**March 18, 2007**  
Serving the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

**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.

“These 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.”

**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 smiling faces, came from an inmate named Ken, who is serving a 60-year sentence for burglary.

He invited her to be his pen pal.

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...
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 own Diocese of Fort Wayne, and a drive to the beautiful town of Bend, Indiana, I arrived in Bend on the afternoon long journey to Terre Haute.

We met there this year because the Sisters of Providence had invited us. With Archbishop Daniel Bechle, OSB, were in charge of the day. This was to honor our 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 six workers 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, and the fact that she had been attributed to her. “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”

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 able to go to the beatification in Rome, but I celebrated Mass with Sister Diane, her assistant and Mgr. William Lester in my home. I told her that Mass was in preparation for Bishop de la Failhandleur, 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 time of 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 for this saint at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Most likely, we will settle on Sunday, Nov. 19.

A long road home through the Indiana countryside — three and one-half hours — but a day when 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 — 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 address 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 patriotic songs, which he cherished.

“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. Patrick an inspiration and a talk to him 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, Louis Cucchiara. I think he will bring me back a contract! We shall see.

Happy St. Patrick’s Day everyone. See you next week.
Cardinal Rigali's Lenten reflections
a hit on YouTube Internet site

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — Who’s that you’re seeing on YouTube? Yes, it really is Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia.

The cardinal is providing video sermons — a Lenten clip for each of the Sundays of Lent, as well as for Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter on the free, video-sharing Web site YouTube.

The videos, which Rigali recorded at the chapel of his residence in Philadelphia, are designed to help working adults who, once they complete that degree program, typically go back into midlevel management positions 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 Cardinals’ 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 to expand our curriculum and mission of 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 Holy Cross College in Maumee, Ohio. 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 from 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.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Giving of ourselves for the good of others, especially those who are suffering, is a major part of our vocation as Catholics and the 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 offer our support to those overseas?

You Tube is a place where people communicate a multiplicity of things, a sort of an extension from the viewpoint of the church, we have a desire to communicate Christ,” Cardin said.

The cardinal said he hopes his contributions will be of help not just to those people who are reflecting on God and Christ, and on the meaning of life and love.

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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 congressman to help Indiana, she represented.

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, Brittnie Fox, Matt Speich 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 a part of God’s creation. Souder discussed 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 double value to improve the environment. With the reminder to think 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 stresses 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, every thing 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 for generations.”

Souder fielded questions from the enthusiastic eighth grade students, 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 Janelo plant several times before some one 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.”

The most devastating effect 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 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.”

BY KAY COZAD

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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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 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 virtues of the late 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 will present 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 promoters and 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, Ala., on March 9 to pray for the memory of James E. Dane, St. John's pastor, who was killed March 5 in a tornado that struck the town. "I can give you answers," 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.

New York artist Alex Melamid chats Feb. 27 with Portuguese Cardinal Jose Saravana 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.

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 a subscription to 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.

More funding is needed for a National Cord Blood Inventory which would enable doctors to match patients with compatible donors through a centralized computer database. 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. "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 provide for the election of a 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 2004 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 the Vatican said March 9. They reported that the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith would ban Father Sobrino from teaching or publishing books. Archbishop Fernando Saenz Lecalle of San Salvador, where Father Sobrino is a professor and vice rector, was quoted as saying March 11 that the Vatican would announce that Father Sobrino was fired. "The situation is totally 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.

TODAY'S CATHOLIC MARCH 18, 2007
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, member of the Elr 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 nonprofit 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 of young writers to speak about the story content will be taught during 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.

For additional information, contact Stephen Donndelinger or Eileen O’Hayer.

Dwenger seniors National Merit Finalists

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Dwenger High School seniors David Azden 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.

Eazew 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 achievement and are now being considered for college-sponsored scholarship opportunities.

BISHOP D’ARCY VISITS BISHOP DWENGER

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.
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 (IHICDA) 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 appraened 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 Co-sponsor of HB 1075.

HB 1075 is eligible for second reading on the Senate floor.
Lent — reaching out in Charity

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

A cradle Catholic and a parishioner at Most Precious Blood in Fort Wayne, Moss is at an age when the customary foods or habits of the season more deeply play out in the everyday lives of different Catholics.

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.

While she sometimes gets off track, Moss not only tries 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 something 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. CHARLES HOSTS PARISH MISSION

ST. CHARLES PARISH MISSION

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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.
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.

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 and several other pieces of furniture. Installation of the lanes and bar began in the 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 semi-automatic 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 Bessevang, 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 enthusiastically.

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.
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. Theresa-St. John-New Haven, Queen of Angels-Precious Blood and St. Joseph-Hessen Casell. The schools who will be participating in boys soccer are St. Charles, St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth-St. Aloysius, St. Joseph-Hessen Casell-Beernt 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, Bennoit, St. Theresa-St. Aloysius, St. John-New Haven and St. Joseph-Hessen Casell. Chris Gustafson, Dr. Michael Hartle, Greg Lawrence, Kristin Spolhman, Doyle Hartman, Mary Pohlman, Tina Immiter, Karen Leffers, Claire 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 preparing 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.”

ICCL, PAGE 16
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 Sculler 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, Sculler says the number will be reduced to 12 varsity and junior varsity players. He notes that the team will succeed if they are strong. Since his 2006 Dwenger team won the city and sectional titles and placed fourth in regional competition, Sculler has high hopes for his team. Coach Scudder will welcome returning seniors Brian Burns, Logan Schipper, who broke the school record two weeks ago, Brian Bunch, who broke a 13-foot vault, and Kyle Davis, who broke the school record 11-15. "Hopefully better than that," Sculler says. Sculler adds that he has confidence in his batting and that the team will be competitive at sectional time.”

Softball

Softball coach Dave Moyer saw some returning players. "Our participation is way up this year," he said. "Our facilities are also being used, and our numbers are up, so we're looking forward to working with them." The girls have all worked hard, when it comes to working on the track and adding things to their skills. The runners of the Indian girls track team are looking for a chance to win points while coach Keith is concerned, "I wish I could," Keith says regretfully. "Our balance is added to by some good things from this year’s squad as well." Returning senior varsity players include Shannon Voors, Katelyn Springer and Katie Schenkeln. Junior Danielle Rose will join them on the court for a strong offensive effort.

Track

The high school track season got an early start at the indoor Taylor Invitational, giving teams a chance to vie for invitations to state meets as the year flows into sectional and sectional levels. Scaggs is hoping for good performances from returning senior Mandy Manning in the 400-meter event and seniors Jean MacLeug and Erin Jacobson in the shot and discus. Junior Megan Reiling should perform well in the 100- and 400-meter events. The high school boys’ program will only be able to keep 22 or so on the roster for early April, with the season starting later this year. 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,” Svarczkopf says. Some returning standouts include senior pole vaulter Kevin Schipp, who broke the school record two weeks ago, backing him up is Robbie Trahin, who already has a 13-foot vault, and Nicki Stone, catcher and first baseman. Some returning standouts include Hannah Voors, cuater and first baseman. Scaggs is hoping for good performances from returning senior Mandy Manning in the 400-meter event and seniors Jean MacLeug and Erin Jacobson in the shot and discus. Junior Megan Reiling should perform well in the 100- and 400-meter events. The high school boys’ program will only be able to keep 22 or so on the roster for early April, with the season starting later this year. 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,” Svarczkopf says. Some returning standouts include senior pole vaulter Kevin Schipp, who broke the school record two weeks ago, backing him up is Robbie Trahin, who already has a 13-foot vault, and Nicki Stone, catcher and first baseman. "Our participation is way up this year," he said. "Our facilities are also being used, and our numbers are up, so we're looking forward to working with them." The girls have all worked hard, when it comes to working on the track and adding things to their skills. The runners of the Indian girls track team are looking for a chance to win points while coach Keith is concerned, "I wish I could," Keith says regretfully. "Our balance is added to by some good things from this year’s squad as well.” Returning senior varsity players include Shannon Voors, Katelyn Springer and Katie Schenkeln. 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 invitations to round off the weekend, says Schenkeln. She’s ready for good weather and for the season to while coach Keith concludes. “The kids seem really nice … I’m looking forward to working with them.”

Saint Joseph’s Indians anticipate spring sports

By Joe Kozinski

SOUTH BEND — After terrific fall and winter campaigns where the South Bend Catholic Saints and the Notre Dame University Fighting Irish dominated the sport, there are anxious athletes and coaches for the upcoming season. "Our participation is way up particularly in girls track," stated Eric Gohlke the Saint Joe Athletic director. "We have 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 and softball that number one thing that I’m very confident in." "Our facilities are also being upgraded and working with concrete being poured for our batting cages and bleachers, we also will 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 hard for the opening of the season and their coach, Earl Keith wishes the team 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 last couple of 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 experienced. "Shelby Dzierza is projected to be our number one pitcher and will not be back until April," comment- ed Keith. "We will be thin at that position but we have two fresh- men, two sophomores and one junior who has no varsity experience that will have to develop until Shelby is ready."

"We should be up the middle with Mo Healy and Ashley Zoppa handling the nucleus of the infield, "Keith continues. "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 notes. "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 Indiana baseball squad this season. John Gumpf a Norte Dame assistant coach, is making the move to head the Saint Joe attack on the diamond. "I have seen some very good things in open gym," comment- ed 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 base- ball in order to compete at any level."

"So far we have had quite a few seniors stepping it up and helping me out," said Gumpf. "I have six or seven 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 and two junior girls," continued McCarthy. "We did have a strong cross country sea- son and I hope that that helps us to be competitive in track and field." "All 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 two of our top four on the team," exclaimed McCarthy. "We may have a very special runner in freshmen Taylor Turner, who has not lost a race at any level and has been clocked at a 12.8 second 100-meter dash."

"We have a really a team that will do well 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 also competed in the sectional championship and this year the goals are much higher accord- ing to head coach Mike McCarthy. "We have about a dozen kids this year," McCarthy said. "We have a great team on our board and I realistically believe that we can win every meet that we compete in.” McCarthy continues. "We have started with the indoor series and are gearing up for the..."
Schreiber blazed trail for girls’ athletics

BY RAY KOZAD

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 undergrad years 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, which eventually became St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School, took Schreiber in 1966, where 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 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 CYO and CYO program.”

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.”

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.

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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.

“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 Glen. “Not only do we have quantity, but the quality of athletes spread through out 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 Glen. “Last year the spring sports came up big for us in deciding the champion.

“We are starting some addition-al programs to coincide with our total outlook,” added Glen. “The Bigger, Stronger, Faster Program and the Be an 11 Program coupled with our number one pitch- ers with ERAs under two runs per game in Sam DeFord and Kelly Mazerov.

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

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

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 Grenet and his experienced staff.

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

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

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

Baseball

Three close calls in the section- al finals, two one-run games and a two-run game, have been the episo- toph 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 quali- ty 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 tough- ness 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.

“Even counting on two jun- iors 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 men- tion is Michael McMahon who has shown a lot of action, but I’m confident that he will play a criti- cal roll in our makeup,” Prister commented. “With all of our players, I expect 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 Sandolov is carrying around like a billboard as the optimistic director returns for another year.

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 quali- ty 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 tough- ness 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.

“Even counting on two jun- iors 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 men- tion is Michael McMahon who has shown a lot of action, but I’m confident that he will play a criti- cal roll in our makeup,” Prister commented. “With all of our players, I expect good hitting, quality defensive team that’s time has come to break through.”

Girls tennis

With last season’s two top play- ers attending universities girls tennis Coach Sarah Stancho 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.

“Sara Zielinski is our only sen- ior sprinter and will anchor our young runners,” remarked Sandolov. “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 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 dis- tance runners with experience and dedication,” explained Killilea. “We are also returning Blake and Blair Powell from our state quali- fying sprint relay team.

“C.J. Shellen, Matt Gring and Corey Walz will anchor our 400 and 800 meter distances,” Killilea added. “Jace Zielinski should help us compete in the high hurdles giving us a very solid nucleus for the track squad that placed fourth in the conference.”

“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.

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

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Bishop Luers High School athletes prepared

BY BONNIE ELDERSON

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 tryouts 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 McIntee and Kristen Dirig, who ran the 1600-meter relay, and sophomores Heather Theilen and Miranda Knuth, who were 1600-meter relay alternates. As defending sectional champs, team members will push themselves to be competitive, he says.

With assistance from throw coaches Lee Rodenbeck and Greg Gehl, pole vault coach Mark Niemoeller, jumps coach Heather Briggs, distance coach Linda Kromeke and sprint coach Elise Rupricht, eighth year head coach Draper is eager to get the season underway for the first time in years. “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 Ilges 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 sections 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 return to the lineup including first baseman Mike Morrison, outfielders Andrew Davis and leading pitcher Dan Knaier, 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 looking for big things this time of year,” he says. And with seven freshmen filling out his starting lineup at the college level, Schmidt is justifiably proud of his prospects.

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 senior 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 tryouts. An early scrimmage on March 22 will help 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 Kichelski, 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.

Other than that he says, “We need to fill out the spots.”

Heads coach since 2000, Doll will be assisted by Skye Leggett, Karlee Thompson and pitching coach Darlene Nuern. 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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Both the Our Lady of Hungary basketball team and the school cheerleaders had plenty to cheer about when the Bulldogs won the grade school championship of the Inter-City Catholic League with a final record of 16-1. The team is composed of the following: front row, from left: Liz Smith, Kathy Havestock, Danielle Swisse, Victoria Jurek, Brionna Moore, Damyra Belcher, Teresa Rodela, Denise Gallograsso and Corrina House; back row, Austin Smith, manager, Greg Kopinski, Chris Stockberger (8), Zach Davis (28), Terrance Malone (12), Devin Herban (55), Steven Bentkowski, Ben Domonkos (Head Coach), Steve Domonkos, Dante Newbill (20), Iryan Ottridge (3), Justin Greber (2), Brion Doyle (11), Dominique Sanders (44) and Jalen Holland (33). Not pictured are Milko Stulajter (22) and Abby Kowalski.

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 it 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’s Web site, www.hcc-nd.edu. You can also visit Father Larry Richards’ Web 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 Kryzewski who will be working with long time veteran Bill Sorukas.” Viol added, “Mark Kopinski is focusing on girl’s track this year rather than his dual role 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 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 it is sure to change more at this youth retreat.

“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 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 girl’s teams 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 settle weather condition qualifications prior to our start.”

While the groundwork for the spring sports are being laid down, the focus isn’t always on the pitching and the passing of bats, the ICCL will stay firm on its overall foundation.

“The league will continue to follow the mission statement of being devoted to the recreational interests of the Catholic grade school youth,” exclaimed Viol.

“We will strive to provide a healthy environment for our children.”

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“We will strive to provide a healthy environment for our children.”
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. “Kanth Kamanda, a state champion 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 sea- son and placed fourth in the regionals.

“I think that senior Wes Chambless 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 the tradition and confi- dence we will definitely be a very good team.”

Boys golf

For first year head Coach John Troeger and the Wildcats, learning the first part of the season and becoming more competitive do the stretch,” explained rugby Coach Larry Daher. “We are very good from and freshmen teams to 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 Demarias and Jay Dobson, we have a pretty good group.”

“We also have a couple of young kids in sophomores Andrew Thomas who we expect good things from and freshmen Tyler Blaha who brings a com- petitive edge.” Troeger remarked. “Our overall goal is for the kids to get better and have fun playing golf.”

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

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 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 tourna- ment 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 top speed, were able to make 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 recov- ered from the first quarter deficit, when Benoit outgunned them 20-4. Timmy Wilson and Coley Schultheis tried to make up the loss but were unable to

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SPRING SPORTS

JOSEPH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

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 land- ed 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 more competitive as the season goes on,” commented Troeger.

“The pack line, which is almost all juniors, will be led by Nate Milhgan,” 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 the Marian grounds. “Rugby is just one of those sports that takes some time to learn.”

FOR 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 the 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 tourna- ment.

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 Connor 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 Carowinds and Corpus Christi Cougars 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, ten- sion escalated from the player 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 unsatisfied, but it was a green player who was “tired up” in the physical match up. Cougar sharp-shooter 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 fin- ished 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 assist- ant Coach Brad McMahon.

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Most, if not all, of us make progress in the faith. We make our way toward God, not by leaps and bounds, but by step-by-step, slow and inarticulate. This 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 blockages, 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 stalking up with her paramour, after her encounter with Jesus, toddlers 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 RCU 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. And remember, as Thomas Aquinas taught, “it is far better to limp along the right road than to run headlong into the ditch.”

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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 imagery directly linked to 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. And this struggle has two dimensions: 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. The daily decision to keep focus, struggling to believe, struggling with the obstacles all along the way, and many of these self-imposed. In the 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 stalking up with her paramour, after her encounter with Jesus, toddlers 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 RCU 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. And remember, as Thomas Aquinas taught, “it is far better to limp along the right road than to run headlong into the ditch.”

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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 in judgment. Wells of Hope is a process, of rites and traditions have been going on for several years — our diocesan jubilee year. Some still need time, but for others, it was an exciting evening. A second session was held, evening, allowing discussions to continue and furthering friendships. In all, one must say the Catholic-Jewish dialogue is alive and well in Fort Wayne.

First, do no harm

By Susan E. Willis

The Hippocratic Oath has been taken a beating recently. Abortion, assisted-suicide, allowing disabled children to die without preternatural treatment, “hastening” a patient’s death through dehydration and starvation — all these are tough to square with the aspiring doctors’ pledge: “I will prescribe regimens for the good of my patients according to my ability and my judgment and never do harm to anyone.”

While most doctors would recommend giving exogenous 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 — so long linked to hormonal contraception.

Do you believe that patients request contraceptives relieving 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 have been going along — often 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 severe health 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 the United States in 2006 alone. For a fee of $5,000-$10,000, young women have been subjected to preterm delivery, hemorrhage, acute respiratory distress, ischemic strokes (blood clots clogging arteries after ovarian stimulation).

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

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 past all the external barriers — and 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 prelates and rabbis together have been panelists or representatives and then conducted stimulating question-answer periods. Quick work has been accomplished, but at the conclusion, many in the audience wisely reminded me that 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) was invited to present an overview of the philosophies that have affected governments. Of course there was time for voicing opinions, and if the committee in 2004 in the 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 presented 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 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 Veshalom, 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 delightful evening, allowing discussions to continue informally while attendees enjoy a delectable cookie- and foodҺ and furthering friendships.

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

Jennifer Lahl, founder-director of the Center for Bioethics and Culture and founder of Every Child is Yours, wrote, in 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 “a controversial new technique for 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 clogging arteries) and 18 strokes in different 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 Willis is associate director for education in the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.
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 can’t lose sight of 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-kiun 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 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 and train a new generation of farmers in sustainable agriculture.

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. Priests may wear rose vestments.

The church is excited and joyful — salvation is near.

The catequiz’em

by Dominic Campilloss

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

1. Which brand of Christianity was first brought to Mexico?
   a. Lutheranism
   b. Mormonism
   c. Catholicism

2. Who first brought the church to Mexico?
   a. the Portuguese
   b. the Spanish
   c. the Order of the Brazil Nuts

3. Which aspect of the indigenous religion did these men find most appalling?
   a. the mixing of plaid and striped vestments
   b. the use of steel guitars in the liturgy
   c. human sacrifice

4. Which religious order took an early lead in the conversion of the Mexicans?
   a. the Knights Templar
   b. the Franciscans
   c. the Anglicans

5. Since then, the vast majority of the population has professed this version of Christianity:
   a. Roman Catholicism
   b. Gallicanism
   c. Coptic

6. However, strong elements remain of these earlier beliefs:
   a. Celtic mysticism
   b. Judaism
   c. Pre-Columbian religions

7. One of the primary tools used in the conversion of Mexican natives was the use of these establishments:
   a. missions
   b. rorets
   c. circuses

8. Due to the imperial goals of the Conquistadors, some early conversions were:
   a. to Judaism
   b. coerced
   c. genuine

9. This 1821 event changed the political scene, but did not have much impact on the role of the church in Mexico:
   a. independence from Spain
   b. independence from the USA
   c. the division into Alta and Baja Mexico

10. One priestly participant in the cause listed above proclaimed the “grita” (call for freedom). He was:
    a. Father Miguel Pro
    b. Diego Rivera
    c. Padre Hidalgo

11. In the then-Mexican state of Texas, immigrants from the USA were supposed to be (but mostly weren’t):
    a. Catholic
    b. French speaking
    c. Latino

12. This regiment in the Mexican Army was composed mostly of Irish-born Catholic deserters from the US Army:
    a. the Obregon (O’Brien) Division
    b. the San Patricios
    c. Los Soldados Verdes (SV’s)

13. This 19th century reforming president undermined the church’s role in Mexico:
    a. Benito Juarez
    b. Porfirio Diaz
    c. Emiliano Zapata

14. A revolution in this year limited the church’s freedoms even more:
    a. 1901
    b. 1910
    c. 1945

15. The final stage of these conflicts was the church-state standoff known as the:
    a. Chiapas rebellion
    b. Crosetro rebellion
    c. Sacerdotage revolt

ANSWERS:
I am 44 years old and came into the Catholic Church last year along with my husband, who is 12 years younger. I’ve always known I was Catholic. I was born and raised a Roman Catholic, but had no real knowledge of the faith. The Church and I had a falling out. One Saturday I was attending Mass and felt that 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. 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. I looked at him and said, “Would you like to go to confession?” Once again I was heading back to that little room. It was scary for me. I was not prepared to begin. The list was long and I really did not have time to do a proper examination of conscience. The one thought that kept going through my mind was that I 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 there is no longer dark in the confessional. I feel Jesus with the Blessed Mother in that little 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 love and to receive it as a gift. For me is a time of healing, grace, mercy and forgiveness. It does not matter that I confess the same sins, all I can do was nod. Cardinal Zen said the Salesians explained that it will enjoy full religious freedom, and . The Salesians explained that benefactors fully funded the program, but government officials were convinced that sooner or later the students would be pressed 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."
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 Shur River. Susa was the biblical setting for the conversations of Nehemiah with King Artaxerxes I (464-424 B.C.) about rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem.

Many beautiful young virgins were brought from Babylon with King Jehoiachin in 598 B.C. Esther chose Esther as the new queen. 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.

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 as a welcome “third” equal to the parents, but as an unequal, less-than-deserved descendent.

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.

Making Sense of Bioethics

Suffering in a time of changing values. St. John McKenzie mentions some evidence of Vashti or Esther out of the story of Esther. Father Peter Ellis says there is no evidence of Vashti or Esther out of the story of Esther. Father John McKenzie mentions some historical difficulties: 1) if the queen of Xerxes was Amestris, not Vashti, 2) how Haman convinced the Jews to kill all their enemies is improbable, and 3) if Mordecai was elevated from Jerusalem in 598 B.C. and lived in the reign of Xerxes in 485 B.C., he could be over 100 years old.

Mordecai was the one who brought the scroll of Esther to King Xerxes, and he was appointed as the new queen. On this feast the scroll of the Jewish synagogue to the accomplishment 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) if the queen of Xerxes was Amestris, not Vashti, 2) how Haman convinced the Jews to kill all their enemies is improbable, and 3) if Mordecai was elevated from Jerusalem in 598 B.C. and lived in the reign of Xerxes in 485 B.C., he could be over 100 years old.

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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?

I read what my associates recommend 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 descriptive power 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 am 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 ADDRESS 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, I have generally called me “Father Bill,” which is amusing, especially in light of the TV show about the talking horse, “Mr. Ed.”

Meet the Priest

Father William Schooler

Ordained May 27, 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 causes, 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?

I read what my associates recommend 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.
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 local programming — featuring the insights and testimonies 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.

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 testimonies 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 nonprofit 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.
WHAT’S HAPPENING?

WHAT’S HAPPENING carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. Send in your announcement at least two weeks prior to the event. Mail to: Today’s Catholic, PO. Box 11169, Fort Wayne 46856; or e-mail: ftdon@fdx.dioecesefswb.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 to 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 Klaski 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.

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 Rebuilding Broken Relationships” will be Thursday, March 22, from 7:30-9 p.m. at IPFW in Walb 222. Sessions is independent of one another, so feel free to join at any time. For more information contact Mike Gibson at mgibson04628@yahoo.com or 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.

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: table settings, cell phones and more. The evening emceed by Melissa Long, will offer prom fashions modeled. 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.

REST IN PEACE

Click to view the obituary section in digital format.

“Autumn Leaves” Tour Visits Historical East

15 Days from $1148*

Depart September 22, 2007 with other Roman Catholics and combine a New England & East Coast historical tour with fall foliage. Start in Philadelphia; travel on your comfortable motorcoach, through the mountains, offering spectacular and colorful vistas. There is included sightseeing in Philadelphia (Independence Hall & the Liberty Bell); New York City; Milford, and New Haven. You’ll visit gorgeous mansions of Newport, RI; tour Boston including the Old North Church, the Boston Common, Bunker Hill and USS Constitution. There’s even one free day in Boston with an optional tour to historic Concord, Lexington, Gloucester, and “bewitching” Salem. Next, travel through the White and Green Mountains to French Canada: Quebec and Montreal, both with city tours, and travel along the St. Lawrence in “upper NY” to Niagara Falls. “YM” will also take you to Gettysburg, Amish Country, Valley Forge, Hershey World and other attractions before flying home. *Prices, per person, double occupancy, start at only $1148 including all taxes. Add $500 n’t arrive from W. Wayne. Space is limited and on a first come, first served basis.

Kaniewski Funeral Homes
3545 N. Bendix Drive
South Bend, IN 46628
574-277-4444

201 S. Filbert Street
P. O. Box 909
New Carlisle, IN 46552
574-654-3221

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Webster church leaders to host upcoming forum
Fort Wayne — Webster Church (9514 Roosevelt Dr.) will hold its monthly forum on Wednesday, March 14, beginning at 7:00 p.m. The next scheduled forum will be held Wednesday, April 11, beginning at 7:00 p.m. For more information contact Bill Nagel (260) 428-6432.

Webster church to host trivia day
Fort Wayne — Webster Church, 9514 Roosevelt Dr., will hold its annual Trivia Day on Saturday, March 31, from 7-11 p.m. with games, refreshments and entertainment. Tickets are $50. For more information contact Bill Nagel (260) 428-6432.
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, Juntown 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 weekend representing this northeast region to dual against 14-year olds from the other five regions 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 Gets of Garrett.

Hamah 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.

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.

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

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.