June 17, 2007

Serving the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

Pope says Eucharist essential for Christians in often-hostile world

ROME (CNS) — Before leading a Corpus Christi procession with the Eucharist through the streets of Rome, Pope Benedict XVI said the sacrament is essential nourishment for Christians walking through an often-hostile world.

“For every Christian generation, the Eucharist is the indispensable nourishment that sustains them as they cross the desert of this world,” he said in his June 7 homily for the feast of the Body and Blood of the Lord.

The world is “made arid by ideological and economic systems that do not promote life, but rather mortify it,” he said during the Mass celebrated outside Rome’s Basilica of St. John Lateran.

Ours is “a world where the logic of power and possessing dominates more than that of service and love; a world where often the culture of violence and death triumphs,” the pope said.

“But Jesus comes to meet us and reassure us: He himself is the bread of life,” Pope Benedict said.

The pope’s security team and Italian police, who are responsible for papal safety outside the Vatican, were extra attentive during the Mass and the procession to the Basilica of St. Mary Major. A day earlier, a mentally disturbed man jumped a barricade in St. Peter’s Square in an attempt to reach the pope as he rode through the crowd at his weekly general audience.

Security concerns did not prevent the pope from riding in the procession in the back of an open flatbed truck. The pope knelt before the Blessed Sacrament as security officers and candle-bearing altar servers, bishops and cardinals walked beside the truck.

Because the Mass was considered a Rome diocese-

EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION

Nearly 100 faithful join a eucharistic procession June 10, the feast of Corpus Christi, at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Wayne.

Father John Kuzmich and Father Pius Ilechukwu led the procession while Deacon Jason Freiburger carried the monstrance containing the Blessed Sacrament. Seminarian Zach Barry carried the processional cross.

Seeking ways to meet blood need

BLOOD, PAGE 3

FORT WAYNE — Afternoons at the ballpark, weekends at the lake and picnics in the park are activities we often associate with summer in Northeast Indiana. Unfortunately, there is a reality of summer we cannot overlook: blood shortages.

Catholics nationwide, and especially diocese-wide, are encouraged to donate blood this summer as part of a collaborative effort between the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and the local American Red Cross.

Why donate?

“We’ve experienced shortages in the past but now we’ve been challenged by our department to think of new ways (to get people to donate),” said Marcia Robbins, who is responsible for the Red Cross’ regional corporate relations.

According to the American Red Cross, every two seconds someone in our country needs blood. At least 500 units a day are needed to meet current needs and prepare for tragedies. Blood must be ready and easily accessible for everyday personal emergencies and large-scale disasters. Currently, 50 percent of the United States population is eligible to donate, yet only 5 percent actually make the effort.

Robbins said one of the factors contributing to this lack of participation is simple unawareness.

“People always need blood, but people don’t investigate whether they (are eligible) to donate,” she said.

Robbins said blood donation is an “unremitting issue,” but the need is more pressing during the summer months because families are busy with seasonal activities.

“Every day we need a certain amount (of blood) to supply patients in need, but everyone’s busier in the summer,” Robbins said.

Changing attitudes

According to Robbins, a change in the general public’s attitude is needed to increase
Priests gather for annual retreat

A retreat

A retreat for priests of the diocese is a time of grace. The priests gathered around the beautiful Sleeping Lady statue in Marian High School’s beautiful chapel. It is a special week. Every priest is required to make a retreat each year. Those diocesan priests who, for whatever reason, prefer to make the retreat at another place are asked to inform the bishop where the retreat is made. It is a serious obligation.

This year, it was a joy to listen to the talks of Father James Steffes. Father Jim is the rector of the Immaculate Heart Seminary where our young men prepare for the priesthood on the campus of St. Mary’s University in Winona, Minn.

The talks were about prayer. The retreat master helped us to take seriously the fact that we are sons of God, made so by our baptism. We seek God, upon every Christian, and sees Christ, his Son. Thus, one is invited to pray with a deep sense of openness to God and his grace.

We heard about St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits, and how he grew in understanding of the promptings of the Holy Spirit within and began the famous Spiritual Exercises.

We were helped to see clearly the promptings of God within our own souls, and we learned lessons on being faithful to this and having the courage to accept it, that indeed it is Christ who is teaching us and calling us, and giving us light.

We learned what it meant to come before God in one’s poverty, and we also learned what it means to come before Him as a shepherd.

The night of confession

I made my confession earlier in the day so as to have sufficient time for a retreat confession, which is always special. In the evening, through the hard work of Father Bob Schulte, there were a number of priests present to hear confessions. These were Francisca, Angela, known as Conventuals, as well as the Franciscans who have a novitiate on the grounds of Marian High School, Mishawaka. It was a joy to sit in chapel and see our priests in the four corners of the chapel, and in other rooms nearby, going to confession, one after another. It seemed that every priest on retreat there received the sacrament.

Our little chapel

We were at the Oakwood Inn at Lake Wawasee. A few of our priests even went for a swim. It was a comfortable facility, and we rejoiced in being together. Of course, central to this retreat was our intercessory prayer for our people whom we are privileged to serve.

Speaking of retreats

For the second consecutive year, our seminarians will conduct a retreat for young men who wish to discern whether Christ is calling them to the priesthood. Names are flowing in from the priests of our diocese, and I am writing a personal letter of invitation to each young man. The retreat will be held at Donaldson on the last weekend of June. It is for those who have graduated from high school. Matt Coonan, one of our seminarians who is spending the summer at St. John the Evangelist Parish, Goshen, is calling those whose names we have received. So we are looking for a good turnout. Please contact these young men, that they will be open to God’s will and to his call in their life. I expect to celebrate Mass with them and give a talk as well. I imagine to have a young man whom you would recommend, call my office.

A time to ponder

This is the season of the year when I sit down, face to face, with many of our diocesan priests and ask them to accept a change in the place of their mission. These assignments have been made and I expect they will all be shared with our people in the July 1, 2007 issue of the diocesan newspaper, Today’s Catholic. I have said many times, and I recall saying it to the National Advisory Board, which made an inquiry about the “causes and context” of the great crisis which came upon the Church. I was able to do this at the Catholic Conference in 2001-2002, although its roots go back 20 and 30 years earlier. I told the committee that the most important thing a bishop ever does is for a parish to send them the energy they are united with this, of course, is his decision about whom he accepts for the seminary and, ultimately, whom he ordains — and whom he does not ordain.

I remember Archbishop Stanislaw Dziwisz who, for many years, was the assistant to Pope John Paul II and is now the cardinal archbishop of Krakow (all the cards are on the archbishop of Krakow; Cardinal Lustiger, the archbishop of Paris, the following words: “The Holy Father made the decision to appoint you as the archbishop of Paris on his knees.” In other words, the pope had spent many hours in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament asking help and light about this most important appointment. I told my advisors that we certainly needed to follow Pope John Paul by committing ourselves to pray. I especially have this obligation.

Always imperative

Meeting with the priests, asking them to accept the change, seeing their willingness to do so, is always inspiring to me and encouraging as well.

A trip to Gary

As we celebrate the 150th Jubilee Year of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, we should be mindful, also, of the neighboring Diocese of Gary. It is difficult for us, the Diocese of Gary and also the Diocese of Lafayette to think of Gary and all the Diocese of Lafayette were all part of what was then the Fort Wayne Diocese. Gary is celebrating its 50th anniversary. It was organized and also a trip a drive west on a lovely Sunday morning, accompanied by a splendid dinner and official navigation. Mike J. W. If you know of the diocese of Gary, it is difficult for us, is always inspiring to me and encouraging as well.

Peter’s Pence supports works of needy dioceses

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Let us make sure that none of God’s children ever feels alone. This is the theme for the 2007 Peter’s Pence collection that will be taken up at all parishes in the diocese next weekend, June 23 and 24. It is based on a homily given by Pope Benedict XVI last September in which he explained how those who are baptized form one family of believers who are never alone.

This worldwide collection supports the works of the Holy Father as he responds to requests from needy and struggling dioceses in many parts of the world. Perhaps the most visible and well-known initiative that the funds raised are used for is emergency relief aid for those who suffer due to war, oppression, disease and natural disasters.

There are other important but lesser-known initiatives that the Peter’s Pence collection makes possible as well: “Nazareth Boys Town” in Rwanda, which takes in abandoned orphans who are mainly victims of genocide and civil war; a village for AIDS orphans in Kenya; Catholic hospitals in Sarajevo and Armenia; the Populorum Progressio Foundation for peasants and indigenous people in Latin America; another foundation which sponsors development projects in African Sub-Saharan areas in danger of desertification; and assistance to seminaries and institutes of Christian formation in many developing countries.

Through works of charity like these, the church provides a quiet but powerful witness of love and solidarity to help those who suffer in so many ways. I know that you will pray for the pope in a special way next weekend, that God may continue to give him all the gifts he needs, as well as the successor of Peter, as well as work to also ask to you to be as generous as possible with this collection, thus joining the Holy Father as he sows seeds of faith, hope and love throughout the world.

Sincerely yours in our Lord,

Most/Severend John M’D’Arcy
Top Vatican official: Documents show Pius XII worked to help Jews

BY JOHN TRAVIS

ROME (CNS) — Thousands of Vatican documents demonstrate that Pope Pius XII worked quietly but effectively to help Jews and others during World War II, a top Vatican official said.

Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, the Vatican secretary of state, said June 5 that the documentation of papal charity is the most convincing refutation of the “black legend” that has depicted the late pope as indifferent toward the victims of Nazism.

The cardinal said a fair reading of history must recognize “the enormous work of charity that the pope quietly did by opening the doors of seminaries and religious institutes, welcoming refugees and the persecuted, and helping all.”

“The Church of Peter continued to work not only with a prophetic voice but above all with daily prophetic action,” he said.

Cardinal Bertone made the comments in Rome at the presentation of the book, “Pius XII, Eugenio Pacelli, Alle Rive del Trono di Pietro,” by Italian journalist Andrea Tornielli.

The cardinal’s lengthy talk came four weeks after the Vatican’s Congregation for Saints’ Causes declared that the late pope heroically lived the Christian religious institutes, and “a God who becomes flesh and conquers the evil of history must recognize ‘the papal charity is the most convincing refutation of the ‘black legend’ that has depicted the late pope as indifferent toward the victims of Nazism.”

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The cardinal’s lengthy talk came four weeks after the Vatican’s Congregation for Saints’ Causes declared that the late pope heroically lived the Christian virtues and recommended Pope Benedict XVI advance Pope Pius’ sainthood cause.

Cardinal Bertone said the legend about Pope Pius’ supposed “silence” during the war had its roots in the postwar period, specifically 1946-48, a time when the state of Israel was being formed and when the pope was calling for respect and justice for Palestinian residents of the Holy Land.

Over the years, Cardinal Bertone said, the accusation of papaluncanconcern for Jewish suffering under Nazism gained acceptance, despite historical evidence to the contrary. On several occasions, the pope did denounce Nazi persecutions, the cardinal said.

But the pope measured his words carefully and prudently, Cardinal Bertone said, because he was convinced that speaking more bluntly would end up causing greater harm to Jews and other groups.

He said Pope Pius explained this policy of discretion when he spoke of the Jews in a public address in 1943, saying that the church should “not expect him to divulge ‘all we have attempted and achieved to mitigate their suffering, to improve their moral and juridical conditions, and to protect their indispensable religious rights.’”

In fact, Cardinal Bertone said, former Nazi officials immediately after the war confirmed that papal denunciations would have only accelerated the killings of Jews and the church’s own ministers.

For similar reasons, he said, popes chose discreet action over strident criticism during the more recent decades of persecution of Christians under communism.

“Popes do not speak with the aim of prefabricating a favorable image for posterity. They know that on their every word could depend the fate of millions of people, to say nothing of their every word could depend the fate of millions of people,” the cardinal said.

The cardinal said the debate over Pope Pius’ wartime role has eclipsed his many other achievements and breakthroughs as pope, including liturgical reform, advanced consideration of evolutionary theory, new missionary initiatives and promotion of women’s rights.

Bishop D’Arcy has been a driving force behind the blood donation program within the diocese,” said Robbins.

Kicking off the 2007 promotional campaign, Bishop D’Arcy has made a personal statement about his support for the cause.

“Even if you have never given blood, I encourage you to spend an hour of your day saving a life,” he writes in this issue of Today’s Catholic. “If you have donated blood in the past, may I remind you how rewarding and appreciated this generous act of charity can be for you as well as the recipient.”

Robbins said it’s difficult to quantify the success of the promotional campaign because donors do not necessarily share their source of motivation. She said, however, the statistics speak for themselves.

“IT’s difficult to measure the benefit of this type of program, but in the Catholic diocesan church setting we saw an increase from 700 donations in 2002 to 3,700 in 2004,” she said.

Give now, save lives!

To accommodate people’s busy schedules, the two Fort Wayne American Red Cross donation centers (California Road and Lutheran Hospital) are open early and late hours. For more information, or to schedule your blood donation appointment, call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE to find the location nearest you.

There are 2,250 hours of summer. Please spend one of those hours giving the gift of life. Giving blood is safe, simple and it saves lives. If you are at least 17 years old, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and are in good general health, you may be eligible to donate. For more information, questions about eligibility or to make your donation appointment, please call the American Red Cross at 1-800-GIVE-LIFE (1-800-448-3543).

I myself, these past four years, have donated blood; and it is my hope that you will also donate. Even if you have never given blood, I encourage you to spend an hour of your day saving a life. If you have donated blood in the past, may I remind you how rewarding and appreciated this generous act of charity can be for you as well as the recipient.

Sincerely yours in our Lord,
Most Reverend John M. D’Arcy

Top Vatican official: Documents show Pius XII worked to help Jews

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Spending time at the ballpark, going on vacation and enjoying in a picnic in the park are activities many of us associate with the summer. Unfortunately, there is another reality of summer: blood shortages.

With all the summer activities, many of us forget to set the time to donate blood and the American Red Cross needs your support during the summer season to ensure blood is available for patients in need.

Currently, 50 percent of the United States population is eligible to donate blood, yet only 5 percent actually do. Across the region, the Red Cross needs to collect at least 500 units of blood each day to meet the needs of patients. Since blood can be split into different components, each donation may save as many as three lives. Just think about the number of lives we could touch if each of us donated at least once this summer.

There are 2,250 hours of summer. Please spend one of those hours giving the gift of life. Giving blood is safe, simple and it saves lives. If you are at least 17 years old, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and are in good general health, you may be eligible to donate. For more information, questions about eligibility or to make your donation appointment, please call the American Red Cross at 1-800-GIVE-LIFE (1-800-448-3543).

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Sincerely yours in our Lord,
Most Reverend John M. D’Arcy

BISHOP ENCOURAGES BLOOD DONATION THIS SUMMER

Pope Benedict XVI kneels before the Blessed Sacrament, encased in a monstrance, during the Corpus Christi procession in Rome June 7. The eucharistic procession took place between the basilicas of St. John Lateran and St. Mary Major

CHRISTI CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

san event, despite the thousands of foreigners present. Pope Benedict celebrated the liturgy, including the eucharistic prayer, in Italian rather than Latin.

The pope told people gathered for the Mass that they should not be surprised that many people have difficulty accepting church teaching that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist.

The real presence is a mystery, and “a God who becomes flesh and sacrifices himself for the life of the world pursues human wisdom in crisis,” he said.

But Catholics continue to proclaim the transforming presence of Jesus in the Eucharist and, in traditionand the Corpus Christi processions, they bear witness to their faith by carrying the Eucharist through their cities, the pope said.

Pope Benedict said Luke’s Gospel account of the miracle of the loaves and fish emphasizes the fact that everyone present ate and was filled.

In the same way, he said, the public procession “calls attention to the fact that Christ sacrificed himself for all humanity,” the pope said. “His passage between the houses and along the streets of our city will be an offering of joy, of eternal life, peace and love to those who live there.”

Pope Benedict said Luke’s Gospel story also emphasizes the fact that the bread and fish multiplied by Jesus were offered by people in the crowd.

“The five loaves and two fish indicate our continuing, poor, but necessary, which he transforms into a gift of love for all,” the pope said.

The Eucharist, he said, calls Christians to give themselves to others “because the vocation of each of us is to be, like Christ, bread broken for the life of the world.”

Today’s Catholic

3

June 17, 2007

BLOOD CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

participation year-around.

“People have the attitude of ‘if I need it, I’ll be there,’” she said. “‘We’re trying to educate the public (about the need).’

The American Red Cross is especially trying to reach out to youth because they account for 14 percent of the blood supply. “Our loyal donors, recipients and candidates for the award, like Jessica Dettemer, communications coordinator for the Red Cross, ‘We’re reaching out to high school and college-age stu-
dents.’

Robbins has found in her experience that personal recruitment is the most effective way to motivate potential donors. Stories from recipients and donors can be particularly motivating. Giving blood is a “minimal sacrifice” because it requires only time and blood, she reminds readers.

Dioecesan campaign

In an effort to raise awareness for the need, diocesan pastors will be discreetly reaching out with the support and direction of Bishop John M. D’Arcy. This program is not new, however, as the bishop launched a blood donation promotion program in 2003.

Following the program’s success, Bishop D’Arcy’s staff were recognized as a Sponsor Partnership Award recipient in 2005 for dedication in encouraging blood donations and efforts to support the American Red Cross.

“For the past three years,
Through counseling and personal development, men learn to be fathers

Supporting low-income dads is key to reducing long-term poverty, says Catholic Charities USA

BY SHELLEY BORYSIEWICZ

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Many children in our country grow up not just in income poverty, but also in the poverty of absent fathers. With numerous studies showing how important fathers are to their child’s development and sense of self-worth, many local Catholic Charities nationwide are offering programs to help low-income fathers become and stay engaged in the lives of their children.

“There’s no question that children are better off when both parents are involved in their lives, but this is too often not the case, as nearly 14 million children under age 15 live with a single mother. And sadly, millions of these children have fallen into poverty as a result,” said Father Larry Snyder, president of Catholic Charities USA. “By helping low-income dads, these local Catholic Charities programs are reducing many of the challenges that cause families to fall apart and children to fall into poverty. One example of a local program that strives to improve the economic stability of fathers and promote the positive involvement of fathers with their children is the Catholic Family Services’ Fatherhood Initiative in St. Louis. The program provides group counseling and education sessions to help fathers develop personally and socially so that they can positively affect the lives of their children.

The St. Louis program’s six-week intensive course, which meets for several hours daily, helps men learn how to engage with their children in positive ways and take on the responsibilities of fatherhood. The program also provides education on job search and interviewing skills, healthy behaviors and lifestyles, anger management, life skills, money management, substance abuse, parenting and violence prevention. In addition, the men are able to get a physical exam and routine health care, an important support since many of the men have been using drugs and eating poorly for many years.

The program also helps men understand how to interact with the legal system and the child support agency, get their names on their children’s birth certificates and develop a co-parenting relationship with their children’s mother. Upon graduation, participants receive a $300 stipend to be applied to child support.

Other fatherhood programs

- Idaho Dads Matter is a statewide fatherhood initiative of Catholic Charities of Idaho (CCI). Through a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, CCI and its partners serve dads who do not have custody of their children, but need and want to be part of nurturing them into healthy and happy adulthood. Services include counseling and parenting education as well as job development and readiness activities.
- Teen fathers are the focus of Maryville Academy’s Fatherhood Initiative. Held three times a year, this program is a 12-week seminar that teaches teen dads practical child care tips and also provides information on the development of job skills, finding jobs, managing money, identifying old roles, conflict resolution, abuse, domestic violence, child support obligations and fathers’ rights. The majority of the sessions are for males, although some sessions address co-parenting issues for men and women.
- The FatherLink program of Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley in Dayton, Ohio, has served over 1,700 fathers between the ages of 15 and 25 since 2000. The program helps teen fathers become supportive of the mother of their children and actively participate in their child’s life. It also provides the youngest generation information about self-sufficiency, education, employment and paternity.

Just one piece of the puzzle of strengthening families and reducing poverty

Innovative fatherhood programs by Catholic Charities agencies are just one piece to a puzzle in supporting low-income dads and cutting U.S. poverty. Better federal policies to help low-income fathers become more active and engaged in the lives of their children are also needed.

As part of its Campaign to Reduce Poverty in America, Catholic Charities USA plans to leverage Father’s Day to reignite a national dialogue about the importance fathers play in helping their children and actively participate in their child’s life. It also provides the youngest generation information about self-sufficiency, education, employment and paternity.

Immigration bill stalled, not dead, backers say

BY PATRICIA ZAPOR

WASHINGTON (CNS) — With the June 7 failure of a procedural vote intended to bring the bill to a vote, the Senate’s attempt to pass comprehensive immigration reform went back behind the scenes, though the bill’s backers in both parties vowed to bring it to the floor again after the August recess.

After the failure of a second cloture vote to cut off debate, Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said he would take the bill off the floor to allow other legislation to move along, though he did so with the door open to reviving its consideration.

By the June 9-10 weekend, Reid and Republican leaders were saying the bill was not dead and debate would reopen, possibly before the Independence Day recess that begins July 2.

Analysts on all sides have said that if immigration reform legislation is not passed before the end of 2007 it is unlikely to get a serious shot at passage again until after the 2008 presidential election.

Immigrant advocates including Father Larry Snyder, president of Catholic Charities USA, and Los Angeles Cardinal Roger Mahony were quick to take the Senate to task for not moving the bill forward.

“Congress must not abdicate its responsibility now,” said a statement from Father Snyder. “It is crucial that the Senate work out their differences.”

Cardinal Mahony’s statement said the country has a moral obligation to create an immigration system built upon the principles of fairness, opportunity and compassion.

“Achieving comprehensive immigration reform is hard work, but our senators have not been deterred by the difficulty of this enterprise,” he said. “Achieving comprehensive reform this year will have great impact on the continued moral and economic health of our country for years to come.”

Reid said he would bring the bill back to the floor as soon as enough Republicans were on board with the goal of bringing the measure to a vote.

Some supporters of the bill accused President Bush of failing to exert enough pressure on Senate Republicans to pass the bill. The legislation was the product of months of negotiations by the White House, Democratic and Republican senators.

In a statement prepared by the White House, that bill-shaping process was followed instead of the normal system of publicly crafting bill in committees. It was intended to satisfy enough members of both parties to head off exactly the kind of procedural machinations that occurred in the second week of debate on the bill.

While many supporters of comprehensive immigration reform, including the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Charities USA, have celebrated the defeat of an excessive piece of legislation, flaws, most of a vast alliance of faith groups, unions, civil rights groups and other organizations were urging that the bill be passed as a starting point to fixing a broken immigration system.

In a series of press conferences June 8, representatives of many of the organizations working for a broad approach to immigration reform said they believe Reid is sincere about bringing the bill to a vote and that backers could yield a viable plan for allowing more debate and a limited number of amendments.

Such an effort might satisfy enough of the senators who voted to keep debate open, effectively blocking a final vote that Reid had hoped to hold June 8, said Frank Sharry, executive director of the National Immigration Forum, which represents a broad range of interest groups.

Sharry said he was much more optimistic on June 8 about the possibility of a bill passing than he was just the night before as the clock ran down.

The White House said Bush would use some of his time during a previously scheduled visit to the Capitol June 12 to try to persuade more Republicans to back the bill.

Meanwhile, House leaders have said they would be open to discussion of immigration reform to the floor before Congress recesses in August.

In some parts of the country, Catholic leaders used June 10 observances of Corpus Christi to pray for struggling immigrants. Los Angeles Auxiliary Bishop Oscar A. Solis led a procession to the El Pueblo Monument for a blessing for participants in a Dreams Across America rail tour to Washington.

The Dreams Across America rail tour is actually a series of four tours intended to highlight immigrants’ stories and dreams at stops across the country before concluding with visits to members of congress. The Los Angeles train was to leave June 13, followed by groups departing later in June from Miami, Boston and Richmond, Va.
By John Thavis

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Meeting for the first time, Pope Benedict XVI and U.S. President George W. Bush spoke about the precarious situation of Christians in Iraq and a wide range of other foreign policy and moral issues.

The pope and president looked relaxed as they greeted each other and spoke briefly in front of reporters before their 35-minute private encounter June 9. Bush later held a separate 40-minute meeting with the Vatican’s top foreign policy officials.

A Vatican statement described the meetings as “cordial” and said they had focused in part on “the worrisome situation in Iraq and the critical conditions in which the Christian community finds itself.”

Tens of thousands of Christians have fled Iraq over the last four years to escape violence and discrimination.

The talks also touched on the overall situation in the Middle East, including the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and developments in Lebanon.

“The Holy See again expressed the hope for a ‘regional’ and ‘megaregional’ approach to the conflicts and crises that are tormenting the region,” the Vatican statement said.

Bush and the pope also discussed problems in Africa, the humanitarian crisis in Darfur and developments in Latin America, it said.

“Finally, there was an examination of present moral and religious questions, including those related to human rights and religious freedom, the defense and promotion of life, marriage and the family, education of new generations and sustainable development,” the Vatican said.

Before the president’s visit, the Vatican secretary of state, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, went out of his way to praise Bush for his position on abortion and for “positive initiatives in favor of the defense of life from conception.”

Bush arrived at the Vatican under very heavy security. His motorcade entered St. Peter’s Square from a side street instead of along Via della Conciliazione, the wide avenue leading to the Vatican, which had been cleared of cars and was lined with curious onlookers.

In the sunny St. Damaso Courtyard, the president was greeted by U.S. Archbishop James Harvey, one of the pope’s private secretaries, who escorted him past a picket of Swiss Guards and up an elevator to the fourth floor of the Apostolic Palace for the papal audience.

U.S. President George W. Bush presents Pope Benedict XVI with a walking stick, which was hand-carved by a former homeless man from Texas, during their meeting at the Vatican June 9. The two leaders spoke about the precarious situation of Christians in Iraq and a wide range of other foreign policy and moral issues.

The pope smiled broadly as he greeted Bush just outside his private library. The two men shook hands, and the pope ushered the president to a large desk. Reporters and photographers were allowed to stay for the first minute of the encounter.

“It’s good to be with you sir,” Bush said as he sat down opposite the pope, crossing his legs and leaning back in a white chair.

“You come from the conference in Heiligendamm?” the pope said, referring to the Group of Eight meeting of the heads of industrialized countries in Germany.

“I did, your old country. And it was successful,” the president replied.

“Successful?! You had some decisions? It’s not so easy,” the pope said. He said it was important for humanity that conferences like this produce decisions.

“It was, you know, a lot of different opinions. But it was good. It was good,” Bush said.

The pope asked whether Bush’s dialogue with Russian President Vladimir Putin was also good.

The president paused as photographers kept snapping photos and said: “I’ll tell you in a minute.” Both men laughed. Putin and Bush had sparred over a U.S. proposal to build a missile defense system in Europe.

Bush then went on to tell the pope that he had recently asked Congress for $30 billion toward fighting the global AIDS crisis, a doubling of the previous U.S. commitment.

After reporters left, the two leaders met privately without aides or interpreters. When the doors of the library opened, Bush’s entourage was led into the room and the president introduced them, one by one, to the pope. The pontiff handed each of them a medal.

Among those in the 12-member U.S. delegation greeting the pontiff were Karl Rove, Bush’s top political adviser; Josh Bolten, White House chief of staff; and Steve Hadley, national security adviser.

The pope and the president also exchanged gifts. Bush gave the pope a long wooden walking stick with a design representing the Ten Commandments. When the pope picked it up, Bush told him it had been made by a former homeless man in Dallas.

“The Ten Commandments?” the pope asked, looking at the inscriptions.

“Yes, sir,” Bush answered.

The pope presented Bush with an engraving of St. Peter’s Basilica and a gold medallion of his pontificate. The president put on his glasses to give it a closer look and remarked, “It’s beautiful, thank you very much.”

Afterward, Bush and several top aides met with Cardinal Bertone and other Vatican foreign policy officials.

The Vatican’s concern about Iraq was underlined in another way during the Bush visit. As the president and the pope ended their meeting, the Vatican released a statement by the newly appointed prefect of the Congregation for Eastern Churches, Archbishop Leonardo Sandri, who said many Eastern-rite Catholics were suffering in Iraq, Lebanon and elsewhere because of “war, violence or fear of an uncertain future.”

“I think also of those who must leave their homeland and everything they own,” Archbishop Sandri said. Church officials have been increasingly distressed at the exodus of Iraqi Catholics following the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in 2003.

The last time Bush came for a papal audience, in 2004, Pope John Paul II told him of his deep concern for the situation in Iraq and reminded the president of the “unequivocal position” taken by the Vatican against the war.

“During our meeting, Bush met three times with Pope John Paul. Before coming to see Pope Benedict, Bush told reporters that he would be in a ‘listening mode’ when he met the 80-year-old pontiff. He said a papal audience was always a ‘moving experience.’”

“Sometimes I’m not poetic enough to describe what it’s like to be in the presence of the Holy Father,” Bush said.

In comments to reporters after his meeting with the pope, Bush said the pope was “deeply concerned” about Christians in Iraq and feared that they were being mistreated by the Muslim majority.

The pope “was concerned that the society that was evolving would not tolerate the Christian religion,” Bush said during a joint press conference with Prime Minister Romani Prodi at Chigi Palace, the seat of Italy’s government.

“I assured (the pope) we were working hard to make sure ‘Iraqis would respect that modern constitution voted on by the people that would honor people from different walks of life and different attitudes,”’ Bush said.

Bush also said the pope talked about immigration.

“He’s watching the immigration debate very closely in America and I told him I was a person who strongly supports comprehensive immigration reform that, on the one hand, we will enforce our law and, on the other hand, we need to treat people with dignity,” Bush said.

In a separate meeting immediately after Bush met with Pope Benedict, leaders of Rome’s Sant’Egidio Community told the president of their concern for Iraq’s Christians.

The president of the Catholic lay community, Marco Impagliazzo, told reporters that the leaders told Bush the Christians in Iraq were suffering and risking becoming an enclave in northern Iraq.

Bush “did not respond” with any comments, Impagliazzo told reporters.

The head of Sant’Egidio said Bush told them the pope wanted the United States “to play a leading role against suffering” in the world, to which Bush reportedly replied “and we’ll do it.”

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Pope names Italian archbishop as assistant secretary of state

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has named his ambassador to the Philippines, Archbishop Fernando Filoni, 61, to the Vatican’s nuncio in Jordan and as apostolic nuncio in Iraq. The Vatican said that the appointment was announced June 9 by the Vatican, which also announced that Argentine Archbishop Leonardo Sandri, the current office holder, had been named prefect of the Congregation for Eastern Churches. Archbishop Sandri had been in the Vatican’s diplomatic service since 1974 and worked at the apostolic nunciature in Washington in 1989-91.

Honduran cardinal elected president of Caritas Internationals

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Christopher student honored by U.S. Army Reserve

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Dwenger High School seniors Jacob M. Capito and Cristina M. Kline-Quiroz were recently honored as their school’s recipients of the 2007 U.S. Army Reserve National Scholar-Athlete Award. For more than 25 years, the Army Reserve has recognized high school students nationwide for outstanding academic and athletic accomplishments. Past recipients have included National Merit Scholarship finalists and Olympic competitors.

Capito and Kline-Quiroz were nominated for this award by guidance counselor Lora McGuire.

A National Honor Society member and winner of academic and athletic scholarships, Capito was voted the soccer team’s most valuable player, and earned all-state and all-conference ranking in this sport and, in addition, is a member of the Men’s tennis team. His mentor and Bishop Dwenger alumnus, was active in Spanish Club, and has volunteered with Habitat for Humanity.

Sisters of Providence bestow honors on benefactors

SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS — The Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods bestowed major awards during the annual St. Mother Theodore Guerin Dinner Saturday, June 2. The dinner is named in honor of the foundress of the Sisters of Providence who came to the United States from France in 1840.

The dinner is a way for members of the congregation to express their gratitude for the support offered by their many donors and companions.

The Sarah and Joseph Thralls Award was presented to Camille and Arthur Snyder of Decatur, Ill. The Thralls Award honors an individual, family or group that has made significant contributions of time, talent and treasure to the congregation. It is named in honor of the pioneer family that offered hospitality to a primitive cabin in a dense forest to Mother Theodore and her companions on their arrival at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods in 1840.

Arthur previously served on the congregation’s National Development Council and currently serves as chair of its mission advisory board. The Snyders also recently hosted a donor event in their home.

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John Thomas, a Sophomore at South Bend Central High School, was named recently to the National Honor Society, a national academic and leadership recognition program. This recognition is based on grades, leadership ability and community service.
Fire extensively damages southern Indiana church

ST. ANTHONY — A 19th century Catholic Church in the Dubois County community of St. Anthony was extensively damaged by fire in the early morning hours of June 5. Neither the cause nor the amount of damage were immediately determined.

St. Anthony is a southern Indiana church in the Dubois County community of St. Anthony. It was undergoing restoration. The pews, the Stations of the Cross, the sacred vessels and Mass vestments had all been removed and taken to a former school building.

Fire was reported about 3:30 a.m. on June 5, when a passerby contacted the parish pastor. Some 75 firefighters from six agencies responded. As of midday, the copper roof of the 1885 stone church was being peeled away as firefighters searched for hot spots.

The town of St. Anthony is about 60 miles east of Evansville, or about 135 miles south of Indianapolis.

Faith and determination keep medically challenged family going

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — When you meet Heather and Rick Sosenheimers and their four children, you’ll find a close-knit, loving family.

Markee, 17, is a devoted sister to her younger brothers, who are often confused as triplets. Drake is eight years old, Kendrick, seven, and Hunter follows closely at six. The start ages are not the only unique thing about these boys, though. They each are medically fragile due primarily to rare brain conditions known as Chiari Malformation and pseudotumor cerebri.

All three boys were born prematurely to Heather and Rick, who have been married for eight years and are parishioners of St. Charles Borromeo Parish.

Developmental delays caused the family routine to include doctor’s visits, testing and therapies from the start. But the Sosenheimers never bargained for what occurred in 2004. Drake was diagnosed with cysts in the brain and a hidden form of spina bifida.

Shortly following the news about Drake’s condition, Kendrick was diagnosed with a rare brain dysfunction called Chiari Malformation. This condition, so rare that little research is available, concerns a growth restriction at the base of the skull. “The space for the cerebellum (the part of the brain that controls balance) is too small,” explains Heather. “The cerebellum elongates into the spinal column because there’s no space for it to sit.”

The pressure on the spinal column and brain stem may affect the central nervous system causing migraine headaches, numbness, muscle weakness, paralysis and more.

And as life sometimes has it, weeks following this devastating news, Hunter was diagnosed with another brain malady known as pseudotumor cerebri, literally translated as “false tumor,” where the brain produces excessive fluid to fight what it thinks is a tumor. Heather describes it this way, “The brain literally thinks it is a tumor and surrounds itself with fluid to protect itself.” The excess fluid creates immense pressure on the optic nerve and spinal cord and can cause damage there.

Hunter was diagnosed with Chiari Malformation and pseudotumor cerebri, and the family spent months traveling to U.S. cities and countries to pursue treatment.

“But the story doesn’t end there. The next year, the boys were being treated for complications from the surgeries, due to the rarity of the condition.”

“The surgeons didn’t have the experience because it’s so rare. Some had never done this before,” recalls Heather, who has become somewhat of an expert on the medical terminology involved.

While on a visit to Riley, Heather saw a magazine article describing a young girl with Chiari Malformation. She immediately contacted the family and was referred to the chief pediatric neuro-radiologist at University of Chicago’s Comer’s Children’s Hospital.

Doctor Frim, who studies 10 other cases from around the world with this rare condition, took on their case and the family spent months in Chicago. During their stay, Hunter was diagnosed with Chiari Malformation, and an MRI confirmed Kendrick suffered from pseudotumor cerebri, leaving both boys with both conditions.

The entire family then underwent testing and it was soon learned that Drake, Markee, Heather and Rick joined the boys with the diagnosis. They became one of only two families in North America where both parents suffer from the same condition.
from Chiari Malformation. All three boys have undergone surgery for the malformation with Heather following in March of 2006. Presently Markee and Rick display no symptoms and have not been treated. The Sosenheimers have networked with the other families involved with these conditions and found hope in the friendships. “We want the best for our children. It’s interesting what you can learn from each other,” says Heather. “You must advocate for your children,” she adds.

Heather describes her medical experience with matter of fact spirit. “That’s how your life is. That’s what God gives you,” she says. Following her surgery in January of this year, she developed pneumonia and then bacterial meningitis. Following weeks of treatment she was found to have excess fluid on the brain which caused blood vessels in her eyes to burst. She lost 90 percent vision in her right eye and hopes healing will restore vision and function, loss of strength through faith and guidance. “We try and teach the boys to adapt and adjust. This can’t rule you out. You gain strength through faith and guidance. Then you take it in stride.”

To learn more about the Sosenheimers visit www.caring-bridge.org/visit/the-sosenheimer-boys.

For information on Chiari Malformation and pneumotamponade visit the World Arnold Chiari Malformation Association at www.wacma.com.

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Prayer shawls give love and comfort

BY SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

SOUTH BEND — It all started with a positive response to an invitation. Last July, Jack Mueller, administrator of St. Paul’s Retirement Community, asked Jean Burkhart if she would consider beginning a prayer shawl ministry. Thinking it had possibilities, Jean agreed and thus began a ministry that has taken off with gusto and touched many lives.

Prayer shawls, sometimes called comfort shawls, are created by residents for other residents who need special comfort for a variety of reasons. Recipients are made aware that their shawls were created with loving care with them in mind.

Those who are part of this special ministry get together regularly to knit, crochet, sew and share with one another. Since this ministry began, shawls of gorgeous colors have been completed, and many of the participants are on their second or third shawl.

When asked how recipients are selected, Jean Burkhart, who is an independent resident at St. Paul’s, coordinates the ministry. She says, “A participant in the ministry frequently has someone in mind. While making the shawl, the participant prays for the needs of that person.”

Sister John Margaret Dietzen, a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, says, “(the shawls) may be made for a healthcare resident, a next door neighbor or anyone who has a need to feel the caring touch of another here at St. Paul’s.”

Jean Burkhart shares with one of the recipients of a prayer shawl at St. Paul’s Retirement Community in South Bend.

She goes on to point out that “often a friendship between the giver and recipient blossoms and grows. This gives ‘new life’ to both. It is beautiful to experience what the sharing of talents given by God can do to create happiness, peace and a feeling of worth and respect.”

The residents at St. Paul’s are not the only ones affected by these special shawls. Families are as well. When a recipient dies, he or her family receives the shawl as a keepsake. It is often a great comfort and reminds the family of the special love bestowed on their loved one during their stay.

These shawls have also touched many of the staff that works at St. Paul’s. One staff member who is part of the ministry said she got involved because she was so impressed at how much the shawls mean to the residents who receive them. “This ministry really reflects the mission of Trinity Health, the health care system to which St. Paul belongs,” says Sister John Margaret. In its mission statement it says, “We serve together in Trinity Health, in the spirit of the Gospel, to heal body, mind and spirit, to improve the health of our communities and to steward the resources entrusted to us.”

To emphasize the ministerial aspect of the prayer shawls, last November all those involved in the ministry and their handiwork of love were blessed in a special service in the main chapel. According to Sister John Margaret, “The prayer shawls contribute to the healing that takes place at St. Paul’s and build relationships of love and compassion. So far, 27 shawls have been given out.” Many more are in process. They are one of the many things St. Paul does to build community for its residents.

AVILLA — Five Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart at Sacred Heart Home in Avilla are observing jubilees this year. The local celebration in Avilla will be on July 28.

Sister Hilda Marie Kroemer, OSF — 80th jubilee

She was born in Hindenberg, Germany, Sept. 9, 1906. As a high school student, she yearned to be a sister in a foreign land, and at age 21, she and other German aspirants left their homeland to enter the convent in Joliet, Ill. She served in education in Illinois, Indiana and California for 50 years and in Mundelein, Ill., as superior and as organist providing care to the seminarians. Upon retiring, she served in various capacities at the motherhouse, and in 2004, at age 98, she came to Sacred Heart Home as a resident. She celebrated her 100th birthday in September, singing many German songs for the enjoyment of everyone. She is the only surviving German-born sister.

Sister M. Leonore Kuykendall, OSF — 75th jubilee

She was born in Sandusky, Ohio, but her family soon moved to Avilla, where she attended school at St. Mary of the Assumption. She and a classmate entered the congregation at age 14. She served in California for 70 years in Illinois and Indiana. Her last teaching assignment was at St. Charles Borromeo High School. She had served there 35 years until 2004, when she transferred to the Congregate Sacred Heart Home.

She recalls fondly her experience in Japan where she and another sister spent several weeks providing summer religious education to the children of servicemen stationed there. At Sacred Heart, she continues an apostolate of visiting the residents in the various units.

Sister M. Eleonora Kaydus, OSF — 70th jubilee

She was born in Springfield, Ill. She served as teacher in Indiana and Illinois and also at St. Vincent’s Orphanage in Freeport, Ill., as housemother and teacher for many years up to when she retired in 1978. She continued as a teacher in Illinois until she returned to the motherhouse to share her artistic creativity. After various assignments there, she came to Sacred Heart Home on Jan. 2, 2002 as a resident where she carries on a wonderful apostolate of friendliness and encouragement to the other residents.

Sister Mary Bernard Engelmann, OSF — 70th jubilee

She was born in Tyrones, Pa. She and her twin sister and other siblings helped out in the family greenhouse as both parents were florists. She entered the convent in Joliet, Ill., in 1937 and has served in healthcare as registered nurse, lab technician, pastoral care staff member and administrative assistant. She served many years at Sacred Heart Hospital in Garrett until it was closed and then came to Sacred Heart Home where she befriended the staff and residents and continues to do so by her natural rapport with others. She is currently a resident at the home.

Sister M. Corde Miranda, OSF — 50th jubilee

She was born in Globe, Ariz., in the mountainous area of that state. Prior to entering the convent, she spent nine years in various parts of Mexico as a bilingual secretary with a Mexico-U.S. commission and also in tourism. As a sister, she taught school at the primary and secondary levels in Indiana, Illinois and California. She transferred her psychosomatic social work in health care in Illinois, as well as health care management. She also served as Portuguese/English interpreter in the congregation’s mission in Brazil. She came to Sacred Heart Home Convent in 2000.

Sister Margaret Lavinon, CSC

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BY SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC
Miracles really do happen every day

BY LISA M. PETSCH

N obody likes to wait, espe-
cially for a medical diag-
sis and treatment.

That’s what my husband and I were doing for the past month. It started with a routine visit to his family doctor, who didn’t like his heart rate. A trip to a hospital emergency room, for a thorough assessment. Heart disease was discovered, suggesting a recent (silent) heart attack.

We were reassured to learn he had risks and obtain written consent.

The HIU cardiologist they prepared my husband for his catheterization. The HIU cardiologist told his Cath lab and I drove across town to find and fix whatever was wrong.

It was hard to remain patient and positive. We both knew well the insidious damage heart disease could cause and the tragic outcomes that could result. My father-in-law died prematurely from heart disease, as did a friend of mine who suffered a massive heart attack.

We were consequently relieved last week to learn that a heart catheterization (angiogram) — the final piece of the diagnostic puzzle — had been scheduled.

The patient education booklet addressed possible risks, including “a 1-in-100 chance of having a stroke, heart attack needing emergency open heart surgery or death.” With angioplasty the risk increases to a 1-in-100 chance.

We tried to reassure our three children. They knew their grandpa had died of heart surgery complications. And they’d seen their dad make a trip to the emergency room. I encouraged them to pray that the doctor would be able to find and fix whatever was wrong.

Earlier the next morning my husband and I drove across town to the hospital’s Heart Investigation Unit (HIU). We met some patients from out of area and realized just how fortunate we were to have a cardiac care center in our community.

The nursing staff explained everything that would happen as they prepared my husband for his catheterization. The HIU cardiologist came around to review the risks and obtain written consent.

We were reassured to learn he had lots of experience.

After my husband was wheeled away, I relocated to the waiting room, where several grim-faced groups huddled together. The few people who looked to be my age clearly were offspring of patients providing support to their other parent. I was by far the youngest spouse in the room.

Undaunted, I settled into a win-
dow seat overlooking the hospi-
tal’s main entrance. I watched the comings and goings, listened to the noise that the doctor would be able to hear through balloon angioplasty and insertion of a stent (a permanent, mesh tube made of metal). My husband could go home the next morning.

Just like that, the crisis was over.

There’s a saying that miracles happen every day. When you or a loved one receive a lifesaving medical intervention, however routinely it may be performed, you know without a doubt that this is true.

The cardiologist later told us that the artery in question had been almost completely blocked. The reality is sobering.

So, too, is the diagnosis of coronary artery disease—a serious condition for which my husband will require medication and monitoring for the rest of his life. Lifestyle changes will also be needed, to help prevent another crisis. But we can deal with that.

Looking back, I can only attribute my composure to God’s “amazing grace,” which saved me from debilitating fear.

It would have been easy to panic. After all, the hospital where my husband received his new lease on life is the one where his dad died — on Father’s Day.

I can’t thank God enough that Father’s Day in our family will be a joyous one this year — the best ever.

Lisa M. Petsche is a mother of three and a freelance writer specializing in family life.

POPS meet at Granger for dads’ guidance and spiritual support

BY MICHELLE DONAGHEY

GRANGER — They are called by different names including dada, dad, daddy and father, but men just don’t have groups where they can come together to share information, support and to talk.

That’s why St. Pius X parishioner and father, Michael A. Lacognato decided to form the Paternal Order of Pius X — or POPS — a men’s group that has begun meeting once a month at the parish.

“As a father of young children myself, I always felt left out of the support group circuit,” Lacognato told Today’s Catholic. “I really didn’t see anything in our parish or the community for only dads, and I know that St. Pius X is a progressive parish, so I received an opportunity to develop the program and present it to the church. I was pretty much on my own with the developing of the program and found that young fathers very much supported my idea.”

Lacognato said that around a half dozen fathers were there for their first regular meeting held recently in the evening at the parish.

The design of each meeting is based on a round-table discussion. The topic for the group is “guidance and spiritual support to help raise my children in the Christian and Catholic community. I wanted to provide a channel to share that with other fathers who have clearly experienced what I have experienced but I haven’t.”

The POPS leader notes that every meeting has and will have a spiritual component, a reflection component and a stewardship component — stewardship is a component that I am very passionate about. I want to have at least one or two meetings where we as fathers — with our children — serve the community in some capacity.

To make this a reality, Lacognato has already contacted many of the not-for-profits in the community. “I want to seek out opportunities where we can carry out our Catholic mission to serve and grow in the Lord,” he noted.

Lacognato is also seeking speakers for meetings. “They could include topics, but are not limited to, your role as a father, raising your children in the Catholic faith, child discipline, the economics of having a family and round-table discussions.”

Group membership is not limited to younger fathers either, he noted.

“We serve together in Trinity Health, in the spirit of the Gospel, to heal body, mind and spirit, to improve the health of our communities and to steward the resources entrusted to us.”

Michael A. Lacognato enjoys spending time with his children, Ty and Maya. Lacognato has started a father’s support group titled, POPS, Paternal Order of Plus.

“My hopes and dreams for this group are fairly simple. I would like for this group to establish itself as a outlet for all fathers as a resource of spirituality and support. I would like to know that our parish children are benefiting from this group, that our fathers have benefited from this group and that our Catholic teachings and faith can be passed on to the future of our church.”

The age limit is a good question.” Lacognato said, “I St. Pius X will not be the only parish that incorporates a POPS group.” I really hope that this takes off and that parishes start their own,” Lacognato said. “As parents, we role models, and as Catholics, we need to live what we believe. My hopes and dreams for this group are fairly simple. I would like for this group to establish itself as a outlet for all fathers as a resource of spirituality and support. I would like to know that our parish children are benefiting from this group, that our fathers have benefited from this group and that our Catholic teachings and faith can be passed on to the future of our church.”

Dedication to healing heart means healing mind

BY LISA M. PETSCH

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President Bush signs the Small Business and Work Opportunity Tax Act of 2007

What planning opportunities should be considered with this new provision?
First of all, consider investments for the child that produce little or no taxable income, such as growth-oriented stocks or tax-exempt municipal bonds. Also, parents and grandparents can invest in 529 college savings plans to help pay for college. Earnings are tax-free if distributions are used for qualified higher education expenses, and investments in these accounts are not subject to the kiddie tax. Moreover, contributions made to the Indiana College Savings Plan generate a 20 percent tax credit on the Indiana individual income tax return (starting in 2007) for a maximum credit of $1,000.

Increase and Extension of Expensing for Small Business. Under Code Section 179, in lieu of depreciation, a taxpayer with a sufficiently small amount of depreciable tangible personal property that is purchased for use in the active conduct of a trade or business may elect to deduct or “expense” such costs currently. Prior to the act, the maximum amount a taxpayer could expense, for tax years beginning in 2003 through 2009, was $100,000 of the cost of qualifying property placed in service for the tax year. The $100,000 amount is reduced (but not below zero) by the amount by which the cost of qualifying property placed in service during the tax year exceeds $400,000. For tax years beginning in 2007, the inflation-adjusted amounts were $112,000 and $450,000, respectively.

Joint Venture and 5% Credit. An item to consider for a child who is age 18 or older this year and thus will not be effected by the kiddie tax, is the possibility of a joint return. The kiddie tax applies regardless of whether the child may be claimed as a dependent by either or both parents.
Before the act, the kiddie tax applied to children under age 18. The act now expands the kiddie tax to apply to children who are under age 18 or who are full-time students over age 18 but under age 24. The expanded provision applies only to children whose earned income does not exceed one-half of the amount of their support. The new provision becomes effective Jan. 1, 2008.

Question: What tax provisions were included in the recently passed tax bill?
Answer: On May 25, 2007, President Bush signed the Small Business and Work Opportunity Tax Act of 2007, which is part of a much larger and more controversial bill, the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans’ Care, Katrina Recovery and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act of 2007. The new legislation targets tax incentives to small businesses and to taxpayers recovering from Hurricane Katrina. It contains provisions, which affect individuals as well as businesses. Here are some of the highlights:

Expansion of Kiddie Tax. A tax planning technique at one time was for wealthy parents who were in a higher tax bracket than their minor children to shift investment assets to such children who were taxed at a lower rate. More specifically, the kiddie tax applies to a child if: (1) the child has not reached a certain age by the close of the tax year; and either of the child’s parents is alive at such time; (2) the child’s unearned income exceeds $1,700 (for 2007); and (3) the child does not file a joint return. The kiddie tax applies regardless of whether the child may be claimed as a dependent by either or both parents.

Increase and Extension of Expensing for Small Business. Under Code Section 179, in lieu of depreciation, a taxpayer with a sufficiently small amount of depreciable tangible personal property that is purchased for use in the active conduct of a trade or business may elect to deduct or “expense” such costs currently. Prior to the act, the maximum amount a taxpayer could expense, for tax years beginning in 2003 through 2009, was $100,000 of the cost of qualifying property placed in service for the tax year. The $100,000 amount is reduced (but not below zero) by the amount by which the cost of qualifying property placed in service during the tax year exceeds $400,000. For tax years beginning in 2007, the inflation-adjusted amounts were $112,000 and $450,000, respectively.

Joint Venture and 5% Credit. An item to consider for a child who is age 18 or older this year and thus will not be affected by the kiddie tax, is the possibility of a joint return. The kiddie tax applies regardless of whether the child may be claimed as a dependent by either or both parents.
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What planning opportunities should be considered with this new provision?
First of all, consider investments for the child that produce little or no taxable income, such as growth-oriented stocks or tax-exempt municipal bonds. Also, parents and grandparents can invest in 529 college savings plans to help pay for college. Earnings are tax-free if distributions are used for qualified higher education expenses, and investments in these accounts are not subject to the kiddie tax. Moreover, contributions made to the Indiana College Savings Plan generate a 20 percent tax credit on the Indiana individual income tax return (starting in 2007) for a maximum credit of $1,000.

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Selfless giving: traits of a good husband, dad

Today’s Catholic editorial board

Mulloy of Covington, Ky., offered a 100-day indulgence for the following Husband’s Daily Prayer: “As a husband I beseech thee, O intrusive God, make me unselfish, cheerful, trustful, thrifty and a devoted companion. If I am blessed by fatherhood, I ask the additional grace of helpfulness and good example. May our family be modeled upon the Holy Family. Amen.”

That’s good advice to husbands and fathers almost 60 years later. Certainly the world has become much more self-centered. We can use a few good men as role models who are willing to give selflessly of themselves to their wives and to their children. Call this a ticket to happiness, a happy marriage based on selfless acts of love. We only have to look to Jesus as the model for selflessness.

Trustfulness. The world needs examples of men willing to be true to their word, willing to do the right thing even when it is inconvenient.

Money difficulties are often the cause of fractures and dissolution of many marriages. Recently, Our Sunday Visitor introduced a parish-based program called Seven Steps to Financial Freedom. Phil Lenahan, who often writes for the national Catholic newspaper based in Huntington, designed the program, which involves couples, even individual counselors meeting in a small faith-sharing setting.

St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Wayne served as a pilot parish for the program, and its results were impressive. First, husbands and wives learned to pray together as a couple. Stewardship became a focus. Then the couples learned how to organize their finances to pay off credit card debt, reorganize their priorities and share the money management responsibilities as a couple. So thirfty in this sense becomes stewardship and using our resources in a way that reflects our faith and realizing that all that we have is a gift from God. We are the caretakers or stewards of these gifts.

A husband who is a devoted companion is willing to love his wife, as Christ loves the church. He would be willing to give his life for her. She is the center of his life and he is attentive to her.

We often hear that if a husband is devoted to his wife, the children will know their place in the family. The old phrase, “if mom isn’t happy, nobody is happy” has some truth here.

Dads today often find themselves sharing duties around the home. They may cook, change diapers, empty the dishwasher, take care of laundry, clean the house, clean up messes in the middle of the night left by a sick child. This is all done to share the load, especially in an age when moms may be just as much a breadwinner as dad.

Children growing up today live in an intense, fast-changing and dangerous world. It takes a dad as devoted as St. Joseph and a mother as caring and nurturing as the Blessed Mother, to raise our families today. They too were charged with the responsibility of caring for a child in an intense, fast-changing and dangerous world.

This meant migrating from Egypt. It meant sending a child out to the world to pursue his ministry. We only have to look to the Holy Family as the model of what qualities we need to be a good dad, a good mom and a selfless companion.

Best wishes for Gary

Today’s Catholic extends its warmest wishes to our neighbor to the west, the Diocese of Gary, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. This anniversary holds special significance because the Gary diocese was once part of the Diocese of Fort Wayne. At the time of the split, priests were asked to stay in whichever (part of the) diocese they had been serving in at that time, resulting in priests from Gary serving in our diocese for their entire careers and priests from Fort Wayne and South Bend serving in Gary for their entire careers. Today, figures like retired Gary priest Father William Peil, who now resides in his native Fort Wayne once more, remind us of this page from our shared history.

We appreciate Bishop Dale Melckzoe, our sister paper, Northwest Indiana Catholic, as well as the priests, religious and laity of the Diocese of Gary. As our diocese celebrates 150 years, our neighbors celebrate 50 years of their own.

Indiana Catholic Conference speaks out about execution

It is regrettable that the State of Indiana has scheduled the execution of Michael Lambert on June 13, the second person to be executed in Indiana as many months. Because taking a life is only morally justified when it is the only option in defense of life (lives), the Indiana bishops respectfully request that the life of Michael Lambert be spared.

As one sphy said his sentence be commuted to life imprisonment without parole.

The common good and society will not be protected by taking his life. In addition, capital punishment undermines the sacredness of human life. It fails to combat crime effectively and does not contribute to building a society that is free from crime. Furthermore, it neither helps the victim’s family nor does it mitigate the victims’ loss.

In addition to the moral concerns, a recent American Bar Association, entitled “ABA Assessment of Indiana’s Death Penalty” identified many problems of concern and regarding Indiana’s application of the death penalty. These, along with the concerns regarding the lethal injection method, add to the need to declare a moratorium on the use of the death penalty.

The church continues to pray for the family of Michael Lambert and for his family and for Mr. Lambert. May God in his mercy protect and comfort those who are involved with this tragedy.

Glenn Tebbe
Executive Director
Indiana Catholic Conference
On behalf of the Indiana Catholic bishops and Board of Directors of the Indiana Catholic Conference

TODAY’S CATHOLIC welcomes letters from readers. All letters must be signed and include a phone number and address for verification.

TODAY’S CATHOLIC reserves the right to edit for clarity and length. Address letters to: Today’s Catholic • P.O. Box 11169 • Fort Wayne, IN • 46856-1169 or e-mail to: editor@fw.diocesefwsb.org

A father’s rosary brings a story of faith, forgiveness and survival

BY DIANE FREEBY

NOTRE DAME — It was her father’s love that sent Immaculée Libranza Gahugu to hiding, clutching the red and white rosary he had pressed into her hands during the last frantic moments they would see each other on this earth.

It was God the Father’s love that would ultimately save this young Rwandan woman during her country’s dark hours. Armed only with those rosary beads and the close company of seven other women, she hid for three months, crammed into the tiny bathroom of a nearby Protestant pastor.

Immaculée was home for Easter in the spring of 1994 when chaos broke loose in her homeland after the president’s plane was shot down. Whipped into a frenzy by the Hutu-led government, neighbors began rounding up each other in order to wipe out the entire Tutsi tribe. What followed were three months of bloody violence, with over 1 million people killed, including nearly all of Immaculée’s family.

Immaculée found shelter into another, the frightened women huddled quietly in the three-by-four-foot bathroom, for fear the killers would find them. When a mob of some 200 gathered outside the pastor’s home, Immaculée could hear their whispering and the sound of their machetes. Then they entered the house, ripping it apart looking for anyone who might be hiding inside.

“My faith was completely challenged,” recalled Immaculée. “I remember I said, ‘God, if these people don’t find us today, I will try to know who you are. I will know you exist. I will know that you are there.’”

After surviving three months of genocide raging just outside their home, Immaculée and the other women were able to escape to a French camp and their eventual freedom. But the scars of dead bodies that littered the countryside is an image that she will forever carry with her.

Immaculée says it is prayer that continues to sustain her, especially devoted to prayer and conversion helping men married and living in America, Immaculée implores us to try to always pray with our hearts.

“I pray for her,” she said, “as a way of saying ‘God, what does that mean? Full of grace, the Lord is with you, okay, he is with you.’”

Immaculée is adamant that we must listen to what Mary is telling us today, citing the warnings not heeded when Mary appeared in Kibeho, Rwanda, 13 years before the genocide. Approved by the local bishop and again by the Vatican in 2001, three young women in 1981 reportedly seeing “a river of blood, people who killed one another and abandoned bodites really have to leave,” said Immaculée.

According to a July 2, 2001 Zenit news report, this awful vision was the only one of its kind. In the rest, Mary, who had dark skin, encouraged the young women to pray, fast and do penance.

The Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows in Kibeho was dedicated after the apparitions were authorized by Bishop Jean Batiste Garhammer in 1982. Devotion to the shrine and Mary’s messages of prayer and conversion helped heal a people ravaged by evil, the bishop said.

As the Catholic Church in her homeland continues to heal, Immaculée continues to tell her story of faith, forgiveness and survival, spreading the message of a call to prayer and conversion that was revealed in Kibeho continuing today.

“What’s she talking about in every place she’s appeared, we realize that Immaculée of the Blessed Mother. “She is the Mother of God. And God doesn’t go wrong.”

God’s mercy is given to those who ask

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time Lk 7:36-8:3

The first reading for this weekend’s liturgy is from the Second Book of Samuel. Scholars refer to First and Second Samuel as historical books. They are not history in the sense that books of history are written today. It does not mean, therefore, that they are historically unreliable or just the creation of a writer’s active imagination.

Rather, it means that they draw from the history of ancient Israel religious lessons.

In this reading, Nathan, the prophet, confronts David, the king of Israel, with a relationship with Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah, the Hittite leader. Since Bathsheba was married, as evidently was David, the relationship was adulterous. Ancient Hebrews detested adultery, and only one thing was worse—secrecy of adultery with a pagan. Such unions weakened the commitment of Israel to the one, true God.

Nevertheless, when David admits the error of his ways, even in these grave circumstances, Nathan assures him that God forgives him.

The Epistle to the Galatians furnishes the second reading. This passage is a profound definition of what genuine Christian living is: “...live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me.” This one statement, so familiar to, and beloved by Christians, captures the intimacy of the bond between the Lord and true disciples. It is a bond created in uncompromising faith. It is a bond that brings salvation to the disciple.

St. Luke’s Gospel provides us with the third reading. It too is familiar to Christians. It is the story of a “sinful” woman. The text does not describe this woman as a prostitute, but over the centuries Christians usually have assumed that she was a prostitute. Assuming that the woman was a prostitute only underscores the depth of God’s love, shown in uncompromising faith. It is a bond that brings salvation to the disciple.

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood is living in me. The power of the presence of the women shows the outreach of Jesus. Women hardly could have been admitted to the company of male figures who called people to holiness. The women sensed their need for God, and in Jesus God responded.

Reflection

The powerful lesson offered us by these readings is that the mercy of God is unquestioningly given to those who humbly and sincerely ask for God’s forgiveness of their sins.

The exact details of the sin of the woman who met Jesus are not furnished by the Gospels. Yet, mercifully, God forgave all. The presence of the apostles who heard God’s forgiveness of their sins was a great act of deference and humility.

The key for us is to give ourselves to Christ, so that we “live not ourselves, but Christ lives in us.”

READINGS

Sunday: 2 Cor 6:1-11 Ps 98:1-4 Mt 5:38-42
Tuesday: 2 Cor 1:22-24 Ps 146:1-5, 9a Mt 5:43-48
Wednesday: 2 Cor 9:6-11 Ps 112:1-4, 9b, 10a, 11b, 11c, 12a, 13c, 14b
Thursday: 2 Cor 11:1-11 Ps 111:1-4, 7, 8 Mt 6:6-15
Friday: 2 Cor 11:12-16 Ps 34:2-6, 7 Mt 6:19-23
Saturday: 2 Cor 12:1-10 Ps 348:13 Mt 6:24-34

THE CATEQUIZ’EM

by Dominic Cahillprian

June 22 marks a remembrance for St. Thomas More and St. John Fisher. Both of these men fell victim to Henry VIII’s intertwining of church and state. This quiz looks at what the church teaches about a Catholic’s involvement in social policy.

1. Where is most of the Catechism of the Catholic Church’s (CCC) teaching on a Catholic role in society to be found?
   a. Part I on the basic elements of faith
   b. Part II in the “Life in Christ” section
   c. Part V “The How to get out the vote” appendix

2. The CCC tells us that the basis of government must be:
   a. aimed at protecting the greater good even at the expense of the individual
   b. geared towards the individual
   c. moderately totalitarian.

3. One principle underlying the church’s view of society is subsidiarity. This means:
   a. Decisions should be made at the lowest possible level
   b. Decisions are not to be made unless they are unanimous
   c. Decisions must always be made by the head of state.

4. According to the CCC, authority is:
   a. unnecessary
   b. worldly and therefore corrupt
   c. entirely legitimate

5. Authority is derived from:
   a. the consent of the governed
   b. God
   c. the ruling party’s prerogatives

6. However, when governments stray
   a. a Catholic is not obliged to accept the rules of an immoral government
   b. a Catholic must obey but will be forgiven for doing so
   c. a Catholic must bring down an evil government.

7. The church does not advocate for any type of government only, but prefers:
   a. imperial systems
   b. pluralistic society with balancing institutions
   c. separate rules for each religious group

8. In general Catholics should:
   a. never vote for a non-Catholic
   b. never vote
   c. not shun civic engagement

9. A key element of church teaching and history is:
   a. tax-exempt churches
   b. social justice
   c. equal taxation of all people

10. Another basic concept is Catholic social teaching is solidarity. In which country did an anti-communist trade union take this as a name?
    a. Italy, home of Benedict XVI
    b. Poland, home to John Paul II
    c. Germany, home of Benedict XVI

11. According to the CCC, the source of all charity is:
    a. a belief in the equality of all classes
    b. the awareness of need
    c. God

12. One of the key doctrines of the church in relation to its international conflicts is known as the
    a. Just War doctrine
    b. civil disobedience doctrine
    c. diplomatic entreaty doctrine

13. It attaches several conditions to an acceptable conflict; which is not one of these?
    a. The force used must be proportionate to the attack or risk suffering.
    b. The enemy must be non-Catholics.
    c. There has to be some hope of success.

14. This Catholic principle concerns looking after the interests of the neediest first:
    a. the care of souls
    b. the preferential option for the poor
    c. not shun civic engagement

ANSWERS

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

June 17, 2007
Doctor talks about the harm of tubal ligations

De tubal ligations have harmful effects upon women?

The April 2007 edition of the Journal of Reproductive Medicine — a major mainstream OB/GYN medical journal — published our paper showing that tubal ligation is harmful to two key measures of the sexual function of women: desire and identity. Not to be spurious because they are problems within the previous 12 months. We speculate that tubal ligation alters the interpersonal bond between the marriage partners, probably through an interference with the type of interpersonal trust required for happy and secure sexual relationships and mate choice. Also, very consistent with the previously published literature, tubal ligation may cause damage to a woman’s body image.

Women should learn about these damaging and harmful procedures, and if they cannot learn it through the major media outlets, then perhaps we ourselves can disseminate the findings as widely as possible, thereby at least doing what we can to spread the news; we believe, good news.

Dr. Dominic M. Pedulla, M.D., associate clinical professor of Medicine, Oklahoma University Health Sciences Center, provided the answer to this question.

Father, I would like your recommendation on what book/booklet to purchase for my 20-year-old daughter that discusses how Natural Family Planning works. Thank you, Cathy

That’s A GOOD QUESTION

My name is Kristie Wellman, and I work at One More Soul, a non-profit organization fostering God’s plan for chastity, love, marriage and children. I’m 24 and the youth and family outreach coordinator here. Stella from the NFP Outreach forwarded your e-mail to us for our suggestions. Here are a few different options:

• For a simple overview of NFP but one that would basically teach your daughter the method, there is a small book called “Love and Fertility” that is on the Ovulation Method of NFP by Father of the Americas. It is short and to the point and easily understood.

• For another book that would actually teach your daughter the method, there is “The Billings Method.” This is a much longer book. It also teaches the Ovulation Method using a different methodological approach. The book does go into more detail and explanation than “Love and Fertility.”

• If you are more interested in something that discusses NFP but isn’t a book actually teaching the method, there are other options: One More Soul’s resource called “First Comes Love” is in newspaper format and full of testimonies, quotes and articles on the church’s teaching on married sexuality and the dangers of children, the harms of contraception and how NFP can help marriages. It is well put together and good for just picking up and reading bits and pieces at a time.

There is also a book called “Life-Giving Love” by Bernadette Hahn that is excellent. It discusses the church’s teaching on NFP and openness to life. I love it because it is engaging to read and has stories of real-life people who either have or have not lived out this teaching in their lives and what happened.

Finally, One More Soul has two CDs that are relevant to what you are looking for. The first is “Contraception: Why Not?” by Dr. Janet Smith, which explains the advantages of NFP. The second is “It Brought Me Back to God,” the testimony of a man who reluctantly obtained a tubal ligation only to change his mind and request NFP in his marriage life and his marriage life changed for the better in the process.

You can obtain all of these resources from our Web site, www.onemoresoul.com, and other places (Catholic bookstores, etc.)

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

Christ first, last and always

A few weeks back, Bishop William Lori of Bridgeport, John Allen of the National Catholic Reporter and I were invited by Doubleday (an imprint of HarperCollins) to help launch Pope Benedict XVI’s new book, “Jesus of Nazareth,” at a May 4 kick-off party in New York. It was, among other things, a happy reunion, as I hadn’t seen Brother Allen since the halcyon days of April 2005, which we both spent in Rome covering (and preparing books on) the papal transition. Since that time, Allen has had a lot of other adventures in New York, but his return to the Great Republic hasn’t diminished his interest in and passion for the papacy and all things pertaining to how others perceive them — and so he began his remarks with an acute observation.

Now, with a few exceptions, the mainstream media found three bits of “news” during Benedict XVI’s May trip to Brazil. There was, of course, the impromptu papal statement about politicians, abortion and the ecclesiastical benefits of contraception. There was the papal condemnation of drug-dealing (Surprise!). And there were a few lines in an 11-page speech to the bishops of Brazil, the Holy Father’s introductory remarks to the document with which he closed his pontificate. On the square, which had been closed off to the general public for security purposes, he continued: “Yes, I have just closed down. I’ve closed the square. I will no longer write my speeches in advance. Most of the people who have tried to rush the pope — and there have been many over the years — said they only wanted to be near the pontiff. If you feel the security is inadequate in the Vatican, then try to enter through the door even. This is absurd.”

The more elite security contingent that accompanies the pope’s jet typically includes the head of the Vatican gendarmerie corps and Swiss Guards. Dressed in suits, this team of about 10 agents walks briskly alongside the moving vehicle, scanning the route and the crowd for potential problems. Vatican officials have hinted that on some occasions, sharpshooters keep vigilance over papal events from Vatican rooftops adjacent to the square. Perhaps the biggest problem facing the pope’s “guardian angels” is distinguishing a real threat from a pilgrim’s overzealous observance. Most of the people who have tried to rush the pope — and there have been many over the years — said they only wanted to be near the pontiff. If you feel the security is inadequate in the Vatican, then try to enter through the door even. This is absurd.”

Scripture search

By Patricia Kasten

Gospel for June 17, 2007

Luke 7:36-50

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C: the story of a loving woman. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

Debts and love

By Bro. Robert L. Rice

Ecclesiastical economy

Letter continued from page 14

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Marian eyes state golf championship

SOUTH BEND — Focusing on an Indiana state prep golf championship is now in the minds of an inspired Mishawaka Marian High School team, which bagged its first regional championship since 2002.

The Knights edged their cross-town rivals, the Penn Kingsmen, by the margin of three strokes, 317 to 320, after being nipped earlier in the week by a single stroke from Penn.

Leading the Knights to victory at the regional was Adam Sumrall, who carded a 74, and won medalist honors, a feat he has been accustomed to winning several times this year in individual matches.

His teammate Colin Van Es shot a 77 after a good second round in which he made several excellent recoveries. Bryant Demeter had 81 and Stephen Sexton, 85. Nick Fitzpatrick had 83. Jenny Hunt and Michelle Fendel, a feat in itself.

In the championship game, Zink was not only a 2007 double state winner at the CYO track and field meet, but she won state titles in the shot put with a throw of 36 feet, 2 inches.

As an eighth grader, Zink was a four-quarter “A” honor roll student and played basketball at St. John.

Luers girls softball loses to Andrean in semistate

FORT WAYNE — The Bishop Luers girls softball team lost 4-1 to Merrillville Andrean in the IHSAA semistate softball finals at Pike High School.

Luers won a streak of 13 games and made its first-time appearance in the state finals. Twelve of the 14 players will return to Luers next year.

Saint Joseph’s baseball ends successful season

SOUTH BEND — Saint Joseph’s baseball Indians, under their first coach John Gumpf, wound up one of their most successful seasons ever with a 24-7 record after competing in the Indiana Class 3A tournament.

Although the Indians captured their first sectional in recent years, they were eliminated in the state semis by undefeated Norwell, 11-0, a game in which the undefeated Panthers stretched their winning margin to 33 games.

Norwell’s star pitcher held the Indians to a pair of singles and did not permit any player to reach second base in the contest, in which the Panthers scored in every inning. — EJD

Despite loss to Panthers, St. John Raiders sees team improvement

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — In the 2007 Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) year-end softball tournament, the St. Vincent Panthers defeated the lady Raiders from St. John New Haven.

The tournament was not seeded and the Raiders finished the regular season with a 3-3 record. The Raiders had a bye in the first round and lost 7-3 to St. Therese in the semifinals.

In just their second year of participating in fast pitch softball, Coach Vince Fendel was pleased with his Raiders’ performance. The assistant coaches for the Raiders this season, and he was pleased with her performance.

In the championship game, Zink had two hits against the Panthers ace pitcher Andrea Filler, a feat in itself.

Zink was not only a 2007 double state winner at the CYO track and field meet in the shot put and discuss, but set a new record in the shot put with a throw of 36 feet, 2 inches.

As an eighth grader, Zink was a four-quarter “A” honor roll student and played basketball at St. John.

Smallbone and Dockery on Indiana state prep team

SOUTH BEND — The rich girls’ basketball tradition at Saint Joseph’s High School became evident when two members of the Indiana state champion 2005 Class 3A team (and went on to help the team earn two consecutive semistate accolades) were selected on the Indiana state prep team, which will play two games with the Kentucky high school all stars.

The Saint Joseph’s players selected were Sidney Smallbone, a guard who will play at Tennessee, and Kristen Dockery, a 6-foot, 4-inch standout on rebounding.

The girls reported to DePauw University with games planned at Kentucky University on June 16 and Conseco Fieldhouse in Indianapolis on June 23. — EJD
Arlotta family commits gift for Irish lacrosse stadium

NOTRE DAME — University of Notre Dame graduate John Arlotta, chairman, president and chief executive officer of Denver-based Coram Inc., and his wife, Bobbie, have pledged a lead gift toward a new lacrosse stadium to be built to the east of the Joyce Center as part of the University’s new athletics quadrangle. The Arlottas’ children — Mindy, Andy and Jon — also have pledged an additional gift from The Arlotta Family Foundation toward the project.

The lacrosse stadium, to be named Arlotta Stadium, is expected to be a $5 million project.

Construction will begin once it is fully funded and architectural design plans are available. Conceptual plans suggest a 3,000-seat, lighted stadium that would include an artificial-turf field, locker rooms, restrooms and concession areas.

“We’re thrilled and grateful that the Arlottas’ gift will significantly enhance the positioning of our lacrosse programs at Notre Dame,” said Kevin White, the university’s director of athletics. “Both our men’s and women’s programs already are nationally competitive — and a new, top-quality facility will further their abilities to attract the very best student-athletes in the sport of lacrosse.”

The lacrosse project is part of the long-term athletics facilities master plan that ultimately will add a new softball stadium (groundbreaking took place last month on that facility), new stadiums for lacrosse, soccer, track and field and tennis, and three relocated football practice fields (one of them artificial turf), all in the area east and southeast of the Joyce Center. The university is actively seeking additional contributions for all of these projects.

The Arlottas said the reason for their gifts in support of the Irish lacrosse programs “was a combination of things. We absolutely fell in love with the game while living in Baltimore and, when considering how we could share some of our blessings and good fortune with Notre Dame, we concluded that the lacrosse programs met three critical goals that we had established for our gift to the university.

“First, we wanted to do something that would help both men and women. Second, we wanted to support programs that produced great student-athletes. And third, we wanted to do something that would make a difference. The lacrosse programs at Notre Dame met all three of these criteria.

“It was a bonus that (head coaches) Kevin Corrigan and Tracy Coyne and their respective coaching staffs are wonderful people who have built their programs from scratch. Helping them add the final piece to their puzzle, and compete each year for a national championship, is very exciting for our entire family.”

Arlotta is a 1971 graduate of Notre Dame who majored in marketing with a minor in transportation management.

May we recommend...
Summer TV choices offer some gems

BY HARRY FORBES

NEW YORK (CNS) — Here are some television program notes for the week of June 24 with their TV Parental Guidelines ratings if available. They have not been reviewed and therefore are not necessarily recommended by the Office for Film & Broadcasting.

STABAT MATER; from All Saint’s

Giovanni Battista Pergolesi's musical performance of Stabat Mater is beautifully evoked in The Passion of Christ and the grief Office for Film & Broadcasting.

THE WEEK OF JUNE 24

Sunday, June 24, 1:30-2:30 p.m. EDT (EWTN) "In Concert: Stabat Mater:"

The Passion of Christ and the grief of Mary are powerfully evoked in Giovanni Battista Pergolesi’s "Stabat Mater"; from All Saint’s Church in Aldwingle, England. Monday, June 25, 9-10 p.m. EDT (PBS) “History Detectives.”

The season premiere of the series that demonstrates that an object found in an attic or backyard might be anything but ordinary. Travel around the country to explore the stories behind local folklore, prominent figures and family legends. The objects in this episode include a portable projection screen that may have helped save the free world during the Cuban missile crisis; a possibly rare recording of the old radio series “Amos ’n’ Andy”; and a watercolor or painting printed with the words “Official Program Woman Suffrage Procession Washington D.C. March 3, 1913” (TV-PG — parental guidance suggested).

Tuesday, June 26, 10-11:30 p.m. EDT (PBS) “Sierra Leone’s Refugee All Stars.” If the refugee is today’s tragic icon of a war-ravaged world, then Sierra Leone’s Refugee All Stars, a reggae-influenced band born in the camps of West Africa, represents a real-life story of survival and hope. The six-member Refugee All Stars came together in Guinea after civil war forced them from their native Sierra Leone. Traumatized by physical injuries and the brutal loss of family and community, they fight back with the only means they have: music. The result is a tableau of tragedy transformed by the band’s inspiring determination to sing and be heard. The “P.O.V.” presentation was co-directed by Zach Niles and Banker White (TV-14/V — parents strongly cautioned; intense violence).

Wednesday, June 27, 9-9:30 p.m. EDT (PBS) “Paul Simon: The Library Of Congress Gershwin Prize For Popular Song.”

Paul Simon, one of America’s most respected songwriters and musicians, will be the recipient of the first annual Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song. Taped at the Warner Theatre in Washington, DC, the all-star gala concert features appearances by Yolanda Adams, Marc Anthony, Dixie Hummingbirds, Jerry Douglas, Art Garfunkel, Alison Krauss, Ladysmith Black Mambazo, Lyle Lovett, Stephen Marley, James Taylor and Buckwheat Zydeco (TV-G — general audience).

Specials

Saturday, June 30, 8-9 p.m. EDT (EWTN) “Fourteen Flowers of Pardon.”

A documentary of the life of St. Maria Goretti, who gave up her life to preserve her purity.

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What’s Happening?

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

Tolten Society plans luncheon
South Bend — The Tolten Society of St. Augustine Parish will have a men and women’s luncheon on Sunday, June 16, from 1 to 4 p.m. The speaker is Dr. John May Griffin on the topic “Heart of life can kill you if you let it.” Admission is free.

Deanery plans luncheon, meeting
Warsaw — The Elkhart deanery of the Council of Catholic Women will have a luncheon meeting on Thursday, June 21, at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish. The rosary will begin at 10:40 a.m. followed by Mass, lunch, meeting, entertainment and raffle. Reservations are $8 and needed by June 18 to Rita Blomeke for additional information (260) 837-7115.

Annual guest Sunday announced
Huntington — Invite a friend or neighbor to Guest Sunday, at St. Mary Church, 963 N. Jefferson St. on Saturday, June 23 at 5:15 p.m. or Sunday, June 24, at 8 or 10 a.m. A commentary will explain parts of the Mass. Refreshments to follow.

Benefit assists flounder children
Waterloo — There will be a community benefit for the Jim and Kristi Humer children, triplets with special medical needs who were born in 2000. A barbecue dinner, drawings and cake sale are slated Friday, June 15, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Waterloo Elementary School. The Hummers are members of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Waterloo. Contact Jan Blomeke for additional information (260) 877-7115.

Little Flower Holy Hour
Fort Wayne — Deacon Kevin Bauman will celebrate the Holy Hour at MacDougal Chapel on Tuesday, June 19, at 7:15 p.m. Deacon Kevin is a diocesan seminarian. Please join us in praying for priests and for vocations.

Spring potluck planned by ladies
South Bend — The Altar and Rosary of Sacred Heart of Jesus, Lakeville, will host the Area Council of Catholic Women Spring potluck on Tuesday, June 26. Father Thomas King will offer Mass at 11 a.m. at the church, with the luncheon following. All women are welcome but reservations are needed by Sunday, June 24, to Rosemary at (574) 291-2395.

Our Sunday Visitor seeks advertising sales representative

Our Sunday Visitor, one of the largest Catholic book and periodical publishers in the United States, currently seeks candidates for the position of editor of its OSV Newsweekly. Candidates must have a passion for Catholic journalism and a vision that embraces both print and web. Qualified applicants must have a degree in Journalism, Mass Media, Theology or related field, a minimum of 7 years of experience in an editorial function, in-depth knowledge of the Catholic Church, a working knowledge of new media, and an ability to work in a fast-paced, team environment.

A high premium is placed on candidates who exhibit passion, enthusiasm and initiative, and who also have demonstrated exceptional interpersonal and management skills. Excellence in both written and oral communication skills required. All applicants should send a resume with salary history to:

Human Resources Department
Our Sunday Visitor, Inc.,
200 Noll Plaza, Huntington, IN 46750
or email: hr@osv.com

Sales Representative

TODAY’S CATHOLIC, the official publication of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, seeks an experienced sales person, who is a practicing Catholic, to sell advertising space in this newspaper to established accounts, and to develop new accounts in the upper half (South Bend) of the diocese. Qualifications include good communication skills, the ability to work a minimum of 20 hours per week and experience with e-mail and Microsoft Office. To apply, send cover letter and resume to:

Kathy Denice, Business Manager
TODAY’S CATHOLIC
P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne, IN 46856
At St. Anthony Church in Angola this summer, the choir may make a departure from sanctified music. Franciscan Father Fred Pasche, pastor, would like to hear a takeoff on Gershwin’s “Summertime,” with the first line changed to say “Summertime, and the giving is easy.”

Such a tune could set a mellow mood as parishioners ponder pledges for a new church building to be built on a large empty lot facing West Maumee Street. Mass was first celebrated in Angola early in July of 1924 by Father Charles Scholl in the high school gym to accommodate summer visitors to the area.

After the lake season, the few area Catholics attended Mass in rented rooms above Elston’s Shoe Store on West Maumee Street. In July of 1931, the Franciscan Fathers of the Order of Friars Minor Conventuales were authorized by Bishop Noll to establish a novitiate for the order in Angola, and in the process, the Franciscans were charged with the care of St. Rita, which was then renamed St. Anthony in honor of the miracle worker from Padua.

On Oct. 11, 1940, ground was broken for a new church building on the grounds of the novitiate at 704 West Maumee. This church had a seating capacity of 400 persons but the resort season increased the demand to more than 1,500 and in May of 1959, a second church building was erected on the property, giving St. Anthony’s an “upper” church and a “lower” church.

In 1963 the “upper” church was closed and converted to classrooms for religious education and a church hall. And now, St. Anthony’s launches a major fund-raising campaign just as the overflow of summer visitors arrive. If all goes well in that direction, Father Fred Pasche may smile and hum another Gershwin tune called “S’wonderful.”

St. Anthony’s “upper” church was dedicated in July 1941 and used until Christmas 1963 when it was converted for religious education classes.

Twelve families made up the first Catholic congregation in Albion of what was then known as Sacred Heart Parish. They worshiped in a tiny $2,000 church located at what is now the southeast corner of Hazel and First streets. For its first 50 years, the small band of Catholics at Sacred Heart was served by priests from Avilla, Ege (Mass once a month, every third Sunday) Auburn and Kendallville.

By 1907 there were only nine families left in the parish, and late in 1924 the last Mass was said at Sacred Heart, and for the next five years, the faithful rode a school bus to Mass in Kendallville.

In 1929 Sacred Heart Church was torn down. The reestablishment of a Catholic church in Albion was actually the result of a meeting in a Methodist church in LaGrange where Father William Ehrman had been invited to be a guest speaker at an open house for several denominations.

Catholics in the audience met with Father Ehrman after the meeting and as a consequence, St. Joseph Parish in LaGrange was formed and on Feb. 22, 1931, the holy sacrifice of the Mass returned to Albion and was said in a room over the old post office on Orange Street. The pews were borrowed from Knipp Springs at Rome City and Father Ehrman and a local carpenter used hand tools and second hand lumber to build the Communication rail.

For the next 10 years, the church was once again a mission of Kendallville and then Ligonier, and as the congregation outgrew the rooms over the post office, a new church was built at the corner of North York and West Main streets and was formally dedicated on April 20, 1941.

Fifty years of further growth required another move, and in 1990 the little church just west of the courthouse was sold to Noble County and seven acres south of the city were purchased for the newest location of Blessed Sacrament in a large one story building, which was originally an IGA supermarket and was fondly nicknamed by some as “Our Lady of the Aisles.”

Today, Blessed Sacrament is once again a mission of St. Patrick, Ligonier. The parish is made up of about 120 families and sees a significant increase of worshippers from campers at nearby Chain O’ Lakes State Park.