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The fun-filled and inspiring weekend began on Friday evening with teachings from Black on the characteristics of a hero. Krista Gensen, parishioner at Queen of Angels, Fort Wayne, followed with a teen witness. The evening drew to a close with the teens praying over each other to rid themselves of all that held them back from becoming heroes.

Youth and chaperones retired to gender-specific cabins on the grounds for a good night’s sleep and were treated in the morning to a hearty breakfast provided by Catering Kitchen. Epworth Forest kitchens provided all other meals.

Saturday was a full day with a variety of speakers from several diocesan locals. Our Lady of Good Hope pastor Father Mark Gurtner addressed compassion in heroes, St. Vincent School teacher Nate Proulx advised the youth on reckless vs. risking for Christ and Indiana-Purdue Universities at Fort Wayne (IPFW) teacher Bob Sedlmeyer spoke on the burdens heroes carry. Teen witnesses included Laura Schmidt, Reid Leazier and Whitney Soberalski, all from St. Vincent de Paul Parish.

Skits were interspersed throughout the day to bring the talks to life and later in the day, four area priests offered those in attendance the opportunity for reconciliation.

FORT WAYNE — “We announce today the beginning of a public effort to draw back to Christ and the church the many Catholics — and there are many — who have stopped the practice of their faith,” Bishop John M. D’Arcy announced at a Feb. 21 news conference at the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center in Fort Wayne. By making heavy use of the media, in what the bishop called a “full court press,” the diocese hopes “to reach those who have forgotten about God and have placed him on the back burners of their life,” and “be a welcoming church to those who need us.”

This initiative, made possible in part by a $60,000 grant from Our Sunday Visitor, is to be part of the celebration of the Sesquicentennial Jubilee Year of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. A similar news conference was held in South Bend on Feb. 26.

Going into other details on the campaign, Bishop D’Arcy explained that he has asked every parish to have a parish mission over a three-year period. He also noted that many fallen away Catholics feel a need to speak with someone, but also feel a need for anonymity.

“There may have been a reason why they left the church,” Bishop D’Arcy said. “It may have been an error on our part.” Or, he added, they might find certain aspects of the church or its teaching troubling.

To serve these people’s needs, the diocese has inaugurated the 1-800-MERCY4U phone line for inactive Catholics back to the full practice of their faith. The news conference included information on the Wells of Hope program, the 1-800-MERCY400 number, Mercy Day and the aggressive media campaign by the diocese to promote this initiative.

Youth inspired to be Christ’s heroes

BY KAY COZAD

NORTH WEBSTER — In this Sesquicentennial Jubilee Year, the youth of the diocese have already had an opportunity to celebrate their faith together. On Friday, Feb. 16, over two dozen teens from around the area gathered for the first annual diocesan-wide youth retreat weekend, held at Epworth Forest.

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New evangelization welcomes all to hear the word of God

A time to evangelize
The word is overused, so perhaps we do not understand it or do not really hear it. But the mission of Christ is our mission, the mission of the church. It is to preach the word of God “in season and out of season.” As St. Paul put it, “The church, as Pope Paul VI said, “must first be evangelized in order that she might evangelize.” It simply means proclaiming the Gospel. This has been my joy these past few weeks, as always, with each day full of his mission. Indeed, it must always be for bishops and priests but, in a sense, for all of us.

A new evangelization
Not new in content, but “new in method, new in expression and new in ador.” There is also a document in the church on media which says that the church would be “guilty of neglect” if it did not use the means of communication. This is why, with the help of a grant from our Sunday Visitor, you will be seeing spots on television, newspapers and billboards. On Ash Wednesday in Fort Wayne and in South Bend a few days later, I explained all of this on the media. There are also missions. This week I will be at the small parish of Blessed Sacrament. Albion and a larger, urban church, St. Joseph, Fort Wayne. Next week, I will be at the large parish of St. Charles Borromeo, Fort Wayne, and the following week in a smaller parish, St. Peter, Walkerton.

I also had a most blessed meeting with our presbytery; that is, with all our priests. Here my emphasis was on prayer and the teachings of our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI. In the annual talk he gives to the curia in Rome — that is, to the various officials who assist him — he referred to a visit to Bavaria, the place of his birth. It brought him to the theme of the priest as a man of God. He spoke of celibacy and he said the reason sometimes given for it, namely availability, is quite insufficient. Are we to say that the young mother with several children is less in her devotion to her family than the priest is to his parish? The pope says that such a reason can lead to egotism or hardness of heart. He then places celibacy in the context of a prayer that he says, “We senior priests used to say when we received tonsure.” I recall saying this prayer also, and I think we used to say it when we put on the cassock. It is “Dominus Pars Hereditaris mei et Calecu meae.” “The Lord is my portion and my cup.” The pope recalls that the Levites of the old law, the priestly tribes were the only ones not to receive a portion of land, their portion was the Lord.

I reflected on this with our priests — our celibate commitment takes on its full validity only if it is accompanied by prayer — that prayer in which we tell the Lord we belong totally to Him. He is our portion and our cup and our inheritance. He is our “land.” We also tell him that he is sufficient, and more than sufficient. This makes the priesthood a way of love, an adventure of love if you will.

This was a great day with the priests, which had been postponed because of the weather. We also spoke about vocations to the priesthood, and we saw a beautiful video entitled “Fishers of Men.” On top of that, Cindy Black, our director of Youth Ministry spoke to our priests, as did Linda Purge, director of the observance of our Bible. Cindy set out for our priests’ approach to youth ministry, and also her love and respect for the priest.

A weekend to remember
I was off early on Saturday morning to Elkhart where I wished to celebrate Mass at St. Joseph and Paul Parish and visit with Father Philip DeVolder, who has been unable to offer Mass because of a serious back pain. He has been out for several months, and he had a serious infection. I wanted to be close to the parishioners when their local pastor was not so visible. This also enabled me to attend the first half of the Diocese of Fort Wayne’s “Basketball,” which was held at the North Side gym in Elkhart, and the spirit was extraordinary. Alas, the Lady Indians of Saint Joseph’s High were beaten.

BISHOP JOHN M. DARCY

News & Notes

In the afternoon, I led the Rite of Election in St. Matthew Cathedral Parish. Next week, it will be held at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne. This is a diocese where you do everything twice.

After Mass at St. Vincent’s, I met with members of the staff also with Father DeVolder. He is an extraordinary priest, and I ask you to keep him in your prayers. I was impressed with the excellent staff and with Father Bill Sullivan, who is acting as administrator, as well as Father Wilson Corzo and Father Jay Steele, CSC, who have been a great help at St. Vincent’s, the mother church of Elkhart.

I drove down the bypass then to South Bend. The next day, I offered Mass at Corpus Christi Parish. It was the 25th anniversary of their Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. It was a joy to celebrate Mass in observance of this occasion, especially on the first Sunday of Lent.

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What a joy to see St. Matthew’s filled with the presence of so many people who are preparing for baptism or entrance into full communion with the Catholic Church.

Many young students from the University of Notre Dame and St. Mary’s College and Holy Cross College.

A meeting with vicars
We have six new vicars — Father Thomas Jones, CSC, Father Terry Fisher, Father William Sullivan, Father David Careenkwan, Father Daryl Rybicki, and Father David Voors. The vicar is important because he helps the bishop give pastoral care to a certain region. Canonically, they have been called deans, but they also are called vicars forane. They gave me excellent advice on how their office can be used to enrich the pastoral ministry of priests and laity. We will work to see that the vicar visits each parish at least twice a year to make sure he is in good health — physically, emotionally and spiritually — and also to see that the people are being well served.

Still Catholic
I had a wonderful visit to St. Joseph Hospital, Fort Wayne. This was done at the invitation of Sister Carole Langhauser, PHJC. The two young men, Chad Towner and Kirk Ray, who are leaders of the hospital, greeted me with a huge breakfast with Sister Carole. I recall when the Poor Handmaids, who had served at St. Joseph Hospital with distinction and dedication for generations, and were later closed, determined that it was necessary to sell this beloved hospital. However, I recall quite well that, as part of their agreement with the for-profit company, they insisted that that campus would remain a Catholic hospital. What does this mean? It means that the Ethical and Religious Directives of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops are observed. It means that there will always be excellent sacramental care. Father Daniel Chukwukweta visits every Catholic patient on a regular basis — sometimes every day. Also, he offers Mass daily at 4:15 p.m. and on Sunday morning at 10 a.m. It also means that some sisters are still present and visible at the hospital.

I toured the hospital. What a special joy. I went to the obstetric ward, and a woman came out to meet me. Her name was Juanita. She said, “Bishop, please come in and see my first grandchild.” The baby was less than two hours old. What a gift for the bishop.

This hospital will remain in the middle of our city. Its tradition is to serve the poor. Indeed, this is one of the guidelines of the Ethical and Religious Directives — to continue a special effort to give to those in need. Thus, the spirit of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, who built and maintained this great institution, is being continued.

A wonderful few hours at our Catholic hospital. I am grateful that the spirit of the Poor Handmaids remains strong in this hospital.

So far, I have not been called to the Red Sox spring training site. Maybe it is best, because I am quite busy and do not want me to come and throw batting practice, I will be ready.

See you next week.
NOTRE DAME — “Love is pow- erful. It brings clarity and truth. In redefine feminism, compassion organized chose to focus on a uniquely Catholic perspective on healing: healing on an individual level for those who have been victimized by real vio- lence, and on a cultural level for all who are negatively impacted by a society where eating disorders, pornography, sexual assault and attacks on women’s sexual health are common occurrences.”

This is the third year for the conference, a product of research done by Notre Dame senior Anna Maria Scaperlanda. One of the conference is reflected in the words of its patron saint, Edith Stein: “The capacity for empathy with others and their needs and the capacity and docility for adaptation are more developed in the nature of woman.”

In other words, according to the conference’s mission statement, women’s inclination toward maternal-nurturing draws her to all living and personal things, and to a more spe- cific, contemplative knowledge. Gifted with the capacity for carry- ing life, as the continuation of Eve called it, “she is also responsible for preparing the “restoration of life.”

To this end, some 25 women and men from all parts of the country were invited to speak on various topics throughout the two- day conference. Speakers included Notre Dame students and alumni, as well as national figures like Deirdre McQuade, director of planning and information for the U.S. Bishops’ Secretariat for Pro- Life Activities.

More Palestinian Janet Smith talked about how contraceptives change women and men biologi- cally and emotionally, negatively impacting the natural hormones that attract members of the oppo- site sex to one another. This results in relationship problems between the sexes, as well as physical prob- lems for the woman, ranging from increased risk for depression and certain cancers.

Moreover, the separation of sex from babies and marriage has created a culture of recreational sex, resulting in a multitude of problems, including high incidence of sexually transmitted diseases, emotional trauma and at-risk fami- lies, said Smith, who is the Father Michael J. McGivney Chair of Life Ethics at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit.

Speakers share stories of healing and faith

NOTRE DAME — It’s God’s infinite mercy that ultimately saved Bernadette Roy as she elected to attend the session, “Trauma and Healing After Abortion: Neither Do I Condemn You.”

Her family was like many other women. Roy came from a large Catholic family, the fourth of eight children. She married her high school sweetheart and by 1973 had two children. There were problems in the marriage, and Roy found herself divorced and single. She made some poor choices, “hooked up” and became pregnant.

“I went to Planned Parenthood,” recalled Roy. “They talked about termination because there could be complications.”

Ashamed to tell anyone else, Roy made her decision without any more input. She made the decision alone to abort her baby.

“God kept calling me out,” said Roy. “I was working, doing some repairs in a friend’s home, when her curly-haired little girl jumped in my lap and hugged me. Her father told her she was father was usually so shy around others. I just cried and cried. I went home and cried that entire night. The next morning, I put on my face and tried to return to my life.”

The years continued. One day, Roy visited her former in-laws. Her former father-in-law was touched by her visible pain, and he gently brought her back to the woman.”

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Pia deSoledani, a theologian who writes and lectures on issues like feminism, culture and society, spoke on “Renewing the Feminine Image.” She told the largely student audience that “We are desperately imperiled of losing the context of authentic feminine sexuality.”

The “brokenness of today’s culture is seen in every where,” she said, and is evidenced by our contra- cepting and divorcing society in which adults seem to be afraid of making a commitment.

Women “have to make a con- scious decision about how we want to treat our bodies,” she said, explaining that today’s cul- ture tends to define sexuality as “doing, not being,” even though our sexuality is integrated into who we are as a whole person.

DeSoledani also touched on the inappropriate sexualization of women in the media, and this theme was further developed by Brandi Lee, founder and editor-in-chief of True Girl magazine.

Lee explained that she founded the magazine, which has a target audi- ence of Catholic girls ages 12 to 18 and a circulation of 5,000, because other publications for girls and women are focused on physi- cal perfection, Hollywood celebri- ties and what it takes to attract and please a man. Lee said her maga- zine emphasizes self-discovery, character development, social responsibility, integrity and love for God and the church.

The message girls and women should be getting, Lee said, is that “We are daughters of God, and inherently valuable and beautiful because of that.”

Cathy Nolan, wife and mother of eight children currently works at the Women’s Care Center. She spoke of her personal faith jour- ney and how prayer and journal- ing lead to healing.

Nolan. “By my junior year, every- thing was changing. Sexuality was up for grabs.”

As Nolan described the terror she experienced when a male acquaintance made an attempt at rape, she also revealed the con- necting many of her generation appeared to be experiencing, between their behavior and what they were after in their hearts. Depressed and confused, Nolan dropped out of college her junior year and went home. Nolan ended up marrying the one guy who showed genuine care and compassion by coming by to visit and see how she was doing. Denis Nolan and Cathy continued to date when she enrolled at Northwestern University and then married. Cathy and Denis experi- enced spiritual and relational ups and downs early on, separating for a short time.

During their separation, Nolan made some choices she would later regret, including her desire to put the control device that could also work as an abortifacient. But as she and Denis reconciled, Nolan buried the shame and began to focus on the life of prayer, joy and family having seven children in a row. God was clearly working in their lives.

“God’s way is to hide our shame,” explained Nolan. “God’s way is to name it, to entrust it into his hands and to teach us that he loves us more than anything we can do.”

Today, in addition to praying with other women and teaching them how to journal as a springboard to conversation with Jesus and Mary, Nolan continues her pro-life calling on the front lines at the Women’s Care Center. “God heals and not full of shame and brokenness,” said Nolan. “God wants us recre- ated in his image.”

The Edith Stein Conference was spon- sorised by the Notre Dame Departments of Psychology, Theology and Philosophy; the Center for Ethics and Culture; the Center for Social Concerns; Campus Ministry; and the Our Sunday Visitor Institute.

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Pope denounces trend toward ‘designer embryos’

BY JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI denounced the high-tech trend that encourages parents to seek the “perfect child” through genetic selection.

In a speech Feb. 24 to more than 350 Catholic medical professionals, the pope said so-called “designer embryos” represent one of many contemporary attacks on human life.

The attacks have increased to the point that the Christian conscience has been lulled, and even good people sometimes seem paralyzed in the face of collective social pressure against the right to life.

The pope listed a number of threats in poorer nations today, including pressure to legalize abortion, new forms of chemical abortion introduced under the pretext of “reproductive health,” and the continuing politics of demographic control.

In richer countries, he said, biotechnological engineering aims to establish “subtle and extensive methods of eugenics in the obsessive search for the ‘perfect child,’ through artificial procreation and various forms of diagnosis that allow selection.”

He said this kind of genetic selection is part of “a new wave of discrimination” aimed at unborn.

The pope also warned against increasing pressure to legalize euthanasia. In addition to such direct attacks on life, he said, efforts are multiplying to legalize “alternative” forms of cohabitation that are closed to procreation.

FORT WAYNE — The first phase of Bishop Dwenger’s expansion effort is moving towards completion. The 42,000 square-foot addition will house new band and choir rooms as well as space for campus ministry, the service coordinator, maintenance and Saints Alive.

The goal is to have the new space ready for occupancy following spring break in early April.

Once complete, the new band room will accommodate approximately 100 students for both class and rehearsals. Individual practice rooms will allow students to work on private lessons as well as prepare for the annual Indiana State School Music Association (ISSMA) competition each year.

Amp storage will be available for a music library, uniform and instrument storage.

A separate choir room will accommodate another 90 students and a multi-purpose room can be used by the school’s show choir, dance team and other groups within the school. Over the past few years, Bishop Dwenger has experienced tremendous growth in the fine arts curriculum. More and more students are pursuing the academic honors diploma, which requires a minimum of two semesters of either visual or performing arts. Over 300 students are taking visual arts at this time with another 150 or so in the performing arts.

Once the band and choir move into their new space, the existing music room will be converted into three art classrooms. The school currently offers several classes in both two and three-dimensional art. The curriculum is expected to expand with the addition of the new classrooms.

Bishop Dwenger High School has raised nearly $6.7 million towards an $8 million goal in its addition of the new classrooms. The school currently offers several classes in both two and three-dimensional art. The curriculum is expected to expand with the addition of the new classrooms.

The additional classrooms are needed to meet the needs of the current students and staff. A number of teachers do not have their own classrooms and three of the current rooms in use are below the minimum size for a high school classroom.

Dwenger is now reaching out to all of its parents, alumni and friends in an effort to bring the campaign to a close. The school is confident it will reach its goal that will help insure the future of the school for many years to come. If anyone wants to learn more about the current campaign, they may contact the school’s development office at (260) 496-1706 or e-mail dfech@bishop-opdwenger.com.
Sister Thea Bowman lived a full life of hope, love and justice.

**By May Lee Johnson**

She always had a song in her heart and a prayer in her soul for social justice for all races and creeds in the Catholic Church. Bertha Bowman was born Dec. 29, 1937. She attended a Methodist church but went to Holy Child Jesus School in Canton, Miss. At the age of 9, she was so touched by the sisters who taught her that she received her parents’ permission to become a Catholic.

With a beautiful voice, brilliant mind and dynamic personality, Bertha, who would become Sister Thea Bowman, a Sister of the Third Order of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, intended to make the world a better place. And she did.

“Many people considered Sister Thea Bowman to be a prophetic voice in the church,” Holy Cross Brother Roy Smith, from the University of Notre Dame, said. “Some saw her as having a prophetic voice in calling the church, the people of God to bring about justice and peace to all of God’s people.”

After a career in higher education, she turned her immense energy and love into teaching others the beauty of a multicultural world. She loved music, and had a candid and uncompromising personal acceptance of all people. She was a singer, dancer, liturgist and personal witness of hope, love and justice. A holy woman of our times, she lived God. She loved her faith. She went home to be with her loving God like a shooting star in 1990.

**A personal witness**

Today’s Catholic contributor May Lee Johnson remembers personally meeting Sister Thea Bowman when she visited South Bend in the early 1980s. Johnson had never really met or spoken with a black sister, so when her friend Brother Roy Smith called her to say Sister Thea would be speaking at Notre Dame, Johnson went to the lecture.

Johnson said she thought it would be interesting to meet her and hear what she had to say about blacks and Catholics.

Johnson had no idea what to expect, so she had dinner with her. “When I saw her decked out in her native African dress, I was shocked,” Johnson said, “but she greeted me with a warm smile and big hug, and I quickly knew I was in good company.”

After the two talked a few minutes, Johnson, who was thinking about leaving the Catholic Church at the time, discussed her concerns with Sister Thea. Sister Thea responded that she would never allow the undervaluing of African-Americans and women in the church and society stop her from doing her part.

Later, Johnson found this quote in some notes she had taken years ago: “I like being black. I like being myself, and I thank God for making me my black self and that’s when I decided to become fully functioning, to the church and the world.”

**Pope says Christ on cross helps Christians recognize sin, God’s love**

**By Cindy Wooden**

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Contemplating Christ on the cross, Christians recognize the seriousness of their sins and the power of God’s love, Pope Benedict XVI said.

“Only by turning our gaze to Jesus, dying on the cross for us, can this basic truth be known and contemplated: God is love,” he said Feb. 25 before praying the Angelus with visitors in St. Peter’s Square.

The midday appearance was Pope Benedict’s last public engagement before he and top Vatican officials began their weeklong Lenten retreat in the evening.

The pope asked the people in the square to accompany him with their prayers, and he promised to pray for them as well.

Pope Benedict asked Catholics during Lent to keep their hearts and minds focused on Christ’s crucifixion, because it is the best way “to understand fully what sin is, how tragic its seriousness is, and at the same time how incomparable the Lord’s power and mercy are.”

“Keeping their eyes on Christ,” he said, “people also should allow themselves to feel that he is watching them.”

“The one we have pierced with our sins never tires of pouring out on the world an inextinguishable torrent of merciful love,” he said.

Pope Benedict prayed that humanity would come to understand “that this is the only source from which to draw the indispensible spiritual energy needed to build that peace and happiness for which every human being is looking.”
Al-Azhar's grand sheik agrees to meet for talks with pope in Rome

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — One of Sunni Islam's leading clerics has accepted Pope Benedict XVI's invitation to meet for talks in Rome, the Vatican said. Grand Sheikh Ahmed al-Tayeb of Cairo's al-Azhar University, a world-renowned center of Islamic scholarship, agreed to the encounter “with satisfaction,” the Vatican said Feb. 20. No date was announced for the meeting. It would be the pope's highest-profile encounter with an Islamic leader since his September speech in Regensburg, Germany, that sparked controversy and criticism throughout the Muslim world. Cardinal Paul Poupard, head of the Vatican agency that coordinates interreligious dialogue, met Sheikh Tantawi Feb. 20 in Cairo in what the Vatican described as “a climate of great cordiality” and conveyed the pope's greetings to the cleric. Cardinal Poupard also planned to meet with Egypt's religious affairs minister, Handi Zaqzuoq.

Pope to canonize Brazilian in May, four others in June

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI will canonize a Brazilian Franciscan during his May 11 trip to Brazil and will declare four other new saints in June. During a prayer service in the Apostolic Palace Feb. 23, the pope set May 11 as the date for the canonization of Blessed Antonio Galvao, an 18th-century Franciscan and founder of the Sisters of the Lady of the Conception of Divine Providence. The pope will be in Brazil May 9-13 to participate in the Latin American bishops' fifth general assembly; the papal schedule published by the Brazilian bishops in an earlier synod invited the pope to visit. The pope would celebrate a morning Mass May 11 at the Campo de Marte airfield in Sao Paulo. Pope Benedict also announced the June 3 canonization at the Vatican of a Polish Franciscan, Blessed Simon of Lignano Carpenedo, and Sister Gisella, a Dutch Passionist priest; Sister Anne-Eugenie Milleret de Brou, the French founder of the Religious of the Assumption; and a Maltese priest, Father George Preca, founder of the Society of Christian Doctrine.

Vatican rejects Call to Action appeal; bishop urges return to church

LINCOLN, Neb. (CNS) — The Vatican's highest court said it has no jurisdiction over a decision by Bishop Fabian W. Bruskewitz of Lincoln that Catholics in his diocese who are members of Call to Action, Call to Action Nebraska and 10 other organizations were automonous and exempt from diocesan law. In the wake of the ruling, Bishop Bruskewitz renewed his invitation to Call to Action Nebraska members to leave that organization and return to full communion with the church. Rachel Pokora and Gordon P. Peterson of Call to Action Nebraska had asked the Apostolic Signature, the church's supreme court, to overturn Bishop Bruskewitz’s 1996 decision and its affirmation last year by Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re, prefect of the Vatican Congregation for Bishops. In a Jan. 27 letter to Pokora and Peterson, which was copied to Bishop Bruskewitz, the court said it had “no competence,” or jurisdiction, in the matter. Call to Action Nebraska was the only group to ask the bishop to reverse his decision.

Nashville bishop supports mayor's veto of 'English-first' legislation

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (CNS) — Saying that “we don’t need a law to tell us what language we are already speaking,” Nashville Mayor Bill Purcell vetoed a bill that would have required city agencies and officials to communicate in English “except when required by federal law or when necessary to protect or promote public health, safety or welfare.” Bishop David R. Choby of Nashville, who stood with Purcell as he made the veto announcement Feb. 12, said the city is “noted for its friendliness and its willingness to welcome those who are new to the area.” The bishop said, “The characteristics of kindness, for which this city has developed a national recognition, can also be called Christian charity.” “This ordinance does not reflect who we are,” Purcell said, noting the long tradition of immigration in middle Tennessee. A primary reason for the veto, he said, was that exceptions to the ordinance would be so broad that unnecessary lawsuits would surely arise, potentially costing taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Roman office issues prayer cards, relics to promote sainthood for John Paul II

ROME (CNS) — The Rome diocese office charged with promoting the sainthood cause of Pope John Paul II continues to distribute the official prayer cards for the cause and the only authorized relics, an office spokeswoman said. “We receive dozens of requests each day and the distribution continues,” she said. The official cards and relics can be requested by letter, fax or e-mail. The e-mail address is: PostulazioneGiovanni Paolo II at vaticanurbs.org; the fax number is: (39-06) 6888-6240. The mailing address is: Postulazione Giovanni Paolo II, Vicariato di Roma, Piazza San Giovanni in Laterano 6A, 00184 Rome, Italy.

Pope supports Polish archbishop who resigned after communist links

OXFORD, England (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI expressed support for an archbishop who resigned because of links to communist-era secret police. “I would like, above all, to offer words of encouragement, inviting you to strive forward with confidence and peace in your heart,” Pope Benedict said in a letter to former Warsaw Archbishop Stanislaw Wielgus. “I express the wish that Your Excellency renew your activity in Christ's service in every way possible, so your immense and deep knowledge will bear fruit, as well as your priestly devotion for the good of the beloved church in Poland.” The pope said in a letter published Feb. 21 that Wielgus “fully aware of the exceptional circumstances” in which Archbishop Wielgus had worked “when the Marxist regime used all means to smother the freedom of citizens, and especially priests.” The letter was dated Feb. 12. Archbishop Wielgus had “given proof of great piety and deep love for Christ and the church,” he added.

Geographers use GPS to mark Italy's prime meridian in Vatican Gardens

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Although the Global Positioning System has made meridians obsolete in mapmaking, a group of geographers used the GPS to mark the equivalent of the old prime meridian of Italy passed through the Vatican. Standing at the end of a technologically guaranteed straight line of flower pots, the geographers and Vatican officials dedicated a plaque marking the spot in the country where religion and society “like, above all, to offer words of piety and deep love for Christ and especially priests.” The letter was dated Feb. 12. Archbishop Wielgus had “given proof of great piety and deep love for Christ and the church,” he added.

Religious leaders call Bush's Iraq War policies 'morally bankrupt'

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Baltimore Catholic leaders used the backdrop of Ash Wednesday and props of a dead soldier's combat boots as they called President George W. Bush's Iraq War policies immoral and urged Marylanders to take part in an organized anti-war rally in Washington. The 13 religious leaders from varying Christian faiths — including Auxiliary Bishop Denis J. Madden of Baltimore — chose the moment to launch their collective anti-war platform, because it's a penential season. “The time has come to confess our mistakes, and God's forgiveness, to withdraw our troops” from Iraq, said the Rev. Peter K. Nord, head of the Presbyterian Church of the national Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). “The Jesus we follow in a penitential season — the Jesus who began a project to commemorate the dead soldier's combat boots as they called President George W. Bush's Iraq War policies immoral and urged Marylanders to take part in an organized anti-war rally in Washington. The 13 religious leaders from varying Christian faiths — including Auxiliary Bishop Denis J. Madden of Baltimore — chose the moment to launch their collective anti-war platform, because it's a penential season. “The time has come to confess our mistakes, and God's forgiveness, to withdraw our troops” from Iraq, said the Rev. Peter K. Nord, head of the Presbyterian Church of the national Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). “The Jesus we follow in a penitential season — the Jesus who began a project to commemorate the
Queen of Angels plans parish mission

FORT WAYNE — Queen of Angels Parish in Fort Wayne will host a parish mission March 11-14. The mission is built on the theme of the diocesan Sesquicentennial Jubilee Year: “Behold the Face of Christ. His Steadfast Love Endures Forever.” The following presenters will speak:

• Sunday, March 11, 7 p.m. — Father James Stoye will present Steadfast in Faith.
• Monday, March 12, 7 p.m. — Jim Didier will present Steadfast in Prayer.
• Tuesday, March 13, 7 p.m. — Father Tim Wrozek will present Steadfast in Forgiveness.
• Wednesday, March 14, 7 p.m. — Bishop John M. D’Arcy will speak on Steadfast in Communion at the closing Mass.

Morning sessions, presented by Sister Jolene Heiden, SSND, from the diocesan Office of Spiritual Development-Evangelization, will be held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. in the rectory.

The mission will have a special programming track for teens in grades 7-12. On Sunday, from 7-8 p.m. in the parish rectory, spiritual artist and faith speaker Mary Hilger will do a live chalk drawing and speak with the group. On Monday, from 7-8 p.m. in the activities center, local firefighter and former Purdue University cheerleader Jeremy Elder will explore the correlation of prayer in sports to daily life. Teens will attend Mass with the group on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Babysitting for infants and children through first grade will be available for the evening sessions. Please call the rectory in advance for babysitting services.

Hegenscheidt will present on Sunday and Wednesday evenings after the services. The parish extends an invitation to the community to attend the mission.

For additional information, contact Tom Szymczak at (260) 482-9411.

Dwenger students participate Indiana All-State Band Festival

FORT WAYNE — The Indiana Bandmasters Association has named three students from Bishop Dwenger High School to the 2007 Indiana All-State Band. Seniors Mary Andorfer and Katie Blakie along with junior McDermott have been selected to participate in the 47th Annual Indiana All-State Band Festival.

All members will participate in a series of activities including seating auditions, sectionals and full rehearsals from Friday, March 9, through Sunday, March 11. A grand finale concert will be presented to the public on Sunday, March 11, at 2:30 p.m. in the Musical Arts Center (MAS) on the Indiana University-Bloomington campus.

Hibernians celebrate Irish heritage

SOUTH BEND — The South Bend chapter of the Ancient Order of Hibernians will celebrate the Irish in the area with a St. Patrick’s Day dinner and dance on Saturday night in the ballroom of the Santa Maria Council 553 of the Knights of Columbus. Thanks to historian Bernard Doyle, the South Bend chapter can trace its historic enterprise to more than 60 years ago. Area Irish groups highlighted their social functions with dinner and dance programs marking St. Patrick’s Day. The Ancient Order of Hibernians in America was established in New York City on May 4, 1836.

Featured at the affair in Santa Maria Council 553 is the Irish step dancing of the World Academy and the Irish quartet of Pat Heiden.

Maury Hagan is president of the South Bend chapter. Reservations can be made by calling Hagan at (574) 232-7832.

Huntington Catholic School fundraiser has new benefactor

HUNTINGTON — Run for the Rams Huntington Catholic School’s annual gala fundraiser, has a new benefactor this year. First Federal Savings Bank has signed on as corporate sponsor of the May 12 dinner and auction. The bank’s support, Run for the Rams, as the event is called, will allow a greater portion of the event’s proceeds to go directly toward the operational expenses of Huntington County’s only Catholic school.

“Huntington Catholic School is a strong asset to the community,” said Michael E. Zahn, First Federal’s president. “Being a local bank, we feel it’s important to participate in a number of organizations in Huntington. ... We’re a community bank, and we try to give back to the community as much as we can.”

First Federal and its employees also have a number of personal ties to Huntington Catholic School. Zahn’s father, First Federal CEO Stephen E. Zahn, and his mother, Alyce Zahn, are both Huntington Catholic graduates. Zahn and many of the bank’s employees are also members of one of the city’s two Catholic parishes, which support the school.

Tickets for Run for the Rams are $60 per person and can be purchased by calling Huntington Catholic School at (260) 356-1926.

For information about donating auction items, contact Tim Ness at (260) 224-1353. Donated items may also be dropped off at the school’s Primary Building, 820 Cherry St.

Bishop celebrates 25th anniversary of holy hour program at Corpus Christi

Bishop John M. D’Arcy celebrated Mass with Father Camillo Tirabassi at Corpus Christi Church in South Bend Feb. 25. They commemorated 25 years of the Holy Hour program at Corpus Christi. Barbara O’Brien, left, is one of the original members of the holy hour program.
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Bill to provide permanent funding for affordable housing advances

BY BRIGID CURTIS AYER

INDIANAPOLIS — “Providing affordable housing is the single most effective way to solve homelessness in our state and nation,” said Bill Bickel, director of Holy Family Shelter and Holy Family Transitional Housing in Indianapolis, a part of Catholic Charities. “And House Bill 1351 will do just that — help provide affordable housing in Indiana.”

Rep. Jeb Bardon (D-Indianapolis) author of HB 1351 said, “There are two sides to this issue — a moral issue for society and a fiscal issue for government. This bill will help a segment of our society that is struggling for survival.”

The groups expected to be helped by the bill include the homeless, many of whom are single moms with children; victims of domestic violence, former convicts; and seniors in transition.

“It will also help reunite families since one-third of all kids in foster care could go home if their family had a more stable housing situation,” said Rep. Bardon.

Bardon said if the only opposition to the bill is the real estate and building industry because of the additional fees that they put on the property owner who wants to get documents from the recorder’s office.

“Some think that poverty and homelessness is only an urban issue, but it’s an issue that affects those who live in rural counties as well,” he said.

“We will get a better output on schools when poor children have a stable home environment and also save on health care because there will be less of need to use the emergency room on cold nights as a means to survive,” said Rep. Bardon.

Rep. Bardon also attends St. Michael Catholic Church in Indianapolis, said “providing affordable housing for the poor is an issue everyone agrees is the ethical thing to do from a moral perspective and the right thing to do fiscally for the state, but there is a difference on how to achieve that.”

Under HB 1351, affordable housing funds would be paid for by a mix of permanent funding sources including new fees from the county treasurer’s office, a portion of the interest from other state funds and an adjustment in big box retailers’ sales tax collection discount. Current law does not provide a permanent funding source for affordable housing.

“Holy Family Shelter and crisis shelters in general were created to be temporary crisis relief shelters,” said Bickel, “but unfortunately due to the enormous lack of affordable housing, these shelters have become permanent housing. This is completely unacceptable.”

“Our faith calls us to uphold the dignity of each and every person — including the poor. Those who are at or below the poverty level can receive a subsidy to pay for their housing under this bill,” Bickel explained. “For example, let’s say the rent of an apartment is $750. A poor family could live in that apartment for $250 and the affordable-housing fund would pay the difference of $500.”

“What’s great about how this fund works is that poor people are not singled out by putting them in projects or subsidized housing. Lower income families could quite feasibly live side by side with other middle class families,” he said. “That’s the beauty about the way this fund is set up because no one knows who is receiving the subsidy except the owner or property manager who receives the check,” Bickel said.

“The family maintains their dignity and the property owner is guaranteed the rental income,” he added. “It’s a win-win situation.”

Indianapolis is in a good situation to handle increased rental tenants because there is ample stock rental properties. In some states, they have to build, but that would not be the case in Indianapolis since we have ample housing,” said Bickel.

“Actually Indiana is behind the curve on this issue since our neighboring states already have permanent funding sources for their affordable housing funds,” Bickel said.

Bickel, who also serves as a board member for the Indianapolis Continuum of Care, said his shelter and others like his will not benefit directly in the sense of getting increased funding because of HB 1351, but he says there will be a tremendous benefit for those that they serve because they will have a much better chance to find permanent housing, which to Bickel is equal or even more rewarding.

Bickel explained that there are some concerns among those who work in housing and with homelessness issues that with ample affordable housing some lawmakers might think that temporary shelters won’t be needed, but Bickel said even with ample affordable housing emergency shelters are “unequivocally necessary.”

“There will always be people and families for some reason who will need emergency housing, just like there will always be a need in a community to have an emergency room at the hospital,” he said.

Rep. Bardon said he expects HB 1351 to pass the House with at least a two-thirds majority of House members supporting the bill and is hopeful the bill will only improve as it makes its way through the Senate.

Poverty and housing in Indiana

Information below extrapolated by a report compiled by the Indiana Coalition on Housing and Homelessness for Affordable Housing and Community Economic Development Awareness Day.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2004 American Community Survey there are 2,690,619 housing units in Indiana, 10 percent that were vacant.

Face of homelessness in Indiana

Poverty rates: people 65 or older 7 percent; related children under 18 years of age 14 percent; female householder families 28 percent; all families 8 percent; all individuals 11 percent.

Poverty related statistics

TANF monthly average families in 2004 were $4,330. Food Stamp recipients in 2004 were 516,360; Free and Reduced Lunch recipients in 2004 were 356,702.

Source: Indiana Business Research STATIS Indiana Data.

Emergency sheltered population 3,230; transitional housing population 3,849; unsheltered population 2,798; total homeless population in Indiana 9,877.

— Source 2005 Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care Applications for Indianapolis, Evansville, South Bend, and the Balance of the State. Data includes both homeless individuals and person in home- less families with children.

Emergency Shelters in Indiana. HUD defines an emergency shelter as any facility the primary purpose of which is to provide temporary or transitional shelter for the homeless in general or for specific populations of the homeless. Family units 558; family beds 1,965; individual 2,152; total yearround 4,152; 71 seasonal; overflow voucher 1,000.

— Source 2005 Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care Applications for Indianapolis, Evansville, South Bend, and the Balance of the State. Data includes both current and under development.
Lent — Is that the one before Christmas?

Sometimes it is easy to think of the season of Lent simply as a set of rules and requirements, days of fasting and abstinence, giving up the customary foods or habits. But the real depth of Lenten experience occurs when the season plays out in the lives of real people, how these practices affect them and play a part in calling them back to God. This is the second installment of a series that looks at how the season of Lent plays out in the everyday lives of different Catholics.

Dressed in his usual T-shirts, jeans and black leather jacket, Doug Arnold comes across as a laid back guy with a lot going on just beneath the surface. His smile ranges from wry, like he’s both amused and bemused by life’s peculiarities, to sly, like he’s both amused and bemused by life’s peculiarities, to sly, like he’s both amused and bemused by life’s peculiarities.

“Sometimes it is easy to think of the season of Lent simply as a set of rules and requirements, days of fasting and abstinence, giving up the customary foods or habits. But the real depth of Lenten experience occurs when the season plays out in the lives of real people, how these practices affect them and play a part in calling them back to God. This is the second installment of a series that looks at how the season of Lent plays out in the everyday lives of different Catholics.”

He ended up making the switch and now attends St. Vincent de Paul Church in Fort Wayne. His two kids graduated from Bishop Luers High School, and he says that he likes that the Catholic Church takes a firm stance on issues like abortion and gay marriage. But he'll also admit that those catechism classes were a long time ago and that his method of living a Christian life today has a Protestant ring to it.

“I try to spend time in that Bible every day,” Arnold notes. He’s currently working his way through the Gospels. He also enjoys daily reflection books, one of which he keeps in one of the many pockets of his uniform for the Fort Wayne Air National Guard, where he works as a full-time technician — essentially an airplane mechanic, he explains. But Arnold’s faith life is not limited to books. He greets the Lord with prayer in the morning and — since his car’s stereo busted — even spends time in quiet contemplation. Arnold tries to maintain an attitude of gratitude in his prayer because, as experiences like his 2006 stint in Iraq have shown him, he is “one lucky guy.”

He is especially proud of his two kids, Brandon and Rachelle, noting: “They’re both excellent in school. I haven’t had to bail them out of jail or anything like that.”

In the midst of this faith life, however, Arnold admits that his exposure to Lent has never been very substantial. From his Protestant upbringing to his life today, he still has trouble relating to practices like giving up chocolate or television. But this does not mean that he is a stranger to what Lent means.

“It’s a time when people focus on the suffering of Christ and reflect on the sins and suffering in their own lives that they would like to see die with Christ, in hopes that they might share in the joy of the Resurrection. For Arnold, suffering comes in the form of the daily drudge, as he puts it, “the little things that aggrivate a lot of folks.” It might be smashed fingers and the aches and pains that come from working all day in the garage or when he tries to “move an F-16 with my head.” It also comes in the form of dealing with people, be it the frustration of being caught in traffic, the ongoing learning experience of making a marriage work or feelings of anger, hate or prejudice toward others.

He also finds himself frustrated by repeated sins.

“Maybe I need to read that Bible even more.”

Doug Arnold sits in the cockpit of a jet during his 2006 stint in Iraq. Arnold, a former Protestant, feels that he’s never really had much exposure to Lent, but it is open to the experience.

“Maybe I need to read that Bible even more.”

PRETZEL DAY HELPS HOMELESS IN SOUTH BEND

GRANGER — Casey Ziegert, 10, was happy to make pretzels and blankets, even if they weren’t for her.

“It makes me feel good because I’m giving something to someone who really needs it,” she explained.

“Aside from Lent to turn our thoughts toward others,” said Amy Schlatterbeck, a pastoral associate who organized Lenten Pretzel Day at the church for the second year.

Because they want to turn their thoughts towards others, Schlatterbeck said they perform stewardship projects consisting of three elements: prayer, fasting and almsgiving. The pretzels represent fasting and prayer because they’re made of a simple dough and they’re shaped like arms in prayer. And the blankets represent the almsgiving “so other children can bene

from left, Collin Pica, 7, and his mom, Kristin Pica, and his brother, Evan Pica, 6, twist dough to make pretzels for Lenten Pretzel Day at St. Pius X Catholic Church in Granger. The church is sharing the pretzels with The Good Shepherd — could it’s fond of dispensing his life observations in droll phrases such as, “I still consider myself a Protestant in Catholic clothes.”

This would be because Arnold grew up in a Methodist church and came to Catholicism in the early 1990s when he married his wife, Regina.

“My feelings were, you know, I’d like to have my wife’s way,” recalls Arnold, “but I’m not sure if the Catholic life is the way for me.”

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R E A L L E N T

DON CLEMMER

“How do you knock it off and knock it off for the rest of your life?”

“Maybe I need to read that Bible even more.”

Lenten recipes

BY STACY VIERA

McLEAN, Va. — Lenten practices, such as abstaining from meat and giving them healthy alternatives, will help Today’s Catholic readers adhere to the abstinence requirements.

What is good for the soul is good for the body, too. To that end, the National Fisheries Institute, found on the Web at www.AboutSeafood.com, is pleased to be a resource on fish and seafood during this holy season.

Smoked Salmon Pizza

Create a quick and healthy meal with omega-3 rich salmon in this creative, family friendly recipe.

Ingredients

• 1.5 ounces chunked Morey’s Wild Alaskan Smoked Salmon or any flavor
• 1 large cooked pizza crust
• 6 oz. Alfredo sauce
• 1 Cup reduced fat shredded mozzarella cheese
• Red pepper
• Green pepper
• Red onion
• Black olives

Instructions

Spread sauce over the top of the pizza crust. Flattly sprinkle mozzarella cheese over the pizza. Chunk Morey’s Wild Alaskan Smoked Salmon and add to pizza. Add the remaining ingredients and cook at 450 degrees for 8-10 minutes or until cheese is melted through.

Source:
Morey’s Seafood International LLC

Basil Baked Cod Fillets

Cod is one of the most versatile and popular species in the U.S., with a mild flavor that pairs well with herbs.

Ingredients

• 1/2 pound cod, haddock, lingcod or orange roughy fillets
• 1 teaspoon olive oil
• 1/4 teaspoon lemon juice
• 1/4 teaspoon dried basil, crushed
• 1/8 teaspoon black pepper
• 2 plum tomatoes, cored and cut lengthwise into thin slices
• 2 teaspoons grated Parmesan cheese

Instructions

Drain and pat fillets dry and cut into 2 serving pieces. Combine oil and lemon juice in a baking dish. Add fish and turn to coat both sides. Sprinkle with basil, pepper, and salt. Overlap tomatoes in an even layer on fish and sprinkle with Parmesan cheese. Cover with foil and bake at 400° F about 10-15 minutes or until fish flakes easily.

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embracing them with the good opportunity to reach greater numbers of annual visitors to the Orlando area. Grady, Orlando pastor Father F. Finney, said the increased number of visitors grew, additional hotel makeshift facilities would no longer be sufficient to accommodate the number of visitors grew, additional hotel makeshift facilities would no longer be sufficient to accommodate the number of visitors. "We want this shrine to be a sacred place to give glory to God and honor our Mother." The shrine's defining representation is a humbling challenge. But it is enormously gratifying to know this work can be a place of worship for the millions traveling to Orlando has resulted in a magnificent tribute to Jesus through his Marian devotion. "Her words in the first chapter of Luke's Gospel, 'My heart proclaims the greatness of the Lord,' provide motivation in our Christian daily living to place God's kingdom comes alive at Queen of Universe Shrine above and beyond all else."

After much prayer and many private donations (the shrine is not supported financially by any diocese), ground was broken on Dec. 8, 1984, the feast of the Immaculate Conception. Within two years, the initial facility was completed. Across the courtyard, an outdoor chapel was constructed and anchored by an 80-foot bell tower.

Within the chapel walls is an inspiring 12-foot bronze work, entitled "Mother & Child." This was the first of several important pieces to be commissioned from noted sculptor Jery Kerem. August 22, 1990, the feast of Mary’s Queenship, saw the groundbreaking for the main church.

“We want this shrine to be a temple,” said the Orlando Bishop Norbert Dorsey, at the ceremony, “a sacred place to give glory to God and honor our Mother.”

After finishing his sculpture for the outdoor chapel, Kerem created two more magnificent additions to the shrine. The holy water font is a marble base, rimmed in brass and accented by two ascending arches. Even more striking is his 650-pound portrayal of the crucified Christ which, against an architectural glass backdrop symbolizing the shadow of the cross, hangs suspended above the main altar. Kerem said he depicted Jesus with his arms outstretched but with a spirit of repose.

“This image is designed to lead the faithful to dwell upon the suffering and sacrifice that was our Lord’s gift to humankind.” Directly across from the crucifix is Kerem’s rendition of the risen Christ, suspended at the rear of the nave. Here is reflected the joyful promise of the Resurrection, intended to gladden the hearts of the faithful.

Mary, Queen of the Universe Shrine Church opened its doors to the world on Jan. 31, 1993 before an overflow assembly of 2,500 worshippers. “This is a day of great rejoicing,” proclaimed Bishop Dorsey. “We ad. God’s grace upon all who will be drawn to this holy church.”

The shrine complex continued to grow. The building, which first served as the temporary church, is now an Evangelization Center and religious bookstore. A bust of Pope John Paul II’s statue named under the patronage of Mary, Queen of the Universe. Within the chapel walls is an inspirational glass windows and sculptures, depicting the story of God’s plan for salvation. The shrine’s 14 aisle windows are entitled The Magnificent Windows. A specially designed Blessed Sacrament chapel within the church enables worshippers to spend time in communion with the Lord.

“It is really nice to have a church like this for visitors,” said Larry Schroeder, who was visiting with his grandchildren from South Bend. “I felt very welcome, and I especially liked the life-size Nativity scene in the chapel.”

The shrine’s defining representation of Mary, Queen of the Universe, is located to the right of the main altar. This project was long-delayed as sculptor Jill Burkee combed the great quarries of Carrara, Italy, for a block of rare, pure white marble.

“I have to say that working on this commission is a humbling experience, even a bit scary” recalls Burkee. “To depict Mary both as the simple girl of Nazareth and as queen is an extraordinary challenge. But it is enormously gratifying to know this work can mean so much to so many people in years to come.”

The completed eight-foot work stands on a marble base and encloses the names of some 3,300 Shrine Associates.
SOUTH BEND — Evan Gravelle is a boy of few words when it comes to cancer.

He lets his body do most of the talking about his health. And he’s long been dealing with Ewing Sarcoma, a bone cancer found mostly in young males, not girls.

“I don’t know,” he says, a smile breaking out on his face and looking at his mom, Jennifer Gravelle. While he doesn’t want to talk about how long he’s had the cancer, he does know how much longer he’s going to have to take chemotherapy.

“I’ve got five more treatments,” says Evan, curled up on the couch in his home.

That’s 14 more weeks, he says, adding later it will all be over by Memorial Day.

Just in time for summer. By that time, he should be back in the swing of things — literally. He’ll be able to play baseball again, and while he and his family don’t know how strong he’ll be, at least he’ll be playing. He’s already bowling again — albeit with a 10-pound ball. But that’s better than not playing his second favorite sport.

“My therapist says I can play soon,” Evan explains. “I’m a big boy of baseball, notting he’s got about four more weeks of physical therapy.” And that’s good because school ball is coming up.

Evan attends Marshall Intermediate Center in South Bend and wants to play on the school’s baseball team.

Diagnosed with Ewing Sarcoma last July, Jennifer Gravelle says the onset began in May when he developed a 102-degree fever.

“And he’s never sick,” she says. “I hardly ever have to take him to the doctor.”

And at first the family blamed it on the run after Evan played baseball in inclement weather in the spring.

They finally got rid of the fever, but Evan turned weak, and on top of that his right shoulder would pop out of joint if he lifted his arm up too far.

After visits to the chiropractor, the chiropractor noticed a lump on the shoulder blade and advised the family to take Evan to the doctor.

After a CAT scan, doctors wanted him to have a MRI scan at Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis, and after a few more tests, doctors confirmed Ewing Sarcoma. According to Jennifer Gravelle, it was an unwelcome surprise, as all cancer is.

“No one has ever had a (diagnosed) cancer in our family,” she says.

Since then, Evan has endured several rounds of chemotherapy and surgery to remove the cancer along with the bottom portion of his right shoulder.

“They saved most of the muscles around the rotator cuff,” Jennifer Gravelle says. “That’s why he’s going to physical therapy now because they reassembled some of those muscles.”

Apart from having to work through their son having cancer, Jennifer and Michael Gravelle have been surprised by the outpouring of care from St. Jude Parish in South Bend, where Michael Gravelle is a parishioner.

One of the things Evan has sponsored is a fund-raiser at Marian High School to help pay for the family’s expenses and medical care associated with the cancer treatment.

While the family doesn’t know how much money was raised, over 40 people showed up to share their support.

“Your knowledge all this is going on that people are praying for you or you’ll get a check in the mail from people trying to help,” says Jennifer Gravelle. “But to actually know that they’re coming to see it...” The family was seemingly overwhelmed with the amount of people who wanted to support Evan. The family was especially pleased, adding “It was neat.”

“Your knowledge all this is going on that people are praying for you or you’ll get a check in the mail from people trying to help,” says Jennifer Gravelle. “But to actually know that they’re coming to see it...” The family was seemingly overwhelmed with the amount of people who wanted to support Evan. The family was especially pleased, adding “It was neat.”

Carve out alone time

Give preference to activities that allow you the opportunity to be alone and to communicate (remember how much time you spent talking — both face to face and on the phone — when you were younger) as you plan to go in later one day and have breakfast together after taking the kids to school or day care.

Make regular dates

Consider establishing a weekly, biweekly or monthly “date,” perhaps going out for dinner, attending a cultural or sporting event, or trying a new activity together. If you’re on a tight budget, consider using coupons for local restaurants and attractions, go out for dessert instead of a meal, take a long walk or go cycling, pack a picnic lunch or supper and go to a park, or drive somewhere that offers a great sunset view. Vary activities and the time of day to make dates even more fun and take turns planning them.

Enjoy late-night dates at home

If it’s hard to arrange babysitting, or you feel your children are too young to get so caught up in meeting and anticipating their children’s every need, in addition to fulfilling other obligations (employment, volunteering, household management, helping aging relatives), that need for quality time with your spouse is neglected.

In order to flourish, the marital relationship must be continuously nurtured through individual and ongoing investment of time and effort. Chances are, though, you won’t “find” the time; you must make time for you or your spouse devote time to individual leisure pursuits? If so, scale back and substitute couple-time.

Show appreciation

Get into the habit, too, of demonstrating affection on a daily basis. It really is important to find ways to build quality couple time into your busy day, even if all you can manage for now is 15 minutes.

It can be as simple as habitual sitting down together to talk about people or events that have occurred during the day, if you and your partner aren’t “in the loop” in each other’s lives. It’s also important to find ways to build quality couple time into your busy day, even if all you can manage for now is 15 minutes.

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Putting out into the deep — to tell our story

BY LINDA FURGE

Opening prayer
Lord, I believe my life is touched by you, that you want something for me, and of me. Give me ears to hear you, eyes to see the tracing of your finger, and a heart quickened by the motions of your Spirit. Amen. — Ted Loder, “Guerrillas of Grace”

Scripture: 1 Tm 4: 6-16

Commentary:
By now you know the celebration of our 150th anniversary of the diocese has begun — and there is much to celebrate as we look to the past and the future. We are a lot like the first disciples. Even as they celebrated Jesus’ resurrection, they remembered the past when he walked with them — wondered and argued and prayed about the future. They worried they were not doing what Jesus would’ve done when they encountered new communities with new concerns. They struggled to remain faithful to his teachings as a community of believers while they hoped for his second coming.

Jesus’ resurrection has been the life of the church throughout the ages. One thing has remained constant. We are all members of the same pilgrimage church, always searching to embrace sharing our love of God.”

I believe it has remained constant. We are all members of the same pilgrimage church, always searching to embrace the good news of salvation to the people in our lives. A majority of us is called to be prophets, publicly preaching in the marketplace, asking the hard questions and confronting the status quo. The rest of us are tasked with quietly and persistently sharing the good news in our own circles of influence.

Evangelization for us begins when we share our own faith stories with another.

Excuses
Okay, so now we’re on shaky ground. “Who me?” you ask. Yes. For us, “It’s not my job!” Oh, yes, it is! None of us is exempted from being evangelizers, from sharing with others our faith — it is our mission as a baptized Christian. Each of us will do it differently, according to our personality, profession and talents... but none of us is excused from doing it.

“Just don’t know!”
Many of us fear not knowing the answers to questions of faith. All the more reason to dust off our Bibles and catechisms; join class or faith study groups; and really begin to explore our faith. Something we already intimately know is our own journey of faith. The most effective form of evangelization is simply sharing our faith story. This means telling others what God has done for us and how God is a part of our lives.

Johnette Benkovic in Women of Grace gives us a simple formula: “I was, God did, I am. It is non-threatening, irlatable and engaging. It is one way we can all share our love of God.”

For the other person lead the conversation: if you continue, you follow, if you are quiet, become quiet first. Be loving, gentle and kind. Seeds often take time to germinate in order to bear their fruit. Finally, trust in God’s time, knowing that God loves the other person as much as God loves you. Each day God gives us opportunities to honestly and appropriately share our personal faith story. Each day we should pray that we reach evangelizing moments in our circles of influence, that we have the courage and conviction to act on these opportunities, and that we trust God to do the rest.

Reflection questions
• Of the three excuses mentioned for not evangelizing, which applies to me? In what practical ways can I resolve these excuses?
• Who are the persons in my circles of influence?
• A rippling pool of water captures the broad impact created by a small force.” We are our own innermost circle of influence. As we change, we affect all the other circles. In what ways can I change to positively influence my other circles of influence?

Evangelizing action item
Each of us has a personal story of faith. When we know our own journey of faith, the next time someone asks, “Why are you Catholic?” we will be able to comfortably share our story. Here are some important questions for our reflection:

• When did faith first come to me?
• When did I first acknowledge the reality of God in the most powerful religious moments of my life?
• What changes have I undergone and what role has faith played in them?
• How have I come to think of God? What images, what scriptural stories or sayings speak most deeply to me?
• What are my fears?
• How does God address my fears? My longings?
• How does God underlie my life values?
• How have I as a believer touched another’s faith life?

Closing Prayer

A Prayer for Zeal
Implant within my heart, O God, the fiery zeal of a Jeremiah, the conviction of a Ruth or Rebecca, the zest of a Francis of Assisi.

Stir my slumbering soul, that it may sing a song of sacrifice and devotion, drunk with dance and joy and desire for you, my divine and loving Friend.

May my heart be as hot as the heart of Moses for all your children burdened by slavery, for all who feel oppression’s steal heel or suffer rejection in an alien land.

May I, like your son Jesus, be consumed with zeal for you, for life, for justice and for peace; for all that I know in faith.

Fill me with zeal, O God.

— ED HAYES, “PRAYERS FOR A PIAEARY PILGRIM”

Jubilee Pilgrim Cross

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Mercy Day celebrates reconciliation in jubilee year

Beginning on Ash Wednesday and continuing throughout the Lenten season in this Sesquicentennial Jubilee Year, all parishes across the diocese will extend a welcoming hand to inactive or under-active Catholics. A toll-free response line (1-800-MERCY4U) (1-800-637-2948) will be in service throughout Lent to provide a confidential and anonymous venue for those with questions on any subject regarding the Catholic faith. The lines will be manned by priests or trained lay or religious persons and will operate from 2-10 p.m. Monday through Thursday as well as on Sunday afternoons from 1-5 p.m. Mondays are for the Spanish speaking.

According to Linda Furge, director of the Office of Campus Ministry and Young Adult Ministry and jubilee coordinator, the diocese will conduct an extensive media campaign to make people aware that “You Can Always Come Home.” Wells of Hope will be underway in every parish as a way to reach out to Catholics based on Jesus’ encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well. Another invitation to come home is Mercy Day.

Mercy Day is scheduled for Tuesday, March 20, and invites Catholics to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation. All priests of the parishes across the diocese will be available from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4 to 8 p.m. to hear confessions in their area churches.

It is the hope of the diocese that this special day will provide an opportunity for many to “examine their faith life and return to, or increase, active participation in the sacramental life of the church.”
**Nothing compares to the Eucharist**

Recently we heard about a young Catholic family who joined one of the new mega churches because the family wasn’t “getting anything out of the Mass.”

This family was attracted to that Protestant church by its wide selection of activities for children, as well as a variety of clubs and groups for adults. Furthermore, the parents found the new church’s Sunday Masses to be very “entertaining.”

We agree that people should feel comfortable and welcome in their churches and should enjoy a certain fellowship with the other members of the congregation. Many Catholic parishes don’t do a very good job of welcoming this department, and certainly that is something we should work on.

We do not agree, however, that one should choose a church based on the feel-good social benefits of the level of entertainment provided. The motivation for joining a country club or planning a Saturday night out with friends.

Rather, we attend church to worship our God within a faith community, and Jesus Christ has provided us with the blueprint for doing that through the church he established and through the holy Mass in which he becomes present to us in the Eucharist.

Ideally, good music will be part of the Catholic liturgy, not to entertain us, but rather to help us worship better. As Pope Pius X noted, the purpose of sacred music is “the glory of God and the sanctification and edification of the faithful.”

Undoubtedly there are many other Catholics who share this family’s feeling that they are “not getting anything out of the Mass,” but perhaps confusion would be replaced with an analysis of what they — and we — are putting into the Mass?

Do we approach the Mass with the intention of actively worshiping our God? Do we see ourselves as part of the Body of Christ praying together to pray, just as Jesus directed?

Do we listen to the Word of God and try to figure out what it means in our lives? Do we open our hearts to what the priest says in his homily? Do we prepare ourselves to receive the graces present in the same way?

Do we make an effort to participate in the liturgical prayers and songs? Have we considered becoming more involved by volunteering to be a lector or to carry up the Offertory gifts? Have we thought about what we can do to help improve other aspects we find lacking?

What do we do to welcome and acknowledge other members of the congregation?

Of course, the church is made up of human beings, the Mass is not always done well, and liturgical music is frequently less than excellent. Even so, Jesus Christ still becomes present in the Eucharist at every valid Mass, whether it is celebrated at the Vatican or in a small home chapel in the most isolated of villages. And being able to participate in that miracle in your own Catholic parish just can’t be compared to the miracle that the Samaritan woman at the well.

I don’t think you can even imagine that miracle in your own Catholic parish just can’t be compared to the miracle that the Samaritan woman at the well.

… or in a mud hut in a remote village. And being able to participate in the miracle of the Eucharist here and now.

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Jesus is access to true and eternal life

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

2nd Sunday of Lent
Lk 9:28b-36

T

he Book of Genesis is the source of the first reading. It is a story about Abraham, whom we have regard as the father of their race. In addition, Abraham is seen as the spiritual father of all who know and honor the one God, hence he is a special figure in the religious traditions of Christians and Muslims. Scripture tells us that Abraham was an actual person. He is not a figment of imagination, nor a figure constructed in some literary effort. He actually lived.

Several points are important in hearing, or reading, this passage. The first is that God communicates with Abraham, and God is in Abraham’s world. However, God is above and beyond the world. In other words, God is not Abraham’s peer. Abraham does not relate to God as if God were an equal.

God has command over nature and the living beings of nature. God can order Abraham to capture animals and then sacrifice them. Since the animals that Abraham captured were sacred, as they were intended for sacrifice to praise God, Abraham protected them from being taken by birds of prey. It is as if birds of prey were inherently evil, although Jewish tradition later would proscribe eating the flesh of any bird of prey, or any other predator. Rather, they simply were victims of their own instincts and unaware of the most important of all realities, that God is and that God lives.

Abraham himself is vulnerable. Darkness overtakes him. The sun sets. He is terrified. Without God, he is at risk, powerless before the elements, helpless before whatever might come.

The second reading is from the Epistle to the Philippians. Philip is one of those cities, Greek by background, its name honoring the father of Alexander the Great, in which a Christian community had formed.

Paul wrote to these early Christians to give them direction and encouragement. He expanded their knowledge of Jesus. He challenged them to be more loyal and fervent disciples.

Such occurs in this reading. St. Paul says in this reading that human beings are imperfect, even without their willful sinning. Human bodies are “lowly,” the epistle declares. Christ elevates and restores humans. In Jesus, by the grace of God, human beings never die if they earnestly follow the Lord.

St. Luke’s Gospel provides the last reading. It is Luke’s story of the Transfiguration, a story found also in Mark and Matthew.

The story is brilliant and powerful. As so often the case in New Testament accounts, apostles are with Jesus at a very important moment. In this case, Peter, James, and John were with Jesus. They knew Jesus. They interacted with Jesus. They certainly saw the human characteristics of Jesus. Yet in this situation, they saw the divinity of Jesus. The Lord showed them this divinity. On their own, they were unable to see it. Strong symbols from Hebrew tradition revealed the reality of this divine identity. God spoke from a cloud. Gleaming light surrounded Jesus. Jesus was fully in the tradition of God’s relating to, and with, people. On either side of Jesus were the prophets Moses and Elijah.

Reflection

As we progress in Lent, the church offers us several important lessons. These lessons are intended to strengthen us in our Lenten resolve, and ultimately in our Christian commitment.

First, we are limited. We are humans. Second, in our human limitation we are short sighted, even blind very often, and we shall all die. Third, God loves us with a love shown Abraham and the prophets. He loves us in Jesus, the Son of God. Jesus is our only hope. He is our only access to true and eternal life. Using Lent to relate to Jesus more closely is worth every effort.

READINGS
Sunday: Gm 15:5-12,17-18 Ps 27:1,7-13,14 Pr 3:1-10 Lk 9:28b-36
Monday: Dn 8:24-10 Ps 79:8-9,11,13 Lk 6:36-38
Tuesday: Is 1:10,16 Zp 50:9,12-17,21 Mt 23:1-12
Wednesday: 1 Th 4:16-20 Ps 31:5-6,14-16 Mt 20:28
Thursday: Jer 17:5-10 Ps 1:1-6,4 Lk 19:16-31
Friday: Gm 37:3-4,12-13a,17b-28 Ps 102:16-21 Mt 21:33-43,45-46
Saturday: Mi 7:14-15,18-20 Ps 103:1-4,9-12 Lk 15:1-3,11-32

ANSWERS:
1. a. Jews  b. clerics  c. pagans
2. a. the Old Testament  b. the New Testament  c. the gnostic gospels
3. a. allowed for Jews but forbidden to Christians  b. allowed for Christians but forbidden to Jews  c. allowed for Jews but forbidden to Christians  d. allowed for Christian laity but permitted for clergy
4. a. the Old Testament  b. the New Testament  c. the gnostic gospels
5. a. allowed for Christians but forbidden to Jews  b. allowed for Jews but forbidden to Christians  c. allowed for Christian laity but permitted for clergy
6. a. the imposition of interest on money lent to other Jews  b. lending to non-Jews  c. lending anything except money
7. a. God’s command to take a cloak as security for a debt  b. you had to return it to him before sunset  c. you had to wash it and return it ritually clean
8. a. the Old Testament  b. the New Testament  c. the gnostic gospels
9. a. the Old Testament  b. the New Testament  c. the gnostic gospels
10. a. a 10th-anniversary edition of the pastoral letter has staying power  b. the pastoral letter has staying power  c. the pastoral letter has staying power
12. a. the basic principles of social justice, care for the poor, a proper understanding of the purpose of wealth  b. Catholics who charge more than 4 percent interest are auto-
c. Judith Miller
13. a. 1 a, 2 b, 3 a, 4 b, 5 b, 6 a, 7 b, 8 c, 9 b, 10 a, 11 c, 12 a, 13 c, 14 a

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Since 1997, more than 36,000 copies of a 10th-anniversary edition of “Economic Justice for All,” the U.S. bishops’ pastoral letter on the economy and Catholics’ role in it, have been sold, as well as about 57,000 copies of a U.S. bishops’ reflection on the 1996 pastoral’s 10th anniversary. No figures are available on sales when the document was first issued.

Its legacy, though, suggests that the pastoral letter has staying power beyond that of the sales figures.

One outgrowth of “Economic Justice for All” is “the exploration in corporate responsibility and linking business practices to our higher calling,” according to Charles Clark, associate dean of the economics and finance department at St. John’s University in Jamaica, N.Y.

“Those are tens of groups that look at spirituality in business, both Catholic and non-Catholic, and even outside of that a larger percentage of management professors are now looking at questions of corporate social responsibility,” he added in a telephone interview with Catholic News Service.

“Everything is framed in terms of ‘Economic Justice for All’ would not have importance, relevance, that they wouldn’t command the respect,” Clark said.

AN EXAMPLE OF ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Lk 9:28b-36

Where does it fit in today’s society?

‘Economic Justice for All’

Where does it fit in today’s society?

‘Economic Justice for All’

Where does it fit in today’s society?

‘Economic Justice for All’

Where does it fit in today’s society?

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Where does it fit in today’s society?

‘Economic Justice for All’

Where does it fit in today’s society?
The original meaning of Lent was a time of prayer and penance

**Why can’t babies be baptized during Lent? — Wayne, IN**

Nothing in church law forbids the baptizing of children during Lent. However, the original meaning of Lent was a time of prayer and penance set aside by the church for non-baptized adults who wish to be baptized. The baptizing of children during Lent seems to be a widespread practice which the non-baptized who have been preparing throughout Lent are baptized. Thus, the Easter Vigil is the moment par excellence for baptism.

For this reason, some pastors choose to refrain from baptisms during Lent in order to emphasize the Easter Vigil as the great moment for baptism. In fact, it seems to be a widespread practice with the parishes of this country. However, Canon 867.1 states “Parents are obligated to take care that infants are baptized in the first two weeks...” That babies are baptized within the first few weeks after birth would be a higher value than the emphasizing of the Easter Vigil as the great moment for baptism.

It seems though that both could be accomplished. Pastors could decide to keep baptisms during Lent to a minimum by, first of all, encouraging and giving the opportunity for non-baptized babies who are already born to be baptized the Sunday immediately before Lent begins. Then, should a child be born within a week or so before Easter, it would not be unreasonable for the pastor to wait another week. If the child should be born at the beginning of Lent, then canon 867 should be followed, and the pastor should find a time during Lent to do the baptism. Of course, if a baby is in danger of death, he or she should be baptized immediately.

More and more Catholics are believing that they can be baptized in addition to being Catholic. Some believe that the condemnation of becoming a child of God. “… seek first the kingdom (of God) and his righteousness, and all these things shall be given you besides.” (Mt. 6:33)

On Friday, parents don’t always make that hit judgment calls. And the bigger the family, often the more commitments that need judging, and quick actions and priorities must be made. But the first and foremost in our priorities should be God. As one of the first stations of the cross (of God) and his righteousness, and all these things shall be given you besides. (Mt. 6:33)

On Friday, we weren’t seeking the kingdom of God first. We sought first the shower and in the process missed out on the devotion and peace of mind that comes with meeting Christ in contemplation. God isn’t something to fit in when convenient. It’s God first, and then everything else should follow in line. I learned my lesson on Friday. Next time I might have to give up my goal of coming to the devotion as a family, and my athletics might have to give up an immediate shower and just meet us there.

So on Sunday, with the memory of the stations fresh flop in my mind, the kids were headed out the door for Mass in plenty of time — 20 minutes early. But the roads were a sheet of ice, and despite our best efforts, we arrived just as the opening song was being sung. No time to circle the kneeler or contemplate for us. No time to comfortably take off the coat and get ready to pay attention and concentrate. I felt like a failure... again.

It just got worse during Mass. After our one- and-a-half-year old was flailing and simultaneously begging for a drink and freedom from the pews (during consecration, no less) I wondered a few more things. How can a child tell a memorized song from the Disney movie “Cars” all the way to church but have to be nudged to sing a single room voice in a room where the words are printed directly in front of them? How can my sweet off-spring recite intricate catechism questions beautifully at home, but sometimes barely mumble the Our Father at Mass? Do anybody else’s kids covertly fight over whether the kneeler should be up or down?

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**Letter continued from page 14**

attention of leaders, be they elected officials or corporate executives,” said Ed Soule, an ethics scholar in the public policy program at Georgetown University in Washington. “You can’t open up an annual report today and not see some substance to it,” he added, “where these principles would find a home.”

Soule said, “If the bishops sat down today to round out princi- ples, they may have a shade of dif- ference in the wording, but they did a really good job.” 20 years ago. “Look at the Sullivan Principles that were enunciated” to address global corporate social responsibility, he added. “You have a pretty good common denominator. Look at the Millennium Principles (for global economic development). There’s a lot of similarities between that” and the pastoral.

Jesuit Father David Hennessy, who served as a con- sulitor and a drafter for early ver- sions of the pastoral, said it has had “a significant influence in the Catholic community in the United States, primarily through long- term educational programs where it has incorporated many of its fundamental ideas, especially toward concern for the poor — now taken for granted as a key component of what the Catholic Church should stand for.”

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**Scripture search**

By Patricia Kasten

Gospel for March 4, 2007


Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Second Sunday of Lent, Cycle C: the revelation on the mountaintop. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.
Jews find religious tolerance from Romans, hostility from others

What did the Jewish people face when they returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon?

King Cyrus the Great of Persia (northern Iraq) conquered Babylon (in southern Iraq) in 539 B.C. He then allowed the Jewish exiles in Babylon to return to Jerusalem in 538 B.C., if they wished, to rebuild the temple and the city walls.

Later on in 445 B.C. Ezra the scribe came from Babylon to Jerusalem with a second group of exiles to carry out religious reforms and to preach God’s Law. Father John McKenize says Ezra was a secretary for Jewish affairs. He was an officer of the Persian court sent to impose the law upon the Jewish community of Jerusalem. Ancient documents show the interest of the Persian court in religious affairs. The Persians also wanted to establish peace and order in Jerusalem, for it was near troublesome Egypt.

What is your favorite food?

Probably in 458 B.C. Ezra the scribe came from Babylon to Jerusalem with a second group of exiles to carry out religious reforms and to preach God’s Law. Father John McKenize says Ezra was a secretary for Jewish affairs. He was an officer of the Persian court sent to impose the law upon the Jewish community of Jerusalem. Ancient documents show the interest of the Persian court in religious affairs. The Persians also wanted to establish peace and order in Jerusalem, for it was near troublesome Egypt.

What is your favorite reading material?

What is the most radical demographic shift ever to take place in human history has been the shift from large families, especially historical artifacts. I try to remind myself of this awesome power each day and pray that I am not able to give this power to the church.

What is your favorite Scripture passage?

I am humbled by the power of ordination — the power to consecrate the body and blood of Christ and the power to forgive sin. When I have time, I like to go to antique shops and do some work with the Cathedral Museum. I’ve always liked history and especially historical artifacts.

Do you have a special interest or hobby?

Do you have a pet?

I’ve always been surrounded by dogs and now cats. I have two Persian cats, Rueleite and Ota Mac — so loyal, a lot of company. I cannot imagine life without a pet.
FORT WAYNE — In final-game action of the 71st annual Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) tournament Feb. 24 at St. Charles School in Fort Wayne, all three leagues, both boys and girls, named new champions. St. Jude, Benoit Academy (boys and girls), St. Vincent (grades ninth and eighth grade boys), and St. Joseph, Decatur, were all awarded gold medals.

In the six-game lineup, the closest battle all day came in the 54-52 Blue League Boys’ division match up between the undefeated Benoit Academy Phenoms and the Squires from St. Joe Hessen Cassel. With 8.4 seconds left in regulation, Wil Knapke scored a bunny on a Ty Wyss steal to put the Squires up 52-50 for the first time since early in the first quarter. Next time he had read 52 points each with just 3.9 seconds courtesy of a Steven Kiernaier bucket.

After the final time out, Benoit ran a play they had practiced for just this type of situation. Marquel Cooper got open and took his shot that was nothing but net at the buzzer. Cooper told his coach, “It was not me shooting. I had help from the man upstairs.”

“It’s tough to beat a team three times without getting over confident,” said Benoit coach Paul Gerardot. “I was so proud of the boys. I told them all week that even though we beat Hessen Cassel twice during the season, it means nothing during the tournament. Hessen Cassel gave us one heck of a game. They came ready to play.”

The Squires came out firing and jumped out to an early 9-6 lead thanks to a trey from Hunter Tome. Benoit’s “Shannon Curry and company” answered back over and over fighting every trip down the court to keep control of the game. The Squires kept applying pressure and came closer than any one all season to upsetting the No. 1 seed and untouchable league champs. Curry finished with 30 points to lead all scoring, while Luers-bound Kiernaier ended his CYO career with 26. Benoit will go in the record books with a perfect 15-0 record.

White League girls: St. Jude 27; St. Vincent 19 (Mayers 20, Shen/Litchfield 6)

White League boys: St. Vincent 43; St. Joe, Decatur, 32 (Pickickter 11, Selking 15)

Blue league girls: Benoit 48; St. Theresa 44 (Gorman 36, Colvin/Hofrichter 12)

Blue league boys: Benoit 54; St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel 52 (Cury 30, Kiernaier 26)

The St. Anthony Panthers were the co-champs of the John Bosco East Division of the Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL). The Panthers shared their championship status with St. Joseph of South Bend.
Oblates of Blues — Gospel, blues are about life

BY JUDY BRADFORD

SOUTH BEND — The Gospel and the blues aren’t very far apart, and you can live fully in both of them without contradiction. That’s what he, and others with connections to Notre Dame’s theology department, do as part of a band called the Oblates of Blues. The band traces its roots back to Saint John’s Abbey and University in Minnesota where Johnson taught in the mid 1990s. He and some graduate students started out doing a couple of talent shows. In 1997, he came to South Bend to take a teaching job with the University of Notre Dame. Two graduate students followed, although they’ve since left the area. Now the band has six members — all professors, doctoral candidates or alumni of the school of theology.

They don’t consider themselves full brothers of the blues. They simply make their obligation, or offering, by spreading the message of the Chicago blues. Oblates — not troubadours — also honor the Benedictine legacy so influential in the intellectual and spiritual formation of many of its original members. According to the Web site of the Benedictine Order, the role of the Oblates is “to live in the world. To become holy in the world, to do what they can to bring the world to God by being witnesses of Christ the Word and an example to those around them.”

During the weekday at Notre Dame, Johnson talks with students about the life-affirming acts of Christian worship — like baptism, about the life-affirming acts to those around them.”

Maxwell Johnson is one of six members of the Oblates of Blues band, who are all professors, doctoral candidates or alumni of the University of Notre Dame’s School of Theology. They don’t consider themselves full brothers of the blues. They simply make their obligation, or offering, by spreading the message of the Chicago blues. The band will have a benefit concert at Brigid’s Pub on March 23 to benefit the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

The band’s playing schedule for the next several months:
• March 17 — Riverfront Café in Niles, Mich., 9 p.m. to midnight
• March 25 — Notre Dame Folk Choir and members of the Campus Ministry staff.
• April 14 — Riverfront Café, Niles, Mich., 9 p.m. to midnight.
• May 5 — Riverfront Café, 9 p.m. to midnight
• June 7 — Thursdays in the Park, Niles, Mich. Time to be announced.
• June 23 — Riverfront Café, 9 p.m. to midnight.

ND Campus Ministry offers new podcast for prayer

NOTRE DAME — “NDPrayercast,” a weekly Internet podcast of the Campus Ministry, explores the readings, psalms, meditative songs and homilies that were shared during Mass on March 11.

The free podcast will be available at www.ndprayercast.org. The program, which will be updated weekly, includes music by the Notre Dame Folk Choir, a meditation on the Sunday liturgical readings, a sung version of the weekly responsorial psalm, the Gospel reading and a corresponding homily by one of Notre Dame’s Holy Cross priests, prayers for the week, and the Lord’s Prayer as it is regularly sung at the 11:45 a.m. Sunday Mass in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

The band avoids songs with explicit lyrics. “Because the blues are about life, the lyrics are sometimes very explicit about sex or drugs,” says Johnson.

“We stay away from songs like ‘Champagne and Reefer,’ or ‘Hoochie Coochie’ by Muddy Waters. But we’re not beyond doing lyrics with innuendo.”

The band plays in local taverns as well as summer festivals in the Michiana area. And last fall, they played at the Eck Alumni Center, on campus before every home football game. Other members include:
• Hugh Page Jr., who is Notre Dame’s dean of first-year studies and a professor of Africana studies at the Dame’s dean of first-year studies and theology, on harmonica and vocals.
• Larry Sullivan, professor of world religions and a concurrent professor of anthropology, plays keyboard.
• Tom Guinan, Notre Dame’s associated controller, with a master’s degree in theology from Notre Dame, takes the drums.
• Nick Russo, a doctoral candidate in liturgy, plays bass.
• Mark Cichra, doctoral candidate in ancient history, plays guitar.

They also write some of their own songs, varying in subject matter from the biscuits that everyone loves at KFC, to being a father of four daughters. They’ve recorded their own CD.

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“We stay away from songs like ‘Champagne and Reefer,’ or ‘Hoochie Coochie’ by Muddy Waters. But we’re not beyond doing lyrics with innuendo.” After all, the Gospel and the blues are about life.
WHAT’S HAPPENING?

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

FISH FRIES
Fish fry
Fort Wayne — Queen of Angels will have a fish fry on Friday, March 2, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. Adults $7 adult, $3 children 6-12, children under 5 free. Carry-out available.

Jonah fish fry
South Bend — Corpus Christi Parish will have a Jonah fish fry and salad bar on Friday, March 16, from 4-7 p.m. Adults and carry-out $8, children 6-12 $3, children 5 and under free.

Athletic boosters plan fish fry
Fort Wayne — The St. Therese Booster Club will have a fish fry on Friday, March 2, from 4:30-7 p.m. Adults $5.50, children 6-12 $3.50 and children under 5 free.

St. Joseph Hessen Cassel plans fish fry
Fort Wayne — St. Joseph Hessen Cassel Parish will have a fish fry on Friday, March 23, from 4-7:30 p.m. in the hall. Adults $6.50, children 11-5 $4 and children under 5 free.

Rosary Society plans fish fry
Arcola — St. Patrick Parish will have a fish fry on March 9, from 4-7 p.m. at the Episcopal School. Adults and carry-out $7, children 5-12 $4 and children under 5 free.

Holy Name Society fish fry
South Bend — A fish fry sponsored by the Holy Name Society will be held at the school, 735 W. Calvert, on Friday, March 2, from 5 to 7 p.m. Tickets are $7 at the door, $6.50 pre-sale. $4.50 children 6-12, under 6 free. Pre-sale tickets may be purchased at the Our Lady of Hungary rectory (574) 287-1700.

Fish fry time
Walkerton — A fish fry will be held Friday, March 2, at St. Patrick School, 811 Tylers St. from 4 to 7 p.m. Adults and carry-out $7, children 6-10 $3.50 and children under 6 free.

St. Aloysius hosts fish fry
Yoder — St. Aloysius Catholic School will have a fish fry on Friday, March 9, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Adults $7, children 5-12 $4 and children under 5 free. Carry-out $6.50.

Knights plan fish fry
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 451, 601 Reed Rd., will have a fish fry on Friday, March 2, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. The cost is $7 for adults, $5 for children 12 and under. Fish, sides and beverage are included.

Knights plan fish fry
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 6133 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on Friday, March 9, from 5 to 7 p.m. Adults $7, children 5-12 $3. Chicken strips for $7 and shrimp for $8 will be available.

Athletic board sponsors fish fry
Fort Wayne — St. Charles Borromeo’s athletic board will sponsor a fish fry on Friday, March 9, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria, door #9. Carry-out is also available. Cost is $5 for adults, $2 for the students pre-school and under free. St. Charles is located on the corner of Reed and Trier roads.

Fish fry at St. Matthew Cathedral
South Bend — St. Matthew Cathedral, 1701 Miami St., will host a fish fry on Friday, March 23, from 4 to 7 p.m. in the school gym. Carry-out and drive-through available. Adults $7, seniors $6, children (7-12) $4, children 6 and under eat free.

MISC. HAPPENINGS
SAIUS plans for retreat
South Bend — A Lenten day of reflection is planned for Wednesday, March 14, at St. Francis Convent in Mishawaka by Sister Barbara Anne Hallman, OSF, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Cost for the day is $15 and includes lunch. Reservations are required by March 12 to Sister Agnes Marie at (574) 259-5427.

Get back on track with series by IPFW Newman group
Fort Wayne — Embark on a journey with others to “Get back on track.” The next session “Working for the Treasure that is Priceless” will be held Thursday, March 8, from 7:30-9 p.m. in Walbridge 222. Sessions are independent of one another, so feel free to join us at any time. For more information contact Mike Gibson at mgbison0428@yahoo.com, student@ipfw.edu or call (260) 481-6994.

Knights plan spaghetti dinner
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 451, 601 Reed Rd., will have a spaghetti dinner on Thursday, March 8, from 4 to 6 p.m. Adults $7, children ages 5 to 12 $5.50. The council is located at 5202 Linden Ave., one block east of Mayflower Road.

Grand re-opening of the Ave Maria Press bookstore
Notre Dame — The Ave Maria Press bookstore will have their grand re-opening sale Monday, March 5, through Friday, March 9, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Every book in the store located at 19113 Douglas Rd. Call 1-800-282-1865 for information.

Little Flower Holy Hour
Fort Wayne — Father Bernard Galica will celebrate the Holy Hour at MacDougall Chapel on Tuesday, March 6, at 7:15 p.m. Father Galica is pastor of Holy Family Parish in South Bend and vocations director for the Diocese. Bring a friend for prayer with the special intention for priests and vocations.

Organist to perform at Ancilla Domini Chapel
Donaldson — Dr. Herman D. Taylor and his wife, Vivian Taylor will perform on March 13, at 7 p.m. in the Ancilla Domini Chapel. The organ recital/vocal performance is jointly sponsored by the PHJC Ministry Center, Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center, Ancilla College and the First Federal Savings Bank. The recital is the opening event in a week-long series of celebrations leading to the installation of Dr. Ronald May on March 16 as president of Ancilla College.

Lenten day of recollection
South Bend — St. Joseph Parish will have a card party on Saturday, March 31 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. Joseph Parish at the corner of Brooklyn and Walnut Streets. The garage sale offers clothing, household and baby items, toys, furniture and more. All proceeds support St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School.

Parish Mission
Warsaw — A Parish Mission will be held at Sacred Heart Parish, 125 N Harrison St., March 18-22 at 7 p.m. each evening. The priest will be Father Richard Hart from the Capuchin Preachers office. The theme is “The Reign of God.” Babysitting is available each evening. Please call the parish office (574) 267-5842 to let us know how many children and their ages.

St. Adalbert announces bake sale
South Bend — The St. Adalbert Sisters Auxiliary bake sale will be Saturday, March 31 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Heritage Center. Lamb cakes, sweet-sour cabbage and other baked goods will be available. Pre-orders for lamb cakes at $13 each can be made to (574) 288-5708 ext. 203 by March 23.

Evening prayer offered at St. Joe
South Bend — St. Joseph Parish will be offering Sunday evening prayer each Sunday of Lent at 6:30 p.m. The Lenten Vespers series is entitled, “Journey to the Words and Deeds” and will use Old Testament readings from the Easter Vigil to help us prepare for the great liturgy of the church year.

Rummage and bake sale planned
South Bend — The St. John Altar and Rosary Society will have a rummage and bake sale on Saturday, March 17, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., and on Sunday, March 18, from 7 a.m. to noon.

Lenten day of recollection
Fort Wayne — Bob Deck, a Secular Franciscan, will offer a Lenten day of recollection entitled, “The Seven Last Words of Christ” on Saturday, March 10, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the St. Vincent de Paul Spiritual Center. Lunch will be potluck style and a free will donation will be taken to cover the cost of materials. Call (260) 490-9571 for information and to register by March 9.

Card party planned by Rosary Society
South Bend — The Rosary Society of St. Hedwig Parish will have a card party on Sunday, March 4, at 1 p.m. in the memorial center. Lunch will be served. Donations are $4.50 in advance by calling (574) 259-5675 or (574) 287-9880 by Feb. 18. Bring own cards or dice.

Centering prayer
South Bend — Centering prayer is held every Tuesday from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at Little Flower Parish, 54191 N. Ironwood.

REST IN PEACE

WHAT’S HAPPENING? 19

TODAY’S CATHOLIC

March 4, 2007

Special Notice

The Catholic Cemetery in Fort Wayne wants to remind you that SPRING CLEAN-UP begins March 15th and ends March 31st. Should you wish to save any decorations, they must be removed prior to March 15th.

Please do not place any new decorations until after March 31st. Thank you for your cooperation.

CATHOLIC CEMETERY
ASSOCIATION, INC.
before Jeff Jehl, also of St. Vincent Church, gave a teen wit- ness on the Eucharist. A special Mass was celebrated by Father Gurtner followed by reverent par- ticipation in eucharistic adoration. The day was complete when the youth were treated to the praise and worship sounds of the popular Christian band Frankie and the Holy Rollers. “The kids all said the music was great,” reports Black.

Martin Wheeler, youth direc- tor at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, set the tone for Sunday morning with his talk on listening heroes. Teen witness was Beth McManus from Immaculate Conception Parish in Auburn. Seminarian Matt Coonan offered his teachings on a hero’s courage as well as sharing his own inspir- ing vocation story.

Eight parishes were represent- ed at the retreat, which Cindy Black hopes will become a grow- ing annual event. “The parishes have suggested March for next year in cooperation with sports and dance events,” says Black, who was encouraged by the youth this year. The teens were more open than anticipated, she reports. “They opened up to pray- ing and jumped right in to praise and worship. Their hearts were open right away.”

Bishop Luers sophomore John Till was in attendance because his mother, a member of the youth ministry at St. John, New Haven, made him go. “I’m so glad I went though. I felt like I needed that experience to get closer to God,” she says.

The skits enticed him, but Till admits that adoration was his favorite part of the retreat. “The priest talked about Jesus lifting missing in her life. “I found God at Epworth Forest she realized what was missing in her life. “I found God that night,” she says reverently.

“It was pretty cool. Better than I expected.” The witness stories, he says, were inspiring to her and she feels her faith has been renewed.

Would she recommend it to others? “Yes,” she says. “Try it out. I wasn’t sure I wanted to go. But I was sure glad I did.”

German exchange student and junior at Adams Central High School Anne Wedekind says the weekend was “awesome!” Though a non-Catholic, Wedekind has been attending youth group at St. Mary, Decatur, her host family’s parish. Following the invitation to the retreat Wedekind decided to attend.

“It was the best weekend of my life,” she says. Attending church in Germany, she reports, is not a common event and following the events at Epworth Forest she realized what was missing in her life. “I found God that night,” she says reverently.

Young people representing parishes throughout the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend participated in the first annual diocesan-wide youth retreat weekend held at Epworth Forest. The retreat, “Be a Hero,” was hosted by the Office of Youth Ministry on Feb. 16-17.

She, like the others, would recommend the retreat to everyone and has hope for the future, as she says, “I know I have faith support here, but when I go back to Germany, I don’t think I will. I hope I can make a difference in Germany.” The Office of Youth Ministry may just have successfully inspired the start of a new gener- ation of Christ’s heroes.

**HEROS**

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

**HOME**

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

those who have questions about the Catholic faith or who need spiritual counseling. The phone line will be open until Mercy Day, March 20, when there will be priests available all day in the confessional of their parishes to offer the sacrament of reconcili- ation.

In conjunction with the media campaign and the phone number, the diocese has also begun its Wells of Hope program, which was explained at the news con- ference by Ginny Kohnman and Sister Jolene Heiden, SSND, of the diocesan Office of Spiritual Development and Evangelization.

Ginny Kohnman described the program’s method of going out to people’s lives two by two, to show fallen away Catholics that they are loved and missed and also to see what it is that we can do for them.”

Bishop D’Arcy emphasized that the people involved in going out two by two — like the disci- ples in the Gospels — have had training and formation so that they can listen, understand and help the people they visit. After this presentation, the diocese unveiled four new 30- second television spots to accompany the campaign.

When asked by the media how many Catholics the diocese hoped to bring back to the full practice of their faith, Bishop D’Arcy said that the program was not so much oriented toward numbers as it was on ministering to people.

“I hope to get at least one,” the bishop joked before noting that Mass attendance in the dio- cese is relatively strong. He also cited the words of Christ in Scripture that there is more joy over one who has returned than over one who is in no need of repentance.

When asked about the emphasis on outreach in this campaign, the bishop cited Pope John Paul II, who once said that, in American culture, nothing happens until it happens on television.

“Christ went out into the highways and byways and preached the Gospel,” the bishop added, “and the media is the highways and byways of con- temporary life.”

The bishop also expressed that the need for a campaign to call inactive Catholics back to the full practice of their faith is something with numerous parts. On one hand, the Catholic faith is a demanding faith, one that brings with it its own set of complications. “God is seeking them,” he said. “It is our obligation as church to welcome them home through prayer and instruction and through public signs that Christ wishes to meet them on the road and welcome them home.”