The Eucharistic Congress
The diocesan event you won’t want to miss

BY KAY COZAD

NOTRE DAME — The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend whirls in action with final preparations for one of this year’s highlights in celebrating the Sesquicentennial Jubilee, the Eucharistic Congress. This day of spiritual renewal will be held on the campus of the University of Notre Dame on Saturday, Aug. 18, and all are invited to attend.

The Eucharistic Congress day begins at 10 a.m. with an ecumenical service at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart and will include morning and afternoon workshop sessions presented by local and national speakers on faith issues of interest for adults, youths and families alike throughout the University of Notre Dame campus.

Over two dozen exhibitors including merchants and religious orders as well as diocesan offices will be represented in the Joyce Center where participants are welcome to peruse their information tables as well as view the Catholic art exhibit. The exhibit will feature artwork from diocesan high schools and universities as well as stunning photographs of the historical artwork and icons of the parishes around the area taken by Sharon Little. Other ongoing special activities around campus include recitation of the rosary at the grotto, Stations of the Cross, reconciliation found across campus under the yellow umbrellas, eucharistic adoration and much more.

Following the final afternoon workshops a celebration of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary will take place.

A limited number of extra guides have been printed and will be at the information table at the Joyce Center.

OLD GOLD AND GHOSTS ...

Among the jewels, papal rings and items of special value in the Cathedral Museum is this chalice, which carries the engraved name of H. J. Alerding, who was the fourth bishop of this diocese. He died in 1924. His chalice is a 19th century gothic-design tulip chalice. The Cathedral Museum is located in the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center at 915 S. Clinton St. in Fort Wayne. It is open Tuesdays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There is no admission charge.

FORT WAYNE — Four times this year, registered Catholics in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend have received Today’s Catholic in a mass mailout directed toward one aspect of the Sesquicentennial Jubilee year. This is the final mailout, but it is very important.

Inside this issue is a program guide, which we ask you to bring to the Eucharistic Congress at the University of Notre Dame on Saturday, Aug. 18. This insert is the official guide for the day and contains the information you will need to get the most from the Eucharistic Congress. The insert contains information about the events of the day — general information, the workshops with their designated buildings and room numbers, prayers for eucharistic adoration, the rosary at the grotto, Stations of the Cross, reconciliation and places of interest on campus. A color map is located on the center of the guide and contains the directions to Notre Dame, parking for the event, bus stops, buildings associated with the event, reconciliation locations and places to eat.

A limited number of extra guides have been printed and will be at the information table at the Joyce Center.

The day’s opening eucumenical prayer service at 10 a.m. in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart will be a time for all Christians to join together in prayer.

At 4:30 p.m. everyone will gather for a closing Mass at the Joyce Center. Doors open at 3:30 p.m. The prelude, featured in this issue of Today’s Catholic, will be a highlight with a slideshow set to music by the diocesan choir.

If you have not yet registered for workshops you may check at the information table for possible workshop seats still available.

Today’s Catholic will feature the highlights of the Eucharistic Congress in the Aug. 26 issue — an issue sure to be a collector’s item. If you are not a subscriber or your subscription has lapsed, we would invite you to subscribe or renew.

For only $20 a year, Today’s Catholic comes to your home with news of the vitality of the Catholic Church here at home in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, in the United States and throughout the world. Today’s Catholic offers a digitally transferred issue through e-mail that looks exactly as the print version. Today’s Catholic Podcast, a 15-minute newscast, can be downloaded through iTunes, listened to directly from the www.diocesefwsb.org or on Sunday afternoons on Redeemer Radio — Catholic Radio 1450 AM in Fort Wayne.

Visit www.diocesefwsb.org for more information about the Eucharistic Congress.
Eucharistic Congress will bring many blessings upon our diocese

The Eucharistic Congress

Like so many of you, I look forward to this special day. Let us all pray for good weather. Modeled in part after the World Youth Day, we expect that, rain or shine, thousands will descend on the beautiful campus of the University of Notre Dame. I thank Father John Jenkins, CSC, Father Richard Warner, CSC, and all the Notre Dame staff for working closely with the diocese to make possible this observance of our faith. It will be on site at our Elkhart property that we should be at Notre Dame, where, in 1842, Father Edward Sorin, CSC, set up his camp by the lake near the St. Joseph River to chase after this great adventure. This regular day will bring many blessings upon our diocese, for it is a day of prayer, worship and teaching.

Worthy of the Gospel of Christ

It was always my hope, and the hope of others as well, that a history of this diocese, which was commissioned over five years ago, could be completed before, or even during, this Jubilee Year. It is completed. Only last week, Greg Erlandson, president of Our Sunday Visitor, brought me the first copy. Joseph White, Ph.D, who received his doctorate in history from the University of Notre Dame and is a resident of Indianapolis, is the author. I wrote a short “afterword” of about 14 pages concerning my years as bishop.

Dr. White, who many years ago wrote the history of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, begins the story with the earliest presence of Jesuit missionaries preaching to the native Americans. Drawing on the records in our own diocese and the excellent work of the Jesuits at the Universities of Notre Dame, along with other sources, he has presented the full story of our diocese. His book is a splendid component of our jubilee celebration. I am delighted to indicate that it will be on sale at the Eucharistic Congress, at our Cathedral Bookstore and at other local bookstores as well. There will be a 20 percent discount for those who purchase the book at one of our Eucharistic Congress. Dr. White himself will be at the Eucharistic Congress since he will be giving one of the presentations on the history.

We will also be honored by the presence of Archbishop Daniel Buechlein, OSB, who will help us begin the day with an ecumenical service at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. I am also pleased that Bishop Dale Melczek of the Diocese of Gary will be with us. It is appropriate that both be there. Our diocese was born years ago from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, and the Diocese of Gary was taken from this diocese just 50 years ago.

Please note that, by special act of Pope Benedict XVI, the papal blessing will be given to all those who come. This includes a plenary indulgence. The concept of this indulgence and the conditions are explained in the special program guide.

I will see you all at Notre Dame on Saturday, Aug. 17, 2007.

Culture of vocations

This is what we are trying to build. It takes time — years, effort and prayers. Two recent events have been inspiring. Just before going on vacation, I took part in a retreat, organized in great part by our seminarians — 23 young men, all high school graduates, attending — at Donaldson, Ind. I was very impressed by one question and also by an answer. The question of a young man who is a senior in college followed a presentation which I had given. The presentation followed the celebration of Sunday Mass. This young man spoke of being in love with a wonderful young woman and yet the desire to give himself to Christ as a priest remained. So he broke off the relationship to pray more. This was the second year he had been at this retreat. He said he was drawn in both directions and was still trying to make a decision.

About 25 young men attended these two events. The remarkable new film, “Fishers of Men,” with its great tribute to Pope John Paul II, was presented at the Fort Wayne meeting. It brought one of the young men to tears. There were excellent questions at both events. Short presentations were made by our seminarians, and I said a few words at the end urging them to become followers of Christ, to stay close to him and seek his help.

Some excellent questions followed, and the young men stayed around to meet the seminarians. The caliber of our seminarians is helping us. I have always believed that if we choose young men of good caliber and only such, when they become priests, they will draw similar candidates. The seminarians themselves are proving that by example, word and work, they can help to draw other young men to the priesthood. Keep this intention always in your prayers.

A visit with a friend

Archbishop Alfred Hughes of New Orleans is scheduled to come to us this week. As you know, we have a program in which every parish receives one missionary each year and a collection is taken up for that missionary. Most come from around the world, but sometimes priests or religious come from within our own country. Indeed, the whole world is missionary now. Archbishop Hughes and I were colleagues for many years at St. John’s Seminary in Brighton. We were spiritual directors. He is an admirable priest and has led his flock with wisdom and courage during and after the great Katrina tragedy. He lost churches and schools. The Catholic schools were opened in a very short time, and opened their doors to those who lost theirs. But the losses were great both from a human point of view and in real estate. We want to help them. It is our obligation. So, the archbishop will speak at all the Masses at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne, this weekend. It will be my privilege to accompany him at one of these Masses.

I am in the midst of two responsibilities which I undertake each summer. The first is a visit with every one of our candidates in the seminary. I find these visits both important and helpful. The second task is the installation of newly appointed pastors in a number of our parishes. The first great responsibility of a bishop is the decision about who should be ordained. A second great responsibility is the assignment of priests. The best thing a bishop ever does for a parish is to send a good priest.

Seven games ahead on Aug. 5, knowing always that the dreaded Yankees are lurking. See you at Notre Dame for the Eucharistic Congress.
CONGRESS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In an effort to truly bring the title of Christ will have their artwork display during the Marian theme will have their art—parish art will correspond to the specific sections of music. “It has been working to arrange other people’s work. It will be stunning when it’s done,” she says.

There are nearly 100 photos in the 30-minute presentation that will draw the faithful into the celebration and art.

The grand finale, says Hoy, will flash the art photos of the parish art with the choir performing “Come to the Living Stone.” This, he adds, is a special event, with the purpose, says master of ceremonies Jim Fitzpatrick of transforming the Joyce Center into a place of prayer.

Hoy agrees, saying, “People will see the face of Christ from our entire diocese through the artwork. It will prepare us for Mass as one body.”

Following the prelude, diocesan youth will carry the Jubilee Pilgrim Cross into the Joyce Center in an entrance procession including honor guard of the Knights of Columbus and a native Miami Indian tribe, along with members of five religious communities and St. Adalbert Parish in South Bend as an altar server.

Hoy says that his first assignment took him to St. Adalbert Parish in South Bend as an assistant rector where he served as pastor of St. Mary’s Preparatory School in Geneva and St. Aloysius, Yoder, before returning to St. South Bend to St. Adalbert Parish in June of 1972 where he was pastor for 19 years. In 1991, Father Kazmierczak’s health challenges forced him to reduce his workload, and he was assigned to St. Patrick in Wisconsin. Kazmierczak was ministered for two years. His final assignment was at St. Stanislaus Kostka in New Carlisle.

Father Kazmierczak’s health challenges forced him to reduce his workload, and he was assigned to St. Patrick in Wisconsin. Kazmierczak was ministered for two years. His final assignment was at St. Stanislaus Kostka in New Carlisle. Following health finally forced Father Kazmierczak into retirement during which time he moved back on the west side of the Mississippi in Fulton, Ill. Five years later he moved back to St. Joseph and set up house on the St. Joseph River. His final assignment was in South Bend, and his longtime friend and caregiver Barbara Mireles lived for the past two years.

Mireles, who met the priest while in first grade at St. Adalbert School, says of Father Kazmierczak, “He had a great love for being a priest. He was very compassionate and would do anything for his people.”

She recalls his compassion toward the sick and dying, when shortly after returning home following his own heart surgery, he ministered to a neighbor whose husband was dying. “He never had an answering machine. It never mattered what time it was. It was his desire to be there, not his duty.”

Father Kazmierczak was devoted to caring for his mother as well, until her death in 1996. Lou Ciesielski considers his friend Father Kazmierczak “the voice of the Polish community” who was, he says, very proud of his Polish heritage. “I believe he paved the way in the 1950s that the Polish priest assisted with displaced Polish refugees, teaching them English and finding them work. He was a man of compassion and would do anything for his people.”

A Mass of Christian burial was held for Father Kazmierczak on Saturday, Aug. 4, at St. Matthew Cathedral.

Black Catholics inspired by workshops at national congress

By May Lee Johnson

BUFFALO, N.Y. -- The drummers who narrate their own story, and the choir gospel songs were well received by members of the congress who said they “thank you, Jesus,” as the 10th National Black Catholic Congress opened in Buffalo, N.Y., on July 2-13.

Twenty-four Catholics from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend attended the 2,500 in attendance at the National Black Catholic Congress, with 96 dioceses represented in all.

The National Black Catholic Congress began in 1889 in Washington D.C. when Daniel Rudd, one of the first black Catholic newspaper men came up with the idea after traveling around the country meeting other black Catholics. It made black Catholics one of the first religious groups in the U.S. to hold a national conference for lay people. The congress, which is held every five years, works to establish a plan for the evangelization of black Catholics and to ensure their continued full participation in church and society.

This year’s theme was Christ Is With Us, the theme of the Gospels of the Sacraments. Attendees were challenged to look at ways the sacraments are related to the concerns of the black community.

The Black Catholic education, HIV/AIDS, parish life, social justice, racism, spirituality, youth and young adults were among the concerns.

Planning included a special youth track focusing on “Communion and Love,” “Discernment,” and “We Sin. We Reconcile. We Heal.”

“I’ve been to every congress so far and have really enjoyed each one. It’s a great place to be,” says Ann Schulte of Fort Wayne. “It’s because of the kindness of Bishop John M. D’Arcy that we were able to attend.”

“I especially enjoyed hearing Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory, who spoke about how important the church is to our lives. That was one of the highlights for me of this congress.”

“2002 started a church, but it’s going very slowly,” she said. “It depends on the choir director, and if we can sing songs that all the people will enjoy, it could go very slowly because our church is not ready for big changes.”

Holy Cross Brother Roy Smith, says the workshops at the congress were great. “I attended a workshop on immigration by Rev. Clarence Williams, CPPS, who has served for more than 30 years in the Archdiocese of Detroit and it was very well done and received,” he said.

Recently retired Bishop John H. Ricard of the Diocese of Pensacola in Florida reminded all in attendance of the role western New York played in help in the fight against racism and with the civil rights struggles, “Here Buffalo was the terminus of the Underground Railroad. Here in Buffalo, the Niagara Movement began, which birthed the NAACP,” he said. “You can find in the place of Harry Hurt’s bar and W.E.B. DuBois.”

Several participants from the diocese have enjoyed worshipping and fellowship with such a large group of Catholics.

“This is my first congress,” said Jane Wick of Fort Wayne. “Being here has renewed my appreciation of my faith.”

Father Eugene Kazmierczak dies at 81

By Kay Cozad

SOUTH BEND -- Father Eugene Kazmierczak, known to many as Father Kaz, died at the St. Joseph River, Aug. 1 after a long illness. He was 81. He leaves a legacy of compassion and ecumenism.

Born on May 13, 1926 in South Bend, N.J., the only child of Ann and Wenceslaus Kazmierczak, Father Kazmierczak attended Catholic grade school and public high school in St. Joseph River. At Syracuse University he became a chemistry teacher. Following a visit to the seminary in the late 1940s, he transferred to St. Mary’s College at Orchard Lake, where he earned a degree in liberal arts. He entered the Society of the Priests of St. Charles Borromeo at the University of Detroit Seminary, and after a two-year study at the university’s School of Theology, he was assigned to St. Patrick in South Bend as an assistant rector.

Father Kazmierczak was one of the first priests to work with displaced Polish refugees, teaching them English and finding them work. He was a man of compassion and would do anything for his people.”
HUNDREDS GATHER IN PRAYER FOR VICTIMS OF MINNEAPOLIS BRIDGE COLLAPSE

BY CHRIS WILLIAMS AND JULIE CARROLL

ST. PAUL, Minn. (CNS) — Hundreds gathered Aug. 2 at the Cathedral of St. Paul in St. Paul and St. Olaf Church in Minneapolis to pray for victims of the Interstate 35W bridge collapse in Minneapolis Aug. 1.

Coadjutor Archbishop John C. Nienstedt of St. Paul-Minneapolis led the cathedral prayer service, while Father Kevin McDonough, vicar general, presided at a Mass at St. Olaf.

At the cathedral, Archbishop Nienstedt said in his homily that God was not at fault for the disaster.

“That was the fault of human causes,” he added. “Indeed, my dear brothers and sisters, you and I together and all the citizens of these Twin Cities find ourselves today in the depths of distress.”

He acknowledged the “quick and professional response of the city and state officials, police officers and fire personnel, the (American) Red Cross and all those volunteers who assisted those afflicted in this horrible experience.”

“In moments of urgent need, it is a consolation to know that there are those who are ready, willing and able to lend a helping hand,” he said.

“In the face of this seemingly senseless tragedy, words fail to capture all that our hearts wish to say,” he added. “That is why we gather here today, to speak not with human words, but to allow God to speak in his own words.”

The bridge collapse, Archbishop Nienstedt said, points to “our finiteness and our limitedness as human beings.”

“Yes, this has been a catastrophe of historic proportions,” he said. “But out of such a tragedy, there is something for all of us. We are humble enough to admit to our own limitations and surrender our lives unto God, who has loved us from the beginning.”

After the homily, parishioners prayed and reflected quietly. During closing prayers, the archbishop told those gathered to take every opportunity to love their family members, neighbors and friends.

“This tragedy is another prime example of not knowing when the last time to reach out and say you love someone will be,” Archbishop Nienstedt said.

After the service, Dr. John Wheeler, a retired internal medicine physician and parishioner at St. Thomas Aquinas in St. Paul Park, reflected on the reason he was there.

“In simple words, I felt I had to do something,” said Wheeler as he wiped away tears. “I think there is just a real profound sadness that I found pervasive. In my neighborhood, I went for a walk this morning and I bumped into a few neighbors in St. Paul Park and they felt as I did.”

“I also thought about the tragedies that happen elsewhere in the world,” Wheeler told The Catholic Spirit archdiocesan newspaper. “We seem so insulated from that, like this couldn’t happen here. When we think about war-torn countries, like Iraq, every day a tragedy like this happens. We have become numb to that.”

At St. Olaf, people dressed in business attire filled the downtown church located just blocks from the tragedy. Before the noon Mass, they prayed quietly, lit candles and offered encouraging words to one another. One woman laid a bouquet of yellow roses next to a statue of Mary.

“We are brought home again to the reality today that we live life with a certain contingency, precariously,” Father Kevin McDonough said during his homily. “Things that we trust, roads and bridges and so on, are subject, because all of life is subject, to failure.”

“You can turn that into a message of fear,” Father McDonough added. “I don’t want it to be that for me, and I hope it’s not for you. Rather, it’s a reminder of how precious the day that we are given today is, the love that we live in today is, the gift of family and friends and, yes, work and play — how precious all of these things are.”

Father McDonough suggested that everyone take the opportunity to let people in their lives know that they love them.

Joan Eskew, a parishioner of St. Leonard of Port Maurice in Minneapolis who attended the Mass, said she relies on her faith to get her through difficult times.

“Heavens, yes, my faith helps me get through times like this,” she said. “You just have to believe it’s for a reason. God wouldn’t do this just to punish you. ... I’m just praying for (those involved).”

Molly Shelton, center, wipes tears from her eyes during an Aug. 2 prayer service at St. Olaf Catholic Church in Minneapolis for victims of the Interstate 35W bridge collapse. Prayer services for people of all faiths were held at St. Olaf and the Catholic cathedral in St. Paul the day following the rush-hour tragedy.
Bridgefolk helps Catholics, Mennonites grow together in Christ

BY HEATHER GRENNAN GARY

ELKHART — More than 115 peace-minded Catholics and sacramentally-minded Mennonites came to Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart in late July for the sixth annual Bridgefolk Gathering.

Participants from as far as Nova Scotia and Hawaii listened to presentations on baptism and identity, took part in service projects and toured and talked with each other for hours on the conference’s theme, “Who do we think we are? Catholics and Mennonites growing together in Christ.”

Bridgefolk is a grassroots group that comes together to “celebrate each other’s traditions, explore each other’s practices and honor each other’s contribution to the mission of Christ’s church.” Local chapters have sprouted up in a handful of locations, including Kansas, Ohio, Minneapolis-St. Paul and Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. The Michiana Bridgefolk chapter has 60 members.

Part of that is due to northern Indiana’s unique religious history and geography. In the 1840s and ‘90s, as Holy Cross priests and sisters settled in St. Joseph County and opened the University of Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s College, Mennonite and Amish settlers were moving to nearby Elkhart and LaGrange counties, which continue to have a strong Anabaptist presence. Still, little ecumenical interaction occurred between the two groups until Bridgefolk was formed.

“This is something neither Mennonites nor Catholics could have imagined just 10 years ago,” said Marlene Kropf, director of the Office of Congregational Life for Mennonite Church USA and co-chair of the Bridgefolk board along with Benedictine Abbot John Klassen of St. John’s Abbey in Collegeville, Minn.

Father Chris Smith, pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church in Goshen, read a letter of welcome from Bishop John M. D’Arcy at the 2007 Bridgefolk gathering.

Goshen, read a letter of welcome from Bishop John M. D’Arcy at the conference’s opening session: “The history of the relationship between our two communities, especially on the international level, has often been painful. But in you the Holy Spirit has found people who respect and honor prayer together, along with conversation, as a way of obtaining greater communion with the hope that the pain of the past can be put aside forever and be replaced by a communion of love.”

Mennonites trace their roots back to the Anabaptist movement of the 16th century, when early leaders like Menno Simons — a former Catholic priest — challenged the Protestant Reformation for not going far enough. Anabaptists faced decades of persecution from both Catholics and Protestants for their beliefs, which included separation of church and state, adult baptism, nonviolence and the importance of discipleship over doctrine. Today more than a million people belong to the Mennonite church.

Lupita Zepeda works for the diocese as a Catholic campus minister at Goshen College, a Mennonite school, and attended the conference because she wanted to learn about the beliefs of many Mennonite friends. “I didn’t know about the history, about the Mennonite culture and tradition,” she said.

A trip to the Menno-Hof Amish-Mennonite Information Center in Shipshewana was a highlight, but she said the entire experience left her feeling hopeful and gave her the tools to talk with other Catholics, Latinos in particular, about their Mennonite neighbors. “We have a lot of similarities,” Zepeda said. “Most importantly, they focus on Jesus Christ and we do, too.”

Many Bridgefolk participants are strongly committed to their own denomination but are interested in learning about the other, while some feel called to both traditions. A handful of the participants are in Catholic-Mennonite marriages. Abbey Dupuy of Luray, Va., is Catholic, and her husband is a Mennonite pastor. She points to the Mennonite commitment to peace and justice as something of a reminder for her.

“Peace and justice work is part of our Catholic tradition, too, and we could do more to follow the church’s social teachings,” she said. “Also, there’s such a strong sense of community among the Mennonites I know. They truly care for one another and share each other’s journeys. This inspires me to want to reach out to people in my Catholic parish and to be more connected to them.”

Dupuy says she also appreciates the gift of music that Mennonites shared at the conference. “I often wish we could help more Catholics to feel comfortable with congregational singing!”

Dupuy’s husband, George, finds parallel treasures in the Catholic Church. “Since many of the early Anabaptist reformers were Catholic clergy, our task is one of recovering what we lost, not simply learning something new,” he said. “We relearn the beauty of mystery and holiness in liturgy, with the Mass, and the gift of contemplation and silence from the mystics.”

Bridgefolk scheduled its next gathering a year from now at St. John’s Abbey in Minnesota. Brenda Bellamy of Seattle, Wash., hopes to be there. “What we’re doing won’t change the whole church,” she said, “but it’s a small step toward unity.”

Mary Lehman Yoder, pastor at Assembly Mennonite Church, Goshen, talks with Guadalupe Zepeda, a Catholic campus minister at Goshen College, during the 2007 Bridgefolk gathering on the campus of Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart.
French Cardinal Lustiger, Jewish-born promoter of dialogue, dies

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger, the Jewish-born French archbishop of Paris who defended the right of believers to have a say in public debates, died at the age of 80. He had been the voice of French Catholics for nearly a quarter-century and spoke out against anti-Semitism, as well as promoting Catholic dialogue with Jews and with the nation’s growing Muslim community. He had been in poor health for a long illness. The funeral was to be held Aug. 10 at the French capital’s Notre Dame Cathedral. Pope Benedict XVI called the cardinal a “perceptive intellectual” and “passionate pastor” who “put his gifts at the service of the faith” in order to bring the Gospel to all aspects of life and society. In a telegram sent to Archbishop Andre Vingt-Trois of Paris, the pope said Cardinal Lustiger was a “great figure of the church in France.” The late cardinal was “a man of faith and dialogue,” the pope said, praising his generous commitment to fostering ever more fraternal relations between Christians and Jews.

Supporters in Detroit pray for beatification of Father Solanus Casey

DETROIT (CNS) — Donald Veysey, a member of Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish in suburban Grosse Pointe Woods, was among the many supporters of Capuchin Father Solanus Casey’s cause for sainthood who came to St. Bonaventure Monastery in Detroit July 28-29 to pray for his beatification. Supporters of Father Casey’s cause filled the chapel of St. Bonaventure Monastery near downtown Detroit four times that Saturday and Sunday for Mass and novena prayers for his cause, at the 50th anniversary of his death. Veysey, 59, who was with one of his sons, John Anthony, 12, said he was there “for the opportunity to make prayer requests and to say thank you for the sale of my business and industrial buildings in a terribly depressed market.” He said he had grown up hearing about praying to Father Casey from an aunt who was a Sister of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. “All these years I’ve been praying for the health of our family business, for safety in the workplace and for our employees, and I have so much to be grateful for. And now I’m praying for job security, now that I’m an employee rather than an employer,” Veysey said.

Pope to visit Holocaust memorial, Marian shrine in Austria

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — During his visit to Austria this week, Pope Benedict XVI plans to stop at a Holocaust memorial in Vienna and to celebrate the 850th anniversary of Austria’s most important Marian shrine in Mariazell. The Vatican Aug. 3 released the official schedule of the pope’s Sept. 7-9 visit to Austria. It will be the seventh foreign trip of his pontificate. After his arrival in Vienna, the pope will pray at a 17th-century monument marking a victory of the Catholic Habsburgs during the Thirty Years’ War and stop at a Holocaust memorial in Jews’ Square. He will meet the country’s president and diplomats in the Hofburg Palace. Pope Benedict will celebrate Mass Sept. 8 outside the basílica of the Shrine of Our Lady of Mariazell, 80 miles southwest of Vienna, and lunch with Austria’s bishops. He will hold an evening prayer service with priests, deacons and members of religious orders. The pope will lead a procession in Vienna Sept. 9 and celebrate Mass in the city’s St. Stephen’s Cathedral, after which he will recite the Angelus prayer in the square outside the cathedral. He will visit the 12th-century Cistercian Abbey of the Holy Cross outside Vienna and meet with volunteers before returning to Rome.

Hong Kong Diocese revises translation of letter to Chinese Catholics

HONG KONG (CNS) — The Hong Kong Diocese has revised the Vatican’s Chinese translation of Pope Benedict XVI’s letter to Catholics in China. Cardinal Joseph Zen Ze-kiun of Hong Kong told the Asian church news agency UCA News that the original Chinese text contains many mistakes and that the revision was to “help those (Chinese) who don’t know foreign languages understand the letter’s original intention.” The cardinal, who presided over sessions at three parishes in mid-July to explain the papal letter’s content and context, spent a week revising the Chinese translation with experts. The revised text, which contains 20,086 characters including footnotes, was published in the July 15 issue of Kung Kuo Po, the diocesan Chinese weekly. In addition, 30,000 booklets of the revised text in traditional Chinese characters and another 30,000 in simplified characters were printed for free distribution. The Vatican issued the papal letter June 30 in the original Italian and in English, French and traditional and simplified Chinese translations. The Chinese versions each had 19,763 characters.

Bulgarian accused, absolved of involvement in plot to kill pope dies

SOFIA, Bulgaria (CNS) — Sergei Antonov, accused by Pope John Paul II’s would-be assassin of being part of a Soviet bloc plot to kill the pope in 1981, was found dead in his Sofia apartment. Bulgarian police confirmed the death of the 58-year-old Antonov Aug. 1, but said his death had occurred several days earlier. He apparently died of natural causes. Antonov was deputy manager of the Bulgarian state airline’s Rome office in the early 1980s. Mehmet Ali Agca, the Turk captured in St. Peter’s Square moments after shooting the pope and convicted of attempted murder for the crime, had told Italian investigators that Antonov and two employees of the Bulgarian Embassy in Rome were involved in the shooting. He said the Bulgarians were acting on instructions from the Soviet secret police. Antonov was arrested, but an Italian court ruled in 1986 that there was not enough evidence to convict the Bulgarians.

World must come together to address poverty, ex-U.N. official says

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) — Some 850 million people in the world — half of them children — are hungry every day. A sixth of the world’s population is hungry, malnourished and lives in poverty. Every day, 25,000 people — including 18,000 children — die of malnutrition. Those sobering and heartbreaking statistics can be eliminated, according to James Morris, if more individuals, churches, community organizations and governments support poverty-relief efforts in the U.S. and abroad. Morris, an Indianapolis resident who served as executive director of the United Nations’ World Food Program, shared compelling stories about his international efforts during a June 2009 conference as the 10th executive director of the world’s largest food aid organization. During 2006, the World Food Program fed 88 million people in 78 countries with $2.9 billion in contributions.

Cardinal Rodriguez to chair group dedicated to new evangelization

DALLAS (CNS) Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga of Tegucigalpa, Honduras, has agreed to succeed Cardinal Nicolas de Jesus Lopez Rodrigo of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, as chairman of the New Evangelization of America. Retired Bishop Charles V. Grummer of Dallas, who had headed the New Evangelization of America for the Synod of Bishops for America the year before, the New Evangelization of America is focused on the evangelization of the Catholic Church through mass communication.

Pro-life walkers pray inside Indianapolis church

Indianapolis. The group was participating in Crossroads Pro-Life Walk Across America.

Pro-life walkers Alzbeta Voboril of Wichita, Kan., Beth Ann Flessner of Madison, Miss., Tina Hardy of Buffalo, N.Y., and Jason Handcock, a seminarian for the Diocese of Sacramento, Calif., pray during a July 21 Mass at St. Michael the Archangel Church in Indianapolis. The group was participating in Crossroads Pro-Life Walk Across America.
Sister marks 50 years with Victory Noll congregation

HUNTINGTON — Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sister Rose Zita Rosante, is in her golden jubilee as a member of the congregation. Born in Carroll, Iowa, Sister Rose Zita entered the congregation from Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish in Mt. Carmel, Iowa.

During Sister Rose Zita’s 50 years with the Victory Noll congregation, she has served in religious education and youth ministry in Michigan, California, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, Indiana (Fort Wayne and Victory Noll) and New Mexico. She was the religious education coordinator at Most Precious Blood Parish, Fort Wayne, from 1992-1996. For the past seven years she has ministered among her sisters at the motherhouse in Huntington in chapel ministry. At present Sister Rose Zita is participating in a sabbatical renewal program as preparation for ongoing life and ministry.

Sister Rita Musante celebrates golden jubilee

HUNTINGTON — Sister Rita Musante, OLVM, celebrated her 50 years with the Congregation of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters on Aug. 4.

Father Edward Rugez presided at the eucharistic celebration that took place in the Archbishop Noll Memorial Chapel at Victory Noll.

Sister Rita was born in Warren, Pa., and entered the community from St. Joseph Parish. She has served in California, Utah, Michigan and Indiana (San Pierre, Fort Wayne and at Victory Noll). Her ministry has included catechetics, pastoral associate in spiritual development, liturgist and hospital chaplain. She was the Director of Elizabeth House of Prayer, Fort Wayne, from 1996 to 2006, and she served as pastoral associate at St. Vincent Parish from 1990 to 1994. Currently she resides at Victory Noll where she assists with the prayer and other motherhouse services and at the Victory Noll Ministry Center providing retreats, spiritual direction and other prayer and spiritual ministries.

Schedule announced of priest presenters on Redeemer Radio

FORT WAYNE — Priests presenting “Reading and Reflections” on Redeemer Radio Catholic Radio 1450, will be the following:

- Aug. 6-10, Father Robert D’Souza, St. Jude, Fort Wayne
- Aug. 13-17, Father Glenn Kohrman, St. Mary of the Lake, Culver
- Aug. 20-4, Father Jonas Benson Okoye, visiting priest from Nigeria
- Aug. 27-31, Father Edward Fernando, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne
- Sept. 3-7, Father Ron Kieder, OFM, Cap., Sts. Peter and Paul, Huntington
- Sept. 10-14, Father Kenneth Sarrazine, St. Joseph, Roanoke
- Sept. 17-21, Bishop John M. D’Arcy, bishop, Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend
- Sept. 24-27, Father Anthony Steenacker, St. Charles, Fort Wayne

Kyle Grabowski honored as Eagle Scout

FORT WAYNE — Boy Scout Troop 20 recently honored Kyle M. Grabowski for his achievement of Eagle Scout at a Court of Honor in the Msgr. Faber Activities Center at Queen of Angels Church. Kyle is the son of Robert and Julie Grabowski of Fort Wayne. The family are active members of the parish, especially the Scouting program.

An Eagle Scout designation has always carried with it a special significance. Not every boy who joins a Boy Scout troop earns the Eagle Scout rank; in fact, only about 5 percent of all Boy Scouts do so. To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout must fulfill requirements in the areas of leadership, service and outdoor skills. Additionally, an Eagle Scout must have completed at least 21 merit badges and organized a service project that benefits his church, community or school.

Kyle directed the design and installation of a handicap-accessible pew in the congregational area of Our Lady Of Good Hope Church, Fort Wayne.

Kyle joined Scouting in 1997. As a Cub Scout, he earned the Parvuli Dei religious award in 2001 and, in 2002 earned their highest award, the Arrow Of Light. As a Boy Scout, he has earned the Den Chief Service Award in 2003 and the Ad Altare Dei religious award in 2004.

Kyle is a junior at Bishop Dwenger High School.

Our Sunday Visitor to host regional stewardship conference in Ohio

HUNTINGTON — Our Sunday Visitor Inc., a leader in Catholic stewardship initiatives, is hosting their first one-day event, A Day of Living Catholic Stewardship, to be held at the Cleveland Crowne Plaza-City Centre in downtown Cleveland, Ohio. The event is set for Friday, Nov. 16, and marks a new milestone in Our Sunday Visitor’s dedication to providing practical and affordable stewardship education.

A Day of Living Catholic Stewardship is designed to answer the large demand for continued stewardship education in the Ohio Region. This is Our Sunday Visitor’s first day-long event and is modeled after previous three-day, national Living Catholic Stewardship conferences in Indianapolis (2006) and Louisville, Ky. (2007).

“There was an enormous call-in the area for additional stewardship education,” said Julie Kenny, stewardship services manager with Our Sunday Visitor, Inc. “Our goal is to supply an affordable regional solution to parishes and dioceses by providing relevant workshops and expert speakers in the form of a one-day event.”

The lineup for A Day of Living Catholic Stewardship boasts stewardship experts from the region and around the country. Regional presenters include Father Edward Estok, Marian Rubin, Lyn Schott and Father Ron Warsch. National stewardship experts Jim Kelley, Mark Mogilka, Father Dan Mahan, and keynote speaker, and Bishop Robert Morneau of Green Bay, will also be presenting. Workshops are similar to those offered in Indianapolis and Louisville including sessions on prayer, liturgy, spirituality, multiple parish ministry, parish communications materials and the stewardship process.

For registration information on A Day of Living Catholic Stewardship, please visit www.osvendvelopes.com, or call (800) 348-2886 ext. 2590.

Missionaries of the Precious Blood launch public phase of Missionary Hearts Campaign

CARTHAGENA, Ohio — The Missionaries of the Precious Blood are launching a $7 million comprehensive fund-raising campaign, their first major funding effort in 45 years and only the second such effort since the congregation arrived in this country in 1844.

The campaign, entitled Missionary Hearts: Serving the People of God Today and Always, is meant to raise money for continued improvements to St. Charles Center in Carthageana, Ohio; for the support of retired members; to educate candidates to become priests and brothers; and to establish an endowment fund for the congregation’s missions and ministries in the U.S. and abroad.

Missionary Hearts will help the congregation realize its dreams for coming generations of church ministers, and will help ensure that its missions in Rome City and Florida, where they serve nearly 70,000 people, they sponsor two colleges in Rome and St. Joseph’s College, Rensselaer, and Calumet College of St. Joseph in Whiting. They administer the Sorrowful Mother Shrine in Bellevue, Ohio, which is visited by over 100,000 pilgrims each year. They have established missions in Chile, Peru and Guatemala and are exploring a new mission in Colombia.

The congregation would welcome any gifts from individuals who are moved to help with the Missionary Hearts campaign. “We know that our priests and brothers have been an important part of a number of people’s journeys,” said Father Larry Hemmelgarn, a Missionaries of the Precious Blood who is the director of mission development. “This could be a way to honor them and to help them extend their ministry to others.”

For more information on Missionary Hearts or on the congregation, contact Father Hemmelgarn at (937) 228-9263 or mission-dir@cpps-precious-blood.org

PROVIDED BY JON STOTTS

AROUND THE DIOCESE

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- Aug. 27-31, Father Edward Rugez, priest for the support of retired members; to educate candidates to become priests and brothers; and to establish an endowment fund for the congregation’s missions and ministries in the U.S. and abroad.

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The rosary ... a weapon for peace?

BY DIANE FRIEBY

As we head into August and the celebration of two Marian feast days — the Assumption of the Virgin Mary on Aug. 15 (a holy day of obligation) and the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Aug. 22 — we might take time to ponder the life of Jesus through the eyes of the person closest to him, the Blessed Mother.

“The rosary is by its nature a prayer for peace, since it consists in the contemplation of Christ, the prince of peace, the one who is ‘our peace’ (Eph. 2:14),” wrote Pope John Paul II in his 2002 encyclical, “Rosarium Virginis Mariae.”

More than a mere repetition of Hail Marys and Our Fathers, the rosary is a contemplative prayer designed to bring us closer to Jesus.

“The contemplation of Christ has an incomparable model in Mary,” explains Pope John Paul II. “Mary lived with her eyes fixed on Christ, treasuring his every word: ‘She kept all these things, pondering them in her heart.’ (Lk 2:19, 51). The memories of Jesus, impressed upon her heart, were always with her, leading her to reflect on the various moments of her life at her Son’s side. In a way those memories were to be the ‘rosary’ which she recited uninterrupted throughout her entire earthly life.”

So how can praying the rosary have meaning for us in our modern, fast-paced and often anxious world?

We need look no further than two things most threatened by evil: Peace and the family.

Reflecting on the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, the pope referred to this as a “millennium which witnesses fresh scenes of bloodshed and violence.”

“To rediscover the rosary means to immerse oneself in contemplation of the mystery of Christ who is ‘our peace,’ since he made ‘the two of us one, and broke down the dividing wall of hostility’ (Eph 2:14).”

Pope John Paul II continued, “One cannot recite the rosary without feeling caught up in a clear commitment to advancing peace, especially in the land of Jesus, still so sorely afflicted and so close to the heart of every Christian.”

In order to attain peace in our world, we must first attain peace in our own families. This is sometimes easier said than done, with our busy lives often pulling us in different directions. When families come together, frequently the television is the focal point. Yet, the old saying “the family that prays together stays together” still holds true. Pope John Paul II emphasized, “Individual family members, in turning their eyes toward Jesus, also regain the ability to look one another in the eye, to communicate, to show solidarity, to forgive one another and to see their covenant of love renewed in the Spirit of God.”

In praying the rosary, as both a scriptural meditation on the life of Christ and as supplication, we receive untold graces. Pope John Paul II explained, “When in the rosary we plead with Mary, the sanctuary of the Holy Spirit (Lk 1:35), she intercedes for us before the Father, who filled her with grace, and before the Son born of her womb, praying with us and for us."
Bishops embrace initiative to build culture of marriage

BY LAUREN CAGGIANO

C an a few simple random acts of kindness every now and then improve a marriage? The Catholic Church seems to think so.

The NPIM

According to the Web site www.ForYourMarriage.org, in response to several factors, which include the high divorce rate, an increase in cohabitation and a declining marriage rate, Catholic bishops nationwide have gathered to address the need of building a culture of marriage in today’s society. The outcome of the bishops’ concern was the formation of the National Pastoral Initiative on Marriage (NPIM), a seven-year project aimed at communicating the meaning and value of married life for the church and society. The bishops launched the media phase of the initiative at the annual meeting of the National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers in Denver.

But why are the bishops acting now in particular?

In introducing the initiative in 2004, Bishop J. Kevin Boland said: “As leaders of the Catholic Church in the United States, we can help to create a positive climate that places healthy marriages at the heart of strong families, a strong nation and a strong and holy church. This is a pastoral moment we should seize upon.”

The campaign

Their media campaign has gained recent attention for its grassroots ecumenical approach. According to the Web site, the campaign includes three 60-second television messages, three 30-second television messages, three 60-second radio messages and four 30-second radio messages. The campaign will be released in three phases, each with a different series of TV and radio messages, over an 18-month period. The first phase has been released to approximately 1,200 television stations, 500 cable stations, broadcast and cable networks and 5,000 radio stations, beginning in late June 2007.

“What Have You Done For Your Marriage Today?”

The television ad campaign features ordinary couples from a variety of ethnic backgrounds sharing what they have done lately to enrich their marriages. Click on the “View TV Spots” section on the Web site and you’ll hear a few of the testimonies.

A husband shares how he watched the baby while his wife worked. One wife got up with the baby while her husband slept. Another thoughtful husband left a reassuring note on the mirror in response to his wife’s anxiety over a hair cut gone wrong. These gestures are nothing life changing, but they are sweet reminders of marital love and commitment.

The messages end with an invitation to visit www.ForYourMarriage.org for its practical resources for people of all faiths and in all phases of marriages, including those preparing for marriage. As the Web site’s tag line states, couples can find “resources for living happily ever after.”

Sheila Garcia, the associate director at the USCCB (U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops), said the spots’ clear message and light-hearted approach is what appeals to people.

“It’s the little things that can make a difference,” according to Garcia. “ ‘What have you done for your marriage today?’ is a question you can ask yourself everyday. ‘What kind of a person do I want to be?’ ”

Furthermore, Garcia said the For Your Marriage Web site is well received because the content can be easily understood and implemented in couples’ daily lives.

“It’s a real Web site with real issues,” she said. “The content was written by people who have experience with (marriage). That’s why it rings true,” she added.

The For Your Marriage public service advertising campaign and Web site were created for the USCCB by Crosby Marketing Communications of Annapolis, Md. Catholic dioceses nationwide will have the opportunity to create custom versions of the messages with local contact information.

Funding for the service project was provided by the Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC), an activity of the USCCB which develops media programming, public service announcements and other resources to promote Gospel values. The budget for the campaign and Web site was $600,000.

What’s next?

The media campaign is the second phase of the bishops’ three-part initiative. The current communications phase of the campaign followed a period of research and consultation with married couples from 2005 to 2007.

The bishops are expected to vote on a pastoral letter on marriage in November of 2008. The campaign is scheduled to wrap up in 2011 with the implementation and development of pastoral resources followed by an evaluation.

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Open House Every Friday 12 - 4 p.m.
The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, with a grant from Our Sunday Visitor, has commissioned Dr. Joseph M. White to write a history in celebration of the Sesquicentennial Jubilee Year.


“After Archbishop (John) Noll’s death, Catholics across the diocese waited five months for news about their new bishop. On Jan. 2, 1957, Archbishop Amleto Cicognani announced from Washington, D.C., that Pope Pius XII had on Dec. 29, 1956, appointed the diocese’s apostolic administrator, Bishop Leo Pursley, as the sixth bishop of Fort Wayne. The announcement included the momentous news that the Holy See had designated four northwestern Indiana counties — Lake, Porter, LaPorte and Starke comprising 1,807 square miles, with 124,000 Catholics — to form the Diocese of Gary. …

“This long overdue partition of the Fort Wayne diocese’s most populous area had been postponed while Archbishop Noll lived. Pursley, then, began his work as ordinary of a diocese reduced in area and halved in Catholic population. As centers of Catholic population, the diocese had populous Allen and St. Joseph counties among its 14 counties comprising 5,792 square miles, with 124,000 Catholics. In the first phase of Pursley’s leadership — 1957 to 1965 — the steady increase of the Catholic population and the growth of church activity coincided with a strong adherence to the inherited patterns of worship, education, services and lay activities. …

“In response to the diocese’s recently altered boundaries, Pursley obtained from the Holy See a change of its formal title to that of ‘Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend,’ in a decree from the Congregation of the Consistory dated July 22, 1960. He sought the change to procure the good of souls more effectively to his home diocese for the religion and charity conducted there, and to more effectively unify the clergy, religious and laity in common support of diocesan causes, as well as general interests and objectives of the church.’ With the diocese’s renaming, the new St. Matthew Church in South Bend was promoted to the rank of the diocese’s co-cathedral.

…”The nation’s postwar ‘baby boom’ was reflected in the diocese’s continued population growth, especially in St. Joseph and Allen counties. …

“The first decade of Pursley’s administration — dating from his appointment as apostolic administrator in March 1955 — prompted him to reflect on the diocese’s material progress, especially of schools. He reported that in the past 10 years the diocese had built 25 new churches, 29 new and enlarged grade schools, three new high schools, 25 new parish convents, 18 new rectories, and 10 new parish halls. Construction costs amounted to $24,756,768. Equipment added $4,652,700 for a total of $29,409,468 — for a ‘decade of development perhaps more rapid and certainly more costly than any previous period’ in the diocese’s history.

…”On Oct. 18, 1976, Bishop Pursley retired to Huntington, halfway between relatives in Fort Wayne and his native Hartford City. …”“An extraordinarily conscientious man, Pursley was trained for an era in the life of the Catholic Church that was not destined to last until the end of his active years. At age 63 in 1965 when Vatican II ended, his familiar world of ecclesiastical certainties, with its sure lines of authority from top to bottom, gave way to a more complex one. Ideas came from many directions. Sorting them out would challenge the most able and thoughtful. Yet in the decade preceding his retirement, Pursley carried out to the best of his ability the reforms of Vatican II and, in keeping with the new definition of the church as the ‘People of God,’ implemented the new idea of involving the laity as well as clergy and religious in taking a greater responsibility for the church with the creation of councils at parish and diocesan levels. It was an honorable legacy that he left.”

Bishop Pursley died at Fort Wayne on Nov. 15, 1998.
have given numerous school presentations, 40 in the state of Texas, using visuals and props, including an apple picker’s bag and color transparencies of the illustrations.

The book was first published in 1996 followed by the Spanish language edition in 1999. In May, 2003 Purdue University selected “Apples for Life” and developed a unit on capital resources, an economics program for use in the classroom. Zepeda has also been a keynote speaker for an Indiana state migrant worker bilingual organization.

“It was an experience,” he said. “I thought, ‘What am I doing? I went to school in Mexico for about a year and a half, I came here with no education; learned ABC’s picking cotton in West Texas. When I was 17, I could read a little. No way (did I think) I’d do writing. I started writing at 45 years old. Something inspired me to write and write and write. I wrote while I was driving a truck.”

But Zepeda said he never thought when he started writing that he’d write a book. His first published writing was a book of poetry, “Lagrimas y Sonrisas” (“Smiles and Tears”) in 1983.

The book is a collection of poems, jokes, short stories and songs written in Spanish for adults.

Their latest project, the “Mouse Family” series was inspired by the floods in Mississippi in the mid 1990s. “I saw on the news the National Guard helping ranchers and helping farmers get the animals out, even lifting the cows up with a helicopter and I thought, ‘What about the little animals no one cares about’ like this family,” Adan explained.

In book one, “The Mouse Ark,” papa mouse is away and mama mouse puts the children in a log for safety. They spend the story traveling around in their log, the “ark.”

In the most recently released book “The Land of Cheese,” the log lands the family on a landfill. The “Mouse Family” is a four-book series — “The Land of Crows” will be book three and the final story will be “Papa’s Story.” The manuscripts are written. However, the completion of the books is a lengthy process for two reasons, the illustrations and the translation. The “Mouse Family” books are bilingual.

The translation process has proven to be a challenge. “Every part of Mexico has different dialects and I want words the kids understand, not big words,” Zepeda said.

And that means sometimes the word in Spanish is not what the author meant in English. Zepeda said when he first began writing he composed his work in Spanish, but over the years that has changed to predominantly English.

“He (Adan) always tells me we can have a word for word translation, but it’s like cooking without spaces.” The translator of the book must understand the message and picture Adan is trying to paint with his words. Zepeda started drawing and creating artwork when she was eight years old with no formal training. “But I can remember sitting behind my mom’s chair scribbling in the dark when I was supposed to be in bed.”

In addition to the books she’s illustrated for Adan she illustrated two others, “Little Field on the Corner” and “The Little Fir.”

She says, “The Land of Cheese” took two years to illustrate. “One picture on the page can take three to four days, longer if it’s more detailed.”

Some of the illustrations have local and personal connections like Adan’s name and address on a torn envelope in the landfill. The illustrations in the “Mouse Family” books are original illustrations and 24 different pencils were used from hard to soft depending on the detail needed. When asked why these books were in black and white the answer was simply a matter of economics. “It cost at least two times more to print in color” and the pair prepay for publishing their books and recoup their investment with the sales of the book.

Some of the books are listed on Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble and are found in local bookstores and libraries. However most of the sales are handled by the pair, by word of mouth, book signings, presentations and participation in the annual Spring into Arts Festival in Nappanee.

Something else the author and the illustrator have in common is a shared kinship with St. Teresa of Avilla. Adan’s father is originally from Avilla, Spain and he believes there is a family connection somewhere with the mystical saint. St. Teresa has always been Nancy’s patron saint.

The message of the “Mouse Family” books is one of families sticking together, looking out for one another and of hope, just like St. Teresa and helping farmers get the animals out, even lifting the cows up with a helicopter and I thought, ‘What about the little animals no one cares about’ like this family,” Adan explained.

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**Are you celebrating your 25th or 50th Wedding Jubilee in 2007?**

Bishop John M. D’Arcy will celebrate two Wedding Jubilee Masses

In South Bend, the Mass will take place at the Cathedral of St. Matthew September 9, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. with a reception immediately following at St. Matthew’s School.

In Fort Wayne, the Mass will take place at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception September 23, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. with a reception immediately following at the Grand Wayne Center.

YES...We are celebrating our (please check one)

(____) 25th Jubilee  (____) 50th Jubilee

We will attend Mass in (____) South Bend (____) Fort Wayne Attend Reception (____) YES (____) NO

Number of family members attending reception with us (____) DATE OF MARRIAGE

Name__________________________________________________________Address______________________________
City_______________________________________Phone______________________________Parish you currently attend__________________________

R.S.V.P. no later than August 30, 2007 for South Bend and September 13, 2007 for Fort Wayne.

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**FATHER DAVID RUPPERT INSTALLED AS PASTOR**

Bishop John M. D’Arcy installed Father David Ruppert as pastor of St. Therese Parish in Fort Wayne July 29. A happy Father Ruppert told the congregation that the day was like Christmas morning for him. This is Father Ruppert’s first parish as a pastor. As a deacon he served one summer at St. Therese and says he feels at home in his new pastorate.
Reverence is found in the heart

In all the publicity and discussion about Pope Benedict’s decision to allow wider use of the Tridentine Mass, one common thread seems to reappear: Most of the people who prefer the old Latin Mass speak about the lighting of the sense of reverence inspired by the old Mass form.

Reverence is a sense of respect, awe and even love, according to the dictionary. However, as one liturgist pointed out, reverence isn’t something peculiar to the old Mass: People in the congregation, as well as priests, need to practice a deep sense of reverence celebrating either Mass form.

Indeed, the pope goes on to say: “The celebration of the Mass according to the Missal of Paul VI will be able to demonstrate even more powerfully than has been the case hitherto, the sacrality which attracts many people to the former usage. The most sure guarantee that the Missal of Paul VI can unite parish communities and be loved by them consists in its being celebrated with great reverence in harmony with the liturgical directives.”

So, rather than expecting the Mass form to make us more reverent, we need to rejuvenate our reverence in our own hearts and learn how to practice it. We would like to see parish-wide and even diocesan-wide discussions and education about how to achieve that sense of appropriate solemnity for priests and people.

A terrible tragedy provides a reminder

The terrible tragedy of the bridge collapse in Minnesota provides us with important reminders for all of us.

It reminds us that we never know when we will be called to our eternal destination. And so we must live in the state of grace and be prepared to account for our lives each and every day.

It reminds us that the routine “goodbyes” to loved ones may turn out to be the final goodbye, so we should depart the house each day with an “I love you” rather than a grudge.

It reminds us of the basic goodness of our fellow citizens who rushed to help the victims. News reporters routinely used the term “Good Samaritan” to report these actions, and surely this is what Jesus meant for us to do.

And it reminds us that out of every tragedy, good can come when we reach out to help other people either by direct action or by offering sympathy and prayer.

A short pilgrimage

We see in the news that Italian Premier Romano Prodi wants to revive and restore several of the routes used by medieval Christian pilgrims to reach Rome. He’s particularly interested in restoring the Via Francigena, which started in Canterbury, England, proceeded through France and crossed east central Europe, and now India.

The Via Francigena covered about 1,200 miles, and it normally took medieval Christians about three months to make the journey. Medieval people made pilgrimages to be in the presence of a holy person, or to do penance or to offer thanksgiving for graces received. And the pilgrims witnessed their faith to all the people they encountered along the way just by their presence.

Regrettably, most Catholics in this diocese won’t have the opportunity to tread any of the famous pilgrimage routes in Europe. Many of us might even have the opportunity to make the short pilgrimage to the Eucharistic Congress this Saturday at the University of Notre Dame. We assume holy people will be there, and we know that everyone could stand to do a little penance and thank God for his graces.

At the very least, our presence at the event will, in itself, witness to our faith, and we don’t even have to climb a mountain to get there.

Today’s Catholic editorial board consists of Bishop John M. D’Arcy, Ann Carey, Don Clemmer, Father Mark Gutten, Father Michael Heintz, Tim Johnson and Vince LaBarbera.

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 11690 • Fort Wayne, IN 46856-1169 or e-mail to: editor@fw.dioecesefwsb.org

Lord, please don’t hear this prayer: a reprise

A while back, I noted with a touch of asperity that the “Prayer of the Faithful” too frequently deteriorates into serial sermons, an Archdiocese innovation without foundation in the church’s liturgical tradition. I was particularly scornful of petitions that politicize the liturgy by promoting, as self-evidently desirable objects of the Lord’s attention, various planks in the Democratic platform.

We might expect such an objection would, of course, apply to petitions drawn from the Republican playbook, but given the ambience of “pro-life” and “pro-family” petitions in the Tridentine Mass, the conclusion is inescapable: Our (private) prayers might seek the almighty would be better directed at another question: When was the last time you heard a petition that used the phrase “holy church,” or that invoked the divine mercy “for the salvation of the entire world”? (Which raises another question: When was the last time you heard a petition that invoked the divine mercy “for the salvation of the entire world”? Not recently, I bet.)

What to do? The answer, as I suggested before, is austerity: the integrity of the prayer requires us to use simple, even formulaic, petitions — for the universal church; for the local church; for civil authorities; for special local needs; for peace; for Christian unity; for the salvation of the world; for the dead — and leave it at that.

Like the refugees at the beginning of Casablanca who look longingly, and heavenward, at that overflying DC-3, we want. And wait. And wait.

Why set “capital gain” over-against “Jesus’ love for the poor,” as if the two were mutually exclusive?

The Catholic Difference

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

TODAY’S CATHOLIC 13AUGUST 12, 2007

Whispers in the Church

“The Latin Mass,” “Summorum Pontificum,” will they serve as a movement toward reconciliation?

In the July 29th edition of Today’s Catholic, “Benedict’s summer splash,” Father James Seculoff is quoted as saying that “prayer groups of the Tridentine Mass in the diocese could be detrimental to the small community who attend the Tridentine rite.” Father Seculoff is quoted as saying:

“With due respect to Father Seculoff and those who support him, many ways this goes against the spirit of ‘Summorum Pontificum.’ Since the publication of the Missal of Paul VI in 1970 and more recently since John XXIII issued ‘Ecclesia Dei,’ the ‘Latin Mass’ communities have to a large degree existed outside of what we might call the mainstream of the life of the church. I believe that the purpose of ‘Summorum Pontificum’ is to bring the Tridentine Mass into the mainstream of the life of the church. This surely does not mean that it will become the dominant rite in the church, rather it is to be seen as a recognition of what the Tridentine rite has to offer the church in the modern world. The Tridentine rite must be rescued from its home in cliques. I believe that the Tridentine rite should be integrat-
Ecology: Key to teaching young people about Christian morality

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI believes ecology could hold the key to teaching young people about Christian morality.

The papal intuition is sparked by the fact that ecology is a widely accepted moral concern, but one that points much deeper: Nature itself teaches that some things are naturally right and some are naturally wrong.

More particularly, Pope Benedict had Alpine peaks and meadows as a backdrop when he added the explanation of conscience and nature’s role to his “d plain” teaching of Jan. 28, 2007. He added the explanation because “there is a moral message, a divine message, which must be deciph red” and obeyed.

“A more concrete thing would be a combination between a secular way and a religious way,” the pope said, before launching his new idea.

“Every day people can see that man could destroy the foundation of his existence — his earth and, therefore, we can no longer simply use this earth, this reality entrusted to us for what we want or what appears useful and promising at the moment, but we must respect the inherent laws of creation, the pope said.

People must “learn these laws and obey these laws if we want to survive,” he said.

The destruction of the environment, the pope said, is a stark example of how future survival requires that people obey the laws of nature, especially when everyone else is taking shortcuts that may increase their pleasure at the moment, but are obviously damaging in the long term.

“The first thing young people can learn is that ‘our earth speaks to us, and we must listen if we want to survive,’” the pope said.

Pope Benedict has told young people that they “must not be that great of a reach to help young people understand that the same natural voice telling them littering is bad, clear-cutting a forest is a shame, and that water and clean air are precious resources is really saying that life is precious.”

In August the church commemorates the Transfiguration.

In this case, however, young people must “learn these laws as an example of how future survival is the celebration of love and life, they say, namely death and aging. They also warn.

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Pope Benedict has told young people that they “must not be that great of a reach to help young people understand that the same natural voice telling them littering is bad, clear-cutting a forest is a shame, and that water and clean air are precious resources is really saying that life is precious.”
Marian devotion traces its history to the Gospels and tradition because they are, after all, not little to word it in a too controlling way. The “prayer ‘Hail Mary’” goes back to the fourth century and was inscribed on a column in the Byzantine church of the Annunciation at Nazareth. In the second century, paintings of Mary were inscribed on the catacombs of Rome and an inscription under St Peter’s portrayed Mary as protecting the departed. Early church writers spoke of the Mass and confession schedule and venue on campus to make it easier for them. I can make contact with some good priests and introduce them so they will have allies there. I can encourage involvement in Catholic clubs and organizations. I might even send some money to support the diocese. Finally, I can encourage them to share their experiences and ask questions to help them discern how to put their faith in action. I will acknowledge the difficulty of living for Christ on a college campus and ask them if they know what I will always be here to support them. “A ship is safe in harbor, but that is not where ships are meant to go.” I remember seeing this on a poster. Yes, boys are destined to be men. And mothers are supposed to help them reach their potential, not withefully pine for their ever presence. So, in a couple weeks I will help them pack their J.C. Penney sheets and Target fan, and Wal-Mart notebooks and pens into their car heading for campus. I will release them to God and let them go. I’ll also let them know I’ll be in the port, waiting, whenever they come home. **Theresa Thomas**

**LETTER**

Continued from Page 14

Father Richard Hare, pastor of St. Martin de Porres Parish, South Bend, answered this week’s question.

**Father Richard Hare**

 writes questions from readers. E-mail your questions to editor@jdowrespective@ or mail them to Our Daily Catholic, That’s A Good Question, P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne, IN 46856. Include your name, city and an e-mail address or phone number so we can contact you if necessary. Anonymity will be preserved upon request.
Brothers of Holy Cross celebrated June jubilees

NOTRE DAME — Eighteen Brothers of Holy Cross celebrated their jubilees of religious profession at Sacred Heart Basilica, Notre Dame on Saturday, June 16. The celebration included one brother with 70 years of religious profession, two with 60 years, 12 with 50 years and three with 40 years. A dinner followed the Mass in the North Dining Hall for invited guests.

Father Hugh W. Cleary, CSC, Superior General of the Congregation of Holy Cross was the celebrant and homilist for the Mass of Thanksgiving. Brother Robert Fillmore, CSC, provincial of the Midwest Province of the Brothers of Holy Cross, accepted the brothers’ renewal of vows. Brother Daniel Kane, CSC, of Gates Mills, Ohio, was the musical director and organist.

Along with the Brothers from the Midwest Province celebrating, were Brothers Simon Scriber, 75 years of religious profession, Eamon Schaffer, 70 years, and Frederick Williams, 50 years, all from the South-West Province.

The following brothers have served in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend:

60 years
• Brother Edward Courtney, CSC — At 83 who is the best known Brother of Holy Cross in the South Bend area, and it has to be Brother Edward Courtney. Over the years he has been part of changing the times by flying the American flag and waving to cars on US 933 across from the WNDU Studios. Now a resident of Dujarie House, his personal flag waving days are over, but a flagpole with an American Flag stands along US 933 as a memorial to his patriotism.

Over the years the majority of Brother Edward’s assignments would be on or close to the University of Notre Dame campus. He served in maintenance at the Community House, now Columbia Hall at Notre Dame from 1948-1949. From 1950-1970, he was a canvasser for the Ave Maria Press. Over the years a number of brothers traveled the country, living in parish rectories, selling subscriptions to the Ave Maria magazine, a weekly published by the community. From 1981-2003 he was on the staff at Columbia Hall, Notre Dame, where he was the area community mailman. It was during this time Brother Edward began flying the American flag as a sign of respect.


• Brother Frederick Choquette, CSC — Brother Frederick’s first assignment was at the Community Infirmary at Notre Dame from 1948-1950. For the next 18 years, from 1950-1968, he would be a canvasser for the Ave Maria Press at Notre Dame. The life of a canvasser was a lonely one, living in different parishes for a month to month and rarely being able to share community life. However, the canvassers were the few brothers to make direct contact with laypersons prior to Vatican II.

From 1972-1990 Brother Frederick returned to his root of Dujarie House, Notre Dame. Brother Frederick retired to part-time volunteer work at Dujarie House until 1997 when he moved to the Helen Schubert Villa assisted there in Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame.

50 years
• Brother Donald McIntrye, CSC — For the first seven years after serving his novitiate year at St. Joseph Novitiate, Rolling Prairie, he was assigned as a cook at the community house, Columbia Hall, at Notre Dame. Brother Donald then spent a year as a canvasser for the Ave Maria Press, another year as a cook at Columbia Hall, and assistant mission promoter for the Midwest Province from 1966-1969. From 1997-2001 Brother Donald was on the staff of Dujarie House, Notre Dame, then a patient in St. Joseph Medical Center, South Bend, and Dujarie House. He now lives at Columbia Hall, Notre Dame.

• Brother Richard Hillis, CSC — Brother Richard Hills said that he recently read a quotation by Brother Theriau who said, “Unless you give your life over to the service of others, your life is wasted.” Brother Richard says that he comes from a family that places a high priority on the service of God and the church. Over the years Brother Richard has served others as cook, (including Columbia Hall, Notre Dame), mail clerk, groundskeeper, maintenance man, housekeeper, and general assistant.

Brother Richard then served as a clerk at the Notre Dame post office for two years; a year working for the Leadership Program at Notre Dame; eight years of maintenance at Holy Cross Junior College; and director of housekeeping at Dujarie House and Schubert Villa.

• Brother Lawrence Stewart, CSC — Of his 50 years as a Brother of Holy Cross Brother Lawrence said, “I’ve spent 45 years as a college instructor after getting my degrees from Notre Dame and the University of Texas. My first assignment was at St. John’s College in Sekondi, Ghana, West Africa, for nine years; then to Holy Cross Junior College, Notre Dame, Ind., for two years; Saint Mary’s College, Indiana, seven years; Ball State University, Muncie, Ind., seven years; Our Lady of Holy Cross College, and Tulane School of Medicine, New Orleans, La., 17 years; and St. Edward’s University, Austin, Texas, three years.”

Brother Lawrence went on to say, “My usual teaching joys were a variety of biology courses, but particular favorites were zoology and ecology. I’ve always been interested in studying, researching, and writing about health and wellness topics and enjoy practicing what I preach through a variety of physical activity programs.”

• Brother Edward Dailey, CSC — The Midwest Province is honored to have Brother Edward Dailey serving as nine years, then at the Congregation of Holy Cross in Rome, Italy, during this time when founder Rev. John Baptist de La Salle will be beatified in LeMans, France, Sept. 15, 2007. Brother Edward’s experience as general secretary, there from October 1998 to September 1998. His fluency in Italian, French and English and his attention to details make him a logical choice for the position of general secretary.

Following a five-month sabbatical in 1998 he joined the provincial office at Notre Dame. From 2000-2006 he was administrative assistant to the provincial at Notre Dame.

• Brother Michael Becker, CSC — Brother Michael Becker is a Brother of Holy Cross who has preferred to avoid the limelight and live his life in the service of others. Brother Michael said, “I have no degrees and no awards, I just enjoy living a hidden life like St. Joseph in service to my brothers in community.” It is clerical work by Brother Michael and others like him that keep the community running.

Michael Becker was born in Huntington, March 22, 1937. From 1983 to the present day, Brother Michael has been in the provincial business office at Notre Dame. Ind. It’s Brother Michael’s responsibility to track all of the province’s medical bills and programs.

• Brother William Mewes, CSC — Brother William Mewes is a brother who has been a defender of social justice here at home or around the world. Brother has moved over 26 times during the past 50 years always in search of spreading his message of social justice.

Brother William said, “My service in Holy Cross has been a real blessing to me, and I hope to others as well. I have been involved in teaching at secondary and university level, spiritual formation work, social justice work, social work, parish work and various types of volunteer work. Being a Holy Cross Brother has involved overcoming the fear of making commitments, including a permanent life-long commitment. It has also involved keeping this commitment because for me the best way I can love and serve my God, my neighbor and myself.”

Since 2003 Brother William has been a resident of Columbia Hall and the community house of discernment there, Bessette House. During this time he has been a minister and visitor to the residents of Holy Cross Village. He is an area coordinator for the Associates of Holy Cross.

• Brother Kenneth Allen, CSC — Brother Kenneth Allen came from farm country. His family operated a mink farm in Wisconsin. After his novitiate year Brother Kenneth remained at the Silver Lake Farm for two years. For the next 13 years he was a mechanic and farmer at St. Joseph Farm, Granger, about seven miles from Notre Dame.

• Brother Timothy O’connell, CSC — After a semester at St. Edward’s University in Austin, Texas, Brother Timothy went to Dujarie Hall, Notre Dame, Ind., for a year as a scholastic. While at Dujarie he...
worked in the office at Ave Maria Press, Notre Dame. For seven years, from 1979-1986, Brother Francis was an administrative assistant at the Holy Cross Sisters’ Infirmary, Notre Dame. In 2001 he ministered to Holy Cross Village, Notre Dame. There he has served on the transportation staff of Dujarie House, as assistant director of Andre Residential Services, and religious superior of Andre Residential Services. Brother Francis retired in 2006 and is living in Holy Cross Village.

• Brother Francis Rotaert, CSC — Brother Francis’ strength as a teacher was in the field of English, especially literature. From 1967-1980 Brother Francis taught at Saint Joseph’s High School, South Bend, where he taught English, was assistant principal, and religious superior of the Brothers of Holy Cross at St. Joseph’s, and from 1973-1980 was a very effective principal of Saint Joseph’s High School.

Following his years at Saint Joseph’s, Brother Francis attended the University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada, for a year before becoming the rector of Holy Cross College at the University of Notre Dame from 1981-1985. While rector of Holy Cross Hall he spent a year teaching at Holy Cross Junior College, Notre Dame, and three years teaching at the University of Notre Dame. In 2003, Brother Francis suffered the seriously incapacitating stroke that brought him to reside at Dujarie House at Holy Cross Village, Notre Dame. From 1993-1995 Brother finished his studies at Bethel College, Mishawaka, in hopes of someday becoming headmaster at LeMans Academy. While studying at Bethel College Brother Shawn stayed at the Brothers’ Center and worked at LeMans on weekends and during vacation periods. Following the sale of the LeMans property in 2003 Brother Shawn spent six months at Columbia Hall, Notre Dame and at Sangre de Christo Center, Santa Fe, N.M. Since August, 2004 he has been an administrative assistant at St. Stanislaus Kostka School, Michigan City.

• Brother John Tyrone, CSC — John Tyrone was born in Mansfield, Ohio, June 26, 1948. For the three years Brother John served at the Family and Children’s Center, Mishawaka. From 1990-1992, he was on the staff of Saint Joseph’s High School, South Bend.

From 1990-1996 he was a student at DePaul University, Chicago, and then for four years the director of vocations for the Midwest Province. During this time he was also director of the Holy Cross Associates. Since 2000 Brother John has been on the faculty of Holy Cross College and lives at Holy Cross Village, Notre Dame.

Other brothers from the Midwest Province celebrating jubilees were Brother Donorn Steffes, 70 years; Brother Eugene Phillipp and Gerald Nettesheim, 50 years and Brother Joseph Tsiaque, 40 years.

From 1991-1999 Brother Thomas was director of Dujarie House, Notre Dame. For two years he then served as director of the Children’s Center, Inc., then vice-president of Family and Dujarie House. While at Dujarie House he was founder and a member of the staff of Holy Cross, Mishawaka, in South Bend, from 1993-1995.

From October 1996-February 1999, Brother Thomas was admini- strator and then business manager of Helen D. Schubert Villa, Notre Dame. From May 2000-May 2006 he was religious superior of Columbia Hall, Notre Dame. He currently lives at Columbia Hall.

40 years

• Brother Shawn Gray, CSC — After two years as a student at Holy Cross Junior College, Notre Dame, Brother Shawn in 1969 was assigned for the next 34 years to LeMans Academy in Rolling Prairie. For three years from 1986-1989 he was the superior of the Brothers of Holy Cross stationed at LeMans. During the 1992-1993 school year he served as assistant headmaster at the school.

Between 1993-1995 Brother finished his studies at Bethel College, Mishawaka, in hopes of someday becoming headmaster at LeMans Academy. While studying at Bethel College Brother Shawn stayed at the Brothers’ Center and worked at LeMans on weekends and during vacation periods. Following the sale of the LeMans property in 2003 Brother Shawn spent six months at Columbia Hall, Notre Dame and at Sangre de Christo Center, Santa Fe, N.M. Since August, 2004 he has been an administrative assistant at St. Stanislaus Kostka School, Michigan City.

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Exploring small Christian communities

BY GINNY KOHRMAN

Opening prayer
Lord, open my eyes, my ears, my will and my heart that I may grasp more fully the love revealed to me through your word. Amen.

Scripture:
Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy, his fellow prisoner, Philemon our beloved and our coworker, to Apthia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church at your house. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always, remembering you in my prayers, as I remember you (my small Christian community) in my prayers, as I hear of the love and the faith you have in the Lord Jesus and for all the holy ones, so that your partnership in the faith may become effective in recognizing every good thing in us that leads to Christ. — Philm 1:1-6 (New American Bible)

Commentary
There are certain things in life that we never grow tired of — a favorite song, the smell of fresh-baked bread, a good book, a walk on the shore at sunset or the first bite of a freshly baked and warm chocolate-chip cookie. There are also fifty or three favorite movies that we watch repeatedly to help soothe us into a gentler world at the end of a long, busy work week. As Catholics we never get enough of well-planned liturgies, favorite prayers, candles glowing, or a church unlocked and the quiet presence of the Blessed Sacrament. In addition, we love the powerful, replenishing words of Scripture that repeatedly connect us to the heart of God at Mass each Sunday. For the past several years, my husband and I have belonged to a small Christian community within our parish. We have yet to grow tired of our dear Catholic friends or the Scriptures we share. In fact, we eagerly look forward to each meeting and the joy, hope and love that we receive in environments with friends absorbed in the Scriptures.

Our small Christian community
Our small Christian community is what some catechists might call an intergenerational adult group. I say that because the age range of our group members includes a 40ish “energetic with four small children” couple, a 50ish “mid-life crisis” couple, a “second-wind world travelers” 60ish couple, and a “we still love each other more than ever” 80s couple. Everyone within our group is actively involved in our parish in any number of different ways — proclaiming the word, ushering, finances, Annual Bishop’s Appeal, the diaconate, RCIA or the parish picnic, just to name a few. We all love the Lord and find strength not only through the sacramental life of the church but also in our small group that gathers twice monthly in homes to break open the word of God. Our two-hour meeting includes praying, sharing the good news of our lives, reading and meditating on the Sunday readings and reflecting on how the message of those Scriptures can be integrated into our lives and work. Of course, there is always time for a good piece of pie or some other scrumptious new dessert at the end of the evening. We cherish our “partnership in faith” and the spiritual growth that continually “leads us to Christ.”

The word of God
The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us, “What Christ entrusted to the apostles, they in turn handed on by their preaching and writing, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, to all generations, until Christ returns in glory” (96). The church teaches that both sacred tradition and sacred Scripture “make up a single sacred deposit of the word of God” (97) in which God’s love, through Jesus Christ, is revealed. The apostles, filled with the Holy Spirit, initially proclaimed the Gospel of Jesus Christ orally. They were witnesses of faith in Christ and called others to hear and obey God’s word, to form communities of believers, to gather for Eucharist, and to care for the poor. These communities that followed Jesus eventually found it necessary to write down the teachings, parables and preaching of Jesus.

With the help of the Holy Spirit, the Gospels were written for the benefit of the church to secure the message of Jesus Christ. The apostles also appointed men to be bishops who would succeed them and continue to spread the good news of Jesus Christ. Today the pope and our bishops as successors of the apostles, with the help of the Holy Spirit, take on the responsibility of authoritative teaching for the church. The United States Catholic Catechism for Adults concludes, “Tradition is the living transmission of the message of the Gospel of the church. The oral preaching of the apostles and the written message of salvation under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (Bible) are conserved and handed on as the deposit of faith through the apostolic succession in the church” (p.25).

It is important to remember, when we gather in small Christian communities to read and reflect on the Scriptures, that we do so within the living tradition of the church. We are to be mindful of what God reveals regarding our salvation through the inspired written word of the apostles. Yet, with the divine gift of faith and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we also continue to learn as God’s people who never cease to receive and reflect on the word of God.

Why should you join?
The reasons for joining a small Christian community are numerous. Let me mention a few of my favorite reasons. First, the small Christian community creates an ongoing environment in which we study and reflect upon the Scriptures and church teachings.

Small Christian communities, through the word of God, help us to discern appropriate Gospel responses to concrete situations of life. The Scriptures and the Christian community encourage us in our Catholic faith and hold us accountable for our actions. With appropriate materials and resources, pastoral education, scriptural commentaries and informed discussions, we more fully learn and form our faith. The SCC is an extended family-in-Christ in which mutual support can be found during times of crisis or spiritual growth.

When it comes to my small Christian community, I feel a little like St. Paul when he wrote, I give thanks to my God always, remembering you (my small Christian community) in my prayers, as I hear of (and experience) the love and the faith you have in the Lord Jesus.

Evanangelization and action
• Consider joining a small Christian community in your parish.
• Explore the possibility of starting small Christian communities within your parish by talking with your pastor.
• If you are in a small Christian community, invite someone new to join your group.

FOR THE PARISH ORGANIZATION

Office of Spiritual Development and Evangelization
“Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch.”

TODAY’S CATHOLIC

AUGUST 12, 2007
WHAT’S HAPPENING?

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

Summernest announced
Yoder — St. Aloysius Parish will hold its Summernest on Saturday, Aug. 11 and Sunday, Aug. 12. Saturday features a hog roast beginning at 11 a.m., softball tournament at 6 p.m. and BBQ chicken dinner. A euchre tournament will begin with registration at 6:30 p.m. The Gator Gallop 5K run/walk will begin at 7 p.m. with registration at 6 p.m. Sunday events include Ed Fox broasted chicken dinner from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and bingo from noon to 5 p.m. Both days will include a silent auction, country store, flea market, children and adult games, horseshoes and raffle. For information call Chad or Kathy Ware at (260) 744-0299 or (260) 466-4272.

Rummage sale
Kendallville — Immaculate Conception Parish will have a rummage sale on Friday, Aug. 10 and 11, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Saturday, Aug. 11, from 9 to 11:30 a.m. $1.50 a bag sale on Saturday.

Little Flower Holy Hour
Fort Wayne — Father Daniel Durkin will celebrate the Holy Hour at MacDougall Chapel on Tuesday, Aug. 7, at 7:15 p.m. Father Durkin is pastor of St. Henry and Sacred Heart Parishes.

Back to School clothing sale
Bristol — St. Mary Parish, 411 W. Vistula, will have a clothing rummage sale on Friday and Saturday, Aug. 10 and 11, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. All clothing priced $1 or less.

Holy Name Society sponsors fish fry
South Bend — Our Lady of Hungary will have a fish fry at the school, 735 W. Calvert, on Friday, Aug. 17, from 5 to 7 p.m. Tickets are $7 day of sale, $6-50 presale, $4.50 children 6-12, under 6 free. Pre-sale tickets may be purchased at the rectory (574) 287-1700.

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Rest in Peace

Angela
Franz E. Simietan, 87, St. Anthony of Padua
Donna Mary Sarrazin, 27, St. Anthony of Padua
Bluffton
Richard A. Schortgen, 80, St. Joseph
Bremen
Robert Lloyd Zimmer, 84, St. Dominic
Donaldson
Sister Louise M. Boening, PHJC, 98, Catherine Kasper Home Chapel
Margaret A. Hahn, 54, Catherine Kasper Home Chapel
Elkhart
Alphonse J. Spahn, 88, St. Thomas the Apostle
Fort Wayne
Arthur E. David, 78, Most Precious Blood
Jeff A. Chelf, 39, St. Charles Borromeo
Pat J. Raucci, 63, St. Jude
Robert J. Maroney, 82, St. Peter
Eleanor M. Hartman, Queen of Angels
Garrett
Floyd A. Fetter, 86, St. Joseph
Huntington
Marjorie Nicholson, 71, St. Peter and Paul
Sister Marie Schene, OLVM, 90, Victory Noll Chapel
Mishawaka
James E. Burnham, Sr., 64, Queen of Peace
Katherine Benjamin, 96, St. Joseph
Francesco Antonio Trimboli, 93, St. Monica
Thomas C. Deal, 50, St. Joseph
Elise A. De Loof, 82, St. Bavo
Mooresville
Homer Dwane Beam, 74, St. Rose of Lima
Notre Dame
Ruth M. Covington, 84, Our Lady of Holy Cross Chapel
Sister M. Redempta Lengerich, CSC, 96, Church of Loreto
Plymouth
Philip P. Harris, 49, St. Michael
Roanoke
Mary Delores Zwick, 84, St. Joseph
South Bend
Chester M. Zbiernianski, 75, St. Hedwig
Stanley F. Kwanseski, 89, Christ the King
Loretta S. Paar, 83, St. Stanislaus
Bernard S. Wentland, 82, Christ the King
Stephanie Buczak, 88, St. Adalbert
Frank V. Gadacz, 93, St. Bavo
Europaia L. Bowserox, 86, Our Lady of Hungary
Zachary C. Gallagher, 34, Christ the King
Stanley A. Woblewski, 94, St. Adalbert
Eugene Pauwels, 93, St. Bavo
Father Eugene J. Kazmierczak, 81, St. Adalbert
Mary Ann Miller, 88, St. Matthew Cathedral
Alberta T. Loontens, 61, St. Patrick
GOOD SHEPHERD ARTISTRY SHINES IN ARCHBISHOP NOLL CENTER

Larry Hormann, left, and Peter Lupkin, right, of William L. Lupkin Designs, Inc., assemble the stained-glass window, which was donated to the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center in Fort Wayne by the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration in Mishawaka. The stained glass, dating to the late 1800s was designed by the F.X. Zettler in Munich, Germany. Bill Lupkin told Today’s Catholic the glass was carefully cleaned, soaking for 10 days to two weeks in the design studio, and restored before its relocation last week to the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center in downtown Fort Wayne. The two-story cased and lighted stained glass is located near the chapel and main floor conference rooms.

New! Unique, Historic Book

192 pages of color photos of religious art and parish churches from within the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend by Sharon Little

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St. Aloysius
Summerfest
14623 Bluffton Road
Located 1/4 mile south of I-469 on Hwy. 1
Aug. 11th & 12th

SATURDAY

HOG ROAST 11 a.m. till gone
BBQ CHICKEN DINNER
*Teen Games
*Euchre Tournament
Registration @ 6:30 p.m.
*Gator Gallop 5K Run/Walk
Registration @ 6 p.m.

SUNDAY

ED FOX BROASTED
CHICKEN DINNER
11 a.m.-2 p.m.

BINGO 12 p.m.-5 p.m.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY

-Country Store -Flea Market
-Ice Cream -Children’s Games
-Horseshoes -Adult Games
-Rock Wall -Moonwalk
-Giant Twister -Giant Slide

Simple Living Raffle
St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Joseph County, Inc.
Drawing to be held on September 15, 2007 at St. Vincent de Paul Society Thrift Store.

Seven Prizes Awarded:
Two Gift Cards for GROCERIES — $2,500 and $1,500
Two Gift Cards for HOUSEHOLD GOODS — $1,500 and $1,000
Two Gift Cards for GASOLINE — $1,000 and $500
One Gift Card for St. Vincent’s Thrift Store — $500

TICKETS: $5 each, 3 tickets for $10 or 7 tickets for $20.

All proceeds to benefit the work of St. Vincent’s to help families with emergency food, clothing, household items and financial aid. Thank you for partnering with us in this effort!

“Live simply so that others may simply live.”
-Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton

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Return to 3407 Ardmore Trail, South Bend, IN 46628
or Simple Living Raffle

Please send ______ raffle ticket(s) for the Simple Living Raffle.
($5 each, 3 tickets for $10 or 7 tickets for $20.)
TOTAL DUE: $_______