

April 8, 2007

Serving the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Easter Message

BY BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

As we celebrate the feast of Easter in our Jubilee Year, we bring to mind the celebration of this feast for the past 150 years in this diocese.

In our great urban churches and small rural parishes, year after year, there was proclaimed the mystery of the risen Christ. In homilies, priests made clear to our people the truth that Christ was crucified and rose from the dead for our salvation. Once again this year, the mystery of the risen Christ is presented and we are asked to look upon him with love and faith.

In this contemplation, we note the wounds in his hands and in his side. We are aware that from the blood and water that flowed from his side came forth the grace of holiness and love.

The questions put before the apostles — and before those who preceded us in this place the past 150 years — is now put to us.

“Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these do?” (Jn 21:15)

“Thomas, blessed are those who have not seen but have believed.” (Jn 20:29)

We are invited to make an act of faith and love in the risen Christ, contemplating his wounds, which are the means of our salvation.

We are asked also to trust that, for us as for him, death is not the end but the beginning.

We are asked to follow him; to follow the one who has given his life for our salvation.

Because of his sacrifice, God's life, which we call grace, is poured into our soul, and we are able to respond with our whole heart. Indeed, we are invited, and we become able, to make a gift of ourselves to him, to return love for love. For this to take place, we must first meet the risen Christ in prayer.

Easter is a joyful time, and the joy reaches fullness in prayer. Prayer before the risen Christ as we contemplate his face. “Behold the Face of Christ” is the theme of our Jubilee Year.

As we contemplate his face, we are aware of the wound from which came forth blood and water, which has always been seen as the life of Christ poured into the world, into our hearts. As we contemplate “the Pierced One,” we are asked to give him our faith, hope and love in return. We accept the invitation to walk with him through life — to do his will and to make him known.

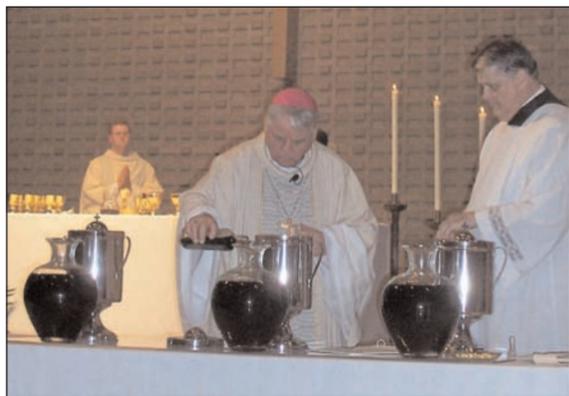
A blessed Easter to you all.



MARK WEBER

A gem in the Cathedral Museum of Fort Wayne is this risen Christ statue created by Daprato Studios with locations in Chicago, N.Y., and Pietrastrano, Italy. This particular piece was removed from St. Andrew Church in Fort Wayne when it closed in 2003. The Cathedral Museum is located on the garden level of the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center, 915 South Clinton St. On display now is a special Jubilee Year exhibit in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the founding of the diocese. The museum is open Tuesday through Friday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There is no admission charge.

CHRISM MASS CELEBRATED



MICHELLE DONAGHEY

Bishop John M. D'Arcy poured the balsam, or perfume, in the oil at the chiasm Mass held at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend on Monday evening of this week. The chiasm Mass was celebrated at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, on Tuesday.

Bishop D'Arcy to celebrate 50th anniversary of priestly ordination on April 15

BY VINCE LABARBERA

FORT WAYNE — Bishop John M. D'Arcy will celebrate the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood of the Catholic Church on Sunday, April 15, with the holy sacrifice of the Mass at 2:30 p.m. in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in downtown Fort Wayne.

The public is welcome to attend.

Following the anniversary Mass, a public reception and dinner will be held at the Grand Wayne Center located across from the cathedral.

Bishop D'Arcy has asked that there be no personal gifts except that of your presence. Those who are so inclined may wish to consider making a donation to the



BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

Catholic Education Fund to assist those children who could not otherwise attend our schools.

Bishop D'Arcy will observe the 50th anniversary of his ordination in the South Bend area as well. The date and location will be announced in the near future.

Today's Catholic will have a special

edition in celebration of Bishop D'Arcy's 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood next issue, April 15.



Easter Joy abounds

See what a few good women can accomplish for the sake of others

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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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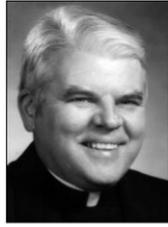
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When priests pray and are holy, their parishioners will be as well



NEWS & NOTES

BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

A day with our priests

We have two days of prayer with our priests every year; the first in Advent and the second in Lent. In the past 22 years, I have always chosen those who give the retreats for our priests, along with those who give the days of recollection. I have always tried to find retreat masters who will give good content, serve as gracious confessors and also present material in an attractive and joyful way. The sanctification of his priests is certainly the most important work of a bishop. When priests pray and are holy, their parishioners will be so as well.

This was an old theme, which I read many years ago when I was in the college seminary at 18 years of age. It is from a beautiful book, a kind of classic, entitled "Soul of the Apostolate," by Abbe Chautard, a Trappist priest. I think it said something like the following: "Like pastor, like flock."

Over these 22 years, I think I have attended every day of recollection with one exception. It seems right this year, as part of my celebration of our diocesan jubilee, to make the presentation at the Lenten day of recollection myself, as I did when I first arrived.

Pastoral love

I was privileged to give two talks. The first was on pastoral love, a theme taken from the apostolic post-synodal exhortation, "Pastores Dabo Vobis" ("I Will Give You Shepherds"). Pope John Paul II spends several pages on this theme of pastoral love, or pastoral charity. It is, of course, the charity of Christ, who offered himself for our salvation. St. Augustine says the priesthood is an "officium ameris" — an office of love. After describing the nature of pastoral charity, I spent the second talk on the importance of prayer, for it is very unlikely that one will achieve pastoral love without prayer, especially prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

In between talks, four of us heard confessions. There was the usual spirit of prayer and reflection.

We met at St. Martin de Porres Parish in Syracuse, and we were able to see the new buildings, which provide classrooms for instruction and catechesis. It was all done under the direction and guidance of Father Terry Place, pastor of St. Martin de Porres. Unfortunately, Father Place could not be with us as he is in Sacred Heart Home in Avilla, where he is suffering from a serious cancer. I entrust him to your prayers.

Marian High School

With a visit to Marian High School, I have completed my pastoral visits to each of our four high schools. The Catholic identity at Marian High School is very evident. I take special pride in Carl Loesch. Carl is a double-domer, having received a master's degree in biblical studies at Notre Dame. He and his wife, Marie, who met in a Catholic high school in Chicago, have three boys with a fourth child coming.

Carl taught at Bishop Dwenger High School for many years under John Gaughan and Fred Tone. He taught religion and was named teacher of the year in his second year. He could be found at the abortion place early in the morning praying the rosary with the students. Or he could be found establishing a Habitat for Humanity chapter. Carl has a picture in his office of a group of young people along with himself at the completion of such a home. I was privileged to be part of that picture as we dedicated this new residence.

In addition to Carl, Marian is blessed with two priests, both part-time. Father Dan Scheidt teaches an excellent course on Catholic thinkers — an elective. Father Michael Heintz teaches a course in the

to Christ. The focus is on the sacraments, on personal prayer and discussion. It was once very strong in this diocese, and I met with a number of people who hope to strengthen it again. In the meantime, I hope we can find space for the Cursillos of men and women. I was very impressed with the small group, which was there in prayer and meditation.

The coming jubilee

I am preparing these remarks before heading to South Bend for the Chrism Mass at St. Matthew Co-Cathedral. Holy Week for a priest is a special time indeed. We meditate on Christ's gift of himself. We ask for the grace to make a gift of ourselves in return.

A week from now, on the Second Sunday of Easter, which is also Mercy Sunday, I will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. I look forward to it with joy, and also, I hope, with a certain humility, for no other stance is permitted with a priest after 50 years of grace. My sisters will be there and their children and grandchildren. Some priests will come from

Boston, classmates and my companions of a lifetime. Everyone is welcome. While old friends will be present, it is part of the Jubilee celebration in this diocese, part of our observance of 150 years. I hope there will be some young people there as well, as they represent our present and our future.

I pray this celebration and the prayers that surround it will deepen my love for Jesus Christ and my gratitude to him. I also hope that it will be a grace for our diocese, and might even be the instrument for some young men to give their lives to Christ as priests. The priesthood is a great adventure. Taken as a whole, the priesthood and priests have gone through much in recent years. In the midst of it, there has stood the figure of Pope John Paul II, priest, evangelist, confessor and teacher. As his biographer said, "Not so much a man from Poland as a man from Galilee."

In conversation with priests in recent days, we have pondered how much he has been the instrument of Christ in the restoration of the ministerial priesthood. As we observe the second anniversary of his death, I find myself praying to him. He was a great inspiration to me during life and remains so in death.

Everyone is welcome at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception for the Mass at 2:30 p.m. on April 15.

And opening day is here as well. Play ball.

I will see you all next week.

St. Augustine says the priesthood
is an "officium ameris" — an office of love.

Greek New Testament. Both priests have a significant effect. We also have Sister Marie Morgan, OSF, who studied theology in Rome. Having two priests and a sister is a special blessing. There is also an excellent faculty and a very fine department of theology.

It was a privilege to celebrate Mass with them and find them so attentive and devoted.

Christ Child Society

I also offered Mass with the Christ Child Society of South Bend at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. I reminded them of the words of Pope Benedict XVI, "The church can no more neglect the ministry of charity that it can neglect the word or the sacraments." They are celebrating their 60th anniversary. South Bend was one of the very first chapters. The Fort Wayne group began from that chapter about 10 years ago. They give away thousands of coats every year to poor children. It was a joy to offer Mass with them.

The Cursillo

As you know, when I am in South Bend I live in rather modest quarters in the former St. Patrick's convent, which was once the residence of Holy Cross Sisters who taught in the parish school.

Several weeks ago, a men's Cursillo was going on at St. Patrick's, and I was invited to drop in. The Cursillo is a spiritual movement that has brought many people closer

French nun says life has changed since she was healed thanks to Pope John Paul II

AIX-EN-PROVENCE, France (CNS) — The French nun who believes she was healed of Parkinson's disease thanks to Pope John Paul II said her life had "totally changed" since that night two months after the pope's death.

Sister Marie-Simon-Pierre, 46, is working again, now in Paris at a maternity hospital run by her order, the Little Sisters of Catholic Motherhood.

She met reporters March 30 in Aix-en-Provence during a press conference with Archbishop Claude Feidt of Aix, the archdiocese where the cure took place.

"I was sick and now I am cured," she told reporters. "I am cured, but it is up to the church to say whether it was a miracle or not."

However, she said, she knows she is well and that she must continue her work "to serve life and to serve the family."

Diagnosed with Parkinson's in 2001, she said that watching Pope John Paul deteriorate from the effects of Parkinson's disease "I saw myself in the years to come."

Pope John Paul died April 2, 2005, and as Sister Marie-Simon-Pierre's condition began to worsen, all the members of the Little



CNS PHOTO/SERGE PAGANO, REUTERS

Sister Marie-Simon-Pierre attends a news conference in Aix-en-Provence, France, March 30. The French nun believes she was healed from Parkinson's disease through the intercession of Pope John Paul II, who also had the disease. The healing could be the miracle needed for the late pope's beatification.

Sisters of Catholic Motherhood in France and in Senegal began praying to Pope John Paul to intervene with God to heal her.

By June 2, the religious has said, she was struggling to write, to walk and to function normally.

She said she went to bed that

night and woke up very early the next morning feeling completely different.

"I was sure I was healed," she said.

In a March 29 statement, Archbishop Feidt said that after hearing about the alleged healing of Sister Marie-Simon-Pierre he decided to conduct "a thorough investigation" to determine whether it might be the miracle needed for Pope John Paul's beatification. In general, the church must confirm two miracles through the intercession of the sainthood candidate before canonization.

Archbishop Feidt and Sister Marie-Simon-Pierre planned to attend the April 2 ceremony in Rome marking the end of the diocesan phase of Pope John Paul's cause and to attend the memorial Mass Pope Benedict XVI was to celebrate to mark the second anniversary of his predecessor's death.

While in Rome, Archbishop Feidt was to deliver all the documentation regarding the nun's case to the Congregation for Saints' Causes, which will conduct its own investigation into the alleged healing.

Retirement fund collection assists religious

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On either of the first two weekends after Easter, we will hold the annual collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. This collection helps religious congregations in our country meet the rising costs of caring for their retired members. Skilled care and assisted living expenses for religious past the age of 70 exceed \$450 million each year, and one out of every five religious institutes has less than 20 percent of the amount needed to care for their elderly members.

As you know, many religious congregations came from Europe to start or staff schools, hospitals and orphanages in this country. Traditionally, religious worked for modest stipends or maintenance that did not include pension benefits. Religious receive approximately one-third the Social Security benefit of the average U.S. beneficiary. Today, nearly 60,000 religious men and women are past age 60, and over 37,000 are past the age of 70.

More than 96 percent of the money collected in this national appeal is distributed as grants to congregations for the retirement needs of more than 45,000 elderly and infirm members. All of us are only too aware of the magnificent contribution that religious priests, brothers and sisters have made in our own lives, in our diocese, and, indeed, in our nation as a whole. They nourished our faith, not only with their words, but with the example of their lives, and we are deeply in their debt.

In this Easter season when we celebrate the gift of himself Christ gave us on the cross, I know that you will be as generous as you can with this collection which benefits those religious sisters, brothers and priests who gave their lives to Christ, to the church and to us.

Sincerely yours in our Lord,

John M. D'Arcy
Most Reverend John M. D'Arcy

Congregation of Holy Cross to ordain four priests

SOUTH BEND — The Indiana Province of the Congregation of Holy Cross will ordain four new priests on April 14 at 2:30 p.m. at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, located at the University of Notre Dame. Bishop Daniel R. Jenky, CSC, bishop of Peoria, will confer the sacrament of holy orders on Father Stephen M. Koeth, CSC, Father James T. Gallagher, CSC, Father Gregory P. Haake, CSC, and Father Peter M. McCormick, CSC.

Father Stephen M. Koeth, CSC

Originally from Staten Island, N.Y., Father Stephen attended Our Lady Queen of Peace Grade School and Saint Joseph by-the-Sea High School, before entering the University of Notre Dame as a freshman in the fall of 1995. After graduating from Notre Dame in the spring of 1999 with a degree in history, Father Stephen worked at the university as an intern in the Office of Campus Ministry.

Upon completion of two years of theology studies in the Notre Dame master of divinity program, Father Stephen spent a year working as a seminarian intern at Holy Redeemer Parish in Portland, Ore. He taught eighth grade religion in the parish school and assisted with liturgies in the parish.

Returning to Notre Dame, Father Stephen completed his theological studies and finished his ini-

tial formation at Moreau Seminary. He graduated with his master of divinity degree in May of 2006 and was reassigned to Holy Redeemer Parish in Portland, Ore., this time as a deacon.

Father Stephen will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on the Notre Dame campus, Sunday, April 15, at 10 a.m. That evening, he will also celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving at 10 p.m. in Siegfried Hall's Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Chapel at Notre Dame. His first Mass at Holy Redeemer Parish in Portland, Ore. will be celebrated April 22 at 10 a.m. and in his home parish, Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church, Staten Island, N.Y., on Sunday, May 20, at 1:15 p.m.

Father James T. Gallagher, CSC

The sixth of seven children for William and Mary Gallagher, Father Jim grew up in South Bend, where he attended Christ the King Elementary School and Saint Joseph's High School. He went on to the University of Notre Dame and finished his initial round of studies with a degree in aerospace engineering.

While in grade school, Father Jim would often tell those who asked that he would like to be a priest when he grew up. It wasn't until a year and a half after graduation from college when he was

working as a civilian contractor on an Air Force base in Colorado that he began to give serious thought to that original idea.

Father Jim entered Moreau Seminary in the fall of 2000. During his course of studies, he spent a year as a pastoral intern at the University of Portland. He returned there for his placement as a deacon, serving as director of liturgy at the Chapel of Christ the Teacher, the director of several retreat programs, and as the pastoral resident in Villa Maria Hall.

Father Jim will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving at Christ the King Parish in South Bend on Sunday, April 15, at 12:15 p.m., followed by a reception in the church basement. He will also celebrate Masses of Thanksgiving at the University of Portland in Villa Maria on Tuesday, April 17, at 10 p.m. and at the Chapel of Christ the Teacher at 10:30 a.m. and 9 p.m. on Sunday, April 22.

Father Gregory P. Haake, CSC

During his senior year of high school, Father Greg decided to attend the University of Notre Dame, the first in his family of four boys, and enrolled as a freshman in the fall of 1995. In the classroom, he studied French language and literature, and he also played the trumpet in the University of Notre Dame marching band for two years.

After graduation in 1999, Father Greg volunteered in the Alum Service Corps, a one-year service program in the Missouri Province of the Jesuits. He taught French and music and coached cross-country and track at DeSmet Jesuit High School in St. Louis, Mo. While at DeSmet, Father Greg met a priest who subtly pressed the vocation issue and helped him with his decision to enter the seminary.

Father Greg graduated with a master of divinity degree from Notre Dame in 2006 and then moved to Holy Cross and St. Stanislaus Parish in South Bend where he has spent his deacon year.

Father Greg will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving at Holy Cross Church on Sunday, April 15, at 8 a.m., followed by a reception in the school auditorium and again that evening at 10 p.m. in O'Neill Hall's St. Joseph the Worker Chapel at Notre Dame. He will also celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving in his home parish, Church of the Nativity, in Leawood, Kan., on April 22 at 12 p.m. followed by a reception in the parish center.

Father Peter M. McCormick, CSC

The oldest of six children for Leo and Margaret McCormick, Father Pete grew up in Grand Rapids, Mich., attending St. James Grade School and West Catholic High

School. It was during high school that Father Pete first considered priesthood, but he did not formally pursue his vocation until after graduating with a bachelor of science in biology from Grand Valley State University, Allendale, Mich. In the spring semester of his senior year in college Father Pete visited Moreau Seminary for the first time. He entered the candidate program in the fall of 2000.

Father Pete spent a year at the Holy Cross Novitiate in Cascade, Colo., and professed first vows on Aug. 3, 2002. After two years of theology studies, Father Pete spent a year at St. John Vianney Parish in Goodyear, Ariz. His ministry at the parish was varied. He directed the confirmation program, taught in the school and coached basketball.

Father Pete returned to the University of Notre Dame where he lived at Old College as assistant director of the undergraduate seminary program while completing his master of divinity degree. He graduated from the University of Notre Dame in the spring of 2006, and, as a deacon, Father Pete has been ministering as the assistant rector of Dillon Hall and the director of the freshman retreat program at Notre Dame.

Father Pete will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on the Notre Dame campus on Sunday, April 15, at 11:45 a.m. He will also celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving that evening in Dillon Hall's Shrine of St. Olaf Chapel at 10:30 p.m. and in his home parish, St. Anthony of Padua in Grand Rapids, Mich., on Saturday, May 26, at 4:30 p.m.



FATHER STEPHEN M. KOETH, CSC



FATHER JAMES T. GALLAGHER, CSC



FATHER GREGORY P. HAAKE, CSC



FATHER PETER MCCORMICK, CSC

Pope Benedict: Pope John Paul II's ministry, agony showed his love of Christ

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II's intense pastoral ministry, "but even more, the Calvary of agony and the serene death of our beloved pope let all people of our age know that Jesus Christ really was his everything," Pope Benedict XVI said.

Pope Benedict marked the second anniversary of Pope John Paul's death by celebrating a memorial Mass the evening of April 2 in St. Peter's Square.

The pope said his predecessor truly fit the biblical description of a "servant of God," which is the way the church officially refers to him while "his process of beatification quickly progresses."

Pope Benedict, who had set aside the five-year waiting period usually required before a sainthood cause begins, told tens of thousands of people in St. Peter's Square that the initial, diocesan phase of Pope John Paul's cause had concluded earlier in the day.

While the church has not solemnly proclaimed Pope John Paul a saint in heaven, Pope Benedict said he is certain that "our beloved John Paul II" continues to accompany the church with his prayers.

At the same time, he offered prayers that Pope John Paul, "our father, brother and friend," would enjoy eternal rest and peace in the company of God.

The pope praised his predecessor's ability to share with the world his faith, hope and charity, even as Parkinson's disease gradually made it impossible for him to walk and, ultimately, to talk.

"Especially with the slow, but relentless progression of his illness, which little by little stripped him of everything, he made himself an offering to Christ, a living proclamation of his passion, in a hope filled with faith in the resurrection," Pope Benedict said.

"Like his divine master, he lived his agony in prayer," the pope said. "He died praying. Truly, he fell asleep in the Lord."

Sitting near the front of the crowd was Sister Marie-Simon-Pierre, the 46-year-old French nun who believes she was healed of Parkinson's disease through Pope John Paul's intervention.

Guy Murphy of the Chicago-based Totally Yours Pilgrimages was at the Mass with 45 pilgrims from the United States.

"We are big John Paul II fans," he said.

Murphy said he was not con-



Polish-American faithful hold pictures of Pope John Paul II as they attend a Mass marking the conclusion of the first phase of the process for his canonization in the Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome April 2.

CNS PHOTO/ALESSANDRO BIANCHI, REUTERS

cerned that the church was taking its time officially proclaiming the late pope a saint — "sometimes it takes hundreds of years" — but he has no doubt that "John Paul is one of the greatest saints ever."

Earlier in the day, during a ceremony marked by prayers, song and formal oaths in Latin, officials of the Diocese of Rome concluded the initial phase of Pope John Paul's sainthood cause.

The process had included interviews with more than 120 people who knew Pope John Paul and a study of his ministry, the way he handled suffering and how he faced his death, said Cardinal Camillo Ruini, papal vicar of Rome.

"In the certainty of being loved by God and in the joy of responding to that love," the late pope "found the meaning, unity and aim of his life," Cardinal Ruini said during the prayer service in the Basilica of St. John Lateran.

The documents from the investigation were placed in five chests, latched, tied with a red ribbon, then sealed with red wax. They will be delivered to the Congregation for Saints' Causes for further study.

"The pope suffered in his flesh and he suffered in his spirit, finding himself increasingly obliged to reduce his commitments,"

Cardinal Ruini said. His occasional "signs of impatience" were not the result of pain, but of his frustration at not being able to continue the ministry to which he felt called, the cardinal added.

Cardinal Ruini described Pope John Paul as a man of continuous, intense prayer, "concrete and radical poverty" and great freedom, which allowed him to stand up to Poland's communist government.

His love for God was lived as love for human beings, leading the pope to be an insistent voice for peace and for the defense of human life from conception to natural death, the cardinal said.

Sister Marie-Simon-Pierre, a member of the Little Sisters of Catholic Motherhood, was at the prayer service, as were Polish Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz of Krakow, Pope John Paul's personal secretary for almost 40 years, and Polish President Lech Kaczynski.

Celebrating a televised Mass early in the morning at Pope John Paul's tomb in St. Peter's Basilica, Cardinal Dziwisz called the late pope an "extraordinary witness" of Christ.

"John Paul II was a member of the friends of Jesus, that is, the group of saints. Membership in this group was what gave meaning and direction to his life, to all he did and said," Cardinal

Dziwisz said.

"The people of God clearly recognize his sanctity," he said.

Cardinal Dziwisz and others have pointed out that Pope Benedict could beatify or even canonize Pope John Paul immediately, without waiting for the Congregation for Saints' Causes to conclude its work.

Portuguese Cardinal Jose Saraiva Martins, congregation prefect, said that unless or until he hears otherwise from the pope the congregation will continue the process according to established church law: first, studying the documentation gathered by the Diocese of Rome and assisting with the drafting of a "positio," or position paper, outlining how Pope John Paul heroically lived the Christian virtues.

The 15 cardinals and 15 bishops who are members of the congregation will study the "positio" and forward their opinion to the pope, he told the newspaper *La Repubblica*.

At the same time, he said, "an ad hoc commission of experts with scientists and physicians of every religious orientation, even nonbelievers," will be convoked to study the records and testimony collected in the case of Sister Marie-Simon-Pierre.

"It will be up to them to establish whether or not it is a healing that is scientifically inexplicable," the cardinal said. "Only in the light of this scientific pronouncement will a later commission of cardinals declare whether it is a miracle that can be attributed to the intercession" of Pope John Paul.

A declaration of heroic virtues and recognition of a miracle usually are needed before beatification. In the usual process, canonization requires another miracle attributed to the candidate's intervention after the beatification.

British cardinal says government is 'legislating for intolerance'

BY SIMON CALDWELL

LONDON (CNS) — A British cardinal has said that by sponsoring legislation for gay rights, the government is "legislating for intolerance."

Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor of Westminster also questioned "whether the threads holding together democracy have begun to unravel."

"My fear is that, under the guise of legislating for what is said to be tolerance, we are legislating for intolerance," he said during a March 28 lecture in London a week after the government forced through new gay rights legislation with minimal debate in the House of Commons.

"Once this begins, it is hard to see where it ends," said the cardinal. "My fear is that in an attempt to clear the public square of what are seen as unacceptable intrusions, we weaken the pillars on which that public square is erected, and we will discover that the pillars of pluralism may not survive ... that is why I have sounded this note of alarm."

He said "what looks like liberality is, in reality, a radical exclusion of religion from the public sphere."

The cardinal said that aggressive secularism was accompanied by a cynicism of Christianity "so when Christians stand by their beliefs, they are intolerant dogmatists. When they sin, they are hypocrites."

"When they take the side of the poor, they are soft-headed liberals," he said. "When they seek to defend the family, they are right-wing reactionaries."

Cardinal Murphy-O'Connor said that more attacks on the place of religion in public life could be expected in the names of tolerance, equality and diversity.

"For my own part, I have no difficulty in being a proud British Catholic citizen," said Cardinal Murphy-O'Connor. "But now it seems to me we are being asked to accept a different version of our democracy, one in which diversity and equality are held to be at odds with religion."

The new laws are aimed at stopping businesses from discriminating against gays, but Christian, Jewish and Muslim leaders say the laws will force religious believers to act against their consciences.

The gay rights laws will compel 13 Catholic adoption agencies in the United Kingdom to place children in the care of same-sex couples, a move the bishops have said would lead to the agencies' demise.

The bishops also have expressed concern about the recent series of attacks on the curriculum of state-funded Catholic schools.

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Search for Besancon brings kinship, friendship with French 'cousins'

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

NEW HAVEN — Georges Jeanney, an influential industrialist from the village of Besancon, France, knew there had to be a "Besancon" somewhere on the map in the United States because so many people from his area had come to America so many years ago. When his work took him to Chicago for various trade shows, he often inquired among people from the Midwest. One man told him no, that he did not know of any towns named Besancon.

Then on one of his next trips in November 1997, the same man told him he had good news and that he had found a Besancon on the map in nearby Indiana. When Jeanney found out he could drive there, he postponed plans to return to France that night and set out to follow the path his ancestors traveled many years ago when they migrated to America.

Later that very evening, his trail led him to the back doorsteps of St. Louis Academy where who should he find still working away in her office, but former principal, Miss Agnes Hart. Hart was delighted to meet the French visitor and gave him the grand tour.

It has been said that Jeanney was expecting to find a "town" and was surprised to discover just a few brick buildings in the middle of an open field.

During that same visit, Jeanney connected with Ralph (Aurele) Violette, a retired professor of history at Indiana-Purdue Universities at Fort Wayne (IPFW) and did much research through the Allen County Public Library and the archives of the Besancon Historical Society. His goal: to write a book entitled, "Our Cousins from America."

Jeanney returned several more times to the Fort Wayne area to gather more data for his book. In his October 2006 visit, St. Louis Besancon parishioners, Mick and Jane Lomont, assisted Jeanney with his many questions on agriculture in eastern Allen County, namely Jefferson Township.

Jeanney was very interested in anything to do with farming and especially the concept of 'no-till,' which is just becoming popular in



PROVIDED BY THE LOMONT FAMILY

After the ceremony unveiling Georges Jeanney's book, "Nos Cousins Comtois d'Amerique," the Lomonts were presented with a medallion of the city of Besancon from its assistant mayor. Shown here from left are the assistant mayor of Besancon, Jane Lomont, Mick Lomont, Georges Jeanney and Bart Lomont. Comtois refers to an area in France whose capital is Besancon. Lomont's ancestors were natives of Lomont-sur-Crete and emigrated to the United States with others from Comtois in seven different groups between 1845 and 1860 totaling 20,000 pioneers.

the Paris area. Julie (Pequinot) Nolan, member of the Besancon Historical Society, dined with a group hosting Jeanney and described him as "a lovely soul, very personable."

He was thrilled to receive a PBS-Channel 39 film all about The Great Black Swamp courtesy of the society. Nolan specifically recalls how Jeanney wanted to learn everything he could possibly find out about farming practices from the early days to present time.

Before returning to France this time, Jeanney left an open invitation to the parishioners of St. Louis Besancon Parish and the surrounding community he had met to visit his village of Besancon, France, at the time his book was to be unveiled.

It was at this time that Mick Lomont decided to take Jeanney up on his offer.

"It had been a lifelong dream and goal of mine to visit the place of my ancestors — Besancon," said Lomont.

Claude Francois Lomont, his great-great grandfather, came to

America from Besancon, France. He and the others from Besancon held their first church services in the home of Joseph Dodane until a log cabin could be built. As the parish grew, the need for a bigger church was addressed. Each family

"We were treated like royalty and received such a warm welcome from everyone we met."

JANE LOMONT

was asked to raise a calf and the proceeds were used to construct a bigger church, which was resurrected directly around the log cabin in approximately 1846.

Upon completion of the church, which still stands today, the cabin was torn down and the logs were carried out the front doors.

Lomont's father, Allen, once told him the tale of a young relative that was buried just behind the original log cabin. When helping with some plumbing repairs a few years back, Lomont wondered if he would possibly dig up some of the bones of his ancestors while working on the pipes under the church. Lomont's great-grandfa-

ther on his grandmother's side, Jean-Pierre Maire's name is listed on the stained glass window in the cry room of today's present church.

Lomont, 66, did not make the journey alone. Before the March 2007 adventure, Lomont's wife, Jane, and son, Bart, decided to join him. Months prior to the trip, Jeanney corresponded with the Lomonts almost weekly by e-mail planning a full itinerary.

The unveiling of Jeanney's book, "Our Cousins from America," took place on Saturday, March 10. Lomont was thoroughly impressed with the author's vigor and enthusiasm — another reason he wanted to be present for this important occasion.

Lomont was asked to make a presentation at the beautiful ceremony in the grand city building in Besancon. Lomont told a little about his family. In addition to their one son, the Lomonts have five daughters and 17 grandchildren, the 10 oldest attend St. Louis Academy.

Mick has been a lifelong, active member of St. Louis Besancon and Jane has played the organ for 40 years. Their farming operation consists of about 2,000 acres of

no-till beans and wheat and corn grown with minimum tillage. Lomont quoted their Swedish agricultural exchange student from the early 1970s,

"Ah, good land, good machines and good people," which he felt summed up the area around Besancon very well. "We have been truly blessed," concluded Lomont.

The next morning, the local paper gave full coverage to the event with a photo of the Lomonts accepting a gift copy of the book from Jeanney. When shown the article, Douglas Runyan, a New Haven attorney and painter who has visited Paris several times, helped Lomont translate the story. In one paragraph it read, "The

Lomonts are a very Catholic family and pray before every meal."

While in Besancon, the Lomonts toured the city, characterized by a blend of modern and ancient architecture. An economic and cultural center of its region, Besancon is now a major European pole of the precision industries sector. The Lomonts saw all of the local attractions including the Citadelle, a military masterpiece used by the Nazis in World War II and the impressive St. John's Cathedral, started in the 12th century, which houses a round, white marble altar, a number of paintings and an astronomical clock in its bell tower.

"We were treated like royalty and received such a warm welcome from everyone we met," said Jane. But even more than the scenery, Jane enjoyed interacting with and being in the homes of the French people most. A former French teacher herself, Jane said, "I couldn't believe how much the French language came back to me then."

Mick said he will never forget the beauty of the countryside as they traveled by high-speed train from Paris to Besancon. "It was breathtaking." They also attended Sunday Mass at St. Louis Church.

Because "Our Cousins from America" is completely written in French, it is hard to know its exact contents. The Lomonts brought home several copies of the book for family and friends and are in the process of having the book translated to English. However, one can piece together parts of the journey from the various chapter titles, photos, maps and headlines. The book also has a section titled "Windows of the Past," which gives a brief description of the family names that are displayed on the stained glass windows at St. Louis Church.

Father Steve Colchin is the current pastor at St. Louis Besancon, located just east of rural New Haven and a little west of Zulu. Its membership includes around 275 families — many of whose ancestors came to America from Besancon, France, long ago.

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Notre Dame trustee awarded university's Laetare Medal for 2007

NOTRE DAME (CNS) — The University of Notre Dame has awarded its oldest and most prestigious honor, the Laetare Medal, to the outgoing chairman of its board of trustees, Patrick F. McCartan. A senior partner at the international law firm Jones Day, McCartan will receive the award at the university's commencement ceremony May 20. "Notre Dame's auspicious institutional position as it enters a new era owes much to Pat McCartan's strong and sure leadership," said Holy Cross Father John I. Jenkins, university president, in a news release on the award. "We hope to convey with this, our highest honor, the gratitude Notre Dame owes him as well." McCartan is a 1956 graduate of Notre Dame and earned his law degree from its Law School in 1959. He has served on the university's board of trustees since 1989, and was elected board chairman and university fellow in 2000. The university established the Laetare Medal in 1883 as an annual honor for a Catholic "whose genius has ennobled the arts and sciences, illustrated the ideals of the church and enriched the heritage of humanity."

Focolare founder praised as new collection of her writings launched

NEW YORK (CNS) — As the end of the Lenten season approached, participants in a March 29 seminar at Fordham University reflected upon Chiara Lubich's call to unite the world around Jesus' Good Friday plea, "My God, why have you forsaken me?" Some 200 gathered at the Jesuit institution's Manhattan law school to celebrate Lubich's work with Focolare, a Catholic renewal movement that began in the Italian city of Trent in the midst of World War II bombings. The seminar also served as a launch for Lubich's new book, a compilation of her writings published by New City Press. Lubich, 87, is suffering from ill health and was unable to attend the conference. But her presence at the gathering was felt nonetheless. "Christ is present now too," Lubich said during a 2001 taped interview for Italian television screened at the conference. She said that realization inspired her, as a 23-year-old, to begin Focolare with a small band of friends.

Vatican to begin broadcasting papal events in high definition

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Keeping in step with the fast pace of communications technology, the Vatican television center is to begin broadcasting in high definition. The first papal event to be aired using the new format will be a special April 15 Mass celebrating Pope Benedict XVI's April 16 birthday. "We've realized that if we want to continue to do a good job of broadcasting footage of the pope to other television stations, we have to be

NEWS BRIEFS

POPE HOLDS PALM FROND DURING PALM SUNDAY MASS



CNS PHOTO/ALESSANDRO BIANCHI, REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI holds a palm frond as he celebrates Palm Sunday Mass in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican April 1.

ready for the day" when high definition is expected to become the norm in television broadcasting, said Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the Vatican spokesman and head of the Vatican television center, or CTV. CTV, which is in charge of producing, broadcasting and archiving filmed Vatican and papal events, must keep up with new technology, said Father Lombardi. If they don't keep up, "people won't be able to see the pope anymore" on their television screens, he said.

Zimbabwean bishops urge repentance, restraint amid country's crisis

HARARE, Zimbabwe (CNS) — Zimbabwe's Catholic bishops have urged those responsible for the country's crisis to "repent and listen to the cry of their citizens" and called for restraint among protesters. "Many people in Zimbabwe are angry, and their anger is now erupting into open revolt in one township after another," said the Zimbabwe Catholic Bishops' Conference. Zimbabwe's crisis is one of governance, leadership, spirituality and morality, they said in a March 27 pastoral letter. To avoid "further bloodshed and avert a mass uprising," a new constitution is needed to guide democracy "chosen in free and fair elections that will offer a chance for economic recovery under genuinely new policies," the bishops said. The country has "Christians on all sides of the conflict, and there are many Christians sitting on the fence," said the bishops. Officials in President Robert Mugabe's ruling party and opposition officials serve on parish councils and "profess their loyalty to the same church," said the bishops. However, just "a

few steps" outside church, "Christian state agents, policemen and soldiers assault and beat peaceful, unarmed demonstrators and torture detainees," the bishops said.

Cardinal urges military, leftists to stop killings in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (CNS) — Cardinal Gaudencio Rosales of Manila has appealed to military and leftist groups to end the killings in the Philippines. Cardinal Rosales said that both Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and those "in the mountains" could be held responsible for killings in the country. The cardinal made the comments March 26, a day after the government was found responsible for unsolved killings, following the ordination of Bishop Leopoldo Jaucian of Bangued at the Shrine of the Divine Word in Quezon City, northeast of Manila. "Sorry for saying this, but even our (rebel) brothers are involved in the killings," Cardinal Rosales told UCA News, an Asian church news agency, after the ceremony. "It is wrong to kill a person whether it is extrajudicial or judicial." The Permanent Peoples' Tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands, released its March 25 verdict after hearings March 21-23. In its 13-page verdict, the tribunal "found unequivocal evidences that the militaries have a central role in the great majority" of human rights violations, reported UCA News.

Knights of Columbus raise funds for families of wounded, dead Marines

SAN DIEGO (CNS) — Knights of Columbus in the San Diego area

recently joined with others around the country in providing some much-needed help to the families of U.S. Marines killed or wounded in wartime. "Although all military members have specific benefits when injured, such as free medical care, physical therapy, etc., they are not compensated to help dependents and/or immediate family to travel to their bed(sides) or gravesides," said Capt. Neil May, who is currently serving in the U.S. Navy as an aviator and is former deputy grand knight of the Valley of Angels council of the Knights of San Rafael Parish in Rancho Bernardo, near San Diego. This is where the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund steps in to help. The fund provides financial assistance to Marines injured in combat and training, other service members injured while in direct support of Marine units and their families. Since its inception in May 2004, the Semper Fi Fund has provided more than \$9 million in assistance to wounded heroes. More information about the fund is available online at: www.semperfund.org.

Vatican official: Governments must protect family for child's rights

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In order to protect the rights of children, governments need to promote and protect the family, said a top Vatican official. "It would be a new form of violence against children if the state were to impose a specific model of religious and moral convictions on children without taking into consideration the moral and religious convictions of the parents," said Archbishop Silvano Tomasi, the Vatican's representative to U.N. and other international organizations in Geneva. The arch-

bishop spoke to a session of the U.N. Human Rights Council March 23. Creating the conditions for peace and economic progress helps remove situations that hurt children, he said. Violence against children in all its forms needs to be eliminated, in part by rejecting the glorification of violence in popular culture, said the archbishop. Archbishop Tomasi said that because of their vulnerability children always have been the first victims of wars and famines, and must be protected.

Vatican newspaper says Jesuit was right to apply Gospel to injustice

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican newspaper said Jesuit Father Jon Sobrino, whose work was recently criticized by doctrinal authorities, was right in trying to apply the truth of the Gospel to concrete situations of global injustice. Where Father Sobrino risks going astray, the newspaper said, is in proposing a new type of Christology that seems to prefer the "Jesus of history" to the "Christ of faith" and downplays his transcendent nature. The article, published in *L'Osservatore Romano* March 24, came 10 days after the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith published a note warning of "erroneous or dangerous propositions" in the work of Father Sobrino, a leading proponent of liberation theology. The newspaper article was written by Father Antonio Stagliano, director of a theological institute in Naples, Italy.

Salvadoran rights champion Maria Julia Hernandez dies

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Maria Julia Hernandez, who for more than two decades led the San Salvador Archdiocese's internationally recognized human rights efforts, died of a heart attack March 30 in El Salvador. She was 68. Hernandez, who reportedly had been hospitalized with heart problems since March 9, suffered a heart attack March 28 before the fatal attack. Hernandez worked alongside Archbishop Oscar A. Romero, who was killed in 1980. Two years later, when San Salvador Archbishop Arturo Rivera Damas reorganized the archdiocesan human rights agency and established its successor, Tutela Legal, Hernandez was placed in charge. Thomas Quigley, the U.S. bishops' adviser on Latin American affairs, called Hernandez "the most tireless, yet gentle, fighter for human rights in El Salvador" and noted that "she had worked more closely than almost anyone with Archbishop Romero. Like the Chilean Vicariate of Solidarity, Tutela became a model for human rights organizations throughout the hemisphere," Quigley said April 2. "While her death is a terrible loss for the still-urgent need for monitoring violations of basic rights in El Salvador, she is at last with her beloved Monsenor Romero."

XLT comes to South Bend

SOUTH BEND — Bishop John M. D'Arcy will preside at the first South Bend area-wide XLT on Friday, April 20, at 7:30 p.m. at St. Pius X Parish in Granger.

XLT (exalt) celebrates the risen Lord and will include prayer with Bishop D'Arcy, music by Frankie and the Holy Rollers and Catholic friends from the diocese.

XLT is praise and worship music, reflection and time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament with more praise and worship. XLT appeals to high school and college age Catholics to draw them into deep worship, but everyone is welcome and encouraged to come. Seeing the young people's energy and enthusiasm for their faith is inspiring and even contagious.

For more information, contact Cindy Black at the diocesan Office of Youth Ministry, (260) 422-4611.

Sacred Heart parishioners receive Lilly scholarships

WARSAW — Both recipients this year of the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship, announced by the Kosciusko County Community Foundation, are graduates and parishioners of Sacred Heart in Warsaw. Presentations were made to Kayla Durcholz and Danielle DeGeeter, both seniors at Warsaw Community High School.

Durcholz, the valedictorian of her class, is an active parish volunteer and a volunteer at Our Father's House.

Her essay, she told the *Times-Union* newspaper in Warsaw, was about a church group pilgrimage to World Youth Day in Germany. She plans to attend the University of Notre Dame.

DeGeeter is ranked in the top 2 percent of her class. She is active in youth group at Sacred Heart. Her essay was about losing a city championship basketball game when she was a student at Sacred Heart School. She plans to attend Indiana University.

Women of Grace study series meets in Auburn

AUBURN — The Women of Grace study series has started at Immaculate Conception Church in Auburn with 38 women participating. The Women of Grace study series is based on Johnette Benkovic's book "Full of Grace," and is infused with sacred Scripture, magisterial teaching, church doctrine and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Women taking this study will grow in knowledge of their faith, deepen their prayer life, meet a variety of women saints, and come to see the Blessed Virgin Mary as their exemplar.

Johnette Benkovic is founder and president of Women of Grace, and founder and president of Living His Life Abundantly. Johnette has been active in the field of Catholic communications since 1987. She is host of "The Abundant Life Television Program" (EWTN) and "Women of Grace, Live" (Catholic radio).

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It is said that the third time is the charm, and that seems to be true this year at St. John the Baptist Catholic School, Fort Wayne. This is the third year that the students have been collecting enough nonperishable food to create a circle of cans around the church and school. The cans supply the St. Patrick's Food Bank, which is coordinated by the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and the First Christian Church food bank.

Author of several books, including, "Full of Grace: Women and the Abundant Life," Johnette is a popular conference speaker and retreat facilitator.

Cindy Turner and Melody Rolston took this study course through the diocese at the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center in Fort Wayne with Ginny Kohrman facilitating in the fall. Being touched by their own growth in faith through this program, Cindy and Melody asked their parish priest, Father Babasino Fernandes, if they could bring the study to their parish here in Auburn.

Women interested in learning more about this study series or pre-registering for the program beginning in the fall are encouraged to call the Immaculate Conception Church Parish office at (260) 925-3930.

The lectures are all recorded by Johnette Benkovic on DVD. The ladies are meeting once a week on Saturday mornings for nine consecutive weeks concluding on Mothers Day weekend.

Little Flower Parish to present introduction to Lectio Divina

SOUTH BEND — An Introduction to Lectio Divina Praying with Scripture will be hosted by Little Flower Parish in South Bend with seven sessions beginning Thursday, April 12. These sessions will explore and practice the powerful prayer

method developed by St. Benedict and the Benedictines over time.

Lectio Divina is a method of prayer in which participants will ruminate on a passage of Scripture over and over again allowing God to speak through the word. Participants can pray this method alone or in a group. Both methods will be covered.

The sessions will focus on the readings of Easter and the Resurrection. Participants will meet in Little Flower's Parish Center 54191 N. Ironwood, in the Youth Chapel on Thursdays, starting April 12, from 9:15 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. or 5:15 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.

Participants need to bring a Bible. Registration is only needed for those who need child care, which may be arranged by contacting Jay Freeland at (574) 273-9722 or through e-mail at lfcoutreach@sbcglobal.net.

Sister Mary Brooks recognized by Anderson health care system

ANDERSON — To recognize the kindness and leadership of Holy Cross Sister Mary Kathryn Brooks, Robert and Charlotte Austin made a major gift to Saint John's Health System in Anderson in her honor.

Sister Mary Brooks works for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend in the Office of Spiritual Development/Evangelization in South Bend. She also served as administrator of Saint John's from 1969 to 1978. Robert Austin served

a term as operating board chair in 1974 and 1975.

"I was always impressed with her kindness and her ability to guide people through the decisions and changes that needed to be made," Austin commented in the February issues of the Partners in Mission newsletter.

As a result of the \$40,000 gift, a trauma room in the new emergency room, which opened in early March, was named by Saint John's. Kyle De Fur, Saint John's president, said, "We are grateful to have Robert and Charlotte recognize Sister Mary Brooks in this way. Administrators depend on caring, professional volunteer leadership to make dreams reality. With this gift today, and service on the foundation board, Bob continues to help Saint John's deliver the highest quality care."

Aquinas Symposium at Saint Mary's College

NOTRE DAME — Saint Mary's College holds the 10th annual Thomas Aquinas Symposium on Wednesday, April 11, at 7 p.m. in the Haggar College Center. The symposium is free and open to the public.

This year's speaker is Jean Porter, professor of theology at the University of Notre Dame. Her talk is titled, "Reasoned Faith and Faithful Reason: Thomas Aquinas as Theologian and Philosopher." Thomas Aquinas, 13th century philosopher, saint and teacher of the church, is considered by many Catholics to be the church's greatest

theologian.

A reception will be held following the lecture on the mezzanine of the Haggar College Center.

The Joyce McMahon Hank Aquinas Chair in Catholic Theology, held by Saint Mary's College Religious Studies Professor Joe Incandela, sponsors the symposium with support from the Saint Mary's College Center for Spirituality. For additional information, call (574) 284-4636.

St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton student named state handwriting winner

FORT WAYNE — Jonathan Koury was named the 2007 State Handwriting Winner selected in the National Handwriting Contest sponsored by Zaner-Bloser Educational Publishers. Koury is a second grader at St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School.

Koury will go on to compete against state winners nationwide for the title of national winner selected for each grade level — one through eight. A grand national champion will be selected from all national winners.

For the past 16 years, Zaner-Bloser, the leading publisher of handwriting materials, has sponsored the National Handwriting Contest to emphasize the importance of developing good handwriting skills. This year, more than 157,000 students participated in the contest nationwide.

Dismas House dinner, awards and golf benefit announced

SOUTH BEND — "Putting the Pieces Back Together" is the theme of the 21st annual dinner of Dismas House to be held Thursday, April 19, at the Palais Royale in downtown South Bend.

Michael Smith, former correctional officer and hostage during the 1971 Attica prison riots, will be the main speaker.

The annual Father Jack Hickey Award will be made to the Honorable R. W. Chamblee, Jr., a judge who has distinguished himself in the South Bend area.

This award will also be presented to attorney Julie Verheye of South Bend.

The annual benefit golf outing of Dismas House will be Saturday, May 12, at the Brookwood course in Buchanan, Mich. Reservations must be made by April 23. — EJD

Kenneth Hays to address Knights

SOUTH BEND — Kenneth Hays of the U.S. district attorney's office, will address members and spouses of the Father Nieuwland Assembly, 4th Degree, Knights of Columbus, at a dinner on Thursday, April 19, at the Queen of Peace Council in Mishawaka. Hays will speak on the various ramifications of problems that frequently occur at the district level.

Lilliam Niezgodski is navigator of the assembly. Chairmen of the dinner are John J. Lehner and James R. Burger. Reservations may be phoned to either men at (574) 234-4580 or (574) 935-0283. — EJD

Bill to raise Indiana's minimum wage passes House, awaits Senate panel vote

BY BRIGID CURTIS AYER

INDIANAPOLIS — A bill to raise Indiana's minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$7.50 by September 2008, passed the Indiana House (71-29) and awaits approval by a Senate panel.

House Bill 1027, authored by Rep. John Day (D-Indianapolis) would raise Indiana's minimum hourly wage in three stages. The wage would increase to \$6 on Sept. 1, 2007; \$6.75 on March 1, 2008; and \$7.50 on Sept. 1, 2008.

The bill, which received a hearing March 28 by the Senate Pensions and Labor Committee, drew a large crowd of supporters and opponents.

Rep. Day, the bill's author, gave the 11 members of the Senate Pensions & Labor Committee two reasons why they should support

the minimum wage bill in a letter. First, "if Indiana's wage rates had kept up with the rate of inflation over the past 20 years, it would be \$8.50 per hour." Rep. Day's letter also told panel members that it's not just young people working for spending money who are primarily minimum wage earners. A 1998 report by the Congressional Research Service (CRS) says that nationally 36 percent of minimum wage workers are ages 16-19. Sixty percent are adults and 40 percent of those are the sole wage earner of the family. "This group should be our focus," said Rep. Day in the letter.

Indiana Catholic Conference Executive Director Glenn Tebbe, who testified March 28 before the Senate panel in support of the bill, said, "The Indiana Catholic Conference supports an increase in the minimum wage as a matter of

justice for the worker and the family. The principle of a just wage is integral to our understanding of human work. Wages should be adequate for workers to provide for themselves and their families in dignity," he said.

Beth Mickelson, public policy and legislative specialist for the Children's Bureau, Inc., who also testified in support of the bill said, "An increase in the minimum wage has a real benefit for families living in poverty, which directly affects the well being of children. Twenty-two percent or 49,638 of all Hoosier workers have incomes which put them below the federal poverty rate. This is simply not acceptable for working families," said Mickelson. "What's even more staggering and upsetting is the U.S. has the second highest child poverty rate in the world among developed nations. The only nation which has a higher child poverty rate is Mexico," said Mickelson.

Over a dozen groups testified in support of the minimum wage bill including a representative from the Gary chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Lindsey Mintz, of the Jewish Community Relations Council, and a retired member of the United Auto Workers among others.

Opponents to the bill including Rep. Matt Bell who testified against the bill in both the House and Senate believe those working at minimum wage are typically teens who work so they can have spending money. And that raising the minimum wage will only hurt

Indiana has roughly 1.8 million hourly wage earners. About 2 percent or 36,000 make \$5.15 or less.

The current federal minimum wage law covers public and private groups engaged in interstate commerce or that have sales of over \$500,000 per year. Forty-three states have minimum wage laws that cover workers who are not covered under the federal minimum wage. In 2006 election, six states had raising the minimum wage on the ballot including Ohio, and all six approved the wage hike. Thirty-one states have enacted minimum wage laws that go beyond the federal minimum wage rate.

small businesses causing some to close thus elimination of the jobs for those who the bill is trying to help. A representative from the Indiana Chamber of Commerce and one from the Indiana Manufacturers Association also testified against the bill.

But Tebbe told Senate panel members, "Information provided

by census survey of 2006 shows minimum wage earners are not only teenagers. Nearly half or 48 percent of minimum wage earners are the household's chief bread winner, meaning that no higher paid family members live with them. He also said the federal minimum wage bill has also passed the U.S. House of Representatives and is awaiting passage in the U.S. Senate. The federal bill would raise the minimum wage in three stages up to \$7.25 by 2009. Rep. Day's bill raises the minimum wage higher to \$7.50 and quicker by September 2008.

Tebbe explained that even if the federal minimum wage is raised; it does not cover thousands of workers in Indiana who do not fall under the federal law. "Indiana needs to set its minimum at a reasonable level to ensure that workers and their families are given the opportunity to access what is needed for one's material, social and spiritual well being," said Tebbe.

Rep. Day concluded the letter to Senate panel members saying, "Those who most need the increase can not hire a lobbyist to make their case, they are depending on us."

Bills must be passed out of committee by April 4 to advance.

Indiana Catholic Conference recommended reading on the working poor "Nickel and Dime: On (not) Getting By in America," by Barbara Ehrenreich



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Easter disciples

BY GINNY KOHRMAN

Opening Prayer

God of mercy, you have filled us with the hope of resurrection by restoring man to his original dignity. May we who relive the mystery each year come to share it in perpetual love. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

— *Opening Prayer,
Wednesday of the
Second Week of Easter*

Scripture: Mt 28:8-15, Jn 20:11-28, Lk 24:13-48, Jn 21:1-14, Mk 16:9-15

Commentary

"Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!

Exalt, all creation around God's throne! Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!

Sound the trumpet of salvation! — Easter Proclamation

My heart races with joy as I recall and reflect upon the mysteries of the passion, death and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. This season wells up within me an excitement and love that is nearly unexplainable or too deep for words. Lenten preparations and prayer and the liturgies of the Easter triduum make me want to shout aloud, as did Mary Magdalene, "I have seen the Lord!" (Jn 20:18b) I feel like racing about saying to others, "The Lord has truly been raised!" (Lk 24:34)

My oldest son often pokes fun at me by saying in his "mom" voice, "This is mom's favorite week ... when Jesus won victory over death." He is right. It is my favorite liturgical season not only because it is packed with signs, symbols and words of joy, hope, life and celebration, but also because the Scriptures of the Easter Octave nourish us with

many messages for our own spiritual journey. I invite you to ponder the daily Gospel readings of Easter week as you celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus.

Mt 28:8-15 — Mary Magdalene and the Other Mary

Matthew's Gospel tells us that two women, Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of James and Joseph, were the first to see the empty tomb of Jesus and to be told by an angel, "He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said." They experienced both an earthquake and an angel of the Lord who told them "Do not be afraid!" but go tell the disciples that Jesus has risen. Either one of these events would have scared me to death.

The Scriptures tell us that the two women quickly left the tomb to do as the angel had told them and that they were both "fearful and overjoyed." They had come to the tomb ready to face sadness and death, but in a moment Jesus had called them to faith and action without fear. By loving and following Jesus, they had become vulnerable, opening themselves to the possibility of both great joy and much pain. When Jesus appears to them as they were running, the women embrace his feet and worship him with incredible joy.

Mary and the other Mary tell us that the spiritual journey with Jesus takes a great deal of fortitude. We cannot always flee from evil, avoid or change difficult circumstances, or know what will happen in the days ahead. However, given the grace of God, we can cling to that which is good and endure horrible things without being defeated. Mary and Mary approached the tomb as the darkness of death was fading and the new light of life was dawning. They shook off their fear of despair and spiritual suffering, running to spread the good news after experiencing the presence of the Lord. Fortitude presumes that

we allow ourselves to be vulnerable to death and life while remaining courageously open to the overflowing gift of God's graces. Mary and the other Mary trembled with the virtue of fortitude.

Lk 24:13-35 — Emmaus, Cleopus and the other disciple

Cleopus and the other disciple, walking, talking and feeling "downcast," encounter a visitor on their journey to Emmaus from Jerusalem. The two disciples were not only mourning the death of Jesus but also the loss of their hope that Jesus would be the one to rescue Israel. When they first encounter Jesus, they do not recognize him. As Jesus talks with them in their state of depression, he says, "Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke." (Lk 24:25)

Nevertheless, Jesus, out of compassion, explains the meaning of all the ancient Scriptures and his death on the cross. In addition, he takes time to eat with them. Jesus brings meaning back into their lives and turns their darkness into light. Jesus opens their hearts and helps them to see the events of past days through his eyes.

As Christians we, like the disciples, need the virtue of prudence. Prudence demands a clear spiritual vision, careful thought and a healthy control of our emotions. The two disciples had turned away from Jerusalem, disappointed, confused and full of fear. Upon the death of Jesus, they had lost their spiritual vision.

However, Jesus stays with them in their discouragement. He reveals the truth of all that has occurred and sets them sure-footedly on the road back to Jerusalem. Jesus helps the two disciples regain their trust in God's plan. They begin to realize that Jesus would not have invited them into his life without also

giving them clear spiritual vision, steadiness of emotion and good thoughts.

Jesus is with us. He is the one who helps us see things clearly. He makes the darkness light and directs our paths. Jesus helps us to sort out that which is good and that which is evil. The two disciples on the road to Emmaus remind us of the need to pray for the virtue of prudence. Regardless of what is going on around us, we must keep our eyes on the Lord and trust that he will give us the grace to do what is good ... joyfully ... on the many roads of life.

Evangelization action challenge

In this week following Easter, reflect on the remaining Gospel readings in the quiet of your days.

Interior renewal: Jn 20:11-18

Reflect on the virtues of Mary Magdalene, who continued to believe and love Jesus, even when she did not understand all that was happening. Which of her virtues do you possess or hope to obtain?

Reaching out to others: Jn 21:1-14

This story of the appearance of Jesus to Peter and his disciples affirms the reality of Christ's res-

urrection. Jesus tells them to cast out their nets, and the disciples catch a net full of fish. Using the virtues of prudence and fortitude, cast out your net lovingly to someone so that he or she, too, can embrace this season of hope.

Transforming society: Mk 16:9-15

Jesus corrects the apostles for their unbelief and hardness of heart and then tells them, "Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature." During these weeks of Easter celebration, live as St. Francis teaches: "Proclaim the Gospel; use words if necessary."

Closing Prayer

"Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!

Exalt, all creation around God's throne!

Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!

Sound the trumpet of salvation!

Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor,

Radiant in the brightness of your King!

Christ has conquered! Glory fills you!

Darkness vanishes for ever!"

— *Easter Proclamation*

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ALLELUIA

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Dirt and devotion

BY MARK WEBER

FORT WAYNE — All miracles do not happen in faraway places. Many happen right in the backyard. And for those who love gardening, the joy of seeing life spring from dirt never gets old and never fails to be a visible reinforcement of faith and the miracle of creation.

Since medieval time, flowers have served as symbols of devotion, particularly with the Blessed Mother in arrangements known as Mary Gardens. Such traditions were circulated by itinerant preachers, mendicant friars, wandering minstrels, pilgrims and other travelers.

Floral associations made with the mysteries and virtues of Mary are the following: cornflower for Mary's crown; forget-me-not, the eyes of Mary; impatiens, mother love and larkspur, Mary's tears. And of course, one can see how poppies and red roses with their thorns represent Christ's blood.

Any of these, plus personal choices of the gardener, arranged near a statue of Mary provide a beautiful meditative setting.

From a practical standpoint, tips on preparing the earth for a Mary Garden come from Roy Tripp, building and grounds manager at St. Patrick Parish, Fort Wayne, who also has 15 years experience as a commercial landscaper, who suggests that garden soil be mixed with sand to make it porous for deep penetration of water and air; humus to make it spongy to retain water; and fertilizer to



MARK WEBER

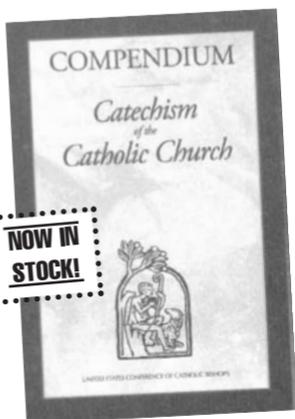
Roy Tripp, building and grounds manager at St. Patrick Parish, Fort Wayne, has assisted in creating Mary Gardens in the Fort Wayne area.

nourish plant growth. He adds that the statue used be in correct proportion to the garden area.

Some of the better known Mary Gardens today are those at Our Lady's national shrines at Knock, Ireland, and Akita, Japan; at the Artane Oratory of the Resurrection in Dublin and the Lincoln Cathedral in England. Two Mary Gardens of interest in the U.S. are at St. Mary Parish, Annapolis, Md., adjacent to the historic Carroll House and at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Portage, Mich.

Written in 598 questions and answers, this 200-page volume offers a quick synopsis of the essential contents of the faith as promulgated in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Its format makes it a unique tool for parents, pastors, teachers, principals, and catechists.

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AQUINAS

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Community garden gives refugees a 'place to call their own'

BY THERESA LAURENCE

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (CNS) — On a sunny morning, refugees of all ages from Somalia, Cuba, Liberia and Sudan gathered in front of the Holy Name Parish Life Center in Nashville to plant a garden.

While digging up the earth to plant vegetables, herbs and flowers, the refugees were also establishing a welcoming place of respite and purpose for their often isolated community.

Many of the refugees "don't feel like they have a place to go outside of their home. They don't know where they belong," said Laurie Soileau, resources developer for Catholic Charities' Refugee and Immigration Services in Nashville. Most newly arrived refugees live in apartment complexes with little or no access to a yard or land and have limited access to transportation.

The garden is an outlet that allows the refugees to "have some control over their environment, a place to call their own," Soileau said.

Catholic Charities of Tennessee resettles approximately 250 refugees each year. The refugees, who flee their home countries to escape political or

religious persecution, come primarily from African and Latin American nations.

The garden is especially important for the older refugee population, who are among the most isolated, Soileau said. "A lot of times, the older people are kind of forgotten."

Much more funding and resources, such as English classes, are available to the younger refugee population who are seen to have the most potential for education and employment.

While the refugee elders may be close to retirement age, they still have the desire to work and be part of the community, Soileau said, but they don't have the language skills.

Since she joined Catholic Charities last December, Soileau has engaged the older population in a variety of activities such as yoga, painting and the gardening that "gives them a creative outlet not tied to language," she told the *Tennessee Register*, newspaper of the Nashville Diocese.

A certified instructor in English as a second language, Soileau also incorporates English lessons into the seniors' weekly meetings.

While the newly planted garden is for all refugees, Soileau wants the older refugees to take a strong leadership role with it.

Among other duties, they will attend monthly maintenance days and have the final say on harvesting and distributing the produce.

Musa Matan, a Somali Bantu elder who was resettled in Nashville through Catholic Charities three years ago, is eager to take an active role with the garden, including daily watering.

"He really likes to get his hands dirty and have a purpose," said Kerry Marks, program coordinator with Catholic Charities Refugee and Immigration Services.

The garden is also an opportunity for refugee elders such as Edigno Moreno, who was a farmer in his home country of Cuba, to lend their expertise to a project.

On a recent planting day, Moreno was busily planting tomatoes and lettuce, as well as rose bushes, telling of how he grew large tomatoes and cabbages at home.

"It's nice to have crops like in my home country," he said through a translator. While most crops integral to the refugees' diets are available commercially in local grocery and specialty stores, it is important to them to be able to grow their food themselves.



CNS PHOTO/THERESA LAURENCE, TENNESSEE REGISTER

Laurie Soileau of Catholic Charities Refugee and Immigration Services, helps Edigno Moreno of Cuba as he prepares to plant lettuce in the new refugee community garden at Holy Name Church in Nashville, Tenn., in late April 2006. Somali Bantu Musa Matan, left, is one of the refugee elders who is taking an active leadership role with the garden. Many older refugees are the most isolated from the community, and the garden project aims to give them a sense of purpose and a space outside their home to call their own.

Easter basket project benefits SCAN

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — No matter what the weather brings this Easter, there will be smiles on the faces of hundreds of area children currently served by SCAN (Stop Child Abuse and Neglect) who will be enjoying the spoils of the baskets assembled and donated by the Easter basket project volunteers around the area.

What began eight years ago with a desire by members of Northern Indiana Alumni Directors Consortium (NIADC) to serve those in need has taken on a life of its own. The decade-old consortium includes Indiana-Purdue Universities at Fort Wayne (IPFW), Grace and Manchester Colleges, University of Saint Francis, Indiana Wesleyan, Ivy Tech, Indiana Tech, Taylor University-Fort Wayne, and Tri State University and Huntington University, and, according to Jennifer Bosk, director of alumni relations at IPFW, the Easter basket project was created to serve underprivileged students attending inner city schools.

The first effort provided around 400 baskets assembled by volunteers using donated baskets, toys, games and candies. Any baskets left over went to SCAN. Finally, in 2004 the NIADC chose SCAN as sole recipient of their efforts in order to serve more children in outer counties as well and the number of baskets doubled.

Located at 500 West Main St. in Fort Wayne, SCAN has served the northeast Indiana area since 1974 with abuse and neglect prevention and restoration programs for families including, Prevention through Education, Healthy Families, supervised visitation, Daybreak Crisis Homes and more.

According to Lynn Noneman, director of resource development at SCAN, hundreds of Easter baskets are delivered by NIADC, which are then offered to the children who attend supervised visitation as well as those who experience home visits by the SCAN case workers.

"It means a great deal to the families we serve," says Noneman, adding, "and also to the staff." Many of these children would not otherwise have the opportunity to receive an Easter basket.

One group of Easter basket volunteers is a unique mix of young and old. Organized by Edie



KAY COZAD

Terena Kumfer, Christie Jones and Edie Clemmer stand behind Carrie Clemmer as they prepare Easter baskets for the children served by SCAN (Stop Child Abuse and Neglect). Edie invites over a dozen volunteers to work in her basement twice each year to create the baskets using donated sale items. The group volunteers their time to the Easter basket project which is a service project of the Northern Indiana Alumni Directors Consortium (NIADC).

Clemmer, the group meets twice a year to create the Easter baskets assembly line style.

Clemmer has participated in this project for three years and has developed quite a network of volunteers. Her initial efforts produced a dozen baskets assembled with the help of her children.

These days she gathers enough goodies to fill 200 baskets and has up to 15 volunteers gathered on each assembly night.

Many of the items used, including the baskets, are donated by fellow enthusiasts. "People bring donations to my house all through the year," remarks Clemmer, who stores the Easter goods in a 6x14 closet she has designated for the project.

Her family dentist gets involved by donating toothbrushes and toothpaste for the baskets. Many of the seasonal toys are purchased after Easter on the discount rack as well as at garage

sales throughout the year.

Clemmer's sister-in-law, Christie Jones, has been involved in the project from the beginning and says, "It's fun doing this with Edie. I buy a lot of baskets and things at garage sales for this." Clemmer's daughter Carrie enjoys working on the craft projects, such as beaded bracelets for the girls' baskets while a neighbor

sews clothes for the Barbie Dolls and beaded satin purses.

One volunteer, Terena Kumfer, came this year for the first time to "give back" to the foster care system. "I was in foster homes growing up. I think it's great

"I was in foster homes growing up. I think it's great that Edie does this."

TERENA KUMFER

that Edie does this."

One of the oldest volunteers, Henrietta Parrot agrees, saying, "It is such a worthwhile project. She's (Edie) so organized. It's a joy and a thrill!"

The Clemmers' finished basement takes on a new purpose each spring when Edie and her assis-

tants organize and stack the toys and candy in every available space for easy access during assembly. Baskets are crowded on the pool table, stuffed animals cover the pinball machine and Barbie Dolls and jewelry line the couch.

As the excited volunteers, many of whom are returning veterans and others first-timers, enter the basement they receive introductions and instructions. Then one by one they chose a basket and visit each "station" to fill it with goodies. The process is only complete when each basket has been wrapped in cellophane and carried up the stairs. After all the baskets are filled and wrapped,

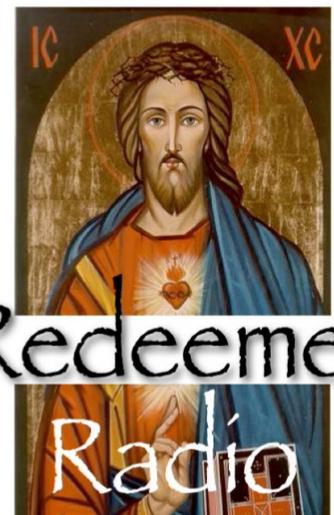
volunteers are treated to snacks and the festive atmosphere is evidence that joy is at the heart of this ministry.

Clemmer works with Ed Schaab, director of alumni at University of Saint Francis, to have her baskets collected by the truck from Ivy Tech. The baskets are then delivered directly to SCAN for distribution.

Of Clemmer's dedication Schaab says, "She's doing a fantastic job. She's the type of person who takes on many causes." He, along with the rest, is encouraged by the Easter basket project that benefits the hundreds of children affected by abuse each year.



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ST. ALOYSIUS PRESENTS LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS



TIM JOHNSON

Students at St. Aloysius, Yoder, wrote and acted the Living Stations of the Cross on Friday afternoon, March 30. In the photo, "Jesus meets his mother."

The 9 Day Novena to The Divine Mercy

On Good Friday, 1937, Jesus requested that St. Faustina make a special novena before the Feast of Mercy, from Good Friday through the following Saturday. He, Himself, dictated the intentions for each day. By means of a specific prayer she was to bring to His heart a different group of souls each day and thus immerse them in the ocean of His mercy, begging the Father - on the strength of Jesus' passion - for graces for them.

(See diary of St. Faustina, 1209)

Prayers for the Novena

(Diary, 1209-1229)

The novena and chaplet is said on the rosary.

Begin with the three beads each day. Your intentions with the soul is read.

It is greatly recommended that the following novena intentions and prayers be said together with the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, since Our Lord specifically asked for a novena of Chaplets, especially before the Feast of Mercy.

First Day

"Today bring to Me all mankind, especially all sinners, and immerse them in the ocean of my mercy."

Second Day

"Today bring to Me the souls of Priests and Religious, and immerse them in My unfathomable mercy."

Third Day

"Today bring to Me all devout and faithful souls, and immerse them in the ocean of My mercy."

Fourth Day

"Today bring to Me those who do not believe in God and those who do not yet know Me."

Fifth Day

"Today bring to Me the souls of those who have separated themselves from My Church, and immerse them in the ocean of My mercy."

Sixth Day

"Today bring to Me the meek and humble souls and the souls of little children and immerse them in My mercy."

Seventh Day

"Today bring to Me the souls who especially venerate and glorify My mercy, and immerse them in My mercy."

Eighth Day

"Today bring to Me the souls who are detained in purgatory, and immerse them in the abyss of My mercy."

Ninth Day

"Today bring to Me the souls who have become lukewarm, and immerse them in the abyss of My mercy."

Divine Mercy Celebration - Sunday, April 15, 2007

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction, Divine Mercy Chaplet

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church 500 East Seventh Street - Auburn, Indiana

2:00 PM Confessions - 3:00 PM Celebration PASTOR: FATHER BABASINO FERNANDES

Celebrant for Divine Mercy: Father Lourdino Fernandes,

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Homemade food and refreshments provided afterward by Ladies Cenacle Prayer Group.

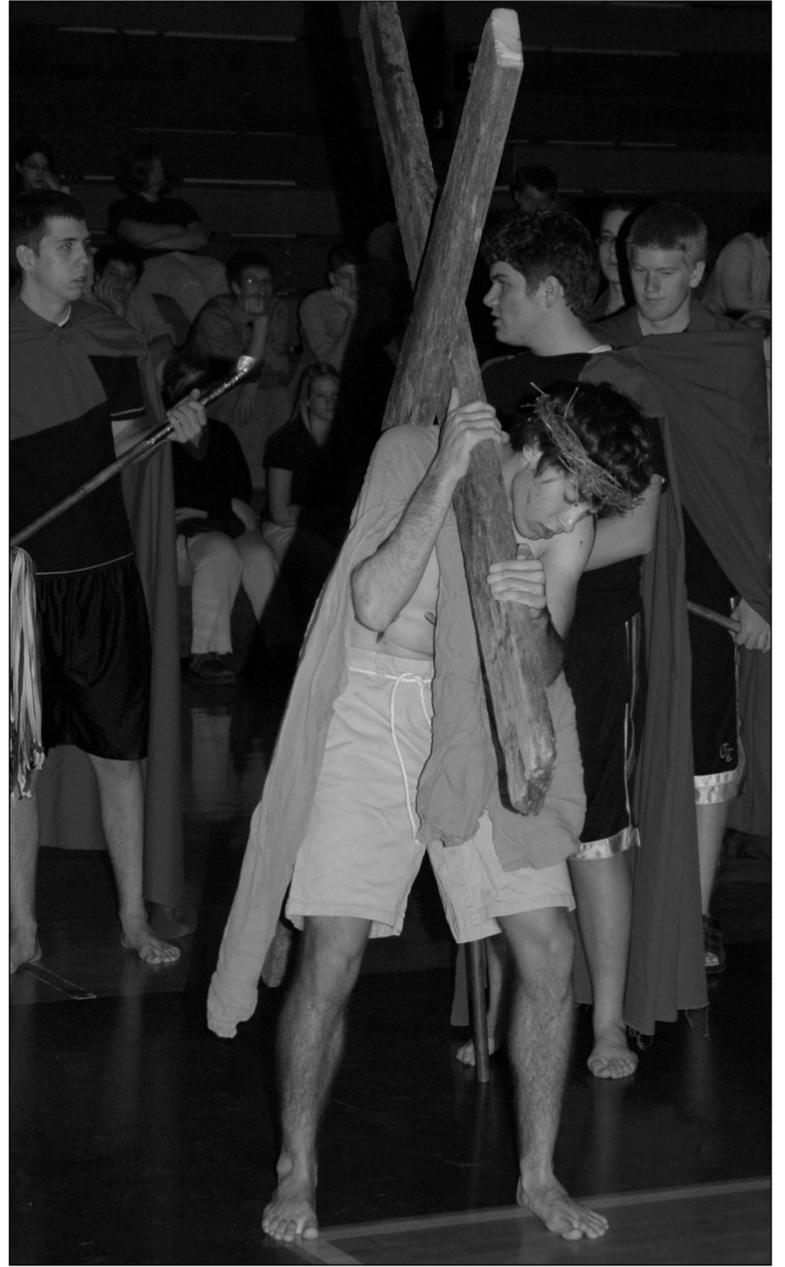
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DENNIS FECH

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SUNDAY**

April 15, 2007

Chaplet 2:30 PM

Holy Mass 3:00 PM

Confessions 2 to 3 PM



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**Everyone
Welcome!**

EDITORIAL

Easter message goes out to a yearning world

This week we celebrate one of the holiest weeks of the year. Christ is risen! We receive new life in him.

How wonderful that Easter falls in the spring. Nature itself reminds us of new life. Winter wheat coats the fields in a layer of green that we barely noticed a few weeks ago. This wheat reminds us of the bread of life we receive in Communion.

We pray with excitement for those who enter new life in the church at the Easter Vigil. We pray that their lives will burst forth like the flowers that are reaching to the heavens.

Gardening with our souls

Easter reminds us of new life bursting forth. This week we feature our gardening section — with a special emphasis on shrines and grottos.

There is something to say about the spirituality of gardening. We discussed this a few years ago, but it is a message that gardeners can connect to, especially at this time of year.

We can liken a newly plowed or tilled garden to our souls at baptism. The garden cleared of the rough debris, weeds, etc., and raked smooth is like our soul washed clean through the waters of baptism.

We plant seeds that will grow to harvest or bring beauty into our lives like the flowers. God gives each of us seeds — talents and gifts you might say — that we may use to serve him, something to nurture to a rich harvest and give selflessly to others.

The sacraments and sacramentals are like the rains, sunshine and fertilizer that allow these gifts, these seeds, to grow. God's word enriches the soil for our souls.

Just as we keep the rows of plants from having life choked or stunted by the weeds, we must keep our souls clean from having its life choked or stunted by sin.

Weeds, rodents, unwanted bugs, fungus, floods, droughts can destroy the plants, just as secular influences that discredit the dignity of creation and God's life can destroy our sights on God.

Fortunately, we can remove the weeds or sins of our souls through the sacrament of reconciliation giving the plants a fresh place to thrive.

The rewards of gardening include beautiful flowers, a harvest of vegetables or fruits. These are gifts that can be shared with others when we are good stewards just as the gifts we cultivate within us are meant to be used to glorify God for his kingdom.

Some seeds can be lovingly kept and used for the next season, just as we lovingly pass our faith from one generation to the next.

To all who garden and to those who appreciate the beauty of growth, we wish you a blessed season, with lots of sunshine, beneficial rains and a successful harvest.

Speaking out for what's right

This week, an art display was slated to be exhibited at an art gallery in New York City depicting the crucifixion of Christ in chocolate. The problem with the display was that Christ was depicted naked. The exhibit included gruesome details that we won't discuss here. Fortunately, the Catholic League learned of the situation and offered a boycott. Although the exhibit was pulled, it was done so with reluctance on the gallery's part.

The Catholic League questioned what would happen if the gallery substituted the prophet Mohammed for Jesus and displayed him during Ramadan. So often, Christians do not speak out loudly enough when our values, that which we hold sacred, are trampled by the secular world, especially at a holy time of the year.

As Christianity celebrates the Risen Lord, and we hear about the early church in the daily and Sunday readings, let us not be afraid to shout the good news and defend the values that the good news leads us to follow.

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

COMMENTARY

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

Stewardship and the Eucharist

In 1992, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops approved a pastoral letter, *Stewardship: A Disciples Response*. This document is a useful guide for the Catholic seeking to live according to God's call. It is an invitation to follow Christ who gave himself up for us. Each of us is called to serve God and neighbors and be stewards of God's creation and all that he has entrusted to us. Stewardship is necessary for all members of the church so that each one of us recognizes what needs to be done and we know how to go about doing it.

To understand stewardship, we must look towards the holy Eucharist and understand that it is life-giving nourishment for the engagement in the work of the church. Holy Eucharist is the total gift of our loving Savior to us. Jesus gives us the Eucharist because of his love for us, and for our salvation. "He loved his own in the world and he loved them to the end." (Jn. 13:1)

This love is not just for the Twelve present in the room, but for us, too, who receive Eucharist 2,000 years later. The Eucharist was long planned by Christ. St. Luke quotes Jesus saying, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer..." (Lk 22:15)

We know this suffering in reference to Calvary as a sacrifice, and today our Eucharist is the sacramental representation of the sacri-



STEWARDSHIP – A WAY OF LIFE

HARRY VERHILEY

ifice of Calvary — of the paschal mysteries of his suffering, death and resurrection. To participate in the Mass and to receive the Eucharist is a supreme act of worship.

Jesus not only loved us as he laid his life down for us on Calvary, but he also established this profound sacrifice and sacrament in order to be one with his beloved church. This new covenant is "a sacrament of love, a sign of unity, a bond of charity, a paschal banquet in which Christ is consumed, the mind is filled with grace, and a pledge of future glory is given to us." — *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, 47.

Certainly this is a cause of thanksgiving, a thanksgiving to be lived. And by living the Eucharist is where the stewardship way of life comes into play.

Jesus, in the holy Eucharist, teaches us how to be generous, how to give, how to sacrifice, how to serve. Jesus does this through the work of the Holy Spirit, the same Spirit promised and given to the apostles. This is the same Spirit given to us through apostolic suc-

cession. By way of this Spirit, we come to know what Jesus has done for us in the Eucharist.

We, the recipients of Christ, the followers of Christ, are taught by the Holy Spirit how to be united in love and service just as the third eucharistic prayer expresses to the Father, "We who are nourished by his body and blood may be filled with his Holy Spirit and become one body, one spirit in Christ." (Roman Missal)

We do not do this all on our own; it is the work of the Holy Spirit, the gift of Jesus. It is the power of the holy Eucharist that enables Christians to give of themselves generously to the service of others. Our stewardship acts of generosity, sacrifice and service are acts of God, not an expression of our own greatness. The holy Eucharist is the source of life giving nourishment so that we will act upon God's way. It is only in communion with him that we truly grow in love.

Harry Verhiley is the director of the diocesan Development Office.

Food marketers need to look at new study on TV advertising and kids

BY MARK PATTISON

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Ten years ago, the Pontifical Council for Social Communications issued a document called, simply, "Ethics in Advertising."

The document condemned advertising oriented toward children which "intrudes upon the parent-child relationship and seeks to manipulate it to its own base ends."

The latest case in point: A Kaiser Family Federation survey that shows that food products account for half of the advertising on TV watched by minors.

The study, "Food for Thought," examined the six (at the time) commercial broadcast networks, six cable channels and PBS.

Children ages 2-7 see an average of 12 food ads a day on TV, or 4,440 food ads a year — close to 30 hours of food advertising, according to the study.

Those numbers jump to 21 food ads a day for children ages 8-12 — 7,600 food ads a year and more

than 50 hours of TV time on food ads.

Teenagers ages 13-17 have it slightly better. They see only 17 food ads a day on average, or 6,000 food ads totaling more than 40 hours a year.

Counterbalancing all of this advertising is a woefully small number of public service announcements about fitness and nutrition. Children ages 2-7 get one hour and 25 minutes a year of PSA on the subject, while kids ages 8-12 get one hour and 15 minutes, and teenagers watch just 25 minutes a year of fitness and nutrition PSAs.

The Kaiser study showed that 34 percent of the food products advertised were for candy and snacks, 28 percent for cereal, and 10 percent for fast food, while 4 percent were for dairy products and 1 percent for fruit juices. There was no advertising for fruits and vegetables.

Does anybody wonder why there's an epidemic of childhood obesity?

"This study does not address the issue of whether food advertising to children on TV is going up or down, nor does it address the issue of whether such advertising influences what kids eat, or should be in any way restricted, either through voluntary industry efforts or through regulatory policy," the Kaiser study concluded.

"What it does indicate, however, is that food marketing is a predominant part of the television advertising landscape for children, and that young people's exposure to such messages is substantial, while their exposure to counter-vailing health messages on TV is minimal."

Last September, a joint government-industry task force was created to look at childhood obesity and what role TV may play in it. The Kaiser study, as well as "Ethics in Advertising," could serve as useful tools in the fight against childhood obesity.

Mark Pattison is media editor for Catholic News Service.

Tridentine Mass: Pope looks for bridge to tradition

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Sometime soon, Pope Benedict XVI is expected to broaden permission to use the Tridentine Mass, a long-standing request of traditionalists who favor the rite used before the Second Vatican Council.

The move is aimed at ending a liturgical dispute which has simmered for more than 20 years. In the process, it could clarify how the pope intends to implement what he once described as a “liturgical reconciliation” in the modern church.

The pope will enunciate the new policy in a document to be released after more than a year of debate and discussion at the Vatican. The Roman Curia had mixed views on expanding the use of the Tridentine rite, and so did the world’s cardinals and bishops — all of which has lent a certain drama to the outcome.

From the outside, allowing the old Mass has been seen primarily as a concession to the followers of the late Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre, who was excommuni-

cated in 1988 for his intransigence on liturgical and other reforms of Vatican II.

But some Vatican officials believe that aspect has been overblown. More than making peace with Archbishop Lefebvre’s followers, they said, the pope is trying to make peace with the church’s own tradition.

One big clue to the pope’s thinking came in his 1997 book, titled “Milestones: Memoirs 1927-1977” and written when he was Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, in which he sharply criticized the drastic manner in which Pope Paul VI reformed the Mass in 1969.

The almost total prohibition of the old missal, which had been used for 400 years, was unprecedented in the history of the liturgy, he said in the book.

In effect, he said, “the old building was demolished” and a new one put in its place. Thus the liturgy ceased to be a living development and was treated as something manufactured by experts, which has caused the church “enormous harm,” he said.

THE VATICAN LETTER

JOHN THAVIS

Even before he wrote those words, then-Cardinal Ratzinger had caused a stir when he said it made sense for the priest to celebrate Mass facing the same direction as the congregation, in the pre-Vatican II style, although he also said it would be confusing to turn the altar around once again.

Over the years, he has sharply criticized what he sees as a tendency for the worshiping community to celebrate only itself.

All of that led some to presume that, as pope, he would preside over a rollback of liturgical reform.

LETTER, PAGE 15

Apostles’ testimony is our avenue to knowing and meeting Christ



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Easter Jn 20:1-9

The church celebrates the Easter Vigil late in the evening on Holy Saturday. These readings are those read during Masses on Easter itself.

For its first reading on this extraordinary feast of Christian faith, the church presents us with a passage from the Acts of the Apostles. Acts is in effect a continuation of St. Luke’s Gospel. Scholars say that this Gospel and Acts were the work of the same author. Beginning with the Ascension, Acts reports what life was like for the infant community of Christians in Jerusalem, and then it recalls the initial spread of Christianity.

Important in the early chapters of Acts is a series of sermons delivered by Peter. Always Peter spoke for the survivors. In this sermon, Peter briefly gives a synopsis of the life of Jesus. Sent by God, Jesus was crucified, the victim of human scheming. He rose after death. He commissioned the apostles to continue the work of reconciling God and humanity. The apostles were witnesses of all that Jesus did.

The Epistle to the Colossians, the second reading, places Christ at God’s right hand. It says that Christians already have “been

raised” because they have taken Christ into their hearts. Having given themselves to Jesus, they have died to earthly things and to earthly ideas. In the process, they have been drawn into the eternal life of the Risen Lord. True believers will live with Jesus eternally.

St. John’s Gospel supplies the last reading. John’s Gospel, however, goes into some detail about the Resurrection and its aftermath. The first figure mentioned in the story is Mary Magdalene. She was a beloved figure in early Christianity, because she was so intensely a follower of Jesus. Indeed, according to John’s Gospel, she stood beneath the cross of Calvary rather than abandon the dying Lord. It was a risky gesture. She might have been construed to be an accomplice in treason against the Roman Empire. Yet, despite the risk, she remained.

She comes to the tomb before daybreak. Finding it empty, she hurries to Peter and the disciple whom Jesus loved. (Tradition long has assumed this disciple to be John, although this disciple is never identified by name in this Gospel.)

Peter and the disciple then rush to the tomb themselves. It was all very sudden, and indeed overwhelming, for them. Grasping what exactly had happened at the tomb was not easy. Love and faith made the process easier. The disciple saw that the tomb was empty, and he believed that Jesus had risen.

Reflection

The church excitedly tells us that the Lord lives. He rose from the dead. It is a proclamation of the greatest and central belief of the church, namely that Jesus, the son of God, overcame even death.

However, the lesson is more than simply to affirm once again the church’s trust in the Resurrection, actual and physical, of Christ. It calls upon us to response. Such was the message in Colossians, the second reading. Such is the important lesson in the references to Mary Magdalene, Peter, and the disciple whom Jesus loved. They had to believe. They had to have faith.

We must be open to God ourselves. Limited and bruised by sin, we must be healed and strengthened to receive the grace of faith. Hopefully, Lenten penances these past weeks have healed and strengthened us and made within us this openness.

In the meantime, the church shares with us the testimony of Peter and the apostles, not just bystanders as the mission of Jesus occurred, but rather the Lord’s especially commissioned agents to tell us about our own salvation. Their testimony, so guarded by the church, is our avenue to knowing and meeting the Risen Christ.

READINGS

Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43 Ps 118:1-2, 16ab-17, 22-23 Col 3:1-4 Jn 20:1-9

Monday: Acts 2:14, 22-32 Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11 Mt 28:8-15

Tuesday: Acts 2:36-41 Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22 Jn 20:11-18

Wednesday: Acts 3:1-10 Ps 105:1-4, 6-9 Lk 24:13-35

Thursday: Acts 3:11-26 Ps 8:2a, 5-9 Lk 24:35-48

Friday: Acts 4:1-12 Ps 118:1-2, 4, 22-27a Jn 21:1-14

Saturday: Acts 4:13-21 Ps 118:1, 14-15, 16ab-21 Mk 16:9-15

CATEQUIZ'EM

By Dominic Camplisson

The tomb of Jesus features prominently in the Easter story, as well as having been much in the news lately due to a supposed discovery in Jerusalem. This week’s quiz looks at what we know about the tomb.

1. A particular tomb plays a key role on the acquisition of the Holy Land by the Jews. Whose was it, and why was it important?

- Adam’s tomb was purchased by his son Cain, showing Adam was doomed.
- Abraham bought a tomb for Sarah, thus owning property in the Holy Land for the first time.
- Joseph bought the pyramid from Seti II, thus have the first multi-story tomb.

2. Tombs were often caves, or, in later times when unused caves were scarce

- cut out of rock
- made of balsa wood
- sealed metal boxes, modeled after the ark of the covenant

3. In Old Testament times, what types of coffins were used in Palestine amongst the Jews?

- They used pine or Madera, being the only two widely available woods.
- Coffins could be made from any material that was not ritually impure.
- Coffins were not widely used, bodies were placed in sealed tombs.

4. Generally these folks were denied a proper tomb burial, instead being buried under piles of stones:

- women
- Jews
- criminals

5. A special box used specifically for bones is known as

- an ossuary
- a reliquary
- a pyx

6. In Old Testament times, what was done with the remains after a period of time?

- The bodies were cremated.
- The bones were removed to a smaller chamber and the tomb reused.
- The bodies were set upon the river Jordan to float into the Dead Sea.

7. What was done with the body after death?

- It was cremated at once due to the extreme heat.
- It was washed and had a cloth placed over the face.
- It was entombed in oil to preserve it.

8. Why was there extra haste associated with the burial of Jesus?

- They had to get his body back to Galilee within the three-day limit.
- He had to be removed from the cross so that there would be no crucifix as a symbol.
- The Sabbath was fast approaching.

9. Jesus’ tomb is also known by this name:

- the Holy Sepulcher
- the Urn of Unction
- the Church of the Nativity and Death

10. What do the women notice about the body of Jesus in the tomb on Easter Sunday?

- It was pure white.
- It was unharmed and bears no wounds.
- Nothing — it is not there.

11. What do we learn about how the Resurrection took place inside the tomb?

- Nothing, we only know it happened, not how.
- The heat given off suggests a fusion event.
- The lack of change in the tomb indicates a time continuum shift.

12. What item is thought by many to have been the winding sheet of Jesus from the tomb?

- the Icon of Vera
- the Baphomet
- the Shroud of Turin

13. Where are Jesus’ actual earthly remains?

- under the Vatican
- nowhere on earth; he ascended into Heaven after the Resurrection
- in an unknown grave somewhere near Jerusalem

ANSWERS:

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

Divine Mercy, Sacred Heart devotions stem from private revelations

What is the tie between the Sacred Heart and Divine Mercy devotions?
Anonymous.

These two devotions stemmed from apparitions or private revelations of Jesus to a nun.

The first apparition was experienced by St. Margaret Mary Alacoque (1647-1690). She was the daughter of a French notary and entered the Visitation convent at Paray-le-Monial in France in 1671.

From 1673-1675 she experienced four visions of Jesus where she was told to promote devotion to his Sacred Heart as a symbol of his love for the human race. Thus, in Sacred Heart pictures or statues, the heart of Jesus is exposed for people to see. St. Margaret Mary encouraged Holy Hours and the reception of holy Communion on the first Friday of the month for nine consecutive months.

Some of the other nuns thought the visions were delusions. But the Jesuit priest Claude de la Colombiere, who lived near the convent, supported Margaret Mary. A feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was placed on the church's liturgical calendar in

1856. Eventually Margaret Mary was canonized a saint in 1920.

Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus actually began before St. Margaret Mary.

The church honored the wounded, crucified Christ, showing the nail marks in his hands and feet and the gash in his side from which blood and water flowed out.

Pope Gregory the Great (d. 604.) said: "Learn of the heart of God so that you may ardently long for eternal things." St. Gertrude (1256-1302) prayed: "I salute thee, O Sacred Heart of Jesus, living and vivifying source of eternal life, ardent furnace of divine love."

Modern popes recommended devotion to the Sacred Heart. Pope Leo XIII writes: "In the Sacred Heart there is the symbol and express image of the infinite love of Jesus Christ, which moves us to love in return," Pope Pius XII writes: "Those heavenly blessings, which devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus pours into the souls of the faithful, cannot be counted."

The other apparition of Jesus was to Sister Faustina Kowalska (1905-1938) from Glogowicz in

THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION

Poland. In 1925 she entered the congregation of the Sisters of Mercy of the Mother God that care for poor, morally neglected girls.

The apparitions occurred from 1931-1939. She saw a vision of Jesus with rays of mercy streaming from his heart. The red and pale rays represent the blood and water flowing from his pierced heart as a fountain of mercy. Jesus wanted an image painted to represent the vision and taught Faustina that his mercy is unlimited and available even to the greatest sinners.

Sister Faustina encouraged that the Sunday after Easter be established as Divine Mercy Sunday. The Gospel of this day shows Jesus instituting the sacrament of penance. She also fostered the Chaplet of Mercy that

contains the prayer: "Eternal Father, I offer you the body and blood, soul and divinity of your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world."

R. Hoppe mentions two other nuns who claimed to have had experiences of Jesus. Sister Benigna Consolata Ferrero (1885-1916) from Turin in Italy entered the Congregation of Visitations nuns at Como in Italy. She wanted to make known to the world the love and mercy of God. She says: "Since human beings are immortal and will exist eternally, God does everything possible to redeem their souls."

Sister Josefa Maria Menendez (1890-1923) from Madrid in Spain entered the Society of the Sacred Heart at Les Feuillants in

France. She emphasized the depths of the mercy and goodness of God. She wrote that the Sacred Heart of Jesus finds joy in forgiveness.

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

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

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

By Patricia Kasten

Gospel for April 8, 2007

Luke 24:1-12

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for Easter Sunday (Vigil Mass): The early morning visit of the women to the tomb of the Lord. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

FIRST DAY	WEEK	SPICES
STONE	ROLLED AWAY	TOMB
DAZZLING	TERRIFIED	BOWED
THE LIVING	NOT HERE	REMEMBER
GALILEE	SINNERS	CRUCIFIED
MAGDALENE	JOANNA	MARY
JAMES	GOT UP	AMAZED

THE LIVING ONE

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

On a recent day off occasioned by some evil thing fastening upon me and laying me temporarily low, I reread Chaim Potok's two wonderful novels, "The Chosen" and "The Promise," the pleasures of which happily compensated for my indisposition.

"The Chosen" is a modern classic, a brilliant story of fathers-and-sons evocatively set in a distinctive slice of Americana: Brooklyn orthodox Jewry during and immediately after the Second World War. It's one of the few really good novels that isn't completely ruined by the movie made from it, but the book is far more richly textured than the film, and much more sensitive to the nuances and tensions in the encounter between biblical religion and the modern world.

"The Chosen" revolves around an unexpected friendship between two boys, Reuven Malter and Danny Saunders: the first, the brilliant, pious, assimilated son of a Talmud scholar, a widower who embodies wise paternity; the second, an intellectual phenomenon who memorizes entire pages of the Talmud in minutes even as he chafes under the burden of a closed future — the elder son of Reb Isaac Saunders, head of a large Hasidic congregation, he will inherit his father's role as rabbi, judge and community leader. Fearful that his son's matchless intellect will not be complemented by a compassionate soul — essential in a tzaddik, a Hasidic sage — Reb Saunders decides to raise Danny in silence: aside from the hours they spend studying Talmud together, there is no conversation between father

and son. Danny is struggling, intellectually and emotionally, in this claustrophobic environment when a chance meeting in the public library leads him to David Malter and then to his son, Reuven.

These two remarkable sons of equally remarkable fathers grow through their high school and college years amidst stirring times: the end of the war, the revelation of the Nazi extermination camps, the founding of the State of Israel. In the debates that ensue — How could God allow the Holocaust to happen? Can there be a Jewish state that is not founded by the Messiah? — the tensions between orthodox biblical faith and modernity define the fault lines within families, between classmates and across communities. Yet the beauty of "The Chosen" is that it always brings us back to the inner world, the spiritual world. In Reuven's and Danny's struggles to mature, we confront time and again the issue that Reb Saunders faces in raising his genius son: How is brilliance refined into wisdom? How does a man stand firmly, yet with compassion, within a religious tradition he believes to bear eternal truths?

"The Promise" picks up the story of these sons and fathers in the early '50s. Danny, with his father's permission, is doing doctoral work in psychology, rather than inheriting Reb Saunders' position; Reuven is pursuing rabbinic ordination and graduate studies in philosophy, while both he and his father struggle to convince the hardened, brilliant scholars who have come to Brooklyn's Jewish seminaries from the horrors of the concentration camps that modern methods



GEORGE WEIGEL

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

of Talmud study do not threaten traditional faith. Another fathers-and-sons motif is the dramatic centerpiece of "The Promise," as both Reuven and Danny become involved with the deeply troubled son of a Jewish scholar who is a controversial theological modernist. In the resolution of that conflict, we see that Danny Saunders has become what his father hoped he would be: a tzaddik, a compassionate healer, for the world. At the same time, Reuven and his father, who have seemed throughout both novels to enjoy a perfect paternal/filial relationship, discover even greater depths of mystery in the age-old business of fathers-and-sons. "The Promise" can get a bit too Freudian for some tastes; but, as in "The Chosen," it is effective compassion, if in the form of very tough love, that makes the final difference.

There are many things Catholics can learn about their Christian faith from an encounter with vibrant Judaism — which is, I suppose, another story of fathers-and-sons. Think of "The Chosen" and "The Promise," then, as good Easter reading.

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

LETTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

But the picture is not so clear-cut. As Cardinal Ratzinger, he said he considered the new missal a "real improvement" in many respects, and that the introduction of local languages made sense.

The most important thing, he said at that time, was to make sure that the liturgy does not divide the Catholic community.

With that in mind, knowledgeable Vatican sources say the pope's new document will no doubt aim to lessen pastoral tension between the Tridentine rite and the new

Mass, rather than hand out a victory to traditionalists.

It was Pope John Paul who in 1984 first made it possible for groups of the faithful to worship according to the Latin-language 1962 Roman Missal, the last Vatican-approved missal prior to the post-conciliar reforms.

Pope John Paul set conditions for this special permission, or indulgence. The main requirement was that those who used the Tridentine rite must make publicly clear "beyond all ambiguity" that they do not call into question the validity of the new Roman Missal.

Many will be looking at Pope Benedict's document not only for a liturgical verdict, but also for a sign of his reconciling skills.

Our world needs Easter people



THE CUTTING EDGE

SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

Our world desperately needs the hope that only Easter brings. All we need to do is turn on the television or read the paper to know that. Pain and suffering is all around us. Hardly a day goes by when we don't hear about car bombings, murders and other violent behaviors.

The situation in Iraq seems to go from bad to worse. More and more military personnel and innocent civilians are killed every day, with no end in sight. Many people live in constant fear for their lives. And just when we think we have heard about the worst situation ever, something even more evil happens.

And the war in Iraq is not the only place where there is much pain. Most of us can name other places and situations where there is tremendous suffering. Violence, hatred and revenge are all around us. Thousands of

people die each day from hunger and illness caused by poverty, war and greed. Suffering runs rampant, and mercy and compassion are often scarce commodities.

But there is hope. Our faith in the Resurrection means that we believe good can come from suffering and evil; that love can conquer sin. This, of course, is not a popular stance in today's environment. So many people and nations believe violence must be dealt with by force.

During this coming Easter season, it might be beneficial to reflect on our own attitudes. Do we feel justified by our desire to punish hatred with more violence? What are our thoughts about the death penalty (which is what Jesus received)? Do we ever pray for the conversion of our enemies or those who terrorize others? Are we able to forgive those who have hurt us or at least pray for them? Or does our anger or bitterness eat at us?

Are we willing to go deeper and discover the roots of evil and use love to conquer it? What does our celebration of Easter really mean? Hopefully it is more than new clothes and chocolate bunnies.

Do we really believe that violence can destroy evil? Has it ever really worked throughout history? Doesn't love seem to be a better and more logical solution?

We have the resurrection of Jesus to prove that it can happen. Jesus' life conquered sin and evil. Does God continue to bring life out of suffering?

The sisters in our retirement community used the phrase — "the power of one" as their theme for Lent. It stemmed from their belief that every individual good act makes a difference.

Just imagine what it would be like if every person in the world would live the commandment of love for just one day. There would be no war, hatred or violence. People would ask for and offer forgiveness. The only news to report would be good. The front page of newspapers would have life-giving stories. Everyone would have plenty to eat because people would share with one another. And so on and so on... Wouldn't it be awesome?

As Christians who believe in the Resurrection, we must strive to be models of love and hope. Our good works of Lent must continue throughout the rest of the year. We have a call and a mission to make Christ known by our love. We must express our belief that, even in this gloomy, dark time, God will not abandon us. God will always be faithful just as he was to his Son, Jesus by bringing him to new life. Our world needs this Easter message. Go out and

YA!

YOUNG ADULT PERSPECTIVES

proclaim it to all in your world.

And if current events make it hard for you to believe that God is somehow in all of this, ask God to deepen your faith and to help you to remember times when he brought you out of difficulties in your life or the life of someone you know. Easter tells us that God never leaves us in our pain and often brings good out of evil.

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

Extreme makeover: Interior design that matters

Admit it: I cry when I watch ABC's "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition." Something about Ty's neighborhood rally, the dazzling redesign and the awed reactions tug on my heart strings and tear ducts.

"She has epilepsy," I wail between sniffs, "and now she has a princess castle in her bedroom! And her brother has a life-size Lego fort!"

"Extreme Makeover" may pack in the most drama per minute, but in the booming business of home design, it's in crowded company.

With home ownership at an all-time high, our interest in not-so-humble abodes has kicked off a dizzying proliferation of reality TV, how-to books, glossy magazines and conversations at Panera.

Who doesn't want to flip their house or trade their space? Who doesn't crave a new look and a fresh start? And who doesn't secretly believe in the potential of Plum Burst walls framed in Angel Touch purple to unleash creative genius?

We set down House Beautiful and glance at that cluttered junk room with wistful eyes, imagining it reborn by a nautical motif, complete with life preserver and wooden ship wheel. Some favor a Tuscan look, dressed up with a terracotta urn and rustic ceramic pottery. Others flirt with an Asian theme, wooed by the hip, exotic aura that somehow flows from elephant figurines and bamboo.

As a 20-something, the surging popularity of home design

makes me restless. My June move will mark my fifth since 2004. And my next zip code will not be my final. I'm chasing jobs and dreams, putting the allure of home and family on hold. I'm exhaustingly mobile.

So when I stroll through Pottery Barn, I have to keep my yearnings in check. I'm sticking with the cheap, lightweight and unbreakable for now. The intricate rug, artistic mirrors and fire-place décor will come later.

Even if it's frustrating, the young-adult nomadic lifestyle serves us well spiritually. Our Christian disposition should be marked by a sense of restlessness, impermanence and patience. We are all nomads on earth, preparing for our true home in heaven. As St. Augustine said, "Our hearts are restless until they rest in thee."

There'll be no cramped closets, junk rooms or unfinished basements — just hardwood floors, vaulted ceilings and smudge-proof windows. A divine design.

If it wasn't such a distant thought, heaven would shift our concept of interior design, compelling us to redesign an interior that's not held up by bricks and mortar, but by bones and tendons.

True interior redesign begins with a restored prayer life, one that's dusted and made more prominent. Patch up the patience that's been so flimsy for so many years. Caulk the cracks that keep letting materialism and relativism seep in. Demolish envy. Repair self love. And reinforce the



TWENTY SOMETHING BY CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

weight-bearing walls made of principles and priorities.

The Easter Gospel reminds us of the empty tomb Mary Magdalene discovered and the eternal home Jesus entered. The story comforts a restless nomad like me. I may not have found my earthly home, but my spiritual home is all set.

Easter beckons us to reflect on heaven, that place eye has not seen and ear has not heard. Its design will astonish us. Every feature will accommodate.

There'll be no cramped closets, junk rooms or unfinished basements — just hardwood floors, vaulted ceilings and smudge-proof windows. A divine design.

When we arrive, God willing, the moment will contain all the drama of an "Extreme Makeover" episode. Cheering, crying, hugging, awe and elation. But it'll be even better, because all our dearest friends and relatives will be there. And they'll stick around long after the camera crew leaves.

House beautiful, home eternal.

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

Holy Cross College is mission driven

BY ALEX SCHEIDLER

NOTRE DAME — When the leaders of Holy Cross College decided they wanted to boost their college enrollment, they took a careful look at the mission and identity upon which the college was founded. To some people it might seem counter-intuitive to focus on faith when looking to attract a larger student body, but that is precisely what these college leaders did by recruiting students for the school's Mission Team and awarding scholarships to those selected.

Holy Cross College is recruiting students for spirituality, just as schools recruit for athletic scholarships. It is ironic that while Holy Cross looks to begin its first varsity athletic team, it has already been handing out scholarships for The Mission Team for a couple of years.

Currently, Mission Teamers run the "GLORY" holy hour on Tuesday nights, which is an hour of praise and worship music in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Some serve as sacristans and liturgical assistants at

six Masses per week. Others run the silent eucharistic adoration program.

Freshman Chris Ord, a student on The Mission Team, comes from Orange County, Calif.

"I'm growing a lot more since I've joined it," Ord says. "The Mission Team is more than the apostolate. We meet on Sundays after Mass for an hour and a half. We try to go to daily Mass, which I changed my schedule to do."

On Thursdays, they attend a class with over an hour of apologetics.

"That leads to big discussions," Ord said. "We can get riled up sometimes."

When asked to expand on that comment, Ord simply explained, "There are questions that aren't the easiest things to answer — not exactly cut and dry in the catechism, and not all of us are Catholic. There are Lutherans, Eastern Rite, non-denominational... so it can get pretty interesting."

The Mission Team began two years ago with eight people. Today there are 32 members of the team, and they hope to grow to 45 or 50 next year.



For more information on Holy Cross and The Mission Team see their Web site www.hcc-nd.edu/mt

A few members of The Mission Team gather for a group photo.

PROVIDED BY HOLY CROSS COLLEGE

Sports

BISHOP DWENGER TO HOST SAINTS OPEN GOLF OUTING Bishop Dwenger High School's annual Saints Open Golf Outing will be held on Saturday, April 28, at Autumn Ridge Golf Course. Proceeds from this year's outing will benefit the Steve Weissert Scholarship Fund. Cost is \$100 per person or \$400 per team. Registration begins at 11:45 a.m. with a 12:30 p.m. shotgun start. Tickets are also available for dinner only at a cost of \$25 per person. For more information call Mike Weissert at (260) 482-4318 or Jim Burnham at (260) 348-7782 or contact the school directly at (260) 496-4700.

St. Therese Lady Crusaders earn champion title in Blue League

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — Coach Stuart Oberley's St. Therese Lady Crusaders ended their 2006-2007 Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) basketball season with a "500" record — seven wins and seven losses.

Six of their wins came while playing teams in their Blue League division. Thus, they earned the title of champions for the regular season Catholic Youth League (CYO) finishing a perfect 6-0 in league action. This also grabbed them the No. 1 seed for the CYO tournament. They wound up in the runner-up spot to Benoit Academy with a crushing blow in the "rubber match."

Oberley summed up the season as follows, "This class had high expectations of a great season with six of the 10 girls playing AAU basketball with the Bishop Luers program. Led by the post play of Kayley Clovin, who averaged 10 points per game, and Liberty McCartney, this year's team was a force to be reckoned with under the basket.

"We had tremendous size and talent and expectations were high of a great season," Oberley said. "Unfortunately, the season started on a sour note when we lost to Benoit and St. Joe-St. Elizabeth in the Thanksgiving Day Tournament at Saint Francis.

As the regular season began, the season starting looking better. The Crusaders won their next three games. But heading into the



PROVIDED BY ST. THERESE SCHOOL

The St. Therese Lady Crusaders, shown above, earned the Blue League division championship for the regular season of CYO action. They wound up in the runner-up spot to Benoit Academy with a crushing blow in the "rubber match."

Christmas tournament, we again fell on hard times and went two and out for the second tournament in a row losing to Memorial Park and St. Jude. The Crusaders bounced back winning four of their remaining six games including a 33-25 win over Benoit Academy with first place in the Blue division on the line."

In the CYO tournament, St. Therese defeated Precious Blood, 45-17, in the opening round. With the tournament championship on the line, the Crusaders faced Benoit for the third time this season (each

had won one) in the championship game.

Giving the play-by-play, Oberley said, "The game lived up

to all its hype and was a battle to the end. We took an early eight-point lead into half time. However, Benoit fought back in the third period taking a two-point lead into the final period. The teams battled back and forth with no team leading by more than four points at any time. Eventually, Benoit was able to hold off long enough and pulled out a 48-44 victory as time expired."

Clovin and Kaitlin Hofrichter each finished with 12 points to lead the red and white in their final game.

The Crusader line up included 10 young ladies: five eighth graders and five seventh graders. The starters included Clovin, Hofrichter, Abby Bireley, Liberty McCartney and Audrie Luegring. Rounding out the roster were Maddison Hall, Tammy Petit, Darrin Csuhata, Marianne Oxley and Shannon Maloney. The Crusaders were coached by Linda Luegring, Lauri Braun, Jack McCartney and Oberley.

"The game lived up to all its hype and was a battle to the end."

COACH STUART OBERLEY

ICCL ST. JOSEPH WILDCATS HIGHLIGHT SEASON ACHIEVEMENTS



GREG SCHULTHEIS

The St. Joseph Mishawaka Wildcats had several achievements this year. They were the Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL) Martin De Porres champions with a perfect 10-0 record. They were the St. Bavo Holiday Tournament champions and the first small-school division team to make it to the ICCL finals. They finished with an overall 17-3 record. The team consists of the following: front row, from left, Coach Jeff Deitchley, Anthony Rice, Alex Ewing, Tim Trippel, Coach Les Dant; second row, Coach Greg Schultheis, Michael Louderback, Tommy Stachowiak, Danny Eggleston, Coley Schultheis, Coach Tom Gregory; and back row, Michael Furfaro, Jacob Deitchley, Andrew O'Lena and Tim Wilson.



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St. Joseph County

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Saturday, April 14 at 2 p.m. • Sunday, April 15 at 2 p.m.

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DRAWING MAY 17, 2007

In the event that fewer than 3,500 tickets are sold on or before May 16, 2007, Catholic Charities reserves the right to reduce the initial prize offerings by a percentage equal to the percentage of unsold tickets.

'Godspell' benefits St. Vincent de Paul Society

BY JUDY BRADFORD

SOUTH BEND — If you're looking for the familiar sounds of "Godspell," you'll get them in the upcoming production by the Not-Quite Professional Theatre Company (NQPTC).

But it comes with a little caffeine kick.

"It's more thumpin,' more rock, I would say — but not real hard rock," says Jack Pavlekovich, music director for the April 13-15 run in Bendix Theatre at Century Center.

The original version of "Godspell," in 1971, featured folk, pop, vaudeville and gospel sounds, with a circus theme weaving in and out of both the music and the drama.

NQPTC is modeling its version after more updated shows.

"The young kids want the more rock and roll feel, with a punch to it," adds Pavlekovich. "You'll feel it in songs like 'Bless the Lord,' which will have a solid bass to it, and it gets into a brighter tempo. And that circusy feel, well, it's gone."

The show is a benefit for the St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Joseph County, which provides food, financial and emergency assistance to people in need. About 60 percent of those served live on the west side of South Bend.

Godspell, which is the Old English spelling of Gospel, literally means good news.

The storyline comes from the book of Matthew, with its many parables.



PHOTOS BY JUDY BRADFORD

The cast for the upcoming production of Godspell works on a scene where Jesus is addressing them. All cast members are identified by their costume colors, and some of them were wearing their colors at a recent rehearsal. Standing are Sue Rozzi, "Green" and Lynn Owsianowski, "Black"; center, from left are Andrew Brent, Matt Fischer, Cecil Eastman "Orange" and Rick Nimtz; front row, from left are Nikki Wilder, "Pink" and JulieAnn Merrion.

Pavlekovich, who plays guitar, is by day a county policeman. But he also plays for Chantilly Lace, a local band he co-founded in 1985 and which does a lot of summer festivals.

Age 52, he remembers the original "Godspell" and, in particular, the movie version from 1973.

"Each song has a message about how we should live," he says.

"Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord," "Save the People," "All Good Gifts," "All

for the Best" and "By My Side" have become staples in church and school productions over the years.

"Day by Day" hit the singles

pop chart in 1972, and the lyrics were used as a dinnertime grace, by Ben Stiller's character in the 2000 comedy "Meet the Parents." The Christian band DC Talk also did a cover version of it for their album "Jesus Freak."

Lori Hutchings, director of the show, said ages of the 10 cast members run the gamut, from college students to people in their 50s.

"The show is about this community that is built up over a short period of time, and it's been very interesting to watch the cast do that, too, to see people learn to be supportive of each other."

Playing the role of Jesus is Granger resident Steve Fay who is relatively new to local theater. He participated in "Hello Dolly" and "Forever Patsy Cline" with the South Bend Civic Theatre, last year. Professionally, he is a computer system manager for I/N TEK, I/N KOTE.



At left, John the Baptist is played by Andrew Brent. Jesus, at right, is played by Steve Fay. Nikki Wilder, the character "Pink," is at center.

Tickets for the show

are \$15 and are available at the door, or in advance by calling (574) 234-6000 or by visiting the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store at 3408 Ardmore Trail, South Bend.

Show times are:

- 8 p.m. on April 13
- 2 and 8 p.m. on April 14
- 2 p.m. on April 15.



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

"TMNT" (Warner Bros.)

Computer-animated feature revives the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle franchise, as four brothers set out to defeat a villain poised to unleash 13 monsters on New York. Writer-director Kevin Munroe navigates a rather overly complicated plot with aplomb, successfully balancing action and humor while enforcing the values of solidarity and atonement. Cartoon-level combat and swordplay, a subtle acceptance of a premarital living situation, two instances of belching and some disrespectful banter. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG.

"Pride" (Lionsgate)

Inspirational true-life tale, circa 1971, about a coach (Terrence Howard) who forms a swim team at a dilapidated Philadelphia community house, demonstrating to the African-American youths that, despite the poverty and crime around them, they can compete with privileged teens both in the pool and in the world. The emotion-tugging efficiency of director Sunu Gonera, a veteran of Coca-Cola and Nike commercials, serves this period piece well, briskly hitting all its marks about hope, teamwork, believing in oneself and overcoming adversity. A small amount of crude and crass language, a couple of scuffles and some vague threats of violence. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG.

"Reign Over Me" (Columbia)

Singularly offbeat, albeit poignantly etched, buddy film about a successful dentist (Don Cheadle) who meets up with and tries to rehabilitate his college roommate (Adam Sandler), once a dentist himself and now sadly childlike, suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of his wife and children perishing Sept. 11, 2001, and in the process comes to terms with some of his own emotional issues. Writer/director Mike Binder's drama is well-intentioned, and Sandler pulls off a difficult part with distinction, but the script is paradoxically original yet formulaic with often implausible character motivation, though the 9/11 theme and Sandler's heart-wrenching character tug at the emotions. Pervasive rough and crude language and occasional profanity. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is L — limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

FISH FRY

Knights plan fish fry
Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 451, 601 Reed Rd., will have a fish fry on Friday, April 6, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$7 for adults, \$3 for children 12 and under. Fish, two sides and beverage are included.

MISC. HAPPENINGS

Volunteers needed for Hospice Home
Fort Wayne — Volunteers are needed to assist the agency in a variety of roles. Duties include patient support and clerical support. Garden volunteers are also needed to maintain the Seasons of Life perennial garden. Volunteer training is being planned. Call Ann Blue at (260) 435-3235 or visit www.vnhh.org for information.

St. Joseph School plans open house, registration
Decatur — St. Joseph School will have a preschool and kindergarten open house and registration Tuesday, April 10. Preschool from 6-7 p.m. in the preschool rooms and kindergarten will meet from 7-8 p.m. in the auditorium then the classrooms. New this year will be full-day kindergarten five days a week. Preschool will add a full-day kindergarten readiness class three days a week. Registration for first through eighth grades is April 6-17. Call (260) 724-2765 for information.

Breakfast at St. Peter
Fort Wayne — St. Peter Parish will have a sausage, pancake, egg casserole and fruit breakfast Sunday, April 15, from 8 to 11 a.m. in the Pavilion. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$3 for children 12 to 16 and children under 12 will be free.

Dinner theater planned
Avilla — St. Mary Parish will host a dinner theater Saturday, April 28, at 6 p.m. Local talent, DJ, surprise band, appetizers, dinner buffet, dessert bar, cash bar. Tickets are \$25 per couple, \$15 per person. Babysitting available. Call Mike Hudecek at (260) 318-0262 for information.

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

XLT makes its way to South Bend
Granger — The bishop will preside at the first South Bend area XLT Friday, April 20, at 7:30 p.m. at St. Pius X Church. XLT is praise and worship music, reflection and time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

Knights plan spaghetti dinner
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5570 will have a spaghetti dinner on Thursday, April 12, from 4 to 6 p.m. Adults \$7, children (5-12) \$2.50. Dinner includes spaghetti, salad, bread, beverage and dessert.

SAJES plan April event
South Bend — The St. Matthew Cathedral SAJES will tour Irish

Hills Estates with dessert and coffee. RSVP to Sister Agnes Marie Regan at (574) 289-9439.

St. Joe plans carnival
Decatur — St. Joseph School will have a Carnival Friday, April 13, from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Carnival games, face painting, food, prizes.

A Theology of Economics: Getting More Than Your Two Cents Worth
Notre Dame — Drawing wisdom from Scripture and principles from Catholic social teaching, Father Michael Crosby will explore the world of investments and money management from a Catholic perspective. Thursday, March 29, at 7 p.m. at Sacred Heart Parish Center.



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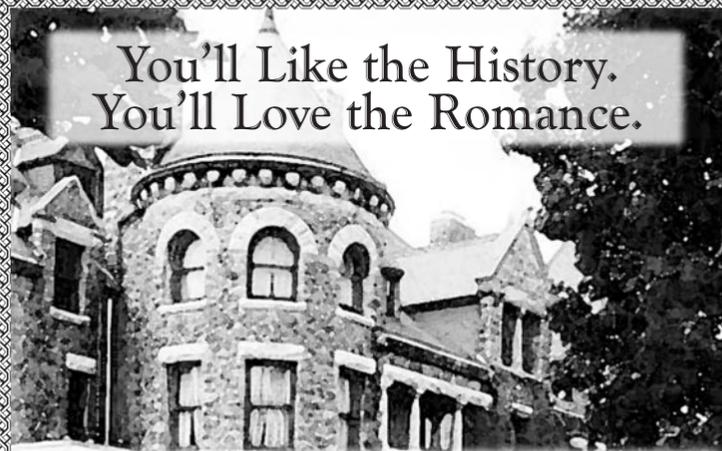
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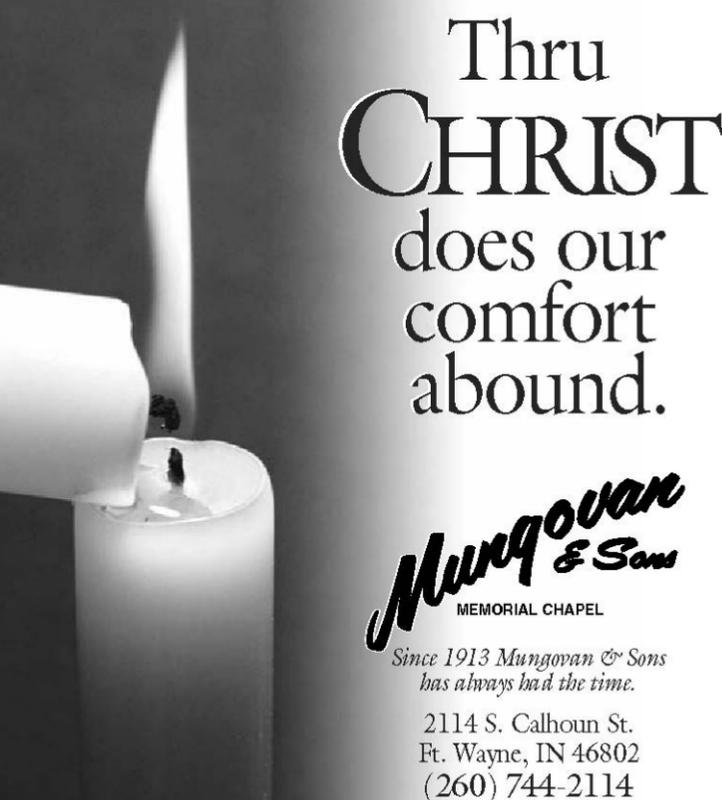
Auburn Dorothy A. Post, 79, Immaculate Conception	Robert Egan Meyers, 93, St. Vincent de Paul	Rome City Roland LeRoy Gran, 48, St. Gaspar Del Bufalo
Bremen Bonifacio Alvarado, 60, St. Dominic	Robert Joseph Gasper, 79, Most Precious Blood	South Bend Mike Dillon, 65, Little Flower
Ege Janet Elizabeth Owens, 66, Immaculate Conception	Pedro Reyes, 72, St. Patrick	Alberta G. Barber, 88, St. Jude
Elkhart Colleen Krecsmar, 79, St. Thomas the Apostle	Granger Angelo Portolesi, 73, St. Pius X	Thomas J. Miller, 48, St. Jude
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Fort Wayne Patricia F. Bartholomy, 87, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception	Sister Mary Cecilia Niehaus, OLVN, 92, Victory Noll Chapel	
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God's mercy is greater than the sins of the whole world

Mother of Mercy Messengers promote Divine Mercy through a presentation, prayer, adoration

BY DIANE FREEBY

BRISTOL — Pope John Paul II declared during the Great Jubilee Year of 2000, "From now throughout the universal church, the second Sunday of Easter will be known as Divine Mercy Sunday."

In the early 1930s, God used a young Polish nun to convey his message of mercy to the world. Sister Maria Faustina Kowalska had only three years of formal education, yet she received extraordinary private revelations or messages from Christ.

Jesus asked Sister Faustina to record these experiences, which she compiled in notebooks. These notebooks, known today as "The Diary of St. Maria Faustina Kowalska" and the words contained within, are God's loving message of Divine Mercy.

Though the Divine Mercy message is not new to the teachings of the church, Sister Faustina's diary sparked a great movement and a strong and significant focus on the mercy of Christ. Pope John Paul II canonized Sister Faustina in 2000 making her the "first saint of the new millennium."

"Sister Faustina is the great apostle of Divine Mercy in our time," said the pope.

Continuing Jesus' request to "tell the whole world" about his mercy, the Mother of Mercy

Messengers (MOMM) are doing what they can to spread that message.

Dave and Joan Maroney formed MOMM in 2001, witnessing their consecration to Our Lady and dedicating themselves to spreading the message of the Divine Mercy.

"We don't usually travel this far north in the winter," the Texas couple told a near-capacity audience at St. Mary of the Annunciation on a cold night this past February.

"The folks in Bristol called us first, then we heard from a church in Coldwater, Mich. When we saw how close those places were to each other, we said yes. Then we saw the weather."

Not even a midwinter snow storm kept people from attending the MOMM presentation. After giving a brief overview of St. Faustina and Divine Mercy, the Maroneys began their dramatic presentation. The couple's narration combined with a digital photo display not only held people's attention, it also created a meditative atmosphere.

"The feast of Mercy is proclaimed so all will know his mercy is greater than the sins of the whole world," explained

Dave Maroney. "Jesus wants us to turn to him."

As he spoke, photos of the original image of the Divine Mercy were shown on the large screen. MOMM utilizes a reproduction of the 1934 painting by Eugene Kazimirowski in Vilnius, Lithuania. It is the only image painted under the direction of St. Faustina.

"This is not an image of an angry God," narrated Joan Maroney. "The Lord is stepping toward us with tenderness and compassion. He wants so much to give us his mercy."

Joan went on to talk about the relationship between Jesus and his mother,

quoting the first line of Hail Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy. Joan also talked about Pope John Paul II devoting an entire section of his encyclical to Mary as the Mother of Mercy.

"Our Lady was there on Calvary," said Joan. "From the cross, Jesus gave us his mother. She is just waiting for us to call on her to intercede."

St. Faustina is reported to have also had several visions of Mary, who said she is here to lead us to her son. In her diary, St. Faustina wrote that Mary said, "I am Queen of heaven. I am Mother of

"Jesus wants us to turn to him."

DAVE MARONEY



CNS PHOTO

Pope John Paul II canonized Polish Sister Faustina Kowalska in 2000. A vision of Christ inspired the sister of Our Lady of Mercy to promote the image known as the Divine Mercy.

Mercy. I am your mother."

At the bottom of the Vilnius painting of the Divine Mercy, it reads "Jesus, I trust in you." In her diary, St. Faustina writes, "The more a soul trusts, the more it will receive."

Dave suggested contemplating the conversations between Jesus and five souls, which St. Faustina wrote about near the end of her diary (1485). They are the sinful soul, the despairing soul, the suffering soul, the soul striving for perfection and the soul who has attained the perfect relationship with God.

"How do we glorify God's mercy?" asked Dave. "By placing our trust in him."

The evening at St. Mary's continued with time of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament and time for quiet prayer. As five priests dispersed to separate corners to hear confessions, people lined up 10-deep or more to wait their turn.

Along with seeking forgiveness, we are reminded to also forgive.

St. Faustina wrote in her diary, "We resemble God most when we forgive our neighbors."

As we seek God's mercy, there are three ways we ourselves can exercise mercy. That is in deed, word and prayer.

The Maroneys offered a reflection on the Eucharist before heading into the closing benediction.

"Ask Our Lady to prepare your soul to receive her Son. Through holy Communion, we become more like him."

Parishioners from area churches, including Elkhart's St. Thomas and St. Vincent de Paul also attended the MOMM presentation. The Maroneys also made the presentation at St. Mary, Decatur.

"It was just breathtaking and inspiring," said one woman from St. Vincent.

Father Robert Van Kempen, pastor of St. Mary agreed. "It was very inspiring ... very reflective. I am appreciative of the people from St. Mary's, St. Thomas, St. Vincent's and St. John's who helped bring this program to our parish."

Dave and Joan say they are humbled by the response. Since MOMM cannot possibly make live presentations everywhere, programs are also available on CDs and DVDs.

For more information, go to www.thedivinemercy.org/momm.

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