Regional anointings planned for Fort Wayne, South Bend

BY LINDA FURGE

As part of the 2007 Sesquicentennial Jubilee celebration for our diocese, Regional Anointing of the Sick will take place at special Masses in both Fort Wayne and South Bend.

Fort Wayne will celebrate the sacrament of anointing of the sick Sunday, April 29, at 2 p.m. in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. South Bend’s celebration will be Sunday, May 13, at 2 p.m. at St. Matthew Cathedral.

The pastoral care for the sick rite of the church gives the following insights on illness and on those who can be anointed.

“How part of the plan laid out by God’s providence is that we should fight strenuously against all sickness and carefully seek the blessings of good health, so that we may fulfill our role in human society and in the church. Yet we should always be prepared to fill up what is lacking in Christ’s sufferings for the salvation of the world as we look forward to creation’s being set free in the glory of the children of God” (see Col 1:24; Rom 8:19-21).

The sick person is not the only one who should fight against illness. Doctors and all who are devoted in any way to caring for the sick should consider it their duty to use all the means, which in their judgment may help the sick, both physically and spiritually. In so doing, they are fulfilling the command of Christ to visit the sick, for Christ implied that those who visit the sick should be concerned for the whole person and offer both physical relief and spiritual comfort.

The Letter of James states that the sick are to be anointed in order to raise them up and save them. Great care and concern should be...
‘Receiving the Eucharist means adoring him whom we receive’

BISHOP JOHN M. DARCY

Eucharistic adoration and procession

There will be a procession of the Blessed Sacrament at the University of Notre Dame campus this Sunday. It is my hope to be part of it.

Pope Benedict XVI recently shared with us an apostolic exhortation entitled “Sacramentum Caritatis.” It includes the results of an international Synod of Bishops reflecting on the Eucharist.

Among the many things shared is a chapter entitled, The Intrinsic Relationship Between Celebration and Adoration. Pope Benedict reflecting on some of the emphases since the Vatican Council writes:

During the early phases of the reform, the inherent relationship between Mass and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament was not always perceived with sufficient clarity. For example, an adoration that was widespread at the time argued that the eucharistic bread was given to us not to be looked at, but to be eaten. In the light of the church’s experience of prayer, however, this was seen to be a false dichotomy. As St. Augustine put it: “nemo autem ilam carnem maneat, nisi prius adoraverit; pecora non adorando—no one eats flesh without first adoring it, we should sin were we not to adore it.” (191) In the Eucharist, the Son of God comes to meet us and we are given, as it were, a foretaste of the beauty of the heavenly liturgy. The act of adoration outside of Mass is simply the natural consequence of the desire to become one with us; eucharistic adoration is the simple natural consequence of the eucharistic celebration, which is itself the Church’s supreme act of adoration. (192) Receiving the Eucharist means adoring him whom we receive. Only in this way do we become one with him, and are given, as it were, a foretaste of the beauty of the heavenly liturgy. The act of adoration outside Mass prolongs and intensifies all that takes place during the liturgical celebration itself. Indeed, “only in adoration can a profound and genuine reception mature. And it is precisely this personal encounter with the Lord that strengthens the social mission contained in the Eucharist, which seeks to break down not only the walls that separate the Lord and ourselves, but also and especially the walls that separate us from one another.” (193)

Sometimes I wonder if I would not be a priest today except for prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, both in my parish church, in the chapel of the high school I attended, but especially in the seminary.

A weekend to remember

I was greatly moved by the privilege of observing my 50th anniversary as a priest.

The celebration of the Eucharist at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, with people from all over the diocese, was a gift of God. It is special, of course, to welcome so many priests. I wanted it to be a moment in which all of us could grow in the understanding of the gift of the ministerial priesthood. The ordination of a priest, 50 years ago for me and for some of my priest-classmates who came across the country to join in this event, is an act of love; not primarily for the priest, but for the people who, through him, will be joined to Christ through the holy Eucharist and will receive holy Communion — in great cathedrals, in small rural parishes, in nursing homes, on death row, and even in war-torn Iraq.

Still, it is important to ponder who the priest is. In my homily, I mentioned that when Pope Benedict XVI visited the Roman seminary recently, he entered into a question-and-answer time with the students. He was, after all, a professor in some of the great universities in Europe. He enjoys the exchange. In one question, a young man asked him what advice he had concerning the preparation of homilies. He said that he starts a week ahead of time. When he first looks at the readings, they are like dead rocks. He said he then has the custom of joining his time of prayer with the prepara-

for all of us? It is wondrous, and one is linked to the other. The joy comes, like with the apostles, when we “see the Lord.” This means prayer and faith, which grows through prayer. It is why we chose the expression, Behold the Face of Christ, as part of the theme of our Jubilee Year. Joy comes from “seeing” Christ in prayer, and being close to him. It also comes, for the priest and for all of us, in putting God’s will before our own. Joy is not something you seek, but something which comes from a life well lived. A life of putting one’s own will in second place, as the young German professor wrote so many years ago.

A new generation

It was wonderful to have my family here for the weekend and some priests, my companions of a lifetime with whom this journey began over 50 years ago. In one’s family, you see the new generation — grandnieces and grandnephews — and this is very special. I will always cherish the memory of this beautiful day.

A splendid priest

Just before going to press, we received word of the death in Carthagina, Ohio, of Msgr. Robert Contant. Suffering from Parkinson’s disease, he spent the last several years with the Precious Blood Priests. He served as pastor at St. Joseph Parish, Hessen Cassel, for 32 years. I believe I celebrated Mass there at the time of his own golden jubilee. I administered the sacrament of confirmation in his parish many times. He was beloved by the people in that country parish. I recall during one of his illnesses at St. Joseph Hospital from which he spent time there around the clock so that someone was always with him. It will be an honor to celebrate his funeral Mass on Saturday, April 21.

I saw him play

Jackie Robinson. I read and observed as much as I could about this weekend about this extraordinary man. I saw him play at the old Braves Field in 1947, 1948 and later. It is hard for anyone to understand what an extraordinary breakthrough this was. What we saw there was an excellent ball player. So fast and such a good hitter. It came out later that he was a very religious man and that this came from his mother. Branch Rickey, who asked him to take on this effort, was, I think, an ordained minister. Jackie Robinson’s religion and strength in his family. He neither smoked nor drank. I can clearly remember how much it meant to the African-Americans, who sat quietly in the stands during those days. Sometimes sports takes on greater meaning than a game, and this was certainly such a case.

See you all next week!
Shooting of Virginia Tech students ‘tremendously sad,’ bishop says

BLACKSBURG, Va. (CNS) — The April 16 shooting spree at Virginia Tech that left at least 33 people dead is “tremendously sad,” said Bishop Francis X. DiLorenzo of Richmond.

In a phone interview just hours after the shootings, Teresa Volante, Catholic campus minister at Virginia Tech, said she had sent out an electronic notice that the Newman Center chapel was open for anyone who wanted to stop in and pray.

But she said the center, located just off the campus, was rather quiet at that time since the dormitories on campus were still locked down and the off-campus students had been instructed to stay away.

“I’m here for students to talk to,” she said.

Later in the afternoon Debbie McClintock, a volunteer who came in to help, told Catholic News Service that a prayer service was scheduled for 7 p.m. at the center.

She said people at the center were calm and were focused on helping students come to terms with the massacre.

“At St. Mary’s Parish, the only Catholic parish in Blacksburg, the receptionist said the pastor, Father James Arseneault, had spent more than three hours at the hospital with those who were wounded before heading over to the university to help there,” she said.

She said the church would be open all afternoon, with the Blessed Sacrament exposed for adoration, followed by a special Mass in the evening.

The university president, Charles Steger, called the shootings “a tragedy that we consider of monumental proportions.”

Bishop DiLorenzo said he heart goes out to the parents and family members of the dead students.

“At this time one cannot help but think of the endless years of commitment, of love and care that these parents have invested in their children and then have it all cut down by a bullet is tremendously sad,” he said.

“The tragedy really hit home with me,” he said, because he learned of it at a chancery lunch that included two women who have children studying at Virginia Tech. He said that fortunately their children were not harmed.

Emily Flach, a freshman business major who lives on campus, said, “People are just really shocked. It’s unbelievable that something like this happened.”

She told CNS at 3 p.m. that many students had not eaten all day because of the lockdown and a remaining uncertainty about whether it was safe to go out.

She said her dormitory is about three minutes’ walk from West Ambler Johnston, the dormitory where the first shooting occurred about 7:15 a.m. Two hours later the gunman, who was not immediately identified, attacked a classroom in Norris Hall, an engineering building, shooting more than 40 people before he was killed.

The initial death toll was placed at 22, including the gunman, but as the day wore on the number of dead rose to 33.

Father Rob Cole talks with Zach Candler, 20, a Virginia Tech junior, and Marcus Croft, 21, a senior, after celebrating a special evening Mass at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Blacksburg, Va., April 16. A gunman shot dozens of people at Virginia Tech earlier that day. At least 33 people were killed in the deadliest shooting rampage in U.S. history. Father Cole, a priest from Our Lady of Nazareth in Roanoke, Va., said that he had come to celebrate the service because St. Mary’s pastor was busy ministering to victims and their families.

The April 16 shooting was the deadliest on-campus attack in U.S. history. Before that the worst was at the University of Texas in Austin in 1966, when a gunman climbed a clock tower and killed 16 people before police killed him.

Last year on the first day of classes for the 2006-07 school year at Virginia Tech, an escaped inmate was captured near the campus after he allegedly shot and killed a sheriff’s deputy and a security guard. While the search for the inmate was on, classes were canceled, the Virginia Tech campus was closed and students and staff were ordered to stay indoors.

Volante said about 800 to 1,000 of the students regularly attend Sunday Mass at the Newman Center or are involved in activities there.

Contributing to this story were Jerry Filitteau and Patricia Zapor in Washington.

Pope saddened by massacre at Virginia Tech

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI was deeply saddened by the massacre at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg and prayed for the victims and their families, said the Vatican secretary of state.

Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone sent a telegram to Bishop Francis X. DiLorenzo of Richmond, Va., expressing the pope’s condolences to all those affected by the April 16 shootings that left at least 33 people, including the killer, dead.

Cardinal Bertone said in the wake of the “senseless tragedy” Pope Benedict asked him to assure the victims, their families and the entire school community of his prayers.

Pope Benedict “asks God our Father to console all those who mourn and to grant them that spiritual strength which triumphs over violence,” Cardinal Bertone said.

The text of the telegram follows:

When Flach learned there would be a prayer service at the Newman Center that evening, she said she thought that was a good idea. “I think the best thing we can do is come together and pray for everyone,” she said.

Anne Greenwood, a second-year graduate student in history, said she was in a conference room in McBryde Hall, one building over from Norris Hall, where the majority of victims were shot.

She said the first notice the group she was with had about the shootings was when they began receiving campus e-mail around 9:30 a.m. In quick succession, messages from the administration said there had been a shooting in a residence hall, then warned everyone that a gunman was still on campus and that they should stay inside.

Speaking with CNS a couple of hours after students were allowed to leave the campus, Greenwood said the impact of the gunman’s toll was still luring her.

“I’m having a hard time dealing with the fact that so many died,” she said.

The April 16 shooting was the deadliest on-campus attack in U.S. history. Before that the worst was at the University of Texas in Austin in 1966, when a gunman climbed a clock tower and killed 16 people before police killed him.

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Contributing to this story were Jerry Filitteau and Patricia Zapor in Washington.

Regarding the killings at Virginia Tech University

The terrible killings at Virginia Tech University in Blacksburg, Va., have shocked all of us. Young men and women who have hardly lived cut down in senseless death. Here we see the terrible use that can be made of the gift of human freedom; the savage violation of the commandment — thou shalt not kill — rings out over the Virginia mountains.

God has entrusted to humanity the responsibility to look out for one another, to care for one another. As Pope John Paul II wrote, “We are entrusted to another.”

Here we see also the power of evil in the human heart. To take the life of another is a terrible abomination of the gift of freedom. We can do good, protect life and care for each other, or we can rain destruction on another person.

It also reminds us of the terrible power of the gun and of the need to protect human beings by stricter laws. Most people do not need these strict laws because of the deep conviction in the human heart that life must be cherished. But we do need the protection of these laws to keep guns, the instrument of destruction, away from those who have evil in their hearts.

I ask all in the diocese to pray for these young people and their families, and to pray for peace in our streets and on our campuses, which have always been places of joy and learning. Pray for peace in Iraq, where the killing continues.

Most Reverend John M. D’Arcy

A STATEMENT BY BISHOP JOHN M. D’ARCY

The Most Rev. Francis X. DiLorenzo
Bishop of Richmond (USA)

Deeply saddened by news of the shooting at Virginia Tech, His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI has asked me to convey the assurance of his heartfelt prayers for the victims, their families and for the entire school community.

In the aftermath of this senseless tragedy he asks God our Father to console all those who mourn and to grant them that spiritual strength which triumphs over violence by the power of forgiveness, hope and reconciling love.

Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone
Secretary of State
Limited child protection audits find most dioceses across the nation in compliance

By Jerry Filteau

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Twenty-seven of 29 Catholic dioceses and archdioceses audited in 2006 complied with the church's national standards for child protection programs and the prevention of and response to sexual abuse, says a report released April 11.

However, four dioceses that were not found in compliance in 2005 refused to participate in the 2006 audit.

“The overall results of the 2006 audit are encouraging,” said Patricia O’Donnell Ewers, chairwoman of the bishops’ all-lay National Review Board. But she described the refusal of four dioceses to participate as “discouraging news.”

Two — the Diocese of Lincoln, Neb., and the Melkite Eparchy of Newton, Mass. — had refused to participate in the 2005 audits as well and were supposed to undergo full audits. The Diocese of Baker, Ore., and the Eparchy of Our Lady of Deliverance of Newark (N.J.) for Syriacs refused partial audits that would have focused on those areas where they did not meet compliance standards in 2005.

“It is most unfortunate,” Ewers said, “that the bishops and eparches of these dioceses/archdioceses are unwilling to participate in the one measure of public scrutiny that assures the Catholic lay faithful that the church is taking every means possible to reach out to those who have been harmed by individuals in the service of the church and to promote the safety and well-being of the children entrusted to its care.”

William A. Gavin, president of the Massachusetts-based Gavin Group, which conducted the audits, reported that among the dioceses that were audited in 2006 only the Cincinnati Archdiocese and the Diocese of Burlington, Vt., were found to not yet fully compliant with the abuse response and child protection standards set by the bishops’ “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.”

The remaining problem in both dioceses was the need to complete the safe environment training of all volunteers who work with children, he said.

He told Catholic News Service that both dioceses have been “very conscientious” about working toward full compliance and he expects they will reach that goal this year.

The report on the 2006 audits, prepared by the bishops’ Office of Child and Youth Protection, was released by Bishop William S. Sklystad of Spokane, Wash., president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, after the National Review Board reviewed it and recommended its publication.

Noting the high level of compliance on all articles of the charter, Bishop Sklystad said, “Vigilance to ensure the safety of children is now a way of life.”

“In the last five years we have made enormous progress, yet we must continue to proceed steadily,” he said.

2006 was a transition year for the audits. To adjust better to the rhythms of parish and diocesan life that are built around the school year and summer vacation time, future audits will go from July 1 to June 30 instead of Jan. 1 to Dec. 31. All dioceses are to receive a full 2007 audit, which will look at compliance from July 2006 to June 2007.

At the review board’s suggestion, with the approval of the USCCB, for the transition year of 2006, audits were required only for those who failed full compliance with one or more charter requirements in the 2005 audit, and those audits focused on the 2005 elements of noncompliance.

In addition, 11 dioceses or archdioceses received a full audit at their request. Three of those that requested a full audit — the Archdiocese of Amarillo, Texas; Boston; and Covington, Ky. — received required actions, but they had remedied the problem by the end of the year and were judged in full compliance with the charter. The USCCB has contracted with the Gavin Group to continue to conduct the audits in 2007-09.

Teresa M. Kettelkamp, executive director of the USCCB Office of Child and Youth Protection, said the audits show that “the church has done a lot” to protect children from sexual abuse and respond to it when it occurs.

“But, as I have said in the past, this does not mean the job is done,” she said. “Victims continue to come forward and a welcoming hand needs to reach out to them. Children still need our protection and the environments must be maintained for them.”

In addition to the audit results, the 2006 report included the results of a national survey of dioceses and clerical religious orders at the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University.

The CARA survey, third in an annual series begun in 2004, pulled together information on the number and nature of new allegations of sexual abuse of minors in 2006 and data on the costs to the church in settlements, legal fees, therapy, child protection programs and other abuse-related expenditures.

Nearly all dioceses and eparchies, 193 out of 195, and more than two-thirds of men’s religious orders, 150 out of 220, answered the survey.

CARA found that the number of new allegations and the number of new victims in 2006 dropped 34 percent from the figures in 2004; the number of clergy accused in 2006 was 40 percent below the 2004 figure. In 2004, 1,083 victims reported alleged abuse; in 2006, that number was 740. In 2004, seven out of 10 new allegations related to abuse dating back to the years 1960-69. In 2006, it found that abuse-related costs to the church in 2006 were about $33 million, down from the peak of $446 million reported in 2005.

Pope turning 80, thanks church for surrounding him with affection

By John Thavis

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — At a Mass marking his 80th birthday, Pope Benedict XVI thanked the church for surrounding him with affection “like a true family” and for supporting him with prayers.

“Over and over, I recognize with joy how great is the number of people who sustain me with their prayers, who with their faith and love help me carry out my ministry, and who are indulgent with my weakness,” he said April 11.

The Mass opened two days of celebrations commemorating the pope’s April 16 birthday and the second anniversary of his election April 19. The festivities featured a Vatican concert, dozens of written and oral messages extending birthday wishes from a wide array of people and groups, and a giant birthday cake in the shape of the Vatican.

Some 50,000 people, including German pilgrims wearing traditional Bavarian dress, journeyed into St. Peter’s Square for the liturgy. The altar area was surrounded by thousands of flowers — yellow and white, the colors of the Vatican.

Greeting the pope in the name of the College of Cardinals, Cardinal Angelo Sodano said his 80th birthday marked a moment of “spiritual joy” for the entire church.

He thanked the pope for guiding the church with love during the first two years of his pontificate.

In his sermon, the pope appeared a little reticent about being the focus of the Mass, saying the liturgy should not be the place “to speak about oneself.” But he added that one’s personal life can also offer lessons about God’s mercy.

The pope said he always felt he was given a special gift by being born on Holy Saturday, at “the beginning of Easter.” In a sense, he said, he was born into his personal family and the larger family of the church on the same day.

He said his family helped lead him to God, and he expressed his gratitude to his own father, mother, sister and brother. The only surviving member of his immediate family, Mgr. Georg Ratzinger, sat near the papal altar.

The pope’s private secretary, Mgr. Georg Gaenswein, said the pope had said he did not want to accept personal gifts from the faithful. Those who wanted to give something can make an offering that the pope will use for special church or humanitarian causes, the papal secretary said.

One gift the pope did accept was a cope, or liturgical cloak, given by his brother. The pope also received 80 bottles of beer from a brewery near Freising, Germany.
Parishioners’ ‘elbow grease’ reap benefits at St. Casimir Church

BY JENNIFER OCHSTEIN

SOUTH BEND — No one person takes the credit. But looking at St. Casimir Catholic Church before September and now, one can’t deny that the congregation is a determined people.

New floors, fresh paint, wood restoration and some elbow grease has brought new life to St. Casimir Church in South Bend all due to a congregation that did the work itself.

They started in September renovating St. Casimir because the costs of having a contractor do the work wouldn’t have been feasible. Estimates put the cost at around $100,000.

They did have to contract some of the work out like replacing the church’s wood floor with concrete, some tile work and paint, but they did the rest themselves, according to Paul Fujawa, a parishioner at the church.

Doing much of the work themselves saved them nearly $80,000. Fujawa, who is an engineer and directed the project, said they spent $19,000 on the project.

The renovation, completed in March, included tearing out the church’s rotted and termite-damaged wood floor, repainting the pews, painting walls, placing floor tile and carpet, restoring the wood floor around the altar, cleaning stained glass windows and touching up the Stations of the Cross paintings, said Fujawa.

He said it was important for the congregation to do the work itself partly for financial reasons and partly because it brought them all together.

“We had a core of 10 people who were here on a regular basis, but some Saturdays we had up to 30 people,” said Ann Marie Sommers, a parishioner.

People from other parishes from South Bend and even Goshen and Michigan came to help out, she said.

The first meeting to form the parish was held at Ziolkowski’s great-grandfather’s house.

“It’s our church, and it needed our help,” said Jeanie Ziolkowski as to why they wanted to help.

Ken Ziolkowski, who along with Sommers grew up attending St. Casimir, said it’s satisfying to help with the project.

For seven months of work, Sommers said the renovation ensures the church will “be here for a long time to come.”

Fujawa said he would’ve felt let down if the church didn’t stand up and do the work.

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Fire that destroyed Indiana church is ruled arson

NEW CASTLE, Ind. (CNS) — Law enforcement officials said April 10 that an early morning fire that destroyed historic St. Anne Church in New Castle three days earlier was arson. Firefighters battled the blaze for hours on Holy Saturday in windy and unseasonably cold weather. Parishioners who had planned to celebrate the Easter Vigil there that evening traveled instead to nearby Cambridge City, where they were at a standing-room-only congregation at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church.

State Fire Marshal Roger Johnson and officials with the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives immediately began a criminal investigation after the fire was put out, restricting access to the parish property and confining the area off with yellow crime-scene tape. The fire, which began in the basement, gutted the interior of the 83-year-old brick church, burned through the roof and melted stained-glass windows. The crimi-

nial investigation was suspended on Easter Sunday while the investigation continued. On April 12, the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Indiana Bureau of Criminal Investigation and Arson traded information with the New Castle police, and on April 16 the FBI joined the investigation. Fire officials said in their report that the fire had started in the basement and burned up through the roof, melting the roof's metal supports. The fire started in the basement, where there were several items found to have been destroyed.

Although arson was ruled, the investigation continues. Fire investigators said they would look at all possibilities, from accidental to criminal. They would also investigate the church's electrical system, which had been updated in recent years.

Vatican says nearly 3.4 million attended events in pope's second year

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In the second year of Pope Benedict XVI's pontificate, almost 3.4 million people participated in his weekly general audiences, group audiences, liturgies and the recitation of the Angelus in St. Peter's Square and holy days. The Prefecture of the Pontifical Household, headed by U.S. Archbishop James M. Hickey, said in a statement April 11 that while more than 350,000 people joined special groups granted a papal audience, more than 350,000 people attended Pope Benedict's Wednesday Audience with the general public, while more than 350,000 people joined special groups granted a papal audience. More than half a million people participated in papal liturgies at the Vatican and in Castel Gandolfo. In early June, says Vatican Prefect Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi, nearly 1.46 million people participated in his Holy Week ceremonies, including the Passion and Resurrection of Christ. The Papal Summer Villa in Castel Gandolfo also played host to the Holy Week ceremonies, with more than 500,000 people participating in the various liturgies and processions.

The Vatican's ambassador to Jerusalem, Archbishop Antonio Franco, approved the papal visits to Israel and the Palestinian territories. The pope visited Israel on May 11-14 and the Palestinian territories on May 15-17. In Jerusalem, the pope visited the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial, the Western Wall, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher and the Church of the Nativity. In the Palestinian territories, the pope visited the Church of the Nativity and the Church of the Annunciation in Nazareth.

Archbishop Franco told reporters April 14 that the pope had visited Israel to “foster hope and peace.” He added that the pope’s visit to the Palestinian territories was a “symbol of hope.” The pope also met with Israeli President Shimon Peres and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas.

Chinese dioceses see surge in young, educated people being baptized

SHIJIAZHUANG, China (CNS) — Catholic dioceses in mainland China saw a surge in baptisms this Easter, with young and educated people comprising a significant proportion of the new Catholics, church sources said. Song Yun, editor of the Shijiazhuang-based Faith 10-Day Catholic newspaper, told UCA News, an Asian church news service, April 14 that at least 6,000 baptisms took place in 26 dioceses and 41 major parishes in China. Mainland China has close to 100 dioceses. The newspaper contacted various dioceses and prominent parishes for the information. Song estimated that the total number of Easter baptisms on the mainland exceeded 10,000 and said 80 percent of the newly baptized in major Chinese cities have at least some college education. “It’s hard to account for all the baptisms,” said another source, who noted that some dioceses baptize at Pentecost, the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, or at Christmas.

Catholic press board urges new stress on diocesan newspapers

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Diocesan newspapers deserve new emphasis as a means of spreading the Gospel and connecting Catholics to one another and their church, said the board of directors of the Catholic Press Association of the United States and Canada.

“Diocesan publications can light the fire of faith that warms hearts to action for the good of all,” the CPA board said in a statement released April 10. “Recently the Italian Federation of Catholic Weeklies announced a bold initiative, the opening of 76 new diocesan newspapers. The goal was that each of Italy’s 226 dioceses would have at least one publication to serve its members,” the board said. “That same type of emphasis is needed in the United States and Canada,” it said. CPA members include a wide range of national and international Catholic newspapers, magazines and newsletters, but the 173 diocesan newspapers of the United States and Canada that belong to the association form nearly half of its members.

Pope accepts Iowa bishop’s resignation for health reasons

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has accepted the resignation of Bishop Joseph L. Charron of Des Moines, Iowa, for reasons of health. A successor was not immediately named. Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States, announced the resignation in Washington April 10. Bishop Charron, 67, has headed the Des Moines Diocese for 13 years. He was diagnosed last year with polymyalgia rheumatica, a chronic inflammatory disorder that causes muscle aching and stiffness, especially in the neck, shoulders, upper arms and back. Bishop Charron, a member of the White Fathers, a Catholic missionary order, is expected to return to the United States for medical treatment. He is expected to live in a monastery and to be involved in teaching and pastoral work.

More than 2,000 in St. Peter’s Square protest capital punishment

ROME (CNS) — More than 2,000 people protesting capital punishment marched through Rome to St. Peter’s Square on Easter morning. The Easter March, as it was called, was designed to put pressure on the Italian government to propose a moratorium on capital punishment at the U.N. General Assembly April 23. The April 8 march was organized by the Sant’Egidio Community, the Italian Anti-Death Penalty Movement and Hands Off Cain, an international nonprofit organization that works to end capital punishment. Various Italian political figures — including Rome Mayor Walter Veltroni and Marco Pannella, a member of the European Parliament — participated in the march.

VATICAN AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL ATTENDS CEREMONY
AROUND THE DIocese

Public school drive to benefit St. Vincent de Paul and Christ Child Society

SOUTH BEND — Two Catholic nonprofit organizations will be the recipients of a large donation drive currently going on at all four public high schools.

Stories from Riley, Washington, Clay and Adams high schools are currently collecting clothing and household items for the St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Joseph County, and for the Christ Child Society.

The drive will end on Sunday, April 22, with a final push and celebration at the College Football Hall of Fame on April 22. The general public is invited to donate clothing and household items from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and name the school of choice to receive the credit.

A trophy will be presented by a representative of the Indianapolis Colts to the school that collects the most donations.

The event is part of the “Play It Smart” program of the National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame. Play It Smart provides community involvement and leadership opportunities for student athletes outside of sports.

Their goal is to collect a total of 10,000 items.

The Play It Smart donation project got started two years ago at Clay High School, and has had “a monumental impact” on the school, according to Nan Tulchinsky, director of athletics for the South Bend Community School Corporation.

“The granting of our students in community service pays dividends for their lives and we look forward to continuing this tradition for many years to come,” she said.

Clay High School started its donation drive by connecting with Eric’s Promise, a St. Vincent de Paul program named after Eric Henry, a Catholic student who died in 2002.

Run for the Rams helps Huntington Catholic

HUNTINGTON — In years past, the Run for the Rams has featured a gala dinner and auctions, benefiting Huntington Catholic School.

This year, the annual fund-raiser will have the chance to debate and pass comprehensive immigration reform.

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Pioneer of Catholic-Jewish relations, Dr. Eugene Fisher, to speak May 9

FORT WAYNE — Addressing the upcoming July retirement of Dr. Eugene Fisher from the U.S. Conference of Bishops, the National Catholic Reporter (NCR) recently wrote that he “has both symbolized and, in significant measure, engineered the revolution in Catholic Jewish relations that followed the Second Vatican Council (1962-65), and came to a crescendo under Pope John Paul II.”

Dr. Fisher, executive director of the secretariat for Catholic-Jewish relations at the National Conference of Catholics since 1977, is not only unusual for being the first layperson to hold this post, he also has a doctorate in Hebrew culture and education from New York University and is a member of the National Association of Professors of Hebrew.

The Catholic-Jewish Dialogue program sponsored by St. Mary’s Seminary and College, called for by the council than Dr. Eugene Fisher who penned those words.

It would be difficult to find anyone has been more at the forefront of Catholic-Jewish relations than Fisher during the last thirty years. In 1985, when the Vatican announced there were “no theological barriers” to recognizing the state of Israel after a prejudice originating in ancient times that identified Jewish home as divine punishment for Jesus’ death, it was Dr. Fisher who penned those words.

In recognizing his achievements, St. Mary’s Seminary and University in Baltimore declared in 1999 that “no single American Catholic has done more to foster Christian religions) and to promote the ‘good fellowship’ between Catholics and Jews called for by the council than Dr. Eugene J. Fisher.

Dr. Fisher’s visit is made possible by the Catholic Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation. For more information about the program please call (260) 744-4245.

Parental choice provision added to budget bill, passes Indiana Senate

BY BRIGID CURTIS AYER

INDIANAPOLIS — Parental choice in education for low income families is expected to expand statewide under an income tax credit provision, which was amended into the budget bill and passed the Indiana Senate.

The purpose of the measure is to encourage charitable giving to expand funding for scholarship organizations across the state especially in communities where educational choice opportunities are most needed.

Sen. Brent Steele (R-Bedford), who offered the tax credit provision, said the provision provides up to a 35 percent tax credit against state tax liabilities for contributions made to a nonprofit Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO). The SGO may use the funds raised under this program to pay tuition and other expenses for low-income students to attend an Indiana school of their parents’ choice. Students must qualify for free or reduced lunch in order to qualify for the scholarships. Once a student qualifies, he may continue to participate in future years, regardless of changes in the family income.

“For example, if an individual or company wanted to make a charitable contribution of $100 to one of the qualifying SGOs, the donor would get a $35 tax credit,” said Sen. Steele.

“It will encourage companies and individuals to give to a Scholarship Granting Organization. It will provide opportunities (of parental choice) for people who are trapped (in a school system),” said Sen. Steele.

“Some of these families who qualify are very working. Sometimes the parents are working two or three jobs to gather enough money to send their children to another school,” said the Bedford lawmaker. “These families are highly motivated and highly involved in the lives of their children.”

Sen. Steele said that even though parents have always had an opportunity to remove their children from a particular school system, with a partial scholarship, as a practical matter they would have to come up with roughly 50 percent of the tuition and also have to pay for books and transportation.

However, under Sen. Steele’s amendment, the SGOs’ scholarships can be used not only to cover tuition, but be used for books, transportation and even school uniforms. Costs that will make school choice possible for families that aren’t able to cover costs beyond tuition.

Bob Hoy, executive director for the Educational CHOICE Charitable Trust in Indianapolis, an SGO, said that since 1991 the CHOICE Charitable Trust has given almost $15 million to economically-challenged families in Indianapolis. Over 60 percent of the grants awarded to children in archdiocesan schools have been awarded to children in schools, which now make up the Catholic Urban School Consortium. In the past two years, since the official opening of the Catholic Urban School Consortium (2005-06), CHOICE has funded over $560,000 in grants to children enrolled in the six schools.

The Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC) has worked for decades to provide more parental choice options for all families in Indiana. Glenn Tebbe, ICC executive director said, “This measure has great potential to not only provide and expand real school choice options for lower income families, but could greatly benefit middle income Catholic school families as well.” He explains, “Tuition is tied to enrollment. When enrollment increases in a Catholic school, tuition goes down. When tuition goes down, all Catholic school families benefit,” said Tebbe.

Since the budget bill, House Bill 1001, was amended in the Senate, it will go back to the House for approval. “Due to the large number of amendments to the budget bill while in the Senate, the bill will likely go to conference committee for differences to be worked out,” said Tebbe.

“Our faith community can really have an impact on having this scholarship tax credit become law by contacting their state representative and state senator now and asking them to support the Scholarship Tax Credit provision in HB 1001,” said Tebbe.

In October 2006, the Indiana Catholic Conference issued a new statement on Parental Choice in Education. To view the statement go to the ICC Web page at www.indianacatholicconference.org. Click the “resources button” on the left to view the statement.
World and diocesan timeline 1872-1900

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NEW HAVEN — Most who know Fort Wayne area native Kerri Zurbuch would say that she has a natural instinct for health and fitness; a fair assessment as she is in the business of personal fitness instruction and wellness consultation at the corporate level.

Fitness has always been a way of life for Zurbuch who says even at a young age she loved being outdoors, and she says her active parents were her guides. “They rode bicycles, walked, swam and played softball. My parents were good role models,” Zurbuch says.

An outdoor enthusiast, this longtime athlete was a cheerleader from the fifth grade to her senior year when she was captain of the squad and her passion, fast-pitch softball, kept her busy on the playing field. She has enjoyed casual tennis as well and says, “I like to push myself to my personal best,” Zurbuch says.

Her athletic prowess led her to become a certified aerobics instructor shortly after she graduated from high school. Though she says she never thought of herself as “college material,” Zurbuch’s passion for teaching set her on a reluctant journey first to Indiana-Purdue Universities at Fort Wayne (IPFW), then to Ball State University to study exercise science.

Her reluctance dissipated as she soon realized she was in the right field of study and earned a bachelor’s degree in exercise science/wellness with a minor in physical education for older adults in 1995. She immediately became involved in her community in New Haven with personal training and corporate wellness consultation.

Her work with Lincoln Financial Group in Fort Wayne lent itself to the development of three fitness facilities and a comprehensive wellness incentive program as well. She was instrumental in coordinating several programs there including one for smoking cessation and many others involving food services and other programs which focused on health and wellness on a holistic level.

Currently her consulting work with area companies addresses assessment of health care costs, budget and design and evaluation of programs in comparison to health claims. Some of the companies, she says, have part- or full-time wellness consultants on staff, whom is she asked to assist with overall company wellness needs assessment.

Personal fitness instruction takes the form of individualized programs beginning with two consultations held in her home in New Haven where a baseline assessment is done regarding height, weight, body fat ratio and the like and the establishment of goals. Each program is based on individual need and may include home visits up to two times each week where her instruction involves cooking healthy meals, exercising, yoga and more.

“I take the data and design a program that is results oriented,” says Zurbuch. As the client progresses with the plan, meeting times will decrease and vary according to the increased fitness level. “I try to be as flexible as possible. The training is very personalized,” she adds. Currently Zurbuch works with two full-time clients and four to five part-time clients.

Between individual and corporate fitness training Zurbuch found the time to return to Ball State University to complete her master’s degree in wellness management with a minor in business in 2001. And if that isn’t enough to keep this young athlete busy, she and husband of 11 years, Paul, are raising their two young sons, Sam and Charlie. Now add to the mix, among other programs, her interest and certification in prenatal and postpartum fitness training as well as being the founder and director of City Walk, Inc., a nonprofit program designed to bring wellness programs and prevention at low or no cost to the community that fights the obesity epidemic this country faces.

In the community spirit, Zurbuch also hosts a monthly radio program that can be heard on WBCL, radio 90.3 FM, “Midmorning” called “Get Healthy, Get Fit.”

Zurbuch takes a break by an exercise ball she uses in an aerobics class she offers to the New Haven community. Zurbuch is a certified personal fitness instructor as well as consultant for corporate wellness needs.

“The first 20 minutes is education and the second half of the show is for call-ins,” reports Zurbuch, who is pleased that the program reaches over 100,000 listeners each month.

After all the credentials are listed and all the programs defined, Zurbuch “gets real” and says, “But it’s not just about fitness. It’s about balance and moderation.”

The key she says is “not what you do 10 percent of the time but 90 percent.” That, she adds, includes not only nutrition, adequate sleep and appropriate exercise but also spiritual and intellectual care. “How are these (aspects) going to effect how you serve your family, parent or be the best you?” she asks.

Zurbuch believes that the body is the temple of the Holy Spirit and must be cared for accordingly. That begs the question, she says, “Is what we’re doing compromising our core values? God gives us all we need, but we have a tendency to put more on our plate. There is a delicate balance … do you have moments to pause, meditate, pray?”

Being still with yourself and God can bring assist in discovering the answer to these questions. “The parts impact the whole,” says Zurbuch, enthusiastically adding, “My intent is to help others make their own good news.”

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Faith helps California Catholic rebuild life after disfiguring cancer

BY CARRIE MCClish

DANVILLE, Calif. (CNS) — Ask Terry Healey what his life was like before cancer and he will sum it up with three words: “pretty easy going.”

He was an athlete, a homecoming prince and a good student. Then during his junior year at the University of California Berkeley, doctors discovered that he had a rare form of skin cancer that was attacking his face. Suddenly he was confronting his mortality and facial disfigurement that called his very identity into question.

“It was difficult given that appearance matters so much at that age,” he said.

Now 42, Healey, a member at St. Isidore Parish in Danville, uses his experiences with cancer to help others meet the challenges they encounter in life and explains that his Catholic faith helped him rediscover his identity from “the inside out.”

He wrote a memoir, “At Face Value: My Triumph Over a Disfiguring Cancer,” which was released by Caveat Press/White Cloud Books last year, and he travels the country as a motivational speaker.

The cancer was successfully removed in his initial surgery in 1984, but tests the following year revealed that it had recurred, was growing incredibly fast and threatened his life. Healey underwent extensive surgery to stop the cancer and emerged from the procedure with a disfigured face. Surgeons removed half of his nose, the shelf (bones and tissues) of his right eye, part of his upper lip, part of his hard palate and six teeth. When he woke up after the operation, Healey discovered that his face was attached to his chest because the doctors needed that tissue to temporarily fill in the gap in his face.

Over the next half dozen years, Healey underwent about 30 additional surgical procedures, some minor and some major. While the cancer treatment itself was contained to about two years, he continued his quest to “rebuild” his face.

“I could have kept going — there was no end in sight,” Healey said of the various surgeries. “I had to decide who I was.”

But the path he was taking — from one surgeon to another to “fix” his face — became counterproductive.

“So some of the procedures didn’t improve things and they actually made things worse. There was a lot of risk in what I was doing,” he said in an interview with The Catholic Voice, newspaper of the Oakland Diocese.

So Healey began to consider a different kind of makeover. “My problems were really more about the insecurity that had developed inside as a result of the surgery,” he said. “I needed to rebuild from the inside out instead of the outside in.”

Healey found much of the foundation for his personal “rebuilding” in his Catholic faith. Born in Seattle, he spent part of his youth at St. Anne Parish in Walnut Creek in the Oakland Diocese. While in college, he attended Holy Spirit Parish/Newman Hall and found a lot of support from the parish after his cancer diagnosis.

Healey remembers the night before his surgery for the cancer that had come back. Paulist Father George Fitzgerald, Holy Spirit’s pastor, came to his family home and “did a blessing for me. That was kind of an intense thing. It really felt like I was being blessed from above ... it was something I will never forget.”

Healey also had the support and love of his family and friends, whom he called “very positive-minded” people. Over time he came to realize that real beauty originates from within and that “it’s also how we perceive ourselves that really speaks to who we are.”

In 1991, although still insecure about the way he looked, Healey stopped having surgery. By leaning on his faith he slowly realized his own transformation and he learned to see himself and life in a new way. He learned to be more forgiving, more tolerant and more appreciative of his life. “To me, those are great gifts that I got.”

Eventually after much reflection he felt called to share his story as an author.

The book then led to an unanticipated role for Healey: motivational speaker. As a result of the disfiguring surgeries he could not see himself getting up in front of a crowd and speaking in public.

“That is the last thing I wanted to do;” he said. But as he became more content with himself Healey saw it as a new challenge, one that he did not want to initially deal with but had to.

Today Healey has found peace and satisfaction talking to health care organizations, medical associations, corporations and schools about his physical and spiritual journey.

“As I said before, my life was on easy street. I was just kind of cruising through life. But now I feel like it has a lot more meaning and purpose,” he said.

Terry Healey overcame a disfiguring cancer that attacked his face and called his identity into question. He underwent extensive surgery to have the cancer removed and 30 additional operations. Healey is seen in this undated photo after his recovery.

HEALTHY LIVING 11APRIL 22, 2007

* 2nd Annual Health & Fitness Fair *

Learn about a healthy lifestyle, then fall in love with our community.

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The newest type of savings bonds is Series I bonds. These bonds are purchased at face value (a $100 bond costs $100) and earn interest with periodic interest payments that are adjusted for inflation. Interest is not taxable until original maturity, which is 20 years after the issue date. Savings bonds are exempt from federal income tax on the accumulated interest income from the bonds. In addition, a bequest of the savings bonds to the charity produces a charitable estate tax deduction to the decedent’s estate for the total value of the bonds. This eliminates any federal or state inheritance tax on the savings bonds.

The best way to make a charitable bequest of savings bonds is for the donor to instruct in the will or a revocable trust that the bonds be physically distributed to a charity by the estate or trust. It is important for tax purposes that the will or trust specifically identify the asset — the savings bonds — as the bequest to the charity, rather than bequeathing a dollar amount or percentage and assuming the executor will distribute the bonds to the charity. A charitable bequest of savings bonds cannot be accomplished without a document drafted by an attorney. Also, under treasury regulations, a charitable organization can be named as co-owner or beneficiary on the face of the bonds, so these methods of giving should never be considered.

For more information on charitable bequests, please contact Elisa Smith, director of Planned Giving, at (260) 422-4611, ext. 312, or e-mail her at esmith@fw.dioceaselwb.org.

Seniors' Spirit

PLANNED GIVING

Cardinals, archbishop pay tribute to Baltimore Catechism

By George P. Matysek Jr.

This spring, don’t just clean your house, reorganize your life by considering what steps you can take to start down a path of meaningful fulfillment in all areas of your life. “I am convinced that anyone, and I mean anyone, can become what they are absolutely determined to be and live a meaningful life,” said Jim Stowers, author of “The Best is Yet to Be — his autobiography.

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Caregiver support groups: Reluctant to join or wondering what they’re all about?

BY LISA PETCHE

If you’re a caregiver, you may have already read articles about the importance of preventing burnout. Usually they include the suggestion to join a support group. Perhaps you’re reluctant, though, because you’re wondering what caregiver groups are all about and whether joining one would really help you. If so, read on.

Purpose

The overall goal of caregiver support groups is to enhance participants’ coping skills through mutual support and information-sharing.

Objectives may include:

• validating the important role of family caregivers;
• exploring the challenges and rewards of caregiving;
• acknowledging the emotional impact of a family member’s illness and exploring various coping strategies;
• group problem-solving of practical issues;
• providing education about disease processes, behavioral issues and management strategies;
• identifying and addressing obstacles that seniors and their caregivers encounter in the community;
• promoting effective use of local resources;
• recognizing caregiver needs and helping caregivers balance those needs with those of their ill-loved one.

Benefits and limitations:

• realizing you are not alone in your feelings of support and understanding;
• the opportunity to express feelings and thoughts in an empathetic, nonjudgmental environment;
• learning from the experiences of other caregivers;
• gaining satisfaction from helping others on the caregiving journey;
• making new friends;
• keeping current on caregiving issues and resources;
• recognizing the importance of self-care.

A group setting isn’t suited to everyone. A caregiver support group may not be as helpful for those who are:
• very shy or private in nature;
• self-focused, either as a long-standing personality trait or due to extreme stress;
• those who have significant, often long-standing personal issues (for example, a psychiatric illness or a conflicted relationship with the care recipient).

In such cases, individual counseling may be a better approach.

Attending a group may also not be feasible due to severe hearing impairment or an inability to obtain respite care or transportation.

Caregivers in such situations should explore:
• telephone support networks
• online caregiver message boards

Types of groups

Some caregiver groups are very general and open to everyone. Others are specific to certain populations, such as caregivers of older adults or caregivers for those suffering from Alzheimer’s disease.

Some groups are quite structured, with set agendas and built-in time constraints (typically 4-6 weekly or bimonthly sessions). Led by health care professionals, such as social workers and nurses, these groups are primarily educational in nature and often include guest speakers.

More informal groups focus primarily on emotional support. Member sharing of thoughts, feelings and experiences is key. Facilitators may be experienced caregivers or professionals who work with caregivers. Meetings are usually held monthly, with new members welcomed on an ongoing basis.

Evaluating the support group experience

How to tell if you’ve found the right group:
• Is the physical setting comfortable and distraction-free?
• Are group norms — such as taking turns and respecting differing viewpoints — clearly articulated and observed?
• Can you relate to other members’ experiences?
• Does the facilitator appear knowledgeable about caregiving issues and resources?

Highly rated groups also emphasize caregiver strengths, incorporate some humor and include time for social interaction.

Where to find information on caregiver groups

• Hospital or community social worker
• Nonprofit organization associated with your relative’s disease
• Local area agency on aging
• Community calendar of your community
• Senior center bulletin board
• Community information service
• Local public health department or mental health association.

TRIBUTE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Cardinal McCarrick said the challenge of Catholic education is to help people internalize the faith, but also understand it — a challenge made by Cardinal Keeler. Recent religion books have moved in that direction, Cardinal McCarrick said.

William S. Dinger, president of Sadlier, said the question-and-answer forum of the Baltimore Catechism was right for the times it was used. Modern textbooks now attempt to teach children the faith and encourage them to apply the faith to their lives in age-appropriate ways, he said.

“I think memorization is important, but understanding is important too,” he said. “If you understand the faith you will be able to defend it.”


4/22/2007

HEALTHY LIVING

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University of Notre Dame

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Al Barbarino is a popular, charismatic singer, speaker, and master of ceremonies at conferences and parishes throughout the U.S. and Canada. He has recorded seven inspirational Catholic music albums with proceeds going to the poor. Al’s ministry was inspired by his first pilgrimage to Medjugorje in 1985. He is a lay member of Father Groeschel’s Franciscan Friars.

Immaculee Ilbargis is the author of Leftovers, a gripping story of survival of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. She has appeared on Public Television and major network programs. Dr. Wayne Dyer, a renowned speaker, says, “She not only talks about unconditional love and forgiveness, she radiates it wherever she goes.” Her testimony will touch you deeply.

Matthew Kelly is an internationally acclaimed Catholic lay evangelist. His talks and retreats have entertained and inspired Catholics at conferences and retreats throughout the country. Matthew is the author of ten books; some of which were New York Times best sellers. Originally from Australia, he now resides in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Immaculee Ilbargis was raised as a Catholic. But for a period of time became deeply immersed in New Age practices and ideas. After a series of powerful conversion experiences, she returned to the Church and is now a popular speaker telling her story via religious cable and radio stations throughout the world. Her most recent book is titled Ransomed from Darkness.

Father Giordano Belanich (Father Gio) is the founder of Christian Relief Services, an outreach that feeds and clothes the poorest of the poor in many different countries of the world. He is also well known for his evangelization and teaching ministry work throughout the United States and Canada. Father is a priest in the archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey.

Lisa M. Petsche is a clinical social worker with experience in developing and facilitating caregiver support groups.
Care of the Dying.

The pastoral care of the sick, rites of anointing and viaticum, is a call to provide Christ’s forgiveness and mercy to those who are suffering and dying. Our church offers prayers for the sick and those who minister to them. It is a call to care for the sick (Mt 18:10). Since ancient times, there is evidence of the sacrament of anointing and by nourishing the soul, the Church is replete with rituals that are comforting and healing. The sacrament of anointing is not harmed by the rite. The imposition of hands in the rite of anointing conveys the blessing of healing. The boundless beauty and unlimited grace of your presence blesses me at every moment of my existence. May your goodness radiate from me and bring the blessing of your loving touch to each person with whom I share life.

Praise for you, God, the almighty Father.

You sent your Son to live among us and bring us salvation. Response: Blessed be God who heals us in Christ.

Praise to you, God, the only begotten Son. You humbled yourself to share in our humanity and heal our infirmities. Response: Blessed be God who heals us in Christ.

Our unfailing power gives us strength in the face of sickness. Response: Blessed be God who heals us in Christ.

To touch another is to accept and claim him/her from which there is no separation; to heal..." — Sacred Congregation for Divine Worship Decree, Dec. 7, 1972.

The church shows this solicitude not only by visiting those who are sick in poor health but also by raising them up through the sacrament of anointing and by nourishing them in the Church during their illness and when they are in danger of death. Finally, the church offers prayers for the sick to comfort them in their suffering, especially of the unborn, the terminally ill, and the aged. Take a courageous stand against these signs of destruction and pray for the healing of the people of the world.

Opening prayer

Praise to you, God, the almighty Father.

You sent your Son to live among us and bring us salvation. Response: Blessed be God who heals us in Christ.

Praise to you, God, the only begotten Son. You humbled yourself to share in our humanity and heal our infirmities. Response: Blessed be God who heals us in Christ.

Litany of Anointing

Scripture: Mt. 11:25-30

Commentary

Anointing with oil

Jesus has already consecrated as priest, prophet and king through baptism and confirmation. The anointing over his body and the oil of the sick commissions the person to witness to his or her confrontation with pain and suffering as he strives to identify with Christ in his suffering and death. The sick and dying witness to their trust in the promise of eternal life that has been given to us by our Lord, Jesus Christ.

M. Jennifer Glen in “Sickness and Symbol: The Promise of the Future” beautifully states the following: “Through its rituals for the sick, in particular through the rites of the laying on of hands and the anointing with oil, the Christian community holds out to the sick, in symbol, its own faith that the mystery of death which confronts them in the dark corridor of insecurity does not seal them into an eternal, hopeless present from which there is no issue.

Only bishops and priests may be ministers of the sacrament of anointing. “Like all sacraments, anointing of the sick is a liturgical and communal celebration, whether it takes place in the family, a hospital or church, for a single sick person or a large group of the sick or aged. It is a very fitting to celebrate it within the Eucharist. As the sacrament of Christ’s Passover, the Eucharist, should always be the last sacrament of the earthly journey, the “viaticum for ‘passing over to eternal life.’” — CCC, 1517.

For the complete text visit the dioce- san Web site at www.dioce- sfwsb.org.

Evangelizing action challenge for interior renewal

Borrow a copy of the Pastoral Care of the Sick from your pastor or a library. Spend time meditating on the richness of the symbols and prayers.

For reaching out to others

Plan to attend a communal celebra- tion of the sacrament of anointing in your parish church. Invite an elderly or sick person to accompany you.

For transforming society

Society today refuses to respect and reverence life from the “cradle to the grave.” It des- perately needs “healing” of the attitudes of disrespect for life, especially of the unborn, the ter- minally ill, and the aged. Take a courageous stand against these signs of destruction and pray for the healing of the people of the world.

Closing prayer

Blessed are you, God, source of all goodness.

The boundless beauty and unlimited grace of your presence blesses me at every moment of my existence. May your goodness radiate from me and bring the blessing of your loving touch to each person with whom I share life.

Grant this prayer in the name of Jesus, your Son who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit now and forever. Amen.
FORT WAYNE — The story behind Lori Winters’ mission trip to Africa reads like a classic vocation story, fitting for someone who helps with the St. Therese of the Little Flower Holy Hour and serves as secretary of the Fort Wayne Serra Club.

Winters, a dental assistant and dental hygienist, believes the seeds of her call were planted after her first experience with an African priest, Father Charles Matyabwa of Uganda, during his time at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Fort Wayne. From there, she began to discern little signs in her life that seemed to suggest the ever-so-subtle watermark of a call from God.

For instance, in her youth, Winters attended St. Dominic Parish in Bremen, but also St. Isidore, a mission parish in Nappanee. It was not until after St. Isidore closed that Winters learned that the place for which she had such a strong childhood affinity was a mission parish.

Around the time of this revelation, she happened to work in a dentist’s office where the dentist had made mission trips to Africa. From there, her friendships with Nigerian priests Father Abraham Nwali and the late Father Samuel Ogboso, then serving at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, solidified the notion that she was being called to make a mission trip to Africa.

After much consultation with her spiritual directors, Victory Noll Sister Rita Mustane and Father Ed Espelding, Winters embarked on a Jan. 30 to March 1 mission trip to Nigeria, the experience of which, she recalls, was like finally waking up and living a dream that had been in her subconscious for years, ever growing from the seeds that had been planted years earlier. Father Nwali, who was by that point back in Nigeria made the special arrangements for Winters to come as a guest of Bishop Michael Okoro of Abakaliki, Nigeria, the home diocese of Father Nwali and Father Ogboso.

Preparation for the trip included sending various medical and dental supplies ahead of her and having a set of her dental instruments blessed by Father Tom Shoemaker — himself a dentist — shortly before her departure.

Upon arriving in Nigeria, Winters first stayed in the compound that housed the bishop’s official residence — large concrete block buildings, a metal gate and sporadic electricity — where her experiences included eating new foods such as goat and cashew fruit and the daily Mass and prayer lives of the many priests and sisters also staying at the compound.

During her month in Nigeria, Winters worked almost nonstop on patient after patient, many of whom had never received dental care in their lives. She worked at a free health clinic run by Father Nwali at the bishop’s residence and in this family’s village and at Mater Misericordiae Hospital in Afikpo under the direction of Father Simon Acha. Winters recalls seeing people suffering from seizures, infertility, probable dental abscesses, foot rot, elephantiasis, sickle cell anemia and many young men with elevated blood pressures.

Despite her arduous workload and the intense Nigerian heat, Winters found a strength to keep going that she knows must have been the Holy Spirit at work. She never got sick or experienced pain, even when she was living on the grounds at the hospital with no running water and had to retrieve by pail water for her shower and other uses.

“The actual medical and dental needs are great,” Winters recalls of her work on the trip. “The call goes out to those who hear God’s call in the silence of prayer.”

In the midst of her work, the Scripture passage Lk 4:15 resonated with Winters time after time: “The Spirit of God is upon me, he has anointed me. He sent me to bring good news to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted.”

The gratitude of the people of Nigeria for those who do mission work was exemplified for Winters one day on the trip when she and Father Nwali were traveling the rough terrain on the road to Afikpo when they were stopped by either police or the military who insisted on searching the vehicle. When they discovered the supplies and medical gloves in the back, what had been a tense situation turned into a very gracious one with the officials expressing to Winters how much they appreciated what she was doing.

After returning from the Diocese of Abakaliki, Nigeria, Winters has had time to reflect on her travels and has found that her experience has informed many aspects of her life and faith, including her work with the Serra Club and the Little Flower Holy Hour. She feels it would be incredibly beneficial for the church in the United States to embrace the spirit of the African priesthood and religious life.

This, she says, means making an effort to “incorporate our priests and religious into our daily lives as normal, regular human beings.

Never do you see (African) priests and religious isolated from the daily lives of families or the community.”

Apart from this integration, which can only be truly understood by experiencing it, she notes that another reason Africa needs are great today, is the abundance of vocations to the priesthood and religious life is that the faith lives of families are so strong. For the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend to get a taste of this, Winters thinks it would be beneficial for diocesan seminarians to visit Africa or, more specifically, the St. Augustine Seminary in Eazambo, Nigeria, where Fathers Nwali and Ogboso studied, and where Pope John Paul II once visited and rightly predicted that it would produce many priests.

Both Winters and her friends and contacts in the Diocese of Abakaliki look forward to her making another trip in the future, and in the meantime, Winters hopes to bring her story to others in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend so that other willing people might hear God and Africa calling.

Anyone interested in more information, making a donation or going on a mission trip to Nigeria can contact Winters through Today’s Catholic or the Fort Wayne Serra Club. There is a special need for dentists, oral surgeons, lab technicians and doctors.

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Holy Harleys

‘Bless me father, I’m a biker.’

BY MARK WEBER

ARCOLA — Just as the swallows come back to Capistrano on the feast day of St. Joseph, the Harleys hurry to Arcola on the Saturday after Easter for an annual event at St. Patrick Catholic Church known as “the blessing of the bikes.”

The history of how hundreds of leather-clad bikers arrive swarming and roaring at this tiny speck on the flat Indiana landscape has genuine mystique.

It began in 1989 when two St. Patrick parishioners, Gerry Gordon and Rose Weber, and six other bikers brought their bikes to church to be blessed. The next year, 12 bikers were there for the blessing and the next year there were 40. In 2006, on a beautiful spring day, 1,800 showed up.

This year, with snow and a raw wind, there were approximately 550 who began to arrive about 11 a.m. for a p.m. ceremony.

Adding to the unusual nature of this event is the fact that there is no registration and very little in the way of organization; word about the blessing is heard on the bikers’ grapevine, and like the swallows, the riders show up. They have hot dogs, coffee and soft drinks, as they share stories and await an amazingly brief ceremony, considering the time it took some of the out-of-state riders to get here.

This year, because of the knife-like wind, those present gathered inside St. Patrick Church for a brief service consisting of a Scripture reading, an Irish blessing, a prayer for deceased friends and The Lord’s Prayer. Then Father Cyril Fernandes, pastor of St. Patrick, stepped outside and strode along the bikes and their owners for the blessing.

As the last drops of holy water fell, and no one said, “start your engines,” they started... they started with some kind of a heavily, thunderous roar, which seemed to say go on home and return to this spot next year, as the riders peeled out of the parking lot, turning left, right and at the next roads, north and south, returning to destinations known only to those on board.

Father Cyril Fernandes, pastor of St. Patrick Parish, Arcola, poses on a bike after blessing nearly 600 of them.

BY MARK WEBER

Father Cyril Fernandes, pastor of St. Patrick Parish, Arcola, poses on a bike after blessing nearly 600 of them.

BY MARK WEBER

Father Cyril Fernandes, pastor of St. Patrick Parish, Arcola, poses on a bike after blessing nearly 600 of them.
MISHAWAKA — Gus Zuehlke’s life in this northern Indiana town seemed a million miles away from the displacement camps of northern Uganda, but for one important connection. Neither Zuehlke, the director of faith formation at St. Bavo Parish in Mishawaka, nor the residents of the camp had access to computers or the Internet.

That changed for Zuehlke in 2002, when the parish bought a computer for his office and set up Web access. Despite his limited use of computers in the past, Zuehlke has completed a mission project where he and a team of four Americans and two Ugandans took computers to Uganda and established Internet connections in seven displacement camps in the northern part of the country, which has suffered a devastating civil war for the last 20 years. These camps include clinics, schools and church offices, but until last month they were trying to communicate with the outside world in 2007 in much the same as they did in 1987.

Now displaced Ugandans in these camps can read the news, send e-mails and, using voicemails, connect to the church infrastructure. "I know you do not do that," said Zuehlke. “You raise the money first, but I had to do this during the truce.”

The seeds for this mission came from the church and were planted when the chaplain of Ugandan parliament, Father Robert Binta, visited St. Bavo Parish in 2003. During his stay, Father Binta borrowed Zuehlke’s computer to read the news and learn of an outbreak of civil strife in northern Uganda. Zuehlke and Father Binta forged a friendship at this point, and later that year Father Binta asked Zuehlke to lead the annual Ugandan parliament retreat.

While preparing for the retreat and trip to Uganda, Zuehlke learned more about the country’s intractable civil war. Northern Uganda has been in the midst of civil war since the mid-80s. Since then, more than 1.6 million people have been displaced and tens of thousands have been killed or kidnapped. An estimated 20,000 children have been abducted.

Zuehlke decided to visit the northern Ugandan town of Gulu before beginning his retreat.

That first night in Gulu, Zuehlke woke up suddenly. He was jet lagged, but there was no mistaking the sound of gun shots in the distance. “What am I doing?” Zuehlke recalled asking himself. “This is a war zone.”

While in Gulu, Zuehlke met Archbishop John Baptist Odama who has won numerous peace prizes for negotiating with the rebel Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) on behalf of the persecuted Acholi tribes.

Over a million Acholi people have been moved to protective camps. Most of them travel each day and stay only to sleep. Each morning, they return to the land and try to sow crops.

“This is what we saw when we got there in 2003,” said Zuehlke. “...children crowding in to sleep in rows like they were ‘goods.’”

Displacement camps with starvation rations — people dipping into grain and eating it raw, I saw these conditions, and it was horrific.”

Zuehlke describes the war as “a crisis of unimaginable proportion...it’s a Darfur in slow motion...the worst hidden humanitarian crisis in the world.”

Zuehlke asked Archbishop Odama to bless him before going down to Kampala to lead the parliament’s retreat. Once there, Zuehlke decided not to speak of his trip during the retreat. Instead, he simply passed along Archbishop Odama’s greeting and blessing.

That was enough, though, for the members of parliament to realize where Zuehlke had been. After the retreat, they sent him home with a painting of the Ugandan martyrs, and they wrote him a letter expressing how impressed they were that he had gone to the north. As well, they invited him back to lead their retreat next year.

For the second trip to Uganda, Zuehlke was asked to lead a retreat for catechists in Gulu. The topic was on suffering. “That was the tallest order of my life,” said Zuehlke. “How ironic that I’m asked to preach suffering to these people.”

After the second trip to Uganda, Zuehlke sat at home wondering what he could do for the people of Northern Uganda.

As he looked at his computer, it hit him — he had to take them computer technology.

Barely a few years later, BoscoUganda is enabling thousands of displaced Ugandans to connect with their loved ones and the rest of the world. Archbishop Odama, the Ugandan information technology minister, six or seven members of parliament and the information technology (IT) team of BoscoUganda were present at the celebration ceremony for the project.

It has been less than a month since the camps were set up. Yet there are reports of schools with children crowding around the computers. Teachers want to learn how to use the systems, and they have the IT support from the Ugandan members of BoscoUganda.

“My view of helping has to do with a profound sharing of gifts,” said Zuehlke. “What I found was the divine gift of self-emptying love...in exchange for this gift, I am happy to lend support of a few computers. It seems like a paltry exchange.”

The Ugandan minister of information technology sends an e-mail to President Museveni using BosscoUganda computers at a displacement camp.

Archbishop Odama makes a phone call using BoscoUganda computer and Internet system at a displacement camp.

THE UGANDAN PARLIAMENT RETREAT.

If you would like to donate to the BoscoUganda Project visit the Web site at www.BoscoUganda.org or send a donation to: St. Bavo Church, Bosco-Uganda Relief Fund, 511 W. 7th St., Mishawaka, IN 46654.
EDITORIAL

A model priest, ‘extraordinary’ ordinary

Those who attended the reception for Bishop John M. D’Arcy at the Grand Wayne Center in Fort Wayne on April 15, were treated to the homily of Msgr. John A. Luke, Auxiliary Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend. The presence of the most reverend Bishop D’Arcy was an outcome of the bishop’s reflection upon the sacraments as he spoke of Mercy Sunday, a day designated by the church to the extraordinary gift of the mercy of Jesus Christ.

To begin the homily, Bishop D’Arcy reflected upon the sacraments for us all. We thank them for making a gift of themselves to us. We thank them for sharing our joys and soothing our hurts. Mostly, we thank them for bringing us the presence of Jesus.

In the words of our bishop, let us all pray that more quality men answer the noble calling to the priesthood.

The applause from the congregation as our bishop walked from the church in the recessional, made it clear that our ordinary is an extraordinary priest.

Wasted energy in embryonic stem-cell pursuits

The proponents of the culture of death continue their march. This past week the U.S. Senate approved a bill permitting the destruction of human embryos, the so-called stem cells. The U.S. House had passed the same bill in January. Fortunately, the bill has little chance of becoming law as President George Bush plans to veto it, and there are not enough votes in the House to override the veto.

What continues to be confounding is this relentless march to fund embryonic stem-cell research, which has shown absolutely no promise to bring care or therapy for any disease. On the other hand, research from adult stem cells and stem cells obtained from umbilical cords have already yielded many therapies, which are benefiting sufferers of diseases and hold immense promise of further discoveries.

The use of adult stem cells and stem cells obtained from umbilical cords do not involve the destruction of human persons while embryonic stem-cell research does.

A case in point concerns juvenile diabetes. This past week scientists in Brazil have shown that adult stem-cell treatments can help patients with diabetes be insulin free. This is a seemingly miraculous breakthrough for people who suffer from type 1 diabetes.

However, the American Diabetes Association and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation refused to put money behind it. Instead, they continued to spend copious amounts of money (money which has been given by donors) lobbying Congress to fund embryonic stem-cell research. Nicholas Nikas, the president of the Bioethics Defense Fund, put it perfectly, “It is unfortunate that this remarkable research was conducted in Brazil while in this country so much attention has been placed on embryo-destructive research.”

Do researchers who wish to use human embryos for research sincerely wish to find cures for diseases? Surely they do. It would be wrong to question their motivation in doing the research. However, mixed in with this motivation seems to be the desire to be completely unbridled in the means used to accomplish this goal. Scandals do not look good in God. According to this standard, any means to advance science and medicine should be allowed, no matter how immoral.

How else would one explain this confounding situation in which breakthrough after breakthrough is occurring with adult and umbilical cord stem cells and yet major funders of disease research continue to pour endless money into embryonic stem-cell research, which has yielded nothing?

Who belongs to “us?”

The Easter season gives us an opportunity to reflect on the humbling reality that Jesus Christ died for all of us. Hanging in agony on the cross, Jesus lovingly loved every human person that had ever been created, and every human person that would be created from that moment on, until the end of the world. We are always in the mind of God, and he has loved us for all eternity. Christ has died, Christ is risen and Christ will come again — for each and every one of us.

But who belongs to “us”? Not very long after Adam was longing for “bone of his bones and flesh of his flesh,” human beings began spending a great deal of their time excluding others from the concept of “us.” In fact, in the very next generation we see Cain kill Abel, asking defiantly: “Am I my brother’s keeper?” This reality has been played out not only among individuals, but also with entire groups of people. Throughout human history we have seen the manifest tragedies that result when some people are defined as outside of the concept of “us.”

It’s very easy to look at the past and point fingers. How could reasonable people, and especially people of faith, really have believed that some simply didn’t belong in the human family? How could people have tolerated the mistreatment, enslavement or determination of others because they were disabled, sick, mentally challenged or the wrong color, faith, age or nationality? Yet don’t we still do this today? Are there not members of the human family who have been defined as outsiders, not worthy of love and protection? Unfortunately, we have enough current examples of how we mistreat persons at the very beginning of life, at the very end of life and generally whenever they are most vulnerable.

For example, in the public debate over embryonic stem-cell research, we have prominent politicians, celebrities and wealthy business leaders all joining voices in favor of the idea that our youngest members of the human family can be manipulated, experimented upon and even destroyed if there is some hope for medical benefit for the rest of “us.” At state and national levels there is the constant and often successful push to justify, fund and promote the cloning of human beings in order to harvest their parts.

Because they are tiny human beings, we are told that it’s no big deal. Those pushing this agenda are saying that these are human beings who simply are. They simply argue that these human beings don’t quite look like us (yet), or they are “leftovers” who no one really wants, or they are simply the property of those who brought them into existence. But no matter how they came to be, and as short as their lives may be, aren’t they still members of our human family? As difficult as it may be for the rich and famous to fathom, our Lord Jesus Christ died not only for the people who look just like “us,” but for every human being, no matter how big or small or how young or old. During this Easter season of new life, let us be reminded of our Lord’s perspactive on who belongs to us.

We must make this our perspective as well and respond accordingly.

Tom Gronek is the executive director of the secretariat for pro-life activities, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

COMMUNITY

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@tdw.diocecesanw.org

Catholic attitudes on immigration, terrorism, bishops checked in survey

BY MARK PATTON

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A majority of Catholics in a nationwide telephone poll said they disagreed with the idea that the United States should begin a program to give undocumented immigrants an opportunity to earn permanent residency.

The poll also showed that more than 80 percent of those interviewed believed world economic problems, religious intolerance, world political instability and the heightened concern over terrorism in the Middle East led to terrorism.

The Contemporary Catholic Trends poll was done in early April by LeMoyne College in Syracuse, N.Y., and the Zogby International polling firm, also showed that 70 percent either somewhat or strongly agree that the U.S. bishops are doing a good job leading the church. The figure is down from 71 percent in a poll taken last fall. The poll results were issued April 17.

Catholics were asked how low the bishops are doing their job seem to have a bearing on how Catholic parties should answer the noble calling to the priesthood.

Asked whether the church was stronger or weaker since news of the clergy sex abuse scandal broke five years ago, 41 percent favored a plan to give permanent residency to undocumented immigrants, support was higher among those who think the bishops are doing a good job than among those who do not believe the bishops are doing a good job.

On a separate question, whether the U.S. government should reduce income differences between rich and poor, 50 percent of Catholics polled said the government should reduce income differences, while 45 percent disagreed; another 5 percent had no opinion. But support was higher for this idea — 52 percent — among those who believe the bishops are doing a good job.

Both last June and this month Pope Benedict XVI scored higher approval ratings, 86 percent for each. But 68 percent of those who strongly agreed the pope was doing a good job pulled strongly agreed their pastor was doing a good job, compared to 47 percent who strongly agreed the pope was doing a good job.

foundly grateful to God for giving us a bridegroom after the heart of his Son.”

The applause from the congregation as our bishop walked from the church in the recessional, made it clear that our ordinary is an extraordinary priest.


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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

April 22, 2007
Pope Benedict at 80: Blowing on the coals of faith

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — When Pope John Paul II turned 80 in 2000, it fueled yet another round of speculation about whether the ailing pontiff might break with tradition and resign.

In contrast, Pope Benedict XVI’s 80th birthday April 16 finds him with the wind in his sails. The pope’s new book on Jesus was being released in several languages, an event that will no doubt launch the Christological themes of his pontificate into wider circulation.

In March the pope published a major document on the Eucharist, and that it could offer a new path of renewal for Chinese Catholics was anticlimactic. He was their leader.

On April 16 Pope Benedict, 80, will become the spokesman for all the apostles. He was their leader.

If absolute poverty is a sacred concept, as Pope Benedict has repeatedly said, then the poverty of Peter the apostle is the poverty of all the apostles. It is wondrous and a marvelous lesson.

The very combination of Acts with Luke’s Gospel reminds us that the salvation accomplished by Christ still lives. It was with the early Christians in the apostles. It is with us still in the apostle’s successors, and in the church. The trial before the Sanhedrin reminds us that Peter’s fervor beside the sea, as Peter saw Jesus risen from the dead, never ended. After the betrayal, forgiven by Christ, Peter is worthy in his faith and love. We can rely upon his testimony and his guidance.

Reflection

It would be difficult indeed to find three readings from the New Testament that individually are so beautiful, and so expressive, and that together teach such a marvelous lesson.

The older, and better, term is Revelation. (Revelation is not the more ancient, nor literarily precise, term. The latter ancient, nor literarily precise, term. The better, and better, term is Apocalypse. However, most English-speaking biblical scholars have adopted the better known name of Revelation.) Yet Revelation is clear. Revelation may be a sublime revelation.

Setting the stage is the reading from Revelation. Disciples indeed live with one foot on earth, but the other in heaven, and nowhere else is this reality better seen than in the Eucharist.

The very combination of Acts with Luke’s Gospel reminds us that the salvation accomplished by Christ still lives. It was with the early Christians in the apostles. It is with us still in the apostle’s successors, and in the church. The trial before the Sanhedrin reminds us that Peter’s fervor beside the sea, as Peter saw Jesus risen from the dead, never ended. After the betrayal, forgiven by Christ, Peter is worthy in his faith and love. We can rely upon his testimony and his guidance.

The Vatican Letter

JOHN THAVIS

The average age of top curial officials is about 70. That’s more than 10 years older than the average age under Pope John Paul who was the two-year mark of his pontificate.

In that, because 80 percent of curial leaders are holders of degrees from the era of Pope John Paul. That could change significantly over the next 12 months, when 10 of the 25 current department heads will be of mandatory retirement age.

Great extent, then, Pope Benedict has a chance to put his own mark on the Curia in the retirement age of 65.

The Catequiz’em

In April we recall the efforts of a missionary Peter Chanel. This quiz looks at the events of his life — and death.

1. Peter Chanel was from this imperial nation:
   a. Russia
   b. France
   c. Belgium

2. Peter was ordained to the priesthood and sent to a decrepit parish. What did he do there?
   a. fixed it up in three years
   b. married illegally
   c. founded a new parish to replace the ruined one

3. Anxious to be a missionary, Peter joined this order:
   a. the Marists
   b. the Dominicans
   c. the Franciscans

4. He was not able to begin missionary activity right away, why?
   a. He had jaundice and scarlet fever.
   b. He was sent to teach at the local seminary instead.
   c. Travel was restricted due to the Boxer Rebellion.

5. In the early 19th century, a new area was added to the missionary group’s territory, the New Hebrides. Where is that?
   a. in the Atlantic west of the original Hebrides
   b. off the Coast of Argentina near the Falkland Islands
   c. in the Pacific

6. Peter arrived in Futuna; what was it?
   a. an island
   b. a type of boat made of tuna fish bones
   c. a native way of saying “good luck” in pidgin

7. Peter brought Boog (some references spell this “Boag”) with him. What does “Boog/Boag” refer to?
   a. the local currency, made out of cowries
   b. a set of carvings, used to tell stories to the literate natives
   c. Mr. Boog (or Boag) was an English Protestant who lived nearby

8. They were welcomed by people who had recently given up this practice, abhorred by Europeans:
   a. Watching Hebridean Idol
   b. Polygamy
   c. Cannibalism

9. The local king was first impressed, then nervous, when the missionaries did this:
   a. filled paper bags with air and burst them in his eardrums
   b. learned the native language
   c. pretended to marry his daughters to cement their bonds

10. The king Hiukiti eventually turned on the missionaries when he feared:
   a. he might lose some of his power to the Catholics.
   b. that the priest was actually a televangelist in disguise.
   c. Cannibalism

11. The last straw for the king was this:
   a. His own son requested to be baptized.
   b. His daughter married the lay missionary and named their son Boog.
   c. Chanel declared the island was territory of the Catholic Church.

12. Three years after he arrived, Chanel was:
   a. forcibly converted to the native religion.
   b. beaten to death.
   c. forced to flee the island in an outrigger canoe, bound for New Zealand.

13. Ironically, within less than a year of this:
   a. he was elected witch doctor of the cult, and used this position for good.
   b. the entire population of the area was converted to Catholicism.
   c. he arrived in Auckland, thereby having completed a voyage longer than Captain Bligh’s.

14. The islanders, expressing regret for the unfortunate occurrences, developed the Eke. What is it?
   a. a type of dance
   b. off the Coast of Argentina near the Falkland Islands
   c. an island

ANSWERS:

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

L ast December’s visit by Pope Benedict XVI to Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople revived speculation that the millennium-long division between Rome and the Christian East might soon end. That was cer-
tainly the dream of Benedict’s predecessor, the servant of God, John Paul II. The late pontiff really did seem to believe that Rome and Constantinople could achieve ecclesial reconciliation by the end of the millennium — a dream that materialized a few months after his death. Benedict told the Ecumenical Patriarch Bar-
tholomew, it is, perhaps, not a defining characteristic of what it means to be “Orthodox.”

The obverse is not true. I very much doubt that the Holy Mountain ever again with both of its lungs is unlikely of fulfillment any-
thing the pope and bishops say infalli-
ble. In the Eastern Catholic Church, par-
go to the disciples and announce with the risen Lord, and so the tan-
ning with Nicea, A.D. 325 and the history of the church, begin-
ning as to “define” something). the risen body of Christ, definitively (and makes it clear he is doing so), “ex cathedra,
— on a matter of faith or morals. There are two instances in recent history that have done so: in 1854, when Pope Pius IX declared the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception — that Mary was conceived in the womb of her mother without the stain of original sin, and in 1950, when Pope Pius XII declared the Dogma of the Assumption — that, at the end of her earthly life, Mary was taken body and soul to heaven.

It is important to note that these were not instances where the pope capriciously decided to “make up” a teaching, but rather to give a definitive statement regarding

Mary is challenged in growth in faith that Jesus is risen and glorified

something that was already part of the church’s faith (and to do so as much to curtail unnecessary speculation as to “define” something). The second mode is when an ecumenical council, that is, the bishops throughout the world in communion with the bishop of Rome, “gather and teach definitively “de fide” (“on a matter of faith”); there have been 21 in the history of the church, beginning with Nicea, A.D. 325 and more recently, Vatican II, 1962-65.

Please explain virtues. Anonymous, Fort Wayne

A virtue is a firm disposition of intellect and will (the two capaci-
ties which make us to exist “in the image and likeness of God”), which equip us to do what is good, noble and right — and to do so in a stable and consistent manner. In

middle ages, a virtue is a habit, often referred to as the “apost-
Benedict's December pilgrimage

L eathered by the Orthodox monks of Mount Athos, the division is mutual. All of which suggests that John Paul II’s dream of a Church breath-
ing once again with both of its lungs is unlikely of fulfillment any-
time soon. Unless that is, Islamist pressures compel a reexamination within Orthodoxy of what a life-
line to Rome might mean.

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

unhappy with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and the way he treated his Roman guest in December.

Why? Because, the monks complained, “The pope was received as though he were the canonical bishop of Rome.” There were other complaints, but that was the first stated in a statement released last Dec. 30 by the Assembly of Representatives and Superiors of the 20 monasteries: Why was there such peace and respect in treating Benedict as though the latter were, in fact, the bishop of Rome? Well, if we can’t agree on that, we do have, as Jim Lovell told Mission Control, a problem.

To be sure, Athoite monas-
ticism, “the non-negotiable guar-
der the Holy Tradition,” were very

unhappy with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and the way he treated his Roman guest in December.

THAT’S A GOOD QUESTION

There are two principal modes in which infallible teaching is expressed. The pope, as supreme pastor and teacher of the faithful, enjoys this charism when he teaches de-

Gospel for April 22, 2007

John 21:1-14

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Third Sunday of Easter: Cycle C, the miraculous catch of fish after the Resurrection. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

TIBERIAS NATHANNAEL CAUGHT BOAT JESUS LOVED CHARCOCAL NOT TORN

SIMON PETER GALILEE NOTHING FIND IT IS THE LORD THIRD CRUCIFIX CAST IT SHORE THEN THREE RAISED

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

By Patricia Kasten

The Catholic Difference

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Runners, jumpers and throwers start season

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — The Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) officially kicks off its track and field season this week with meets scheduled for half of the competitors on Monday, April 16, and the rest of the field on Thursday, April 19. Both St. Jude, the boys’ champions from last year and St. John New Haven, the reigning girls’ team, will compete in the second meet of the week.

In her 29th season with the St. Jude track program, Coach Mary Pohlman has 55 students on the roster for 2007. These boys and girls, grades five through eight have been practicing three times per week preparing for their opening meet on Thursday, April 19. Both St. Jude, Lawrence feels, “The team is looking good and working hard.”

“We lost a huge group to graduation last year and have a young team. However, we have a lot of new eighth graders out, which is kind of fun,” said Pohlman. “The kids are very hard working, and we hope to have a little strength in all areas this year,” she concluded.

Along with Pohlman, Michael Barnes, Mike Brandell, Camille Brennan, Dan Jeffers and Tim O’Connell will be working together coaching the St. Jude team. Pohlman stressed that their goal each year is to teach kids about all areas of track and field so they can develop at this level. “We have them try different events so they can find out where they really shine,” said Pohlman.

The returning leaders who placed at the 2006 CYO city meet for St. Jude include Kate Kinley, Katie Leeuw, Andy Eckrich, Aubrey Schrader and Matt Weber. St. John New Haven has several newcomers to watch with 27 girls and 23 boys out for track and field this season. Greg Lawrence has been with the Raiders for the past nine years and will be assisted by coaches Scott Voelker, Linda Heddens, Jeremy Fendel and Greg Wache.

“We are really fortunate to have such a fantastic group of coaches,” said Lawrence. Heading into their first meet, Lawrence feels, “The team is looking good and working hard.”

The 2006 city meet finishers — Leighton Painter, Michelle Marquelling, James Brames, Emily Lahrmann, Courtney Heddems, Nick McCarthy, Katie Kayer, Britney Fox, Kayla Zink, Kevin Kohrman and Hilary Watts — all return for St. John in hopes of improving their times and distances in 2007.

The seven Catholic members of the 2006-2007 Plymouth Pilgrim basketball team are shown celebrating with Father Bill Kummer, pastor of St. Michael, Plymouth, after the final game in Indianapolis on March 24. The Plymouth team defeated Evansville Bosse Bulldogs, 72 to 61. Father Kummer, a great fan and supporter of “his boys” was in regular attendance at their games. In the photo, from left, are Chad Clinton, Jeremy Renz, Ryan Welch, Father Kummer, Jason Renz, Jared Wendel, Byron Faulstich and Sam Faulstich.

Weather interrupts ICCL baseball action

SOUTH BEND — Wintry weather, with its heavy snows, not only had a national effect, but washed out the first week of baseball action in the Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL). If at all possible in the next two months, all teams will make an effort to replay that part of the schedule, said baseball director William (Bill) Sorukas.

Over the weekend when the temperature soared, the athletes managed to play five games. St. Anthony Maroon beat St. Jude 16-3, and in another free-for-all hitting contest, St. Thomas whipped St. Anthony Gold, 16-13. In other games, Holy Cross defeated St. Joseph of South Bend, 14-0, as the losers could get only two hits off Holy Cross pitchers.

St. Jude outlasted Holy Cross in another free-for-all hitting contest, 14-11, and St. Jude Green defeated Corpus Christi, 12-2.

Weather permitting this weekend, all 16 teams will see action.

— EJD
COLOGNE, Germany (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has said that he sees no conflict between faith and science in the exploration of the universe's development, but he has criticized those who see evolution as an explanation for everything. 

The remarks, made in a discussion he hosted at Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome, with some of his former students in September last year, have been published in a German book titled “Schoepfungs und Evolution” (“Creation and Evolution”). The book was published April 11 by the Sankt Ulrich Verlag publishing house. The pope has met annually since 1978 with their former doc-

toral supervisor, but this is the first time they have published the lec-
tures and discussions.

During the discussion, the pope said it was not a matter of “decid-
ing either in a favor of a creation-
ism, which out of principle
excludes man from its consider-
ations, or in favor of a theory of evolution, which underplays
its own gaps and refuses to see ques-
tions that go beyond the
methodological possibilities of nat-
ural science.”

What was important, he said, was “the interplay of different
dimensions of reason, an interplay
which opens up into the road to
faith.”

The pope argued that Christianity was a religion of rea-
tion (St. Peter in the Acts of the Apostles) before Columbus. Excessive vio-
lence and gore. The USCCB
Office for Film & Broadcasting
classification is O — morally
offensive. The Motion Picture
Association of America rating is R — restricted.

“hear of the Dog” (Paramount Vantage)

Quirky tale — by turns, wryly amusing, sad and thought-pro-
voking — about a lonely office worker (Molly Shannon) whose
beloved beagle dies suddenly, prompting her to re-evaluate her
priorities as she interacts with her hunting-obsessed neighbor (John
C. Reilly), an animal rights activist (Peter Sarsgaard), her
paranoid boss (Josh Pais), best
friend-officemate (Regina King),
and upscale brother (Tom
Hanks) — who all become
involved in the death of a
small dog. The film, directed
by Mike White, is set over the
time they have published the lec-
tures and discussions.

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“Pathfinder” (Fox)

Relentlessly violent tale about a shipwrecked Viking lad taken in and
raised by a Native American tribe, until 15 years later when now as an adult he
(Karl Urban) sets out, virtually single-handedly, to exact revenge on returning
Vikings who have slaughtered his adopted tribe and are bent on killing every
other tribe in their path so as to lay claim to the land. Director
Marcus Nispel’s video gamelike
movie eschews character devel-
oment as well as narrative logic in
a drawn-out series of brutal

beheadings, impalements and eviscerations that overwhelm the
intriguing premise of the leg-
endary Norsemen arriving on
American shores many centuries
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“The question has to be asked:
What is nature or evolution as (an
active) subject? It doesn’t exist! If
one says that nature does this or
that, this can only be an attempt to
summarize a series of events under
one actor which, as such, doesn’t
exist,” the pope said.

“Nature and evolution are made
up of many individual steps, and
the pope insisted that one must
look beyond nature and evolution
for the guiding principle.

“Where does this rationality
come from? Is there a causative
rationality?” the pope asked.

“Naturally there is rationality
in nature, but that doesn’t allow us
to have complete insight into God’s
plan,” said Pope Benedict.

He pointed to the “riddle of cru-
elty in nature” which remains unex-
plained, even by philosophy. That
requires a further step, the step of
faith in the Logos, the creative
rationality of God himself “which
unbelievably was able to become
flesh, die and rise again,” he said.
WHAT’S HAPPENING?

WHAT’s HAPPENING carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. In send in your announcement at least two weeks prior to the event. Mail to: Today’s Catholic, PO. Box 11169, Fort Wayne 46856; or e-mail: fhogan@fw.diocecesfw.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 staff at (260) 456-2824 to purchase space.

Rummage sale planned
Fort Wayne — St. Joseph-Hessen Cassoday, 1517 E. Coolspring Avenue, will hold a rummage sale Friday, April 20, from 8-4 p.m. and Saturday, April 21, from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Fill a sack for $3 on Saturday.

Annual rummage sale
Bremen — St. Dominic Church will hold a rummage sale in the parish hall at 803 Bike St. on Thursday, May 3, from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday, May 4, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Day of Reflection
Mishawaka — A Day of Reflection will be held at St. Louis Besancon Parish, 15529 Lincoln Hwy. East, on Friday, April 27, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and on Saturday, April 28, from 9 a.m. to noon. Fill a bag for $1 on Saturday. Fill a bag for $3 beginning at 3 p.m. on Friday.

Rummage sale at PB
Fort Wayne — Most Precious Blood Parish will have a rummage sale May 10-12 in Mohr Hall. Hours are May 10-11, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 12, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Day of Reflection
Mishawaka — A Day of Reflection will be held at St. Francis Convent (across from Marian High School) on Wednesday, April 29, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The theme is “Jesus, the Storyteller.” Please bring your Bible. The cost is $15 and includes lunch. Register by Friday, April 20, to Sister Barbara Anne Hallman at (574) 259-5427.

Little Flower Holy Hour
Fort Wayne — Father Tony Steinmacker will celebrate the Holy Hour at MacDougal Chapel on Tuesday, April 17, at 7:15 p.m. Father Tony is associate pastor at St. Charles Parish.

Grief camp needs campers, volunteers
Mishawaka — The 14th Annual Camp Evergreen, a grief camp for youth and teens that have experienced the death of a significant person in their life, will be held June 8-10 at Bair Lake Bible Camp in Jones, Mich. Camp for youth, ages 8-13, will be held from Friday, June 8, to Sunday, June 10, and features a challenge course. There is no charge to attend. Volunteers are needed for both camps. Adult buddies for each youth camper and for small group leaders are needed to support throughout camp. Adult volunteers are also needed to assist with camp activities. A mandatory volunteer training will be held May 14 and May 21 from 6 to 9 p.m. at CHAPC’s South Bend office, 111 Sunnybrook Ct. Campers and volunteers must complete an application packet to participate. For information contact Holly Farmer, (574) 255-1064 or evergreen@centerforhospice.org.

Queen of Peace celebrates 50th anniversary
Mishawaka — Queen of Peace Parish will celebrate its 50th anniversary Saturday, April 28, beginning with Mass at 5:30 p.m. celebrated by Bishop John M. D’Arcy. A dinner/dance will follow with music “as Music to Go.” Tickets are $18 or $10 for charter members. Call (574) 255-9674 for information.

Lunchen card party on schedule
South Bend — The St. Anne Society of Our Lady of Hungary Parish will have a luncheon card party on Sunday, April 29, at noon in the school auditorium. Donation of $5 at the door. Please bring your own cards.

Seventh grade day at Bishop Luers
Fort Wayne — Bishop Luers High School invites interested seventh grade students to the annual Seventh Grade Visitaton Morning on Thursday, May 3, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. A program will inform students on the academic, athletic and spiritual opportunities available to students at Bishop Luers High School. For more information or to register, call Bishop Luers at (260) 456-1261.

Spring sale luncheon hosted by Rosary Society
Elkhart — The Altar and Rosary Society of St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 1405 N. Main St. will have a spring luncheon on Wednesday, April 25, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the church basement (elevator available). A donation of $6 includes hot chicken salad, cold salads, bread, dessert and beverage. Carry-out available. Tickets may be purchased at the door or in advance by calling (574) 264-0489 or (574) 596-1673.

Christ Child Society holds garage sale
South Bend — The Christ Child Society will have a garage sale on Tuesday, April 24, at St. Patrick’s Parish Center, 308 South Scott St. A reasonably priced lunch will be available. The sale opens at 9 a.m. and closes at 2 p.m. The garage sale is a major fundraiser for the society.

Bishop Luers presents spring play
Fort Wayne — Bishop Luers High School Drama Department will present “Fiddler on the Roof,” directed by Karlene Krouse. There are only two performances this year, on Friday, April 27, and on Saturday, April 28. Each performance begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Bishop Luers gym. All tickets are $7 and are on sale now. For more information or to order tickets, call Sue Mathias or Karlene Krouse at Bishop Luers High School (260) 456-1261. Call to purchase or reserve your tickets.

SAJES meet for spring gathering
South Bend — All senior citizens are invited to join the SAJES of St. Matthew Cathedral for a Spring gathering on Wednesday, May 9. Mass at 11:30 a.m. in the cathedral, followed by potluck luncheon and program. Andrew Sweeney of WSBT, Channel 22, will join us to explain “Why Our Senior Bones Hurt When The Weather Changes?” Call Sister Agnes Marie at (574) 250-5427 by May 4 to make reservations.

Reflection time for Catholic women
Fort Wayne — The Fort Wayne Council of Catholic Women is having an afternoon/evening of reflection Tuesday, April 24, at St. Louis Bescamion. Rosary at 3:45 p.m., Mass at 4 p.m. and potluck dinner at 5 p.m. Bring a dish to share (meat and beverage provided). A presentation by Ginny Kohrman on “Women of Grace” will be at 6:15 p.m. All Catholic women are invited.

Executive Director
St. Vincent De Paul Society of St. Joseph County - South Bend, Indiana
Direct all district council operations, including supervision of management employees. Provide leadership to accomplish our faith-based mission, vision, goals and objectives. Act as primary spokesperson and advocate for resources for program development and implementation. Requires Bachelor degree with minimum of three years of senior level not-for-profit management experience (or equivalent). Knowledge of business operations, including annual budget development, and demonstrated fundraising experience is essential. The St. Vincent De Paul Society is a Catholic lay organization serving those in need in the name of Jesus. Visit our web site www.svinnies.org, for more information and a detailed job description. Send resume with salary requirements to: St. Vincent De Paul Society - attn: Executive Committee, 3408 Ardmore Trail, South Bend, IN 46628-1302 or stvinc@stvincenticoneille.com

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What’s Happening
Bishop D’Arcy said doing his will, serving him, “The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.” He said this above the choir loft.

The priests of the diocese also made a $3,000 donation to the Catholic Education Fund to assist students financially and presented a chalice and paten “in recognition and thanksgiving for the many times you have offered Mass, not only in our cathedrals, but also in our parishes, schools, hospitals, many other places at so many various events,” Father Schulte said.

At the reception, students from Bishop Luers and Bishop Dwenger high schools provided Irish music and live entertainment. Lisa Everett, co-director of the diocesan Office of Family Life, and Carl Loesch, principal of Marian High School, read tributes to the bishop.

The Hispanic Leadership Coalition of Northeast Indiana also honored the bishop with a special presentation and plaque for the bishop’s work with immigration and the Latino community.

Thank YOU for a successful Sharathon!

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for 50 years of dedicated service to the Church and God.

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