St. Mary’s Parish celebrates last Mass

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 Odyński 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 Odyński, 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.

“The papers underline ‘facts and realities where the Gospel is lived, where good and truth triumph’”

POPE BENEDICT ON CATHOLIC NEWSPAPERS

Pages 2-3

“’We were crying. How could one not cry!’

POLISH CARDINAL STANISLAW DZIWISZ ON THE DEATH AND NEW BOOK ABOUT JOHN PAUL II

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News and Notes

‘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

Pages 10-11

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

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

Page 18
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 northern Indiana. Noll’s 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, the 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 complexities in a way that helps readers grasp the promise offered by such research and cares already discovered.

The fourth purpose, “to point out the falsity of... 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 become a language to the enemy of your neighbors or fellow-workermen.”

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? Is it because a life in its most innocent and delicate form — is it because a life is not preserved. Yet our SUPPORTS adult stem-cell research, blood from bone marrow, the placenta, and has made known the promise offered by such research and cares already discovered.

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?

By Tim Johnson

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.

“His purpose was to get an overview of... of the church’s expectations. 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, the 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 complexities in a way that helps readers grasp

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“I was to give you an instruction in that popular form which makes it both very intelligible and interesting,” said Tim Johnson, engineer editor of Today’s Catholic.

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 story of our diocese in a lively and easy-to-understand way.

Even our publications such as Father Tad Paczkoszy, 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 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 stories or work stories are also a raw material of sorts for the podcast.

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VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Catholic 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.”

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 Zuccheri, president of the federation, announced that after the coming months 76 new diocesan newspapers would be launched.

Currently, he said, 150 Italian diocesan newspapers have 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 Zuccheri 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

Most readers look forward to receiving Today’s Catholic in their mailbox, 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 version 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 an e-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 whole time I am checking e-mails.”

• Makes archiving easy.

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 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 slavery was not permitted in Venice. 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 1895, 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 Sesto, 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. 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.

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 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 Quaesten 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.

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TODAY’S CATHOLIC

February 4, 2007

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

BY MAY LEE JOHNSON

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Dioecese 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
• John the Baptist School — $1,000 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.
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 his last will and testament, made public after his death, Pope John Paul II strongly hinted that he would resign in 2000 and set the stage for his conclave in the Sistine Chapel. 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 Dziwisz of Krakow, Poland, the late pope’s closest aide.

“Toward the end of the book, according to excerpts provided by the Italian publisher, Rizzoli: “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.

“The last page of the book, Cardinal Dziwisz described the pope’s final moments.

“It was 9:57 p.m. We had noticed that the Holy Father had 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 secret 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 with 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.

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 Humberger 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.”
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 to vote in the U.S. Congress, received praise and credit during his lifetime for his active involvement in politics.

Father Drinan, 86, died Jan. 28 at St. Mary’s Medical 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 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, as proof of his compromis-

American 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-VX. 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-VX, handwritten in Greek around the year 200, con-

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 concor-

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 advo-
cacy 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 immi-

Vatican secretary of state defends Pio Piu’s XIII’s wartime actions

ROME (CNS) — Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, the Vatican secretary of state, strongly defended Pope Pio Pius XIII’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 Heros of the Holocaust,” by Martin Gilbert. The cardinal said the book illustrated how many of many faiths, includ-

Guatemala’s ‘angel of the garbage dump’ dies in car crash

GUATEMALA CITY (CNS) — A Guatemalan priest who helped poor children escape garbage picking as a livelihood, died in a car crash after she had attended a conference after her Jan. 18 death at age 36, a docu-

News Briefs

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

(Vatican Photo/Giusepppe Romeo)

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

(Vatican Photo/Giusepppe Romeo)
Mozart meets American Idol in Saint Mary’s ‘Opera’

NOTRE DAME — Saint Mary’s College students, along with members of the Michiana communi- nity, bring zany opera ensembles to the stage as 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. 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.

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 broth- ers and sisters.” The prayers and presenta- tions 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 con- cludes 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 infor- mation or to register, contact Lindenwood at (574) 935-1780 or writing to the Lourdes Charity Committee, 22411 Middle Eastern waters.

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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.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 call- ing (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 ban- quiet ball at 553 E. Washington St.

The gala event is held annually to raise funds to send a pilgrim or pilgrimage to 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 or writing to the Lourdes Charity Committee, 22411 Applewood Ln., South Bend, IN 46628.

Applicants should submit their interest in early spring. The pil- grimage 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 govern- ment.

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

‘A TASTE OF SUCCESS’ FOR VINCENT HOUSE RESIDENTS

Jen Bell and Amie Loubier of the youth services program at Vincent House announced the “parent of the year” and “student of the year” awards at “A Taste of Success,” a cel- ebration recognizing the achievements of former Vincent House residents, on Jan. 27. Carla Kilgore, program direc- tor 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 her fetus may feel pain during 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 to 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 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 committees 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 included the Indiana Right to Life, 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-Daviville); Sen. Ryan D. Mushler (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 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 11,456 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 33 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.”
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 home-care with the disabled population in Decatur. 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 Popple rocked the crowd. A creative cup contest was held and 21 flavors of Kool-Aid were merely 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 inserted in the old fireplace.

“Some of the kids were so excited they could hardly contain their energy,” said Amber. “We are so excited about this ministry. We want to do a lot of high energy things. We want to be a small group, we want to do a lot of fun. We want to have a lot of ideas, a lot of new things.”

For Amber Heimann, the house is just “getting together for pizza.” She is helping to create a worthwhile use for the space and the group grows and bonds. She is collaborating with other youth ministers for “tips” and hopes to incorporate service work as the group grows and bonds.

Don’t forget to:

• Take out the trash.
• Subscribe to Today’s Catholic.
• Hug your kids.
• Subscribe to Today’s Catholic.
• Pray
• Subscribe to Today’s Catholic.

Memory Impairment
Evaluation for Clinical Research
Do you or your loved one:
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• repeat yourself
• have difficulty naming items
• lose things or get lost more often
• have difficulty with daily activities
• have difficulty with planning or organizing

The Elkhart Clinic is offering an opportunity for a diagnostic evaluation of memory at no expense as part of a clinical research study. The assessment may include a CT scan, blood work, and evaluation by a board certified physician to determine if you are eligible to participate. Please call our office today for more details. (574) 296-3903
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 Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend and the Successor of 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 was the Bishop of Rome. These photos of Bishop John M. D’Arcy and Pope Benedict XVI are of the highest 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 Peter, the Bishop of Rome.

St. Mother Theodore Guérin was the Bishop of St. Peter’s, the Bishop of Rome. The theologian could only stay two nights, and now the world’s preeminent theologian was the Bishop of Rome. These photos of Bishop John M. D’Arcy and Pope Benedict XVI are of the highest 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 Peter, the Bishop of Rome.
pe a sign of unity
and Successor of Peter

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.”

— “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 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. 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.

NOTE

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY BISHOP JOHN M. D’ARCY

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.
Sacraments — our life in and with Christ

BY GERYVAISE 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. But we come to revere 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 Catechesis definition? “A sacrament is an efficacious sign instituted by Christ to give grace.” The Catechesis of the Catholic Church says, “A sacrament is an efficacious sign of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the church, capable of consecrating, unifying and sanctifying the human person and the community of believers to pray over and with the anointing 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. The church began to see themselves as 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 gatherings. The passage of time saw less intimate contact among the people and a gradual shift to legalism in the celebration of the sacraments. The church 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 has been realized throughout the centuries and times of our lives. The sacrament 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.

Sacrament of initiation
Have you recently been to an Easter Vigil when the elect became their own “baptism”? The sacraments of initiation (baptism, confirmation and Eucharist) call the elect to claim them for Christ; the laying on of hands and 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 this demand demands a deep commitment to the values and lifestyle we have chosen. Through the sacrament of holy orders, our priests are consecrated 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 binds 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 to each other the opportunity to celebrate the sacrament of baptism with the faith community. Share the joyous moments of each other’s own baptism.

For transforming society
Consider ways to be true to the great gift 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. Through the Eucharist you continue to enrich and console us as we follow the way of reconciliation, justice and peace. We desire to live our lives immersed in the community of those you have called to be disciples. We ask you to guide and to comfort us through the merits of your son, Jesus, and through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
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 — have been 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 candidates themselves are men of wealth and health and power and wealth and health and property. Yes, the information is out there, but they have to sift through so much of it to get the information they need to be it some person 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 their daily newspapers.

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 format, but it also provides daily content through a college 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.

Theology teachers encourage Congressman Donnelly

We want to congratulate Congressman Joe Donnelly (D-2nd) for having the courage to vote no on the pro-life amendment. By expanding federal funding for embryonic stem-cell research, Congressman Donnelly, who was Catholic, was one of 16 Democrats to oppose the bill, so the pressure to reneg 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
Michiels
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 Tom Muffoletto, who ran the program until 1999 when he relinquished the chairmanship to me, Dr. John B. Toep. 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 seminarian 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 raised between 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 announcing that the Knights would sponsor a 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.

Would you wonder what it is to press forward? 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. Toep
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 says “hey, did you hear about that girl who was killed?” I was shocked and just wondering how I was supposed to feel about this.

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 format, but it also provides daily content through a college 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 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
**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 of this week, 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. First, Paul calls the day of Jesus and then the Lord’s Resurrection, giving the details that Peter, whom Paul calls “Cephas,” “the rock,” use the Greek roots be yews beyond 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 autobiographical. 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 presided Christ living in the community of Christians.

Still, God called him. Unrestrained by this sense of personal unworthiness, Paul wholeheartedly responded to this calling. He is God’s instrument. Through him, God was 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 deeper into 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.

Humility, 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.

**READINGS**

**Sunday:** Lk 5:1-11

**Monday:** Gn 1:18-19 Ps 104:1a, 2-5, 6, 10, 12, 24, 35c Mk 6:53-56

**Tuesday:** Lk 1:2-4a Ps 69:4 Mk 7:1-13

**Wednesday:** Lk 21:18-25 Ps 128:1-5 Lk 7:24-30

**Friday:** Gn 3:1-8 Ps 32:1-2, 5-7 1 Cor 3:1-8

**Saturday:** Gn 39:24-25 Ps 92:6, 12-13 Lk 8:10

**ANSWERS:**

1. a. farmers
   b. soldiers
   c. bell makers

2. a. communal meal
   b. a book of the Bible (now suppressed)
   c. a level of hierarchy

3. a. Agapenotes the practice described in Acts 12:1-19:
   b. the death of Jesus in the early church
   c. things that are impossible to know if there is a God

4. a. a rise from death
   b. a Protestant
   c. a soule of a sheep’s head worn by the Swiss guard

5. a. orangutan
   b. the worthab
   c. the lamb

6. a. as the age of reason
   b. the age at which the church determines a person may validly do something, things get ordained or marry
   c. the age at which a person is held morally responsible for the sins of his or her parents

7. a. Exodus
   b. Acts
   c. Thomas

8. a. as a kind of prayer
   b. as a discussion of the moral dilemma
   c. as a moral dilemma

9. a. the teaching of Jesus in the Gospels
   b. a the Bible being read in modern times
   c. as a level of hierarchy

10. a. a communal meal
    b. a book of the Bible (now suppressed)
    c. a level of hierarchy

11. a. a communal meal
    b. a book of the Bible (now suppressed)
    c. a level of hierarchy

12. a. as a kind of prayer
    b. as a discussion of the moral dilemma
    c. as a moral dilemma

13. a. the teaching of Jesus in the Gospels
    b. a the Bible being read in modern times
    c. as a level of hierarchy

14. a. the age of reason
    b. as a kind of prayer
    c. a the Bible being read in modern times

15. a. a communal meal
    b. a book of the Bible (now suppressed)
    c. a level of hierarchy
Because of Pharaoh's obstinacy, God could show his power

If God wants everyone to be saved, why does God permit 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 Asian 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 natural phenomena of Egypt. For the Egyptians are a stubborn people; they will not listen to the patient, cannot be convinced or accept instruction.” Moses then 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 workload.

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 show, he will not listen. Then I will bring the Israelites out of Egypt, so that 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, 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 7th word from Arabia often brings locusts and the 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 Egyptians 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.

True love and Pearl

You can’t walk through the grocery store this time of year without being banded with trinkets of “love”—gaudy foil-wrapped candies, red and pink mugs declaring undying commitment and cards proposing things that children never hear about. Yogi. Valentine’s Day is right around the corner.

You’ll think, judging by the elaborate way we celebrate the day that God only has eyes for love and commitment. It doesn’t. In fact, according to recent statistics, one out of every two marriages end in divorce. Abortion is rampant in America, and according to the 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 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 principal’s career. Her work was unmatched. Her idealism paired with her practical, no-nonsense approach made her an edge in the fast-paced environment in which she worked.

Pearl worked with a young adolescent whose father was a drug dealer and whose work was unmatched. Her idealism paired with her practical, no-nonsense approach made her an edge in the fast-paced environment in which she worked.

Pearl lived with her family but was on her own. She was considered too black for the adoptive families who might otherwise consider her. Her troubles 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 part of the state. She also liked this young boy. She noticed his good qualities. We might recognize the same in a child, in a situation such as this. But Pearl went a step further. She did something that not many of us would 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 her: she was about 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 love. “I think his situation—your poor child-I’ll rescue you.” But “I care-about-you want-what’s right—sacrificing-without yielding—to-sacrifice-for-it-despite your objections” type love. Not the stuff of Hallmark cards. Better. Two years later when her son’s biological father 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 tuition-free structured 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 (not 17, by the way), he had earned a scholarship for college. Pearl is now an empty nester — in her early 30s. But what she has sacrificed were worth it. That’s the funny thing about love. You give generously but receive tenfold in return.

This Valentine’s Day, as I passed by some Valentine’s Day candy in the grocery store, I thought of true love.

Commentary

15 February 4, 2007

Theresa A. Thomas

 everydaycatholic.com

That’s a Good Question

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

By Patricia Kasten

Gospel for February 4, 2007


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

GETTING INTO A CATCH MASTER FISH DEPART ZEBEDEE

STANDING BY

FISHERMEN TAUGHT MASTERY HELP SINFUL MAN AFRAID

FULL NETS


LETTER

Continued from Page H

daily Corriere della Sera

Bishop Sgreccia, while agreeing with many of the principles explained by Cardinal Martini, said end-of-life decisions could 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 considered 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 against a patient’s wishes in end-of-life treatment, even when the doctor is disagreed.

“People 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 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 on 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.

Meet the Priest

Father Glenn Kohrman
Ordained Nov. 28, 1992
Pastor, St. Mary of the Lake, Culver Catholic Chaplain, Culver Academy

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 II of Babylon deported the Jewish king Jehoiachin, who had revolted, along with his family, nobles and war captives to Babylon. Then in B.C. 588 the new Jewish king Zedekiah also revolted, so Nebuchadnezzar in B.C. 586 deported the Arameans again from Jerusalem and carried off the rest of the population, numbering thousands of people, including the sons and daughters of Nebuchadnezzar’s queen, Amenia, who was an Egyptian princess from the 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 of the exiles appointed by Nebuchadnezzar. B. Metzger says that 15–20 thousand Jews were exiled. Father John McKenzie feels that that number is probably an underestimate and that few people remained in the country after that.

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 deported community became quite prosperous. Most of the Nippur Jews were farmers, shepherds and fishermens, but some worked as minor city officials, such as the scribes.

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 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.

Babylon was the great seed that was planted and certainly helped along by the development of the city. That I knew, among them my uncle, Father Don Isernberger, Father James Seculoff of our diocese, a good friend in my later years at Purdue, Father Ted Roorthack 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 religious engineering from Purdue, and I asked Father Dick, “How am I supposed to do this?” He replied, “Why would God set me up with these excellent opportunities, to not go to what would seem to be the very best situation?” As I recall, he asked me a question or two, “Do you need this person to be happy without you?” Can you imagine 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 San Filippo Neri, particularly his work, “The Lord.” I have recently been listening to books on tape about U.S. history,” “776,” “The Mayflower,” a civil war book, “Team of Rivals” and most recent, “The Crusades” by Hilarie Bellco, 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 perfect, and yet she has managed to survive through scandals and corruptions. 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 had him in limbo, “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,” who has given a great focus to go forward in our times.

What is your favorite food?

probably pizza.

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

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

How do you prefer to be addressed by the laity?

However they feel most comfortable — Father Glenn, or Father Kohrman.
**Hopes abound 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 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 buzzing 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 Squares Coach Jim Knapek 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 Kazmurek 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 Blue 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Record</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne</td>
<td>37-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Joseph, Decatur, 33 OT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne</td>
<td>50-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Jude</td>
<td>25-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Louis-St. Rose</td>
<td>26-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel</td>
<td>29-0</td>
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</tbody>
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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 Martinic and coach Maureen Delahanty-Chleminiaik; back row, Maggie Schmid, Mary Chleminiaik, Bianca McManus, assistant coach Curt Williamski, Danielle Canner, Stephanie Egyd and Caitlin O’Connor.

**ST. MONICA VOLLEYBALL TEAM TAKES COLORS DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIP**

**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 basketeers of Mishawaka have a stranglehold on their respective sections of the Martin De Porres league, St. Jude’s Cougars and St. Joseph’s Bombers lost to unbeaten Corpus Christi’s Cougars and St. Joseph’s Bombers when the season nears the final three weeks. St. Anthony beat Corpus Christi, 45-34, in an interdivisional battle in which the lead changed hands six times as Collin Skodinski of Holy Family and Vinnie Rulli of St. Joseph each scored 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, 32-24; St. Joseph, South Bend; Blue defeated St. Pius Gold, 29-21; St. Thomas Gold edged Holy Family Blue, 43-37; Christ the King Blue beat Holy Cross Blue, 50-14, in the highest scoring game of the day. St. Jude Green downed St. Joseph South Bend, 37-31, and Christ the King Blue beat St. Matthew Black, 25-14.

**Martin De Porres East**

<table>
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<tr>
<td>St. Therese</td>
<td>2-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Bavo</td>
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**Martin De Porres West**

<table>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. John</td>
<td>4-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Michael</td>
<td>4-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Adalbert</td>
<td>1-6</td>
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</tbody>
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Chaplains see humility in Super Bowl-bound Colts

Farther 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.

“Father Gallagher, 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.”

**Bishop Dwenger honors retiring cheerleading coach**

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Dwenger High School paid tribute to longtime head cheering 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 championships, 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 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. **END**
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 Gunn University in Erze, 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, OFM Cap., 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 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.”

Ken Ogorek

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.

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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 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.

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 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.
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 a “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 vocations@adrian provincials.org. Deadline for registration is March 1.

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Monday, February 4, 2007

What’s Happening?

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

Fort Wayne

Helen V. Caruso, 91, St. Joseph
Dorothy H. Mosel, Most Precious Blood
Rosemary H. Nicole, 78, St. Joseph-Hesenn Cassel
Gerald J. Haslup, 86, St. Joseph-Hesenn Cassel
Virginia A. Simczak, 84, Queen of Angels
G. Lee Jones, 84, Our Lady of Good Hope
Linda Ann Albertson, St. Charles Borromeo
Virginia M. Faurotte, 88, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
Annabelle J. Shive, 78, St. Vincent de Paul
David E. Lawrence, 42, St. Jude
Susan C. McKeen, 64, Queen of Angels

New Haven

Vera G. Vonson, 91, St. Louis Besancon

Notre Dame

Brother John

Brothers of the Christian Schools

Pilgrimage announced

Fort Wayne — A pilgrimage to Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Irondale, Ala., will be May 15-18. Attend EWTN live on Wednesday and visit the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Hanceville, Ala. Four priests will be traveling with the group. Costs range from $226 to $410. For information call (260) 639-3788.

Super Bingo supports school

Decatur — To be held at the Knights of Columbus Pavilion, 1703 High St., on Thursday, March 8. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. — bingo starts at 7 p.m. Tickets are $25 or $22 pre-sale by March 5. Players must be 18. All players must play a minimum of six cards. Extra packets can be purchased for $5. Tickets are good for 15-$100 games and the $1,000 jackpot game. All proceeds benefit St. Joseph School. For tickets contact Jane Beery, school office at (260) 724-2765, Joyce Schultz at (260) 124-2949 or Louise Insekep at (260) 724-4724.

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