

February 11, 2007

Serving the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

South Bend students gather for all-schools Mass

BY DIANE FREEBY

SOUTH BEND — "Unless you become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven."

The Gospel reading from Matthew 18:1-5 was not lost on the nearly 5,000 young people who filled the University of Notre Dame's Joyce Center Jan. 29. The children, representing 27 diocesan schools, joined Bishop John M. D'Arcy in celebrating the 16th Annual All Schools Mass.

The gathering procession was led by several students carrying the large traveling Jubilee Pilgrim Cross bearing the inscription "His Steadfast Love Endures Forever." The cross commemorates the 150th anniversary of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Students representing every school followed, each carrying a basket of food to be donated to the Northern Indiana Food Bank.

After offering prayers for those from Michigan and Elkhart schools who could not attend due to heavy snow, Bishop D'Arcy lost no time in getting the students involved with his homily.

"How many of you are good with the Internet?" inquired Bishop D'Arcy. After a sea of hands waved in the air, he deadpanned, "Then come help the bishop!"

Bishop D'Arcy turned serious discussing the Internet. He pointed out the beautiful things available, such as the pope's talk given that very morning and

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DIANE FREEBY

Chloe Urbanski, a Corpus Christi eighth grader, plays her trumpet with the student choir at the all schools Mass in South Bend. The event was held at the Joyce Center on the campus of the University of Notre Dame.

QUALITY DINING PRESENTS LARGE CHECK FOR SCHOOLS



DIANE FREEBY

Quality Dining Chief Executive Officer Dan Fitzpatrick, in a letter read by company President John Firth at the South Bend all schools Mass, presented Bishop John M. D'Arcy with a check for \$10,167, representing a dollar for each of the 10,167 grade-school children presently enrolled in diocesan schools. The fund will provide scholarship assistance to deserving children in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Bishop D'Arcy celebrates 50 years of priesthood

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — "It's not an easy thing to offer a child to God, but it's a beautiful thing," Bishop John M. D'Arcy said, as he celebrated the Feb. 2 noontime Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne.

Not only is Feb. 2 the celebration of the feast of the Presentation (when Jesus was presented in the Temple), the day holds significant importance for Bishop D'Arcy. This year, Feb. 2 marked his 50th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood.

He spoke about the importance of his own parents' strength and trust in God. "God always being the center of their life. ... It was their goodness and closeness to God and our Lady," he said that helped plant the desire to be a priest.

The feast of the Presentation symbolizes light because Christ is the light of the world. "It is also a day of recognition," the bishop said, noting how Anna and Simeon recognized Christ as a child.

"This is what our life is about as Christians," Bishop D'Arcy said. "The recognition of Jesus Christ overcoming the darkness, the stubbornness, the scrupulosity and weakness in ourselves, and recognizing

Jesus Christ, recognizing his person and recognizing what is his plan for us ..."

The bishop said, "We are called like Anna and Simeon to speak of the redemption (of Christ) to others — by our attitude, by our love and our self giving. So we recognize him in the Eucharist and in all the sacraments — in the forgiveness of sins ..."

Bishop D'Arcy thanked those who attended the Mass and prayed with him on his 50th anniversary. There were 78 ordained to the priesthood from his class, 52 for the Archdiocese of Boston.

He spoke of the need for fostering of vocations: "Pope Benedict said recently that vocations would be given to those dioceses where there is a habit of prayer." This includes prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament, prayer at home, the rosary, prayer to Our Lady as the patroness of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

The heart of vocations will come through renewal of the whole structure of the diocese — children learning the faith in elementary and high school. "We've worked hard to have good religion departments in our schools and high schools," Bishop D'Arcy said.

He added that there must be spiritual

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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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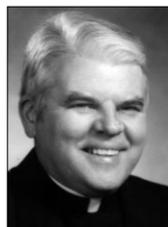
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Parish priest is father, shepherd and teacher, as well as priest



NEWS
& NOTES

BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

A tale of four parishes

It is in the parish most people meet Jesus Christ. The service and life of the parish priest is, in my judgment, the summit of the priesthood. Every day involves the sacraments; the sick and the dying; new births, both in life and in grace; and, above all, the making present of the holy Eucharist for the people. The parish priest is father, shepherd and teacher, as well as priest. This conviction served as a backdrop for me in four recent parish visits.

St. Mary of the Assumption, South Bend

Founded in 1882, this church existed for a long time in downtown South Bend. It was moved south after World War II. I have been there many times for parish missions, the sacrament of confirmation and the installation of pastors. This visit was touched with sadness. It is a small church located within the school, next to the cafeteria, with a tiny sacristy. Blowing snow was everywhere, but the church was full.

There was sadness, but kindness toward each other, as people reflected on what this place of prayer and worship had meant to them over the years. The building is a bit isolated on the south side of South Bend, although not far from St. Adalbert Parish, in some ways, light years away from that historic parish.

A painful day was touched with beauty; and credit for this belongs to Father John Delaney, pastor of St. Jude Parish, South Bend, the parish with which St. Mary of the Assumption was being merged, as well as Jim Fitzpatrick, our diocesan master of ceremonies.

After Mass, I presented the parish registers containing records of holy things, like baptisms and marriages. The sacred oils were taken up by parishioners, and I had the privilege of removing the Blessed Sacrament from the tabernacle for the last time and carrying it to St. Jude.

With a light snow falling and the sun shining, a parade of cars a mile long proceeded southeast to St. Jude, about three miles away.

We were welcomed there by the St. Jude parishioners. Songs were sung. The Blessed Sacrament was incensed and placed in the tabernacle. The symbolic sacred oils from St. Mary's were joined to those at St. Jude, and the parish registers graciously received by St. Jude parishioners. I said a few words and we all went downstairs to the hall. Parishioners of St. Jude, under the direction of Father Delaney, had prepared a delightful lunch. We were welcomed. While the love did not take away the pain of the parishioners of St. Mary of the Assumption, it softened it. How fitting that one reading at Mass was St. Paul's great hymn of charity to the Corinthians.

Holy Cross, South Bend

The next day, after celebrating the noon Mass for a fine crowd at Faith, Hope, Charity Chapel, and sharing a nice lunch with the staff, I proceeded to Holy Cross Parish for an event of great significance. We know that Catholic schools in urban areas around the country are closing. Here, through the excellent leadership of Father Michael Mathews, CSC, and the people of Holy Cross Parish and St. Stanislaus Parish, an urban Catholic school in a relatively low economic area is expanding. A large hole in the ground has already been dug and is covered with snow. A gym is being built, along with a school library, classrooms and offices. This beloved old parish, which at one time I am told, was the largest in the diocese, was not afraid to take on this new venture. They would need a loan from the diocese, but they raised over \$2 million in pledges toward their goal. There was great joy. The mayor of South Bend, Steve Luecke, was quite aware of the importance of this event. He was present with other city officials and, after the service, told me how this parish and school represented an anchor for the area and how grateful he was that it would grow.

Interestingly, in his reflections, Father Mathews said there were many people in the church present who contributed substantially, but who asked not to be recognized; so he did not ask them to stand. I have found this to be a significant part of the generosity of the people of this diocese. It is generosity touched by humility and a desire not to be widely known.

Also, it is significant that this blessing of the cornerstone took place in the church after a day of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Father Mike, Father Brad Metz, CSC, and Deacon Gregory Haake, CSC, all members of the Holy Cross congregation, were present, and the event had a spiritual climate.

Afterward, I was pleased to meet Jim Schellinger. Jim is an architect, a graduate of Holy Cross School and Saint Joseph's High School. He lives and works in Indianapolis, but he gave his expert services without charge to Holy Cross in preparing this addition. He has done the same for Saint Joseph's High School relative to their long-range plans. It was a privilege to meet him and discuss with him these two projects.

St. Joseph Parish, Garrett

I drove north on a bitterly cold Sunday morning to be present at St. Joseph Parish, Garrett. In August, I appointed Father Thaddeus Uwakwe as pastor to replace Father Thomas Lombardi, who had completed some remarkable years at this parish.

This is one of the most beautiful churches in our diocese, recently restored under Father Thom's direction. It was a special joy to see how well Father Thad has been accepted. He and the parishioners have worked hard to respond to the financial strain. A parishioner told me that every Friday Father Thad visits the 15 Communion calls, beginning at 10 a.m. and ending at 3 p.m. He brings holy Communion to each person. A neighbor, who is a Methodist, drives him. Father Thad is also present in the school. How blessed we are to have this priest from faraway Nigeria. He did graduate work in Louvain University in Belgium in theology,

catechetics and Catholic social teaching, and brings an excellent background.

Speaking of Catholic social teaching

St. Joseph is a model. Father Thom and the parishioners worked together to create St. Martin's Clinic. I visited it after lunch. It has been in existence less than two years, but they see hundreds of people every week. There is a great mass of uninsured people whom the leaders described to me as the "working poor." Similar to Matthew 25 in Fort Wayne, but much smaller, they have physicians who donate their time. They are able to give medication when properly prescribed. Most recently, they are working on opening a dental office. In addition, under Father Thom's leadership, similar works have developed — such as a soup kitchen and a place to receive clothing.

Garrett is an old railroad town and it struggles economically. All of these initiatives are a great credit to St. Joseph Parish, Garrett, and to Father Thom Lombardi in his service there.

St. Vincent De Paul, Fort Wayne

After a full week in South Bend, retiring late on a Wednesday night, I was off early the next morning to celebrate the 8 a.m. Mass at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in observance of the 50th anniversary of their parish school. It was the day before my own 50th anniversary of ordination, and it was a joy to spend it with children. As always, it was special to be with Father John Kuzmich, pastor of this huge parish. It was a delight to meet with some of his staff afterward for the always welcome coffee and muffins.

I was especially pleased to hear of the wonderful reaction of the people to Father Pius Ilechukwu, from faraway Nigeria. Father Pius has an excellent background, both academically and pastorally. He worked closely with his bishop on many important projects. He is a good preacher and an exemplary priest. It was gratifying to see the joyful relationship between him and Father Kuzmich.

On top of all this, we had a magnificent Mass at the Joyce Center in South Bend for all our schools. This was also to launch the You-Can-Lend-a-Hand Program, which has brought significant funds for our schools. Also, there were luncheons for Catholic schools in each of our major cities, with an award given to Thomas Blee and Our Sunday Visitor for all they have done for our schools and for the training of catechists.

Liturgy Day

A beautiful day at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Warsaw, with those involved in fostering liturgical prayer in our diocese. A magnificent presentation by Father Michael Joncas in which he explained in a positive and quite knowledgeable way some of the changes to be expected in liturgical translations.

A busy few weeks, but joyful.

Congratulations to the Colts.

I will see you all next week.

Liturgy Day previews upcoming changes in the Mass

BY DENISE FEDOROW

WARSAW — The howling winds and subzero temperatures on Feb. 3 served to help the presenter of Liturgy Day feel warmly welcomed.

Liturgy Day was held at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Warsaw and speaker Father Jan Michael Joncas, associate professor of theology at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn., greeted the participants, "Thank you for creating heavy snows and low wind chills to make me feel at home." Father Joncas is world renowned for his work and his musical compositions ("On Eagles Wings" and "Take and Eat") and is also teaching theology at Notre Dame.

The day began with a prayer service and ended with a closing memorial prayer service in honor of St. Blaise. Bishop John M. D'Arcy presided over the blessing of throats. In between, Father Joncas shared with participants changes that are coming to the Mass. The changes are expected to be published in a third edition of the Roman Rite Missal. Father Joncas said it is the third edition since Vatican II — the first edition was published in 1970 and the second in 1975. "This new one was promised to us back in 2000 for the millennium — obviously it's taking longer," he said.

He told the attendees the changes have already been approved by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and what is happening now is translating the changes into vernacular. The main reason for the upcoming changes is a return to a more literal translation from Latin.

Father Joncas walked the group through the order of the Mass, explaining more fully the purpose of each and pointing out proposed changes and how those changes in text would affect the music. Starting with the introductory rites, the revised edition states, after the people have assembled, Mass begins with music. In the past, Mass began when the priest reached the altar. The revised edition recognizes the gathering of the faithful is very important and the music is the beginning of Mass.

There's a change in text in the Gloria — "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory. Lord God, heavenly king, Oh God, almighty Father." According to Father Joncas, the American bishops are proposing the change to "Almighty God and Father."

Father Joncas said most people who have the prayers memorized would need to be retrained.

When discussing the Liturgy of the Word, Father Joncas said that the responsorial psalm is the word of God and shouldn't be substituted. He said it is an integral part of the Liturgy of the Word and has the same weight as other proclamations.

In the pre-Vatican II era, it was sung by the choir and only one or two verses. An antiphon was pulled out of the psalm in the hopes that it would be "ingrained in the congregation's mind and so accompany them through their week as they went about their business."

Father Joncas said regarding the prayer of the faithful, following



DENISE FEDOROW

Father J. Michael Joncas plays the keyboard for those attending the Liturgy Day workshop at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church and Diocesan Shrine in Warsaw. Joncas walked the group through proposed changes to the liturgy that are expected to be published sometime between 2008-2012.

the Gospel and homily, the revised language states, "exercising the office of their baptismal priesthood they offer prayers for the salvation of all."

"Convicted by the word, the first thing we do is pray and not just for our needs, but first for the needs of others," he said.

He said the Communion songs should reflect the mystery of what is taking place. "A big 'fight' among some Catholics is the question of whether the Eucharist is a meal or a sacrifice. The answer is yes. It's a sacrificial meal; you

can't separate them. To say it's only a fellowship meal is not to be Catholic."

Father Joncas spoke of the Eucharistic Prayer. "It's supposed to be the pinnacle of the Mass, not just a long prayer the priest says while we're waiting for Communion. The problem is, except for snippets here and there, it's not a participatory prayer."

He had the Liturgy Day participants roaring with laughter with his imitation of the pacing of prayer and music during the eucharistic prayer. "It doesn't give us the unity of one common prayer," he said.

The Sanctus is also changing. "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of power and might" is being changed to, "Lord, God of hosts" — which is a more literal translation — the Hebrew word 'hosts' meaning heavenly armies. The memorial acclamations will all be changed.

The biggest shock to those attending was when Father Joncas said there would be no music leading out of the church. "Music at the end was never a part of the Roman Rite. The Mass ends when the priest says, 'Mass has ended. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.' He joked that priests tell the congregation to go and then get upset when they do before the processional. Joncas suggested that if a parish really wants that sending song to do it before the priest gives the final blessing.

Father Joncas held a brief question-and-answer session. Most wanted to know when the changes would take place, why it's taken so long and why the importance of a literal Latin translation. When the changes would be instituted, he said no one knew at this point. The

very earliest in his opinion could be the first Sunday of Advent 2008, but more than likely it would be 2010 or 2012.

The reason it takes so long is because the council is working to find a common language for all the English speaking nations and has to go back and forth to Rome.

Of the importance of Latin translation, his answer was "because we are the Roman rite Roman Catholics, and we are charged with preserving that sense of global communion."

Father Joncas said the timing might be perfect, technologically speaking. While the bishops are working things out with publishers it may be possible for files of music scores to be downloaded and practiced.

Jim Fitzpatrick, interim director of the diocesan Office of Worship, teased the crowd that he had found the "Roman Catholic idols" rather than the "American Idol," complimenting their singing.

Bishop D'Arcy joined the event, a day after celebrating his 50th anniversary of his ordination. He said the changes have been a task for the bishops as well and implored those gathered to "not create disunity."

"This is a return to what is historically, theologically and liturgically sound, and the church has to protect this gift," Bishop D'Arcy said. "We don't manipulate the Mass, we receive it, through Christ. We are the guardians of the Mass."

He told the liturgical ministers and catechism instructors, "to be commissioned by Jesus Christ, which you are by the priests, to teach, to teach through music, is to be commissioned by Jesus Christ.



TIM JOHNSON

On the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood, Bishop John M. D'Arcy celebrated the noon Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Feb. 2. Above, chancery staff, Maureen Schott, Mari Raatz and Josephine Koch, present the offertory gifts at the Mass. A luncheon hosted by the Fort Wayne Serra Club and a gathering with diocesan employees followed that afternoon. The public celebration will take place Sunday, April 15, in Fort Wayne.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

development through the parishes with missions and retreats, and there must be devotion to the poor and to the needy. When all these things flourish, "that's when vocations will come and grow," he said and noted that, with 18 in the seminary, the fruits of renewal are beginning.

A luncheon, sponsored by the

Fort Wayne Serra Club, an organization dedicated to fostering the religious life and vocations, followed. The organization presented Bishop D'Arcy with a check for \$1,750 toward the cause of vocations.

The days of celebrations for Bishop D'Arcy continued into the afternoon as diocesan employees celebrated with cake, ice cream and punch later at the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center. A public celebration will take place April 15, the Sunday after Easter.

MASS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

already available online, translated into English. But with the good comes the bad. Bishop D'Arcy explained how some things on the Internet are a direct assault on purity, innocence and trust, especially of the young. Thanks to our God, he said, we have a choice.

"If you get those dark images that are offensive to you," reminded Bishop D'Arcy, "you can hit a button and eliminate them."

Asking students to further explain that choice, the bishop called on a student named John from South Bend's Christ the King. John nailed it.

"When you make that choice, you're turning to God and away from sin."

Nolan, a sixth grader from Holy Family added, "This shows you have free will."

The bishop went on to ask how we decide what is good. More hands went up.

"God," replied Tess from St. Joseph South Bend. "He tells us this in prayer."

Abby from Christ the King added, "You also find God's will in the Bible."

Bishop D'Arcy, pleased with

all the answers he heard, backed up the student's replies with words from the first reading, Phil. 4:4-9.

As he wrapped up an engaging homily, the bishop encouraged the students to pay attention when they pray. He reminded them how God wants us to be happy, but to also be unselfish.

"Lord, help me. Teach me to know my vocation in life so I may truly be happy." The bishop had the students pray this several times until he was satisfied they knew it, and encouraged them to pray it every night.

Cantors and a choir made up of students led the assembly, filling the Joyce Center with song. About 25 parish priests who celebrated with Bishop D'Arcy were stationed throughout the converted basketball arena to help distribute holy Communion.

Before giving his final blessing, the bishop introduced two young adults who answered the Lord's call to religious life. Deacon Gregory Haake will be ordained a Holy Cross priest this spring, after first hearing the call when he was in third grade. His advice to those who may also hear a call to the priesthood was this: "Don't be afraid."

Sister Margaret Mary, a teacher at St. Matthew School and a Sister of Saint Francis of Perpetual Adoration, first studied to be an engineer at Purdue

University.

"As an engineer, I discovered I loved Jesus even more," said sister. "If that's what Jesus calls you to do, you just gotta do it."

When asked by Bishop D'Arcy if she was happy in her vocation, Sister Margaret Mary beamed.

"I love it."

Bishop D'Arcy is celebrating 50 years in the priesthood this year, and before the final procession a surprise announcement was made.

"We are proud to make this inaugural contribution to the Bishop John M. D'Arcy Scholarship Fund," wrote Quality Dining Chief Executive Officer Dan Fitzpatrick in a letter read by company President John Firth. "As a direct result of Bishop D'Arcy's active pastoral care, a quality, affordable Catholic education is available to families throughout our diocese."

Firth presented the bishop with a check for \$10,167, representing a dollar for each of the 10,167 school children presently enrolled in diocesan grade schools. The fund will provide scholarship assistance to deserving children in the Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese.

As Bishop D'Arcy graciously accepted the check two days before his Jubilee Mass, he had one final request of the school children gathered before him — "Please pray for your bishop."

Bishop D'Arcy blesses cornerstone at Holy Cross expansion

Blessing represents the investment in the future of education

BY JENNIFER OCHSTEIN

SOUTH BEND — While the three R's of education — reading, writing and arithmetic — are still paramount, the arts also have their place.

"All these special classes are fundamental to educating the whole child," Holy Cross School Principal Angela Budzinski said during the cornerstone blessing of an expansion and renovation of the school at 1020 N. Wilbur St. in South Bend.

The estimated \$2.3 million project will see the construction of a new full-sized gymnasium as well as renovations in the current facility for music, art and computer laboratory classrooms as well as a new library and staff offices.

The current library is in the basement of the school, Budzinski said. The current gym will be split into a cafeteria and auditorium, while the other half will be renovated into a library, which will make it the center of

the school, she added.

The Holy Cross and St. Stanislaus Parishes in South Bend are expecting the project to be completed by the start of August. Construction began in November 2006.

The cornerstone blessing represents the investment in the future of education, Budzinski said.

She told those gathered for the ceremony that the project represents more than a new gym for the school. Along with a gym an entrance into the school will be added, and the cornerstone will be situated at the new entrance.

The expansion project, she explained, is also an investment in the future by continuing to keep Holy Cross and St. Stanislaus parishes anchors in northwest portion of South Bend. Bishop John M. D'Arcy congratulated the parishes for raising money to make the project a reality.

"All over the country urban Catholic schools are closing down," Bishop D'Arcy said.

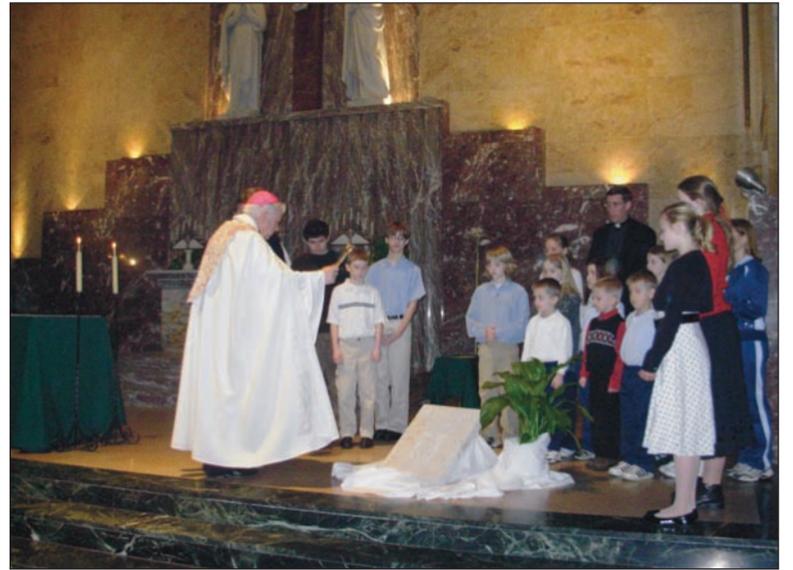
"In the suburbs, where there are more people and more money, Catholic schools are growing. Here, in a very intense urban area, not only are you not closing, you're getting bigger," Bishop D'Arcy told Holy Cross students.

Roberta Polovick, a spokeswoman for the schools, said earlier that the school has 375 students and continues to grow each year.

Bishop D'Arcy went on to say that many people in and outside of the parish have given significant amounts of money so the students can have a better, more beautiful school.

"But they didn't just do it for you," Bishop D'Arcy said. "They also did it for those who will come after you."

Holy Cross and St. Stanislaus pastor Holy Cross Father Michael Mathews added during the ceremony the project was not just about finances for him but the faith of parents and parishioners and "their ability to take a risk and a leap of faith to give the greatest gift — that of a Catholic



JENNIFER OCHSTEIN

Bishop John M. D'Arcy blesses the cornerstone of the new Holy Cross School renovation and expansion project in South Bend.

education."

Following the cornerstone blessing ceremony, Mark McDonnell, co-chair of the Renaissance Campaign Committee, the committee helping raise money for the expansion and renovation project, said they will continue to raise money for the project.

Father Mathews said the parishes still have to raise \$650,000 for the project.

"We believe there are still people out there that we could ask for significant chunks of money," McDonnell said, noting that individuals outside of the church

parish may be willing to donate money for the project.

Despite continuing fund raising efforts, for Father Mathews and many others in the congregations the school expansion and renovation is the fruition of a longtime vision.

"It's still a bit of a dream," said Father Mathews when asked later how he feels about the project. "I still can't believe it's actually here. It's been fun to be a part of, and it's been a joy and loving process for me to see the people's faith, trust and generosity."

CORPUS CHRISTI OPENS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK WITH OPEN HOUSE AND TALENT SHOW



DIANE FREEBY

South Bend's Corpus Christi was one of many diocesan schools kicking off Catholic Schools Week with an open house Jan. 28. As the talent show wrapped up in the gym, first grade teacher Maggie Mackowiak shows a group of parents some special projects her students have completed. With enrollment currently at 438 in grades preschool through eighth, first-year principal Miss Suzann LaPeer is thrilled to be at Corpus Christi. "I love the sense of family and the commitment on the part of Corpus Christi parents," says LaPeer. "I have fallen into my own patch of heaven." Teachers and staff were also happy to meet the many new families who stopped by Sunday's open house.

Benoit Academy opens doors to St. Patrick religious education students

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

FORT WAYNE — The small elementary school on Fort Wayne's southeast side welcomed the entire student population and staff of the religious education program at St. Patrick Parish seeking heated rooms for their classes.

Gisela Feil, director of religious education at St. Patrick's, had worried about the heating system at the aging school building on Harrison Street. In the past two years many repairs had been made to it, but finally, the old boiler gave out just as January temperatures dipped to freezing. Feil knew immediate action was required for the religious education program to continue without interruption.

Mary Schreiber, principal of Benoit Academy, stepped in and offered her building for Saturday classes. Not only are we opening our doors, she says, "We're opening our arms nice and wide."

Schreiber is pleased to be able to showcase her school and all it has to offer to the parents of St. Patrick students, since that parish has no functioning elementary school. They're welcome here," she says.

She and Father Dan Durkin, pastor at St. Henry Church, gave a welcoming address and juice and doughnuts were served by a committee from St. Patrick's.

Feil brings 260 religious education students and 33 teachers and aides from St. Patrick's each week. Students range in age from kindergarten to high school, including 110 first communicants and 37 confirmands.

St. Patrick Parish is diverse, with Hispanics comprising 80 percent of its population, Vietnamese 10 percent and Anglos 10 percent — a trilingual community, says Feil. Her student population reflects that diversity as well, as do her religious education teachers. It is a true combination of cultures, says Feil, but "they all come to hear the word of God."

Feil is grateful for the opportunity to utilize Benoit's facilities until St. Patrick's heating system is up and running once again and Schreiber is pleased to accommodate them.

She notes that Benoit's winter carnival is slated for Saturday, Feb. 17, and that each student will be given five free tickets to spend at the event in order to extend their welcome even further.

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Luncheon celebrates Catholic Schools Week

Diocesan educators honored with Light of Learning Award

MISHAWAKA — Educators from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend were honored with Light of Learning awards with luncheons hosted last week by Quality Dining in South Bend and Fort Wayne.

The luncheon provides an opportunity for school representatives, political leaders and local business people to meet and establish meaningful relationships. These newly-created connections lead to the development of programs that benefit both Catholic schools and the community. Quality Dining, Inc.® hosts this annual event to demonstrate its continued commitment to area Catholic schools and Catholic education.

Bishop John M. D'Arcy served as the luncheon's keynote speaker. Bishop D'Arcy addressed the impact a Catholic education has on building a strong foundation of faith for its students. The luncheon centers on the theme of Catholic Schools Week which is Catholic Schools — The Good News In Education.

The South Bend event was held Jan. 30 at the Century Center. In addition, 19 local Catholic School educators were presented with the Light of Learning award. From the South Bend area those teachers were the following: Monica Van Horn, Christ the King; Jason Pikuza, Corpus Christi; Deborah Feece, Holy Family; Amy Spier, Our Lady of Hungary; Lori Mazick, St. Adalbert; Mary Jo Filipek, St. Anthony de Padua; James Mazurkiewicz, St. John The Baptist, South Bend; Kristin Darden, St. Joseph, South Bend; Ann Bartley, St. Jude; Julie Considine, St. Matthew; Donna Creighton, Queen of Peace; Kathleen Lehmann, St. Bavo; Kevin Joyce, St. Thomas the Apostle, Elkhart; Susan Agniel,



TIM JOHNSON

Light of Learning Award recipients in the Fort Wayne area are shown in the photo above with Bishop D'Arcy and diocesan Catholic Schools Office staff.



PROVIDED BY QUALITY DINING

Light of Learning Award recipients in the South Bend area are shown in the photo above with Bishop D'Arcy and diocesan Catholic Schools Office staff.

St. Vincent de Paul; Ruth Newell, St. John the Evangelist, Goshen; Dorothy Kissell, Sacred Heart, Warsaw; Sister Marie Morgan, OSF, Marian High School; A. Philip DePauw IV, Saint Joseph's High School. An

Administrative Light of Learning award went to Fred Stump of St. Thomas the Apostle in Elkhart. A special Light of Learning award

was presented to, Thomas Blee of "Our Sunday Visitor."

The Fort Wayne event was held at the Fort Wayne Marriott hotel. The 20 educators from the Fort Wayne area who were recognized included the following: Jessie Bloom, Most Precious Blood; Amy Dumford, Queen of Angels; Kathleen Parson, St. Charles Borromeo; Gail Welling, St. John the Baptist; Kristin Spoltman, St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton; Kathleen

Dykhuisen, St. Jude; Linda Luegring, St. Therese; Elaine Martin, St. Vincent de Paul; Virginia Robison, St. Aloysius; Peggy Richardson, Msgr. Julian Benoit Academy; Kathleen Hartenstein, St. Joseph, Hessen Cassel; Cynthia Stahl, St. Mary of the Assumption, Avilla; Merlie Ambrose, St. Joseph, Garrett; Sharon Emenhiser, St. Joseph, Decatur; John Fisher, Huntington Catholic; Shannon Tracy, St. Bernard, Wabash;

JoEllen Smith, St. Joseph, Monroeville and St. Louis Academy, New Haven; Erin Brady, Bishop Dwenger High School; Karlene Krouse, Bishop Luers High School.

Also honored was the administrative Light of Learning recipient J. Fred Tone of Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne.

The Good News in Education

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Bishop Murry of Virgin Islands named to head Youngstown Diocese

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has named Bishop George V. Murry of St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands to head the Diocese of Youngstown, Ohio. Bishop Murry, 58, succeeds Bishop Thomas J. Tobin, who was appointed bishop of Providence, R.I., in March 2005. The appointment was announced Jan. 30 in Washington by Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States. "I am honored to accept the Holy Father's appointment to serve as bishop of Youngstown, and I look forward to meeting and working with the priests, deacons, religious and laity of the diocese," Bishop Murry said in a statement. He will be installed March 28. Bishop Murry, who is one of 10 active U.S. black Catholic bishops, had headed the Diocese of St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands since June 1999. He first went to the diocese when he was appointed coadjutor bishop in May 1998. When Bishop Elliott G. Thomas retired, Bishop Murry automatically succeeded him. Before being appointed to the Virgin Islands diocese, Bishop Murry was a Chicago auxiliary bishop for four years.

Pontifical council plans spring seminar on climate change

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace is planning a spring seminar to look at climate change from the point of view of the Catholic Church's social teaching. Officials at the council confirmed the meeting was being planned for late April or early May, although the dates, agenda and participants had not been confirmed as of late January. The council regularly holds seminars, inviting Catholic leaders in specific fields to share their experiences and discuss ways to put church teaching into practice. Among other topics, past seminars have looked at just business practices, the prevention of human trafficking, genetically modified food and educating members of religious orders in the social teaching of the church. Bishop Marcelo Sanchez Sorondo, chancellor of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, told Catholic News Service Jan. 30 that he did not know if the council would invite the academy to co-sponsor the seminar, but he also said the academy has convoked several high-level scientific meetings on climate change and related topics.

Vatican says Catholics can get indulgence for sick-day activities

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Catholics who participate in events connected with the Feb. 11 celebration of the World Day of the Sick can receive a special indulgence, the Vatican announced. Pope Benedict XVI authorized the indulgences in order "to enrich" the World Day of the Sick and to highlight Christian teaching on "the value and function of suffering" accepted as a way to express sor-

POPE GREETS NUNS AT MASS FOR CONSECRATED LIFE



CNS PHOTO/DARIO PIGNATELLI, REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI greets nuns as he arrives for a special Mass for consecrated men and women Feb. 2 in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican.

row for one's sins and trust in the fact that Christ's suffering is a source of salvation, said the Vatican statement released Feb. 5. The statement was signed by U.S. Cardinal J. Francis Stafford, head of the Vatican tribunal that deals with indulgences and with matters related to the sacrament of penance. An indulgence is a remission of the temporal punishment a person is due for sins he or she has committed. A plenary, or full, indulgence is being offered to those who join the official celebrations of the World Day of the Sick in Seoul, South Korea, or in their own dioceses or parishes.

Theologian says Catholic-Orthodox relations improving in Russia

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — A Catholic representative to Catholic-Orthodox talks in Russia said the atmosphere between the two churches is improving. The improved atmosphere allows members "to face the problems and seek solutions," said Jean-Francois Thiry, a Catholic representative at the Jan. 26 talks in Moscow. "We agreed we should go to see the situation of churches in other cities and regions, while encouraging people at the local level to follow our example." The Belgian theologian was part of the working group for problems between the Moscow Patriarchate and Catholic Church, set up in February 2004 by Russian Orthodox Patriarch Alexy II of Moscow and Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. A Jan. 26 joint statement said the working group, which convened in the Moscow Patriarchate's Pilgrim Center, had discussed Catholic-Orthodox mixed mar-

riages, the education of children at Catholic-run orphanages and the role of Catholic "vicarial and social structures" in Russia.

Ecumenist cites religious illiteracy as challenge to churches

ARLINGTON, Va. (CNS) — One challenge ecumenical leaders face is integrating the many solid ecumenical advances of the past half-century into the life of their churches, especially in an age where general religious illiteracy is on the rise, Christian Brother Jeffrey Gros told a national gathering of ecumenists Jan. 30. Brother Gros is a theology professor at Memphis (Tenn.) Theological Seminary who spent a quarter-century as a national ecumenical officer, first for the National Council of Churches and then for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. He delivered the keynote address for the National Workshop on Christian Unity, held Jan. 29-Feb. 1 at Arlington's Key Bridge Marriott Hotel. The gathering drew nearly 400 national and local ecumenical officers of the Catholic, Lutheran, Episcopal, Presbyterian and other Christian churches.

Catholic groups well represented at big anti-war rally at Capitol

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic groups were well represented at a Jan. 27 rally against the Iraq War that drew tens of thousands to the nation's capital to protest the current war policy and President George W. Bush's plan to send 21,500 additional soldiers to Iraq. Retired Bishop Walter F. Sullivan of Richmond, Va., a former bishop-president of Pax Christi

USA, was one of the speakers at the rally, which preceded a march past the Capitol. Some rally participants stayed in Washington to lobby members of Congress Jan. 29. The rally was organized by United for Peace and Justice, a coalition of more than 1,300 organizations that have declared their opposition to the war. "Pax Christi from the very beginning has condemned the invasion of Iraq as unlawful and immoral, as well as (condemned) the four-year war that has devastated this country and led to the deaths of thousands and thousands of innocent people," Bishop Sullivan told Catholic News Service Jan. 29. "Our fundamental belief is that violence only begets more violence and that war is not the solution to any human problem."

Vatican newspaper denounces reporter who posed as penitent for expose

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican newspaper denounced an Italian journalist who posed as a penitent and confessed fake sins in order to write an expose on the sacrament of reconciliation. "Fake confessions in search of a shameful scoop," the newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, headlined a commentary condemning the cover story of *L'Espresso* magazine, one of the country's leading weeklies. "Shame! There is no other word to express our distress toward an operation that was disgusting, worthless, disrespectful and particularly offensive," the newspaper said. The commentary said the article had exploited the good faith of confessors and offended the religious sentiments of millions of people. "It was a sacrilege, because it violated the sacred space in which a self-recognized

sinner asks intimately to receive God's merciful love," it said. The reporter made his false confessions to 24 different priests in five Italian cities, including Rome. The magazine said the idea was to see how priests handle difficult pastoral situations and whether they followed the norms in church teaching.

Vatican denies laicization to Paraguayan bishop running for president

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican turned down a laicization request from a Paraguayan bishop who wants to run for president and suspended the bishop from exercising his priestly ministry. Bishop Fernando Lugo Mendez of San Pedro, Paraguay, 57, had announced Dec. 25 that he would ask the Vatican to return him to the status of a layman so he could run for president. Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re, prefect of the Congregation for Bishops, responded in December with a formal warning that running for public office would "be in clear contrast with the serious responsibility of a bishop of the Catholic Church" and would carry sanctions. Vatican Radio reported Feb. 1 that Cardinal Re informed Bishop Lugo in a Jan. 20 letter that his request to return to the lay state had been denied because "the episcopacy is a service accepted freely forever." However, the radio said, because of Bishop Lugo's decision to continue his political activity, Cardinal Re also informed him that he had been suspended from exercising his ministry as a bishop and priest.

Vatican publishing house defends choice of Doubleday for papal book

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican publishing house defended the choice of Doubleday as the English-language publisher of Pope Benedict XVI's new book on Jesus. The book, "Jesus of Nazareth: From His Baptism to His Transfiguration," is scheduled to be released March 27 in North America. Citing Doubleday's "respectful editorial curriculum," the Vatican publishing house said that when it contracted with the Italian publisher Rizzoli to handle the international translation and publication of the book, it expected Rizzoli to negotiate individual language rights with "the most important world publishing houses." The Vatican statement, issued Jan. 30, came in response to a front-page article in the Italian newspaper *Il Giornale* saying the English rights to the pope's new book will be in the hands of the same publisher responsible for "The Da Vinci Code" by Dan Brown. *Il Giornale* said the assignment of rights to Doubleday, a division of Random House, which published Brown's book, occurred despite Vatican officials' recent complaints about how some publishers seem to enjoy making money from books that attack the church and the Christian faith.

Annual You Can Lend A Hand coupon book sale begins

MISHAWAKA — The Michiana area You Can Lend a Hand coupon book sale campaign sponsored annually by Quality Dining, Inc. kicked off on Wednesday, Jan. 31. The coupon book sale is an integral part of Catholic schools' fundraising efforts in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Since the campaign's inception in 1982, more than \$6,800,000 has been raised. The schools have utilized profits from the fundraiser for school upgrades such as classroom and playground equipment, computer software, library books and capital improvements.

Students from Fort Wayne-South Bend diocesan Catholic schools will sell You Can Lend A Hand coupon books through Feb. 23. Each coupon book sells for \$3, contains 16 coupons and is valued at over \$70.

South Bend area Catholic schools participating in the program are: Christ the King; Corpus Christi; Holy Cross; Holy Family; Our Lady of Hungary; Queen of Peace; Sacred Heart, Warsaw; St. Adalbert; St. Anthony de Padua; St. Bavo; St. John the Baptist; St. John the Evangelist, Goshen; St. Joseph, Mishawaka; St. Joseph, South Bend; St. Jude; St. Matthew; St. Michael, Plymouth; St. Monica; St. Patrick, Walkerton; St. Thomas the Apostle, Elkhart; and St. Vincent de Paul, Elkhart.

Fort Wayne area Catholic schools participating in the program are: Huntington Catholic; Msgr. Julian Benoit Academy; Most Precious Blood; Queen of Angels; St. Aloysius; St. Bernard, Wabash; St. Charles Borromeo; St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne; St. John the Baptist, New Haven; St. Joseph, Decatur; St. Joseph, Garrett; St. Joseph, Hessen Cassel; St. Joseph, Monroeville; St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton; St. Jude; St. Louis Academy; St. Mary of the Assumption, Avilla; St. Therese; and St. Vincent de Paul.

"The You Can Lend a Hand coupon book fundraising program began in 1982 with a handful of area Catholic schools. This year, 53 schools from northern Indiana and western, southwestern and southeastern Michigan communities will participate," said Daniel B. Fitzpatrick, Quality Dining, Inc. chairman and CEO. "We are proud to be the sponsor of this annual event. It is with great pleasure that we support area Catholic schools with this program and all the events associated with You Can Lend a Hand and Catholic Schools Week."

Catholic organizations host speaker on stem-cell research at St. Elizabeth Parish

FORT WAYNE — Dr. Janet Smith, noted author, speaker and moral theologian will be coming to Fort Wayne Feb. 13 to talk about Catholic teachings regarding stem-cell research.

Her talk is sponsored by Our Sunday Visitor, Inc., St. Elizabeth

AROUND THE DIOCESE

FIFTY-FIFTY: BISHOP AND ST. VINCENT SCHOOL CELEBRATE



DON CLEMMER

Bishop John M. D'Arcy speaks to students gathered for Mass at St. Vincent de Paul School in Fort Wayne. Bishop D'Arcy's visit, to honor the school on its 50th anniversary, coincided almost exactly with the bishop's 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

Ann Seton Parish in Fort Wayne, the School of Liberal Arts at the University of Saint Francis, Redeemer Catholic Radio and Untapped, a Catholic ministry for adults in their 20s and 30s.

Stem-cell research has attracted widespread interest by the scientific community, and its advocates believe it may offer medical hope for a variety of life-threatening conditions. The Bush Administration has restricted funding for embryonic stem-cell research, while individual states have taken contrary funding positions. Critics of embryonic stem-cell research point to studies that show success with adult stem cells and do not involve the destruction of embryos.

"Dr. Janet Smith is a foremost authority and teacher in the area of life ethics and Catholic teaching," said Gregory Erlandson, president of Our Sunday Visitor's Publishing Division. "Stem-cell research is a controversial political and scientific issue, and both Fort Wayne's Catholic and medical communities should find Dr. Smith's talk timely and fascinating. All are invited."

Dr. Janet Smith holds the Father Michael J. McGivney Chair of Life Ethics at Sacred Heart Major Seminary of Detroit. She is the author of "Beginning Apologetics 5: How to Answer Tough Moral Questions — Abortion, Contraception, Euthanasia, Test-Tube Babies, Cloning, and Sexual Ethics"; "Humanae Vitae: A Generation Later"; and she is the editor of "Why 'Humanae Vitae' Was Right." Smith was the recipient of the Haggard Award for Excellence in Teaching (1994) and Pro-Life Person of the Year (1995).

Smith's talk will begin at 7:30 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish on 10700 Aboite Center Rd., in Fort Wayne. For more information, please contact the parish at (260) 432-0268.

Student Health Fair at USF offers practical demonstrations

FORT WAYNE — Physical Therapy Assistant (PTA) students at the University of Saint Francis are putting their training into practice by offering a Health Fair on Monday, Feb. 19, from 9 a.m.-noon at the Doermer Center on the corner of Spring Street and Leesburg Road.

PTA students have researched an array of issues and will provide displays, printed material, demonstrations and activities for the general public and the university community. Topics include diabetes, walking, aquatic therapy, body mechanics and function and core/trunk stability.

The Student Health Fair is part of a class project in Mary Kay Solon's Physical Therapy Assistant Seminar course. There is no cost to those who attend the fair, and no appointment is necessary. For further information, please contact Beth Schutt at (260) 434-7602.

Hall of fame director to speak at dinner

SOUTH BEND — Richard Walls, executive director of the National College Football Hall of Fame in downtown South Bend, will address wives and members of the

Father Nieuwland Assembly Forth Degree Knights of Columbus Thursday, Feb. 15, in the dining hall of the Mishawaka Council Knights of Columbus. A reception at 6:30 p.m. will be followed by dinner at 7 p.m.

Walls, who has been executive director of the hall for the past two years, said thousands of visitors have been attracted to this national site since it, along with the University of Notre Dame, is considered a most-popular attraction in Indiana.

The hall of fame has been especially popular when the Fighting Irish football teams play at home. — EJD

Luers students learn about government with Indiana focus

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Luers High School offered two students in the junior class the opportunity to learn more about the government, focusing on Indiana. Kayla Godfroy and Isaac Baker were the two students representing Bishop Luers at the 30th Annual Richard Lugar Symposium for Tomorrow's Leaders.

While attending this event they heard Sen. Lugar talk about world problems. After Sen. Lugar's speech they attended three different classes.

Godfroy chose immigration, health and fitness and Iraq. Baker also attended health and fitness and media responsibility and U.S. leadership in the world.

Both students felt the trip to Indianapolis was a learning experi-

ence; they gained knowledge on how the government works and why certain things are done.

Godfroy is a member of the National Honor Society and show choir. She participates in cross-country and theater productions.

Baker is also a member of the National Honor Society and plays football and baseball for the Knights.

Sister Okure to speak at Holy Cross Mission Lecture at Notre Dame

NOTRE DAME — The Third Annual Holy Cross Mission Lecture at Notre Dame will be held at the Moreau Seminary Auditorium, Notre Dame, on Sunday, Feb. 18, at 7 p.m. Sister Teresa Okure, SHCJ, will speak on Salvific Option for Mission in the 21st Century. Her talk will be followed by a discussion on the challenges of mission today and a reception.

Sister Okure, a graduate from the University of Ibadan, La Sorbonne, École Biblique of Jerusalem, and a doctorate from Fordham University, is a professor of New Testament and gender hermeneutics at the Catholic Institute of West Africa, Port Harcourt, Nigeria. She is or has been a member of the executive committees of several associations, including the Ecumenical Association of Third World Theologians, the International Association for Mission Studies, and the Society for New Testament Studies.

The evening is planned to assist those who wish to deepen their reflection on the mission dimension of Christian life and service. All are invited. For more information or directions to Moreau Seminary, call Holy Cross Mission Center at (574) 631-5477.

Nationally touring Divine Mercy drama coming to Bristol

BRISTOL — St. Mary of the Annunciation Parish in Bristol will host the Mother of Mercy Messengers who bring the message of St. Faustina and Divine Mercy with their presentation "Tell All Souls About My Mercy." The event, sponsored by the Catholic parishes of Elkhart County, will be held Sunday, Feb. 25, at St. Mary in Bristol at 6 p.m.

Husband-and-wife team Dave and Joan Maroney present a mix of music, lights and sound to convey the message of Divine Mercy and the writings of St. Faustina Kowalski.

The program is presented within the sacredness of the church and progresses from an emotional drama to a deep prayerful experience as the Blessed Sacrament is placed on the altar for a time for eucharistic adoration. During this segment, prayers from the "Diary of St. Faustina" are recited and there is time for silent contemplation. The Chaplet of Mercy is prayed for the sick and dying as well as the intentions of all gathered.

For information contact St. Mary Church at (574) 848-4305

Mentally ill not eligible for death penalty under proposed bill

BY BRIGID CURTIS AYER

INDIANAPOLIS — Life in prison without parole would be the stiffest penalty given to those suffering from serious mental illness under a bill being considered by the Indiana General Assembly.

Senate Bill 24 would rule out the death penalty for those convicted of a murder, but who are seriously mentally ill. The measure authored by long time death penalty opponent Sen. Anita Bowser (D-Michigan City) also would establish a procedure for determining whether a defendant charged of murder is a mentally ill individual.

"Senate Bill 24 is very much needed," said Sen. Bowser. "We've done away with executing 10-year olds, and executing the mentally retarded. However, there is another group, which needs to be exempt — that's those suffering from mental illness." The Michigan City lawmaker said, "It's crass to say but there is an economic side of this bill because it would curtail some of the prisoners being sent to death row which costs the state a lot of money.

"This bill doesn't abolish the death penalty," said Sen. Bowser, "it merely exempts a narrow part of society — those who are severely mentally ill." Sen. Bowser said that the committee did not take a vote because there are some who would like to see the U.S. Supreme Court rule on this, which they are expected to do so this June. I think we should define it ourselves."

Sen. Bowser said that the only real opposition to the bill came from a prosecuting attorney's group who expressed concern that "a defendant could fake being seriously mentally ill," but that testimony from doctors said that possibility was remote.

Sen. Brent Steele (R-Bedford) chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Corrections, Criminal and Civil Matters said, "It was out of respect for Sen. Bowser that I heard the bill. Sen.

Mentally ill and the death penalty statistics

Under SB 24 a mentally ill individual is an individual who, at the time of the offense, had a severe mental disorder or disability that significantly impaired the individual's capacity to: 1) appreciate the nature, consequences or wrongfulness of the individual's conduct; 2) exercise rational judgment in relation to the individual's conduct; or 3) conform the individual's conduct to the requirements of the law.

- In 2005, there were more people in prison at the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility with mental illness than there were in the five state mental hospitals combined, according to NAMI of Indiana. The estimated number of those on death row in the U.S. who are mentally ill according to the narrow definition found in SB 24 is 5 to 10 percent. (Indiana Public Defender Council) However, NAMI Indiana estimates that number to be a little higher at 25 percent.

- A study by Indiana's Criminal Law Study Commission found the total cost of Indiana's death penalty is 38 percent greater than the total cost of life without parole sentences, assuming that 20 percent of death sentences are overturned and re-sentenced to life. — Indiana Criminal Law Study Commission, Jan. 10, 2002.

- The average capital case in Indiana costs anywhere from \$250,000 to \$500,000 or more. — Indiana Public Defender Council.

- Nationally, Indiana has been one of the most progressive states in death penalty law preceding the U.S. Supreme Court in two instances. In 1994, Indiana passed a law prohibiting use of the death penalty on persons who are mentally retarded. In 2002, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that persons who were mentally retarded could not receive the death penalty. In the same year, Indiana passed a law prohibiting any one under age 18 from being sentenced to death. In 2005, the U.S. Supreme Court again followed suit by ruling that no one under age 18 could be sentenced to death.

- Other states, currently North Carolina, Washington and California are considering similar legislation to exempt the mentally ill from the death penalty. — Indiana Public Defender Council.

Bowser is a champion of death penalty issues and has been ahead of the curve in predicting what the U.S. Supreme Court on more than one occasion," said the Bedford lawmaker. "I also gave the bill a hearing so that both sides could 'get their day in court.' I haven't decided whether or not to take a vote on the bill. I lay in bed at night thinking and praying about what to do," said Sen. Steele.

"Exempting the mentally ill

from the death penalty is much more of a slippery slope than exempting the mentally retarded or exempting juveniles as Indiana has done," said Sen. Steele. "It is much easier to determine when someone is mentally retarded. And we know if someone is a juvenile because we can just look at the individual's birth certificate. But with mental illness, there is a lot of gray area compared with the other two groups that we currently exempt. I'm not

sure if we should get ahead of the U.S. Supreme Court on this issue. Indiana may benefit from getting some guidance on this highly complex issue from the court."

Sen. Steele, who is also an attorney, said before he makes a decision to take a vote on the bill, if possible, he plans to review the evidence that is currently before the Supreme Court to see if he can "get more pixels to this picture on mental illness."

Pam McConey, executive director,

National Association of the Mentally Ill (NAMI) of Indiana said, "We strongly support SB 24 because part of our mission is to educate and advocate for the mentally ill. We feel that people with severe mental illness need to be exempt, just as juveniles and the mentally retarded," she said. "Those who are mentally ill need treatment, not jail.

Indiana has a very good law providing assisted outpatient treatment, but only three counties in Indiana are funded."

The pretrial determination of whether a defendant is mentally ill, which SB 24 is proposing, would mirror the procedure in cases involving claims of mental retardation. When critical evidence of mental illness and its effects on the defendant's conduct is brought into the consideration of the prosecutor and trial judge, it is done so before an expensive capital trial is conducted, rather than in its final phase as done under current law.

There are two phases of a trial in a capital case, the guilt-innocence phase and the sentencing phase. Assistant Executive

Director of Capital Litigation Assistance Paula Sites of the Indiana Public Defenders' Council explained that not all states operate like Indiana in capital cases. "For instance, in Indiana even when there is a guilty plea, Indiana still goes through phase one to determine guilt while some states skip the guilt-innocence phase and go right to sentencing." She explained that by making the jury go through a whole trial, the cir-

cumstances of the crime often times outweigh the defendant's mental illness, and the jury gives the death penalty.

Indiana Catholic Conference Executive Director Glenn Tebbe, who testified in support of SB 24 said, "The church is not trying to erase guilt or punishment for those convicted of terrible crimes, however the church recognizes

those with severe mental illness are less morally culpable and should not be put to death."

SB 24 must pass the Indiana Senate by the end of February in order to move to the House chamber for further consideration.

To view the Indiana Catholic Conference position paper on SB 24 (Death Penalty and Mental Illness), visit the ICC Web page at www.indianacc.org. Click on Public Policy Priorities and scroll down to ICC Position Statements on Issues of Interest.

"We strongly support SB 24 because part of our mission is to educate and advocate for the mentally ill. We feel that people with severe mental illness need to be exempt ..."

PAM MCCONEY

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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

THE BIGGER PICTURE



Not just a beautiful wedding day, have a beautiful marriage

Preparation for married life itself needs to be at the top of the list

BY DIANE FREEBY

SOUTH BEND — He popped the question, she said “yes,” and they’ve even picked a date. Now it’s time to start planning for the big day. But even more important, it’s time to start preparing for life beyond the wedding reception.

“It’s important to have not just a beautiful wedding day,” says Co-Director of the Office of Family Life Lisa Everett, “but to have a beautiful marriage.”

So how does this all fit in with making decisions on everything from the church to the bridal dresses? During what can be a whirlwind engagement time for many couples, preparation for married life itself needs to be at the top of the list.

“Couples not only need to prepare for the realities of married life, but to also evaluate their readiness for the responsibilities of marriage in the Catholic Church.”

Those getting married in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend must fulfill certain requirements, and the Office of Family Life offers different ways for couples to do that. The most hands-on approach is to take part in a parish sponsor-

couple program. Using the “Christian Married Love” video and workbook series, the engaged couple comes to a sponsor married couple’s home over the course of four weeks. During that time, both couples view the video, which covers relational, psychological and theological topics.

“It even covers some scientific topics,” adds Lisa, “by getting into the physiology of Natural Family Planning. All the topics serve as a springboard for discussion between the engaged and married host couple.”

Understanding that not everyone is able to attend four sessions over the course of a month, particularly if one is from out of town, the Office of Family Life offers a second option. The Christian Married Love conference is offered six times a year at Ancilla College in Donaldson.

Instead of the video series, the day-long conference features a Power Point presentation with time for the engaged couples to answer questions individually before coming

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WEDDING

FAQ

FREQUENTLY
ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: I am marrying a non-Catholic. Should we have a Mass?

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Q: I have a son or daughter from a previous relationship. Can they be worked into the ceremony?

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Q: Can a non-Catholic friend or relative participate in the ceremony as a reader or bearer of the gifts? What could they do?

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Q: Why can't I have “Wind Beneath My Wings,” or another popular song at our wedding?

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Q: Why can't we redecorate the sanctuary?

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Q: My photographer has a backdrop he wants to use in the sanctuary; can I do this?

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: I am marrying a non-Catholic. Should we have a Mass?

Diocesan Office of Worship: At the rite of marriage, it is better to highlight the unity of the couple rather than the differences. Therefore, it would provide a greater sign of unity within the couple to have the rite of marriage outside of Mass. If the couple had a Mass, one partner would not be able to receive the Eucharist since he or she would not be Catholic, and, most likely, most of the non-Catholic's family would not be Catholic.

Q: I have a son or daughter from a previous relationship. Can they be worked into the ceremony?

Diocesan Office of Worship: Depending upon the age of the child, they could serve as a member of the bridal party (brides-

maid, groomsman, flower girl, ring bearer). Also, if the child is of the appropriate age, is a practicing Catholic and has received the appropriate training and/or commission, they could be a proclaimer of the word or serve as an extraordinary minister of holy Communion (during a Mass).

Q: Can a non-Catholic friend or relative participate in the ceremony as a reader or bearer of the gifts? What could they do?

Diocesan Office of Worship: A proclaimer of the word needs to be a person in full communion with the Catholic Church, a person who is serious about the practice of their faith and a person who is willing to complete the appropriate formation process. Proclaimer of the word is not a role a non-Catholic can take in the Mass.

However, they can serve as a gift bearer or read the petitions during the prayer of the faithful.

Q: Why can't I have "Wind Beneath My Wings," or another popular song at our wedding?

Diocesan Office of Worship: The wedding is a sacred event, and the music at such a sacred event must reflect that. Secular music does not belong either before, during or after the rite within the sacred space of the church. Favorite secular or popular songs of the couple belong at the reception or at another time during the wedding festivities that do not occur within the church itself.

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Matrimony — Marriages to last a lifetime

BY LINDA FURGE

Opening prayer

Calm us down, Lord, with your presence. Open our minds, our ears and our hearts to hear your word in the Scriptures and in our discussion. Help us to see your will for our lives, and grant us the courage daily to be the people you have called us to be. We ask this, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture: 1 Cor. 13: 4-8 "Love is patient, love is kind."

Commentary

As anyone who's been married for any length of time knows, "happily ever after" does not automatically happen with the "I do." Experience teaches that, over the years, "happily" joins sadly, patiently, angrily, humorously, forgivingly, bite-the-tongue-ly — essentially, the whole gamut of emotions. And it's in all of these descriptions that the sacrament of matrimony is best understood.

Falling in love is a wonderful emotional experience, but staying in love requires intentional choices and actions of the will. As we "fall in love," we are immersed in our own emotions and feelings of happiness, pleasure and desire. But, when we encounter another whose life and happiness matters more than our own, we have moved from "falling in love" to "being in love," from feeling in love to a decision to love. And, when the other person makes the same decision, together we embark on a whole new life adventure in marriage.

Even with today's questions about "civil unions," marriage is (and always has been) a key social institution (and always has been). Here a distinction between legal marriage and sacramental marriage is in order. A legal marriage is one that is recognized by the state as civilly lawful and only requires that the marriage is performed by someone properly licensed to do so. By fulfilling legal requirements, the legal benefits of marriage are gained. A legal contract is founded on justice rather than love. When two people make a civil contract and one breaks it, the other is no longer bound to keep it.

This points out one of the differences between a civil legal marriage and a sacramental marriage. If one of the spouses breaks the sacramental marriage covenant, the other continues to be bound unless that covenant is found and declared to have never existed (the difference between civil divorce and a declaration of nullity).

Marriage is the foundation of family life and of the church. The newly published "Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church" sees in the family, "the first natural society, with rights that are proper to it and places it at the center of social life." (#211) The compendium explains the importance of the family for society: "For each individual, the family is the cradle of life and love where we are born and grow." (#212) The climate of love that unites the family is also where we learn about truth and

goodness, where moral values are taught and where the spiritual and cultural heritage of society is passed on. Given its vital importance the family has priority over society and the state: "Every social model that intends to serve the good of man must not overlook the centrality and social responsibility of the family" (#214)

With regard to marriage the compendium explains that the institution of marriage, while regulated by human institutions and laws, is, even more importantly, a partnership established by God and endowed with its own laws. (#215) As the new "United States Catholic Catechism for Adults" says, "God is the author of marriage. God created man and woman out of love and commanded them to imitate his love in their relations with each other. Man and woman were created for each other. Woman and man are equal, and in marriage both are united in an unbreakable bond." (page 279)

As Catholics we recognize that marriage is — in addition to being a human institution — also a spiritual expression that signifies God's unconditional love of all people, the sacrament of matrimony.

Father Thomas Richstatter, OFM, ThD, writing in "Catholic Update: Sacrament of Marriage," says, "The sacrament reveals the religious dimension of marriage. Besides the human, social and legal dimensions of marriage — the public sign that one gives oneself totally to this other person — sacramental marriage is also a public statement about God. The celebration of each of the sacraments reveals something of this ultimate reality: who God is and who God is for us."

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says that marriage is a covenant "by which a man and woman establish between themselves a partnership for the whole of life. (CCC #1601) If a sacrament is a visible sign of an invisible reality, then the sacramental symbolism of the covenant of marriage is very rich indeed. Two people come together in a relationship of love and commitment, vowing to stay together through good times and bad for all their natural lifetimes.

They mutually give their love to one another and accept their partner's promise to return this trust and commitment so that "By its very nature (their marriage) is ordered to the good of the couple, as well as to the generation and education of children" (CCC #1660).

The saying, "A wedding lasts a day, but a marriage lasts a lifetime" best sums up the truth about marriage. It is in the ups-and-downs of living out their commitment that married couples reflect the unconditional love of God and Christ's love for the church. This is when the couple becomes the "visible sign of an invisible reality." The sacrament of marriage is the outward sign of two people pledging their lives to each other — and who then actually live out that pledge, unconditionally, in the nitty-gritty, down-and-dirty of everyday life. It is here that God's unbreakable covenant with humanity is modeled.

The sacrament of marriage also unites couples within the church, making the family a "domestic church" in which the family unit itself is a sign of God's love to the world. A reflection of the Trinity, the family is a place where communion flourishes, and each person is recognized, accepted and loved beyond measure.

As a believing and sacramental community, we have a stake in every Christian marriage, and so we witness and support the wedding vows of the couple. In the marriage ceremony, the truth about God's and the couple's unconditional love is ritualized as the couple confers the sacrament on each other and their union. On their wedding day, no one can predict whether or not they will live "happily ever after," but they do pledge to love and trust each other and to journey together through life. This is the same pledge God makes to journey with each of us and with the church till the end of time. Throughout a sacramental marriage, God always stays nearby, inviting the couple into a deeper and more loving relationship with each other and with him.

Vatican II has been called the emancipation proclamation of the laity. "The Church in the Modern

World" says, "Let married people themselves ... bear witness by their faithful love in the joys and sacrifices of their calling to that mystery of love which the Lord revealed to the world by his death and resurrection (#52). Committed couple-love is one of the most effective and meaningful voices in our church today, reflecting God's love for humanity and the church in communities of love, full of warmth and closeness.

A Christian marriage can be one of our most effective forms of evangelization, one that really spells out the Gospel message in flesh-and-blood terms. The church is going to be as real to our children as we are to each other. To our neighbors and friends, the church will be as believable and attractive as we are as couples. Married couples are a strong voice in the church today, and the spirituality of married people enriches our communities, our society and our world. Love, after all, is our common calling as Christians: "It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails." (1 Cor 13:8)

Reflection and connection

- How would you describe the function and purpose of marriage in our society today? Do you think our society values marriage and provides support for couples and families? Why or why not?

- What does marriage reveal to you about God's love? Whose marriages have been sacramental

signs for you? How have they lived out their sacramentality?

- How has your experience of marriage shaped your understanding of God? If love is our common calling as Christians, how has your life been a calling to love, whether married or not?

Evangelizing action challenge

For interior renewal

This week pray for couples on an Engaged or Marriage Encounter weekend that God will bless their marriages as they live out their sacrament of matrimony.

For reaching out to others

Offer to baby sit for a married couple so they can enjoy an occasional evening out for themselves.

For transforming society

Work to preserve the institution of marriage as the basic building block of society. Educate yourselves as to the reasons why.

Closing prayer

Lord, from the beginning of time you have drawn man and woman together in marriage to witness to your everlasting love for all people. We pray for all couples today, that you will strengthen them as they live out the sacrament of their marriage. We ask that you increase your love and peace in each of us. Guide all our journeys of love and relationships, and keep us ever grateful for your unconditional and bountiful love for each of us, now and forever. Amen.

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Communication important in achieving happy financial union

The book, "The Millionaire Next Door" is a wonderful read. Although it was originally published in 1996, the points noted in the book are timeless. The authors identified one of the key characteristics of the financially successful households studied as the presence of a stable, long-term marriage.

A recent survey conducted by the American Bar Association identified two of the top five causes of divorce as finances and communication. We know that nearly 50 percent of American marriages end in divorce. Further recognizing that divorced households see an average reduction in wealth of 77 percent, the larger effect on families and society is evident in life's daily struggles. Sadly, these statistics apply to Catholic unions as well as to the population at large.

How a couple will handle finances in the context of marriage is often overlooked as young people prepare for new lives together.

Too often the discussion of finances and economic habits is forgone in the interest of romance. The statistics show that economic issues can affect all other components of a relationship and deserve equal attention. Points of conflict arise rapidly when one partner enters the relationship with assets and the other enters with debt. It is essential to have a strategy to deal with these matters and communication is the cornerstone. Lifestyle expectations must be clear. Likewise, the value that the different parties bring must be

DOLLARS AND SENSE

BY KEITH E. DAVIS

recognized. A stay-at-home spouse may not be an income producer but there is significant economic value in the child care and domestic service represented.

Dual income couples need to identify shared expenses and separate their individual budgets. Personal spending money and separate accounts can help self-esteem and independence, but it is important to remember that marriage means the two have become one. Any significant expenditure should be disclosed and discussed between the partners and be kept within the context of a family budget or financial plan.

Communication and honesty are integral components of achieving a happy financial union. Some may find it difficult to start a conversation about money and economic attitudes. That is no reason to avoid it. Consider the consequences noted in the opening paragraph. It seems too often, it is all in the numbers.

Keith Davis is a member of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Wayne and president of STAR Wealth Management in Fort

PREPARE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

together to share their answers.

Taking part in one of these marriage preparation programs within the diocese is critical to making well-informed decisions on both practical and spiritual terms. Both diocesan programs remain faithful to the official teachings of the church.

Another requirement for couples wishing to be married within the diocese is to become familiar with Natural Family Planning (NFP).

Again, there are different ways for couples to achieve this requirement. They can either attend a day-long conference on Natural Family Planning, which includes the rationale for using NFP and an explanation of how to use it.

The other option is for the engaged couple to attend the first class of a diocesan NFP program.

"What's really good about this option," explains Lisa, "is the teaching on theology of the body. This is more than an introduction to NFP. It really goes much deeper."

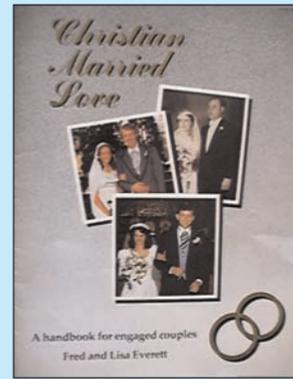
If couples choose to attend another NFP course, such as Couple to Couple League, NFP of St. Joseph County or the Creighton Method in Fort Wayne, they need to attend the entire series.

While some may view required courses before marriage as a burden, the church has a responsibility to prepare its members for any sacrament received. Pope John Paul II took this responsibility seriously himself, penning the encyclical "Theology of the Body" after years of talking and listening to his married

friends.

"Pope John Paul II once said that love of God is the first priority for a happy marriage. One of the main purposes in our diocesan marriage preparation program is to help engaged couples grasp this insight and consider its implications for all the aspects of their life together. Whether they are conscious of it or not, all couples want God at the center of their marriage, because they want love at the center of their marriage, and God is love."

It takes effort not only to pre-



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- **Session 3:** The Gift of Sexuality: The Gift of Children
- **Session 4:** Christian Marriage as a Sacrament: The Christian Family as the Church of the Home

Christian Married Love Conference at Ancilla College in Donaldson, IN:

- **Session 1:** The Meaning of Married Love
- **Session 2:** Communication and Intimacy
- **Session 3:** Partnership and Sacrament
- **Session 4:** Sexuality and Children
- **Session 5:** The Domestic Church Today

pare for but to also maintain a marriage. But it is effort well spent. Couples looking for a way to renew their marriages are invited to attend the day-long Marriage Enrichment Conference, held at Ancilla College. Lisa and Fred Everett are also frequently invited to give talks at parishes.

For more information on any of the marriage programs, contact the Office of Family Life at (574) 234-0687.



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Married couples called to make gift of themselves

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

NEW HAVEN — The temperatures were subzero outdoors, but inside St. Louis Besancon parish hall, 64 couples gathered for a heartwarming event. Witnessing the importance they placed on marriage and hoping to grow closer to Christ through this spiritual retreat, the couples were not disappointed.

The Couples Evening came about as part of a challenge posed by pastor Father Steve Colchin last spring to parishioner Kathy Coonrod. Father Colchin asked Coonrod to plan a special event for the married couples of his neighboring parishes — St. Louis and St. Rose, Monroeville.

As Coonrod began to seriously pray about what the Holy Spirit might have in mind, three young couples from St. Louis approached Father Colchin with an idea for an event centered on the sacrament of marriage. The first ever Couples Evening came to be. "God always answers prayers," marveled Coonrod.

At the Couples Evening, hosted at the rural New Haven parish Feb. 3, all were asked to stand while wedding dates were announced in date order. Maurice and Mary Kline had celebrated their golden wedding anniversary, many couples were married while John F. Kennedy was president, others tied the knot in the 1970s or mid-1990s, and two couples were married just

last year. But the last couple standing was Mr. and Mrs. Harold Blauvelt — married 60 years.

A sacramental marriage

After viewing old wedding albums, enjoying wine and a lovely catered meal, Fred and Lisa Everett from the diocesan Office of Family Life spoke on the topic "Our Sacrament of Marriage." The Everetts could not believe the tremendous response from two small parishes and praised the group for their obvious commitment to something so important.

Fred explained how at the core of marriage is the idea of "gift." Married couples are called to make a gift of themselves to their spouse. A gift you do not want back when things go wrong or if you change your mind.

He repeated the lines from our wedding vows when one is asked, "Have you come here freely to give yourself to one another?" Fred also made reference to Pope Benedict's first encyclical, "God is Love," in which the trinity of marriage is described as love, the beloved and the love between them.

Fred said marriage is our deepest vocation as Christians. True happiness can only be found when one learns to make a gift of oneself. "The more you love your spouse, the more you love God," he stressed.

Next Lisa shared how the gift of marriage is a gift that we are



MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

Randy and Gail Alexander were one of 17 couples from St. Rose Parish, Monroeville, who joined with parishioners from St. Louis for a Couples Evening at Besancon Hall. The Alexanders were married on Feb. 3, 1990 and spent this special night celebrating their wedding anniversary.

continually opening as your life experiences change. As each couple goes through different stages in their married lives they discover different aspects of their spouse.

She described how the complimentary features of the male and female describe precisely how Christ loved the church. For example, studies show how women have an emotional need to feel

cherished by their husbands. They have the deep desire to be loved, honored and protected while husbands have the need to be respected by their wives.

When comparing Christ as the bridegroom and the church as the bride, husbands need look no further than the cross and ask themselves, "Would you lay down your life for your spouse?"

Fred then described three concrete ways couples can invite Christ to "stay with them" through their married years. First he encouraged couples to feed their minds and souls with the word of God by sharing a common love for Scripture and reading the Bible together.

Next he recommended holding hands and praying together. A strong prayer life and celebrating the sacraments of penance and holy Eucharist together can unite man and woman for life.

Finally, he spoke of the need for couples to "serve" together, both to others and to each other. He referred to a system of deposits and withdrawals, explaining that a deposit was a positive thing that a spouse gives the other.

Couples were challenged to make a list of "deposits" for each other during the upcoming Lenten season and think of other ways to make their marriage more sacramental. Fred also insisted that couples strive to make their marriage a "great one," not just a good one.

Time for prayer

Mass was celebrated in the hall by Father Colchin and concluded the evening.

Before the ceremony of the renewal of marriage vows, Father Colchin asked each husband and wife to join hands and face each other.

He led a powerful reflection titled, "The Hands of a Married Couple," based on the importance of the spouse's hands. "Hands give strength and support. They hold us when we are grieving or when we are filled with joy."

During his homily, Father Colchin reminded each couple of their primary role in their spouse's eternal salvation. "We are each called to help our mate be the best person they can be, to help get them to heaven," he said.

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our marriage is a witness
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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Why can't we redecorate the sanctuary?

Diocesan Office of Worship: First, the time of the liturgical year is a factor. "During Lent, the altar should not be decorated with flowers, and musical instruments may be played only to give the necessary support to the singing. If marriages are to take place during Lent, couples are to be reminded that wedding plans should respect the special nature of this liturgical season; they should refrain from too much pomp or display" ("The Order of Prayer in the Liturgy of the Hours and Celebration of the Eucharist 2007" — Dioceses of Indiana p. 57).

Second, the sanctuary is a place of great dignity in the church; the decorations and the flowers should not detract. The sanctuary is the place where the altar stands, where the word of God is proclaimed and where the priest and deacon exercise their office. (GIRM 295) "Church decor should contribute toward the church's noble simplicity rather than ostentation." (GIRM 292)

Third, having the sanctuary redecorated could conflict with the decorations planned by other weddings that are using the church on the same day.

Q: My photographer has a backdrop he wants to use in the sanctuary; can I do this?

Diocesan Office of Worship: No, because of the sacredness of the sanctuary space. The beauty of the sanctuary itself can make a lovely background for wedding photos.



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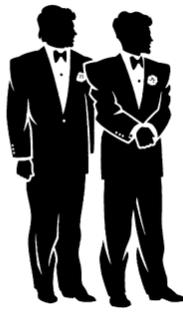
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Marriage licensing rules and regulations

BY KAY COZAD

Preparation for marriage requires an intimate look at spiritual and relational desires as well as the logistics of the wedding itself. Engagement classes may assist with relational questions and a wedding planner is the perfect source for the details of that special day. And one small detail that must not be overlooked is legalizing the marriage with a license.

Here are some important facts about applying for a marriage license in Indiana.

• **Apply for a marriage license in the county of residence at the county clerk's office or if from out-of-state, apply in the county in which the wedding will take place. The county clerk's office is usually located in the county probate or circuit court.**

• **A valid driver's license or picture identification card showing address and date of birth is required.**

• **Some counties may require a certified copy of a birth certificate if applicant is under 30.**

• **The cost is \$18 for in-state residents and \$60 for out-of-state residents. IMPORTANT: Personal checks are NOT accepted.**

• **Applicant must be 18 years or older to apply without parental consent. Under 18 must have a**

parent or legal guardian present and a birth certificate may be required. Under 16 requires a court order.

• **License is valid for 60 days with no waiting period to marry after issued.**

• **License is valid state-wide.**

• **Widowed or divorced applicants must provide dates of death or divorce. Some counties require copies of death certificate or divorce decree.**

Other little known marriage licensing facts in the state of Indiana include: cousins may marry if both applicants are over 65 years old, and proxy, common law and same-sex marriages are forbidden.

A spokesperson from the Allen County Recorder's Office encourages couples to apply for the license together within a month of the wedding date to ensure the license does not expire before the wedding date. And finally, the officiating clergyman must sign the marriage license on the wedding day prior to sending it to the proper government agency for validation.

For more information on specific County Recorder's Office phone numbers visit www.weddingvendor.com.



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It can't be Lent already



THE CUTTING EDGE

SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

I don't know about you, but it seems to me like we just took down our Christmas trees and put away our decorations. Can it really be time for Lent already?

The season of Lent is a very important time for Catholic Christians. Each year the church, in her wisdom, gives us 40 days as a kind of annual retreat to reflect on our spiritual lives and our relationship with God. Lent is a yearly opportunity to slow down and take stock of how we are living our faith. It is also a good time to examine our actions and determine how well we are doing in our attempts to live the Gospel message of Jesus. It is a call to conversion.

Our Catholic tradition suggests that we use the disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving to renew our spiritual lives during Lent — actually not just in Lent, but throughout our lives.

What about prayer? You might evaluate how much quality time you give to the

Lord. Maybe your prayer life is limited to Mass on most Sundays and a quick prayer before meals, when you remember or are brave enough to do it in front of friends. Maybe you ordinarily pray only when you want something from God, like the miracle of passing a test you didn't study for. Perhaps this Lent you can give more attention to prayer other than petitions.

No relationship grows unless we are willing to listen and share ourselves with the other person. God is no exception. During Lent, begin to set aside 10 or 15 minutes of your quality time each day for prayer. Make it a special "God and me" time. Try to find a quiet place where you can just be with God and let God love you. Read and reflect upon some Scripture each day and get to know the Lord better. Don't call upon God only when you are in trouble or want something.

Fasting is another important part of our Lenten experience. Most people think that fasting is primarily giving up some kind of food, like candy or ice cream or not eating in between meals, but there are other, and maybe more beneficial, ways we can fast. Only you know what type of fasting would best help your spiritual life grow. Maybe it would be more beneficial for you to fast from gossip or negative words rather than chocolate chip cookies. Or perhaps you could try to talk less and become a better listener, especially to people who could use

some of your attention. It can be a real discipline to focus on the other person and truly hear what he or she says.

For many, almsgiving means giving money to a charitable cause. That is an important part of it, but it is often much easier to give our loose change to an organization than to give the precious gifts of our time and talents to people in need. Lent calls us to give of ourselves, not just our financial and material resources. This Lent you might think about the people who could use some of your quality time? Who would most benefit from your gifts and talents? In what ways can you get out of yourself and think more of the needs of others?

Besides personal time, another thing one may be called to give during Lent is forgiveness. Who in your life — whether living or dead — do you need to forgive for some hurt done to you? Or of whom do you need to ask forgiveness? I think this is a very important way to give alms and is a sacrifice pleasing to our God. It can be difficult but it brings a lot of peace to those involved and, after all, it is what Jesus tells us to do.

During this Lent let us try to slow down and be more reflective. Let us set aside, if we don't already, some regular time for the Lord. Let us also try to raise our awareness of the needs of others and not focus primarily on ourselves. This might be a good time to do some charitable work that you can



YOUNG ADULT PERSPECTIVES

continue even after Lent is over.

Don't let this opportunity to deepen your spiritual life slip by you. Classes, papers, committees, projects, spring breaks, etc. will pass away, but our relationship with God is forever. Get to know and serve God better during these days when we prepare for Easter. Don't let this be just another 40 days of the year.

Sister Margie Lavonis, CSC, a former campus minister and vocation director, works for the Sisters of the Holy Cross communications department. mlavonis@cscsisters.org.

Looking for love: Pop culture lends urgency to romantic quests

My friend Tauna's New Year resolution is to find romance. Last year's wedding circuit took a toll on her and now she's determined to find a mate before 2008.

The year is starting off slow, she acknowledged in her blog, but it's early yet. Thankfully, there are resources for Tauna, like Janis Spindel's book, "Get Serious About Getting Married: 365 Proven Ways to Find Love in Less Than a Year."

And if Thanksgiving rolls around and Tauna is still single, she could read Wendy Stehling's how-to book on finding a spouse in 30 days. (No joke.)

I understand the anxiousness of being unattached. Every time wedding bells ring for a friend, my biological clock ticks a little louder. And when their first-born cries, the ticking gets louder yet.

I'm a content, confident person, but it's impossible not to compare my personal life with a friend who's standing in front of the altar. And it's hard not to feel a bit behind.

Unlike some of my single friends, I enjoy weddings. I love getting dressed up and dancing and celebrating a happy union. So the "Save the Date" cards accumulating on my fridge don't depress me. (I'm already planning my outfits.)

There's just one moment I dread: the bouquet toss. We single ladies are displayed before the entire group. There's a palpable

sense of desperation, the embarrassing notion that we should elbow and claw each other for the coveted prize. I tend to hide in the middle of the pack and lay low when the flowers fly.

Pop culture lends a sense of urgency to the pursuit of a partner. Romance is the endpoint of the romantic comedy. Despite ascending planes or pounding rain or oncoming traffic, our fearless stars always connect before the credits roll.

Getting married is the object of reality TV and the subject of women's chatter. It is the goal and the cure. "She's made it now." Sigh. "She's married."

A bare ring finger can seem like a defect. The single life can feel achingly single. And more Catholics are experiencing that ache as the average age of a bride and groom keeps inching older.

It creates a conundrum for many of us. In waiting on God's will, are we being passive? In acting on our will, are we defying his?

That's the issue my friend Emily wrestled when she joined www.catholicsingles.com. "I was having one of those panicky moments where I could visualize myself as still single, 50 years old, and only buying Christmas gifts for nieces and nephews," she recalled. "I must have sat for five minutes before hitting the 'Enter' button on the registration page, pondering if my act was desper-



TWENTY SOMETHING BY CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

tion or if I was simply taking charge of my possibilities."

I know Emily lifts these questions to the Lord, and I believe that's important. Pray along the path to marriage — or religious life or single life. Pray for patience. Pray for trust.

The first reading for Feb. 14 is fitting for singles struggling with that in-your-face holiday. After 40 long days afloat, Noah sends out a dove. "But the dove could find no place to alight and perch, and it returned to him in the ark."

Noah is tired and seasick, so he tries again. And finally, the dove returns with an olive leaf. Hallelujah!

If you're feeling tired and seasick from the romantic quest, hang in there. Your dove will find a place to perch — in God's perfect timing, according to his infinite wisdom. He's writing a script that's way better than Steven Spielberg's. (And the soundtrack rocks.)

The longer it takes, the more ready you'll be for your mate, and the better you'll fit together.

So go dance the electric slide with crazy Aunt Sue. I'll see you at the bouquet toss. Meet me in the middle.

Christina Capecci is a graduate student at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill. E-mail her at christinacap@gmail.com.

Pope urges young people to express love unselfishly

BY JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI urged young people to express love in unselfish ways, looking past social goals of competition and productivity in order to become "witnesses of charity" in the world.

He held out Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta as an example of a Christian who translated love into concrete action to help the poorest of the poor.

The pope made the comments in a message marking World Youth Day, which was being celebrated in most dioceses April 1, Palm Sunday. The text was released at the Vatican Feb. 5.

The theme of the papal message was love, and he began by telling young people that despite emotional disappointments and lack of affection in their own lives, they should know that "love is possible."

"The purpose of my message is to help reawaken in each one of you — you who are the future and hope of humanity — trust in a love that is true, faithful and strong; a love that generates peace and joy; a love that binds people together and allows them to feel free in respect for one another," he said.

He emphasized that God is the source of true love and that Christ's suffering and death on the cross form the perfect expression of this divine love.

The pope focused on three areas where young people are called to demonstrate love of God: in the church, in marriage and in society.

In the church, which he described as a "spiritual family," the pope said youths should be willing to help stimulate parish and other activities, even if it means giving up some of their entertainments. They should "cheerfully accept the necessary sacrifices" and testify to their love for Jesus among people their own age, he said.

The pope said marriage is a "project of love" between a man and a woman that fits into a divine design.

"Learning to love each other as a couple is a wonderful journey, yet it requires a demanding 'apprenticeship,'" he said. When couples get engaged, he said, it's a period of preparation that needs to be lived "in purity of gesture and words."

Engagement allows couples to practice self-control and develop respect for each other, he said. This is true love, which does not place an emphasis on seeking one's own satisfaction, he said.

When it comes to the daily routine of family, studies, work and free time, the pope asked young people to look beyond the cultivation of talents needed to obtain a social position.

He encouraged young people to study the social doctrine of the church and use it to guide their actions in the world. Love is a powerful social force, the only force capable of changing human hearts, he said.

He said he hoped young people would join in youth day celebrations at the diocesan level this year in preparation for the 2008 World Youth Day international gathering in Sydney, Australia.

Pray along the path to marriage — or religious life or single life.

EDITORIAL

The cultural crisis of commitment

Sociologists and cultural critics have observed and commented extensively over the past few decades on the trends in the number of people cohabiting prior to marriage, the divorce rate which hovers around 50 percent, as well as the decline over the past 50 years in priestly and religious vocations. But sociology is largely descriptive and is not always or easily equipped to discover and identify underlying causes.

In the wake of these often staggering figures, some suggest the church relax its laws (as if it is in the church's power to do so) regarding divorce and remarriage, or that the discipline of clerical celibacy be made optional as a matter of expediency. However, such approaches address symptoms, not causes. The real crisis is not going to be resolved by recasting the plain teaching of Jesus on marriage or by a simple edict from the pope relaxing the practice clerical celibacy. The deeper issue is one of commitment.

Very many people today have a problem in making permanent and lasting commitments. People shy away from commitment because it is perceived as impinging upon freedom and spontaneity. Yet the very nature of discipleship presumes commitment. And the commitments made in marriage or at ordination are an expression of the fundamental commitment to Christ made in baptism, sealed in confirmation, sustained weekly (and for many, daily) by the Eucharist. Nowhere in the Gospel does Jesus suggest that his disciples "try it out." In fact, it can be suggested that the only way one can fully understand Jesus and his teaching is by first making the commitment to follow him unreservedly; counter-intuitively, the understanding comes only after the doing. Only those who walk with him regularly and faithfully can understand what he says and what he means.

Those prepared to make commitments — whether in marriage, consecrated life or priestly orders — must rely upon God's grace to sustain them in those commitments. It is Christ who empowers us to make and maintain these sacred commitments. If we rely solely on our own efforts, we will surely fail.

Shared faith materials this Lent

For those accustomed to using *Today's Catholic* as the source for shared-faith materials in their Lenten experience, we will embark on a different type of journey this year. First, the shared faith material we run in the first issue of each month will continue. In addition, throughout the Sesquicentennial Jubilee Year, *Today's Catholic* will focus on each sacrament. You will notice that this week, we have a shared faith experience on marriage (page 11). We will also offer a shared faith commentary next week on reconciliation. In the March 25 issue, we will focus on the Eucharist.

If you would like to use the sacramental material with your group, the remaining sacraments can be found online on the diocesan Web site, www.diocesefwsb.org. Click on "Lenten Faith Sharing Materials" to link to the page.

The sacramental small faith sharing materials provides an overview of the purpose and meaning of the sacraments. The eight-part series experience provides an overview what the sacraments are (featured in the Feb. 4 issue) and a catechesis on each of the seven sacraments. The members of the faith sharing groups will refelct on the significance of each of the sacraments in their personal life of faith. As many catechumens and candidates prepare for full entrance into our Catholic faith, the Office of Spiritual Development felt it might be good for all of us to review or renew our commitment to the sacramental life of the Catholic faith. The Spiritual Development staff created the materials with the pastoral support of Father Michael Heintz, rector of St. Matthew Cathedral, and Father Edward Erpelding, pastor of St. Mary Church in Avilla.

The Office of Spritual Development has also created a six-week series for Lent 2007 entitled "Living Christ Today." In this series, one is asked to discover the meaning of being Christ's disciples in today's world. The series explores the following: the call of discipleship, the cost of discipleship, faith in Jesus Christ, why be Catholic and the church today.

We encourage readers to explore these opportunities.

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

COMMENTARY

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

Distinction between justifiable and unjustifiable killing

In the past weeks our *Today's Catholic* has carried two articles that in my view do grave harm to the distinction between justifiable and unjustifiable killing. The first article appeared in our Jan. 7 issue and quoted Cardinal Renato Martino's statement in a Vatican City CNS article from Italy's *La Repubblica* newspaper wherein the cardinal decries the pending execution of duly tried and convicted mass murderer Saddam Hussein.

All interested persons are fully aware of the abominations this man has visited upon the innocent families of the Middle East and of the exhaustive trial and sentence of death handed down from the Iraqi court. Cardinal Martino is quoted as saying "There is no doubt" of his ruthlessness and responsibility for hundreds of deaths and then the cardinal goes on to say, "But one does not compensate for one crime with another crime."

Crime: "An act that is injurious to the public or to the state that is legally prohibited."

The other example of a report of a state execution that in my view misrepresents the distinction between justifiable killing and "murder" was carried in the Jan. 21, 2007 *Today's Catholic*, "Questioning a society that condones murder with murder," wherein Sister Helen Prejean explicitly defines the death penalty of a convicted murderer as an additional murder. Murder: "The unlawful killing of a human being with malice aforethought."

I fully agree with Pope John Paul II that the imposition of the death penalty in this age of social awareness is almost never the best judgment against a person convicted of a capital crime. For example, perpetual bondage (fruits of his labor) to the service of the victims survivors would be justice in the strictest sense, the murderer (etc.) having forfeited his right to life for having denied another of his right to life.

I am writing to express my deep disappointment with those who chose to include these two articles in our Catholic publication without comment as to their doctrinal accuracy.

There are critically profound life issues in our communities and world today that require the conscientious and courageous promotion of all men and women of good will. This end is undermined, the innocent are confused, and those depending on the Catholic media for unadulterated truth are terribly distracted when these strange misinterpretations of

Catholic doctrine are offered to the faithful as legitimate examples of authentic Christian doctrine. The duty of every Christian in our generation is to be aware of, to support and to aid in ways consistent with the movement of the Spirit in their hearts the promotion of and the defense of innocent human life.

I maintain that those who try to piggyback their political agendas on to the seamlessness of the pro-life movement, mislead and deflect the attention and efforts of those who have valiantly defended the right to life of the pre-born, the aged and all other innocents. Those heroes of our generation who for the past 34 years have placed their bodies and family resources on the frozen pavements leading down to their local abortuaries deserve all the support that we who are not walking with them hand in hand can give and that begins with respecting the integrity of their efforts.

Daniel L. Federspiel
Fort Wayne

Editor's note: Today's Catholic asked Fred Everett, director of the diocesan Office of Family Life to respond to Daniel Federspiel's letter.

Office of Family Life director responds

Daniel Federspiel is correct in his assertion that those responsible for presenting Catholic doctrine — even Vatican curial officials — may not always adequately distinguish Catholic doctrine from personal opinion. This is particularly true for an issue like the death penalty, the doctrine of which has developed significantly in the last decade. Not only is there sometimes a lack of clarity on this issue, but, even, a certain degree of misinformation as well. Unfortunately, some of the points in Mr. Federspiel's letter add to this lack of clarity and misinformation.

First, Pope John Paul II rejected the use of the death penalty, not because he preferred perpetual servitude as is suggested, but rather because this practice routinely offends the dignity of the human person created in the image and likeness of God. The only exception to this — the only cases in which an execution can be considered just — are in those rare cases in which, as the catechism explains, the death penalty "is the only practicable way to defend the lives of human beings effectively against the aggressor." In other words, the lives of the guilty may only be justly

taken in order to defend the lives of the innocent — not simply as a means of retribution.

Secondly, being pro-life is more than simply defending "innocent human life." Even an unjust aggressor who has committed grave violations of human rights retains his human dignity. Being pro-life includes promoting respect for the life of every human being, including those who no longer have an absolute claim to a right to life. Punishment should not only aim at retribution, deterrence and defense, but should also aim at the reformation of the offender. This is what our late great Holy Father referred to as being "unconditionally pro-life."

Thirdly, with regard to the execution of Saddam Hussein, Catholics are free to argue that this was a just execution based upon prudential judgments about whether he could still inspire and direct attacks on the innocent even from behind bars. However, it is insufficient — according to the Catholic understanding of the natural law — to argue that this was a just execution based exclusively or primarily on the long list of "abominations" that Mr. Hussein committed upon the Iraqi people.

Finally, it is regrettable that some Catholic activists speak as if the death penalty is an intrinsic evil or refer to the execution of those truly guilty of capital crimes as "murder." If it was an execution unnecessary for the defense of the innocent, it would be better described as an unjustifiable homicide, not a murder. Mr. Federspiel is right to criticize those who misrepresent the church's teachings in order to promote a particular political agenda. He is also right to laud the efforts of those who for many years have courageously spoken out and acted on behalf of the unborn. He is wrong, however, to do so at the expense of the church's "unconditionally pro-life" teaching regarding the death penalty and the dignity of each and every human person — even that of a mass murderer like Mr. Hussein.

Fred Everett
Director, Office of Family Life,
Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend
Adjunct Professor of Medical Ethics,
University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne

Joan de Lestonnac

1556 - 1640
feast - February 2

This foundress, niece of the French essayist Montaigne, was born in Bordeaux. She remained Catholic despite her Calvinist mother, and married Gaston de Montferrant, with whom she had four children. After being widowed in 1597 she briefly joined a Cistercian convent. Later, after a period of nursing plague victims and teaching girls, she founded the Sisters of Notre Dame of Bordeaux, known then as the Company of Mary Our Lady. She was vindicated in a conspiracy devised by one of her own nuns, but she declined to be reappointed superior.



Lost in translation: Pope's asides might be changed in official texts

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Rarely is a general audience talk interrupted by spontaneous applause, and Pope Benedict XVI seemed as surprised as anyone when the clapping began in the Vatican's audience hall.

The pope had been talking about the church's early times, and he set aside his text to drive home a point: The apostles and first disciples weren't perfect, but had their own arguments and controversies.

"This appears very consoling to me, because we see that the saints did not drop as saints from heaven. They were men like us with problems and even with sins," he said Jan. 31.

That's when the applause erupted among the 6,000 people in attendance. The pope paused, looked up and smiled awkwardly, then continued to ad lib about how holiness doesn't mean never making a mistake.

The moment marked a milestone for Pope Benedict as a communicator and demonstrated two important facts: First, the scholarly pontiff is focusing on uncomplicated lessons about the church and

the faith. Second, when he talks, people listen.

The simple idea that saints were also sinners resonated with his audience, and journalists were among those eagerly awaiting the Vatican's official text of the pope's remarks. But a funny thing happened on the way to the printing presses.

When the Vatican press office released the text two hours later, gone was the line about the sins of saints. Instead, the official version had the pope saying that the early saints "were men like us with problems that were complicated." The pope spoke in Italian, and "con peccati" ("with sins") sounds like "complicati" ("complicated"). But a close listening to a tape confirmed that the pope had indeed been speaking about sins. The Vatican spoiled his applause line.

What happened? The discrepancy was said to be a simple transcription error. Two days later, however, it had still not been corrected — which meant that many media reported the mistaken version.

It's not always easy to catch every word the pope delivers off-

THE VATICAN LETTER

JOHN THAVIS

the-cuff. But on some occasions, the pope's words have been deliberately tweaked by his own aides. The process was explained recently by Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, director of the Vatican press office, in a meeting with a group of news agency reporters.

When Pope Benedict extemporizes, the Vatican press office scrambles to transcribe the talk and put it in the hands of the media. But before that happens, the transcript is sent to an office of the Secretariat of State, where it undergoes a "final polishing in Italian," Father Lombardi said.

The reasoning is that the German pope, although fluent in Italian, might use an awkward or imprecise phrase that could be ren-

LETTER, PAGE 20

Things of this earth will be left behind



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Lk 6:17, 2-26.

The Book of Jeremiah is the source of this weekend's first reading. It is typical of Jeremiah's prophecy, and for that matter it is typical of the writings of all the prophets.

Jeremiah, as also the other prophets, had constantly to contend with the spiritual sluggishness, if not the downright sinfulness, of the people. Often the people strayed from God because instead of following God's will, they followed the fads of the time or earthly leaders.

Few prophets are more eloquent in their writing than Jeremiah. This reading beautifully conveys not only the prophet's eloquence, but also the depth and power of his belief.

Central to this belief was unyielding trust in God. So, he warns his first audiences, and later audiences such as ourselves, that anyone who trusts in humans rather than in God walks alone and without a compass into a wasteland.

Life can be being alone in a wasteland. Knowing God, and following God's will, however, provide an oasis.

St. Paul's First Epistle to the

Corinthians supplies the second reading. The Christians of Corinth presented a challenge to Paul. His two existing letters to them, both of which are in the New Testament, easily show us how challenging he found their tendency to accept the Gospel halfheartedly or with reservations.

In a way, it is understandable that they were difficult to convince and fully to convert. They lived in a city renowned across the Roman Empire for its material excesses. Being in such surroundings surely made attention to the spiritual foundations of the Christian Gospel less than quick and easy.

So, in this reading, Paul calls the Corinthians to the spiritual life. It alone will endure. For those who truly love the Lord, the end of earthly spiritual life will be heaven itself.

For its last reading, the church this weekend gives us a reading from St. Luke's Gospel. This passage is part of the synoptic tradition. Similar readings are in the Gospels of Matthew and Mark.

Luke's approach to religion was very similar to that of Jeremiah. Luke's approach was urgent and bold. He minced no words. He cut to the chase, in modern day terms.

So, the situations in the life of Jesus that appealed to him were those in which the Lord was emphatic and the most direct. Such directness at times took the form of warnings, as is the case in the latter part of this reading, or on other occasions it appeared in a lesson or in a compliment.

The message here is very much like the teaching of Jeremiah in the earliest reading, and like the teaching of Paul in the second.

Jesus makes very clear that true discipleship involves the spirit. The things of this earth come and

go. In the end, all the things of this earth will go. Those people who set their sights on material goals, or live only for material advancements, do so at their own peril.

Reflection

The church introduced us to Jesus, the son of Mary, on the feast of Christmas. On the feast of the Epiphany, it introduced us to Jesus, the son of God. On the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, it introduced us to Jesus, the redeemer, the reconciler between God and sinful humanity.

As January passed, through the weekend readings, the church invited us to accept Jesus as our own savior and Lord. It encourages us to follow the Lord, reassuring us and leading us.

But, it leads us down no primrose path. It warns us that we are of the world, so the enticements of the world are especially appealing to us. Nevertheless, they can bring us only emptiness and maybe eternal death, if we do not turn to the Lord.

READINGS

Sunday: Jer 17:5-8 Ps 1:1-4, 6:1 Cor 15:12, 16-20 Lk 6:17, 20-26

Monday: Gn 4:1-15, 25 Ps 50:1, 8, 16-17, 20-21 Mk 8:11-13

Tuesday: Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10 Ps 29:1a, 2, 3ac-4, 3b, 9b-10 Mk 8:14-21

Wednesday: Gn 8:6-13, 20-22 Ps 116:12-15, 18-19 Mk 8:22-26

Thursday: Gn 9:1-13 Ps 102:16-18, 19-23, 29 Mk 8:27-33

Friday: Gn 11:1-9 Ps 33:10-15 Mk 8:34-9:1

Saturday: Heb 11:1-7 Ps 145:2-5, 10-11 Mk 9:2-13

CATEQUIZ'EM

By Dominic Camplisson

In February the church remembers St. Blase/Blaise. As well as having his own feast, Blase was previously remembered (in August) in the group mentioned in question 1. This group is the subject of this week's quiz.

1. This group is known collectively as:

- a. the Twelve Latter Day Apostles
- b. the Fourteen Holy Helpers
- c. the Sixteen Vestal Virgins

2. Why were they so known?

- a. Because they were 12 latter day saints with the same exact names as the apostles and/or their wives.
- b. Because they were believed to have rendered assistance in times of great trouble.
- c. Because they bridged the period from the Roman pagan priesthood to the Catholic clerical predominance.

3. It is generally believed that this group was invoked for assistance during a 14th century catastrophe which hit most of Europe. What was it?

- a. global warming
- b. the Wars of the Roses
- c. the Black Death or plague

4. The origin of the appeal to this group is thought to have been strongest in:

- a. Germany
- b. China
- c. Yemen

5. One female saint amongst them has a California county named for her:

- a. St. Fresna
- b. St. Diego
- c. St. Barbara

6. Two other females in the group are associated with significant Eastern cities. Who and what are these?

- a. St. Sophia of Constantinople and Julian of Norwich
- b. Catherine of Alexandria and Margaret of Antioch
- c. Mary (Miriam) of Jerusalem and Anna of Capernaum

7. One of the group is invoked against diseases of the throat:

- a. St. Blase
- b. St. Lozenge
- c. St. Stomos

8. One of the group is often depicted fighting, of all things, a dragon:

- a. St. Parsifal
- b. St. George
- c. St. Komodo

9. This member of the group is a popular subject for medals worn by travelers:

- a. Christopher
- b. Basil
- c. Monica

10. Accepting the realities of medieval life, people did not just pray for cures, but invoked St. Catherine against:

- a. wealth
- b. sudden death
- c. losing in the playoffs

11. This saint, who also has a "dance" named for him, is invoked against epilepsy:

- a. Elmo
- b. HipHopus
- c. Vitus

12. At one point a pope attached these to devotions to this group:

- a. penalties
- b. indulgences
- c. benefices

13. This saint is not, despite his name, the patron of tailors but is patron of physicians:

- a. Pantaleon
- b. Tape Messieur
- c. Kildareus

14. The feasts honoring these saints were removed from the church calendar in:

- a. the 19th century
- b. the 20th century
- c. the 21st century

15. Another more technical name for these saints, based on their ability to help, is:

- a. First Aid Saints
- b. Assisi Tants
- c. Auxiliary Saints

ANSWERS:

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

Gospel of Luke hints to Mary conceived without sin

Is there a reference in the Bible that tells us that the Blessed Mother was conceived without sin? Anonymous, Fort Wayne

The fact that the Blessed Virgin Mary was conceived without sin is hinted at in the Gospel of Luke, when the angel Gabriel appears to Mary at Nazareth and says: "Hail, full of grace. The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women." The Greek word used for "full of grace" is "kecharitomene." "Ke is an intensive form, "charis" means "grace," and "mene" means "full." So the Blessed Virgin Mary is really full of grace. The New American Bible says the greeting "full of grace" means that Mary is to be the recipient of the divine favor, i.e., of the sanctifying power of God, in view of her office of mother of the Messiah, which the angel announces to her. Thus the angel says: "You shall conceive and bear a son and give him the name Jesus. He will be called the Son of the Most High."

The church often argues from the idea of fittingness or convenience concerning many of the doctrines on Mary. Thus if Mary is providing the human body for

the holy Son of God made man, it is proper that she, too, would be holy and free of sin. So the church says that from the moment of her existence in the womb of her mother St. Anne, Mary was free from original sin and full of grace. As a corollary, Mary did not commit a sin during her life. The church continues this argument of fittingness and says that God would not want the body of the mother of his Son to suffer decay, so Mary is already assumed into heaven body and soul. Of course, in our creed we say we believe in the resurrection of the body at the end of the world. So in her assumption into heaven, Mary simply dons a risen body before the rest of us.

The Eastern Christians called Mary "panagia" or all-holy. In the East the feast of the Immaculate Conception was celebrated as early as the 7th century. In the West we see this feast in the 13th century. Through this feast the church was trying to show the exceptional grace and the immunization from sin in the Mother of God. St. Augustine said: "The honor of Christ forbids the least hesitation on the subject of possible sin by his mother."

Western theologians in the

THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION

Middle Ages, says H. Holstein, felt that 1) every human being is infected with original sin and bears its consequences and 2) this hereditary sin is remitted through the merits of Christ, redeemer of the entire human race. They felt Mary was preserved from personal sin, but could she be preserved from original sin? St. Thomas Aquinas felt that, if Mary would be preserved from original sin, it would be a derogation of the dignity of Christ as savior of all. So he said Mary inherited original sin, but was sanctified in her mother's womb. Duns Scotus, however, defended the Immaculate Conception of Mary and said that, preserving Mary from original sin and personal sin, does not detract from the redemption by Christ, but represents the most glorious result of Christ's work.

Eventually in 1854 Pope Pius IX proclaimed that Mary was preserved from original sin, beginning with the moment of her conception, that is, about nine months before her actual birth.

Then in 1858 the Blessed Mother is said to have appeared to St. Bernadette Soubirous at Lourdes in France and said "I am the Immaculate Conception." The graces of the Immaculate Conception were in anticipation of the sacrifice of Christ on the cross, just as the Last Supper, the first Mass, was in anticipation of the sacrifice on Calvary.

The feast of the Immaculate Conception is celebrated on Dec. 8. Then, nine months later, the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary is celebrated on Sept. 8. Back in 1476, Pope Sixtus IV had approved the feast of the

Immaculate Conception and in 1708 Pope Clement XI extended the feast to the universal church.

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

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

Turning toward Christ, together

As discussion of deepening the church's liturgical reform unfolds, a lively conversation will likely revolve around the question of "orientation" during Mass: might priest and people face in the same direction, toward the Holy Trinity, during the celebration of the eucharistic liturgy? Father U. M. Lang of the London Oratory has done that conversation a good service with his book, "Turning Towards the Lord: Orientation in Liturgical Prayer" (Ignatius Press). Among Father Lang's interesting points:

- The question at issue is "not so much the celebration of Mass 'facing the people' as the orientation of liturgical prayer." Thus attempts to derail this discussion by dismissing it as a project of anti-Vatican II reactionaries eager for the priest to "turn his back to the people" should be resisted. As Father Lang writes, this cheesy sound-bite "is a classic example of confounding the crucial and topography, for the crucial point is that the Mass is a common act of worship where priest and people together, representing the pilgrim church, reach out for the transcendent God."

- This, in fact, is one of the primary purposes of the eucharistic liturgy: it is meant to point "Christian existence toward Christ coming in glory." This goal can be lost in what sometimes seems the "closed circle" of our present orientation. And that loss can lead, in turn, to what Father Lang calls an "eschatological deficit" in the liturgy — a deficient sense of liturgical prayer as our privileged participation in the heavenly liturgy, which anticipates Christ's coming in glory.

- This common orientation of priest and people toward Christ, returning in glory, is deeply rooted

in the origins of Christianity. Then, it was a "matter of course" for Christians to turn in prayer toward the rising sun — an orientation that was a symbol of Christ, the light of the world, and of the church's hope for the Lord's return and the inauguration of the kingdom of God in its fullness.

(Interestingly enough, Islamic polemicists criticized Christians for this, claiming it was a return to pagan sun-worship.)

- In addition to this kingdom-meaning of priest-and-people looking together toward the returning Lord, common orientation during the eucharistic liturgy also symbolized, once, "the journey of the pilgrim people of God towards the future ..." It's worth discussing whether our present orientation contributes to a loss of the congregation's self-awareness as God's people on pilgrimage, through history, towards God's promises.

- The office of the priest, not his personality, is what counts — or what should count. Thus the priest "facing the same direction as the faithful when he stands at the altar, leads the people of God in a (common) 'movement toward the Lord, who is 'the rising sun of history' ..." Practically, what does this mean? That consideration should be given to celebrating the Liturgy of the Word with priest and people facing each other (an orientation appropriate for listening and for teaching/preaching). Then, "for the liturgy of the Eucharist in the strict sense, in particular for the canon, it is more fitting that the whole congregation, including the celebrant, be directed towards the Lord, and that is expressed by turning towards the altar," with the priest leading the congregation in the eucharistic prayer as all face together toward Christ, whose coming is foreshadowed in his



GEORGE WEIGEL

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

eucharistic presence.

Can't be done? Each summer, during the Tertio Millennio Seminar on the Free Society, that's precisely how we do it in the St. Hyacinth Chapel of the Dominican basilica in Cracow. There, for reasons of space, a freestanding altar is impossible. Yet no one thinks that the celebrant is "turning his back to the people;" everyone instinctively understands that, together, we are turning towards Christ.

The liturgy can be reverently celebrated with priest and people facing each other; that, too, happens in Cracow every summer — and in many other times and places, of course. The question is whether recovering the church's ancient practice of a common orientation of priest and people during the eucharistic liturgy wouldn't make such reverent celebrations more likely, while helping the church recover the kingdom aspect of its eucharistic life. That's worth a serious discussion.

George Weigel is a senior fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

By Patricia Kasten

Gospel for February 11, 2007

Luke 6:17, 20-26

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C: the Sermon on the Plain about blessings and woes. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

CAME DOWN	LEVEL	JUDEA
JERUSALEM	SIDON	BLESSED
LAUGH	HATE YOU	YOUR NAME
ACCOUNT	SON OF MAN	REJOICE
LEAP FOR JOY	REWARD	GREAT
WOE TO YOU	RICH	CONSOLATION
WEEP	SPEAK WELL	FALSE

JOY AND WOЕ

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

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LETTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

dered more elegantly.

Reporters have noticed these changes from the beginning of Pope Benedict's pontificate. Most are minor stylistic modifications. But some are more substantial and seem to suggest the presence of an overly cautious editor.

For example, when the pope learned in 2005 that Brother Roger Schutz of the Taizé community had just been stabbed to death, he went out and told a general audience about what he called the "ter-

rifying news." That was changed to "dramatic news" in the official version, which toned down his spoken remarks and drained it of the emotion the pope had expressed so well.

The problems stem partly from Pope Benedict's less formal style at the Wednesday general audiences.

The general audiences used to be a place where reporters looked for commentary on current events. They are finding less of that these days, and more on Scripture, the church and salvation. The pope's goal is to bring people back to the roots of their faith, aware that many Christians in the audience hall and beyond are hearing these New Testament stories for the first time.

Sports

LADY COUGARS INCH BACK INTO NAIA TOP 5 With wins over Huntington and Grace, the University of Saint Francis women's basketball team moved up to No. 4 in the seventh NAIA Top 25 Division II rating released on Jan. 31. The Lady Cougars, 20-5 prior to Wednesday night's Mid-Central Conference contest at Goshen College are back in the Top 5 after spending two weeks at No. 7 and No. 6. It is the fifth rating this season USF has been in the Top 5. This is the first season since the 1999-00 season, when USF was ranked No. 1 in the final Top 25 of that season, that the Lady Cougars have been in the Top 5.

CYO Twins characterized as 'fundamentally sound'

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — After 31 years of coaching Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) basketball, Herb Widner now sees some of his former players across the court on the bench in coaching positions themselves. Widner has enjoyed following the hundreds of players he has coached over the years and watching their successes after CYO. Widner has seen many boys go on to play at the high school level, even some have made it to Division 1 and Division 2 basketball.

Widner has coached at many different CYO schools during his career including St. Charles, St. Patrick, St. Vincent, and for the past six years, St. Louis-St. Rose. He said he loved coaching at St. Patrick and would have stayed there forever. Widner admitted there are so many more players to choose from at the larger schools, but he is just as happy at the smaller schools. He concluded, "It doesn't matter where you coach, it's always fun."

Widner's roster this year of the St. Louis-St. Rose Twins includes nine players. The team consisted of just three eighth graders — Jake Collett, Ryan Spieth and Nathan May, and three seventh graders — Mitch Castleman, Austin Hammon

and Colin Stuerzenberger, from both schools. So, Widner decided to bring up the only three sixth graders — Conner Sheehan, Nick Platter and Zach Castleman from the younger team to help out.

"We may lack size, but we are fundamentally sound and play well together," summarized Widner. Their season record is now 8-9 overall and 1-5 in the tough Blue League.

Widner said the highlights this season include scoring 60 points in the game against the Squires from St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel. Although the Twins lost the game, 60-69, it was a moral victory to stay with a team of their talent. "You don't see that kind of scoring at this level very often," said Widner. St. Louis-St. Rose also secured a fourth-place finish in the Queen of Angels Invitational at the University of Saint Francis over the Thanksgiving break. In the 10-team tournament, the Twins came out of the loser's bracket and won some big games to take home a ribbon.

Last weekend, the team beat Queen of Angels, 48-36, in a non-conference match-up. Guard-forward Ryan Spieth led all scoring with 13 points. "The team has had balanced scoring all season: some weeks the big man, Jake, will lead the team. Then in the Hessen Cassel game, Mitch and Colin

combined for 44 points."

In other net action, St. Vincent Panthers went 7-0 to wrap up the Gold League with a 43-26 victory over the St. Charles Cardinals. The Cardinals started out strong staying with the Panthers in the first quarter 6-8. The Panthers increased the lead to 15 by the half and never looked back. Greg Kaiser paced St. Vincent with 15 points. In a non-conference match up, St. Vincent will face the undefeated Blue League champs Benoit Academy next weekend at St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel.

Fifth and sixth

In the "small school" fifth and sixth grade CYO tournament, Jacquell Cooper and the Benoit Academy Phoenix got by St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel, St. Louis-St. Rose and St. Therese on the road to the title. Cooper scored 73 points in the three-game spree.

In girls' action, the Lady Gators from St. Aloysius swept the CYO, winning the tournament and the league. They finished with a perfect 14-0 record.

Scoreboard

St. Louis-St. Rose 48; Queen of Angels 36 (Spieth 13, Myers 11)
St. Charles 30; St. Joseph, Decatur 28 (Burkhardt 19, Schultz 10)

ICCL teams make their marks with two weeks to play

BY ELMER J. DANCH

SOUTH BEND — The two undefeated division leaders and four co-leaders in two other sections of the Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL) maintained their respective marks as the circuit entered the last two weeks of the regular season.

The unbeaten Corpus Christi Cougars in the John Bosco West division and St. Joseph, Mishawaka, in the Martin De Porres East division each racked up their eighth consecutive victories and appeared to have a clear focus on their division pennants.

However, the battle for first place in the John Bosco East division was deadlocked for first place between St. Anthony and St. Joseph of South Bend, each with 5-3 records, and ditto the record in the Martin De Porres West division between St. John the Baptist and St. Joseph, South Bend.

Corpus Christi beat Holy Cross, 47-19, as the Cougars used their entire bench in the process. Meanwhile, St. Joseph, Mishawaka, also had an easy victory, this one a 40-9 win over sister-city school St. Monica as Tim Wilson popped in 14 points for the victors.

Alex Bauters singled the nets for the day's top individual performance of 20 points in leading St. John the Baptist to a 46-23 victory over St. Adalbert. Brandon Niezgodski had 15 points for St. John. Mario Navarrete had 10 points for St. Adalbert.

St. Jude kept pace with St. John by defeating St. Michael of Plymouth, 39-17. Cory Samuels led the winners with 11 points.

St. Anthony rolled up the highest team score of the day in beating St. Matthew, 52-23, as Sean

Hart drained the nets for 14 points.

In a nip-and-tuck close encounter, Christ the King pulled away to a 35-28 decision over Holy Family. Garrett Libertowski had 10 points for Christ the King.

St. Joseph of South Bend defeated St. Thomas of Elkhart, 46-35, leading all the way after jumping off to a six-point lead.

St. Pius of Granger had no difficulty in marking up a 42-16 verdict over St. Bavo of Mishawaka.

There were seven contests in the Colors Division which is also entering the final two weeks.

St. Anthony Maroon downed St. Thomas Gold, 33-24; Christ the King Gold defeated St. Joseph Blue, 37-19; St. Jude Green edged St. Anthony Gold, 39-30; Christ the King Blue beat Holy Cross Blue, 32-24; St. Thomas Maroon beat Holy Cross Blue, 32-20; Corpus Christi Blue swamped St. Matthew Black, 42-17; and St. Thomas White beat St. Pius Blue, 31-9.

John Bosco East

St. Anthony	5-3
St. Joseph, SB	5-3
St. Matthew	1-7
St. Thomas	1-7

John Bosco West

Corpus Christi	8-0
Christ the King	6-2
Holy Family	4-4
Holy Cross	2-6

Martin De Porres East

St. Joseph, Mishawaka	8-0
St. Pius	7-1
St. Monica	2-6
St. Bavo	0-8

Martin De Porres West

St. Jude	5-3
St. John	5-3
St. Michael	4-4
St. Adalbert	1-7

Catholic school coaches urged to teach spiritual lessons

BY HARRY THOMAS

METUCHEN, N.J. (CNS) — Coaches in the Metuchen Diocese got some extra pointers during a presentation last fall on coaching skills by Edward T. Hastings, a former captain of the Villanova University basketball team, who urged them to help youths find

Christ through athletics.

"Coaches play such a huge role," said Hastings during a workshop at St. James School in Basking Ridge. "The time you spend with these kids is so special. How you treat them — they don't forget.

"They'll remember how you treated them 30 to 35 years later," he continued. "They are learning life lessons from you. You are in a

great venue to teach life lessons and maybe about God."

Hastings is an assistant professor of religious studies at Neumann College in Aston, Pa. He has a doctorate in spirituality from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh.

Hastings stressed that many young people may not go to church, but they are involved in sports.

Anne Koehl on Crisis Pregnancy Care

Wednesday, February 28, 7 PM, in the Cathedral Hall, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne. All are invited. Refreshments served.

Anne Koehl, executive director of Women's Care Centers, Allen County, will give an overview of the needs of women in crisis pregnancies and how the centers serve them.



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EOE

Oscars make way to St. Matthew's Red Carpet Extravaganza

BY JENNIFER OCHSTEIN

SOUTH BEND — Oscar recently visited St. Matthew School in South Bend during the school's Red Carpet Extravaganza.

Eighth graders in Cathy Roney's home room were given a technology project to develop their own films, teaching students to edit video on a computer.

They wrote, acted in, filmed and edited the films over a six-week period.

To cap off the project, Roney held what she named the Red Carpet Extravaganza to reward students for their hard work.

Students in the fifth through eighth grade voted on their favorite of three films that were made in categories including: Best Editing, Best Sound, Best Supporting Actor and Actress, Best Actor and Actress and Best Movie.

Lindsey Gilbert, 14, who won Best Supporting Actress, stayed in character while accepting her award.

As the "weather lady" in the short movie "Code Borange," Lindsey's character "was kinda stupid," she said.

Dressed in a flowing gown to accept her award, she thanked many, including President George W. Bush for his support.

Students gave acceptance speeches before other classes and were given small trophies that appeared to be smaller versions of a real-life Oscar, the award given out at the Academy Awards for professional films.

"Code Borange," which picked up the Best Editing Award, was mostly written by Evan Brammer, 14, who has made several other films with friend Hank Blum, also an eighth grader at St. Matthew.

Evan said the movie was a "spoof on new code enforcement, called 'Code Borange,' at the school." He called both the film and the code "obscure."

While his film was seemingly intended to make a statement, the other two films up for Best Movie



JENNIFER OCHSTEIN

Lindsey Gilbert, 14, poses after winning an "Oscar" for Best Supporting Actress for her portrayal of "the weather lady" in "Code Borange," a film made by her and her eighth grade classmates at St. Matthew School in South Bend.

— "Cribz" and "Trick My Locker" — were knock offs of existing MTV shows.

Students chose "Cribz" for Best Movie and Best Sound.

Juan Barrios, 14, who helped make and acted in "Cribz," said he was surprised the movie won Best Movie but he got a clue in the hallways after students prescreened the movies.

"Everyone in the hall was telling us we won Best Movie," Juan said.

Roney agreed that students seemed to evolve while they were filming.

"They developed more behind the camera," Roney said. "They're nervous right now, but on video they were very outgoing, and they were all eager to be in front of the

camera."

Juan said it was fun working on the project, the computer and programming the video on camera.

"We worked with different people in class and made a lot of friends," Juan added.

Lindsey said she enjoyed helping make "Code Borange."

"All the kids got together and had a great time for our last year together at St. Matt's," Lindsey said.

Other trophies were awarded to: Troy McGovern, 14, for Best Actor, Madison Pletcher, 14, for Best Actress and Ian Saboski, 13, for Best Supporting Actor.



NEW YORK (CNS) — Following are capsule reviews of movies issued by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting.

"Because I Said So" (Universal/Gold Circle)

Mediocre and unfunny comedy about an overbearing mother (Diane Keaton) who tries to match up her single daughter (Mandy Moore) with a shallow architect (Tom Everett Scott), while the daughter is more sensibly drawn to a decent single father (Gabriel Macht), but nonetheless engages in a sexual relationship with both. Director Michael Lehmann's appalling chick flick pushes the contemporary acceptance of premarital sex to new lows, as the permissive Keaton character and her three daughters blithely discuss their sexual experiences at every opportunity. Keaton's comic prowess, appealing performances from Moore, Macht and Stephen Collins, the absence of graphic sex, minimal expletives, and a reasonably moral tie-up fail to balance a script that is morally — and dramatically — askew at every turn. Several nongraphic sexual encounters, permissive sexual mores, much sexual banter, innuendo and other questionable elements, casual acceptance of porn and an instance of profanity. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13.

"Blood and Chocolate" (MGM)

Disposable tale about an American comic book artist (Hugh Dancy) researching folklore in Romania where he romances an alluring expatriate chocolatier

(Agnes Bruckner) who turns out to be a werewolf, provoking the ire of her shape-shifting clan, especially her insolent cousin (Bryan Dick) and the feral leader of the pack (Olivier Martinez) to whom she is promised. While relatively restrained in terms of sex and violence, director Katja von Garnier's film doesn't work as a love story or a thriller, and despite its nocturnal Bucharest backdrop and some modestly stylish sequences the overall effect is bland. Some violence, a few bloody images, erotically suggestive dancing, fleeting glimpse of a nude photograph, drug references and sexual innuendo, as well as sporadic mildly crude language and profanity. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13.

"Catch and Release" (Columbia)

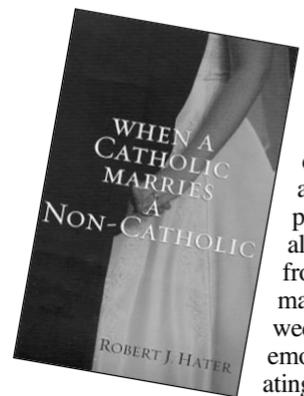
Dour, slow-moving romantic comedy about a woman (Jennifer Garner) whose fiance is killed shortly before their wedding who learns that he fathered a child with an out-of-town massage therapist (Juliette Lewis) who eventually comes to town with the child in tow moving in with her and her fiance's buddies (Kevin Smith, Sam Jaeger and Timothy Olyphant) with ensuing romantic complications. Writer-director Susannah Grant's formulaic chick flick strains for credibility, the acting is bland (especially Olyphant as her principal love interest), and is unredeemed by the overall message of forgiveness and a reasonably moral wrap-up. Permissive sexual mores, intimate encounters (one intense but fully clothed, the other gauzily photographed with no actual nudity), sexual banter and innuendo, some crude language and expressions and profanity, a suicide attempt and drug use. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13.

Book supports those in 'mixed' marriages

When A Catholic Marries a Non-Catholic, by Robert J. Hater, ISBN: 978-0-86716-678-1, St. Anthony Messenger Press

CINCINNATI — Marriage can be challenging under even the best of circumstances. When one's spouse is from another Christian denomination, another faith or no faith at all, a whole new set of unique challenges comes into play. The increasing frequency of such marriages demands intelligent planning and compassionate advice.

Starting from the premise that God blesses all marriages, Father Robert Hater offers a pastoral approach to dealing with the difficulties Catholics face in marrying someone from another faith background.



Tips for both the married (or marrying) couple and parish professionals range from how to manage the wedding ceremony to creating a faith-centered home environment. Drawing on his pastoral experience, Father Hater provides stories of those who have successfully overcome these difficulties and who have been enriched by embracing the challenges, rather than avoiding them.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

Divine Mercy program

Decatur — St. Mary of the Assumption Parish will offer a Divine Mercy program on Monday, Feb. 26, at 7 p.m. The Mother of Mercy Messengers, the outreach ministry of the National Shrine of the Divine Mercy will be presenting "Tell All Souls about My Mercy." The program will include quotes of Jesus and passages from the diary of St. Faustina, exposition of the holy Eucharist, benediction, the Divine Mercy chaplet, as well as reconciliation. For information call (260) 728-9217.

Passion play at Oberammergau

South Bend — Delivered from the horror of the Black Plague, every 10 years the village of Oberammergau fulfills its vow by presenting the Passion play. A list of persons who would be interested in more information is

being compiled. Tickets must be ordered this summer, although the Passion play will not be presented until 2010. For information call Sister Agnes Marie at (574) 289-9439 and leave your name and number.

Bishop Luers High School announces oldies reunion

Fort Wayne — Graduates of the classes 1962-1971 will be celebrating the first 10 years of Bishop Luers on Saturday, Aug. 4, hosted by the class of 1965. A planning meeting will be held Thursday, March 22, at 7 p.m. at Bishop Luers.

Knights plan spaghetti dinner

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a spaghetti dinner on Friday, Feb. 16, from 5 to 7 p.m. Adults \$6, children (5-12) \$3. Dinner

includes spaghetti, salad, garlic toast and coffee. Carry-out available.

Show Luers Spirit at Casa

Fort Wayne — Bishop Luers High School and Casa restaurants will offer dinner served by Luers teachers, coaches and friends on Sunday, Feb. 25, at the 3402 Fairfield location. First seating is 12:30 to 1:15 p.m., second seating is 3 to 3:45 p.m. Adult tickets \$7.50. Cash bar. Children 10 and under \$3. Bring a gift item or cash donation for LuersKnight auction as a gratuity. Purchase tickets by calling Kathy Skelly at (260) 456-1261.

Fish Fry for first Friday of Lent

Fort Wayne — St. Jude Parish will have an Ed Fox fish fry on Friday, Feb. 23, from 5 to 8 p.m. Adults \$7, children 6-8, \$5 and children under 5 free.

Fish and tenderloin dinner

New Haven — St. Louis Besancon Parish will have an all-you-can-eat Country Chef fish and tenderloin dinner on Friday, Feb. 16, from 4 to 7 p.m. Adults \$7, children 6-11 \$4 and children 5 and under free. Carry-out available.

Fish and tenderloin dinner

Fort Wayne — St. Peter Church will have a fish and tenderloin dinner by Ed Fox on Friday, Feb. 16, from 4-6:30 p.m. in the pavilion, corner of DeWald and

REST IN PEACE

Avilla

Paul E. Sible, 80, St. Mary of the Assumption

Decatur

Shirley M. Solik, 72, St. Mary of the Assumption

Fort Wayne

Terry L. Greene, 63, St. Vincent de Paul

Bernie I. Topp, 97, St. Peter

Mary A. Bobay, 91, St. Vincent de Paul

Elena G. Nix, 38, Queen of Angels

Bonnie L. Weiler, Our Lady of Good Hope

Dolores Kearns, 96, St. Patrick

Goshen

Ana Alvarez, 76, St. John the Evangelist

Kendalville

Karen Ann Denney, 59, Immaculate Conception

Lakeville

Nancy J. Hohl, 82, Sacred Heart of Jesus

Mishawaka

Elizabeth M. Goddard, 76, St. Bavo

Leon R. Rusinek, 78, St. Joseph

Notre Dame

Sister M. Eymardine Lengerich, CSC, 92, Our Lady of Loretto

Donald Leo Rohan, 76, Holy Cross Village

Carl B. Beitzinger, 45, Sacred Heart Basilica

Sister M. Amate Miller, CSC, 88, Our Lady of Loretto

Sister Anna Marie Towers, CSC, 87 Our Lady of Loretto

South Bend

Mary M. Luczynski, 96, St. Stanislaus

Edward F. McNulty Sr., 79, St. Anthony de Padua

Bernard M. Niedbalski, 64, Christ the King

Anne M. Beery, 87, St. Matthew Cathedral

Kristine R. Van Namee, 53, Holy Family

Edwin W. Jobin, 69, Christ the King

Warsaw

Dr. Hossein Hashemi, Sacred Heart

Yoder

Mary M. Hofer Quackenbush, 90, St. Aloysius

Warsaw streets, which is handicapped accessible. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$4 for children ages 5 to 10, under 5 eat free. There is a \$25 max for larger families.

Day of Reflection

Warsaw — Sacred Heart Church will offer a day of reflection on Saturday, Feb. 24, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Presenter for the day is Jay Landry, pastoral associate at Holy Cross Parish in South Bend. The cost is \$10, which includes lunch. Call (574) 267-584 for reservations by Feb. 17.

Day of Reflection

Mishawaka — A Day of Reflection will be held at St. Francis Convent, (across from Marian High School) on

Wednesday, Feb. 28, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The theme for the day is "Journaling the Journey." Bring your journal or a notebook. The cost is \$15 and includes lunch. Register to Sister Barbara Anne Hallman at (574) 259-5427 by Friday, Feb. 23.

Singles gather at St. Elizabeth

Fort Wayne — The GAP, a social group for single Catholics in the 40-60ish age range will meet in the St. Elizabeth Parish hall on Friday, Feb. 16, at 7 p.m. Warm up with hot chocolate and fun at "oldies trivia night." For information call (260) 432-7346 or e-mail gap4565@msn.com.

Preschool and kindergarten registration to begin

Fort Wayne — Queen of Angels School will host registration for preschool and kindergarten students on Tuesday, Feb. 13, in the social hall at either 1 or 7 p.m. Baby sitting will be provided. Students may register for 3 or 4 year old preschool and full or half day kindergarten. Bring birth and baptismal certificates. Registration fee is \$50. Open registration for grades 1-8 begins Feb. 15. Call (260) 483-8214 for information.

SAJES announce Valentine party

South Bend — The St. Matthew Cathedral SAJES will have a Valentine's Day party on Wednesday, Feb. 14, beginning with Mass at 11:30 a.m. in the cathedral followed by a potluck luncheon in the church basement.

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.



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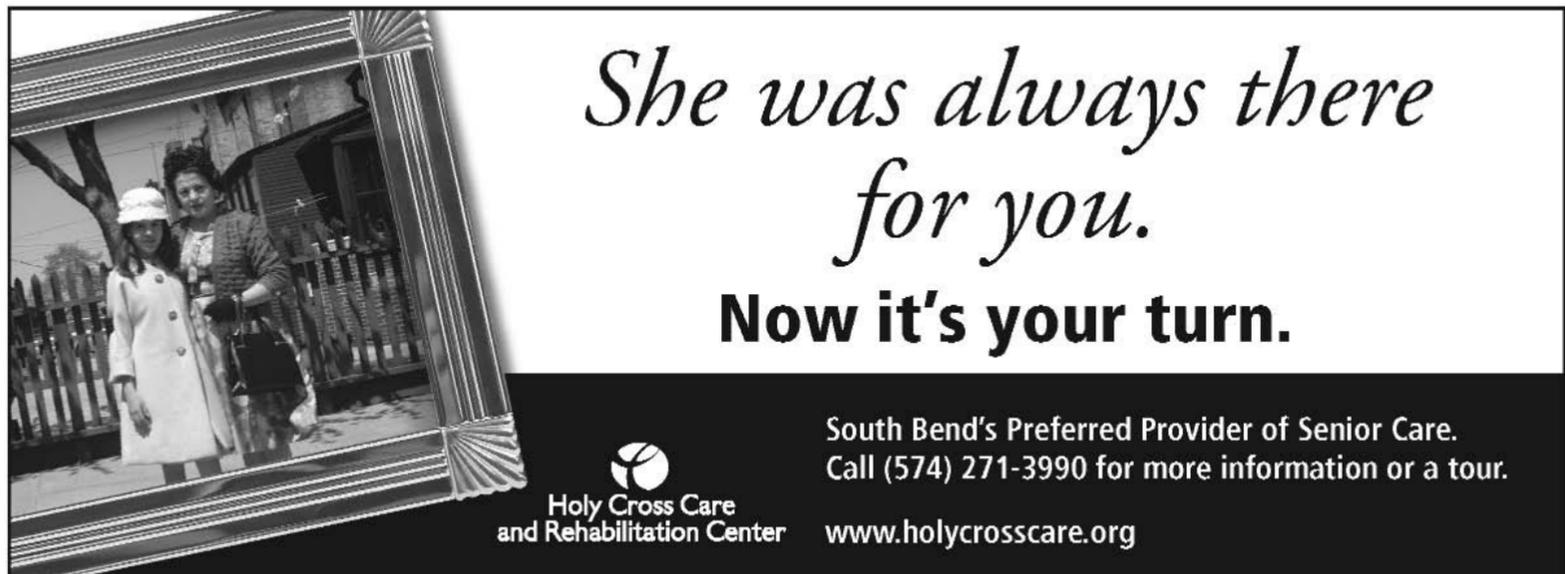


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THE Young Voice

ST. JUDE CATHOLIC SCHOOL is located in South Bend. The school has 190 students in grades kindergarten through eight. Stephen Donndelinger is the principal. Additional information is available at www.stjudeschool.net, e-mailing info@stjudeschool.net or by calling the school at (574) 291-3820.

My alma mater: visits and reconnections

BY DANIELLE MORAN

SOUTH BEND — Within the Notre Dame community there is an idea of the “Notre Dame Family.” It is the concept that there is a very unique connection between students, alumni, professors and other staff that holds these people together throughout the years. No matter how much time has passed, members of this family can still rely on this bond. When I was in high school researching colleges, this notion seemed strangely familiar. In fact, it specifically reminded me of my elementary school experiences at St. Jude.

There are several excellent Catholic elementary schools in the South Bend area, but none of them form the same kinds of relationships between students and teachers like those created at St. Jude. For example, in high school half days were highly prized. The dismissal bell rang and most students were off to get lunch and spend the rest of the day shopping or relaxing or simply rejoicing over the fact that we were not in school.

However, more often than not, several groups of St. Jude alumni would head over to the elementary school to visit with their old teachers. In return, St. Jude is always open to these visits. Back when I was a student at St. Jude, I remember teachers stopping classes to introduce their former students, and the alumni sharing some stories about their own days in that classroom. Years later, when I was the high school kid coming back for a visit, the same privilege was given to me. It is nice to know that



PROVIDED BY ST. JUDE SCHOOL

The eighth-grade class of St. Jude School poses for a quick shot at the gazebo.

some things will never change.

Friends who attended other elementary schools have also jealously commented on this relationship between students and their grade school teachers. Where they were eager to get out of their schools and on with their high school lives, St. Jude students were just as excited to go back to visit and reconnect.

All of the Catholic schools in the area teach similar classes, offer similar

programs and participate in the same athletic activities. St. Jude is set apart because on a deeper level, the students and the faculty and the parents are all truly a part of the St. Jude family.

Danielle Moran is a graduate of St. Jude class of 1998.



BRITTANY MARTENS, THIRD GRADE

Who came to the lower grades at St. Jude? It was Ronald McDonald. He talked to us about safety, did a couple of magic tricks and played lots of other fun games. He talked to us about calling pop tabs “pull tabs.” It was very fun. We all had a great time. St. Jude has been collecting pull tabs for over 10 years to help with hospitalization expenses at the Ronald McDonald House.

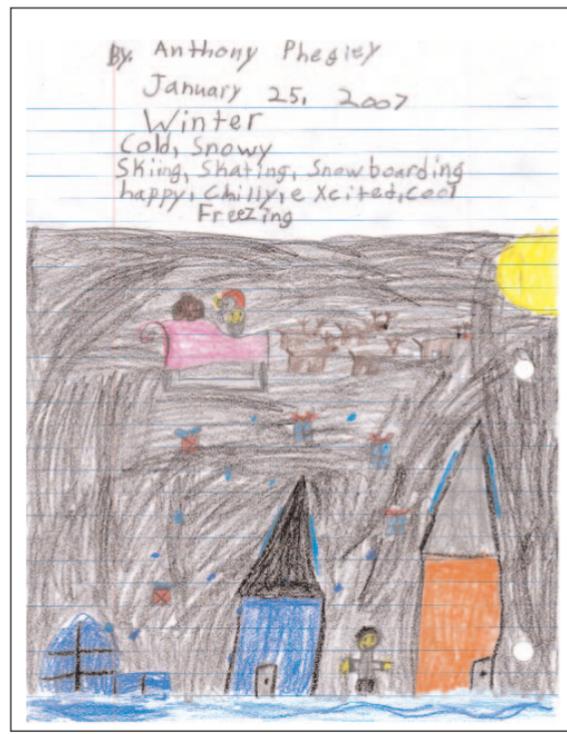
Student Council helps people of the community

BY ST. JUDE STUDENT COUNCIL

The St. Jude Student Council works very hard to help people in our community. We have collected money to help in the fight against breast cancer. We have collected and donated money to O'Hana Heritage Foundation, Hannah and Friends, and Pet Refuge. During November, we collected over 3,000 canned food

items to help the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

We have done some fun activities for our students. We had a reward for finishing the I-STEP tests. We sponsored activities for St. Nick's Day. We are planning activities for Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day. We also chose some crazy dress themes for Catholic Schools Week.



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