

March 18, 2007

Serving the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

TV Mass Sister meets pen pal

Visit to state prison builds courage and hope



JENNIFER OCHSTEIN

Sister Agnes Marie Regan is pen pals with an inmate named Ken at the Indiana State Prison in Michigan City. Over Christmas, Ken sent Balto, the husky and shepherd mix that lives with Sister Agnes Marie and the other sisters at St. Francis Convent in Mishawaka, a homemade card. Sending cards is Ken's ministry in prison.

BY JENNIFER OCHSTEIN

MISHAWAKA — When a letter from the Indiana State Prison arrived two years ago for Franciscan Sister Agnes Marie Regan, she admitted she was a bit baffled.

"I was thinking, 'Now, what could this mean,'" Sister Agnes Marie said from her home at St. Francis Convent in Mishawaka.

As it turned out, the letter, adorned with smiley faces, came from an inmate named Ken, who is serving a 60-year sentence for burglary.

He invited her to be his pen pal. She accepted.

Known among the inmates at the Michigan City Indiana State Prison as the "TV Mass Sister," inmates, including Ken, watch her introduce the Sunday morning Mass on WNDU Channel 16, Sister Agnes Marie said. Sister Agnes Marie also serves as a pastoral associate at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend.

Nearly 80 inmates take part in the St. Dismas Community Within the Walls group, which meets together each week for the television Mass and Bible study, she explained.

"I just do my job," Sister Agnes Marie said of being TV Mass Sister. "But you just don't know what it means for someone else."

While experiencing few qualms about writing, in February, Ken invited Sister Agnes Marie to join University of Notre Dame Knights of Columbus and students who come to the prison to offer an annual feast for prisoners.

And even though she again accepted his invitation, this time, she said, her courage nearly failed her.

On the way to the prison, riding with Holy Cross

PEN PAL, PAGE 5

St. Adalbert Parish responds to immigration raid

BY DON CLEMMER

SOUTH BEND — Thirty-six candles at St. Adalbert's March 6 prayer vigil and information session commemorated 36 members of the parish's Hispanic community who had been detained earlier that day at a raid by Immigration and Customs Enforcement on Janco Composites, a Mishawaka plant that makes fiberglass products for a variety of industries.

A parishioner who works at Janco — himself a documented immigrant — recounted for those gathered for the vigil how the raid unfolded, how they had been working when the officers came in with bulletproof vests and weapons drawn, how the workers were then separated by race — profiling that is permissible under current immigration law — and how 36 of them were detained and taken to the Broadview Detention Center in Chicago.

"Those 36 detained, to the best of my knowledge, were all Catholic," says Holy Cross Father Chris Cox, pastor of St.

Adalbert. Of the 36, one was immediately released upon reaching Chicago when it was realized that he was documented. As of March 11, 31 were still in detention, and the five that have been released have been coming to Mass.

While families from the Hispanic community are far less likely to register in a parish, Father Cox explains, "They would all identify with the parish in one way or another."

Father Cox recognizes the responsibility of the government to uphold the law, but quickly adds, "I think our immigration laws are broken and really need some significant fixing."

He also takes issue with Immigration and Customs Enforcement's tact of sending 70 officers with weapons drawn into an environment where they would not expect hostile fire to be returned.

"They went in with unnecessary and over-the-top force that caused fear in citizen and non-citizen alike," Father Cox asserts, noting that he fears such tactics only increase the

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WOMAN TOUCHES MOSAIC OF JESUS ON THE CROSS



CNS PHOTO/GREG TARCZYNSKI

A woman touches the hand of Jesus on the cross in a mosaic of the 11th Station of the Cross along the Via Dolorosa in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem March 6. The church is built on the site traditionally accepted as the burial place of Christ.



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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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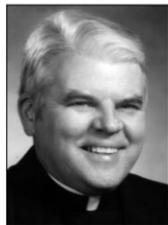
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Indiana bishops learn about Hoosier saint Mother Theodore Guérin



NEWS
& NOTES

BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

A journey to holiness

Every year, the bishops of the state of Indiana meet with superiors of the religious congregations who reside in Indiana. This year was different. It was a journey to holiness. After a full day in Fort Wayne with a Mass at the beloved old St. Patrick Church in the morning, a short stint in our evangelization effort of phone calls, and then the Rite of Election, always a joy, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, I headed south and then west in the late afternoon on the long journey to Terre Haute.

We met there this year because the Sisters of Providence, along with Archbishop Daniel Buechlein, OSB, were in charge of the day. This was to honor our new Hoosier saint, Mother Theodore Guérin, who is rightly considered to be one of the founders of the Catholic schools in our diocese. Mother Guérin came to Terre Haute from France.

During the morning we had presentations from the Sisters on Mother Theodore's life and her spirituality. There was a presentation of the healings and miracles which have been attributed to her. Then a Mass was celebrated in the beautiful chapel, and I was able to pray for a few minutes at the shrine which the Sisters are building in their church. Her remains are present there in a simple, but beautiful, coffin, formed with care by several workmen on the grounds.

As I drove down the Blessed Mother Guérin Memorial Highway, I could only think of how it was for her when she arrived at that cruel and untamed land, strengthened only by her strong faith. I recalled her beautiful words as she arrived there, "We had agreed among ourselves that our first visit would be made to the Blessed Sacrament, and that we would not speak to anyone before having satisfied the longing of our hearts." — "Journals and Letters of Mother Theodore Guérin: Founder of the Sisters of Providence" ed Sister Mary Theodesia.

At noon, Mass was celebrated in the magnificent chapel at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, with Archbishop Buechlein as principal celebrant and the other bishops of Indiana concelebrating. Bishop Higi gave a beautiful homily. It was the place that had a certain spirit of holiness.

After lunch, it was my good fortune to visit with Sister Diane Ris, SP, who is a good friend, and, as general superior of the Sisters of Providence, did much to advance

the canonization of Mother Theodore. She is writing a biography of this saint, and it is, for her, a work of faith and love.

I was unable to go to the beatification in Rome, but I celebrated Mass with Sister Diane, her assistant and Msgr. William Lester in my home. I told her that Mass was in reparation for Bishop de la Hailandière, who had treated Mother Guérin so badly. This touched Sister Diane, and it was a privilege to have a short visit with her and hear more about the life of this extraordinary woman, the foundress of the Sisters of Providence. After the visit, I was able to slip back into the beautiful church and pray for a few minutes at the grave of this extraordinary religious whose holiness should draw all of us.

I noted that the decree of canonization mentioned also what she had suffered. I was pleased to pray there for a few minutes. Among the intentions that I prayed for is that our Jubilee Year would be a grace and a blessing for our diocese. After all, this saint worked and lived in the Fort Wayne area.

Also, I met with Sister Denise Wilkinson, SP, the present superior, and looked at some possible dates for a Mass

Set sail in the good ships gallantly

from the sunny land of Spain

oh, where is the isle we have seen in our dream

our distant home or grave.

for this saint at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Most likely, we will settle on Sunday, Nov. 18, 2007.

A long road home through the Indiana countryside — three and one-half hours — but a day where we learned once again that it is being close to God in prayer and holiness that counts most. Sister Diane has discovered all the things which Mother Theodore suffered, including the very unfair treatment from the bishop, never brought her to discouragement. She never spoke ill of the bishop despite what she suffered. This is heroic sanctity.

The sacrament of penance

It was a beautiful night at St. Charles Borromeo Parish with 16 priests, with a delightful meal first with Msgr. John Suelzer as host. There was a penance service with a large crowd. Afterward the priests all heard confessions — over 16 hours of confessions. When I left at 9:30 p.m. some priests were still hearing.

The next day, I was on my way early to Bishop Dwenger High School for my annual pastoral visit. It was my privilege to preside at the penance service for the juniors and seniors, the other students having assembled on a previous day. It is so impressive to see the young people lining up to go to confession to the 15 priests and the bishop assembled all around the gym. A

beautiful day at Dwenger with faculty and students. I am so grateful to our priests for providing such ample time in our high schools for the sacrament of penance.

I was then off to Saint Joseph's High School to celebrate Mass for all the Catholic teachers of the area after they heard an instructive talk on the Eucharist by Professor David Fagerberg of the Notre Dame theology department.

St. Patrick's Day

I have never cared much for some of the celebrations of this day, marked by eating and drinking. In my home, it was a holy day and we always went to Mass. It was a special blessing that in Boston it was also a civic holiday. In Lent, we were dispensed from fasting. St. Patrick was the patron of the diocese.

It was also a day for Irish culture. My dad always had bits of songs, usually patriot songs, which he cherished.

"Who fears to speak of Easter week
Who dare its fate deplore
The red gold flame of Erin's name
Confronts the world once more."

My mom, on the other hand, had a great epic poem. She could recite it completely from memory. Here is that poem. It was about the coming of the Spirit to Ireland.

"Set sail in the good ships gallantly
from the sunny land of Spain
oh, where is the isle we have seen in our dream
our distant home or grave."

She would recite the whole thing, 30 lines or more. Once my sister, Mary, attended an Irish concert by a famous parish singer. The singer sat in admiration listening to this 85-year-old lady recite this lengthy epic poem.

That was St. Patrick's Day in our house. Patriot songs and a lengthy poem, recited from memory, a poem she had learned 70 years before in an Irish country school.

As for the saint, my father put it best once when I asked him who St. Patrick was for him.

"John, he converted us from paganism." Not, he converted the Irish, but, he converted us. They identified with him as their very own saint.

I will celebrate Mass at St. Patrick Parish, South Bend, on the morning of the feast at 9 a.m.

I must tell you about an exceptional visit that I had through the kindness of Dean Carolyn Woo, a good friend, with a number of graduate students at Notre Dame Business School who are doing a study of our schools as part of their curriculum to try to help us. That will have to wait.

Father Bill Sullivan has gone to Florida for a few days, and he will see two Red Sox games through the kindness of our mutual friend, Lou Gorman. Do you think he will bring me back a contract? We shall see.

Happy St. Patrick's Day everyone. See you next week.

New Ancilla president finds his call to serve

BY MARY ANN WYAND

DONALDSON — “Start here. Go everywhere.”

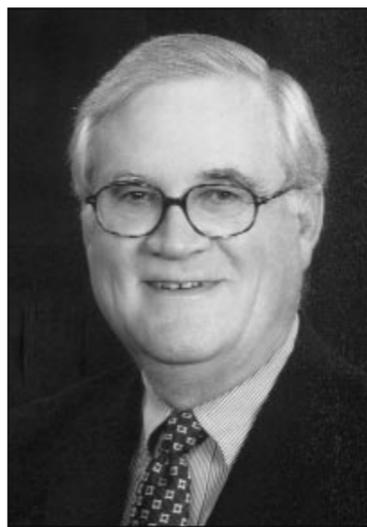
That billboard advertisement along U.S. 30 west of Plymouth is part of an ambitious marketing campaign for Ancilla College initiated by Dr. Ronald L. May, the fifth president of the two-year liberal arts college sponsored by the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ.

May wants high school students and adults to know that their future can start at Ancilla, where a variety of associate degree programs prepare them for challenging careers in many fields.

The inaugural ceremony is March 16 at the sisters' Ancilla Domini Chapel. It concludes a week of inauguration events planned so people could visit the college, meet the new president and learn about future plans.

“Called to Serve” is the inaugural theme.

“This calling to serve other people is something that I learned from my parents and grandparents in terms of what my obligation is as a Christian,” he said. “I’m here to serve others and I bring to Ancilla 30-plus years of working in higher education institutions across the country. My commitment is to serve others. I think that’s consistent with the values and mission of the Poor



DR. RONALD L. MAY

Handmaids and Ancilla College.”

May and his wife, Joan, attend First United Methodist Church in Plymouth. They are the parents of three sons who live in Virginia.

He began his presidency on July 1, 2006, and brought a wealth of administrative experience to his goals of increasing enrollment to 700 students within four years, expanding curricular and student life activities, further integrating the Poor Handmaids’ mission and goals, and coordinating long-range

strategic plans for capital needs, endowment and annual giving as well as facilities growth.

Last October, with board of trustees approval, he appointed a 20-member strategic planning steering group.

About 80 percent of the curriculum at Ancilla focuses on liberal arts and sciences. Many students are recent high school graduates, while others have jobs and families. Most students commute from Marshall, Fulton, Starke, Pulaski, St. Joseph and Kosciusko counties.

“With the exception of our nursing program and accelerated business program, most of our academic programs are designed to help prepare students for transfer to senior institutions and traditional baccalaureate degree programs,” he said. “Last spring, we added 33 nurses to the workforce. The accelerated business program is primarily for working adults who, once they complete that degree program, typically go back into midlevel management posi-

tions where they work.”

He said Ancilla College also serves a particular need for students who need strong support in the first two years of college in order to lay a solid foundation for further success.

“We have a beautiful campus and beautiful facilities,” May said, “but probably the greatest assets we have are the well-qualified faculty and staff. They give the personalized attention that our students need and that helps them get over the challenges they confront in trying to be successful college students.”

Campus activities include the Phi Theta Kappa honorary society, Student Government Association, Nursing Association, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Spirit Squad and community service programs.

Intercollegiate athletic opportunities encompass men’s and women’s basketball, women’s volleyball and men’s baseball with golf and men’s soccer programs starting this year. The Ancilla Chargers’ indoor athletic events are held at the LifePlex fitness center in Plymouth and the golf program begins soon at the Swan Lake Resort and Golf Academy.

“The new science and technology facilities opened in 2003-04 enabled us to add nursing to our curriculum,” May said. “We also have the potential for environmen-

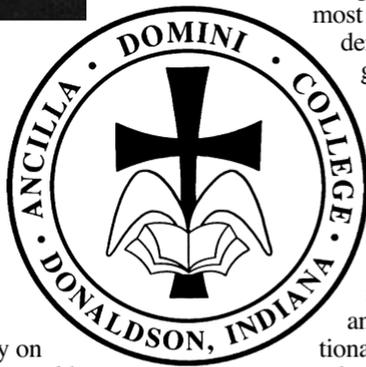
tal science studies and agricultural science programs. The Ancilla Grain and Beef Farm operated by the Poor Handmaids surrounds the campus and is a natural laboratory for students interested in careers in agriculture.”

The native of Vincennes comes to Ancilla after serving seven years as vice president of academic and student services at Eastern Shore Community College in Malva, Va. There, he designed and implemented a recruitment and retention plan, increased full-time enrollment by 25 percent in three years and reorganized student services.

He earned a doctor of education degree in higher education administration at Indiana University in Bloomington. Since 1985, he has served as a dean, vice president or president of colleges in the southern part of the United States.

He is looking forward to Ancilla’s 40th commencement ceremony on May 5 since the sisters opened the college to the public.

“Commencement is exciting because it recognizes the students’ achievements, hard work and diligence,” he said. “It also recognizes the faculty, staff and others who worked with them in order to help them get through the challenges that they confronted in completing that degree — that thirst for knowledge and constant work for self-improvement.”



Cardinal Rigali’s Lenten reflections a hit on YouTube Internet site

BY CHRISTIE L. CHICOINE

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — Who’s that you’re seeing on YouTube?

Yes, it is really Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia.

The cardinal is providing video reflections for each Sunday of Lent, as well as for Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter on the free, video-sharing Web site, which allows users to upload, view and share video clips.

Once on the site, www.youtube.com, visitors can easily find the reflections by typing “Cardinal Rigali” into the search area.

“YouTube is a place where people communicate a multiplicity of things, and certainly, from the viewpoint of the church, we have a desire to communicate Christ,” Cardinal Rigali said recently. “We have the message in the Gospel — the uplifting message of Jesus, a wonderful message of hope ... of love ... of faith.”

The cardinal said he hopes his contribution will be of help to people who are reflecting on God and Christ, and on the meaning of life and love.

Through the years, the church has shown tremendous commitment to social communications, the cardinal said.

“Communicating the uplifting message of Christ is just a blessing,” he added.

Clearly, Cardinal Rigali is a hit on the video site, where contributions may be rated, and the number of times they have been viewed are also made public.

According to the archdiocesan Office for Communications, on Ash Wednesday, the day the Cardinal’s first Lenten reflections were posted, his video was one of the top-linked videos in the category “People and Blogs.”

By the afternoon of March 12, the cardinal’s first posting had received almost 17,000 views.

Here is a sampling of the responses to the cardinal’s reflections posted on YouTube:

“Cardinal Rigali — you are the man. Thanks for keeping it real.”

“Another amazing message! ... The messages are helping me to reflect during the holy season of Lent. I ask you, my brothers and sisters in Christ, to pray that I may go the extra mile during this season and really help bring a bit more light to people who are still in darkness.”

“What a beautiful meditation on the importance of truly listening to God in our times of prayer, lest they become episodes of fruitless, one-way babble. Thank you, Cardinal Rigali!”

“I think this is s-o-o-o cool.” “Cardinal Rigali, thanks for doing this. I set up a YouTube account just to be able to post a response.”

“Keep ‘em coming, Cardinal Rigali. ... proud to be Catholic.” “This is super. It makes me

feel good to know that our church is reaching out to God’s children through modern technology.”

“Excellent idea to make use of ‘YouTube’ to console, comfort and encourage Christians and others to see the whole point of living a Christian life.”

“I, too, thank God for this to be on YouTube. May the Lord bless all who see Cardinal Rigali’s messages and the cardinal as well, but also those who run YouTube for letting this be on the site!”

“With increased attacks on human life, the pope is urging us all to speak up for the truth. We all need dedicated people like Justin Cardinal Rigali to deepen our faith.”

“Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Justin Cardinal Rigali went to the spiritual desert, where the people are. ‘This man eats and drinks with sinners’ — such was said of our Lord Jesus. Praise God that the Word has reached the tube! The love of God, the peace of Christ, the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all.”

The communications office has received e-mails from Italy, Spain and Australia, among other points around the globe, from people commending the cardinal’s debut on YouTube.

The cardinal’s Lenten reflections are also available in streaming video on the archdiocesan Web site at www.archdiocese-phl.org through the “Living Lent” area.

Catholic Relief Services collection assists those overseas

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Giving of ourselves for the good of others, especially those who are suffering, is an essential part of our vocation as Christians and a special focus of the season of Lent. When we consider the fact that over half of the world’s people live on less than \$2 a day, how can we not be moved to make personal sacrifices, however small, to help our suffering brothers and sisters throughout the world?

Next weekend, March 24-25, we will have a marvelous opportunity to reach out to those who suffer by making a donation to the Catholic Relief Services Collection. The theme of the collection, Jesus in Disguise, reminds us of the presence of Christ in his brothers and sisters in need. This collection benefits Catholic service agencies such as Catholic Relief Services, Migration and Refugee Services, the Department of Social Development and World Peace, and the Holy Father’s Relief Fund.

Catholic Relief Services, which is the overseas relief and development agency of the church in the United States, works in more than 99 countries worldwide and supports community development projects in agriculture, education, emergency relief, health and human welfare. Last year, for example, this collection enabled Catholic Relief Services to provide shelter, sanitation, food, water, and education to thousands of people caught up in the humanitarian crisis in Sudan. This collection also enabled Migration and Refugee Services, which helps resettle approximately one-quarter of all refugees admitted to the United States each year, to provide essential services to thousands of refugee families and immigrants last year. This agency also provides assistance to victims of human trafficking.

In addition, thanks to the ongoing work of the Department of Social Development and World Peace, a groundbreaking new commitment to cancel the debt of the world’s poorest countries was forged by U.S. and other world leaders. Finally, the Holy Father’s Relief Fund assists victims of natural disasters and other emergencies around the world.

The organizations that benefit from this appeal count on the generosity of Catholics in this country to continue their crucial work. May we find inspiration to be as generous as possible with this collection in the example of Christ who took every form of human suffering upon himself and made it the means of our redemption.

Sincerely yours in our Lord,

John M. Arcy
Most Reverend John M. Arcy

New Haven young environmentalists host Congressman Souder

BY KAY COZAD

NEW HAVEN — Elaine Smith and Justin Pranger teach the two eighth grade classes at St. John the Baptist School, New Haven, which are filled with bright and creative students. They study everything from religion to history and English with special classes in the mix. One special, taught by Deb Buechner, is health class, where these students have studied the environment in a unique way. The students were recently divided into three teams and given specific assignments relating to either land, air or water pollution.

In addition to studying specific books, such as "Fifty Ways to Save the Earth," the teams viewed two videos on the ozone layer and recycling to enhance their understanding of protecting the environment.

The students created posters with an environmental theme that currently adorn the halls of the school and were required to write an essay on their assigned pollution posing three concerns in the area. Finally, after contacting Congressman Mark Souder via e-mail in early February, Buechner arranged for a special visit by the representative.

"I asked him what is done in Congress to help Indiana," she says, adding that he can make environmental protection more relevant to the students. "He represents the people of the third district, but he is a man of faith and speaks for the Christian community as well."

The cold temperatures were no deterrent for the students as they filed quietly from the school building to the Community



KAY COZAD

Congressman Mark Souder visited St. John-New Haven School, Monday March 5, to speak to the eighth graders there. The classes have been studying environmental pollution and were attentive to Souder's message of balancing protection of our God-given resources with human need.

Center where they were to meet Souder. After a brief introduction, three students, Brittnee Fox, Matt Spieth and Ryan Kelly, presented their essays to the attentive group of classmates, one on each area of pollution. Congressman Souder then addressed the students with enthusiasm and candor concerning their environmental concerns.

The challenge in the decision-making process in Congress, he told the students, is in finding a balance between personal perspective and the world view. As a Christian, he added, one must be skeptical.

"Think it out logically and consider the consequences."

Congressman Souder is the co-founder of the National Parks Service and believes the land is to be utilized and enjoyed by American people, but, he says,

with responsibility to those resources. "It says in the Bible that God created the whole earth and that we can use it. But we must protect it," he said.

Tree cutting was an illustration Souder presented to drive his point home for the students. He argued that trees are a renewable source but ancient trees must be saved. And he believes that tree cutting in certain areas is creating more pollution. As he described the history of the Black Swamp in Indiana, Souder reminded the students that, as Christians, "If we can improve the environment and have minimal impact on humans, do it!"

Recycling provides a doable venue to improve the environment. With the reminder to think it through and consider the consequences, Souder discussed the landfill debate with its effects on

economic, social, housing and fairness issues. He boldly stated that it was laziness that kept Americans from recycling.

"In the Christian view, laziness should never be a part of life," he told the captivated group. He went on to point out that our time is God's time and "we have an obligation to others outside ourselves."

With the three watersheds of the Indiana's water system, Souder sees water concerns as a unique issue. Concerns ranging from the run-off of chemicals used on golf course greens to the local sewer systems were

addressed. But, he says, everything has trade-offs. "It's easy to say, 'Get things clean,' but as Christians we have to balance cost, mobility and other issues." And he added it's never based on self-interest. "Everything we do impacts other people and for lots of years in the future."

Souder fielded questions from the enthusiastic eighth grade environmentalists, who were surprised at the political and religious viewpoints Souder explained and impressed with the notion that "the things you do effects everybody."

RAID

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

chances of "a really tragic event unfolding."

But the most devastating effect of the raid for the St. Adalbert Parish community has been its effect on families.

Father Cox explains, "We've successfully identified 32 children immediately impacted by this. There's one breast feeding child separated from her mother. There was one instance of a husband and wife both taken, and the kids were left with the babysitter.

Fortunately, the government did release the wife so she could go back and be with the kids. But of the 36 people detained, 20 of them were women, and a lot of those women are moms of kids who still have been unable to see their mother. A number of them were single mothers, so the kids are with uncles or relatives."

At the parish vigil the night of the raid, a student from a local public high school recounted how her father was supposed to pick her up at school that day, and it was not until she had unsuccessfully tried reaching him on his cell phone and then calling the Janco plant several times before someone finally told her that her father had been detained.

Father Cox says that he can only imagine the horror of learning news like that, especially as a

minor, as a child, and notes, "As a priest, I'm hurt by seeing what I'm seeing happening to our families."

Other parishes have reached out to St. Adalbert and the Hispanic community in the wake of the raid. At Sunday Mass on March 11, the pastor and several parishioners from St. Joseph in South Bend read a letter of solidarity to the St. Adalbert congregation. State Rep. Matt Bell, R-Avilla, recently met with about 100 members of the Hispanic community in Ligonier.

Bishop John M. D'Arcy also reached out to the community with a letter, in which he stated, "I want you to know that you have my prayers and support in this difficult moment. My own dear parents were immigrants, and I understand the struggles you are experiencing. Let us place ourselves in the hands of our dear Lady of Guadalupe, who will surely protect us. Along with the bishops of Indiana, I support comprehensive immigration reform and will continue to do so."

Comprehensive immigration reform, Father Cox maintains, is key. He sympathizes with Catholics who oppose the church's stance on immigration and express anger over the jobs that are being lost to undocumented immigrants.

"The frustration they feel with our broken immigration system is the same thing that hits my parishioners," he says. "We need leadership in Washington to get real reform in the immigration system."



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

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PEN PAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Father Tom McNally, she was tempted to ask him to drop her off at the nearest stop.

"I kept telling myself, 'You coward, what does the Gospel say?'" Sister Agnes Marie said.

She said later, "I prayed to the Holy Spirit to give me the grace and strength to do what needed to be done."

She thought of Jesus telling his disciples that when they visit those in prison, they're really visiting him.

And she said she found herself filled with peace when she arrived, even after making her way through four sets of armed guards and security check points just to be admitted to the inner guts of the prison.

And once she was in, Sister Agnes Marie said she was struck by the starkness on the inside, no color or adornment anywhere, the prisoners all dressed in khaki pants and shirts.

The only color came from green philodendron branches snaking up the walls of the prison's chapel.

But it seemed as if the prisoners themselves added a whole other dimension of color.

"One little fellow came up to me and told me he would be there a long time, but he'd only served three months so far," Sister Agnes Marie said.

He asked her to bless his rosary.

She took the rosary between his hands and wrapped her own hands around them blessing him and the rosary.

"He had tiny tears," Sister Agnes Marie said. "You're supposed to be macho there, but I could see those tiny tears."

Able to meet her pen pal for the first time, Sister Agnes Marie said she had little time to talk with him personally as he was the "perfect host," introducing her to the other inmates and

showing her around. They ate together, took pictures together and prayed together at Mass.

Planning to return, Sister Agnes Marie said she picked up two more pen pals while she was there but continues to pray for them all.

"My prayer for them is that they would continue to find Christ in their lives and continue the conversion process," Sister Agnes Marie said. "I pray that they will be at peace with themselves, with God and with others. And once they've served the debt they owe to society for their crimes, I pray they will be loving members of their families and productive members of society."

"He had tiny tears"

SISTER AGNES MARIE REGAN

Pro-life official welcomes briefing on cloning agenda's risks to women

WASHINGTON — On March 8, International Women's Day, the Pro-Life Secretariat of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops applauded Cathy McMorris Rodgers, R-Wash., and Marcy Kaptur, D-Ohio, for co-sponsoring "Trading on the Female Body," a congressional briefing on the risks egg harvesting poses to women's health and safety.

Deirdre A. McQuade, director of Planning and Information for the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, said: "The embryonic stem-cell agenda is a threat not only to embryonic humans but to young women as well."

"The drugs used by in vitro

fertilization (IVF) clinics to stimulate women's ovaries for attempted reproduction have done great harm to some women," McQuade said, "But this problem pales by comparison with the threat posed by attempts to clone humans for embryonic stem-cell research. In the recent South Korean scandal, hundreds of women were paid to endanger their health without their informed consent.

"This concern is timely in light of renewed efforts in Congress to fund destructive embryonic stem-cell research in the name of pursuing cures," McQuade said.

"If a treatment for a major disease ever were to arise from this approach, it would require moving beyond the so-called 'spare' embryos frozen in IVF clinics, to creating huge numbers of embryos (by IVF or cloning) solely for medical research. That means treating a great many women as egg factories, at great risk to their health and safety," McQuade explained.

"Minority and impoverished women," she said, "would be particularly vulnerable to exploitation."

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Diocesan part of Pope John Paul II's sainthood cause to close April 2

ROME (CNS) — The diocesan phase of the investigation into the life and holiness of Pope John Paul II will close officially April 2, the second anniversary of the pope's death. Cardinal Camillo Ruini, papal vicar for the Diocese of Rome, announced March 10 the end of the diocesan phase of the process for the late pope's beatification and canonization. The April 2 ceremony will take place in the context of a brief prayer service; Pope Benedict XVI is scheduled to celebrate a memorial Mass later that evening in St. Peter's Basilica. The end of the diocesan phase of a sainthood cause means that the cause's promoter has interviewed all of the eyewitnesses he felt needed to be heard and has examined all of the candidate's writings. In addition, a panel of historians has written a report on the candidate's actions and writings in the historical context in which he lived. While the documentation will be handed over to the Vatican Congregation for Saints' Causes after the April 2 ceremony, the promoter and his assistants still must prepare the official "positio," or position paper, arguing that Pope John Paul heroically lived the Christian virtues. Normally in order for a beatification to take place, a separate report must be prepared and accepted recognizing a miracle attributed to the candidate's intervention.

Two Catholic teens among those killed in Southeast tornadoes

ENTERPRISE, Ala. (CNS) — Mourners gathered under the badly damaged roof of St. John Church in Enterprise March 7 for the funeral of Jamie Ann Vidensek, 17. Two days earlier Michael Bowen, 16, was buried after Catholic services at the Main Post Chapel of Fort Rucker, the U.S. Army helicopter training facility outside Enterprise. Vidensek and Bowen were two of the eight students killed March 1 when a tornado struck Enterprise High School, collapsing the roof and walls of a hallway where students and teachers had gathered for shelter. Bowen, who was active in the school band and athletics, had been an altar server at Our Lady of Loretto, the Catholic parish at Fort Rucker. Kitty Buck, a teacher, described Vidensek as "one of those kids you just loved." Father James E. Dane, St. John's pastor, told the mourners that "I can't give you answers" to the tragedy that struck the town. "I can give you promises from God's word, promises that he will be here for us and guide us," he said, according to a report on the funeral in the *Enterprise Ledger*, the southeastern Alabama town's daily newspaper.

Kosovo approves plans for cathedral dedicated to Mother Teresa

PRIZREN, Kosovo (CNS) — The government of the predominantly Muslim Kosovo has approved plans for a cathedral dedicated to Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta. Bishop Dode Gjergji of Sape,

NEWS BRIEFS

U.S. ARTIST TAKES ON PROJECT TO PAINT CARDINALS



CNS PHOTO/ALESSIA GIULIANI, CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

New York artist Alex Melamid chats Feb. 27 with Portuguese Cardinal Jose Saraiva Martins, prefect of the Vatican's Congregation for Saints' Causes, near a painting he created of the cardinal in his studio in Rome. The artist said that he hopes to eventually paint 10-15 church figures during his stay in Rome.

Albania, who is the apostolic administrator of Prizren, Kosovo, said that all the documents were being finalized and the work will start this year. "We're working closely with the local government, which is encouraging the project, and we have support from people of all faiths and backgrounds in Kosovo," he told Catholic News Service March 8. Bishop Gjergji said the cathedral's architectural design includes a Catholic cultural and educational center on the 32-acre compound in Pristina. The cathedral had been approved before, but two days after a 2005 ground-breaking ceremony, the site was damaged by a grenade explosion.

Dallas bishop retires, successor named; bishop named for Lake Charles

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI accepted the resignation of Bishop Charles V. Grahmann of Dallas March 6 and named Auxiliary Bishop Kevin J. Farrell of Washington to succeed him. The pope also named Msgr. Glen John Provost, a priest of the Diocese of Lafayette, La., as the new bishop of Lake Charles, La. He succeeds Bishop Edward K. Braxton, who was transferred to Belleville, Ill., in March 2005. The Lake Charles Diocese had been without a bishop just nine days short of two years. Bishop-designate Provost is to be ordained a bishop April 23 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Lake Charles. Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States, announced the changes in

Washington March 6. Bishop Grahmann, who turned 75 last July, has headed the Dallas Diocese since 1990. Bishop Farrell, 59, who has lived in Spain and Mexico, is fluent in Spanish and has ministered to numerous Hispanic communities. Glen John Provost was ordained a priest of the Lafayette Diocese June 29, 1975, after studies at Immaculata Seminary in Lafayette, St. Joseph Seminary College in St. Benedict and the Pontifical North American College in Rome, where he earned a degree in theology from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas.

Study finds one-fourth of Catholics read diocesan newspaper

WASHINGTON (CNS) — One-fourth of U.S. Catholics contacted in a national survey by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate had read their diocesan newspaper at least once in the previous six months. By contrast, only 1 percent of the Catholics surveyed had tuned in to a diocesan radio station in the same six-month period and only 2 percent had watched diocesan television in that time, it said. Most dioceses do not have radio or TV stations. Nearly a quarter of those surveyed said they had read one or more national Catholic publications within the previous six months. Twenty-eight percent said they had watched a religious or spiritual TV program in that period, 28 percent said they had read a religious or spiritual magazine or newspaper, 12 percent said they had listened to a religious or spiritual radio program and 11 percent said they had visited a religious or

spiritual Web site. Older Catholics and those who attended Mass more frequently were more likely to read their diocesan newspaper and other Catholic publications and were more likely to tune in to TV or radio programs of a religious or spiritual nature. Of the 25 percent of Catholics who said they had read their diocesan newspaper within the previous six months, nearly half said they typically read it weekly or several times a month. About one-fourth read it once a month and the rest more rarely.

More federal funding urged for umbilical cord-blood collection

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Lack of federal funding could jeopardize therapeutic advances made in using umbilical cord blood for curing diseases, said Richard Doerflinger, deputy director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities. Doerflinger told Catholic News Service that the bishops supported the 2005 law which authorized funds for collecting and storing cord blood and for the establishment of a National Cord Blood Inventory which would enable doctors to match patients with compatible donors through a centralized computer data bank. Although the 2005 law authorizes \$15 million per year from 2007 through 2010, Congress has to approve the funding each year. For fiscal year 2008, which begins in October, the Bush administration budget proposes only \$2 million in funding. "We were active in supporting the underlying legislation and we are in favor of full funding," Doerflinger said March 7 after attending a briefing organized by Rep. Chris Smith,

R-N.J., the main sponsor of the 2005 law. Smith called on his congressional colleagues to approve the \$15 million permitted by law.

Pope names archbishop of Genoa as new president of Italian bishops

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has accepted the resignation of Cardinal Camillo Ruini as president of the Italian bishops' conference and named Archbishop Angelo Bagnasco of Genoa to succeed him. The unusual statutes of the Italian bishops' conference do not foresee the election of the conference president, but rather leave the choice to the pope as bishop of Rome and primate of Italy. The Vatican announced March 7 that Pope Benedict had accepted 76-year-old Cardinal Ruini's resignation because of his age. The announcement did not refer to the cardinal's ongoing position as the papal vicar of the Diocese of Rome. Archbishop Bagnasco, 64, was named archbishop of Genoa in August to succeed Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, who had been appointed Vatican secretary of state.

Vatican to take action against liberation theologian, sources say

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican was expected to take disciplinary action against Jesuit Father Jon Sobrino, a leading proponent of liberation theology, sources in Rome said. Spanish media reported that the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith would ban Father Sobrino from teaching or publishing books. Archbishop Fernando Saenz Lacalle of San Salvador, where Father Sobrino resides and teaches, was quoted as saying March 11 that the Vatican would announce that Father Sobrino's views were not wholly in line with church doctrine, and that he would be forbidden to teach theology in any Catholic institution until he revised his conclusions. A Jesuit spokesman in Rome, Father Jose M. de Vera, would not confirm those reports, but said the Vatican was expected to issue a declaration on Father Sobrino in mid-March. Father de Vera said the doctrinal review of Father Sobrino's work began several years ago, when Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger — now Pope Benedict XVI — was prefect of the congregation.

Bishop, critic of Brazil's dictatorship, dies

SAO PAULO, Brazil (CNS) — Bishop Jose Ivo Lorscheiter, the retired bishop of Santa Maria, Brazil, and one of the most outspoken bishops in Brazil during the country's military regime, died at the age of 79. Bishop Lorscheiter, who died March 5 in Santa Maria of multiple organ failure, was part of a group of clergy who took the lead in combating the 1964-1985 Brazilian military regime. He became the auxiliary bishop of Port Alegre in 1966. He was president of the Brazilian bishops' conference from 1979 to 1987.

First 'Father Tom O'Connor Light of Christ Award' presented

FORT WAYNE — St. Mary Catholic Church, Fort Wayne, in cooperation with Bishop John M. D'Arcy and the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, has announced the recipient of the first "Father Tom O'Connor Light of Christ Award."

The inaugural award was presented at St. Mary Church, Fort Wayne, on Wednesday, March 14, by Bishop D'Arcy to Cliff Kindy, a member of the Eel River Church of the Brethren, Silver Lake.

If and when a winner is selected in a given year, the award is presented near March 17, the feast of St. Patrick. It is given to an individual whose work reflects the strong values exemplified by Father Tom in one of the following areas: Peace and Justice, Nonviolent Resolution of Conflict, Racial Reconciliation, Education, Food for the Hungry, and Shelter for the Homeless. One of these categories is designated each year for nominations. The category for 2007 was Peace and Justice. Award nomination guidelines were publicized beginning last November. Deadline for submission of nominees was January 2007.

The award carries with it a gift of \$1,000 given in the name of the recipient to his or her designated project, faith community or non-profit organization. Bishop D'Arcy said the award was created to encourage "the next generation of Father Toms."

USF holds spring choir concert

FORT WAYNE — The School of Creative Arts at the University of Saint Francis will host a free spring choir concert on Tuesday, April 17, at 8 p.m. in the Abundant Life Tabernacle Auditorium located at 2702 Spring St.

The University Singers' concert will feature selections from Broadway musicals, including numbers from "Music Man," "Les Miserables," "Man of La Mancha," "The Phantom of the Opera," "Beauty and the Beast" and "Miss Saigon." Singers will perform solos, duets and ensembles under the direction of Dr. Don Donaldson.

The performance is free to the public. For more information, call (260) 434-7591.

Catholic spelling champs emerge

SOUTH BEND — Peter Doyle, an eighth-grade student at St. Joseph's School, earned the Catholic school spelling championship at the annual Catholic school spelling competition at Christ the King School and, along with five other school champions, will compete at the annual South Bend school championship at the Century Center.

The five champions were Thomas Wiegand, eighth grade, Holy Cross School; Dan Burmeister, seventh grade, Christ the King School; Nick Matthews, eighth grade, Christ the King

AROUND THE DIOCESE

PRAISE AND WORSHIP MUSIC IN WABASH



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An afternoon of praise and worship music was offered to the community by St. Bernard Parish, Wabash, on Feb. 11. Thirty parishioners shared their musical talents with the congregation.

School; Ryan Mackey, fifth grade, Christ the King School; and Mollie Gillean, eighth grade, Holy Family School.

Suzanne Wiwi, principal of St. Joseph School, and Mary Dornbos of Holy Family School, served as co-chairpersons of the event, which attracted one of the largest groups of student spellers in years.

Catholic school champions will participate in the area-wide spelling bee at the Century Center along with public school winners in South Bend, Mishawaka, Penn, John Glenn, Bremen and Plymouth, along with home schools and private class Christian. The national winner will participate in the national spelling bee in May in Washington, D.C. — EJD

Griffin addressed Knights

SOUTH BEND — Susan Griffin, director of spiritual programs at Holy Cross Village located just north of Saint Joseph's High School, addressed members and their spouses of the Father Nieuwland Assembly, Fourth Degree, Knight of Columbus on Thursday, March 15.

The occasion was marked with a special St. Patrick's Day dinner that also included a chorus of Irish music. — EJD

Manager of St. Vincent pantry addresses Serrans

SOUTH BEND — The distribution of food to the poor and underprivileged during critical periods of the year by the St. Vincent de Paul Society of South Bend was the

theme of the address given by Penny Cyr, manager of its pantry, to members and spouses at a Lenten luncheon Friday, March 16, at the South Bend Serra Club.

Prior to the luncheon, Serrans attended a Mass at St. Patrick Church.

Young Authors' Conference returns to South Bend

SOUTH BEND — The South Bend area Catholic schools are hosting a Young Authors' Conference for students in grades kindergarten through 6. More than 500 area students are expected to attend the event being held Saturday, March 24, from 8:15-11:40 a.m. at Marian High School.

The students will get to meet Louise Borden, a children's author whose latest book is "The Trip that Saved Curious George." Students will also be entertained by local musicians Mark Geissler and Bill O'Hayer.

Writing techniques and creative story content will be taught during special breakout sessions. Students will have the opportunity to share their own stories with their peers.

Parents are invited to attend the author and entertainment sessions. Sally Carlin and Kathy Kersh will lead a presentation just for parents of young writers to speak about the reading-writing connection in the home.

For the last 14 years, the Young Authors' Conference has proven to be an entertaining and enriching event for area Catholic students.

For more information, contact Stephen Donndelinger or Eileen

Cramer at St. Jude School at (574) 291-3820.

Dwenger hosts chastity speaker Jason Evert

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Dwenger High School's A Promise To Keep program will host nationally-acclaimed chastity speaker Jason Evert on Tuesday, April 17, at 7 p.m. in the high school gymnasium.

Evert is affiliated with Catholic Answers and has authored a number of books. He has spoken to teens and young adults around the world about the beauty of chastity. When speaking about chastity, Evert is able to hold the attention of teens like no other speaker. He challenges young people to embrace the teachings of the church in a way that is relatable and filled with hope.

This spring the focus of Evert's outreach will be to speak to seventh and eighth grade junior high students in public and parochial schools, attending with their parents and youth directors, all area high school students and all area college age students.

In order to accomplish this goal no admission will be charged. A Promise to Keep thanks Our Sunday Visitor, which has generously granted the money to have Evert speak.

Evert's materials will be for sale after the presentation.

For additional information, contact Nancy Yorke, director of A Promise To Keep, at (260) 496-4742 or through e-mail, nyorke@bishopdwenger.com.

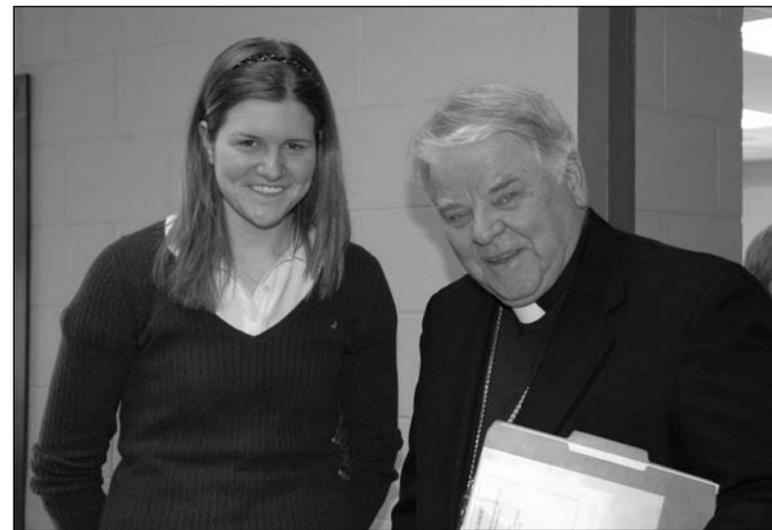
Bishop Dwenger seniors National Merit Finalists

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Dwenger High School seniors David Elden and Rich Schroeder have been named 2007 National Merit Finalists. These students were initially selected by scoring in the top 1 percent of all students nationwide on the PSAT test taken in October of 2005.

Elden is planning on attending Purdue University for engineering, and Schroeder is planning on majoring in biology at the University of Notre Dame.

Based on their outstanding academic performance in high school and their subsequent SAT scores, these students are being recognized for their high potential for future accomplishment at the college level and are now being considered for college-sponsored scholarship opportunities.

BISHOP D'ARCY VISITS BISHOP DWENGER



LIZ DELANEY

Bishop John M. D'Arcy meets with Bishop Dwenger High School senior Mary Jane Manning at his annual pastoral visit to the high school on March 7. The visit also included a reconciliation service with several priests, including the bishop, available to hear confessions.

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Bill to boost savings accounts for poor gaining momentum

BY BRIGID CURTIS AYER

INDIANAPOLIS — A bill to boost savings accounts for the poor is moving through the Indiana General Assembly and gaining momentum toward final passage.

House Bill 1075, individual development accounts (IDAs), authored by Rep. John Day (D-Indianapolis) and coauthored by Rep. Mike Murphy (R-Indianapolis) passed the Indiana House, Jan. 30, 98-0, and also passed the Senate Tax and Fiscal Policy Committee, unanimously on March 6.

Rep. John Day said during his 31-years in the Indiana General Assembly his agenda has always been twofold — “to promote dignity and to widen the circle of opportunity for those who are left out,” based on the moral framework of U.S. Catholic Bishops pastoral letter, “Economic Justice for All”.

In addition to the IDA bill, Rep. Day has authored two other bills this year to help low income families — HB 1027, a bill to increase Indiana's minimum wage,

and HB 1074, a bill to increase the earned income tax credit for working families.

Rep. Day got his idea for the individual development accounts (IDAs) bill over a decade ago, when meeting Michael Sherraden author of “Assets & the Poor: The New American Welfare Policy” at an Eastside Community Investments (ECI) meeting in Indianapolis.

“The premise of Sherraden's book is poor families have nothing to pass on to their children — no house, no family business,” said Rep. Day. “The book asserts that if poor families are ever going to get out of poverty, they need to be able to be able to build assets so they can have a stake in their community and also so they will have assets to pass on to children like a home or a family business,” he said. “That's the theme of the book and the theme of the IDAs,” said Rep. Day.

Following a successful two-year pilot program run by the Eastside Community Investments group using IDAs, Rep. Day thought “why not try this on the state level.”

In 1997, Rep. Day authored a bill to create a four-year pilot statewide, which was enacted the same year, and in 2001 he authored a bill to make the IDAs permanent which also became law.

House Bill 1075 increases the state matched annual funds from \$900 to \$1,200. It creates a new category for spending the IDAs to include home improvements; and it increases the total number of IDAs which can be created each year from 800 to 1,000.

Rep. Day said the bill also creates “an accelerated savers feature,” which rewards people who are able to save double the \$400 annual savings goal. For example, those who save \$800 in one year, the state will give them \$2,400 in matching funds that year.

“If there is an individual who works two jobs, and is industrious at saving, it will allow the individual to reach their dream of going to college, buying a home or starting a business quicker with this accelerated feature,” said Rep. Day.

“Our country has a long history

of helping people get started including the Homestead Act in the post Civil War era; to the GI bill; to modern times by helping homeowners deduct interest from the mortgage,” said Rep. Day. “But poor people can't take advantage of the deduction of interest from their mortgage if they are not homeowners,” he said. “So the individual development accounts were created 10 years ago to help the poor save money to build assets.”

Rep. Day said, “HB 1075 will strengthen the foundation of a successful program that widens the circle of opportunity for modest and low income families by allowing them to build assets for their future, and the future of their children.”

Jacqueline Troy, Individual Development Accounts Program Administrator for the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA) said, “In 10 years, 3,700 IDAs have been established, and 1,800-2,000 have actually made purchases. Some people dropped out of the IDA program, some may wait a couple of years or longer past the four-year state match before they make an approved purchase,” she said. “Currently, there are 1,333 IDAs where individuals are currently saving and eligible for the state match.”

There are 36 nonprofit organizations that are IDA administrators in Indiana including one Catholic institution called the Providence House Corporation in Georgetown. “The sisters have targeted youth transitioning out of foster care and into the real world,” said Troy. “We are super excited about what the sisters are doing there,” said Troy.

Twenty-five other states offer IDAs for low income individuals or families. Indiana was one of the first states in the nation to enact IDA legislation. The Indiana Catholic Conference was instrumental in getting the original IDA program passed 10 years ago.

Sen. Luke Kenley (R-Noblesville) is the Senate Sponsor. Sen. Vi Simpson (D-Bloomington) the Senate cosponsor of HB 1075.

HB 1075 is eligible for second reading on the Senate floor.

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Lent — reaching out in Charity

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 fourth installment of a series that looks at how the season of Lent plays out in the everyday lives of different Catholics.



CHARITY MOSS

Charity Moss, 18, sees Lent as an opportunity to show special kindness to people. The loss of people close to her has shaped her belief in the importance of helping others through tough times.

She has a raw energy about her. If she has something to say, she'll say it. She understands deep stuff because she's lived deep stuff. And because of that, she sees the world a little differently than the average 18 year old, even through that's pretty much what she is. She connects with the world around her through her two passions of music and photography. This is the world of Charity Hope Moss.

"I'm always listening to music. If I'm not listening to it, I'm thinking about it," the Bishop Luers High School junior says of her first passion. The endless life soundtrack in her mind can be triggered even by a random word or phrase during class. When she's out of school, she likes to check out local bands at venues around Fort Wayne. Despite the heavy thrashing and roaring vocals, she insists that her faith informs her music choices even though the bands often sound "like death."

"But it's not death," says Moss. "They're definitely Christian."

In the midst of the music, Moss sees an outlet for her other passion — photography. Being a photographer for bands would fall under the heading of dream career for her, although she says photography is also an outlet for giving others a glimpse into her unique perspective of the world.

She never eats meat anyway, which immediately puts her at odds with one of the most visible hallmarks of the season.

"Somebody'll be like, 'Ew, that's garbage,' and I'm like, 'There's beauty in the garbage,'" she explains. And taking a picture is often what it takes to communicate her idea when the written or spoken word fails.

A cradle Catholic and a parishioner at Most Precious Blood in Fort Wayne, Moss is at an age basically designed for questioning one's faith. These questions often arise after encounters with people of other religions and viewpoints, but they have also come up as she learns more about her own Catholic faith.

"It seems like everything is a sin," she muses. "I'm like, how do you not sin?"

But even as she questions, Moss remains a faithful Catholic, and she tries to make a good Lent every year.

"I mean, Jesus died for us," she notes. "Why can't I do a little thing for him?"

Of course, with someone as unique as Charity Moss, it shouldn't be a surprise that her take on Lent is also unique.

She never eats meat anyway, which immediately puts her at odds with one of the most visible hallmarks of the season. She has yet to find a suitable substitute.

"Last year, I tried to give up coffee," she recalls. "When you're addicted to coffee like I am, you can't really do that."

While she sometimes gets off track, Moss not only tries to make Lent important but, in

doing it her own way, she finds a way to live the season more deeply, namely, by reaching out in charity.

"I do try to do things for people that I don't usually

do," she says. "Say like there's a person at your school that everyone's so mean to and so rude to. And you're seeing someone being hurt all the time. And then, instead of listening to these people say something and do some-

REAL LENT

DON CLEMMER

thing rude to this person, you go and you be nice to them and you help them. And then when someone says something, you stick up for them, because like wouldn't Jesus do that for you?"

That Moss would have this deeper perspective of Lent makes sense since she has had more than her share of experiencing its mysteries, specifically suffering, death and resurrection. The suffering could be wishing she were taller or had the money to buy a better camera, hating it when people judge her or dealing with the pain of parents' separation. Death and resurrection, in her case, have come in the form of the deaths of three close friends in recent years and, in only the last couple of months, the death of her grandmother.

Having dealt with so much death among people she has loved and cared about, Moss can give an accurate first-hand account of how God works on a person through a time of great suffering, making the individual stronger because of it, as well as opening up new avenues for grace.

"It seems like he brings people to me," she says. "Suffering through all the death that I've been through, I can help someone who's never been through it. I guess he's trying to have me help people who are going through things, as well as he's having people come to me as a friend, and they help me through my tough times."

ST. JOSEPH CLOSSES MISSION WITH SOUP DINNER



DON CLEMMER

A parishioner at St. Joseph Church, Fort Wayne, serves soup at the soup dinner on the final night of the church's recent parish mission. The parish was one of the first to hold a mission in the Sesquicentennial Jubilee Year, as requested by Bishop John M. D'Arcy.

ST. CHARLES HOSTS PARISH MISSION

St. Charles Parish in Fort Wayne launched its parish mission "Behold the Face of Christ," March 4. Lisa Marino from St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend was the opening night presenter and greeted participants after the talk.



DEB WAGNER

Scouts recognized with 'I Live My Faith' award

FORT WAYNE — Twenty-five Scouts recently received their Junior Girl Scout award, I Live My Faith. The girls dedicated nine hours to earning this award.

The following were recognized:

- Troop 993, St. Therese, Annelisa Berghoff and Vanessa Berghoff;
- Troop 379, Our Lady of Good Hope, Allie Harber, Becca Harber and Allison Moher;
- Troop 198, St. Jude, Tricia Newell, Emily Miller, Audrey Sanfrey, Madeline Obergfell, Haley Henline, Isabella Widner, Hannah Berghoff, Karen Eckrich, Caroline Ray, Alex Schroeder, Mary Momper and Amanda Jefferis;
- Troop 737, St. John the Baptist, Elizabeth Kuras, Emily Ludwig and Sara Tuttle;
- Troop 525, St. Vincent de Paul, Jessica Schowe, Nora Weisz, Olivia O'Connor and Tracy Turner;
- Troop 766, St. Vincent de Paul, Kendra Martin.



PROVIDED BY ANGIE HARBER

These Girl Scouts, shown with troop leaders and coordinators, recently completed nine hours of service to earn the Junior Girl Scout award I Live My Faith.

• The Scout coordinator is Deb Berghoff, assistant coordinator is Angie Harber, instructor is Kristy Sanfrey, council support are

Linda Chrisman and Tammy LaFaucia, parish support at Our Lady of Good Hope are Father Mark Gurtner and Herman Rieke.

Fort Wayne's best kept secret

Most Precious Blood bowling alley has entertained for 75 years

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — Jacob Bloom's sixth grade class wasted no time getting to the basement of their school after lunch on Friday, March 9. That's because it was their turn to bowl. Yes, bowl. Their school, Most Precious Blood (MPB) Elementary, houses the best kept secret in Fort Wayne — a bowling alley.

This special bowling alley marks its 75th anniversary this year, making it the oldest bowling alley in Fort Wayne and, according to manager Rich Sarrazin, is the only money-making operation in the United States housed in a school basement. "We've been sanctioned by the United States Bowling Conference for 75 years now," he adds.

The six-lane bowling alley was created in 1932 on a wing and a prayer by newly-ordained Father John Wilson. As associate pastor for MPB, his vision for the parish was to create a fund-raising, community activity center that would settle the outstanding \$167,000 debt accrued by construction of the new elementary building two years prior. The Northside Recreation Center was formed with the help of German parishioners interested in "kegling," the German word for bowling. Subsequently, the parish purchased four bowling lanes in need of repair from a German club in Huntington, along with a bar and several other pieces of furniture. Installation of the lanes and bar began in the



KAY COZAD

Jacob Bloom's sixth grade students enjoy a session of bowling during their regular physical education class at Most Precious Blood School. The bowling alley, housed in the basement of the school, marks its 75th anniversary this year, making it the oldest bowling alley in Fort Wayne. The alley, maintained solely by volunteers, offers weekday and weekend times available for rental.

empty basement of the school building. Soon two more lanes and machinery were added, and the alley was complete. A basement room adjacent to the alley was finished and used as a meeting room. Leagues

began to bowl there as well as the first generation of students from the school.

The alley is maintained by 13 volunteers, led by lifelong MPB parishioner Sarrazin, who says he became involved in the early 1970s at the request of the pastor there. Regular men's and women's evening bowling leagues frequent the lanes during the week, which are then rented out to interested parties for the weekend. The lanes close in late April due to lack of air conditioning.

Weekly league fees collected help pay the overhead, says Sarrazin, who reports the volunteer corporation, formed in 1981, pays the school rent for the bowling room. Any parts or repairs are funded by the weekend fees charged. And, the manager says humbly, any remaining money goes to purchase anything the school needs. "But that's another story," he adds.

Years ago with the original semiautomatic

machinery, pin setters made 10 cents a game. But by the 60s, no one was interested in the job, and a local businessman purchased automatic machines for the alley, which were subsequently installed through a hole chiseled in the floor of the school. "A rebirth of the alley occurred in 1970," reports Sarrazin.

Currently, MPB physical education teacher Gretchen Weerts, who teaches there three days each week, provides the students with a four-week, bowling program designed to develop physical skills, such as balance and stance. The kids just think it's fun.

"It's a lot of fun," says sixth-grader Britanie Revel. "We get to spend time with our classmates. I like to bowl."

Her classmate, Matt Gaunt agrees, adding that he enjoys winning the candy bars offered as incentives as well. These students have been bowling since kindergarten.

Several generations of bowlers have been produced by the program. Carol Beiswanger, the first of five generations in her family to bowl at the alley, volunteers for the school program to "encourage the kids, show them some skills and help with scoring." Scoring is still done the old fashioned way, she says, with pencil and paper. She adds that her large family rents the alley on weekends for special occasions such as birthdays and anniversaries. "There's no better way to entertain a large group of kids than this," she says enthusias-

tically.

Cheryl Hamel, who is new to Fort Wayne and parent of three MPB students, also volunteers at the alley and says, "It gives the kids the opportunity to spend a lot of time on the alley and they don't have to travel to do it."

Sarrazin, whose three children attended MPB, now has a grandchild in kindergarten there. As head bowling coach at Bishop Dwenger High School, he proudly reports

that he enjoys a network of friends across the city, who volunteer their expertise with maintenance issues as well as a "huge amount of support from the parish."

Considered the resident expert on the alley, Sarrazin says "Bowling is an acquired sport. You get the kids who will never throw a football touchdown pass, and they can bowl. You can bowl for the rest of your life." His love of the sport and the students is evident as he encourages a proper stance or a good ball.

Currently this manager understands the need for refurbishment if the alley is to be used by future generations and is researching grants that might fund this considerable endeavor.

"This (bowling alley) is a great asset," he proudly asserts. His hope is that the MPB bowling alley will continue to be used to build bowling skills and entertain many generations to come.

For weekend alley rental information, call the office at Most Precious Blood School at (260) 424-4832.

"It's a lot of fun."

BRITANIE REVEL

CYO coaches meet for upcoming spring season

BY MICHELLE CASTELMAN

FORT WAYNE — After meeting with the coaches last week for the upcoming spring season, Catholic Youth League Organization (CYO) business administrator Ava Meyer reports that there will once again be three different sports offered for 2007: softball, soccer and track. All seasons will begin competition the week of April 9.

In girls' softball action, there will be eight teams. They include St. Charles, St. Vincent, St. Joseph-Decatur, St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth, St. Therese-St. John-New Haven, Queen of Angels-Precious Blood and St. Joseph Hessen Cassel. The schools who will be participating in boys soccer are St. Charles 8, St. Joseph-St.

Elizabeth-St. Aloysius, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel-Benoit, St. John-New Haven, St. John-Fort Wayne, St. Jude, St. Vincent 8, St. Charles 7 and St. Vincent 7. All of the same schools will field a girls' soccer team this season but St. Vincent 7.

In boys and girls track, there will be nine teams represented — St. Charles, St. Vincent, St. Jude, Queen of Angels, St. John-Fort Wayne, Benoit, St. Therese-St. Aloysius, St. John-New Haven and St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel. Chris Gustafson, Dr. Michael Hartle, Greg Lawrence, Kristin Spolman, Doyle Hartman, Mary Pohlman, Tina Irmiter, Karen Leffers, Clarie Burkhardt and Juan Gorman have all volunteered their services to coach the track teams at these schools.

ICCL prepares for spring sports

BY JOE KOZINSKI

SOUTH BEND — As the temperatures sink into the teens, and the final basketball games and wrestling matches are being played, the Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL) is diligently prepping for the culminating season for its participants.

"We have already had our meeting in girl's track and boy's baseball," commented Tony Violi, president of the ICCL. "We really had a good winter sports season with increased participation in

both basketball and wrestling.

"One of the things that we will continue to stress is sportsmanship and coaches, players and parents representing the Catholic faith in a positive manner," stated Violi. "The league has its dynamics and it is very competitive, but on the other hand, being competitive doesn't have to include bad behavior.

"I like to say, let the coaches coach, the players play the refs ref and have the parents and fans cheer in a positive manner." Violi

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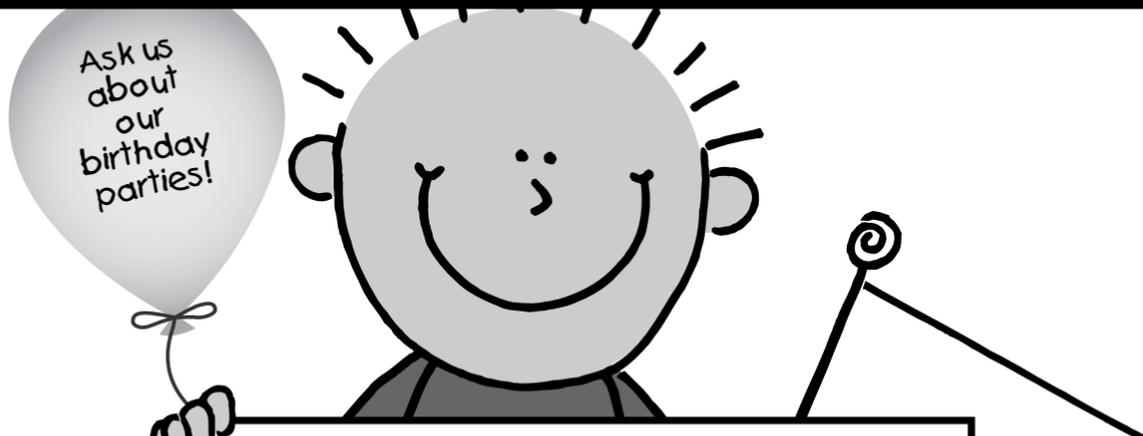
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Bishop Dwenger athletes ready for spring

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Dwenger High School athletes and coaches are anxious for winter's grip on northeast Indiana to loosen and for their spring seasons to get under way. This year's complement of sports offerings includes boys' golf, track and baseball and girls' tennis, track and softball.

Golf

Golf coach Dave Scudder is looking for his team to hit the links as soon as weather permits. He says that this year's tryouts at River Bend Golf Course will likely see 25 to 45 potential players, making his task unusually difficult. When the season officially opens, Scudder must have that number reduced to 12 varsity and junior varsity players. He notes that the desire to succeed will be keen since his 2006 Dwenger team won the city and sectional titles and placed fourth in regional competition.

Coach Scudder will welcome returning seniors Brian Burns, Logan Houlihan, Mark Beneke, Justin DeVirgilio and Mike Van Osdol. Last year Houlihan, Beneke and DeVirgilio were all-city players, while Van Osdol qualified for the state tournament. Juniors T.J. Mueller, Robert Galmeyer, Tim Sedlmeyer and Alex Budzon and sophomores John Wood and Tyler Eifert will round out the roster of top contenders.

When the golf season begins

Saturday, April 14, Scudder expects them all to contribute to a winning effort.

Baseball

Baseball tryouts early this week produced about 50 players for coach Larry Windmiller's scrutiny as he filled out his varsity and JV teams. "I don't know how the season's going to be this year," he says, since the 2006 squad went 11-15. "Hopefully better than that." Though the numbers are high, Windmiller says he lacks experienced players at many positions.

He has confidence in his battery, however, with top pitchers Chris Howell or Kevin Merz on the mound and Andrew Dejong behind the plate. All are seniors with experience so "it's a good starting place," says Coach Windmiller. He also expects some scoring from junior outfielder Cory Sokolowski, last year's MVP and leading hitter with a .375 batting average.

Windmiller will be assisted on the field and in the dugout by John Tone, Kevin Jefferson and Steve Johnson. The first game is slated for early April, with the season running at least through sectionals over Memorial Day weekend. "Hopefully we do some good things this year," he says.

Softball coach Dave Moyer saw 32 hopefuls at tryouts last week so he will need to make a few cuts before reducing those numbers to the full complement of 26 or so on his roster. "The bus carries 14," he

says jokingly.

Last year's record was just average at 8-16, he says, but that team was young. This year he expects better things from a number of returning senior letter winners like catcher and designated hitter Nicki Stone, catcher and first baseman Emily Brown and outfielder Michelle Mickelini. They will be joined by junior letter winners, pitcher Chelsea Sanders and infielder Leah Roth. But even with those positions nailed down, "there are holes to fill," says fifth-year head coach Moyer.

"The kids are looking for a good year," he points out. And realistically, "we can challenge for the SAC," though he confides that Snider is the team to beat. With the assistance of JV coach Beth Peters, Moyer will put his team to the test in late March. Like other Dwenger coaches, he says, "I'm ready for it to warm up."

Tennis

Though tennis players didn't pick up racquets until March 12, Coach Anne Schenkel saw about 30 of them in a pre-season team meeting earlier in the year. She will only be able to keep 22 or so on her roster. "I'd keep everybody if I could," she says regretfully.

Her 2006 team finished 10-2 so Coach Schenkel anticipates good things from this year's squad as well.

Returning senior varsity players include Shannon Voors, Katelyn Springer and Katie Schenkel. Junior Danielle Rose will join

them on the court for a strong offensive effort.

Once the season begins after spring break in early April, play is intense with two or three dual matches each week and Saturday invitationals to round off the weekend, says Schenkel.

She's ready for good weather and for the season to get under way. She says, "The kids seem really nice ... I'm looking forward to working with them."

Track

The high school track season got an early start at the indoor Taylor Invitational, giving teams a chance to win points while coaches assessed the year's talent. Boys' track coach Chris Svarczkopf says, "We're off to a good start" by winning one event and placing second in two others. With more than 80 athletes on his roster, he admits that the competition is keen in all areas. "Our team's really excited."

Some returning standouts include senior pole vaulter Kevin Schipper, who broke the school record two weeks ago. Backing him up is Robbie Trahin, who already has a 13-foot vault to his credit. Coach Svarczkopf expects that the team will also be strong in the sprints with juniors John Goodman, Ryan Lee and Dan Khorshid. And their efforts will be enhanced by sophomore Alex Davis, last year's SAC high jump champ, and good distance runners Joe Ryan and Ben Reifenberg, who placed seventh at state in the 1600 meter event.

Svarczkopf says he has five "real good" assistants, distance coach Eric Ade, jump coach Ben Richardville, shot and discus coach Herb Widner, pole vault coach Bob McKlinton and all-around assistant Julio Garcia.

Like Svarczkopf, girls' track coach Dave Scaggs also struggles with numbers since he has 60 athletes on his roster. The girls competed at the Taylor Invitational as well, and for many on his young team, it was their first varsity meet. Prospects for the season are good, he says. Though it will take awhile, he expects that they will improve as the year goes on and be competitive at the conference and sectional levels.

Scaggs is hoping for good performances from returning senior Mary Manning in the 400-meter event and seniors Jean Marqueling and Erin Jacobson in the shot and discus. Junior Megan Reiling should perform well in the 300 hurdles and junior Chloe Mack will be competitive in the 400- and 800-meter events.

Now in his seventh year as head coach, Scaggs is assisted by Tom Kenny and Jessica Hayes. Boys' and girls' coaches work together as needed due to the overwhelming number of athletes on both teams. Scaggs points out that 15 percent of the Dwenger student body is involved in the sport.

Both teams' first dual meet is slated for March 21 against Luers. Coach Scaggs is optimistic about the season. "We're young ... have good numbers ... and a great group of kids."

Saint Joseph's Indians anticipate spring sports

BY JOE KOZINSKI

SOUTH BEND — After terrific fall and winter campaigns where the Saint Joseph's athletes find them just points behind Penn in the all sport conference standings, the Indians are excited about the prospects that spring will bring.

"Our participation is way up particularly in girls track," stated Eric Gohlke the Saint Joe athletic director. "We have added some very good coaches and excitement to our staff for the upcoming season."

"As of right now we are ahead of Marian for the Bishop's Cup standings and I think that our kids can win the trophy with a good spring," remarked Gohlke. "We have new coaches with experience in baseball, softball and tennis that I'm very confident in."

"Our facilities are also being upgraded this spring with concrete being poured for our batting cages and bleachers, we will also be working on the track and adding J.V. dugouts at our North Complex."

Softball

The girls of Saint Joe's softball team are working diligently for the opening of the season and their coach, Earl Keith wishes the sea-

son could start a couple of weeks later this year.

"We have some key players that are suffering from the effects of off-season injuries," Keith declared. "We will be short handed for the first seven to 10 games but going down the stretch we should be at 100 percent."

"We are starting out with really good numbers having 34 girls try-out and seven seniors returning," added Keith. "We look to be pretty young and not really proven."

"Shelby Dzierla is projected to be our number one pitcher and will not be back until April," commented Keith. "We will be thin at that position but we have two freshmen, two sophomores and one junior with no varsity experience that will have to develop until Shelby is ready."

"We should be talented up the middle with Mo Healy and Ashley Zappia handling the nucleus of the infield," described Keith. "Defense will definitely be our strength and I think we will have fun with the offense."

"We have two or three players that have really worked at becoming switch hitters to help with the offense," Keith concluded. "The girls have all worked hard, when we are healthy we should be very competitive at sectional time."

Baseball

A new face with traditional roots will take the helm of the Indian baseball squad this season. John Gumpf a Norte Dame assistant is making the move to head the Saint Joe attack on the diamond.

"I have seen some very good things in open gyms," commented first year coach Gumpf. "I'm still getting my feet wet but it looks like we have the makings of a solid team."

"The philosophy will be to teach the game first so that the kids know and understand the game," explained Gumpf. "It is so important to play smart baseball in order to compete at any level."

"So far we have had quite a few seniors stepping it up and showing the way so far as work ethic is concerned," Gumpf stated. "We also are starting off with some really good numbers, 74 athletes have signed up which is big."

"Leadership has come from John Smolinski who will be catching and possibly playing some first base, he has the attitude that is expected in a good team," said Gumpf. "Eric Roof has done some tremendous things in workouts and we are expecting

good things from him on the mound."

"Another pitcher with potential is Eric Hartman who has had a little set back with a broken wrist but is expected back after spring break," remarked Gumpf. "The kids are all starting to step up, I am looking for some great things from all of our seniors."

Girls track

The runners of the Indian girls track team are looking to break through after being on the edge of taking home top honors in the Northern Indiana Conference and the South Bend City Meet last season.

"Our strengths look to be in the hurdles, middle distance and the long jump," explained Coach Mike McCarthy. "We have two or three quality kids in all of those events and I believe we can consistently score with them."

"Though we have good numbers, we only have three senior girls so we will be young," remarked McCarthy. "We did have a strong cross country season and I hope that that helps us to be competitive."

"Ali Sweeney and Mary Manion are a couple of talented seniors that are doing a great job of leading the other girls," stated McCarthy. "Maddie Toth who

was a state finalist in the long jump has already jumped 17 feet 2 inches and is a solid 400-meter runner."

"Our balance is added to by Morgan Hiler and Sam Champion as part of our 4 by 800 meter team," exclaimed McCarthy. "We may have a very special runner in freshmen Taylor Turner, she has not lost a race at any level and has been clocked at a 12.8 second 100-meter dash."

"We should be really a team that will do good in the dual meets by having the girls that can place throughout our line up," continued McCarthy. "They are motivated to do well, we have less girls competing than last year but it is a condensed quality."

Boys track

Last season the boys track team of Saint Joe won the South Bend City Meet and won the sectional championship and this year the goals are much higher according to Coach Mike McCarthy.

"We have talent across the board and I realistically believe that we can win every meet that we compete in," said McCarthy. "We have started with the indoor series and are gearing up for the

Schreiber blazed trail for girls' athletics

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — The Fort Wayne-South Bend diocesan Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) athletic association offers both boys and girls the opportunity to develop their sportsmanship, teamwork and athletic ability in competitive sports such as track, soccer, volleyball, basketball, softball and football. But it hasn't always been that way.

What began in the 1930s as a social group for youth, CYO became a sports venue for students following World War II. In the early days, boys played in all sports and girls were allowed to compete in dodge ball only. One woman, Mary Schreiber, helped change all that.

A native of Fort Wayne, Schreiber enjoyed Catholic education even into her undergraduate days at then-St. Francis College. She found her passion in teaching, and after earning a degree in elementary education, she joined the staff at St. Hyacinth as the second grade teacher for three years. St. Joseph School recruited her for the next four years where she taught second and third grades. She then joined the ranks of St. Vincent School where she taught third grade until she was asked to design a physical education program for all grades there.



Mary Schreiber, principal at Msgr. Julian Benoit Academy, is passionate about women's role in sports. She has been actively involved with playing, coaching and administrating the CYO in Fort Wayne since 1966 and will proudly pass the baton to the next generation of sports-minded women soon.

"That was a treat," says Schreiber. "I saw how physical activities played into the students academics. We worked on perceptual and motor skills, which helped with reading and writing."

Schreiber, a lifelong athlete herself, has been involved with sports most of her life, even

before there were teams for girls. "Basketball and softball are my two loves," she says. The only option in the early days however was inner-school dodge ball. So she kept her skills sharp by playing HORSE with basketball enthusiasts and relished friendly games of football as well. Finally in high school, through the Girls Athletic Association (GAA), she played inner-school basketball, though not competitively.

While teaching at St. Joseph School in 1966, she became a CYO officer and administrator, and coached dodge ball before it was eventually dispensed with due to the violence of the game. Soon she and two other "movers in CYO history," Phyllis Wies and Marilyn Wunderlin, introduced volleyball and basketball for girls to the area schools.

During her tenure at St. Vincent School she was involved in girls' basketball, softball, track and volleyball and soon developed her three level philosophy on sports. Level one, she says, is in "gym" class where everyone participates to develop basic skills.

Level two offers intramurals where those with a desire to try sports have the opportunity to do so. At this level she held after school flag football matches where the number of students who participated on the team won the game rather than the skill

level of the students involved.

Level three belongs to the students who are interested in developing their skills on a team that would represent the school in the competitive sports arena. She was inspired all along to guide students at each of these levels.

Schreiber's passion for women's sports was put to good use again in 1975 when she became involved in the development of the sports program for women at Indiana-Purdue Universities at Fort Wayne (IPFW).

"I was the coordinator. ... I scheduled, got the officials, oversaw the budget, coached ... and drove," she reports.

Her firm belief and goal of equal opportunity for women in sports is evident when she says, "I believe girls have the right and the need to have sports. They then have the opportunity to get scholarships."

She adds, "It does my heart good to see women that have gone through the (sports) program coming back and coaching. They are giving back and passing it on now."

After attending night school to add a master's degree in administration to her credentials she moved on to become principal at St. Aloysius and subsequently St. Joseph School, which eventually became St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School.

During her 16 years there she continued with the operation of the CYO as an officer and also coached softball in the upper grades. In 2003 she joined the Msgr. Julian Benoit Academy staff as principal and has been delighted at the level of commitment and determination of both the coaches and players as both boys and girls basketball teams have returned this year with the championships in their leagues.

As her years of coaching grow long, Schreiber says it's time to pass the baton to the younger generation soon. She speaks with passion of those who have gone before her in the development of girls' sports.

"We never do all this on our own. We follow the spirit of the likes of Susan B. Anthony and Rosa Parks. We have rights and we follow that type of spirit to make a difference in the world," Schreiber says.

So she continues to stay active as an officer in CYO to offer support to her beloved athletics and says, "It (CYO) is a place where the girls learn team work and respect for authority, not just skill development or winning."

She's been proud of her girls over the years and commends them for "showing that girls can compete and be good sports." And she adds, "And be good Christians."

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Marian athletes ready for spring sports

BY JOE KOZINSKI

MISHAWAKA — When the snow starts melting and the dust is shaken from the tennis nets at the corner of Logan and Dragoon, it usually means that spring sports are just around the bend.

"Spring is here and we are ready for it," commented Marian High School Athletic Director Reggie Glon. "We hope to pick up where we left off last year with very talented athletes returning and a solid group of veteran coaches focusing their efforts."

"The number of participants looks to be around 250 boys and girls, almost one third of the student body," remarked Glon. "Not only do we have quantity, but the quality of athletes spread throughout the different teams really is exciting and full of promise."

"Right now we are behind Saint Joe in the Bishop's Cup presented to the school with the most head to head wins," said Glon. "Last year the spring sports came up big for us in deciding the champion."

"We are starting some additional programs to coincide with our total outlook," added Glon. "The Bigger, Stronger, Faster Program and the Be an 11 Program coupled with a college recruiting night featuring Bob Chimiel should be great additions."

"We are also excited about our continued improvement on our facilities on our East Complex; more ground movement, water, dugouts, bathrooms and additional multipurpose fields for the Inter-City Catholic League," responded Glon. "All of our growth is dependent on the support of parents and alum during our annual campaign."

Softball

Many holes were left with the graduation of six players from last season's 19-11 team but good things are expected from the returning core as well as some very talented underclassmen by Coach George Grenert and his experienced staff.

"Softball is about 80 to 90 percent pitching and the majority of the rest is defense," explained Grenert. "We return two outstanding pitchers with ERAs under two runs per game in Sam DeFord and Kelly Murray."

"It looks like we have pitching covered if we stay healthy but a need for improvement was last season's Achilles heel, defense," said Grenert. "The girls have worked very hard over the winter and I think that our defense will be a strength."

"On offense, we will need to manufacture runs and create scoring opportunities and I think that we have added team speed to accomplish this," Grenert closed. "I think that we just let the season unfold and let the girls grow together."

Baseball

Three close calls in the sectional finals, two one-run games and a two-run game, have been the epitaph to the Knight baseball team in recent years.

An optimistic Coach Tim Prister plans for his squad to write a different ending in his fourth year at the reins.

"We have quality leadership in our senior class and have quite a bit of depth and talent in our junior class," exclaimed Prister. "It is a

very good mix, probably the best in our four years here.

"Our line up is filled with quality players, Bobby Rinard can be the Northern Indiana Conference player of the year with the hard work he has put into his game," commented Prister. "Walter Lehmann is our starting catcher, one of our top three pitchers and you can't ask for a better leader."

"Cassidy Laux gives us toughness and a competitiveness we need," said Prister. "Seniors Chris DeBlock, left handed pitcher has as much ability on the mound as anybody, and Eric Prister leads with maturity and shows it when the game is on the line."

"We are counting on two juniors to give us a lift, Pat Asdell will be our number one pitcher or our number two that pitches like he is a number one," explained Prister. "Dylan Brammer is a big key to our offense and will play shortstop."

"Another player I have to mention is Michael McMahon who hasn't seen much action, but I'm confident that he will play a critical roll in our makeup," Prister commented. "With all of our pieces, I expect a good hitting, quality defensive team that's time has come to break through."

Girls track

Looking good is the attitude the girls track Coach Natalie Sandoval is carrying around like a billboard as the optimistic director returns four of the five girls that went to the state finals last season.

"Even with our veteran talent, this will be a regrowth and learning year for much of our team," stated Sandoval. "We have a large

freshmen class and the juniors and seniors have come together working with our young athletes."

"Our strengths will be in our distance and middle distance events," continued Sandoval. "Our sprints are filled with many of our younger girls, that's where we are green."

"Mary Cate Quiett our state qualifier is back and looks like she is in her best shape and will run in the 800, 1600 and 4 by 4 relay," Sandoval added. "Jessica and Rachel Byron, also state qualifiers, have been working very hard also."

"Sara Zielinski is our only senior sprinter and will anchor our young runners," remarked Sandoval. "Elizabeth Majewski was injured last season but I expect good things from her due to her success in cross country this past season."

Boys track

Replacing a 4 by 100 team that broke the school record last year isn't the only hole that track coach Chris Killilea is concerned about filling but it may be the biggest.

"We are projecting the return of 18 letter winners from last season's squad that placed fourth in the conference," commented Killilea. "We have a lot of young guys that will need to step up but our strength looks to be our middle distance and distance runners."

"Dane Rigney, Matt LaFortune and Ben Krucina are all top distance runners with experience and dedication," explained Killilea. "We are also returning Blake and Blair Powell from our state qualifying sprint relay team."

"C.J. Shellen, Matt Gring and Corey Walz will anchor our 400 and 800 meter distances," Killilea added. "Jake Zielinski should help us compete in the high hurdles giving us a very solid nucleus for the track schedule."

"The goal will be the same as always, go out and compete and good things will happen," remarked Killilea.

Girls tennis

With last season's two top players attending universities girls ten-

nis Coach Sarah Stanchin isn't thinking the glass is half full, she's optimistic that the Lady Knights will be able to put together yet another tremendous year.

"We do return Ellen Eide, expected to be this year's number one singles player, and Adrianne Michaels," Stanchin reported. "Our number one doubles team will have the experience of first team all-conference Casey Walter."

"We are also expecting very good things from two talented freshmen, Kathleen Klauer and Elisabeth Krizman," continued Stanchin. "It really looks like we will have a couple of standouts and 12 evenly matched competitive girls."

"Tennis is about smarts as well as athletic ability, and we have a very intelligent squad," proclaimed Stanchin. "I think we will have the mental edge to make another run at the Sectional crown."

Boys golf

Winning the sectional is a tremendous accomplishment for most teams but it isn't enough for the powerful Knights golf team whose goals are; conference title, sectional title and the ability to compete at the state level.

"We have the same goals every season," stated golf coach, Jim Kryder. "I think that with the golfers that we have, that all the goals are potentially attainable."

"Stephen Sexton and First Team All-Conference players Colin VanEs and Adam Sumrall give us three solid proven performers," commented Kryder.

"We have an additional five players that can give us some depth in; senior letter winner Michael Patty, juniors Danny McShane and Michael Goepfrich and sophomores Bryant Demeter and Nicholas Fitzpatrick," remarked Kryder. "Based on last year's performances, juniors Michael Stratigos and Curtis Staun along with sophomore Chris Paluf will also play key rolls."

"We have our key golfers back and we have some seasoned depth,

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Bishop Luers High School athletes prepared

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

FORT WAYNE — Northeast Indiana's harsh winter has left area athletes and their coaches more anxious than usual for the weather to break and spring sports to begin in earnest. Some students have been in conditioning while others are awaiting try-outs for their respective sports. Sports on tap include girls' tennis and softball, boys' golf, baseball and lacrosse and a combined boys' and girls' track program.

Track

Track coach Jason Draper is in an enviable position with 65 athletes on his roster. The team began working out on Feb. 12, he says, but due to several weather-related school and practice cancellations, the first meet on March 10 loomed larger than usual. An indoor meet at Purdue University, which draws all public and parochial high schools in Indiana, is easily the fifth or sixth largest in the country, says Draper, and a good time to "see where you're at."

Draper is heartened by the return of athletes who were state qualifiers last year, including junior thrower Melanie Huhn and seniors Lizzie McEntee and Kristen Dirig, who ran the 1600-meter relay, and sophomores Heather Thelen and Katlyn Knuth, who were 1600-meter relay alternates. As defending sectional champs, team members will push themselves to be competitive, he says.

With assistance from throws

coaches Lee Rodenbeck and Greg Gehl, pole vault coach Mark Niemoeller, jumps coach Heather Briggs, distance coach Linda Keuneke and sprint coach Elise Rupright, eighth year head coach Draper is eager to get the season under way. "We're excited about it," he says.

Golf

Boys' golf coach A.J. Kalver expects about 14 or so prospective players to try out when the weather breaks and he plans to keep 12 of them, he says. Golfers have a bit more time to practice, however, since the first match is slated for April 14 when the Carroll Invitational at Willow Ridge Golf Club kicks off their season.

Kalver will welcome experienced returning seniors David Bryant and Ted Illges and juniors Lucas Braun and Aaron Litchfield to the links. He expects sophomores Cody Miller and Ryan Eifrid to contend for starting positions as well. Last year's team was 10-4 on the season, second in the SAC and fifth in sectionals under solo coach Kalver, so this year's prospects look good.

Baseball

Baseball tryouts were held March 12 and head coach Gary Rogers welcomed more than 30 potential players. He likes to keep as many as possible for his varsity and junior varsity teams, he says, ideally 15 on each team.

Rogers says four seniors returning to the lineup include

first baseman Mike Morrison, outfielders Joe Tourney and Andrew Davis and leading pitcher Dan Kiermaier, along with junior starting catcher Isaac Baker. Morrison, a headliner and four-year starter, was all-SAC his first three years and named a high school all-American. He plans to play college ball at Gulf Coast Community College in Panama City, Fla.

Rogers lost 10 senior players last season so this year's team is largely untested. "Prospects depend on how we do on the mound," he says. If last year's reserve players step up and the pitchers come along, he believes the team can be in contention.

Along with assistants Mike Allen, Rick Allen, Bob Henry and Jeff Bunn, head coach Rogers is ready to get on the field. "We need the snow to melt so we can get after it," he says.

Lacrosse

Boys' lacrosse coach Wayne Schmidt hopes to improve on last year's record of 8-9. "I'm always expecting big things this time of year," he says. And with seven former players currently competing at the college level, Schmidt is justifiably proud of his program.

With 48 athletes out for the sport, he is able to field both a varsity and junior varsity team with as many as 25 on the varsity roster. He says, "I never cut. I just create more teams."

Coach Schmidt has 10 returning seniors this year, all with multiple years' experience. They include goalie Joe Rowan, co-

captains Michael Giant and Jarrod Burns at attack and co-captain John Colvin, defensive specialist.

The season opens March 17 with a game at Bishop John D'Arcy Stadium at the University of St. Francis and runs through Memorial Day weekend with the state tournament on the Indiana University-Purdue University campus in Indianapolis.

"We're looking forward to a great season," says Schmidt.

Tennis

First year girls' head tennis coach Brady McArdle has a roster of 40 potential players in conditioning and preparing for try-outs. An early scrimmage on March 22 will help him pare down those numbers; then the opening match on April 9 will allow players to show what they can do. McArdle will be assisted by Staci Kichefski, a former star player and Luers graduate who recently returned to the Fort Wayne area.

"The SAC is pretty competitive," McArdle says, but his players hope to better their high standing of last year. Helping in that effort on the court will be returning seniors Kealy Bickel, Aggie Pryor and Michelle Hellinger. Also coming back are last season's top three singles players, junior Brittany Witte, junior Amber Gottfried and sophomore Katie Konzem.

McArdle's coaching philosophy is straightforward. He tells his players, "Do your best ... leave everything on the court ... be respectful ... have fun." If they

follow those instructions, he believes they can do well.

Softball

Girls' softball coach Jeff Doll saw 30 players try out in early March for about 12 varsity and 14 junior varsity spots. Then the season will officially kick off March 28 with the opener against East Side High School in Butler.

Doll hopes to improve on last year's 7-2 record in the SAC and 13-11 record overall with several returning lettermen. Taking the field will be two seniors, second baseman Emilie Egts and third baseman Katie Brueggman, and two juniors, centerfielder Madison Pepe and first baseman-catcher Haylee Eckert. Rounding out the infield will be sophomore shortstop Kelsey Wyss. Doll expects freshman first baseman Katie Gerardot to make the varsity team as well. Other than that he says, "We need to fill out the spots."

Head coach since 2000, Doll will be assisted by Skye Leggett, Karlee Thompson and pitching coach Denise Nuir.

With an expected March break in the weather, Luers athletes should soon be in high gear and off to a great spring sports season.

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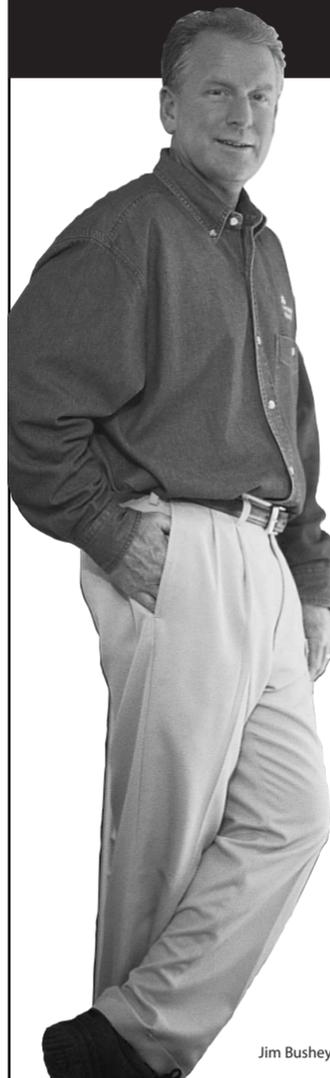
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ELMER J. DANCH

Both the Our Lady of Hungary basketball team and the school cheerleaders had plenty to cheer about when the Bulldogs won the grade school championships of the Inter-City Catholic League with a fine record of 16-1. The team is composed of the following: front row, from left: Liz Smith, Kathy Haverstock, Danielle Swisse, Victoria Jurek, Brionna Moore, Damyra Belcher, Teresa Rodela, Denise Gallogorez and Corrina House; back row, Austin Smith, manager, Gregg Hankins (25), Chris Stockberger (18), Zach Davis (28), Terrance Malone (12), Devin Herban (55), Steven Bentkowski, Ben Domonkos (Head Coach), Steve Domonkos, Dante Newbill (20), Tyran Ottbridge (3), Justin Gruber (2), Brion Doyle (11), Dominique Sanders (14 and Jalen Holland (35). Not pictured are Miko Stulajter (22) and Abby Kowalski.

Our Lady of Hungary boys win championship

BY ELMER J. DANCH

SOUTH BEND — It's been a long time between championships for the boys basketball team at Our Lady of Hungary school, but this time, the Bulldogs came through with the B-team championship of the Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL).

They defeated Christ the King, 51-46, in the championship game after having swept by St. Joseph, St. Anthony and St. Michael of Plymouth.

The championship was the first in 39 years for Our Lady of Hungary in the Inter-City Catholic League, and the files had to be dusted off to reveal that it was

another Our Lady of Hungary team, then coached by Richard Badics, that won the ICCL when it was an 18-team league.

"Obviously, none of our players were around at that time," remarked coach Ben Domonkos, "but we put our hearts into it to win this big one."

Our Lady of Hungary led at the end of the first three quarters, but the Kings managed to tie the score at 44 in the fourth period with minutes to play. Then Jalen Holland, who had scored 11 points, tipped in the last four points to win the skirmish.

Holland topped the individual scoring with 21 points, and his teammate Terrance Malone tipped in 15 points.

Holy Cross College plans Catholic youth summer conference

NOTRE DAME — The three-day Holy Cross College Catholic Youth Conference for high school students will be held on the Holy Cross College campus from June 22-24. This year's theme is taken from Matthew 6:33, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

"This is our third year, and we are so excited to open our doors once again to youth from around the country who are seeking a deeper connection with Christ," says Holy Cross College Assistant Campus Minister Amelia Ruggaber.

Holy Cross College faculty and staff are organizing the event and will be leading some sessions and activities, but the main attraction will be Father Larry Richards. Although it's true he is an "inspirational speaker," Father

Larry Richards is so much more. He speaks from experience as an inner-city pastor, high school chaplain, counselor and worldwide evangelist. He has changed many lives and is sure to change more at this youth retreat.

"This summer we have Father Larry Richards joining us for the entire weekend to help us understand what it truly means to seek first the kingdom of God," says Ruggaber.

Although the conference is a youth gathering, adult family members are welcome to attend.

For more information about the Catholic Youth Conference at Holy Cross College, please contact Ruggaber at (574) 239-8315 or go to the college Web site, www.hcc-nd.edu. You can also visit Father Larry Richards' site at www.thereasonforourhope.org or listen to his daily radio show on Relevant Radio.

ICCL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

commented, "The most exciting thing added to the league this year is the prayer before every contest, with a player reading the resolution and both teams coming together with a common focus and goal."

"We have added a new director in B-team baseball in John Krzyzewski who will be working with long time veteran Bill Sorukas." Violi added, "Mark Kopinski is focusing on girl's track this year rather than his dual roll as B-team baseball director and overseer of runners."

With the snows still falling and the winds stinging uncovered patches of skin, the training regimens for the upcoming season have been drastically shortened or moved to indoor facilities.

"The baseball teams will start play right after spring break on April 9," commented Sorukas. "We have excellent facilities to play on in South Bend city parks, Saint Joseph's High School diamonds and the fields at Marian, I just hope the weather clears by then."

"The number of teams is down a little this year with a couple of schools unable to field squads because of players," remarked Sorukas. "All teams will play each team in its division and then the playoffs will start right after the regular season."

"The league did see some advantages last year with daylight-saving time," Sorukas mentioned. "The time change enabled us to play a whole game without it being called for darkness."

While the boys are inside breaking windows and conditioning, the girls are getting ready to bundle up and head outside and race.

"Our teams are up from last year and participation looks to be high," explained Kopinski. "Like baseball we will start our meets as early as April 9."

"We are going to try some different things this year due to the advantages of daylight-saving time," commented Kopinski. "It looks like we may have some dual meets with three teams racing at once but competing individually against each other."

"We are hoping to use facilities at Marian and Saint Joseph's high schools as well as Adams and Clay," Kopinski said. "We use official starters but the challenge as always will be making an equal playing field for all the teams."

"The schedule should have all the teams competing twice a week in a five-week calendar," Kopinski continued. "Last year we had a very rainy season and some confusion, this year we will sit down and establish weather condition qualifications prior to our start."

While the ground work for the spring sports are being laid down, the focus isn't always on the pitching and the passing of batons, the ICCL will stay firm on its overall foundation.

"The league will continue to follow its mission statement of being devoted to the recreational interests of the Catholic grade school youth," exclaimed Violi. "We will strive to provide a healthy environment for our children."

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Goshen Relays.

"We have added tougher teams to our schedule and I think that if we don't expect to win but instead have the will to win, we will be successful," McCarthy added. "Kanteh Kamanda, a state qualifier last year, will again be strong in the 400, long jump and the 4 by 400.

"Marcus Macellari has a great work ethic and is already throwing the shot and discus as far as he was at the end of last season," McCarthy commented. "Taylor Summerlin will run the 200 and relays has had a nice indoor season and placed fourth in the regionals."

"I think that senior Wes Chamblee will have a break out year and surprise some people," exclaimed McCarthy. "We also got a lift with Ben De Trempe a transfer from Texas that is an absolute work horse. With his 16.20 in the 5 kilometers and a 4:30 or lower in the mile, he has raised the expectations of all of his teammates.

"Our 4 by 400 and 4 by 100 teams are as good as anyone in the area," McCarthy stated. "With good health and confidence we will definitely be a very good team."

Boys golf

For first year head Coach John Troeger the Indian golf team is well and good with four returning lettermen and a new crop of exuberant athletes ready to learn.

"Last season we got off to a rocky start and we got so much more competitive as the year went on," commented Troeger. "I expect with or returning players that we will have a very seasoned team from our opening match."

"We return First Team All-Conference player Ryley Fitzsimmons and junior Tyler Kanczuzewski who played in almost all of the varsity matches last season" Troeger explained. "When we add them with two solids golfers in Brooks Demarais and Jay Dobson, we have a pretty good group."

"We also have a couple of young kids in sophomore Andrew Thomas who we expect good things from and freshmen Tyler Bliha who brings a competitive edge," Troeger remarked. "Our overall goal is for the kids to get better and have fun playing golf."

MARIAN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

if we can get past the mental aspect of this game, we can be very good," explained Kryder. "We must improve, improve and improve throughout the season to work together and make each other better to attain our goals."

Rugby

Scrum, line out, hooker, jumper, ruck over, kick to touch, fly-half and blind side flanker are all very common terms in a sport that is anything but common.

The Marian boys rugby team, with the help of Saint Joseph's High School athletes, use the crazy terms and have turned them into a winning tradition that landed them a game away from the state championship last year.

"We will have another typical Marian team, learning the first part of the season and becoming very competitive down the stretch," explained rugby Coach Larry Daher. "We are flip flopped from last season's squad, we have an inexperienced pack line but are experienced in the pack.

"The pack line, which is almost all juniors, will be led by Nate Milligan," claimed Daher. "The experienced pack will be anchored by senior Alan Hall.

"I see a lot of enthusiasm and excitement being shown by our younger players," commented Daher, who found the only 15 by 15 patch of ground that was not covered by snow on to practice on the Marian grounds. "Rugby is just one of those sports that takes determination to play."

Fort Wayne CYO, South Bend ICCL top teams compete in diocesan tourney

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — The best teams from Fort Wayne's Catholic Youth League (CYO) matched up with the top teams from South Bend's Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL) in the traditional CYO-ICCL Invitational Tournament on Saturday, March 10.

In the first game at the St. Charles Hession Center, the Benoit Academy Phoenix beat the Wildcats from St. Joseph Mishawaka, 56-39. Game two saw Christ the King Kings down the St. Charles Cardinals, 68-45. Finally, it was the St. Vincent Panthers vs. the Corpus Christi Cougars. The Panthers came out on top 53-33.

Although track season is not underway yet, the opener of the day saw a lot of running. Prior to the tip-off, the John Bosco tournament champion coach Les Dant, said he heard Benoit liked to run.

"It should be a track meet. We like to run too," said Dant. And run they did. The young Wildcats, known for their outside shooting and tough defense, stayed with the speedy Phoenix for the final three quarters — actually outscoring them in the second 14-10 thanks to shooting 6-8 from the charity stripe. But they never quite recovered from the first quarter deficit, when Benoit outgunned them 20-4. Timmy Wilson and Coley Schultheis turned in topnotch performances pouring in 13 points each for St. Joseph.

Paul Gerardot's purple and gold were led by the unstoppable play of Shannon Curry with 20 and the lightning-quick duo of guards Marquel Cooper and DeAngelo Fincher. Benoit finished their 2006-2007 season with a perfect record, beating every team they faced all year.

In the middle game of youth league March Madness, South Bend took home top honors as the runner-ups from both large school divisions faced off. The blue and gold Kings Coach Jerry Fitzpatrick said he was happy to be in Fort Wayne for this year's tournament.

Despite the fact that the Kings were a little bigger and a little faster than his Cards, St. Charles Coach Jeff Polhamus was pleased his team stayed in the battle with Christ the King through the third quarter. "Our boys played a tough game." The two teams put a total of five players in double digits. Adam Book, Nick Bushnell-Taylor, Nick Matthews, Max Matthews and Conner Demaris all finished with 10 points each to round out the scoring in the match up. The win gave the Kings a 13-4 record for the season.

In the final contest, it was back and forth through the first half when the scoreboard read Corpus Christi 22, St. Vincent 21. "They

clearly out rebounded us," said Panther Coach Todd Martin. Maybe it was the two-week break in action, but the Panthers were not playing their usual game according to Martin. However, his Panthers broke out in the third quarter scoring 13 unanswered points and never looked back.

With 3:33 left in the game, tension escalated from the Cougar bench and between the opposing fans and players. With all the pushing and shoving under the basket, a number of technical fouls may have been worthy.

The Corpus Christi coach was left unscathed, but it was a green player who was "teed up" in the physical match up. Cougar sharpshooter Tate Bellegante was given the two freebies. Bellegante missed the first and made the second.

St. Vincent's big man, Tony Springmann, then went to the other end to seal the fate of the Cougars once and for all sinking two foul shots after being bumped around on the wild play.

Springmann and St. Vincent playmaker Greg Kaiser each finished their CYO career with 14 points.

Bellegante once again led his team with 13 points for Corpus Christi. The squad finished with an astounding 85-5 record over the past four years according to assistant Coach Brad McMahon.

See photos of the champions

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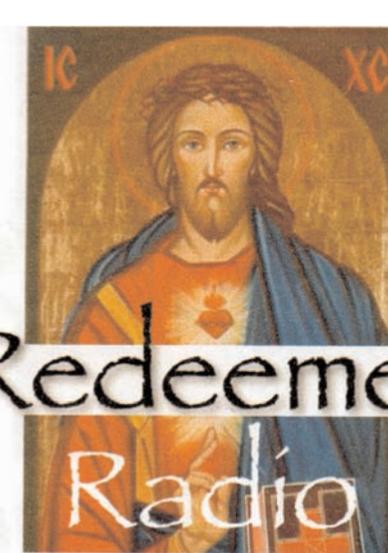
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EDITORIAL

Struggling means we're inching our way toward God

Most, if not all, of us make progress in the faith. We make our way toward God, not by leaps and bounds, but by stutter-steps, slowly and incrementally. The historical record — the lives of the saints — verifies this. Even those saints who had a remarkable or extraordinary experience of divine grace spent the vast majority of their life moving slowly toward God, with bumps, potholes and obstacles all along the way, and many of these self-imposed. In the wake of what is perhaps the most famous “conversion story,” an experience of grace in a Milanese garden, St. Augustine (+ AD 430) later tells us that the resolution achieved there was only partial, and that, even as a bishop, he battled the familiar temptations and sins of his past. So we mustn't imagine that this otherwise nameless Samaritan woman in John's Gospel who was shacking up with her paramour, after her encounter with Jesus, toddled on home and never sinned again. That encounter with the Living Water, that moment of grace, was not the end of the story; in many ways, it was just the beginning of one. As those who have participated in the RCIA can tell you, baptism isn't the end of the process; it's just the beginning of another, longer process of daily assimilation to Christ.

The earliest Christians knew well that it is precisely the struggle that constitutes the life of the Christian; they used the graphic language of the “agon,” the combat, the contest, and even employed images of wrestling in describing the life of those who follow Christ. They might even suggest to us that if we don't find ourselves struggling, we should be very wary lest we've deceived ourselves about ourselves; for to struggle is precisely what it means to be a Christian in this world. And this struggle even has a cosmic dimension: each of us is engaged, as it were, in a struggle of allegiance, a contest of loyalty, between the ruler of this age and the Crucified One, and the daily decisions we make reflect precisely that larger, cosmic engagement, over whom we will serve.

So if you find yourself struggling — struggling to pray, struggling to keep focus, struggling to believe, struggling with the church, struggling with the same old sins — don't lose heart and don't give up. Perhaps our biggest problem is that we live in the culture of the microwave and the Internet, and so we like easy, quick and push-of-a-button solutions to our daily dilemmas. Nowhere in the Gospel does Jesus teach that perfection is achieved in a single, instantaneous, freeze-dried moment of grace.

And so if you're struggling, don't lose heart and don't give up. It's the enemy, the ruler of this age, who wants you to equate the struggle with failure. Then he wins. And you lose. Rather than give up out of frustration or discouragement, re-frame your understanding of the Christian life precisely in terms of this slow, daily, incremental assimilation to Christ. And remember, as Thomas Aquinas taught, “it is far better to limp along the right road than to run headlong down the wrong one.”

You can always come home

We are already seeing ripple effects of the You Can Always Come Home media campaign. Many calls from the 1-800 MERCY 4U phone line have been received. Some calls from across the country have praised the campaign, and similar campaigns throughout the country have brought much success.

The campaign came under scrutiny last week in a letter to the editor, which appeared in the *Fort Wayne News-Sentinel* March 7. The writer saw the campaign as an invasion of privacy, and lapsed Catholics who chose other paths should do so without the interference of others in the church.

Neither the Wells of Hope process or the media campaign are meant to be invasive. The church should be and is sensitive to where people are on their journey. Wells of Hope is a process, something that may take many years to accomplish.

With this in mind, it is important that we use all media possible for the ongoing call to conversion. It is meant to gently remind people that they have a home in the church. Some people have been hurt in the church. Others have simply become disinterested. A simple invitation to someone who has left the church may indeed be the only invitation we need to offer. But if we sense that someone is not ready for this step, we leave that in God's time. It is through free will, not kicking and screaming, that true conversion takes place.

God calls everyone into a relationship with him. For the diocese not to use every means possible to welcome home those who have left would be negligent on the church's part in a year of great graces — our diocesan jubilee year. Some still need time, but for others, the time may be just right.

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

COMMENTARY

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

First, do no harm

BY SUSAN E. WILLS

The Hippocratic Oath has been taking a beating recently. Abortion, assisted-suicide, allowing disabled children to die following preterm delivery, “hastening” a patient's death through dehydration and starvation — all these are tough to square with the aspiring doctors' pledge: “I will prescribe regimen for the good of my patients according to my ability and my judgment and never do harm to anyone.”

While most doctors would refuse to give dangerous steroidal hormones to healthy athletes, in the last 50 years, thousands have given steroidal hormones to girls and women solely to disrupt the functioning of a healthy reproductive system to avoid pregnancy despite the serious health risks long linked to hormonal contraception.

Does the fact that patients request contraceptives relieve doctors of their responsibility? Of course not. Doctors are supposed to exercise their professional judgment and not let patients use them like human vending machines to “get high” or get stronger or become pregnancy-proof.

After decades of sacrificing professional judgment to the demands of patients, it's not surprising that some reproductive health professionals began using even stronger and riskier hormones to produce babies for women struggling with infertility. In an estimated one-third of assisted reproductive technology (ART) cycles, women are adversely affected by hormones such as human chorionic gonadotropin (HCG), with 3-8 percent of patients showing moderate to severe reactions, including blood clots, renal and liver dysfunction and acute respiratory distress.

Increasingly, fertility doctors are using donated eggs from young women. Over 15,000 donated eggs were used in 2004 in the U.S. alone. For a fee of \$5,000-\$10,000, young women have been subjecting themselves to horrific health risks, often without a clear understanding of what is at stake.

The demand for donor eggs for use in human embryonic stem-cell research and human cloning attempts has already resulted in coerced “donations” of eggs from research assistants in the Korean scandal and the further objectification and misuse of women as egg factories.

Thanks to a new coalition of scientists and ethicists, the dangers of ovarian stimulation and egg retrieval are coming to light. Jennifer Lahl, founder-director of the Center for Bioethics and Culture and founder of Every Woman First, was joined at a congressional briefing on March 8 by other experts opposed to the human egg trade.

Part of their presentation included discussion of a 2007 literature review by A. Girolami et al. on “Arterial thrombosis in young women after ovarian stimulation.” Dr. Girolami and his colleagues found 34 cases of blood clots in arteries after ovarian stimulation. These produced 15 cases of ischemic strokes (blood clots caused loss of circulation to parts of the brain), and 14 cases of blockage in other key arteries.

The immediate goal of these experts is a moratorium on human egg harvesting for research, in the interest of women's health and social justice.

Susan Wills is associate director for education in the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Catholic-Jewish dialogue is alive and well in Fort Wayne

BY BETTY STEIN

FORT WAYNE — Fort Wayne's Catholic-Jewish dialogue has been going on for several years and has resulted not just in a great deal of acquired knowledge and understanding for participants but also the development of genuine friendships. In fact, my son wisely reminded me that some of our most successful meetings have been the discussions during which we could “let our hair down” because we were now among friends. But it has taken time to get there.

Our meetings have varied tremendously. We've had some spectacular, community-wide sessions; that's when nationally-known priests and rabbis together have made formal presentations and then conducted stimulating question-answer periods. Quick work on the part of the custodial staff prevented standing-room-only situations.

There have been meetings when attendees brought newspaper clippings in and discussion has centered on the problems

posed in those articles. Videos have been shown. Explanations of rites and traditions have been offered. One theater at our request had a special showing of the film “Gentlemen's Agreement” for us, and a wide-open discussion followed: “Was it really like that?” “Have we changed?” “How far have we come?”

Books have been reviewed. When Elie Wiesel's “Night” was the topic for the evening, a professor from Indiana-Purdue Universities at Fort Wayne (IPFW) spoke on varying philosophies that have affected governments. Of course there was time for voicing opinions; but at the conclusion, many in attendance requested a second meeting to continue the discussion. A second session was scheduled; this time a panel of three presented information and opinions, and the members present jumped right in with their own perspectives and questions. It was an exciting evening.

Initially, a committee to create the dialogue was formed at the request of Bishop John M.

D'Arcy and Rabbi Richard B. Safran, and the membership of that group has changed very little through the years, although new members have been added. The decision was made very early in the development of the dialogue to concentrate mainly on St. Mary's Catholic Church and Congregation Achduth Versholom, the Reform Jewish congregation in Fort Wayne, to keep the group small enough to provide a climate for camaraderie. That has proved to be a valuable decision, even though members from other congregations have attended and are welcome. A social hour has also contributed to the delight of the evening, allowing discussions to continue informally while attendees enjoy a delectable cookie-and-furthering friendships.

In all, one must say the Catholic-Jewish dialogue is alive and well in Fort Wayne.

Betty Stein is a Fort Wayne columnist and active in the organization of the Catholic-Jewish dialogues in Fort Wayne.

Delicate balance: Church assists Chinese without appearing powerful

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — While local government officials in some parts of China arrest Catholics, authorities in other areas of the country are tolerating, or even encouraging, Catholic charitable activity.

A growing number of Catholic dioceses on the mainland have established a Caritas organization and are expanding their social service work.

Representatives of four Chinese diocesan Caritas organizations were at the Vatican March 6-7 for a discussion about how official church-sponsored charities around the world could support their efforts and assist the Chinese poor in general.

Duncan MacLaren, secretary-general of Caritas Internationalis, the Catholic charities' umbrella organization, said that even though church-state tensions remain, "we cannot ignore the needs of one-fifth of humanity."

And while China's communist government continues to use its rejection of "foreign interference" as the reason it refuses to allow the Vatican to choose the country's bishops, the government does not

reject aid money and projects from foreign Catholic charities, he said.

Caritas Macau, Caritas Hong Kong and Caritas Taiwan are all active in the country, as are the Maryknoll China Service Project, the French Catholic Committee Against Hunger and for Development and Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops' overseas development and relief agency.

Cardinal Joseph Zen Ze-kium of Hong Kong, who participated in the meeting, told Catholic News Service that the Caritas agencies are found in dioceses "where the bishop is really in charge, which gives a guarantee that it functions like a Caritas should."

Unlike on the national level where the government-controlled Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association directs church activity, "at the diocesan level, the patriotic association does not always impose itself on the bishop. If a bishop is strong and capable enough, he can control the Caritas in his diocese," Cardinal Zen said.

While describing the Caritas work as "modest and limited," Cardinal Zen said, "Caritas is

THE VATICAN LETTER

CINDY WOODEN

helping with real needs and there are local authorities who are good and care for their people, so there is cooperation."

And, he said, government authorities have invited Chinese and foreign Catholic agencies to help the elderly, people with mental illnesses, people living with HIV/AIDS and those suffering from Hansen's disease, formerly called leprosy.

In China's rural areas, where there is widespread poverty, local governments have benefited from Catholic agencies' willingness to dig wells, distribute seeds and train a new generation of farmers in sustainable agriculture.

LETTER, PAGE 20

Excited and joyful — salvation is near



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

4th Sunday of Lent Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

This weekend the church observes Laetare Sunday, the name being derived from the first word, in Latin, of the entrance antiphon. The word is "laetare" or "rejoice." The church rejoices not that Lent is approaching its close, but that salvation, finalized in the sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus, is near.

To underscore this theme, priests may wear rose vestments. Rose is violet with a tinge of gold. It reminds us of the first rays of the sun as they sweep across the horizon after a dark night. Christ, the light of the world, is coming.

The Book of Joshua, the first reading, looks far back into the history of God's people. At the point of this story, they are almost finished with the long and threatening trip across the Sinai Peninsula. They have faced hunger, even starvation. After all, the Sinai is bleak and unforgiving in its sterility and deadliness.

Into this situation, however, came God with the gift of manna from the sky. The manna sustained the people. They did not starve. They survived. However, as they neared the Promised Land, the supply of manna stopped. They had no need of it. The Promised Land provided them with a steady, reliable source of food.

St. Paul's Second Epistle to the Corinthians furnishes the second reading. Midway in the reading is an urgent appeal from Paul to the Corinthian Christians, imploring them to be reconciled with God in Christ. Urgency and appeal literally flow from his words. It is not difficult to imagine his frustration as he watched the tendencies of the Corinthians to yield to old pagan ways unfold.

His urgency also underscores his insistence that nothing else matters but life with God. Following Jesus makes a person a "new creation." The things of earth, including death, no longer matter.

For its final reading on this weekend, the church gives us, from Luke's Gospel, the beautiful and reassuring parable of the prodigal.

Much of the parable is self-evident, even to us in the 21st century. Certainly quite clear is the uncompromised, constant love of the father, who is a symbol of God.

However, some powerful messages may be lost until we consider the context. For example, the prodigal was not the older son. As such, he was not his father's heir. The father owed him little if anything. Then, of course, there was the prodigal's desertion of his father. Jews at the time of Jesus prized loyalty to parents, expressed in loving care and attention.

Next, the prodigal entered into relationships with prostitutes. This was abhorrent for Jews. It scorned the sanctity of marriage and the family. It meant that the pure stock of God's people might be defiled by the birth of children to pagan women in such relationships.

Finally, the prodigal stooped so low that he waited on pigs, the

lowest of low animals, not even humans, in pious Jewish eyes.

Nevertheless, the father forgave all and gave a wonderful inheritance to the wayward son.

Reflection

The church is excited and joyful. Salvation is near. Lovingly, it calls us to salvation, to be with God in, and through, Jesus.

However, to be with God, to enter the Promised Land with its security and unending plenty, we all must be new creations in Christ. This is the hard part. We must turn from sin and selfishness.

Even to think of turning away from sin, or to God, may seem at times a tall order. We may be angry. We may have our doubts. We may be greatly ashamed. It is of no matter. God loves us and awaits us with the greatest mercy and forgiveness regardless.

Rejoice therefore. God waits for us with open arms. Lent still has a few weeks. There is time.

READINGS

Sunday: Jos 5:9a, 10-12 Ps 34:2-7
2Cor 5:17-21 Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Monday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16
Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29 Rom 4:13, 16-18,
22 Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a

Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12 Ps 46:2-3, 5-6,
8-9 Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday: Is 49:8-15 Ps 145:8-9,
13c-14, 17-18 Jn 5:17-30

Thursday: Ex 32:7-14 Ps 106:19-23
Jn 5:31-47

Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22 Ps 34:17-21,
23 Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday: Jer 11:18-20 Ps 7:2-3, 9b-12
Jn 7:40-53

THE CATEQUIZ'EM

by Dominic Camplisson

From the Halls of Montezuma, this quiz "Marches" into Mexico.

- Which brand of Christianity was first brought to Mexico?**
 - Lutheranism
 - Mormonism
 - Catholicism
- Who first brought the church to Mexico?**
 - the Portuguese
 - the Spanish
 - the Order of the Brazil Nuts
- Which aspect of the indigenous religion did these men find most appalling?**
 - the mixing of plaid and striped vestments
 - the use of steel guitars in the liturgy
 - human sacrifice
- Which religious order took an early lead in the conversion of the Mexicans?**
 - the Knights Templar
 - the Franciscans
 - the Anglicans
- Since then, the vast majority of the population has professed this version of Christianity:**
 - Roman Catholicism
 - Gallicanism
 - Coptic
- However, strong elements remain of these earlier beliefs:**
 - Celtic mysticism
 - Judaism
 - Pre-Columbian religions
- One of the primary tools used in the conversion of Mexican natives was the use of these establishments:**
 - missions
 - rockets
 - circuses
- Due to the imperial goals of the Conquistadors, some early conversions were:**
 - to Judaism
 - coerced
 - genuine
- This 1821 event changed the political scene, but did not have much impact on the role of the church in Mexico:**
 - independence from Spain
 - independence from the USA
 - the division into Alta and Baja Mexico
- One priestly participant in the cause listed above proclaimed the "grita" (call for freedom). He was:**
 - Father Miguel Pro
 - Diego Rivera
 - Padre Hidalgo
- In the then-Mexican state of Texas, immigrants from the USA were supposed to be (but mostly weren't):**
 - Catholic
 - French speaking
 - Latino
- This regiment in the Mexican Army was composed mostly of Irish-born Catholic deserters from the US Army:**
 - the Obregon (O'Brien) Division
 - the San Patricios
 - Los Soldados Verdes (SV's)
- This 19th century reforming president undermined the church's role in Mexico:**
 - Benito Juarez
 - Pancho Villa
 - Emiliano Zapata
- A revolution in this year limited the church's freedoms even more:**
 - 1901
 - 1910
 - 1945
- The final stage of these conflicts was the church-state standoff known as the:**
 - Chiapas rebellion
 - Cristero rebellion
 - Sacerdote revolt

ANSWERS:

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

Is having babies in your 40s too risky?

I am 44 years old and came into the Catholic Church last year along with my husband. We have two children, aged 12 and 8. We are practicing NFP and have a question regarding "just reasons" for abstaining from intercourse while fertile. Is it a just reason to not conceive simply because of my age and the statistical probabilities associated with late-in-life pregnancies as they relate to birth defects? We have no other compelling reason to not be open to life. Amy

Your question was passed along to me by Father Dan McCaffrey of NFP Outreach Ministries for comment. God gives us many gifts and blessings, including our fertility. Only you and your husband can prayerfully consider whether stewardship of your resources is sufficient reason to avoid using your fertility. Let me assure you from a medical standpoint that God balances the increased risk of genetic defects and pregnancy loss with reduced fertility. Having said that, I have delivered beautiful perfect children to couples in their 40s and babies who are less than perfect to much younger couples.

Mary W. Martin, M.D.,
FACOG

We were married in the 1980s. I think NFP was discussed during our marriage preparation classes, but I remember very little of that discussion. At that time, everyone used birth control and I dismissed the idea of NFP as a nonrealistic option. I used the birth control pill for the first 15 years of our marriage. As I began to grow in my faith, I came to understand the church's teaching on birth control and struggled to share with my husband reasons why I could no longer use it. Together, we took instruction on NFP, yet we have never come to totally trust its effectiveness. How do you counsel couples who want to move from birth control to NFP yet do not feel called to have more children because of age (mid-40s)? T

T, your questions were forwarded to me to answer. I am a board-certified OB/GYN specializing in NFP and can assure you of two things: modern NFP methods are superior to current hormonal contraceptive methods, and your age dramatically decreases the chance of failure regardless. The failure rate of NFP is less than 3 percent. The method I personally teach, The Billings Ovulation Method, has a failure rate of 0.5 percent

THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION

with usage data from 120 countries around the world, most impressively, China. Please take a course from a certified instructor (BOM has only four simple rules) and make your marriage truly open to God's plan for marriage. You only have potentially 96 hours of fertility per month and God gives us the technology to recognize those few hours if, after considering your resources and health, you and your husband choose not to use them.

Mary W. Martin, M.D.,
FACOG

Shortly after I stopped using the birth control pill, I became pregnant. The baby died due to miscarriage when I was nine weeks along. I was told that the pill may have made my womb inhospitable to a developing child. Can you explain the after effects of the pill on fertility and the ability to maintain a pregnancy? Thanks, T

The pill does not reliably stop ovulation. It has two additional mechanisms to prevent pregnancy: thickening the cervical mucus to impede sperm entry, and thinning the endometrium (uterine lining) to prevent implantation of a baby once conceived. The mucus thickening mechanism is a myth. If estrogen levels rise high enough for an egg to be released, the cervix responds to the rising estrogen by mucus which sorts, stores and conveys sperm. The cervix responds, regardless of the level of progesterone in the pill.

The last mechanism is the most problematic. Chronic pill use can cause atrophy of the mucus glands in both the cervix and the endometrium leading to reduced fertility as well as a whole host of other side effects. Your pregnancy loss could well have been a chro-

mosomal defect, however, so we will never know for certain whether it was your prior pill use or another problem which resulted in the loss of your baby. But another soul exists regardless.

Mary W. Martin, M.D.,
FACOG

Father Matthew Habiger, OSB, provided this week's questions.

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

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

By Patricia Kasten

Gospel for March 18, 2007

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for Fourth Sunday of Lent, Cycle C: the story about two sons and their father. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

PARABLE	TWO SONS	FATHER
THE SHARE	DIVIDED	COUNTRY
SQUANDERED	SPENT	CITIZENS
SWINE	THE PODS	HUNGER
HEAVEN	COMPASSION	EMBRACED
KISSED	CALF	MUSIC
BROTHER	ANGRY	WAS DEAD

INHERITANCE

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

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A prodigal daughter's account

BY RAQUEL ESCOBEDO HANIC

I was born and raised a Roman Catholic, attending Catholic grade and high school. I remember the very first time I walked into the little room known as the confessional. I was a terrified little girl.

The room was completely dark, the only light came when the priest opened his little screen to speak to me. While sitting in the dark, little room all sorts of thoughts rushed through my second grade mind. I was certain the devil was standing behind me waiting to take me to the pits of hell.

After confessing my sins that evening, I ran out of the confessional quickly. I fell into the loving arms of my parents. At last I was safe and felt protection. I did not walk out of the confessional realizing I had just been given a gift.

It would be so many years later that I would begin to see the true gift reconciliation is. I was a prodigal by the age of 15. I had lost my faith after numerous events which left me to believe God had abandoned me.

My father was killed when I was a sophomore, and I was angry at God. I wanted nothing to do with him, or any of his gifts. I was raped at the age of 16 and quickly fell into the dark abyss of addiction. I was the son who left his father's house.

I was married in the Catholic Church. My husband and I went through the preparation classes. I guess I always had my faith ingrained on my heart. As time went on we had two daughters. Both of them were baptized. I was not attending Mass or giving them the example of a good Catholic. I

felt this religion did me no good. Why on earth would I ever want my children to be raised like I was? I was not committed to Christ or my faith. My bottomless pit of addiction continued for many years.

It took me many years of this lifestyle before I began to realize that something was missing. I was lacking peace and true happiness. I began to search for happiness and peace. I had finally hit my bottom.

Something began to change in me. I wanted to go home. I felt this strong urge to go back to the church of my youth. I took small steps, not believing I belonged. I felt so unworthy to be in the presence of Christ. The love I experienced was overwhelming. I could not explain the tears that would flow each time I attended Mass.

Time after time I sat in the pew. I knew one thing for certain. I was not in a state of grace. I realized the sinful life I had lived and felt a desire to go back into that dark little room.

I was so nervous, all sorts of thoughts raced through my adult mind. I thought, "What will this priest think of me? I don't even remember the last time I went to confession. I am such a sinner, how can I tell him all of my sins? There are so many I do not even remember all of them." I had a list a mile long why I should not go to confession. I was convinced the priest would look down upon me or worse yet yell at me.

One Saturday I was attending morning Mass at a neighborhood parish. I remember the day very clearly. It was St. Benedict's feast day. This wonderful saint was there to help me in my conversion process. He would send the help to me when I needed it the most.

After Mass I said a little prayer to St. Benedict. I said, "St. Benedict, this has been a wonderful morning. The only thing that would make it any better is if I could go to confession."

Those words no more came out of my mouth before a priest stood before me. He looked at me and said, "Would you like to go to confession?" All I could do was nod.

Once again I was heading back to that little room. It was scary for me. I was not even sure where to begin. The list was long and I really did not have time to do a proper examination of conscience. The one thing I was certain about was this was a gift from God.

This would be the first of so many times I would walk into the little room. The funny thing is it's no longer dark in the confessional. I feel Jesus with the Blessed Mother in the room with me. I have never been yelled at or thrown out. The only thing I have been given is love, compassion and mercy.

I truly have grown to love this lost sacrament of our faith. It for me is a time of healing, grace, mercy and forgiveness. It does not matter that I confess the same sins, time after time. I realize Jesus loves me and appreciates me trying to do better.

My journey led me to embrace, appreciate and love the sacrament of reconciliation.

I pray you will have a deep desire to return to your little room. Hurry, Jesus will be there for you too. I pray that God will bless you and keep you in the palm of his hand.

Raquel Hanic is the author of the book, "My Daddy Never Died."

LETTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

In one instance, MacLaren said, a local government even asked the staff of a Catholic home for the elderly to train the staff of a government-run home.

Cardinal Zen said relations usually are smooth as long as the Caritas organization is "discreet."

"If you become too big, then they may not allow you to work because they are afraid you are becoming too powerful," he said.

Proselytism, not power, is the usual reason given for closing a program, he said, citing the example of a now-closed technical

training program established by the Salesians.

Cardinal Zen said the Salesians explained that they prepare young people for a trade and do not try to convert them.

But the government found it suspicious that the students were not charged a fee.

The Salesians explained that benefactors fully funded the program, but the government officials were convinced that sooner or later the students would be pressured into becoming Catholic, the cardinal said.

The Catholic Church in China prays and yearns for the day when it will enjoy full religious freedom, he said, but "at this moment, the important thing is to help establish a Caritas in each diocese."

Thinking about sex and marital surrender

Do Americans think enough about sex? Some would argue that it seems to be the only thing on people's minds in troubled times like these where so much attention is lavished on celebrity couplings, Viagra and breast augmentation. Yet there is an important difference between sex on the brain and sex as an object of thought, and we face a rather urgent cultural need to reflect more deeply on the inner order and significance of human sexual activity.

The failure to think carefully about the deeper meaning of sex, I believe, stands at the root of several modern-day bioethical problems like in vitro fertilization (IVF) and contraception.

Sex has a delicate structure of its own. At the heart of the marital act, we can identify a kind of surrender. The inner language of sexuality involves a surrender of our self and our self-will.

Prior to the marital act, one already sees how this self-surrender begins to come into play: does my spouse feel up to it tonight? If we become pregnant, will I support her in the morning sickness that may ensue? Am I willing to surrender my desire for intimacy now, if we agree that we ought to wait? Am I ready to surrender myself to the various demands that will come with raising children well and responsibly? Am I open

to my spouse's concerns tonight, even more than my own?

Even within the marital act itself, we discover this same aspect of self-surrender. St. Augustine referred to the intensity of sexual intimacy, noting that "when it reaches its climax, there is an almost total extinction of mental alertness; the intellectual senses, as it were, are overwhelmed." The point of climax, then, also involves a language of letting go of oneself, so that we enter a new and ecstatic space where we are no longer in command, where our own self-will no longer prevails.

This aspect of surrendering ourselves, looking to the other, and relinquishing control is a basic dynamism at the heart of human sexuality. Whenever a new human life is conceived at the center of this surrender, it suddenly appears as a "third," and a coequal with its parents. The child seems to appear out of nothing, precisely when the parents find they can lay claim to nothing of their own, when their surrender has become complete. In their mutual surrender, the child can come as an equal, entering the world not as a product or a project, but as a gift awaiting discovery and unpacking.

Once we begin to see this beautiful inner order of human sexuality, we can also begin to appreciate how both contraception and IVF manage to upset the apple cart of



FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK

MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

sexual relations in married life. When a married couple uses contraception, they say with their bodies that they do not, in fact, surrender to each other. They hold back a deep and critical aspect of themselves, namely, their own fruitfulness and fertility. They refuse to share that part of themselves with each other and with God.

Because sex is about total surrender, contraception strikes at the heart of human sexuality by turning it into a partial and warped exchange, where one spouse may use the other to gain certain desired satisfactions.

The entire dimension of loss-of-self in mutual surrender, opening up a selfless space for the arrival of a "third," is stripped away by contraception. Any child who might happen to be conceived (in spite of contraceptive efforts) arrives not as a welcome "third" equal to the parents, but as an unequal, less-than-desired encumbrance.

So while there should be real

surrender in this setting, with contraception there is instead a real form of domination over the origins of another. The apple cart goes topsy-turvy as contraception enters a marriage.

The situation is equally troubling with IVF. At the heart of IVF, we again encounter not only manipulation but also a new form of domination. Instead of the child appearing as an equal in the midst of true self-abandonment following sexual intimacy, the child is now highly unequal to the parent, a pawn to be played with in the endgame of satisfying parental wants.

Instead of surrender, the origin of human life is turned into a labo-

ratory effort that is subject to our own direct determination and manipulation.

The arrival of a "third" is not a gift that appears in the midst of our one-flesh surrender, but a scheme to be realized by making use of all our wiles and resources. Our own willfulness, rather than our mutual surrender, is the central dynamic in IVF, much as it is in contraception.

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. serves as the director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.

Meet the Priest

Father William Schooler
Ordained May 25, 1974
Pastor, St. Pius X, Granger

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

The priests who served the two parishes in which I grew up — St. Mary's in Decatur and St. Bernard's in Wabash.

What is the most rewarding part of being a priest?

Celebrating the sacraments and becoming part of the parish family to which we are assigned.



What interests or hobbies do you have?

Biking, skiing, playing racquetball and tennis and spending time with friends and family.

Do you have a pet?

We have a rectory cat, and her name is Hopeless. She is named after St. Jude, the patron saint of hopeless cases, and she has lived up to that name in her 18 years of existence.

What do you do for relaxation?

Mostly sleep these days. That is what happens when I sit down for any length of time.

What is your favorite reading material? Who are your favorite authors?

Lately, I read what my associate recommends from the long list of books, which he has devoured, as well as novels sent from a friend in Ireland. I like Flannery O'Connor and Graham Greene.

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

We understand that the good things in life are given by God for us to enjoy in moderation and share.

What is your favorite prayer?

The prayer written by Thomas Merton in which he asks God for



guidance to do his will, even if that will is not very clear at the time.

What is your favorite Scripture passage?

St. Paul advised his friend, Timothy, to be strong, loving, and wise — not bad qualities for a priest.

Who is your favorite pope?

Leo the Great (440-461). He provided strong leadership to the church of Rome and did so with a great sense of humor. In addition, he wrote a beautiful description of the power of baptism, which is inscribed in the baptismal font at the Lateran Church in Rome and around our baptismal font at St. Pius X in Granger.

What is your favorite food?

I'm an omnivore.

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

I actually enjoy being alone at times.

How do you prefer to be addressed by the laity?

In my first 10 years of priesthood, most people called me "Father Schooler," not counting the nicknames that were given to me by my students at Marian High School. After becoming pastor, people have generally called me "Father Bill," which is amusing, especially in light of the TV show about the talking horse, "Mr. Ed."

Book of Esther teaches about God's watchful providence

Is the Book of Esther in the Old Testament fact or fiction?

The Book of Esther is set in the city of Susa (modern Shush) in the country of Persia (modern Iran) during the reign of King Xerxes I (485-464 B.C.). Susa is 150 miles north of the Persian Gulf at the foot of the Zagros Mountains on the east bank of the Shaur River. Susa is also the biblical setting for the conversations of Nehemiah with King Artaxerxes I (464-424 B.C.) about rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem destroyed by the Babylonians. The prophet Daniel in Babylon also had a vision of himself in the fortress or royal palace of Susa.

The Persian king Darius I in 521 B.C. made Susa his winter capital. H. Vos says the magnificent palace of Darius was decorated with glazed-brick panels that served as tapestries. On these panels were Persian archers and spear-men, human-headed lions with Babylonian crowns, winged bulls, sphinxes and griffins. To build the palace, cedar was brought from Lebanon, silver from Egypt, gold from southwest Asia, and ivory from India. A. Ham says all that remains of the palace today is the foundation, some impressive columns, and a few elegant horses' head statues. Also in Susa is the traditional tomb of the prophet Daniel.

In the story of Esther, King Xerxes held a grand banquet to show off his wealth to all the people and summoned his queen Vashti to the banquet to show off



FATHER RICHARD HIRE

HIRE HISTORY

her beauty. But Vashti refused to appear, so the king deposed her. Many beautiful young virgins were shown to Xerxes to replace Vashti, including Esther, the Jewish niece and adopted daughter of Mordecai, a prominent Jew who served at the king's court and had been deported from Jerusalem to Babylon with King Jehoiachin in 598 B.C. Xerxes chose Esther as the new queen.

Meanwhile Mordecai overheard two officials plotting to murder Xerxes, so he informed Esther who told the king and the officials were hanged. Then Xerxes raised Haman to the high rank of vizier or chief minister and the Persian officials, who regularly sat at the palace gate, would kneel and bow down to Haman. But the Jew Mordecai would not kneel to Haman, but only God alone.

Then Haman sought to destroy all the Jews in the Persian empire with a decree from Xerxes. But Esther had the decree of extermination reversed against Haman and the enemies of the Jews. After Haman was hanged on the gallows prepared for Mordecai, Mordecai replaced him in the court.

Mordecai ordered the Jews to celebrate the Feast of Purim every year when Esther saved her people from destruction. "Pur" is Babylonian for the "lot" that was cast in Haman's presence to determine the day for the destruction of the Jews.

J. Comay says on this feast the scroll of Esther is read in the Jewish synagogue to the accompaniment of noise and stomping at each mention of Haman's name. It is a time for masquerades, fancy dress parades, and baking three-cornered poppyseed cakes called "Haman's ears."

Father Peter Ellis says there may be an historical nucleus in the book of Esther, but its main purpose is for teaching about God's watchful providence in saving his people from destruction. Father John McKenzie mentions some historical difficulties: 1) the queen of Xerxes was Amestris, not Vashti, 2) a decree permitting the Jews to kill all their enemies is improbable, and 3) if Mordecai was deported from Jerusalem in 598 B.C. and lived in the reign of Xerxes in 485 B.C., he could be over 100 years old.

B. Metzger adds there is no evidence of Vashti or Esther outside of the Bible, but there is an official called Marduka (or Mordecai) on the tablets from Susa, but he probably did not serve in the reign of Xerxes. Ancient historians regard the story of Esther as one of the many tales set in Persia that circulated around the Near East during this period.

Redeemer Radio announces spring Sharathon

FORT WAYNE — Redeemer Radio, Catholic Radio AM 1450, has completed its first year of operation, broadcasting the truth and beauty of the Catholic faith throughout Fort Wayne and all of Northeast Indiana.

During the year, Redeemer Radio introduced its own local programming — featuring local priests, local lay people, and Catholic school sports. The station also installed expensive new transmitter technology, doubling the range of the signal. And all of the programming is now streaming on the internet at redeemerradio.com. According to Redeemer Radio

President Chris Langford, the response from listeners has been tremendous, with the station receiving many testimonials each month on how Catholic Radio AM 1450 is really making a difference. Redeemer Radio clearly sees its apostolate as fulfilling the call of Pope John Paul II for a New Evangelization.

To be even more effective, Redeemer Radio recently finished installing a new satellite antenna at the studio, making it possible to launch a brand new lineup of national programming — with new local programs as well. All the old favorites remain, with many new

live call-in programs.

“But this is just the beginning,” says Langford. “We want to reach many more souls — and reach them even more effectively.” To do this, Redeemer Radio has outlined the following near-term objectives:

- More live local programs — featuring the insights and testimonials of our local priests, lay people and lay apostolates — interacting with callers from the local area.
- Live remote broadcasting — broadcasting live on site from Catholic events around the area, like parish missions, special speakers and adult education series.
- More national speakers —

Building on last month's cosponsorship of Scott Hahn, Redeemer Radio can continue to partner with the local Catholic community in bringing the very best in national speakers right here in person to the Fort Wayne area.

• A stronger signal — The station's signal can be strengthened further with additional upgrades to the transmission technology.

Redeemer Radio is a 501c3 non-profit group of lay Catholics, financially separate from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, and dependent on the generosity of listeners.

Its spring on-air pledge drive

will take place Wednesday through Friday, April 11-13, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day. The pledge drive, along with Redeemer Radio's regular programming, can be heard on the Internet at www.redeemerradio.com.

Known as Spring Sharathon 2007, the event will again be hosted by Jerry Usher at the studios of Redeemer Radio. Usher is the national host of Catholic radio's most popular program, “Catholic Answers Live.”

During Sharathon, both local and national guests will share their perspectives on the vital importance of Catholic radio to our community.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

FISH FRIES

Lenten Fish Fry
Warsaw — The Bishop Leo A. Pursley Knights of Columbus will have a fish fry on Friday, March 16, 23 and 30 at the hall from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Adults \$7, children 6-12 \$3 and children under 6 free.

Fish fry
Plymouth — The Knights of Columbus council 1975 will have a fish fry Friday, March 30, from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at the hall, 604 Columbus Dr. Adults and carry-out \$7, children 10 and under \$3.50 Drive-through carry-out available.

Fish fry supports arts
Fort Wayne — The Arts and Enrichment committee of St. John the Baptist will sponsor a fish fry on Friday, March 23, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. in the activity center, 4500 Fairfield Ave. Adults and drive-through carry-out \$7, children 6-12 \$3.50, children 1-5 \$1. Macaroni and cheese, soft drinks and beer will be available.

St. Hedwig has fish dinner
South Bend — A fish dinner featuring Kluski noodles and sweet and sour cabbage will be held Friday, March 23, in the Memorial Center from 4 to 7 p.m. Adults and carry-out \$7.50, children 6-12 \$3 and children 5 and under free.

Fish fry sponsored by Knights
Granger — The Knights of Columbus Council 4263 will have a fish fry on Friday, March 23 and 30, from 4 to 7 p.m. at St. Pius X Church. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$3.75 for children.

Fish fry
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council #553 will have a fish fry on Friday, March 16, 23 and 30 at 553 E.

Washington St. from 5 to 7 p.m. Tickets are \$6 adults, \$3 children 6-12 and children 6 and under free.

Ed Fox fish fry at St. Henry
Fort Wayne — St. Henry Parish will host a fish fry on Friday, March 23, from 4 to 7:30 p.m. Adults \$7, seniors \$6.50, children 6-11 \$5.50 and children 5 and under free.

Drive through fish dinner
New Haven — St. Louis Besancon Academy will have a drive-through only fish fry on Friday, March 30, from 4 to 7 p.m. Cost per meal is \$6.50. Fish prepared by Country Chef.

MISC. HAPPENINGS
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 "Starting and Restoring Broken Relationships" will be Thursday, March 22, from 7:30-9 p.m. at IPFW in Walb 222. Sessions are independent of one another, so feel free to join at any time. For more information contact Mike Gibson at mgibson0428@yahoo.com, studentipfw.edu/~newman or call (260) 481-6994.

Altar and Rosary Society plans card party
New Carlisle — St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish will have a card party sponsored by the Altar and Rosary Society on Sunday, March 25, at 11:30 a.m. Tickets are \$5 and must be purchased in advance by calling (574) 654-3364 or (574) 289-2986. All proceeds benefit needed church items.



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REST IN PEACE

Culver Diane L. Watkins, 61, St. Mary of the Lake	Granger Ann M. Cizon, 80, St. Pius X	Notre Dame Dr. Richard S. Reamer Jr., Sacred Heart Basilica
Elkhart Joanna R. Davis, 70, St. Vincent de Paul	Lawrence J. Gutschenritter, 86, St. Pius X	South Bend June A. Radecki, 72, St. Stanislaus
Fort Wayne Grace Anderson, 82, St. Anthony de Padua	William A. O'Brien, 46, St. Pius X	Anna C. Budnik, 99, Our Lady of Hungary
Erie V. Coar, 93, St. Jude	Mishawaka Edwin B. Ferguson, 81, St. Joseph	Alice Wozniak, 91, St. Adalbert
Jeanne Mahoney Atkinson, 87, St. Vincent de Paul	Thomas A. Trippel, 78, St. Joseph	Helen E. Krauser, 84, Holy Family
Dianne M. Krouse, 57, St. John the Baptist	Jamie M. Barrett, 95, St. Monica	John L. Arch, 89, Our Lady of Hungary
Lillian Phillips, 63, St. Peter	Ruth Ann Cannoot, 63, St. Bavo	Elizabeth M. Cukrowicz, 84, St. John the Baptist
Roberto Buenconsejo, 62, St. Vincent de Paul	New Haven Delbert H. Muldoon, 89, St. John the Baptist	Geraldine A. Danilewicz, 65, St. Stanislaus
Jamie L. Momper King, 47, St. John the Baptist	John F. Jacquay, 53, St. John the Baptist	Rose L. Totten, 86, Sacred Heart of Jesus

Saints Alive offers etiquette dinner
Fort Wayne — Bishop Dwenger Saints Alive will have a mother/daughter dinner for mothers and daughters seventh grade and up on Wednesday, March 28. "Beyond the Fork," etiquette for the 21st century will include i-pods, cell phones and more. The evening emceed by Melissa Long, will offer prom fashions modeled by Bishop Dwenger students, free makeovers, door prizes, food and raffle. Doors open at 6 p.m. and dinner served at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$15 per student and \$20 per adult. Call (260) 483-7001 for reservations.

Pot-O-Gold Smoker planned
South Bend — The Married Men's Club of St. Casimir Parish (corner of Dunham and Webster Streets) is sponsoring a Pot-O-Gold Smoker on Sunday, March 25, from noon to 6 p.m. Tickets are \$15 and

include spaghetti dinner served until 2 p.m. and refreshments. \$10 tickets include refreshments only. Tickets available at the door for those 21 and older.

St. Patrick's Day party
Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus, Council 451, 601 Reed Rd., is sponsoring a St. Patrick's Day party and dance on Saturday, March 17, from 8 to 11 p.m. Music and singalong by Justus III. Tickets are \$20 per couple and includes food, beer, wine and pop. Call (260) 493-1914 for reservations.

St. Patrick's Day celebration
South Bend — A St. Patrick's Day celebration will be held Saturday, March 17, beginning with a 9 a.m. Mass at St. Patrick Church. Celtic music and a corned beef dinner will be held at the St. Patrick Social Center from noon to 4 p.m.

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Knights of Columbus shooters on to state

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — Free throw shooters from around the region gathered at St. Vincent Activity Center in Fort Wayne on March 11 for the annual Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest. Fort Wayne, New Haven, South Bend, Wabash, Elkhart, Decatur, Plymouth, Syracuse, Warsaw, Jintown and Mishawaka were just some of the towns who advanced shooters from their district two weeks ago to the regional competition. The shooters were required to shoot 25 free throws each. Ten different winners, one each in the five age groups (10-14), both boys and girls, advance to state level competition this Sunday, March 18, at Greenwood Middle School just across from Our Lady of

Greenwood southeast of Indianapolis.

James Brames of Woodburn, an eighth grader from St. John the Baptist, New Haven, won the 14-year old boys division. Brames shot 22-25 from the stripe, which included a string of 13 straight. Trent Gruwell from Laotto also sunk 22 creating a shoot-off situation.

Making 4-5 to break the tie, Brames heads to Indy this week-end representing this northeast region to dual against 14-year olds from the other five regionals around the state of Indiana. Brames' personal best is 23-25, which he shot at the district competition three weeks ago. Last year, Brames was knocked out of the 13-year old competition at the regional level and did not advance to state.

Brames is the son of Ed and Chris Brames.

In the girls' competition, two different shooters drained 23 out of 25 free throws to move on to the state finals. They were Lyndzee Kent of Angola and Megan Getts of Garrett.

Hannah Lickey, Danielle Meersman, Catherine Depew, Matthew Holbrook, Cory Garing, Brett Aller and Logan Sellers were the other seven winners who advanced in their age group to Sunday's state competition.

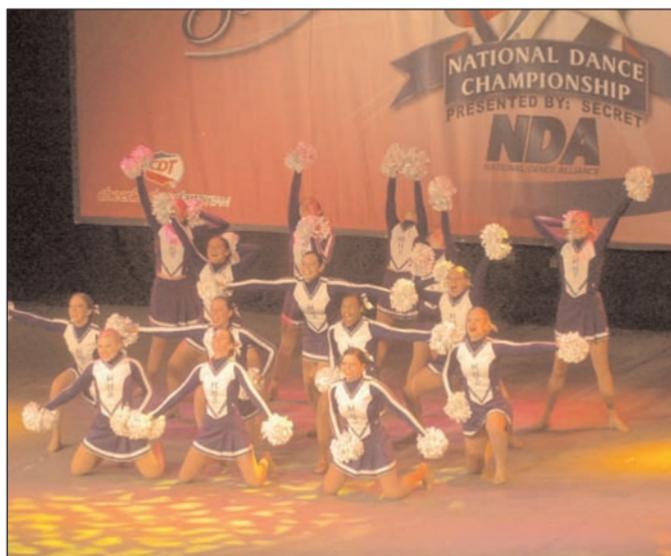
To date, the Knights of Columbus are represented in eight countries across the globe reports Knights of Columbus Fort Wayne Area District Deputy Tim Sorg. "This is just one of the many activities the Knights of Columbus sponsor in service to one and service to all," he concluded.

2007 DIOCESAN CHAMPIONS AND GOLD LEAGUE CHAMPIONS



The St. Vincent Panthers includes Brian Bowers, Russell Coonan, Greg German, Ryan Herberger, Evan Hoopfer, Greg Kaiser, Michael Karp, Matthew Ruiz, Patrick Ryan, Tony Springmann, Cal Weller and Michael Yoder. The head coach is Todd Martin and his assistants are Gregg Markley and Dane Campbell.

MARIAN POMS COMPETE NATIONALLY



PROVIDED BY MARIAN HIGH SCHOOL

The Marian High School poms team received a bid to the National Dance Alliance (NDA) nationals by receiving a superior rating on their home routine at summer camp in June. Nationals were held March 2-5 at Universal Studios in Orlando, Fla. The team, shown here, made the finals with their pom routine and earned seventh in the Medium Pom Division. They also took a kick routine and narrowly missed a finals sport by one placing.

2007 DIOCESAN RUNNER-UP AND JOHN BOSCO CHAMPIONS



The Corpus Christi Cougars includes Brad Douglans, Matt Mackowiak, Scott Coppa, Andy Klimek, Tyler Lukens, Daniel Hill, Jimmy Reagan, Dylan McMahon, Mario Aversa, Cody Weber, Tyler Rogers, Tate Bellegante, David Borntreger; Coaches Brad Klimek, Brian McMahon, Larry Mackowiak and Kip Klute.



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SIXTH GRADE CHAMPIONS



St. Joseph, Mishawaka, sixth grade basketball team was the A-League regular season and tourney champions with a perfect 16-0 record. They won this league in back-to-back seasons and have a two-year undefeated record of 32-0 after winning the B-League title the previous year. The team includes the following: front row, from left, Seth Neighbor, John Jessup, Ben Gill; second row, Coach Wayne Triola, David Giloth, Anthony DeBroka, Vince Ravotto, Alec Baumgartner and Coach Dennis Chandler; and back row, Dilon Gohn, Michael Whitfield, Joe Walter, Noah Deitchley and Chris Ross.