will be reported in *Today's Catholic*.

If you are not reading it, you are missing much of what is going on locally and nationally in the Catholic Church. I urge you to subscribe and to bring one new subscriber with you. Very best wishes and I remain

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

Most Reverend John M. D'Arcy

From slavery to sainthood, St. Josephine Bakhita called universal sister

BY MAY LEE JOHNSON

For years she was a slave but her spirit was always free.

In 2000, Pope John Paul II brought the plight of the people of Sudan to the attention of the Christian world when he canonized St. Josephine Bakhita calling her "our universal sister."

This amazingly strong woman rose from an ill-treated slave to become a unifying symbol for Catholics women of color.

She became the patroness of the war-torn, famine-stricken country of Sudan.

Bakhita, as she was called until her baptism, was born in 1869 of poor Sudanese parents in Olgossa, a village in Darfur, Sudan (Africa).

Her childhood was torn apart at age nine when she was removed from her family and village.

Her name — Bakhita means "fortunate one" — was given to her by the slave raiders because she was so traumatized by the experience that she couldn't remember her name.

Bakhita was taken to the town of El Obeid and held by the slave traders for a few years. She was sold five times as a slave.

Some of her owners treated her worst and submitted her to various forms of humiliations and torture.

One of her most terrifying memories was being tattooed at the age 13. She recalled how 114 marks were cut into her body, salt poured into the wounds over a one-month period.

"I felt I was going to die any moment, especially when they rubbed me in with the salt," Bakhita wrote in her biography.

Finally she was bought by the Michieli family, who treated her with kindness. She was given the position of nursemaid to the baby, Mimmina.

When Mimmina was ready for school, she was sent to Venice and placed in a school run by the Daughters of Charity.

Bakhita went with the girl to her new school.

After about nine months, the family moved back to Sudan and wanted the slave to accompany



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

An image of Josephine Bakhita, a former Sudanese slave who became a nun, hangs from the facade of St. Peter's Basilica Oct. 1, 2000. She was canonized by Pope John Paul II along with 120 Chinese martyrs and U.S.-born Mother Katharine Drexel.

them.

Bakhita, however, believed God wanted her to remain in Venice, and she refused to go with them. The family sued, claiming her as "property," but

her friends intervened, and Bakhita was permitted to remain in Venice.

Later, she discovered that slavery was not permitted in Venice, and she had been free all that time.

What was free? Better still what did this

new freedom mean to Bakhita?

It meant she could be baptized, and she was on Jan. 9, 1890. Her name would be

Josephine, and she began to feel she was called to give herself completely to God.

In 1893, she entered the Canossian Novitiate in Venice and made her religious profession in Verona. Mimmina was with her when she made her final vows in 1896.

During her remaining 50 years of life, she served as a nun. In 1902, she transferred from Venice to Schio, in the Northern Italian province of Vicenza, where she worked as a seamstress, cook and took care of the poor.

She is known to have been humble and restrained. Josephine was confined to a wheelchair in her later days, and she died on Feb. 8, 1947.

This is the first in a series by May Lee Johnson for Black History Month.

St. Meinrad monk to receive Marianist Award

SAINT MEINRAD — Father Cyprian Davis, OSB, a Benedictine monk at Saint Meinrad Archabbey, St. Meinrad, will be awarded the Marianist Award by the



FATHER CYPRIAN DAVIS, OSB

University of Dayton on Feb. 1.

The Marianist Award, given annually to a Roman Catholic who has contributed to intellectual life in some way, will be awarded to Father Cyprian for his scholarly work and teachings on the history of black American Catholics. Father Cyprian will also speak at the event, which is part of the university's Marianist Heritage Celebration.

A professor of church history at Saint Meinrad School of Theology, Father Cyprian is also an author, speaker and archivist.

This is not the first award for Father Cyprian. He received the John Gilmary Shea Award from the American Catholic Historical Association for his book, "The History of Black Catholics in the United States."

In 2002, he was awarded the Johannes Quasten Medal for excellence in scholarship and leadership in religious studies from The Catholic University of

America. In 2004, he received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Saint Meinrad Alumni Association.

Other books authored by Father Cyprian include "The Church: A Living Heritage"; "Stamped with the Image of God: African Americans as God's Image in Black," which he co-edited with Jamie Phelps, OP; "Henriette Delille: Servant of Slaves, Witness to the Poor"; and a book of historical essays about Saint Meinrad, "To Prefer Nothing to Christ."

Father Cyprian graduated from Saint Meinrad College, earned an STL from The Catholic University of America, and a licentiate and doctorate in historical sciences from the Catholic University of Louvain (Belgium). He received honorary degrees from the University of Notre Dame in 2001, the Catholic Theological Union in 2002, St. Vincent's College in 2003 and The Catholic University of America in 2006. He has been a monk of Saint Meinrad since 1951.

He serves as archivist for Saint Meinrad Archabbey and for the Swiss-American Benedictine Congregation. He also is the archivist for the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus, of which he was a founding member in 1968.

Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend receives grants totaling \$14,000

FORT WAYNE — The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend recently received grants totaling \$14,000 from the Black and Indian Mission Fund, Washington, D.C. The grants are being disbursed — one in March and one in June or July 2007 — in two equal installments. The grant money will be used to assist Black and Native Americans in need at the following respective parishes and schools:

In South Bend:

- Holy Family School — \$1,000 for Freedom 22, tuition assistance
- Our Lady of Hungary School — \$1,000 for tuition assistance
- Holy Cross School — \$2,000 for one, new non-

Catholic student

- St. John the Baptist School — \$1,000 for tuition assistance
- St. Adalbert School — \$1,500 for tuition assistance for non-parishioners
- St. Augustine Parish — \$3,000 for African American tutor program

In Fort Wayne:

- Benoit Academy — \$1,500 for tuition assistance
- Bishop Luers High School — \$3,000 for tuition assistance

The annual diocesan-wide collection to assist the Black and Indian Missions will be taken up on Feb. 25, the First Sunday of Lent.

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Book offers inside glimpse of John Paul II's life in Poland, Rome

BY JOHN THAVIS

ROME (CNS) — Pope John Paul II consulted with top aides about possibly resigning in 2000 and set up a “specific procedure” for papal resignation, says a new book by the pope’s former secretary.

The pope eventually decided that it was God’s will that he stay in office, despite the illness that left him more and more debilitated, wrote Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz of Krakow, Poland, the late pope’s closest aide.

In the book, “A Life With Karol,” Cardinal Dziwisz offers an inside glimpse at key moments of Pope John Paul’s life in Poland and his 26-year pontificate. The book was being published in Polish and Italian in late January.

In his last will and testament, made public after his death, Pope John Paul strongly hinted that he had considered resignation as he prepared to turn 80 in the year 2000.

Cardinal Dziwisz said the pope, in fact, decided at the time to consult on the question with his closest aides, including then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger.

The pope concluded that he would remain in office, saying that God had called him to the papacy and that “God will call me back, in the form that he wishes,” Cardinal Dziwisz wrote.

“At the same time, John Paul II also established a specific procedure for giving his resignation, in case he would not have been able to carry out his ministry as pope to the very end,” Cardinal Dziwisz said.

The book recounts other behind-the-scenes moments, according to excerpts provided by the Italian publisher, Rizzoli:

- On Sept. 11, 2001, shortly after two planes crashed into the twin towers in New York, the phone rang in the pope’s office in Castel Gandolfo outside Rome.

“On the other end of the line was the frightened voice of Cardinal (Angelo) Sodano, the secretary of state. We turned the television on, and the pope was able to see those dramatic images, the collapse of the towers with so many poor victims imprisoned inside.”

The pope passed the rest of the day going back and forth between the television and the chapel to pray, he said.

- Toward the end of the book, Cardinal Dziwisz described the pope’s final moments.

“It was 9:37 p.m. We had noticed that the Holy Father had



CNS PHOTO/DARIO PIGNATELLI, REUTERS

A new book by Polish Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz, the late Pope John Paul II’s private secretary, is displayed at a shop in Rome Jan. 24. Titled “A Life With Karol,” the book reveals that Pope John Paul made more than 100 secret trips to ski or hike in the Italian mountains.

stopped breathing. But only in that precise moment did we see on the monitor that his great heart, after continuing to beat for a few moments, had stopped.” Someone, he said, blocked the hands of the clock to mark the hour of the pope’s passing. Those around the pope’s bed began singing a “Te Deum” of thanksgiving, not a requiem.

“We were crying. How could one not cry! They were tears of both sadness and joy. It was then that all the lights in the house were turned on. ... And then, I can’t remember. It was as if it had suddenly become dark. It was dark above me, and it was dark inside of me,” he said.

Late pope made secret outings, says aide

Pope John Paul II made more than 100 clandestine trips to ski or hike in the Italian mountains and was rarely recognized by others on the slopes, his former secretary said.

The cardinal, who was Pope John Paul’s personal secretary for 38 years, wrote that the pope, an avid skier and hiker in his youth, often felt pent up inside the Vatican.

In the winter of 1981, the pope, his secretary and two of his Polish aides decided to make a “getaway” to the mountains from the papal villa in Castel Gandolfo.

They packed into a car owned by one of the priests, in order not to raise suspicions, and when they passed the Swiss Guard post one prelate opened wide a newspaper to hide the pontiff in the back seat.

Then they drove to the central

Italian ski town of Ovindoli without an escort, winding through mountain towns and carefully respecting the speed limits.

Once they arrived, they chose a deserted slope and the pope was able to ski all day long. On the way back, the pope smiled and said, “We did it!” It was the first of many such escapes, the papal secretary said.

And the odd thing was that, for a long time, no one recognized the pope, Cardinal Dziwisz said. He would dress as other skiers, with a ski jacket, beret and sunglasses, taking his place in line at the lifts with the rest.

One of the first people to recognize the pope was a young cross-country skier, a boy no more than 10 years old, who was lagging behind the rest of his family when he came upon the papal party. He asked them if they had seen his family go by, and one of the priests pointed to the trail.

At that moment, the pope arrived at the bottom of the slope.

The boy looked astonished, pointed to the pontiff and began yelling, “The pope! The pope!”

One of the pope’s aides intervened quickly: “What are you saying, silly! You’d better think instead about hurrying up, you’re going to lose your group.”

The boy skied away, and the pope and his friends quickly returned to their car and headed for Rome before the word got out.



DON CLEMMER

Father Tony Steinacker of St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Fort Wayne, leads the rosary as a group participates in the 33rd Annual March for Life through downtown Fort Wayne. The event began with a presentation at the Scottish Rite Center by Nina Fuller, the mother of two children with Down Syndrome.

RALLY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

were supported by their doctor.

Fuller said, “If you have to do battle with your doctor... you’ve got the wrong doctor.”

Even though our government allows you to kill a compromised, disabled child, it is morally wrong to do so, she pointed out. So abortion was never an option for them.

After the birth of Joanna, or Tess, as they call her, the couple felt so blessed that they adopted another Down Syndrome child and named her Hope. And she has become the embodiment of the couple’s ongoing ministry. “Every life deserves hope for the future,” Fuller said.

Allen County Right to Life executive director Cathie Humbarger also introduced U.S. Congressman Mark Souder and

Indiana Secretary of State Todd Rokita, who addressed the crowd as well.

Congressman Souder emphasized the need for political action as well as education in the fight against abortion. “We need to pray, educate and do battle,” he said, and he expects the next two years to be difficult for advancing pro-life issues.

Rokita agreed. The issue is not partisan, but it is political, he said. He cautioned his listeners to put the right people in office to continue the fight against abortion. “It is a very top priority,” he pointed out.

Fuller concluded her address by introducing her husband Andy and their two daughters, Tess and Hope, who delighted viewers with their antics and provided living testimony to the rightness of the pro-life movement.

Fuller exhorted her audience, “Stay the course. Do not give up the fight. Speak truth and speak life ... as we change the heart of our nation.”

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Pope says he hopes 2008 synod helps Catholics note value of Bible

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI said he hoped the preparation for and celebration of the 2008 world Synod of Bishops would help Catholics realize how important the Bible is in their lives and the life of the church. The synod, to be held Oct. 5-26, 2008, will focus on "The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church." Pope Benedict met Jan. 25 with the synod's preparatory council at the end of a meeting to draft an outline that will be sent to bishops' conferences around the world for comment. The pope said it was important for the church to focus on the Scriptures because the life and mission of the church are based on the word of God.

Father Drinan, ex-congressman, Jesuit and law professor, dead at 86

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Jesuit Father Robert F. Drinan, the first Catholic priest to vote in the U.S. Congress, received praise and censure during his lifetime for his active involvement in politics. Father Drinan, 86, died Jan. 28 at Sibley Memorial Hospital in Washington, where he had been treated for pneumonia and congestive heart failure for the past 10 days. Funeral arrangements were pending Jan. 29. "Few have accomplished as much as Father Drinan and fewer still have done so much to make the world a better place," said T. Alex Aleinikoff, dean of the Georgetown University Law Center, where Father Drinan had taught since 1981. "His life was one fully devoted to the service of others — in the church, in the classroom and in Congress," Aleinikoff said in a statement. But others saw Father Drinan as less praiseworthy and his celebration of a Jan. 3 Mass at Trinity University in honor of new Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, a Catholic who supports legal abortion, brought new criticism. In his Web log, or blog, for *First Things* magazine Jan. 19, Father Richard John Neuhaus called him "a Jesuit who, more than any other single figure, has been influential in tutoring Catholic politicians on the acceptability of rejecting the church's teaching on the defense of innocent human life."

Chinese government, Catholics welcome outcome of Vatican meeting

HONG KONG (CNS) — The Chinese government said it appreciates the Vatican's willingness to have "constructive dialogue" with China, as expressed in a statement issued after a Vatican meeting to discuss the status of the Catholic community in mainland China. Catholics in China also welcomed the idea of a Vatican commission to monitor the church on the mainland. Responding to reporters' questions on the Jan. 19-20 Vatican

POPE PEERS INTO CRYPT IN BASILICA OF ST. PAUL OUTSIDE THE WALLS



CNS PHOTO/L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

Pope Benedict XVI looks into the crypt area of what church officials have identified as the tomb of St. Paul in the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls in Rome Jan. 25. The pope celebrated an ecumenical prayer service in the basilica with representatives of Orthodox, Anglican and Lutheran churches.

meeting and subsequent statement, China's Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said China always has regarded improvement of ties with the Vatican as important and has made unremitting efforts in this regard. In a regular press conference Jan. 23, he said China appreciates the Vatican's willingness to dialogue so as to normalize bilateral relations, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency.

American's donation lets pope peruse oldest copy of St. Luke's Gospel

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A donation to the Vatican by a U.S. businessman enabled Pope Benedict XVI to peruse a few pages of the oldest existing copy of the Gospel of St. Luke and one of the oldest copies of the Gospel of St. John. The Catholic businessman, Frank J. Hanna III, and his family were present in the pope's library Jan. 22 when Pope Benedict got his first look at pages from the famous Bodmer Papyrus XIV-XV. Hanna is the Atlanta-based chief executive officer of HBR Capital Ltd., an investment management company, and co-chairman of President George W. Bush's Presidential Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans. Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, the Vatican's archivist and librarian, presented both the papyrus and the Hanna family to the pope. The Bodmer Papyrus XIV-XV, handwritten in Greek around the year 200, contains "about half of each of the Gospels of Luke and John," Cardinal Tauran explained.

France's Abbe Pierre dies; pope praises his work fighting poverty

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Abbe Pierre, the white bearded founder of the Emmaus Community in France, dedicated his life to fighting poverty and serving the poor, Pope Benedict XVI said. The 94-year-old priest, repeatedly voted the most respected person in France, died Jan. 22 in Paris. "Informed of the death of Abbe Pierre, the Holy Father gave thanks for his action on behalf of the poorest through which he witnessed to the love that comes to us from Christ," said the condolence message signed by Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Vatican secretary of state. When France was still recovering from the destruction of World War II, the winter of 1954 was particularly harsh and many people were living on the streets or in inadequate shelter. Using a radio station, Abbe Pierre launched an appeal for help and began his "insurrection of kindness." What began as an emergency assistance project turned into the Emmaus Community. Born Henri-Antoine Groues to a wealthy family in Lyon in 1912, he joined the Franciscans and was ordained to the priesthood.

Vatican secretary of state defends Pope Pius XII's wartime actions

ROME (CNS) — Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, the Vatican secretary of state, strongly defended Pope Pius XII's wartime actions and said he had coordinated church efforts that saved the lives of many Jews. Cardinal Bertone spoke Jan. 24 at

the presentation of the Italian translation of the book "The Righteous: The Unsung Heroes of the Holocaust," by Martin Gilbert. The cardinal said the book illustrated how people of many faiths, including Christians and Muslims, had risked their lives to save Jews from Nazi persecution and death in concentration camps. He said the Catholic Church as an institution played a part in this effort, working under Pope Pius and following his directives. The church aided all during World War II, but specifically sought to defend and save persecuted Jews, he said. "They were to be helped in any way possible. This is the premise on which every action of the pope and his aides was founded, as is demonstrated by the existing documentation," Cardinal Bertone said.

Bishop lauds Bush's desire for comprehensive immigration reform

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Migration applauded President George W. Bush's advocacy during his Jan. 23 State of the Union address for comprehensive immigration reform. "I welcome the remarks of President Bush," said Bishop Gerald R. Barnes of San Bernardino, Calif., in a Jan. 25 statement. "Comprehensive immigration reform is clearly a high priority for our nation and should be high on the agenda of the 110th Congress," he added. "The issue of immigration reform is ripe for federal action." Bush, in his address, asked Congress for "a serious, civil and conclusive debate so that you

can pass — and I can sign — comprehensive immigration reform into law." Bishop Barnes said, "In part because of inaction at the federal level, states and localities are moving to adopt their own laws in this area. Americans throughout the country strongly desire that Congress solve the problem of illegal immigration." He added, "As the recent raids on meatpacking plants demonstrate, families are subject to separation and dislocation. As a moral matter, our nation can no longer accept the work and taxes of migrant laborers without offering them legal protection."

Bishop bucks Vatican on phrasing about married deacons and priesthood

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — A Mexican bishop is bucking Vatican orders to erase a phrase in his pastoral plan that notes the desire among his indigenous communities that married permanent deacons be ordained priests. The phrase is not fanning the hopes of a married priesthood, but simply reporting the feelings of many indigenous Catholics, said Bishop Felipe Arizmendi Esquivel of San Cristobal de Las Casas in Mexico's Chiapas state. The phrase remains in the pastoral plan "because the faithful have the right to be heard by their pastors. To listen is not the same as to approve," he said, in a Jan. 24 statement posted on the Web site of the Mexican bishops' conference. Bishop Arizmendi said he does not support a married priesthood. He issued the statement after several Mexican news organizations reported on a Sept. 26 Vatican letter complaining that the diocese still had not eliminated the phrase nor had it made changes in its program for training married men to be permanent deacons. The Vatican made the letter public in mid-January. It was signed by Cardinal Francis Arinze, head of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments.

Guatemala's 'angel of the garbage dump' dies in car crash

GUATEMALA CITY (CNS) — Hanley Denning, known in Guatemala as "the angel of the garbage dump" because she helped poor children escape garbage picking as a livelihood, died in a car crash in Guatemala. Five days after her Jan. 18 death at age 36, a documentary featuring Denning was nominated for an Oscar. Denning died from injuries suffered when the car she was in collided with a bus on a mountain road outside of Guatemala City. She was a native of Yarmouth, Maine. With help from a \$10,000 grant from the Sisters of the Precious Blood in Dayton, Ohio, Denning founded Safe Passage in 1999, an educational reinforcement program for children whose parents take them daily to Guatemala City's garbage dump to look for recyclable articles that could be sold. On Jan. 23, "Recycled Life," a documentary in which Denning commented on the lives of garbage pickers was nominated for an Oscar in the category for best documentary short by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Mozart meets American Idol in Saint Mary's 'Opera'

NOTRE DAME — Saint Mary's College students, along with members of the Michiana community, bring zany opera ensembles to the stage a la "American Idol" in "The Divine Music of the La La Sisterhood." Performances are Friday and Saturday, Feb. 2-3, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Feb. 4, at 2:20 p.m. in the Little Theatre, Moreau Center for the Arts.

This kid-friendly show adds funk and fun to traditional opera scenes from "Magic Flute," "Rusalka," "The Impresario," "Cenerentola" and "Rosenkavalier."

Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for senior citizens, \$3 for SMC/ND staff and free for students. Tickets are available through the Saint Mary's College box office by visiting Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., or by calling (574) 284-4626.

Lindenwood holds men's retreat

DONALDSON — Registrations are now being taken for the men's Lenten retreat entitled "Who Is My Brother?"

The family of Jesus comes to him, and he asks, "Who are my brothers and sisters? Those who do the will of my Father are my brothers and sisters." The prayers and presentations for the retreat will focus on these passages from Mark and Matthew and understanding God's will.

Facilitator Father Steve Gibson, CSC, is a Holy Cross priest who worked in East Africa for eight years and at the Fatima Retreat Center for 27 years. He is currently director of Holy Cross Media Center. Also facilitating will be Jay Freel Landry. He has a master's of divinity from the University of Notre Dame and is currently a pastoral associate at Little Flower Catholic Church.

The program begins Friday, March 2, at 5:30 p.m. EST and concludes Sunday, March 4, at 1 p.m. EST. The program fee is \$130 per person, double occupancy or \$160 for single occupancy, and includes lodging and all meals. Registration deadline is Feb. 23. For more information or to register, contact Lindenwood at (574) 935-1780 weekdays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., e-mail lw@lindenwood.org or visit their Web site www.lindenwood.org.

Public invited to join USF trip to Chicago Art Institute

FORT WAYNE — The School of Creative Arts at the University of Saint Francis is planning a bus trip to the Art Institute of Chicago on Tuesday, Feb. 20.

The bus to Chicago will leave from the Rolland Center off Leesburg Road at 7:30 a.m. and return at approximately 10 p.m. The cost is \$40 for the general public.

Those interested in viewing the exhibit Cezanne to Picasso: Ambrose Vollard, Patron of the Avant-Garde must purchase tickets through the Art Institute's Web site at www.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

LEGACY AUCTION FOR ST. JOSEPH-ST. ELIZABETH SCHOOL



KAY COZAD

The third annual HASA (Home And School Association) Legacy Auction was held Saturday, Jan. 27, at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish hall. The silent and live auction, co-chaired by Susan Lee and Jeff Krudop, benefits the St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School. Dedicated school personnel, parents, grandparents and friends gathered for this gala social event to bid on generously donated items from dinner with the priests to a flat screen television. Proceeds from the fundraiser will go toward meeting the needs of the school. Past purchases include much needed buses and a state of the art computer lab for the St. Joseph campus. David and Christine Scott were master and mistress of ceremony, while Tony Henry was auctioneer. School Principal Lois Widner and Fathers Jim Shafer and Tim Wrozek thanked all the volunteers and attendees for their continued support of the children.

artic.edu/aic/exhibitions/picasso/.

Tickets for the bus trip may be purchased at the School of Creative Arts in the Rolland Center or by calling (260) 434-7591. For further information, please contact Esperanca Camara at (260) 434-7716, or e-mail ecamara@sf.edu.

Lourdes Charity Ball set for Feb. 17

SOUTH BEND — The Knights of Columbus, Santa Maria Council 553, will host the Lourdes Charity Ball on Saturday, Feb. 17, at the banquet hall at 553 E. Washington St.

The gala event is held annually to raise funds to send a pilgrim or pilgrims to the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, France.

A social hour begins at 5:30 p.m. with strolling minstrels. The dinner begins at 7 p.m., featuring prime rib and chicken cordon bleu with all the trimmings. In addition, there will be a chocolate fountain and a plentiful dessert bar. Dancing will follow to music of the Mike Vaszari Combo.

The cost is \$30 per person, and reservations may be made by calling (574) 243-9467 by Feb. 10. K.C. and Toni Pocius are the chairpersons.

Those interested in the Lourdes

pilgrimage can obtain a formal application form by calling (574) 243-9467 or writing to the Lourdes Charity Committee, 22411 Applewood Ln., South Bend, IN 46628.

Applicants should submit their interest in early spring. The pilgrimage generally takes place in October. A medical diagnosis should be provided.

Fort Wayne man represented Coast Guard at State of the Union

WASHINGTON — Nathan M. Thomas, son of Kim and Linda Thomas of Fort Wayne, was chosen to represent the U.S. Coast Guard at the State of the Union address Jan. 23. He graduated from Wayne High School in 2000 and was sworn into the U.S. Coast Guard in August of 2001. He is stationed in Miami, Fla. and just returned from a tour in Middle Eastern waters.

To be chosen for this privilege, a person must first be nominated, and then a resume of qualifications must be submitted to the government.

Thomas and his parents are members of St. Therese Catholic Church in Fort Wayne.

Ninth annual Carnival celebration comes to ND

NOTRE DAME — The spirited music and dance of Brazil will come to the University of Notre Dame when the Kellogg Institute for International Studies presents its ninth annual Carnival celebration Friday, Feb. 9, at 8 p.m. in Notre Dame's South Dining Hall. The event is free and open to the public.

This year's Carnival, a Brazilian celebration of Mardi Gras, will feature professional Brazilian dancers performing and teaching dance steps, as well as the samba and axé music of Chicago Samba, which features Brazilian musicians who have performed together for more than eight years.

Carnival is co-sponsored by Notre Dame's Institute for Latino Studies, Office of International Studies, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures' Program in Portuguese & Brazilian Studies, International Student Services and Activities, La Alianza, Brazil Club and La Fuerza at Saint Mary's College.

Krizmans receive Pillar of Life award

SOUTH BEND — In recognizing personal and family pro-life contributions to local and national movements, the St. Joseph County Right to Life, Inc., made its first annual Pillar of Life Award to Andrew and Florence Krizman.

In presenting the award at a special ceremony, St. Joseph County Right to Life President Thomas Gill said, "Three years ago our organization conducted a series of billboard announcements with a permanent message of life. The Krizmans were in the forefront of this educational drive."

In essence, their efforts have made this special Pillar of Life award possible. — EJD

'A TASTE OF SUCCESS' FOR VINCENT HOUSE RESIDENTS



DON CLEMMER

Jen Bell and Amie Loubier of the youth services program at Vincent House announce the "parent of the year" and "student of the year" awards at "A Taste of Success," a celebration recognizing the achievements of former Vincent House residents, on Jan. 27. Carla Kilgore, program director at Vincent House, conceived the idea for this first-time event and hopes to annually honor those who have overcome homelessness and other hardships.

Legislation to improve Indiana's informed consent law for abortion back again this year

BY BRIGID CURTIS AYER

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indiana General Assembly once again will consider improving Indiana's law for women considering abortion under a bill introduced Jan. 11 in the Indiana Senate.

If passed, Senate Bill 135, authored by Sen. Patricia L. Miller (R-Indianapolis) would change Indiana's abortion law by giving a pregnant woman seeking abortion more information on which to base her decision.

Under the proposed measure, a woman seeking abortion would be informed in writing that human life begins at fertilization and told by a physician that her fetus may feel pain during the procedure. The measure also requires written information be provided the mother on adoption options and risks associated

with the surgery.

Because current law requires an 18-hour waiting period, this information, both written and oral, would be presented to a woman seeking abortion at least 18 hours prior to her getting the abortion. Current law does not require any information be provided in writing. It requires a woman be told about 1) risks associated with abortion; 2) probable gestational age of the fetus; 3) the availability of ultrasound imaging and fetal heart tone; and 4) adoption options.

"I think this issue is a woman's right to know," said Sen. Miller. "Women need to be informed before they have an abortion," she said. "We need to inform them to the best of our ability. I'm pro-life and until something bigger happens, we need to make women more

aware."

In 2006, a similar bill, HB 1172, authored by Rep. Tim Harris (R-Marion), which was a priority bill for the Indiana Catholic Conference, nearly became law being passed by the Indiana House of Representatives with bipartisan support by a (70-30) vote, but failed in the last hours of the Indiana General Assembly in the Senate.

"The conference committee report on HB 1172 was signed last year and passed the House," said Sen. Miller. "It was on the calendar in the Senate, but we ran out of time," said the Indianapolis lawmaker. "I'm optimistic that the bill will pass the Senate this year, but I'm not sure what will happen in the House since there are new committee chairs."

Last year the Republicans controlled the Indiana House of Representatives and they held all the committee chairmanships, but the Democrats now control the Indiana House of Representatives. Committee chairs can determine the fate of legislation assigned to their committee since they decide which bills assigned to their committee will get a hearing and move forward in the process.

First hurdle for informed consent bill to jump — the committee process

Once a bill is introduced either in the House or Senate, it is then assigned to a committee for a hearing. During the hearing, which is open to the public, the author of the bill will give a brief overview of the bill's purpose and contents. The committee members are then able to ask the author pertinent questions. Then the committee members will hear public testimony from a representative of special interest groups, associations, civic or community leaders as well as ordinary citizens. These representatives will testify in support or opposition to the legislation. It is at this time when Indiana Catholic Conference Executive Director Glenn Tebbe will be the voice for the Indiana bishops and give the church's official position. Not only will Tebbe give an oral presentation of the church's position on the bill, but often times will submit the church's position on a bill in writing called a position paper. These position papers are available on the Indiana Catholic Conference's Web page. The United States Catholic Conference of Bishops

also posts position papers on proposed federal legislation on USCCB's (www.usccb.org) Web page.

In 2006, in addition to the Indiana Catholic Conference, groups who testified in support of HB 1172 primarily based on moral grounds included Advance America, the Indiana Family Institute and Indiana Right to Life. Groups testifying in opposition to HB 1172 primarily based on the arguments of privacy and reproductive rights included Planned Parenthood, the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), Indiana National Organization of Women (INOW) and the Indiana Civil Liberties Union (ICLU).

Senate Bill 135 begins in the Senate in the Senate Health and Provider Services committee, a committee which Sen. Miller chairs. As for the status of the bill Sen. Miller said, "Senate Bill 135 is not scheduled for a hearing, and I haven't had a chance yet to find a House sponsor for the bill."

Since Sen. Miller is chair of the committee and the bill's author, success for SB 135 at the committee hearing part of the process appears promising. The other members of the Senate Committee on Health and Provider Services who would get to vote on the bill include Sen. Earline S. Rogers (D-Gary); Sen. Gary Dillon (R-Pierceton); Sen. Vaneta Becker (R-Evansville); Sen. Sue Errington (D-Muncie); Sen. Beverly J. Gard (R-Greenfield); Sen. Connie Lawson (R-Danville); Sen. Ryan D. Mishler (R-Bremen); Sen. Marvin D. Riegsecker (R-Goshen); Sen. Vi Simpson (D-Bloomington); and Sen. Connie W. Sipes (D-New Albany). The earliest SB 135 would be heard in committee is on Feb. 8.

Abortion statistics in Indiana

The most current official abortion statistics available in Indiana are for the calendar year 2004. In 2004, the Indiana State Department of Health reported there were 10,514 abortions performed in Indiana compared to 11,458 in 2003.

The majority of mothers who received abortions 8,661 were not married meaning they were either never married, divorced or widowed at the time of their abortion. Nearly 4,000 or roughly 35 percent of mothers who received abortions were from the 20-24 age group. This age group constituted the highest number of abortions, followed by 2,375 or 22.5 percent of abortions by mothers in the 25-29 age group, and 1,460 or nearly 14 percent of abortions were by mothers in the 30-34 age group.

For a detailed list of abortion statistics in Indiana go to the Indiana State Department of Health's Web page at www.in.gov/isdh/ and click on "Data and Statistics," then click on "Induced Terminated Pregnancies."



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St. Mary, Decatur, youth ministry warms to new home

BY KAY COZAD

DECATUR — St. Mary of the Assumption Parish is celebrating these days, celebrating its youth and the new home their ministry has created with the help of Amber Heimann. The parish of 1,500 families has seen new life breathed into its youth ministry with the arrival of this new youth minister, and it appears she has big plans for them there.

Though the new youth ministry will focus on the preteen through high school population at church this year, Heimann's plan is to make it an intergenerational project.

"I've gotten young adults to help with them (youth). The youth can teach the little kids. We'll have parents involved and seniors to work with the group on service projects," she says. And that plan is taking shape.

Heimann, no stranger to working with youth, is second of five siblings in the family that grew up in Decatur. She received her Catholic education at St. Joseph School and later earned a degree in child health from Purdue University.

Her work with children in Haiti on three mission trips led her, following graduation, on a one year mission trip with Catholic Medical Mission Board to Jamaica where she ministered to children with disabilities as well. Upon her return to the U.S. she worked in home-care with the disabled population in Indianapolis.

Always open to God's call on her life, Heimann learned of a new full-time youth minister position open at her home parish in Decatur. She spoke with excitement of the possibility of a youth program there as she recalls her need for involvement as a teen growing up at St. Mary.

"I was sheltered in high school.

We needed a youth ministry in Decatur," she says. She wrote Father Dave Voors, pastor of St. Mary, a letter offering her assistance and much to her surprise was offered the position. After much prayer and discernment, she felt this was where God was drawing her and accepted the challenge.

Heimann has been working diligently since Oct. 1, to create a program that will be more than just "getting together for pizza." She has recruited 12 teens willing to be part of the planning committee, which was no easy task, she says. "We meet weekly, so they must be committed."

While developing ideas for the program, Heimann worked to find a space in which the kids could spread out. The previous youth group met in the small, antiquated boiler room in the basement of the church. As Divine Providence would have it, the parish was in possession of a donated house, directly across the street, and after sharing her vision for the youth house with Father Voors, it was agreed that the youth ministry would use the house for six months, at which time a reevaluation would occur.

"I told the kids, 'It's for six months. Help me prove to the parish that it's a worthwhile use,'" she says.

Of the direction the youth ministry is taking Father Voors says, "You hear the excitement in the parish as they talk about it. Amber is jumping in with everything she's got. We plan to strengthen the faith of the kids."

She immediately set to work cleaning the house and put the word out that the ministry was accepting donations of anything from furniture to paper goods. And with the generous assistance of the parish community the house is now furnished with couches and chairs, bookshelves, picture frames for the walls, kitchen items, a

hockey table and kneelers from the old convent to use in the prayer closet, a special space designated for prayer that includes a spotlighted crucifix and chairs. As the preparation continued Heimann was pleased to see the excitement grow among the youth there and says, "The kids are hungry for something. It's fun that they are creating this from scratch. Now they have a place to go."

The youth ministry grand opening was creatively announced to the parish with a special skit involving the youth following Masses one Sunday. So on the evening of Jan. 21, 70 youth gathered to inaugurate their new space. Father Voors offered a blessing on the house before silly door prizes were awarded and the Christian band Pople rocked the crowd. A creative cup contest was held and 21 flavors of Kool-Aid were merrily consumed by the group. Some of the youth "warmed" themselves by the fire, which for safety reasons was a "live fireplace" DVD playing on a TV insert in the old fireplace. They even had a visit from Moses and God who handed down the "commandments of the house." The evening, said one volunteer was a "smashing success."

As for the future, this spirited youth minister aspires to provide catechesis for the youth and help them develop an understanding of the church's teachings, all while having fun. With her passion for social justices, she also hopes to incorporate service work as the group grows and bonds. She is collaborating with other youth ministers for "tips" and hopes to offer an open invitation to the youth of the surrounding parishes who are unable to support a youth ministry. As for now, Amber Heimann, is grateful that the plans for this ministry are unfolding and she says with delight, "This is where God wants me to be."

HUNGARIAN SEMINARY RENOVATED AND REOPENED



PROVIDED BY EMMA AND JOSEPH SZALAY

With the assistance of generous donations from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, the seminary in Esztergom, Hungary, has been renovated. The building, which is several hundred years old, served as a barracks for Russian troops from 1945 to 1990. Cardinal Peter Erdo, the Hungarian prelate who visited the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend in August 2004, reopened the seminary on Sept. 2, 2006. Cardinal Erdo, through a message to Emma and Joseph Szalay of South Bend, sent his blessing and heartfelt thanks to Bishop John M. D'Arcy and all the people of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. On the hill in the background is the fifth largest basilica in the world.

Don't forget to:

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- Subscribe to Today's Catholic.
- Pray
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AMBER HEIMANN

Travis Wyss, Ty Heimann and Rachel Harmon "warmed" themselves by the fire, which for safety reasons was a "live fireplace" DVD playing on a TV inserted in the old fireplace.



Last fall, it was my privilege to lead a small pilgrimage from our diocese to Rome for the canonization of St. Mother Theodore Guérin. This time together — living in the shadow of St. Peter's Basilica; celebrating Mass there, as well as at St. Mary Major; concelebrating with Pope Benedict XVI at the canonization of four new saints; and praying at the tombs of St. Peter and St. Paul — brought out several significant things about our Catholic faith. I would be remiss as your bishop if I did not share them with you.

First lesson — The centrality of holiness

We were brought together from all over the world, with hundreds from the state of Indiana. Not for a world conference, not for the inauguration of a pope, but for a woman who had become a model of true holiness. Holiness is a participation in the divine, and it becomes evident over the course of the years. This holiness of a French

woman, filled with an indomitable spirit, made an extraordinary journey across the ocean. She only lived in this state for 18 years, but, because of her spirit and her teaching on spiritual matters, the women who followed her established here in this diocese and throughout the country centers of education and pastoral care.

We went there to reverence a saint. A life of charity and goodness always attracts. The church exists to draw people to God through a holy life. That is why we are on earth. It is my intention, perhaps in the fall but certainly during our Jubilee Year, to celebrate a Mass in honor of St. Mother Guérin, so that our people might pray to her and honor her, and that we might have her prayerful intercession in this diocese. The Mass will also give us the opportunity to honor the Sisters of Providence, the congregation she founded, who have been here from the beginning and whose holiness and missionary spirit has sponsored the founding of our Catholic schools. This Mass, along with another liturgical service for all our

consecrated religious, will help us to honor these communities as part of our jubilee for their lasting impact on our diocese by their work, but especially by their holiness of life.

The bishop

A priest makes several promises when he is ordained a bishop. After that, they should be forever written on his heart. Two are concerned with his relationship to the pope.

- "Do you resolve to build up the body of Christ, his church, and to remain in the unity of that body together with the order of bishops under the authority of the successor of St. Peter the Apostle?"

- "Do you resolve to render obedience faithfully to the successor of the blessed apostle?"

These photos of the local bishop and the Bishop of Rome are of the highest significance, as they are a symbol of that communion which must always exist between the local bishop and the universal church, between the local

Meeting with pope between bishop and

NEWS AND
BY BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY



These photos of Bishop John M. D'Arcy and Pope Benedict XVI are a sign of communion which must always exist between the local bishop and the universal church, between the Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend and the Successor of St. Peter, the Bishop of Rome.

church and the universal church, between the Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend and the Successor of St. Peter, the Bishop of Rome.

Thus, my meeting here with the pope, shown in these photos, is not just picture taking. It is a sign of this communion and obedience which I promised 32 years ago this week.

The theologian

This was the first time I met Joseph Ratzinger as Pope Benedict XVI, although I was privileged to know him and experience his holiness and learning when he was prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. The cardinal was always pleased to speak about theology as presented in this country in our great universities. An eminent theologian himself, he was intensely aware of the importance of theology for the life of faith. At one time, Professor John Cavadini, chair of the theology department at Notre Dame had invited Cardinal Ratzinger to speak at the university. I accompanied this invitation with a personal letter in support of the request. Although Cardinal Ratzinger could not come, his letter to me was most gracious and expressed how important he regarded the invitation; and he sent his regards to Professor Cavadini and his colleagues.

In reply I wrote, "Well, perhaps some day the professor will come to Rome." John Cavadini came, although he could only stay two nights, and now the world's preeminent theologian



gian was the Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend and the Successor of St. Peter, the Bishop of Rome. attached photos are not just picture taking, but rather a sign of the importance of communion and obedience which I promised 32 years ago this week. theologians and the



St. Mother Theodore Guérin was canonized a saint on Oct. 14, 1982. In this column, Bishop John M. D'Arcy writes, "It is my intention, perhaps in the fall but certainly during our Jubilee Year, to celebrate a Mass in honor of St. Mother Guérin, so that our people might pray to her and honor her, and that we might have her prayerful intercession in this diocese."

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D NOTES
HN M. D'ARCY



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

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e Guérin was canon- 15, 2006 in Rome. op John M. D'Arcy ention, perhaps in y during our Jubilee Mass in honor of St. hat our people nd honor her, and er prayerful inter- se."

terium. The following texts show the significances of the church in our time.

"The living magisterium of the church and theology, while having different gifts and functions, ultimately has the same goal: preserving the people of God in the truth which sets them free and thereby making them 'a light to the nations.' This service to the ecclesial community brings the theologian and the magisterium into a reciprocal relationship."

"To be sure, theology and the magisterium are of diverse nature and missions and cannot be confused. Nevertheless, they fulfill two vital roles in the church which must penetrate and enrich each other with service to the people of God."

— "Instruction on the Ecclesial Vocation of the Theologian"

Thus, this small pilgrimage of seven priests, two of our lay staff and one bishop made manifest three important things. The centrality of holiness and the universal call of the church, that for everyone, for pope, bishop, theologians, catechists, husbands and their wives, carpenters, attorneys, physicians and laborers — all are called to holiness in life.

Secondly, the fundamental link, which must never be broken but must always be strengthened between the local church of the Diocese of Fort



John Cavadini, chair of the theology department at the University of Notre Dame, was among the pilgrims from the diocesan contingency for the canonization of St. Mother Theodore Guérin, although the professor could only stay two nights. These photos are not just about a tourist, but rather symbolize the importance of communion between theologians and the church's magisterium.

Wayne-South Bend through its bishop to the Bishop of Rome, the successor of the Apostle Peter, and the universal church was also central during our time in Rome. Its relationship with Peter and the recall of his martyrdom in Rome as the Prince of the Apostles must always be cherished.

In addition to these two gifts of the church — holiness and communion between the local and universal church — another critical truth is the essential link between the theologian and the magisterium of the church, a link threatened in our time, but most necessary for the progress of theology and for the nourishment of faith. A most distinguished American Catholic theologian has put it:

"Theologians and bishops in spite of their different roles in the church are fundamental allies because they are alike committed

to maintain and explore the unfathomable riches of Christ, in whom alone is given the truth that makes us free.

— "The Craft of Theology: From Symbol to System,"
A. Dulles

As we continue the observance of our jubilee year may these truths always be before us: the centrality of the holiness of life, the link to the local church to the successor of Peter, and the communion which must always exist between theologians and the magisterium who are "fundamental allies." This is the meaning of the beautiful picture between the chair of the theology department of Notre Dame and Pope Benedict XVI, a photo which also includes the local bishop. I pray to Our Lady that these three great truths may grow in our diocese in the providential

year which lies before us.

After two days of retreat I had several important days in South Bend. Two are related to a parish. The first was painful and beautiful. It was a liturgical linking or merger between St. Mary of the Assumption Parish and St. Jude Parish, South Bend. The second was the official blessing of the cornerstone of the new addition to the school at Holy Cross Parish, South Bend. Time does not allow me to set these out now. These two important events will have to wait until next week. I shall share them with you at that time.

Next Sunday, Feb. 11, I will be a bishop for 32 years, a great blessing from God. I hope and pray that he is pleased with my efforts. It seems an appropriate time for you to see these photos of your local bishop with the Pope.

I will see you all next week.





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Sacraments — our life in and with Christ

BY GERVAISE BASTIAN

Opening prayer

Heavenly God, as we gather in prayer this day, we recognize the lack of unity, love and justice among your people. At times your presence among us goes unrecognized, unnoticed and unappreciated. Be with us as we ponder your living presence among us. Enlighten us with the spirit of wisdom and knowledge. Teach us to reverence your word and open ourselves to receive your message of love and care for us. We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, your son, through the intercession of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Scripture: Eph 1:3-6

Commentary

Sacraments are the living gift of Jesus' presence with us in all circumstances and times of our lives. Do you recall our Baltimore Catechism definition? "A sacrament is an outward sign instituted by Christ to give grace." The Catechism of the Catholic Church says, "A sacrament is an efficacious sign of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the church, by which divine life is dispensed to us through the work of the Holy Spirit." Sacraments are the moments when we celebrate the living presence of our God through ritual and symbol.

Vatican II recovered for us the rich heritage of the sacramental life of the apostolic church. We find the early church celebrating, first and foremost, the "breaking of the bread" — sharing the body and blood of Christ in community

and taking the eucharistic bread to all who were absent, sick or in prison. As they gathered, they recognized their sinfulness and asked pardon of one another and of the community for conduct that did not build up the body of Christ.

Entrance into this community of believers was celebrated after an intense period of preparation. New members were received through the profession of faith accompanied by the water ritual, the calling forth of the Spirit through the laying on of hands and anointing with oil. The initiation process culminated with members joining the community at the table of the Lord. The sick among them were not left unattended; deacons and presbyters were called forth from the community of believers to pray over and anoint with the healing oil. As Jesus had done throughout his ministry, the early followers of Jesus used the gifts of their ordinary lives to bless and sanctify their prayers and rituals of initiation, reconciling and healing, the calling forth and laying hands on one another. Their lives were immersed in the living presence of Jesus.

When Constantine declared Christianity the religion of the Roman Empire in the third century, the intensity of the life of those who had lived through persecution after persecution for their faith changed. Entrance into the community of believers became more relaxed, and the fullness of the sacramental life became less important. Through the centuries that followed, the sacramental life of the church went through gradual and continuous change; the richness of the early sacramental life, at times, became diminished.

As the church grew, the church community met in larger gather-

ings. The passage of time saw less intimate contact among the people and a gradual shift to legalism in the celebration of the sacraments.

Over the centuries of change, the church was challenged at times. Perhaps the greatest challenge came from Martin Luther. At that moment in history, the Catholic Church reiterated its belief in the seven sacraments and their essential place in Catholic theology. Change in the understanding and practice of the sacramental life, however, was realized when Pope John XXIII convened the Second Vatican Council. His "opening the window to allow some fresh air" into the church caused a new burst of the "breath of the Spirit." Theologians and scholars revisited the apostolic church — a time of ritual, prayer and celebration of God's love and care for his people. Each sacrament was researched and studied with special emphasis on the spirit of faith, mutual love and caring.

Rituals and symbols continue to tell us the story of how intimately we are united with our God as we walk through our lives of uncertainty, joy, pain and sorrow.

Sacraments of initiation

Have you recently been to an Easter Vigil when the elect became members of our church? The sacraments of initiation (baptism, confirmation and Eucharist) call the elect forth as we welcome them to membership into our community of believers. The waters of baptism cleanse them from sin and claim them for Christ; the laying on of hands and the anointing with oil consecrate them for the journey of faith to which they are called. They complete their initiation by

joining the community at the eucharistic table.

Sacraments of healing and reconciliation

When we, through our sinfulness and neglect, separate ourselves from the community of believers, the consoling and reconciling hand of the priest imparts to us the forgiveness of our sins and reconciles us with God and one another. The sacrament of reconciliation restores us to our place in the community just as the robe, the ring and the sandals restored the prodigal son to his father's house.

As we struggle through our lives and meet pain, sorrow, illness and death, we are not left to fend for ourselves. The sacrament of the anointing of the sick brings us gifts of comfort, peace, healing and reconciliation. The priest and extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist pray with us and bring the bread of life in our days of challenge and pain.

Sacraments of commitment

God calls each of us to use the gifts and talents we are given for the benefit of the community. To be faithful to the call demands a deep commitment to the values and lifestyle we have chosen. Through the sacrament of holy orders, our priests are commissioned to call us to believe, to remember and to celebrate our union with Christ through the Eucharist and the sacramental life of the church. The sacrament of marriage blesses the union of spouses as they live their love with one another, their family, church, and community.

Rituals, though not sacramental, also celebrate entrance into religious life. Members of religious communities profess vows of poverty, chastity and obedience as they devote their lives to the good of the community of believers.

Sacramentals

Various other rituals mark times of celebrating and honoring Mary and the saints, moments of adoration and praise before the Blessed Sacrament, prayer of the Divine Office. The use of holy water, palms, rosaries, medals, crucifixes and other religious objects also call us to a deeper spirituality. We find ourselves filled with moments of awe and awareness of God's presence as we realize the birth of a new child or the glory of a beautiful sunset. We call these prayerful moments and objects of prayer "sacramentals."

We are blessed as we realize that all of creation is sacred and a gift to all creatures of the earth. Jesus chose to become one of us, and he sanctified our lives by partaking fully in the joys, pains, difficulties and sorrows that confront

us every day. We can best reverence and celebrate his life in thankfulness and praise if we walk with him and allow his presence to challenge, console, reconcile and lead us in all that we experience. His sacramental presence gifts us throughout our earthly pilgrim journey.

Reflection and connection

- Speak to one another about the cycles of human life and how each of life's stages is blessed and celebrated in sacramental moments of ritual and symbol. Recall the importance of each sacrament you have received in your journey of life.

- Sacraments are the sources of grace and blessings in our lives. Each sacrament continues to unfold and grace us throughout our journey of conversion. Our gifts, joys, pains, sorrows and challenges are brought to these moments of grace. How have you realized the ongoing "gifting" of your life through sacramental living?

- Sacramentals are a constant and repeated source of grace and blessing in our lives. How do you appreciate and pray through sacramental moments of encounter with God's goodness?

Evangelization action challenge

For interior renewal

Spend an hour in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Focus your prayer on listening to what God desires for you as you live your sacramental life. Listen to your heart and its little nudges and urgings to more deeply commit to the life of Jesus within you.

For reaching out to others

Give your children an opportunity to celebrate the sacrament of baptism with the faith community. Share the joyous moments of his/her own baptism.

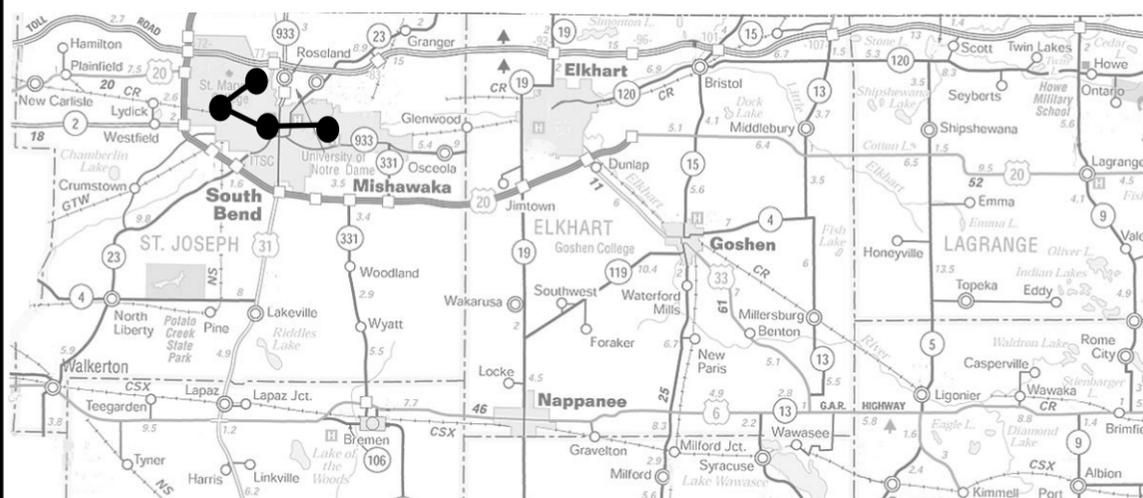
For transforming society

Consider ways to be true to the grace of each sacrament, realizing the importance of "living the Eucharist" in your daily family life and in the marketplace.

Closing prayer

Gracious and loving God, we thank and praise you for your bountiful goodness. You have gifted us with the presence of Jesus, your son, through the sacramental life of your living body, the church. The gift of your Spirit continues to enrich and console us as we follow the way of reconciliation, justice and peace. We desire to live our lives fully immersed in the community of those you have called to be your disciples. We ask this gift through the merits of your son, Jesus, and through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Jubilee Pilgrim Cross



Feb. 2 - 9	St. Monica/IUSB	Mishawaka
Feb. 9 - 16	St. Anthony de Padua/Bethel College	South Bend
Feb. 16-23	St. Joseph	South Bend
Feb. 23-March 2	Little Flower	South Bend

EDITORIAL

Religion, politics, the media, you

Despite the fact that it is nearly two years away, the 2008 presidential election seems to be running at full steam. Candidate after candidate has declared his or her intentions to run, and last month, four candidates did so within a week and a half of each other via Web videos on their respective Web sites. The best known candidates in this mix — Sen. Barack Obama and Sen. Hillary Clinton — got most of the media attention, but it is worth mentioning that the two lesser-known candidates — Kansas Sen. Sam Brownback and New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson — are both Catholic.

Brownback and Richardson are not the first Catholics to enter what is already turning out to be a crowded race. And, more than likely, they will not be the last. The Catholic Church, of course, will not endorse any candidate or party, but the entry of these men into the race — and the high-tech fashion in which they chose to do so — still raises some interesting points.

First, with so many of them in or almost in the race, it is clear that Catholics — once relegated to the margins of the political landscape, reviled in the 19th century and an oddity when John F. Kennedy ran for president in 1960 — now occupy a prominent and prevalent place in American politics, an invigorating thought and one loaded with possibilities.

Second, the candidacies of these two men underscore the richness and vastness of the faith. In their Web videos, Sen. Brownback and Gov. Richardson emphasize different areas of Catholic teaching, with Brownback discussing the sanctity of human life and the value of families and Richardson discussing world poverty and health care.

Third, that they announced their candidacies with Web videos emphasizes the increasingly pivotal role technology plays in the world, particularly in gathering and disseminating information. With so much information out there, it is both a luxury and a burden to people. Yes, the information is out there, but they have to sift through so much of it to get the information they need — be it about someone running for president, the latest proclamation from the Vatican or the state of poverty and genocide in Third World countries.

Catholics too have a responsibility to utilize the information available to them to familiarize themselves with issues and events facing the church and the world. They can then better inform their consciences and act in accordance with that conscience. And it is from this standpoint that the Catholic press — *Today's Catholic* and other publications — take on special importance, as Catholic media outlets provide a direct line to these issues and to news concerning the church itself, which often gets only fleeting coverage in the secular press.

And with all of the hustle and hype following new media and information technology, the presence of Catholic press also helps to do what the church has always done in the midst of so much noise and trendiness — refocus people on what is truly lasting and meaningful.

Time to renew

February is Catholic Press Month. Like secular newspapers, Catholic newspapers struggle to retain or gain readership. In many ways, newspapers are a victim of “information overload.” There are many outlets to get news — newspapers, television, radio, Internet, magazines to name just a few.

In the age of being bombarded with secular messages, we encourage you and members of your family to make our diocesan publication a part of your weekly reading. At *Today's Catholic*, we feel it is important that the people of our diocese be informed about the issues of our times and how our diocese responds to these issues. We are eager to share the good news of Jesus Christ as it is experienced throughout our diocese, in our parishes, in our homes.

Today's Catholic provides news through its traditional print newspaper, the new digital version and through the cutting-edge podcast, which will soon be aired weekly on Redeemer Radio besides its availability on our Web site, www.diocesefwsb.org or through iTunes.

Please complete the *Today's Catholic* renewal envelope in your church envelope packet. Checks are payable to *Today's Catholic* and the envelope may be dropped in the collection basket this Sunday, Renewal Sunday.

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

COMMENTARY

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

Theology teachers encourage Congressman Donnelly

We want to congratulate Congressman Joe Donnelly (D-2nd) for having the courage to vote no on the recent measure to expand federal funding for embryonic stem-cell research. Congressman Donnelly, who is Catholic, was one of 16 Democrats to oppose the bill, so the pressure to renege on his pro-life convictions was obviously strong.

Thank you for standing up for life and let's hope and pray that you can be an example to other Catholic legislators who blithely choose to ignore church teachings as it relates to abortion, euthanasia, immigration and the poor.

Kathy Byrne
Mike Hamann
Joe Miller
Saint Joseph's High School
theology teachers
South Bend

'Miracles' writer corrects address

The Tom Sheridan letter, which was published Jan. 28, 2007 in *Today's Catholic*, contained a mistake in the address. Send miracle stories to: Tom Sheridan, 15771 SW 16th Terrace, Ocala, FL 34473.

Support seminarian program

This seminarian program was approved by the Indiana State Council, Knights of Columbus in 1985 under the direction of Tony Muffoletto, who ran the program until 1999 when he relinquished the chairmanship to me, Dr. John B. Toepp.

Since 1985, approximately \$500,000 has been raised through the generosity of the Indiana Knights.

At first, the money collected was equally divided among the five dioceses for distribution to their most needy seminarians. This was later changed, and every diocesan semi-

narian of all five dioceses was sent an equal check from the proceeds collected from the Knights.

Checks have averaged from \$335 (in 2006, given to 80 seminarians) to over \$500 depending on the total number of seminarians, as well as the amount collected from the Knights for that particular year. 2006 saw the greatest number of seminarians studying for the priesthood since the inception of the program.

The state officers and the vocations chairman continue to find ways to get our message across to our members, as well as to all Catholics. In 2004, a campaign was started where a message statement was published in all five diocesan newspapers during Vocations Week and World Day of Prayer for Vocations telling their readers that we Knights pray for vocations and invite all who see the message to join us and pray for vocations with us.

Now, will you do so likewise? After all, it will only be through prayer and sacrifices on the part of parents that priests and religious will once again multiply.

Dr. John B. Toepp
South Bend

Bishop Dwenger rallies for life in D.C.

BY KAI YOUNG

So the other day I was riding my bicycle through the addition. I come across a woman and I say hi and ask how she is. She replies “good.” I stop and we talk for about five minutes. I mentioned that that night I was going on a trip to Washington, D.C. She asked why. I truthfully responded that I was attending the National March for Life. She kind of nodded and began walking away. That was the end of that. Standing up for what you believe is right doesn't always get the best response, especially when you witness to it by spreading the word.

Despite condemnation from some of society, why do more than 25,000 Catholic youths and 125,000 others of varying faiths travel across the country to go on a walk? “We do it because we know that we are helping even though we are a speck in the crowd. We love to exercise our freedom to assemble,” says a senior from Bishop Dwenger High School and third-year marcher.

Many cram into the National Basilica of the Immaculate Conception for Mass on Sunday night. This number easily surpasses 10,000. Then the next morning there is a rally for life at the Verizon Center. Yes, this is where the Washington Wizards play professional basketball. Does it seem like it doesn't pass as the holy of holies? Well, when you have to seat more than 20,000 Catholic youths for Mass, where else are you going to go. About 4,700 were turned away and redirected to other places for Mass.

Bishop Dwenger Saints for Life, the pro-life group at the high school, contributed 49 youths and six chaperones to this number. They have sent a group this size every year for the last seven years, filling the Excellent Adventures bus. People from Dwenger always enjoy this trip. People that have gone in the past return through their senior year and many continue this through college. This year we met up with Bishop Dwenger High School graduates that now attend Wabash College, Marian College and Purdue University.

The march this year was a success — 150,000 is a good turnout, significantly higher than the 20,000 in 1974. All these people stood in the snow for three hours waiting for the march to start. Some people were selling giant pretzels, others bottled water and most of all people had things they handed out. Once it commenced, the walk was about 45 minutes, depending where you were in the crowd. During these 45 minutes, you passed some people saying the rosary and you are more than welcome to join in.

My favorite is the chant, “Your Mom!” then all the new people start wondering where they are going with this. When the chant is closed with “Chose Life!” you feel better. You would be amazed at the diversity of people. There are banners from this church and that organization from New Orleans to Denver to Fort Wayne and Mishawaka. And people walk around and friendly ask, “Would you like a sign?”

The students begin the journey on Saturday night, sleep through the trip, tour for a few hours after

breakfast at the ever classy McDonalds, then go to the basilica to get a seat. Apparently two-and-a-half hours beforehand isn't even close to early enough for a chair. So we sit on the floor and wait. When Mass begins, there is a 25-minute procession with six cardinals, a few dozen bishops and a few hundred priests, deacons and seminarians. Every nook and cranny in the upper church, lower church and over 75 side chapels is filled. Communion takes 45 minutes, and the exit procession 20 minutes. All in all it is two-and-a-half hours of “the most amazing worship humanly possible,” adds another Dwenger senior and three-time participant. The group then leaves on the bus, trying not to loose people in the chaos on the way, and heads toward a local Catholic grade school. They sleep on the floor, guys downstairs and ladies upstairs. After a fantastic four hours of sleep they go to the rally, where artists such as Steve Angrisano sings and gets the kids pumped up. Then there is yet another amazing Mass. The group marches with police escort to the main march site and wait. They participate in the march then head to union station for some well-deserved shopping and dinner before leaving for home, then sleeping though the night on the bus once again.

Kai Young is a Bishop Dwenger High School senior and the co-president of Saints for Life. He is a three-time participant in the national and local march.

Italian case highlights complex issue

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The death of an Italian muscular dystrophy patient who had his respirator disconnected is fueling a complex and significant discussion among top church officials.

Piergiorgio Welby, who was paralyzed and kept alive by a breathing machine for nine years, pleaded for months for the device to be turned off. He said medical technology was only artificially postponing his death.

In late December, a physician granted his request, and Welby died shortly afterward.

The case had already become a political football in Italy, as proponents of right-to-die legislation flocked to Welby's bedside and, with his support, used his suffering to promote their cause.

The church was drawn in directly when Cardinal Camillo Ruini, papal vicar of Rome, denied Welby a church funeral, saying he had committed suicide. The cardinal's decision was bitterly criticized by Welby's widow and many other Italians, including some prominent Catholics.

Two Vatican officials steered clear of such judgments. Cardinal Javier Lozano Barragan, president of the Pontifical Council for

Health Care Ministry, and Bishop Elio Sgreccia, president of the Pontifical Academy for Life, said they did not have enough information to say whether this was a case of assisted suicide or the legitimate rejection of unreasonably burdensome treatment.

On Jan. 21, Italian Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini added his voice to the discussion, in an article published in the Italian newspaper *Il Sole 24 Ore*. Cardinal Martini has Parkinson's disease, and said he wrote the piece partly because of his own medical experiences.

Cardinal Martini appeared to be sympathetic to Welby's request. He pointed out that Welby was lucid when he asked for suspension of the long years of respiratory treatment through a tracheotomy, which offered the patient no possibility of improvement.

The cardinal said the distinction between euthanasia and relief from oppressive therapy is an important one. The church condemns euthanasia, which it describes as an act or omission that, of itself or by intention, causes death in order to eliminate suffering.

On the other hand, as Cardinal Martini noted, the church says it is

THE VATICAN LETTER

JOHN THAVIS

legitimate to discontinue medical treatment that is too burdensome, dangerous or disproportionate to the expected outcome.

Welby had argued that, given his prolonged suffering and no chance of improvement, suspending treatment was the ethical decision.

Cardinal Martini did not offer a specific judgment on the Welby case, but noted that it is generally up to the patient to decide whether a treatment is proportionate or disproportionate.

Cardinal Martini's commentary was carefully worded, but newspaper headlines boiled it down to: "Cardinal says patients should have right to die."

That prompted Bishop Sgreccia to respond with an article of his own, published Jan. 23 in Italy's

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THE CATEQUIZ'EM

By Dominic Camplisson

On Feb. 5, the Church remembers St. Agatha. This quiz aggravates agnostics by asking agonizing questions.

- 1. St. Agatha is patroness of this very specialist group:**
a. farmers b. soldiers c. bell makers
- 2. In the early church, agape not only meant love, but was one of these:**
a. a communal meal
b. a book of the Bible (now suppressed)
c. a level of hierarchy
- 3. Agathangelos is a possible pseudonym for a writer who chronicled the conversion of this country, the first to be officially Christian:**
a. Albania b. Armenia c. Austria
- 4. Agatho rose to this top office in the church in the 7th century:**
a. archbishop b. editor c. pope
- 5. An Agnostic is one who:**
a. believes in God, but does not as a result change his or her behavior
b. believes that it is impossible to know if there is a God
c. rejects the whole idea of god and prefers science
- 6. "Agrapha" refer to sayings attributed to Christ that are:**
a. not in the Bible
b. condensed from the Bible by removing the linking narrative
c. recorded by sources later found to be Muslim in origin
- 7. The Order of Agonizants or Camillians, specialized in ministering to those near:**
a. inebriation b. Rome c. death
- 8. What is canonical age?**
a. the same as the age of reason
b. the age at which the church determines a person may validly do certain things, like get ordained or marry
c. the age at which a person is held morally responsible for the sins of his or her parents
- 9. St. Agnes is associated with what animal?**
a. the orangutan
b. the wombat
c. the lamb
- 10. As well as being a part of a prayer, an Agnus Dei is traditionally:**
a. a papal medallion, made of wax
b. a type of cart or chariot used by the popes
c. a helmet, in the shape of a sheep's head worn by the Swiss guards
- 11. The splendidly named 16th century thinker Agrippa von Nettesheim, though nominally a Catholic, upset many with his appeal to the importance of:**
a. secret magical wisdom linked to revelation
b. soup as a mainstay of the monastic diet
c. icons as a foil to Islam
- 12. St. Agabus was a first century prophet. He is featured in this book of the Bible:**
a. Exodus b. Acts c. Thomas
- 13. The church of the Agapemone was a little different from most 19th century sects in that its leader and his successor boldly declared themselves to be:**
a. the Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ, respectively
b. Christian
c. followers of the true church
- 14. As well as an epoch of history, the "age of reason" is:**
a. the period in which theology and science will merge (25th century)
b. the period before the church was legalized
c. the age at which a child is assumed to be morally responsible for his/her actions
- 15. Aggiornamento was the phrase used at Vatican II and by Pope John XXIII to mean:**
a. the changing of the Catholic faith to be in conformity with modern society
b. the eradication of elements of Catholicism that conflicted with other religions
c. the updating of the presentation of the faith, without changing its essence

ANSWERS:

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

We have a role to play in work of salvation



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Lk 5:1-11

The Book of Isaiah is the source of the first reading this weekend. Written before the Babylonian conquest, this prophecy was composed when, relatively speaking, and with some qualification, the southern kingdom of the Hebrews was tranquil and prosperous.

Nevertheless, Isaiah felt that he was called by God to confront the people about their infidelity to God or at least their lukewarmness in responding to their role as God's special people. The story, told in this reading, conveys by its drama and bluntness the totality required in Isaiah's willingness to answer the divine calling to be a prophet.

Here, in this reading, Isaiah displays the fervor and power that are typical of the writing in all three sections of this ancient book.

Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians provides the next reading. Paul recalls the death of Jesus and then the Lord's Resurrection, giving the details that Peter, whom Paul calls "Cephas," using the Greek term, saw Jesus after the Resurrection, that James saw Jesus, and that even 500 of those who believed in the Gospel saw the risen Lord.

The reading also is autobio-

graphical. Paul declares that he himself is an apostle, having been called by the Lord. However, he calls himself "least" among the apostles, since he, unlike the others, once persecuted Christ living in the community of Christians.

Still, God called him. Unrestrained by this sense of personal unworthiness, Paul wholeheartedly responds to this calling. He is God's instrument. Through him, God works the plan of redemption and mercy.

St. Luke's Gospel supplies the last reading. This particular passage shows the fine literary hand at work in the composition of the Gospel of Luke, and by extension the other Gospels. Here Luke uses the Gospel of Mark as a source, but then he adds details drawn from a source also used by John.

Of course, Jesus is the central figure in the story. But, the next most important figure is Peter. A fisherman, along with his brother, Andrew, both of them living in Capernaum, Peter was in his boat on the Sea of Galilee when Jesus embarked. The Lord began to preach to the people assembled on the shore.

Then Jesus told Peter to row into deeper water and lower the nets into the water. Peter mildly protests, saying that he and his associates have been fishing all night, but with no success.

Nonetheless, Peter does as told. The result is that the nets are so filled with fish that Peter and his companions have difficulty in pulling the nets aboard.

Humbly, aware of the Lord's power, Peter confesses his own sinfulness. Jesus sweeps beyond this admission, recognizing Peter's faith instead, and calling Peter thereafter to fish for souls.

Reflection

For weeks, actually since Christmas, the church has been introducing us, as it were, to Jesus. The great feasts of the Epiphany and of the Baptism of the Lord told us about Jesus.

Now, subtly but firmly, the church leads us to respond to this entry of Jesus into our consciousness. How shall we respond?

The church answers the question by putting before us three of the greatest figures in the tradition of holiness. First Isaiah, followed by Paul, and then finally by Peter.

Each manifests his unworthiness to be a part of the great and divine mission of salvation. Yet, fully realizing this unworthiness, God calls them each to a particular task.

Each person who hears the word of Christ, and is healed and strengthened by Christ's life in grace, has a holy task. Each believer has a role to play in the work of salvation. Everyone is unworthy. Nevertheless, God calls us, and God will give us all that we need truly to be saved from our sins.

READINGS

Sunday: Is 6:1-2a, 3-8 Ps 138:1-5, 7-8 1 Cor 15:1-11 Lk 5:1-11

Monday: Gn 1:1-19 Ps 104:1-2a, 5-6, 10, 12, 24, 35c Mk 6:53-56

Tuesday: Gn 1:20-2:4a Ps 8:4-9 Mk 7:1-13

Wednesday: Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17 Ps 104:1-2, 27-30 Mk 7:14-23

Thursday: Gn 2:18-25 Ps 128:1-5 Mk 7:24-30

Friday: Gn 3:1-8 Ps 32:1-2, 5-7 Mk 7:31-37

Saturday: Gn 3:9-24 Ps 90:2-6, 12-13 Mk 8:1-10

Because of Pharaoh's obstinacy, God could show his power

If God wants everyone to be saved, why does Exodus say God hardened Pharaoh's heart against the Jews?
Anonymous

In chapter 4 of the Book of Exodus, Moses is hiding out in Midian, a region of the north-west Arabian peninsula east of the Gulf of Aqaba, because he had previously slain an Egyptian in Egypt. God told Moses to return to Egypt to free the Israelites from slavery. So Moses took his wife Zipporah, his two sons, a donkey and the staff God gave him, and started back to Egypt.

Then God tells Moses: "On your return to Egypt, see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders I have put in your power. However, I will make Pharaoh obstinate, i.e., harden his heart, so he will not let the people go." Thus God permitted Pharaoh to be stubborn in his opposition to the departure of the Israelites from Egypt.

Eventually Moses and his brother Aaron went to Pharaoh and said: "Thus says the God of Israel: Let my people go that they may celebrate a feast to me in the desert." Pharaoh responded: "What do you mean by taking the people away from their work?" Then Pharaoh grew harsher with the

Israelites and told his taskmasters: "You shall no longer supply the people with straw for their brick making. Let them gather straw themselves." Straw was mixed with the clay to give the sun-dried bricks greater consistency. Pharaoh then called the Israelites lazy and increased their work.

Finally Moses himself complained to God: "Why do you treat this people so badly? Pharaoh has maltreated them and you have nothing to rescue them." God replied: "Tell the Israelites: I will free you from the forced labor of the Egyptians and bring you to the promised land." But the Israelites would not listen, because of their dejection.

God then sent Moses and Aaron back to Pharaoh to demand the Israelites' freedom. But again God said, "Yet I will make Pharaoh so obstinate that, despite the many wonders I will work, he will not listen. Then I will bring the Israelites out of Egypt, so the Egyptians may learn that I am the Lord." When Aaron and Moses were before Pharaoh, Aaron's staff was changed into a snake, but Pharaoh remained obstinate.

Then came the 10 plagues: water of the river turned into blood, frogs were everywhere,

THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION

gnats abounded, flies swarmed all over, pestilence afflicted the livestock, festering boils appeared, fierce hail killed the unsheltered, locusts invaded, darkness covered the land, and the first-born of every person and beast died.

The New American Bible says most of these plagues are similar to the natural phenomena of Egypt. For example, the east wind from Arabia often brings locusts and the southern storm or khamsin blackens the sky with sand from the Sahara. But the plagues are supernatural in their intensity and in occurring exactly as Moses' command.

Pharaoh still remained obstinate. The Israelites fled Egypt. The Egyptians chased them, but were drowned in the sea. Thus the Israelites saw the great power of God and believed in Him. Because of Pharaoh's obstinacy, God could show his power.

adds: "Does not God the potter have the right to make from the same lump of clay one vessel for a lofty purpose and another for a humble one?"

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

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

True love and Pearl

You can't walk through the grocery store this time of year without being bombarded with trinkets of "love" — gaudy foiled chocolates, red and pink mugs declaring undying commitment and cards propositioning things that children should never hear about. Yup. Valentine's Day is right around the corner.

You'd think, judging by the elaborate way we celebrate the day that our society would value true love and commitment. It doesn't. In fact, according to recent statistics, more than 50 percent of all marriages end in divorce. Abortion is rampant in America, and according to Child Help, a national organization dedicated to the prevention and treatment of child abuse, three million reports of child abuse are reported every year. No, we as a society don't know how to love. But some individuals in our society do.

And this is what I was thinking as I passed by some Valentine's Day candy in the grocery store. I thought of fake love. I thought of no love. I thought of true love. And then I thought of "Pearl."

Pearl was a young, slender, attractive, single social worker living in California. She fought for her young clients who were often abandoned, neglected and taken from their natural homes for their own safety. Coworkers considered Pearl a "fireball" whose zeal for her work was unmatched. Her idealism paired with her practical, no-nonsense judgment gave her an edge in the fast-paced environment in which she worked.

Pearl worked with a young adolescent boy who was being bounced from home to home. His future looked bleak because he was deemed "un-adoptable." His age put him at his first disadvantage, and she discovered that his



EVERYDAY CATHOLIC

Theresa A. Thomas

skin was considered too black for the adoptive families who might otherwise consider him. His troubled past further reduced his chances of being welcomed into a permanent home. Pearl knew what kind of future the young man would have as a ward of the state. She also liked this young boy. She noticed his good qualities. We all might recognize the same in a child, in a situation such as this. But Pearl went a step farther. She did something that not many of us would ever have the courage to do. She adopted him.

Pearl's friends and family were skeptical. Why, she was barely 12 years older than her son. How could she raise this child, with three strikes against him to begin with, without the support of a husband? Pearl wasn't sure about the particulars. She just forged ahead with the best interests of another human being at heart.

When Pearl adopted her son, she gave him boundaries. She gave him discipline. And she gave him dedicated, powerful committed love. True love. Not sappy, sentimental, "I-pity-your-situation-you-poor-child-I'll-rescue-you" love, but "I-care-about-you-want-what's-best-for-you-and-am-willing-to-sacrifice-for-it-despite-your-objections" type love. Not the stuff of Hallmark cards. Better. Two years later when her son's biological brother also needed a home, this single white woman in her mid-20s chose love again when she adopted him too.

Pearl enrolled her children in

school. She worked evenings to bring them up to grade level. She signed them up for football and track, to give them an outlet for their energy. Then, to escape some negative influences on her children and to position them in the same town as supportive family, Pearl left her career and home, and moved with her boys almost 2,000 miles away, to Indiana.

The oldest went to college. The youngest, caught up to grade level by now, was enrolled in a Catholic high school and excelled on the school's football team. He was funny and smart, polite and easy-going. You'd pick him out of a crowd as confident and a leader. And when this young man graduated from high school (at 17, by the way), he had earned a scholarship for college. Pearl is now an empty nester — in her early 30s.

Pearl sees how her sacrifices were worth it. That's the funny thing about love. You give generously but receive tenfold in return.

This Valentine's Day, amidst the pink and red trinkets of the holiday, I am thinking of my husband, yes. I am tossing some candy kisses into my grocery cart for my kids too. But I am also thinking of another true love. I am also thinking of Pearl.

Theresa Thomas, parishioner of St. Matthew Cathedral Parish in South Bend, is the mother of nine children and wife of David. Visit her Web site at www.theresathomas.typepad.com.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

By Patricia Kasten

Gospel for February 4, 2007

Luke 5:1-11

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C: the call of the fishermen to Jesus' side. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

WORD OF GOD	STANDING BY	LAKE
GENNESARET	FISHERMEN	NETS
GETTING INTO	TAUGHT	SIMON
A CATCH	MASTER	NOTHING
FISH	HELP	KNEES
DEPART	SINFUL MAN	JAMES
ZEBEDEE	AFRAID	FOLLOWED

FULL NETS

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

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LETTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

daily *Corriere della Sera*.

Bishop Sgreccia, while agreeing with many of the principles explained by Cardinal Martini, said end-of-life decisions cannot be made solely by the patient. It is the doctor, he said, who is best able to judge whether a treatment is "proportionate" or not.

"When one talks about refusing therapy on the part of a patient, the doctor, although he has the duty to listen to the patient, cannot be con-

sidered a simple executor of the patient's wishes," Bishop Sgreccia said.

Cardinal Martini had suggested that a French law allowing patients to refuse treatment in some cases might be a model for Italy. Bishop Sgreccia disagreed, saying the French law in effect forces a doctor to go along with a patient's decision to end life-support treatment, even when the doctor disagreed.

"This could represent 'euthanasia by omission' on the part of the patient and the doctor," Bishop Sgreccia said. "Personally, I don't hope to see that in Italy."

Statement from president of Catholic Charities USA on the President Bush's State of the Union address

BY FATHER LARRY SNYDER

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Father Larry Snyder, president of Catholic Charities USA, issued the following statement on President George W. Bush's State of the Union address:

"President Bush tonight correctly noted the character and kindness of the American people as part of his call for a renewed effort to address hunger, poverty and disease abroad. Catholic Charities USA shares the president's view of the compassion and character of our nation, and we believe the same level of dedication and effort should be focused on addressing serious issues of poverty and hunger here in the United States.

"Poverty is a moral wound on this country which continues to threaten the health and economic well-being of both families and our nation. That's why Catholic Charities USA has just launched a new campaign to cut the U.S. poverty rate in half by 2020. Achieving this goal will require a commitment and involvement by Congress and the administration.

Only through partnerships between government and community leaders will we develop the capacity and the scale necessary to attack poverty in a comprehensive and sustained way.

"The lack of access to affordable health care is a huge barrier to low-income families trying to lift themselves out of poverty. Catholic Charities USA is encouraged by the president's acknowledgement of the health care crisis that leaves many individuals uninsured. We look forward to learning more about the president's proposal in the days ahead.

"On another issue, we were pleased to see President Bush issue a renewed call to Congress to pass a just, fair and comprehensive immigration reform bill. Catholic Charities strongly supports a broad immigration bill that to enact comprehensive reform that provides a path to lawful permanent residence and citizenship for the 11 million to 12 million undocumented persons in the United States; that sustains and reunites families; promotes the security of the nation; creates greater legal avenues for necessary workers to enter the United States in the future, integrates and promotes the

success of newcomers; and improves the economic prospects, health, labor protections and stability of all U.S. residents, including newcomers.

"Catholic Charities USA and its local Catholic Charities agency members will continue to work with our elected officials to further the common good of our country; however, we will also hold Congress and the administration accountable for their actions to address poverty in America."

Catholic Charities USA's members — more than 1,500 local agencies and institutions nationwide — provide help and create hope for more than 7.4 million people a year regardless of religious, social or economic backgrounds. For more than 275 years, local Catholic Charities agencies have been providing a myriad of vital services in their communities, ranging from day care and counseling to food and housing. For more information, visit www.catholiccharitiesusa.org.

Father Larry Snyder is the president of Catholic Charities USA.

Babylonian exile time of suffering, cultural change

What was life like for the exiled Jews in Babylon?

The Bible mentions three deportations of the Jews to the area of Babylon. In B.C. 597 King Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem and deported the Jewish king Jehoiachin, who had revolted, along with his family, nobles and warriors, to Babylon. Then in B.C. 588 the new Jewish king Zedekiah also revolted, so Nebuchadnezzar in B.C. 586 tore down the walls of Jerusalem and carried off the rest of the population, numbering thousands, to the area of Nippur south of Babylon. Only the poorest were left behind as vine-dressers and ploughmen. The prophet Jeremiah mentions a third deportation in B.C. 582, possibly occasioned by the murder of the governor Gedaliah appointed by Nebuchadnezzar. B. Metzger feels that 15-20-thousand Jews were exiled. Father John McKenzie feels that the Jerusalem area was extensively depopulated and that few people remained in the country after B.C. 587.

In Babylon, B. Metzger says the Jewish king Jehoiachin retained his royal status, was considered the leader of the Jewish community, and enjoyed the opulence of the Babylonian court. Other Jews settled south of Babylon at Tell-Abib on the River Chebar, a canal that ran from the Euphrates River and passed through the large commercial city of Nippur. The Jews could meet freely, buy property, practice their own customs and religion. The archives of a commercial bank at Nippur show that some of the deportees became quite prosperous. Most of the Nippur Jews were farmers, shepherds and fishermen, but some worked as minor city officials and money-lenders.

Babylon is 54 miles south of Baghdad on the left bank of the Euphrates River where the Tigris and Euphrates approach each other most closely. King Nebuchadnezzar rebuilt Babylon in B.C. 605 This was a time of glory when the arts and sciences flourished along with a boom of



FATHER RICHARD HIRE

HIRE
HISTORY

prosperity. The Greek Herodotus, the father of history, visited Babylon and said it was surrounded by a deep moat and a double defensive wall, wide enough for a four-horsed chariot to pass. It "surpassed in splendor any city of the known world."

Babylon boasted of its great Processional Way, paved with limestone, 65 feet wide, bordered with red sidewalks. This street had walls on either side of the road faced with blue enameled brick and decorated with life-size yellow and white lions and dragons. The street went by the northern palace, through the Ishtar gate, past the summer palace and the temple of Ishtar, to the temple complex of Esagila dedicated to the god Marduk. K. Dabrowska says today you just see road slabs and asphalt covering of the street. Some vaulted structures here are thought to be the remains of the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world.

K. Dabrowska says the remains of Nippur, where some of the Jewish exiles stayed, include a zigurat (now a mass of unbaked bricks), the Enlil Temple (the chief god of the Sumerians), and the temple of Inanna (the queen of heaven).

B. Metzger says the exiled Jews were influenced by the Babylonian culture, adopted the Aramaic language and the Mesopotamian calendar. But they also retained their national identity by practicing circumcision, keeping dietary laws, and observing the Sabbath. Some exiles longed to return to Jerusalem, as Psalm 137 sings: "By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept at the memory of Zion."

Meet the Priest

Father Glenn Kohrman

Ordained Nov. 28, 1992

Pastor, St. Mary of the Lake, Culver
Catholic Chaplain, Culver Academy

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

It would have to be my family. Religion was real to my parents. It informed their decisions. There was seriousness, but not a fanaticism. My father had a heart attack when he was only 39. I was only 6 at the time, but after that point, as involved as my father was in the parish, St. Vincent DePaul Society and the Knights of Columbus, 4th Degree, he and a family friend developed a family apostolate in promotion of the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart. We would show an old 16 mm film on Devotion to the Sacred Heart and invite people to learn more about the devotion. Often those nights included spiritual conversations about the saints and God's great love and mercy he had for his people. This I think was the great seed that was planted and certainly helped along by the excellent examples of priests that I knew, among them my uncle, Father Don Isenbarger, Father James Seculoff of our diocese, a good friend in my later years at Purdue, Father Ted Rothrock and also Father Dick Weisenberger, who provided me with excellent counsel while at Purdue. In fact when I was discerning the vocational choice between marriage and the priesthood, Father Dick had given me some invaluable insight. I was dating a wonderful Catholic girl who took her faith very seriously. I was months away from a master's degree in mechanical engineering from Purdue, and I asked Father Dick, "How am I supposed to know what God really wants me to do? Why would God set me up with these excellent opportunities, to not go what would seem to be the natural course?" Father Dick, as I recall, asked me a question or two, "Do you need this person to be happy? Can you imagine being happy without this person in your life?" He went on to say, "If you



can imagine yourself being happy without her, then God may be inviting you to be his priest and serve his people.

What is the most rewarding part of being a priest?

The celebration of the sacraments for sure, it is very rewarding to let people know that they are forgiven by God and that they are loved by God, even if they have really done some horrible things.

What interests or hobbies do you have?

I play a little golf, also have ridden motorcycles, billiards. On occasion I try and do a little writing.

What do you do for relaxation?

Sometimes I have to admit I will play some solitaire on the computer, but I try and avoid that during Advent and Lent. I also like to build things, I have a bit of a shop here at the parish and can do a little woodworking now and again.

What is your favorite reading material?

I like John of the Cross and Romano Guardini, particularly his work, "The Lord." I have recently been listening to books on tape about U.S. history, "1776," "The Mayflower," a civil war book, "Team of Rivals" and most recently, "The Crusades" by Hillare Belloc. I also like G.K. Chesterton a lot. Ludwig Wittgenstein is also an intriguing philosopher.

What do you think is the best part of being Catholic?

Being part of the historical church that has its direct links to Christ. I marvel at the church and one of the greatest aspects of the church to me is that she still exists! Her members are not perfect, and yet she has managed to survive through scandals and corruption. I believe only God would have the ability to pull that off. I love the church because it is the champion of truth. She realizes that salvation is found through the pursuit of truth, and not one's perception of it. Paragraph's 14,15 and 16 of "Lumen Gentium" summarizes the beauty of being Catholic because it is so inclusive. Those who sincerely seek truth are not excluded from the power of Christ and his church to bring salvation to the world.

What is your favorite prayer?

This has changed through the years. I find the rosary a great aid. A prayer that I often pray is the man's response to Jesus when Jesus asked him if he believed, "Jesus I believe, help my unbelief!"

What is your favorite Scripture passage?

"Father, I pray that they may be one, as we are one," from John's Gospel.

Who is your favorite pope?

We have been blessed with many great popes, I love John Paul II and his theology of the body, Benedict with "Deus Caritas Est" has given us a great focus to go forward in our times.

What is your favorite food?

probably pizza

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

I am working on a book on why I am a priest in the context of the world stage.

How do you prefer to be addressed by the laity?

However they feel most comfortable — Father Glenn, or Father Kohrman

Sports

CHAPLAIN SEES HUMILITY IN SUPER BOWL-BOUND COLTS Father J. Peter Gallagher, the Colts' chaplain, appreciated the words of Indianapolis Colts owner Jim Irsay and head coach Tony Dungy after a Jan. 21 heart-pounding 38-34 victory in the RCA Dome in Indianapolis. After the awards ceremony, the players made their way to their locker room, where Father Gallagher and Dungy called them to prayer. "Heavenly Father, there are two words we want to offer you: thanks and praise," Father Gallagher said. He added, "My prayers before and after the game are about humbleness for the gifts that God has given us, and to share those gifts and to use those gifts one day at a time and one game at a time."

Hopes abounds for good showing in CYO tournament

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — The reigning Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) Blue League boys' champions are hoping to make a good showing in this year's CYO tournament. For the 2006-2007 season, St. Aloysius is 4-2 in league play and 8-4 overall. With nine players on the roster, the seventh-and-eighth-grade-combined team will be depending on the leadership of their eighth graders — one of their strengths this season. "Four of our eighth graders have played together for the past four years now. They won the CYO tournament as sixth graders and last year as seventh graders," said Coach Tony Sorg.

Sorg was not sure just how long he has been coaching Gator basketball. A former Gator himself, he said "it's been at least nine years since I started as head coach and several years before that as the assistant for both boys' and girls' teams. Let's just say I've been there for 48 big ones."

St. Aloysius finished in third place out of 10 teams that competed at the University of Saint Francis in the Queen of Angels

holiday tournament over the Christmas break. Beating three Gold League teams along the way are highlights for this season so far.

Marquel Cooper blazed the nets again last weekend for Benoit Academy. His first-half 16 points carried the Phoenix past St. Joseph Hessen Cassel. Benoit remains on top in the Blue League with a perfect record. St. Joseph Squires Coach Jim Knapke put it simply, "They came ready to play and we didn't."

The Lady Commodores from St. Joseph, Decatur, remained undefeated in girls' action and are now 6-0 in the Gold League after beating St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth, 32-20. They were paced by Kazmarek and Fuelling with eight each. Eckert led St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth with seven points.

The girls from St. Jude handed St. Charles their first loss in league play 31-26. This sets up a battle for the top spot between the Cardinals and Commodores this Saturday at St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel.

In the "small school" fifth and sixth grade boys' CYO tournament, St. Therese, St. Louis-St. Rose, Benoit and Precious Blood

advanced to the semi finals. The championship game will be held at St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel on Thursday night, Feb. 1. The Twins from St. Louis-St. Rose are the defending champs.

Fifth and sixth grade scoreboard

St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne, 37; St. Joseph, Decatur, 33 OT

St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne, 50; St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth 32

St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne, 50; St. Jude 25

St. Louis-St. Rose 26; St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel 29

Seventh and eighth grade scoreboard

St. Joseph, Decatur, 45; St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth 28 (Hahe 24, Jake 13)

St. Therese 40; St. Louis-St. Rose 21 (Colvin 17, Scott 6)

St. Therese 18; Huntington 28 (Romerio 9, Landrum 11)

St. Aloysius 57; St. Rose-St. Louis 21 (Rodenbeck-Byrd-Sorg 12, Collett 6)

Huntington 24; Benoit 58 (Stoffel 10, Gorman 24)

St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel 50; Benoit 70 (Knapke 19, Cooper 23)

Teams scrap for top rank in Martin De Porres

BY ELMER J. DANCH

SOUTH BEND — While unbeaten basketball teams like Corpus Christi's Cougars and St. Joseph's basketballers of Mishawaka have a stranglehold on their respective divisions in the Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL), the battle for leadership in both the east and west sections of the Martin De Porres has seven teams in the scrap for first place.

St. Anthony and St. Joseph of South Bend, both deadlocked with 4-3 records in the John Bosco East, with only St. Anthony coming through with flying colors as the season nears the final three weeks.

St. Anthony beat Holy Cross, 56-19, with Sean Hart popping in 14 points. Colton Pulaski had 10 points for Holy Cross.

St. Joseph of South Bend missed a golden opportunity to take over first place in the division when the Bombers lost to unbeaten Corpus Christi, 45-34, in an interdivisional game. Andy Klimek had 15 points for Corpus Christi. Tyler Sorocco had 12 points for St. Joseph.

St. John the Baptist, by beating St. Monica of Mishawaka, 39-25, merged into a three-way tie for first place in the Martin De Porres West when St. Jude and St.

Michael dropped their skirmishes. St. John's Alex Bauters led all individual scorers for the day with 23 points. He became the sixth player in the division to score 20 or more points this year.

St. Pius of Granger upset St. Jude in a 29-28 nailbiter behind the 11-point barrage of Jacob Burgess who also nailed in with the winning point in the waning seconds. Vinnie Rulli had 10 points for St. Pius.

St. Joseph of Mishawaka dusted off St. Michael of Plymouth in a 41-29 waltz, thus enabling the unbeaten Mishawakans to hold on to first place in the Martin De Porres East. The winners were paced by Tim Wilson with 15 points while his team's stout defense kept St. Michael at bay.

In other games, Christ the King defeated St. Matthew, 40-18, to hold on to second place in the John Bosco West. Holy Family beat St. Thomas of Elkhart, 43-40, in a see-saw battle in which the lead changed hands six times as Collin Skodinski of Holy Family and Vince Rodino of St. Thomas each tossed in 14 points. St. Adalbert downed St. Bavo of Mishawaka, 29-17. Mario Navarrette tossed in 10 points for St. Adalbert.

In the Colors Division, St. Anthony Maroon beat Corpus

Christi Blue, 34-30; St. Joseph, South Bend, Blue defeated St. Pius Blue, 32-21; St. Anthony Gold nipped St. Thomas Maroon, 36-23; St. Thomas Gold edged Holy Family Blue, 43-37; Christ the King Gold beat Holy Cross Blue, 50-14, in the highest scoring game of the day. St. Jude Green downed St. Joseph Gold of South Bend, 37-31, and Christ the King Blue beat St. Matthew Black, 25-14.

John Bosco East

St. Anthony 4-3
St. Joseph, South Bend 4-3
St. Matthew 1-6
St. Thomas 1-6

John Bosco West

Corpus Christi 7-0
Christ the King 5-2
Holy Family 4-3
Holy Cross 2-5

Martin De Porres East

St. Joseph, Mishawaka 7-0
St. Pius 6-1
St. Monica 2-5
St. Bavo 0-7

Martin De Porres West

St. Jude 4-3
St. John 4-3
St. Michael 4-3
St. Adalbert 1-6

ST. MONICA VOLLEYBALL TEAM TAKES COLORS DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIP



ELMER J. DANCH

Girls volleyball champions of both the Colors Division and the Inter-City Catholic League are these St. Monica Comets of Mishawaka who wound up with the most spectacular record in history on a 20-1 record. From left, front row, are Grace Bergt, Blair Garnecki, Claire Thornton, Rachael Roberts, Madeline Martinec and coach Maureen Delahanty-Chleminiak; back row, Maggie Schmid, Mary Chleminiak, Bianca McManus, assistant coach Curt Willamowski, Danielle Canner, Stephanie Egyd and Cailin O'Connor.

Bishop Dwenger honors retiring cheerleading coach

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Dwenger High School paid tribute to longtime head cheerleading coach, Vicki Kuker, who is retiring from both coaching and teaching after this school year. She was honored at a ceremony during the half-time of the boys' varsity basketball game against Snider on Friday night, Jan. 26.

Kuker is bringing to a close a 36-year career of coaching, 15 years at St. Jude School and another 21 years at Bishop Dwenger. During that span of time, she coached 436 girls and one boy. Kuker's squads have earned numerous honors over the years and many of the cheerleaders continued cheering at the collegiate level. The winning records include 38 regional championships, eight state champions, 15 state runner-up awards, four national runner-up, four National Champions, one Grand National Champion, 17 All-State Individuals, two All-State Individual Runners-up, one State Individual Champion, seven All-State Academic, three All-State Academic Champions, 18 college cheerleaders, 1997 Indiana Coach



PROVIDED BY BISHOP DWENGER HIGH SCHOOL

Vicki Kuker, Bishop Dwenger High School cheerleading coach and teacher will retire after this school year. She was honored during half-time of the boys' varsity basketball game against Snider on Jan. 26.

of the Year, 2003 National Coach of the Year finalist and 2006 Northern Indiana Coach of the Year. There are undoubtedly many other honors that have been bestowed on Vicki Kuker for her Bishop Dwenger High School outstanding career that spanned over 6,000 games not including playoffs and some 15,000 hours of scheduled practice time.

South Bend native co-edits Father Lawler book

BY ANN CAREY

PITTSBURGH, Pa. — Ken Ogorek fully intended to return to his hometown of South Bend to teach the Catholic faith, but love intervened and he settled in Pittsburgh instead. Still, our diocese is proud of this native son who is using his talents and enthusiasm to teach the faith in a variety of ways.

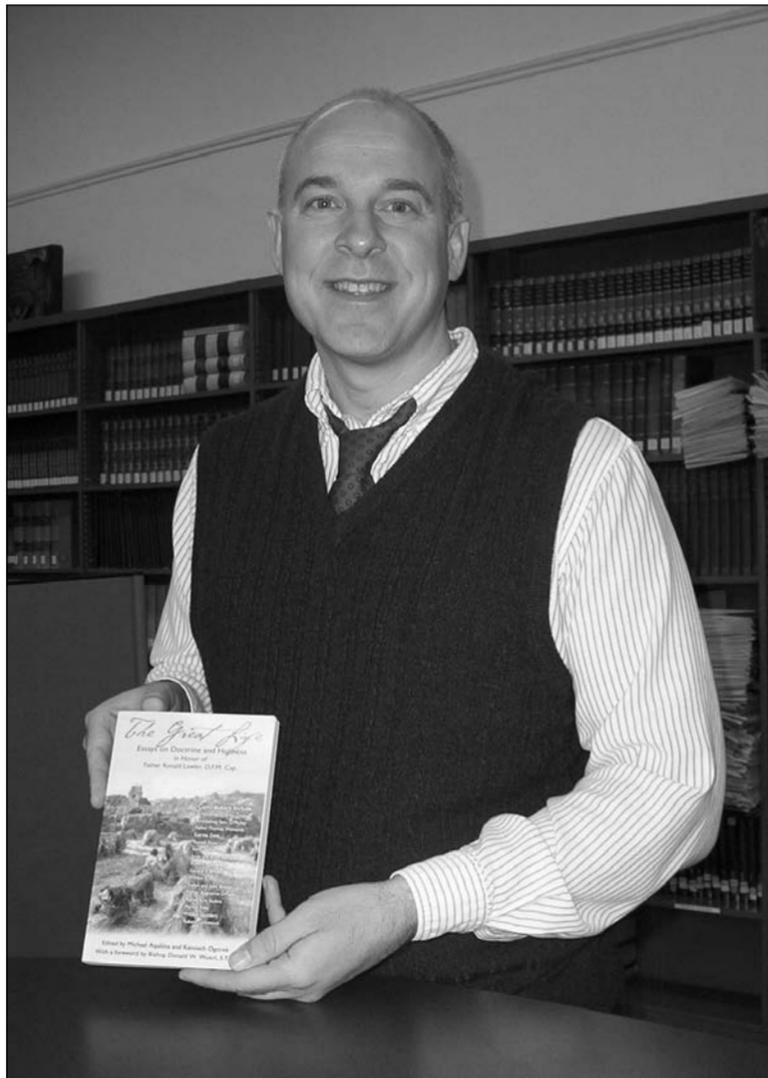
Ogorek grew up in St. John the Baptist Parish in South Bend, where he attended grade school. Then his family moved to Corpus Christi Parish, where his mother, Marlene, is still a parishioner. His father, Bob, is deceased.

A graduate of LaSalle High School and Wabash College, Ogorek went on to study for his master of religious education degree from the Pontifical Center for Catechetical Studies at Gannon University in Erie, Pa., planning to return to South Bend and teach theology at Saint Joseph's High School.

However, Ogorek met his future wife, Melissa, while he was in Pennsylvania, and the couple chose to make their home near her family in Pittsburgh. First, he taught theology at the high school level, and then 10 years ago, he was recruited by the Diocese of Pittsburgh and is now the diocese's director of catechesis. Ogorek also has started to write books to help teach the faith.

He is coeditor of his first project, just published, which is a collection of essays honoring the late Father Ronald Lawler, a Capuchin priest who was a widely respected theologian, catechist and prolific author. The book, "The Great Life: Essays on Doctrine and Holiness in Honor of Father Ronald Lawler, OFM Cap.," contains essays by prominent people who knew him.

Ogorek told *Today's Catholic* that he and coeditor Mike Aquilina admired and respected Father Lawler greatly. After the priest died in 2003, the two men wanted to



PROVIDED BY KEN OGOREK

Ken Ogorek, a South Bend native who now lives in Pittsburgh, Pa., poses with his book, "The Great Life: Essays on Doctrine and Holiness in Honor of Father Ronald Lawler, OFM Cap." Two of the essay contributors have connections with the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend: Gerard Bradley, a law professor at the University of Notre Dame, and Robert Lockwood, formerly president and publisher of Our Sunday Visitor, Inc.

honor him as a teacher of the faith and help that work continue. They thought about all the other people — many of them leaders in their fields — who shared their respect for Father Lawler, so they asked some of those people to write an essay not about the priest himself,

but rather about Father Lawler's first love: teaching the faith in the culture at this time.

The essayists are an eclectic group, Ogorek admits, but they share the common bond of admiration and respect for Father Lawler and his lifelong work of catechesis.

The 19 contributors include three bishops, three priests and an assortment of lay people, including two with ties to this diocese: Gerard Bradley, a law professor at the University of Notre Dame, and Robert Lockwood, formerly president and publisher of Our Sunday Visitor, Inc., and now director of

communications for the Diocese of Pittsburgh. Other chapters are written by people like theologian Scott Hahn and author and lecturer Katrina Zeno.

"Because the group of writers is eclectic, the audience is fairly broad," Ogorek explained, saying that any adult

interested in learning more about the faith or teaching the faith would find the book of interest. He suggested that parents, catechists and even students of catechetics would find the book helpful.

"These (essayists) are some pretty heavy hitters in the field of teaching the faith, and it's almost like a mini seminar, to get a taste of

what some of their thoughts are on varying topics," Ogorek said.

Ogorek will be publishing another book this spring for which he is the author, "The Gospel Truth: A Lectionary-based Catechism for Parents and Other Adults," which blends the Lectionary — the scriptural readings for Mass — with

"... it's almost like a mini seminar, to get a taste of what some of their thoughts are on varying topics."

KEN OGOREK

doctrine and is cross-referenced with the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

"I love the work I do," Ogorek told *Today's Catholic*. "For most people, catechesis is something people do a few hours a week, and for me it's my life, and that's a real blessing. It's a privilege to be involved in the work of the church in the world."

Anyone wishing to contact Ken Ogorek with questions about his books may e-mail him at ogorek@iwon.com.

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Valentine's Day Mass for widows
South Bend — The Office of Family Life invites those who are widowed to a Valentine's Day Mass at St. Matthew Cathedral at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 14. Father Michael Heintz will preside.

Come and See weekend announced
Adrian, Mich. — The Adrian Dominican Sisters will have "Come and See" March 16-18, at the Weber Retreat and Conference Center. For information contact Sister Carleen Maly, OP, at (866) 744-0005 or voca-

tions@adriandominicans.org. Deadline for registration is March 1.

Little Flower Holy Hour
Fort Wayne — Father Daryl Rybicki will celebrate the Holy Hour at MacDougal Chapel on Tuesday, Feb. 6, at 7:15 p.m. Father Daryl is pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish in Fort Wayne.

Casino night benefits St. Joseph School
Monroeville — A Casino Night, featuring a Texas Hold'em tournament and other casino games, will be held at the Monroeville Park Pavilion, 421 Monroe St. on Saturday, March 3. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the tournament starts at 7 p.m. Table space is limited. Pre-register by calling Doug, at (260) 623-6816 or Larry at (260) 740-8041. Food and refreshments will be available. Must be 21 to enter and play. Indiana Gaming License 109933

First Sunday rosary for all families
Fort Wayne — The First Sunday rosary for families will be at MacDougal Chapel on Sunday, Feb. 4, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. with Father Steve Kempinger and Sister Adele Mann attending.

Card party planned by Rosary Society
South Bend — The Rosary Society of St. Hedwig Parish will have a card party on Sunday, March 4, at 1 p.m. in the memo-

rial center. Lunch will be served. Donations are \$4.50 in advance by calling (574) 259-5675 or (574) 287-9880 by Feb. 18. Bring own cards or dice.

Notre Dame football smoker
Fort Wayne — St. Joseph Hessen Cassel will have a stag Notre Dame football smoker on Sunday, Feb. 25, in the activity center. Tickets are \$15 and will be available in advance by calling Gary at (260) 639-33259 or at the door. Food and beverages provided.

Fish and tenderloin dinner
New Haven — St. Louis Besancon Parish will have an all-you-can-eat Country Chef fish and tenderloin dinner on Friday, Feb. 6, from 4 to 7 p.m. Adults \$7, children 6-11 \$4 and children 5 and under free. Carry out available.

Square dancing at St. Louis
New Haven — Square dancing will be held Saturday, Feb. 10, at Besancon Hall with music by Bill Werling and Breakaway. Doors open at 7:30 p.m., dancing from 8-11 p.m. Tickets are \$15 per couple or \$10 per single. All proceeds benefit the St. Louis Academy HASA.

SAJES announce Valentine party
South Bend — The St. Matthew Cathedral SAJES will have a Valentine's Day party on

REST IN PEACE

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Dorothy H. Mosel, Most Precious Blood

Rosemary H. Nicole, 78, St. Vincent de Paul

Gerald J. Haslup, 86, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel

Virginia A. Szymczak, 84, Queen of Angels

G. Lee Jones, 84, Our Lady of Good Hope

Linda Ann Albertson, St. Charles Borromeo

Virginia M. Faurote, 88, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Annabelle J. Shive, 78, St. Vincent de Paul

David E. Lawrence, 42, St. Jude

Susan C. McKean, 64, Queen of Angels

Granger
Charles W. Griffin, 84, St. Pius X

Huntington
Patsy Diana Butz, 59, Ss. Peter and Paul

Mishawaka
George A. Hallaert, 84, St. Bavo

New Haven
Vera G. Vinson, 91, St. Louis Besancon

Notre Dame
Brother John Chrysostom Ryan, CSC, 84, Holy Cross Village

Brother Francis Englert, CSC, 84, Holy Cross Village

Plymouth
Helen Johanning, 81, St. Michael

South Bend
Anthony P. Spinsky, 99, St. Jude

Giacinta DeLuca, 95, Little Flower

Aloysius A. Wantuch, 86, Our Lady of Hungary

Elias Kitkowski, 74, St. Adalbert

Mary Jane Turnock, 82, St. Joseph

Shirley Ann Stabnik, 71, St. Hedwig

James Pytlak, 71, Holy Family

Mary H. Niezgodski, 86, St. Anthony de Padua

Charles L. Kern, 91, St. Matthew Cathedral

Kathryn P. Everly, 74, Christ the King

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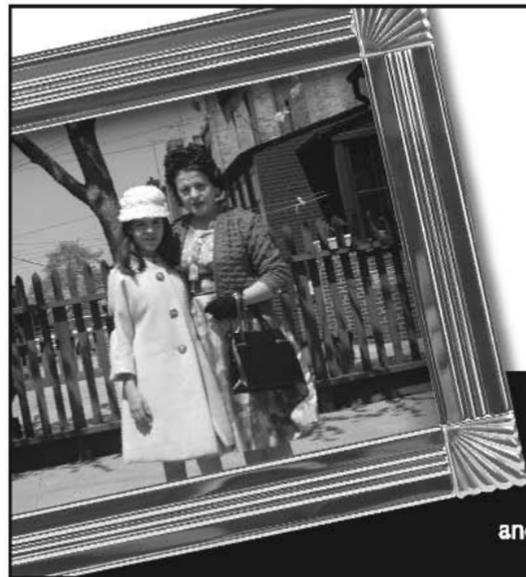
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MERGER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Kendall, class of 2001, served as the cross-bearer for the procession over to St. Jude.

"It's sad," said a choked-up Tina Kendall. "We are truly a small community. Like a family."

While the church building itself is closing, the spirit of St. Mary of the Assumption will continue at St. Jude. After Communion, parishioners presented the books of parish records and the sacred oils. Along with the Blessed Sacrament and the Book of Gospels, those items were taken to St. Jude in a special procession led by a cross bearer. Bishop D'Arcy gave a special blessing during a brief prayer service at St. Jude.

As the choir sang "All Are Welcome" from their new surroundings, the bishop reminded the newly-formed congregation of their obligation to protect the records and remember all those whose lives were enriched by sacraments received at St. Mary's.

"So we join together in a larger parish, welcoming everybody," the bishop said. "There is much to think about at St. Jude, and I will walk with you and help in any way that I can."

Bishop D'Arcy also praised the great faith of all those, especially older parishioners, who braved the snow to attend both churches. Almost as if on cue, the clouds broke away to allow bril-

liant sunshine to pour out upon a still frigid winter's morning.

In the parish hall, parishioners at St. Jude's welcomed their newest members with a special celebratory luncheon. The hugs continued and tears were wiped away as St. Mary's of the Assumption parishioners assumed their new home.



PHOTOS BY DIANE FREEBY

Jeffrey Kendall, a 2001 graduate of St. Mary School, leads the procession out of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish at the final Mass concelebrated by Bishop John M. D'Arcy and Father John Delaney on Jan. 28.



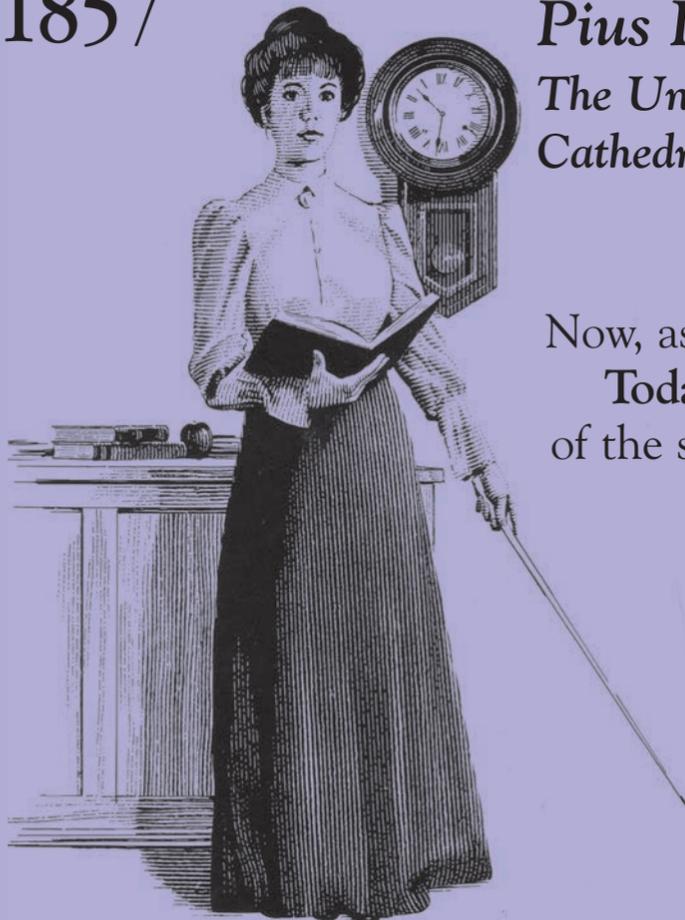
A full house was on hand for the last Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption Parish. St. Mary's records and oils and the Blessed Sacrament were taken to St. Jude Parish in South Bend.

St. Mary parishioners were greeted by St. Jude parishioners as the two merged and a dinner was held in the afternoon.



Parishioners of St. Jude Parish posted a welcome sign to the St. Mary parishioners and the choir sang "All Are Welcome" from their new surroundings at St. Jude as St. Jude and St. Mary parish-ers merged on Jan. 28.

1857



Pius IX was pope when this diocese was founded. The University of Notre Dame was 15 years old and Fort Wayne's Cathedral (then St. Augustine's) had held services for 21 years.



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