

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

New Orleans archbishop visits Fort Wayne parish



DON CLEMMER

Archbishop Alfred C. Hughes of New Orleans speaks at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne, as part of the parish's annual mission appeal on Aug. 11. The archbishop thanked the St. Vincent community for their generosity toward the rebuilding of New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

BY DON CLEMMER

FORT WAYNE — The St. Vincent de Paul Parish community welcomed Archbishop Alfred C. Hughes of New Orleans to all of its weekend Masses Aug. 11-12. Archbishop Hughes spoke of the ongoing needs of rebuilding the Archdiocese of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina and thanked the parishioners of St. Vincent de Paul for their exceedingly generous contributions of over \$75,000 in the past.

While this visit was officially called the parish's annual mission appeal, it was more reflective of the archbishop's long friendship with Bishop John M. D'Arcy. A Boston native himself, Archbishop Hughes met Bishop D'Arcy in seminary in 1950. They later worked together at St. John's Seminary in Boston. With the second anniversary of the Katrina disaster approaching on Aug. 29, the visit to St. Vincent de Paul was Bishop D'Arcy's way of giving his old friend access to the largest parish in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend for the further benefit of New Orleans.

In his homily at the Saturday evening Mass celebrated with Bishop D'Arcy and St. Vincent de Paul pastor Father John Kuzmich, Archbishop Hughes thanked Father Kuzmich for his hospitality and leadership and stated how he has also come to

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Diocese to celebrate Jubilee Year with Eucharistic Congress

Event is Saturday, Aug. 18, at the University of Notre Dame

BY VINCE LABARBERA

NOTRE DAME — In observance of the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Bishop John M. D'Arcy last December opened a diocesan-wide Jubilee Year of prayer, evangelization and holiness. As it did in 2000, the diocese again will conduct a pilgrimage to a Eucharistic Congress at the University of Notre Dame as its main event on Saturday, Aug. 18.

The Eucharistic Congress will include an ecumenical prayer service, catecheses at different locations throughout the campus, eucharistic adoration, continuous recitation of the rosary at the Notre Dame grotto, opportunities for the sacrament of reconciliation, special programs for young people and an exhibition of art, Bishop D'Arcy related.

"(The Eucharistic Congress) will conclude late Saturday afternoon with the celebration of the Eucharist at the Joyce Center," said Bishop D'Arcy. "The entire diocese will be called to attend this event. There will be no parish Masses that Saturday afternoon throughout the diocese, no weddings, no ath-

letic events and no parish confessions, as all priests will be at Notre Dame where they will be hearing confessions and presenting catecheses."

The Mass will fulfill the Sunday obligation. The closing Mass will be taped and broadcast Aug. 19 on the Hallmark Channel. Check local listings.

As of last week, online registrations could no longer be accepted since there was not enough time to process registrations and send out confirmation letters.

The diocesan Web site notes, "We've worked with Notre Dame to find the largest classrooms on campus so many of the workshops still have room. Please continue with your plans to come to the Eucharistic Congress. When you arrive on campus, visit the information table at gate 10 (in the Joyce Athletic Center) to find out which workshops have seating available."

Also joining Bishop D'Arcy for the events throughout the day will be Archbishop Daniel Buechlein, OSB, of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis; Archbishop Michael A. Blume, SVD, a South Bend native who is the apostolic nuncio to Benin and Togo in West Africa; Bishop Daniel Jenky, CSC, of the Diocese of the Peoria, Ill.; Bishop Dale Melczek of the Diocese of Gary; and Bishop Felix Toppo of the Diocese of Jamshedpur, India.

PLAYERS TAKE A STAND AT THE GROTTTO



JOE KOZINSKI

Players from the football teams of Marian and Saint Joseph's high schools gather at the grotto at the University of Notre Dame. From Marian are the following: Coach Reggie Glon, No. 12 Connor Creevey, No. 83 Joe Borrelli, No. 23 Jake Zielinski, No. 31 Bryan Gartner and No. 36 Jordan Weidner. From Saint Joseph's are the following: Coach Kevin Downey, No. 2 Tim Kamiewski, No. 7 Taylor Summerlin, No. 21 Mike Krzyzewski, No. 9 Teddy Padjakowski and No. 50 Freddie Rodriguez.

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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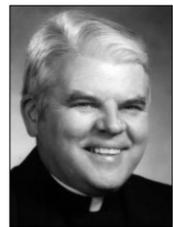
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Eucharistic Congress will be a momentous day for the diocese



NEWS & NOTES

BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

Great anticipation

I am preparing this a few days before our day of prayer and worship. For the second time in the history of our diocese, we will be having an all-day event at the University of Notre Dame. I am grateful to Father John Jenkins, CSC, and the authorities at Notre Dame for allowing us to use these holy grounds for events that are most sacred. Thanks also, in advance, to Linda Furge, who put all of this together, and who constantly assures me that it has been the work of a very large number of people.

I am convinced that this day will be a blessing for our diocese. How could it not be with so many priests making themselves available for the sacrament of penance and so many people responding to Christ's call to confess their sins? I especially look forward to the youth program and several presentations for young people. The cross will be carried from Saint Joseph's High School by a large group of teenagers. They will enter just before the start of Mass at the Joyce Center.

Of special joy will be the hundreds of catecheses, or teachings, to be offered, most of them in beautiful air conditioned rooms made available by Notre Dame; the rosary repeated constantly at the grotto; and the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the beautiful Alumni Chapel. Then the closing Mass at the Joyce Center. I give thanks to God that I have been bishop of this diocese for such a momentous day.

The friend of your youth is your friend forever

I recall that phrase from a novel by Robert Penn Warren. I think it was "All the King's Men." At any rate it proved true for me at two recent events. First, at my invitation, Archbishop Al Hughes of New Orleans came to this diocese. The archbishop and I go back over 50 years. We were spiritual directors together at St. John's Seminary in Brighton, Mass., and also auxiliary bishops in the Archdiocese of Boston. The archbishop is an author and well-versed in the spirituality of the church. He was made bishop of Baton Rouge, La., and was later called to the historic See of New Orleans, a diocese founded in 1793 before the Louisiana Purchase and before New Orleans was part of the United States. He later told me, and I agreed, that it was providential that he first had been bishop of Baton Rouge.

When the levees broke and the terrible waters engulfed his archdiocese, he went with his administrative staff to Baton Rouge where he was known and loved. He set up his administration there and began the staggering task, which had fallen upon

him — namely, the work of recovery and reorganization of an historic diocese. He and his collaborators were able to begin opening their schools within a month or two, long before the public schools even considered reopening. He invited everyone in. There were some ships in the Mississippi where children were staying with nothing to do. They were invited into the schools regardless of their religion. Remarkably, through the United States Congress, he received aid for Catholic schools on a one-year basis.

By the way, it should be noted that the Knights of Columbus, both locally and nationally, raised \$3 million for the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Our own diocese contributed significantly through the collections, but these funds were for humanitarian help; that is, for food, clothing and housing. The archbishop was left with the problem: How do we rebuild our schools, parishes and rectories? While insurance helped, it always falls short.

So, I invited Archbishop Hughes to St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne, which is always generous. As you know, every parish is required to have a missionary speaker once a year. I celebrated Mass on Saturday evening with the archbishop and heard his stirring homily. He had a good workout speaking at every Mass. I had the opportunity to show him our beautiful cathedral. He also went to Huntington to

I found the same bench where I sat

on that spring night 39 years ago

and where I received the grace to say "yes" to Christ.

thank Our Sunday Visitor, which had given him significant help during the early and dark days.

It was a joy to have time with this old and dear friend and to give him some small help. I told the people at St. Vincent's that whatever they raised in the collection I would seek to match through the Zeiger Foundation. Leo and Laura Zeiger were farmers in St. Dominic Parish, Bremen. They had no children, and they left funds for scholarships for young people from their parish. They also left \$270,000 to be distributed to the missions of the world under the discretion of the bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. We have already given out a significant amount of these funds. We have a small board that I consult. It is my hope and intention that we match the generous funds received from St. Vincent's parishioners.

The long trip home

For the first eight and one-half years of my priesthood, I served at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Parish, Beverly, Mass. It was a joyous time, a kind of springtime. St. Mary's sits on Cabot Street in the middle of town, a beautiful church well over 100 years old. I loved every day and thought it would never end. But it did. It was hard to leave there. I can remember sitting in the back of church on Holy Thursday night after struggling with the request, which had come

from Msgr. Matthew Stapleton, then the rector of St. John's Seminary, that I should go to Rome and study ascetical theology and become a spiritual director at St. John's Seminary. I thought I was too old to go back to studies (only 31), and I was anxious about taking classes in Latin. But I remember saying this to the Lord, "If I do this for you, you will see me through." A special grace. The decision was made.

Emily and Roger Morency had called me and asked me, as part of my jubilee, to come back to St. Mary's. I was pleased to do so when I received an invitation from the pastor. I was not quite prepared for what happened. The church was full, and afterward there was a reception in the lovely garden next to the rectory. I greeted people for two and one-half hours in the warm sun on a lovely July day. So many young people from our famous drum and bugle corp, which traveled all over the country. Former altar servers. Young people from the school. Young girls who marched in the color guard were now grandmothers sharing with me the pictures of their grandchildren. I found it overwhelming. It was not so much about me but about the love the people have for their parish priest, reminding me again of the words of Walter Percy, "My hero is the parish priest."

The years were rolled back, and we were all young again. Also, many of those who were young with me in that parish so many years ago were now meeting each other for the first time in years. Roger and Emily had put the word in the *Salem Evening News* and people came there from various North Shore communities — those lovely towns along the Atlantic Ocean.

After everyone was gone and a bit of lunch, I went to the church, St. Mary, Star of the Sea, to pray. I found the same bench where I sat on that spring night 39 years ago and where I received the grace to say "yes" to Christ. I spent some time thanking him because this day was a sign from Christ about the beauty of the priesthood and the authenticity of my vocation. I drove home along Route 1A, which takes you along the great ocean. The day was joyful but also with a touch of sadness but of the reality of life. Youth passes, but "the friend of your youth is your friend forever."

An Irish song I used to know says something like this about the summertime, "Gone at last like our youth, too soon." But for one day beside St. Mary, Star of the Sea, we were young again, and it was the springtime of life — and of my priesthood.

It is a great joy to be a priest. It is a life of love or it is nothing. Love for Jesus Christ and the willingness to do his will, but also love for the people whom we are privileged to serve — giving love to them and receiving it. I hope our seminarians realize that they are called to a life of love.

Alas, what can I say about my baseball team. They have the best bullpen in the league and they mixed it up by bringing in someone who lost two games for them. Four games ahead when in May we were 14 games ahead. As I always said, you never count the Yankees out. I have not given up hope.

See you at Notre Dame and back here next week.

HUGHES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

treasure his friendship with Bishop D'Arcy.

"I am grateful to you, Bishop D'Arcy," he said, "for the many ways in which you and this diocese have reached out to assist us in our recovery and rebuilding efforts."

The archbishop went on to share a few lessons the church in New Orleans has learned in the wake of Katrina.

"We have learned that we are not in control of our lives," Archbishop Hughes said. "We are dependent on God and interdependent on one another." Archbishop Hughes told *Today's Catholic* that, after the hurricane, the poor were actually more resilient than the middle class in coping with the hurricane, most likely because they had already learned this lesson.

"They've lived from crisis to crisis in the past," he explained.

"They know how to ask for help."

Archbishop Hughes also noted that the church in New Orleans has learned the value of vigilance, relationships and the kindness of strangers.

"Because of the generosity of people like you in parishes across the country," he told the congregation, "we are now reaching the 1 million figure in terms of individual persons for whom the Archdiocese of New Orleans has

rendered a concrete service of one kind or another."

Balancing the church's work toward getting New Orleans back on its feet with efforts by the archdiocese itself to get back on its feet, Archbishop Hughes shared that, to date, the archdiocese has reopened 118 of 136 parishes and 88 of 107 schools.

"That is dramatically ahead of what the public sector has been able to do," he told *Today's Catholic*. "And we've opened our doors to people whether they were in Catholic schools before or not, and whether they were able to pay or not."

Archbishop Hughes completed his appeal to the St. Vincent de Paul Parish community by sharing the story of how, when the 82nd Airborne Division came to New Orleans to help restore order, they cleaned up the garden behind St. Louis Cathedral and, in doing so, discovered the fingers of a statue of the Sacred Heart that had been severed by a falling tree. They presented the fingers to retired New Orleans

Archbishop Philip Hannan, himself a former chaplain of the 82nd Airborne.

"The severed fingers seem to be begging for us to be his hands in restoring the church and the city," Archbishop

Hughes said, noting that he announced at the reopening of St. Louis Cathedral that he would not reattach the severed fingers until the rebuilding of New Orleans was complete.

**"We have learned
that we are not
in control of our lives"**

ARCHBISHOP ALFRED C. HUGHES

Indiana Catholic Conference publishes health care directives guide for faithful

INDIANAPOLIS — Whether undergoing a routine medical procedure or facing a life-threatening circumstance, Catholics are being asked by hospitals to complete health care directives in case they are unable to speak for themselves, yet still alive.

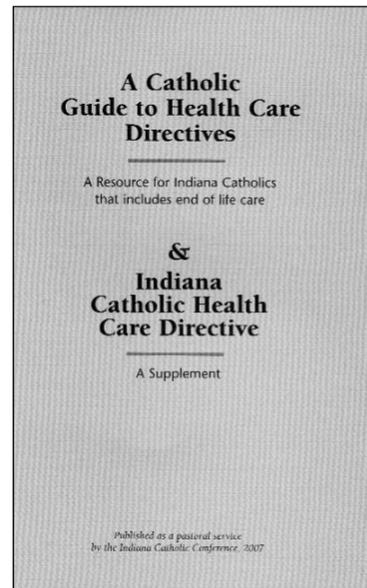
"Often faithful Catholics are presented documents and they are unsure if these comply with Catholic teaching, said Indiana Catholic Conference Executive Director Glenn Tebbe who serves as public policy spokesperson for the Indiana bishops. "Many of these individuals are seeking help and need support from the church in order to integrate their faith with their decision," he said.

"To address the need and to assure the faithful that the church is supportive of them as they face these questions, the Indiana bishops have published A Catholic Guide to Health Care Directives and the Indiana Catholic Health Care Directive," Tebbe added.

The 10-page document defines and simplifies legal terms and common health care lingo used in end of life care, and outlines Catholic ethics tied to end of life decisions.

In a question-answer format, the guide answers common questions such as who should have a health care directive, if an attorney is needed, what happens if a person doesn't have a health care directive, who to choose as a health care representative and when a health care directive is needed.

Beyond the basic, practical and legal questions, which are answered, the heart of guide provides a six-point Catholic ethical



roadmap to follow when families are facing end of life decisions.

Respect for human life at every stage and the inherent dignity of the human person is a fundamental principle of Catholic teaching. The six-point ethical framework outlines basic rights due every human being because of this inherent dignity, and translates these rights into appropriate health care actions for those facing end of life situations.

The six-point end of life ethics outlined in the guide are the following:

- Human life is a precious gift from God; it never becomes something to be disposed of;
- We have the right to direct our own care and the responsibility to act according to the principles of Catholic moral teaching;
- Suicide, euthanasia and acts that intentionally would cause death by act or omission are never morally acceptable;

• Death is a beginning, not an end;

• There should be a presumption in favor of providing a person with nutrition (food) and hydration (water), even if medically assisted, as long as this is of sufficient benefit to outweigh the burdens involved;

• We have the right to comfort and to seek relief from pain.

The guide also answers ethical questions such as are Catholics morally obligated to have an advance directive, is organ donation morally acceptable, and how can I make sure that decisions made on my behalf are consistent with my Catholic beliefs.

Approved by the Indiana Catholic Conference's legal counsel, the document also contains a tear-out form, which can be used as legal, Catholic faith-based advanced directive when a person is admitted to the hospital.

The health care guide will be distributed to hospitals and health care professionals statewide. Parish staff and resource centers also will receive copies to share with parishioners. Copies of the document can be viewed and downloaded for personal use or for parish forums on the Conference's Web page at www.indiana.nascd.org. Click the Resources button on the left to view the statement.

The United States Catholic Conference of Bishops (USCCB), the national counterpart for the Indiana Catholic Conference, has published a comprehensive document called Ethical and Religious Directive for Catholic Health Care Services available at the USCCB Web page at www.usccb.org.

Ecumenical group hopes education helps undercut violence in Darfur

BY PAUL JEFFREY

NYALA, Sudan (CNS) — An ecumenical relief organization working in Sudan's Darfur region is hoping to undercut violence by educating displaced people about human rights and peace.

For instance, the organization — Darfur Emergency Response Operation — has helped displaced women build more efficient cooking stoves, lessening the number of trips they have to make out of the camps to forage for firewood — journeys that often result in rape by Arab militia members.

After police failed to respond to the women's complaints about rape, the ecumenical organization began educating women about their rights, while training local paralegal committees to accompany the women when they go to the police to report the assaults.

The Darfur Emergency Response Operation is a joint effort of Caritas Internationalis, the Rome-based network of Catholic aid agencies, and Action by Churches Together, a Geneva-based coalition of Protestant relief groups. In addition to providing a variety of humanitarian services — such as wells, latrines, health care

and housing materials — to families in the displaced-people camps and neighboring communities, the operation also has conducted workshops for police and rebel groups on the rights of the displaced.

Adam Ateem, director of peace-building and protection activities for the ecumenical organization, said it was not easy at first to get the police to listen.

"The police should be the people most involved in protecting the IDPs (internally displaced persons), especially women and children. And we've had very healthy discussions with them," he said.

"They initially said they had national laws that they must enforce, but we told them that there are also international laws and principles about the rights of the displaced that they and everyone else must also obey and implement.

"The leaders of the police are getting their orders from politicians, however, and at the beginning none of them accepted us talking about protection of civilians. They said that was not something international nongovernmental organizations should worry about," Ateem said.

When Darfur Emergency Response Operation officials insisted that the rights of civilians to live



CNS PHOTO/PAUL JEFFREY

Residents of the Khamsadegaig camp outside Zalingei, Sudan, look down a well built with help from the Darfur Emergency Response Operation, a joint aid effort of Caritas Internationalis and Action by Churches.

free from attack or torture be respected, Ateem said, the police accused them of supporting the rebels. But the ecumenical team persisted, and Ateem said the police slowly have come to accept at least some responsibility. Whereas the police originally ignored reports of rapes, Ateem said, they now will take the survivor of the attack to a medical center for treatment. They'll also take a report of the attack, although Ateem said he knows of no case where a rapist has been apprehended.

The ecumenical organization is also laying a foundation for peace at the grass roots by fostering bet-

ter communication between Arab and African communities, including exchange visits and the training of conflict resolution committees to negotiate small but significant accords, such as guaranteeing unhindered access to a water well or the ability to travel safely to a local market. Such daily improvements bridge the ethnic tensions that the government has taken advantage of in its militarization of the region, Ateem said.

While the Arab-African conflict is the most prevalent antagonism in the region, tribal disputes within each of those groups can sometimes lead to violence.

Near the town of Kubum earlier this year, a local reconciliation committee sponsored by the ecumenical organization stepped into a dispute between two Arab groups — on one side, farmers, on the other, cattle-herders — just as it began to turn into a larger political conflict. The government sided with the herders, the rebels with the farmers, but Ateem said the committee, which included members of African tribes, successfully mediated between the two Arab groups and worked out an amicable solution.

Tribal allegiances are deep-seated in the region and often are part of the problem.

Ateem studied law in the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, and said he has former classmates who have participated in the Janjaweed, or Arab militia on horseback.

"I ran into this old friend one day, and I asked him why, if he was so well educated, he had chosen to support the militias. He talked to me about his need to support his father and his tribe over everything else, even if the government is going to use them to take everything away from the Africans and give it to the Arabs," Ateem said. "We've got to change this way of thinking."

Cardinal says he'll personally work on cause of Knights' founder

BY ANDY TELLI

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (CNS) — Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, the second highest ranking official at the Vatican, told members of the Knights of Columbus that he is taking a personal interest in the beatification process for the order's founder, Father Michael McGivney.

"I hope this recognition (of sanctity) will arrive soon, and I'll personally work on this, so that this day will come soon," Cardinal Bertone said during his homily, delivered in Italian, at the Aug. 7 opening Mass of the Knights of Columbus' 125th annual national convention at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel in Nashville.

Cardinal Bertone's comments on the sainthood cause of Father McGivney were met with applause from the Knights attending the Mass.

"I was thrilled," Bishop William E. Lori of Bridgeport, Conn., the supreme chaplain of the Knights of Columbus, said of Cardinal Bertone's comments.

"I think he appreciates what it would mean for parish priests in the United States and around the world, to have one of their own canonized a saint," Bishop Lori said in an interview on Eternal Word Television Network, which was broadcasting several events from the convention.

Father McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus at St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Conn., in 1882. The fraternal order for Catholic men has grown to become the largest lay Catholic organization in the world with more than 1.7 million members around the globe.

Cardinal Bertone, who celebrat-

ed the Mass in Latin, used his homily to praise the work of Father McGivney, who died in 1890 at age 38.

Referring to the story of Christ walking on water in the midst of a ferocious storm, which was the Gospel for the Mass, Cardinal Bertone said: "In many respects the storm-tossed boat on the Sea of Galilee seems an apt image for the situation of the local church at the time of Father McGivney, when the plight of Catholics in America was far from easy.

"This holy priest, however, like Peter in the Gospel story, found the faith and the courage to walk steadfastly toward Christ, and to inspire others by his leadership," added Cardinal Bertone.

"He recognized the need to promote the mutual support and solidarity of the Catholic community, and nothing would deter him from pursuing this noble goal," he continued. "May your founder's faith and courage serve as an inspiration to all of you as you devote yourselves to the pursuit of your apostolate."

Like Peter in the Gospel, Cardinal Bertone said, Father McGivney answered God's call when he became a priest.

"He also helped others to recognize the call that Christ addressed to them, and to respond generously," Cardinal Bertone said. "This was the key to his apostolic vision in founding the Knights. ... He knew that it is not only priests and religious who have a vocation, but that every Christian is called by Christ to carry out a particular mission in the church.

"He left a lasting legacy in the organization that he founded which has continued to provide opportunities for countless lay Catholics to play their part in building up the



CNS PHOTO/RICK MUSACCHIO, TENNESSEE REGISTER

Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Vatican secretary of state, celebrates the Aug. 7 opening Mass of the Knights of Columbus' 125th annual national convention at Opryland Hotel in Nashville, Tenn.

kingdom of God," the cardinal said.

The process for canonization for Father McGivney was launched in December 1997 by the Archdiocese of Hartford, Conn. Father McGivney was ordained as a priest of the then-Diocese of Hartford.

The archdiocesan phase of the canonization process has been completed and the case has been presented to the Vatican Congregation for Saints' Causes.

A miracle connected to Father McGivney has been reported to the congregation, but there has been no ruling on it yet. The details of the miracle have not been released. Generally for sainthood, the church must accept two miracles attributed to the intercession of the prospective saint, one occurring before beatification and one occurring after beatification.

Cardinal Bertone continued his comments on Father McGivney, as well as on the theme of the convention, "Witnessing to the 'Yes'

of Jesus Christ," in his address during a special gala banquet in his honor Aug. 8.

The cardinal said Father McGivney "had a deep appreciation for the special characteristics of the lay vocation as being thoroughly immersed in the spheres of the family, civil society and public life. He made it his goal to develop practical ways of ensuring that faith could be put into concrete action."

But, the cardinal added, Father McGivney understood that good works lose their deeper meaning "if they are not rooted in faith."

The laity face many obstacles to living a life of faith, Cardinal Bertone said. "It is no surprise then that Christians often encounter resistance, opposition and even persecution in the world," Cardinal Bertone said. "Pope Benedict reminds us that the only possible response for a Christian in the face of rejection is love. ... The universal call to holiness is about patiently, deliberately and 'programmatically' sharing this love with the world."

Cardinal Bertone noted that during Pope Benedict's recent pastoral visit to Brazil, he called on Catholic leaders in politics, the media and academia to bring their "ethical and religious convictions" to their fields of endeavor.

"In short, being a Catholic in

the world today takes courage," Cardinal Bertone said, "yet it takes no more courage than it did when Jesus called his first disciples in Galilee."

Cardinal Bertone said the church in America was active and vital. "We should be proud to belong to this church," he urged the bishops, priests and Knights attending the gala.

The Aug. 7-9 convention in Nashville drew more than 2,600 Knights and their families.

Nearly 100 cardinals, archbishops and bishops participated in the Mass, making it the largest gathering of church hierarchy in Tennessee's history.

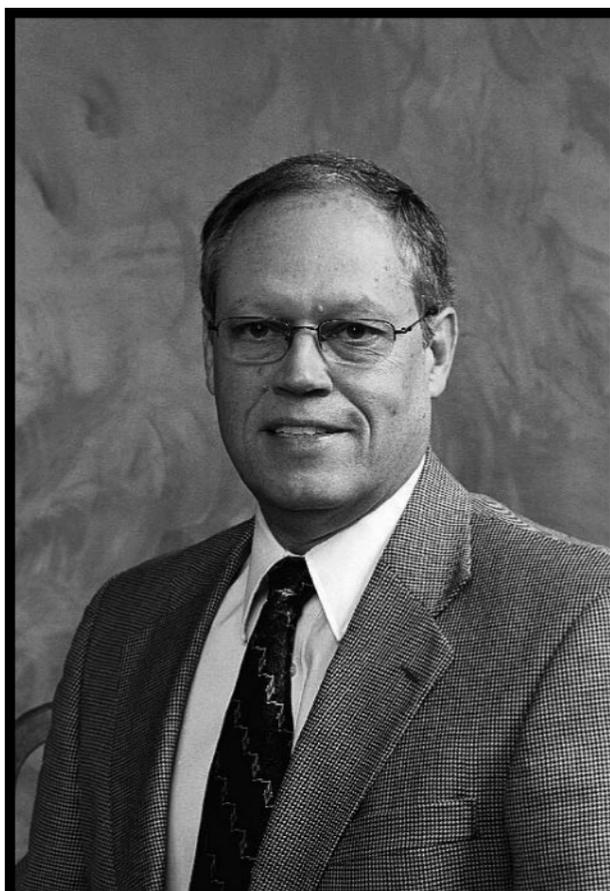
Prelates at the convention included Cardinals Francis E. George of Chicago, Edward M. Egan of New York, Sean P. O'Malley of Boston, Justin Rigali of Philadelphia, Adam J. Maida of Detroit, Jaime Ortega Alamino of Havana, and Juan Sandoval Iniguez of Guadalajara, Mexico. Other Vatican officials included U.S. Cardinals Edmund C. Szoka, former president of the commission governing Vatican City State, and J. Francis Stafford, head of the Vatican's Apostolic Penitentiary.

Also in attendance were Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, retired archbishop of Washington, Coadjutor Archbishop Fouad Twal of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, and Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

As head of the Nashville Diocese, Bishop David R. Choby was the host bishop.

Cardinal Bertone also received the "Gaudium et Spes" Award from the Knights during the convention's States Dinner Aug. 7.

It is the highest honor presented by the Knights of Columbus and recognizes individuals for their exemplary service to the church and humanity in the spirit of Christ as articulated by the work of the Second Vatican Council. "Gaudium et Spes" is the Latin name of Vatican II's Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World.



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Immigration change will take activating mainstream Americans

BY PATRICIA ZAPOR

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Poll after poll says the American public supports a comprehensive approach to fixing immigration problems, but leaders of efforts to pass such a federal law acknowledge that an opposite message is driving the debate.

With a comprehensive immigration bill likely off the table until after next year's presidential election, advocates for immigrants said at an Aug. 3 teleconference that their strategy now has to become getting more of that majority of the public involved in fighting for what they say they believe and defusing the power that immigration "restrictionists" have gained.

One part of that is to get more religious leaders to take a stand, said

Kevin Appleby, director of migration and refugee policy for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"We need to counter the voices of talk radio," said Appleby. "Quite honestly, the churches, including the Roman Catholic Church, need to do a better job of educating people about the realities of immigration ... to put a human face on the discussion."

Cecilia Munoz, vice president of research and advocacy at the National Council of La Raza, said that, just as it took mainstream Americans speaking up to help bring about the civil rights laws of the 1960s, more of the public must become involved in supporting immigration reform.

"We have to make it more difficult for people to stand on the

sidelines," she said.

Munoz referred to a speech by Janet Murguia, La Raza's president, at the council's July annual conference, in which she described what's happened to the immigration discussion as "hatred and bigotry. We thought we were having a debate on immigration policy. But it was really a debate about who decides what it means to be an American."

Murguia said in the speech that in failing to move forward with a bill that dealt with immigration in a way that had the support of most of the country Congress "voted to cave in to bigotry. When the Senate voted to reject hope, it voted to embrace fear."

She said a "vocal minority, pushed along by an angry mob, aided and abetted by well-known talk-radio shock jocks, made the United States Senate — the greatest deliberative body in the world — its

pawn."

At the Aug. 3 teleconference, Tom Snyder, political director of UNITE HERE, the acronym for an international union of garment, textile, food service and hospitality workers, said the "huge group in the middle" must have strong leadership to rally people to hold their political leaders accountable for changing current laws and policies. He said it has been easier for politicians to let the status quo remain than to work for a change.

"I would always rather run a campaign to say 'no' rather than to say 'yes' to changes," Snyder said.

Appleby said at the teleconference that authority figures from all segments of society need to talk about the human justice issues in the current approach to immigra-

tion in the United States.

He described the current environment when it comes to immigration-related politics as toxic and "a feeding frenzy" that ignores the human beings whose lives, jobs and families are at stake.

The recent surge in employer raids that have drawn attention to families being split apart by deportations are helping draw attention to those justice concerns, said Munoz.

When 1,000 families have had parents separated from their children by workplace raids in recent months, Munoz said, "they're shining a light on what it really means to have a hostile immigration policy."

Unions such as UNITE HERE, civil rights organizations such as La Raza and churches are working to get immigrants to become citizens and get them out to vote, the panelists said.

They also said there is still a chance in this session of Congress to pass smaller immigration bills dealing with agriculture jobs and in-state tuition and a legalization path for college students who were brought to the country illegally as children.

Both bills — the Agricultural Jobs, Opportunity, Benefits and Security Act, or AgJOBS, and the Development, Relief and Education of Alien Minors Act, known as the DREAM Act — have had bipartisan support for several years, but have not made it to final votes in Congress.

Charity Navigator finds Catholic Charities USA a 'slam dunk' for donors

Recognized as eighth most fiscally responsible charity in nation

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Catholic Charities USA is a "slam dunk" for donors looking to maximize their investment, according to Charity Navigator, the country's largest independent charity evaluator, which this week recognized Catholic Charities USA as the eighth most fiscally responsible charity in the nation. In addition, Charity Navigator awarded Catholic Charities USA its highest rating — four stars — for both organizational efficiency and organizational capacity.

"At Charity Navigator we've scrutinized the financial health of more than 5,300 of the best-known charities in America. Catholic Charities USA stands out not just as one of the most fiscally healthy, but also for their strong commitment to respecting the rights of donors," said Trent Stamp, president of Charity Navigator. "Their inclusion on our top 10 list of Slam Dunk Charities signals to the public that Catholic Charities USA is worthy of its trust and support."

Catholic Charities USA, which was founded in 1910,

serves as the membership association of one of the nation's largest social service networks, providing networking opportunities, national advocacy, and media efforts, program development, training and technical assistance, and financial support. For more than 275 years, Catholic Charities agencies and institutions nationwide have provided vital social services to people in need, regardless of their religious, social or economic backgrounds.

"Quality, accountability and compassion are the foundation of our efforts to help local Catholic Charities agencies improve the lives of those in need," said Father Larry Snyder, president of Catholic Charities USA. "We are honored that our financial stewardship and our commitment to donors and those we serve have been recognized by such a reputable independent evaluator of charities. We commend Charity Navigator for helping donors make intelligent giving decisions that will result in a positive lasting impact."

Charity Navigator aims to advance a more efficient and responsive philanthropic marketplace in which givers and the charities they support work in tandem to overcome the nation's most persistent challenges.

"But it was really a debate about who decides what it means to be an American."

JANET MURGUIA, LA RAZA PRESIDENT

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St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton teacher Jodi Jump received the Notre Dame Club's "Excellence in Teaching" Award for private schools in northeast Indiana. This award is based on excellence in teaching, compassion for students and dedication to the teaching profession. Jump, who teaches grades 6-8 science, was nominated by Principal Lois Widner. In the photo from left are Lois Widner, Jodi Jump and Lisa Fabian, the representative from the Notre Dame Club.

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Pope sends personal letter, gift to Russian Orthodox leader

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has sent a personal letter and a gift, reportedly a golden pen, to Russian Orthodox Patriarch Alexy II of Moscow, who promised he would respond in writing. In a brief statement Aug. 8, the Vatican said retired French Cardinal Roger Etchegaray delivered the pope's letter to the patriarch in Moscow Aug. 7. The cardinal was on his way to Siberia to join celebrations marking the 10th anniversary of the consecration of the Catholic cathedral in Novosibirsk. After meeting the patriarch, Cardinal Etchegaray, citing joint meetings and conferences, told reporters that relations between Catholics and Russian Orthodox continue to improve. The cardinal's remarks led to speculation that perhaps a meeting between the pope and the patriarch, long desired by the Vatican, could be closer to realization. Cardinal Etchegaray confirmed that the chances have improved, but said no firm plans are being made.

Bishop Wester joins Utah community in prayers for trapped miners

HUNTINGTON, Utah (CNS) — Although he said "fear, anxiety and anger are common human emotions" during the long wait for word on the fate of six miners trapped in the Crandall Canyon Mine outside Huntington, Bishop John C. Wester of Salt Lake City urged the miners' families, colleagues and rescuers Aug. 9 to place themselves "in God's presence." "God will answer our prayers either with the safe return of the six miners to us, or the grace to see us through our loss," he said during a Mass in the tiny mission church of San Rafael in Huntington. The rescue effort to find the miners, unable to escape a massive mine collapse Aug. 6, was still under way Aug. 13. Two holes were drilled more than 1,800 feet into the cavern where they were believed to be trapped in hopes of finding evidence they were still alive. A microphone lowered through the first hole picked up no sounds from the miners, and a video camera lowered through the second hole yielded few images but did show a "survivable space," according to The Associated Press. Rescue workers drilled a third hole Aug. 13.

Paris Cardinal Lustiger laid to rest in crypt of Notre Dame Cathedral

PARIS (CNS) — Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger, former archbishop of Paris, was laid to rest in the crypt of Notre Dame Cathedral after a Catholic funeral that included references to his Jewish heritage. Arno Lustiger, his 83-year-old cousin and a Nazi-death-camp survivor, recited the kaddish, the Jewish prayer for the dead, before the cardinal's coffin was carried into the cathedral. The cardinal was born a Jew and converted to Catholicism as a teenager during World War II. His mother died in the Auschwitz

PEOPLE WALK THROUGH FLOODWATER IN INDIAN VILLAGE



CNS PHOTO/KRISHNENDU HALDER, REUTERS

People walk through floodwater in Hanumanth Rao village near Warangal in southern India Aug. 12. Pope Benedict XVI has appealed to the international community for aid to help millions of people affected by severe flooding in South Asia.

concentration camp. At Cardinal Lustiger's request, a plaque inside Notre Dame Cathedral will read, "I was born a Jew. I received the name of my paternal grandfather, Aaron. Christian by faith and by baptism, I remained a Jew, as did the Apostles." A message read on behalf of Pope Benedict XVI called the late cardinal "a man of faith and dialogue" and praised his commitment to improving relations between Christians and Jews. His successor as archbishop of Paris, Archbishop Andre Vingt-Trois, said Cardinal Lustiger "put in place the decisive acts in the development of relations between Jews and Christians that perhaps only he could have undertaken."

Vatican: Pope's meeting with priest does not affect Jewish relations

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI's brief encounter with a Polish priest accused of anti-Semitism does not indicate any change in the Vatican's position concerning Catholic-Jewish relations, the Vatican said in a written statement. Redemptorist Father Tadeusz Rydzik, who heads Poland's largest Catholic broadcast agency and has been accused of making anti-Semitic remarks, met with the pope Aug. 5 at the papal summer residence at Castel Gandolfo, after the pope's noon-time Sunday Angelus prayer, a Vatican source told Catholic News Service Aug. 8. The Vatican statement, released Aug. 9, said the fact that the pope met briefly with Father Rydzik "does not indicate any change in the Holy See's well-known position regarding relations between Catholics and Jews." The statement was issued after Jewish groups expressed concern over the meeting after photographs of the pope with Father Rydzik and two other priests surfaced in the Polish

media Aug. 7. The Vatican statement, written in Italian, described the Aug. 5 encounter as a "baciamento" or a brief handshake rather than a private audience.

Pope says young people attracted to Jesus, Gospel

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Contrary to what many may think, young people are strongly attracted to Jesus Christ and the Gospel, Pope Benedict XVI told thousands of Spanish youths. The pope urged some 5,000 pilgrims from Youth Mission of Madrid to continue to help their peers discover they are all loved by God and that his is "the only love that never fails and never ends." The pope spoke to the young people packed inside the courtyard of his papal summer residence, south of Rome, Aug. 9. He also greeted thousands of young people who could not fit inside the confined courtyard and gathered outside the residence's entrance. Pope Benedict sat and listened from his balcony as five young adults described how they grew closer to God and the church through their evangelization efforts with Madrid's Youth Mission missionary initiative. The program, spearheaded by Madrid Cardinal Antonio Rouco Varela, helps prepare young Catholics to evangelize their peers.

Bishop Pelotte moved to Houston hospital to be near his brother

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Bishop Donald E. Pelotte of Gallup, N.M., has been moved to a Houston hospital closer to where his brother lives, after spending more than two weeks in a Phoenix hospital recov-

ering from injuries he said he sustained in a fall at his home July 22. In an Aug. 9 posting on the diocesan Web site, Deacon Timoteo Lujan, chancellor, said Bishop Pelotte was transferred the day before to Memorial Hermann Texas Medical Center for ongoing treatment of traumatic head injuries. Deacon Lujan also reported that the diocese had hired an Albuquerque law firm after New Mexico news media sought copies of photos of the bishop with his injuries. The Gallup city attorney asked a state judge to decide if the police department is obligated to release to the news media photos of the bishop's injuries taken by police at the Gallup hospital where he was first evaluated. The diocese said among the factors in the decision to move Bishop Pelotte to Memorial Hermann Hospital was that his twin brother, Father Dana Pelotte, is pastor of Corpus Christi Parish in Houston. Father Pelotte had been at the Phoenix hospital nearly every day since his brother arrived.

Catholic university removes bishop's name from library

DAVENPORT, Iowa (CNS) — St. Ambrose University honored the request of a survivor of clergy sexual abuse and removed the name of the late Bishop Gerald F. O'Keefe of Davenport from the university's 11-year-old library. The Catholic university's board of directors made the decision Aug. 3 in hopes of bringing about healing, said Davenport Bishop Martin J. Amos, the board's president. Shortly after the board announced its decision, two workers in a crane removed the letters spelling out "O'KEEFE" from the front of the building. The word "LIBRARY" remained. The Rev. Mark Powell of Indianapolis, the survivor, requested the change because he said Bishop O'Keefe

failed to take the necessary precautions to protect children from abuse during his 26-year tenure as head of the diocese. In his own case, he was abused after he came to the Davenport Diocese in the late '70s as a teenager to join an order of religious brothers, and reported it to the bishop, who did nothing, he said. Bishop O'Keefe served the Davenport Diocese from 1967 to 1993 and died in 2000.

Collection for Latin American church exceeds \$7 million in 2006

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The national collection to aid the church in Latin America received more than \$7 million in contributions for the first time last year and used the funds to assist 476 projects in nearly two dozen countries. The annual report of the U.S. bishops' Committee on the Church in Latin America, published in July in English and Spanish, included those statistics and also featured a photo tribute to the rural catechists of Huancavelica, Peru. "The work of these catechists represents the dedication and love that all catechists throughout Latin America hold for Christ and his church," said Auxiliary Bishop Jaime Soto of Orange, Calif., chairman of the committee, in a letter sent to his fellow bishops with the report. The Fifth General Conference of the Bishops of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in May in Aparecida, Brazil, "brought to light many of the urgent pastoral challenges faced by our brothers and sisters," Bishop Soto added. Contributions to the collection came from 159 dioceses in all 50 states and in U.S. territories and from the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services.

Iraqi Christians were safer under Saddam, says Vatican official

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Although Iraq has a democratic government, Iraqi Christians were safer and had more protection under former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, said the future head of the Vatican's interreligious dialogue council. During the buildup to the U.S.-led invasion in 2003, French Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, who will become head of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue Sept. 1, had criticized the U.S. government's plan of preventative war and said a unilateral war against Iraq would be a "crime against peace." In a recent interview with the Italian magazine *30 Giorni*, the cardinal said his early criticisms had been prophetic. "The facts speak for themselves. Alienating the international community (with the U.S. push for war) was a mistake," he said in the magazine's Aug. 10 issue. A copy of the interview was released in advance to journalists. He said an "unjust approach" was used to unseat Saddam from power, resulting in the mounting chaos in Iraq today. "Power is in the hands of the strongest — the Shiites — and the country is sinking into a sectarian civil war (between Sunni and Shiite Muslims) in which not even Christians are spared," he said.

Forever Learning Institute prepares for fall semester

SOUTH BEND — Using the theme, "Something for Everyone over Fifty," the Forever Learning Institute in South Bend is preparing for fall classes. Classes are offered Sept. 10 through Nov. 30. On site registration will be Aug. 28-30 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Forever Learning has acquired five new Dell Vostro 1700 laptop computers to open their new and unique laptop lab for the fall semester.

"We plan to expand our equipment for the lab during the spring semester," said Joan Loranger, executive director of the Forever Learning Institute. "This is a modest beginning for a computer lab, which will enable us to open up new computer classes. With the unique idea of using laptops, we will be able to double the size of our basic computer classes by allowing students to bring their own laptop to class."

The Internet site, www.foreverlearninginstitute.org, has been redesigned by DataCruz, and it is much more user-friendly for prospective students. They are able to access the class and institution information and register for classes by mail.

"One student who was vacationing in Minnesota has already registered even though she will not be able to return to South Bend until the second week of class," said Loranger.

This semester, the institute will welcome 12 new teachers to the staff, and students will be able to select from 29 new classes including two new off campus situations in which they can learn at a primary site such as the Snite Museum, LaSalle Grill and the Historical Society.

A new class will be the 75 Years of American Music taught by Jason Gresl, education director of the South Bend Symphony, in conjunction with their 75th anniversary celebration year.

Forever Learning Institute will also offer a new series of lectures on topics which concern all seniors such as health, housing, insurance and tax issues. For those interested in landscaping, they can learn from the expert who is in charge of the beautiful campus at Notre Dame or enjoy learning how to paint with either acrylics or watercolor.

There will be another 21st Century Lecture Series, which will be started with a special lecture from Mike Wawrzyniak, Army ROTC director at the University of Notre Dame, on Sept. 14 at 9 a.m. Lt. Col. Michael Wawrzyniak will visit to tell about his experiences in Iraq. Among other noteworthy lecturers will be Mike Hoffman (WNDU-TV), and Jack Colwell from the *South Bend Tribune*.

Most classes meet at Little Flower Parish, 54191 Ironwood Rd., South Bend. For additional information, call (574) 282-1901 or visit the Web site, www.foreverlearninginstitute.org.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

BISHOP LUERS SHOWCASES SHOW CHOIR CAMPERS



TESS STEFFEN

The Fifth Annual Bishop Luers Show Choir Camp was held over a four-day period (July 31-Aug. 3). It was run by Karlene Krouse and a staff of up to 80 kids from the Luers Minstrel Show Choir. There were 97 campers, grades K-8, and a performance was held on the last day for family members.

ArchAngel Institute plans to use former abortion facility to advance pro-life cause

FORT WAYNE — The ArchAngel Institute, a recently formed Indiana nonprofit corporation, announces its plans to partner with the Donegal Corridor to transform the building that housed Fort Wayne's former abortion clinic.

It will be used as a center to educate, equip and defend those in the battle for life and Christian culture. It will also serve as a memorial to those children killed and women wounded there. These plans will be presented by the institute's executive director, Bryan J. Brown at 3:30 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 25, at the Allen County Public Library on Webster Street.

The Donegal Corridor will host an open house at 827 Webster St. following Brown's comments at the library. Wendell Brane, pastor of Trinity Evangelical Church, and Gloria Carrel, an ArchAngel Institute board member, will lead in a short service.

Redeemer Radio to carry Luers, Dwenger football

FORT WAYNE — Fort Wayne's Redeemer Radio, Catholic Radio AM 1450, recently announced that, for the second consecutive year, it will broadcast the full schedule of

SAC high school football this season, featuring games involving Bishop Dwenger and Bishop Luers high schools. Redeemer Radio will air live the full schedule, including playoff games. All games will be streamed live on the Internet by Redeemer Radio on their Web site, www.redeemerradio.com.

Redeemer Radio's schedule features approximately half the schedules of both Bishop Luers and Bishop Dwenger. The coverage will include pre- and post-game shows, special on-air guests, interviews with coaches and players, and updates of the scores of other high school football games in progress from across the region. The regular season begins Friday, Aug. 17, and runs through Friday, Oct. 19, with the specific schedule of games to be announced. Redeemer Radio's coverage will continue through the playoffs, potentially including coverage of non-SAC games.

Redeemer Radio's director of sports and advertising, Sean McBride, will be the play-by-play announcer, with Joe Wharton offering color commentary.

In announcing the high school football coverage, McBride stated that "we are excited and honored to broadcast Bishop Luers and Bishop Dwenger football again this fall. These broadcasts are a key aspect of our evangelization strategy — to reach a broad audience who might otherwise not be aware of our station. At the same time, we are able to serve our many listeners who are Bishop Luers or Bishop Dwenger fans, as well as promote Catholic

education within our diocese. Redeemer Radio's mission is to serve our community from a Catholic perspective. We are working to partner with Catholic schools from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and the local area. Through our sports broadcasts, we hope to highlight the benefits of Catholic education and to meet a need in our community for expanded coverage of our area sports teams. We are very excited about continuing to bring Bishop Luers and Bishop Dwenger football coverage to Fort Wayne."

Sylvester makes first vows as Brother of Holy Cross

CASCADE, Colo. — Holy Cross Brother Robert Sylvester, 61, made his first vows as a Brother of Holy Cross on Aug. 4 at the Holy Cross Novitiate in Cascade, Colo.

Brother Robert is the father of one son, Jared, and his wife is deceased. He has a masters in theology from the University of Notre Dame. Brother Robert Fillmore, CSC, provincial of the Midwest Province of Brothers, received Brother Robert's vows.

The Mass was celebrated by Father David Tyson, provincial of the Indiana Province of Holy Cross



BROTHER ROBERT SYLVESTER, CSC

Priests. Brother Robert's family and friends attended the profession ceremonies.

Golf outing benefits scholarships, charities

FORT WAYNE — The 13th annual LeighAnn Palmer Foundation Golf Outing will be held Sunday, Sept. 9, at the Grey Goose Golf Course.

The Florida scramble will be a double shotgun event at 7 a.m. or 1 p.m. Cost is \$60 per person.

The proceeds from this event will go to scholarships and local charities. Scholarships are given to a St. Therese girl who will attend Bishop Luers High School and a Bishop Luers senior cheerleader who will attend college. Scholarship winners this year were Lori Archbold from Bishop Luers and Abby Bireley and Molly Dimit from St. Therese.

The golf outing has been a huge success since its inception. In addition to awarding the scholarships, they have raised over \$80,000 in the past 12 years. Donations last year were made to Erin's House for Grieving Children, Phoenix Institute, SCAN, YMCA Camp Potawatami, The Christ Child Society and The Samaritan Counseling Center.

To register for the outing, call Rick Davidson at (260) 747-2902 or Mike Palmer at (260) 747-6918. For more information, visit the Web site at www.lmpfoundation.com.

Lindenwood holds Quiet Day of Reflection

DONALDSON — Registrations are now being taken for the Quiet Day of Reflection program "Sacredness of Breath and Sound."

This is an interactive day exploring the effect of breath and sound on the human body, mind and spirit. Participants will experience ways to clear the mind, relax the body and bring focus and clarity to our lives by practicing breathing exercises, toning and rhythm.

Facilitator for the event is Rev. Sam Boys, director of campus ministry and professor of religion at Ancilla College.

The program is scheduled Monday, Sept. 17, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The program fee is \$21 and includes noon main meal. Sign up early. Registration deadline is Monday, Sept. 10.

For more information or to register, contact Lindenwood at (574) 935-1780 weekdays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or E-mail: lw@lindenwood.org or check out the Web site www.lindenwood.org.

Pre game kickoff football luncheons return

SOUTH BEND — Seven pre-game kickoff football luncheons, which have been a tradition for nearly half a century, will be a highlight for Notre Dame football fans this season.

All of the luncheons will begin at noon preceding the home game for the Fighting Irish. The luncheons will also provide highlights of a Irish football game, feature short talks from players as well as an address by head Coach Charlie Weis.

Robert Nagle, a distinguished area football sportscaster and sports director, will be the master of ceremonies. — EJD

Serrans hold annual outing for religious

BY ELMER J. DANCH

SOUTH BEND — It has been a long tradition for the Serra Club of South Bend to host an annual outing for priests, brothers and sisters of religious groups in the South Bend area. And this year was no exception as members of Serra welcomed them at the reception and outing held in the ballroom of the Ave Maria Council 5521 of the Knights of Columbus.

"This year's group was one of the largest in recent years and represented a wide area," said deacon Rev. Mr. Ronald Moser, president. "Our prayers are always with them as well as their reparations," he added.

Heading the group was Father Bernard Galic, pastor of Holy Family Church and director of the televised Sunday Mass at WNDU-TV. He is also diocesan director of vocations.

A special guest was Father Paul McCarthy, a native of the city who just recently was assigned as the pastor of St. Stanislaus Church in Terre Coupe, New Carlisle.

The Serrans will also be represented at the Aug. 18 Mass marking the 150th anniversary of the diocese.



PHOTOS BY ELMER J. DANCH

Father Bernard Galic, pastor of Holy Family Church in South Bend and director of diocesan religious vocations, is flanked by two priests, left, Father Glenn Kohrman, pastor of St. Mary of the Lake in Culver, and, right, Father Lawrence Tetch, pastor of Our Lady of Hungary Church in South Bend. They were among the clergy representatives at the reception for religious sponsored by the Serra Club of South Bend.



A trio of sisters from the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross who enjoyed their reception for the religious sponsored by the Serra Club of South Bend were, from left, Sister Louisa Welsh, CSC, Sister Mary Margaret Lavis, CSC, and Sister Patricia Ann Thompson, CSC.



The Brothers of Holy Cross were well represented at the traditional outing for religious sponsored by the Serra Club of South Bend. Seated from left, Brother Walter Cluhm, Brother Roy Smith, Brother Frank Ellis, and Dr. John Toepp, director of the Indiana Knights of Columbus seminarian program. Standing, Brother Phillip Smith and Marilyn Toepp, a past president of the Knights of Columbus Wives.

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-Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton*

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Redeemer Radio



Rain, shine or heat, ICCL is 'alive and well'

BY JOE KOZINSKI

SOUTH BEND — Goopy is the term that most resembles the highly-humid, hot, muggy and toasty conditions that the Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL) opened with to start off their fall campaign.

With temperatures and heat indexes reaching into the triple digits, the football, soccer and softball athletes conditioned, practiced and began to prepare for their first contests of the league's 63rd season.

"The league is alive and well," stated Tony Violi, president of the ICCL. "We are down one team in football this year, which is a little disappointing, but they will be back in a couple of seasons."

"The softball teams are just now organizing, and we feel that they will be just as competitive as the previous seasons," added Violi. "The high schools, Marian and Saint Joseph's, have again opened their facilities for all of the sports."

The second-season director of the soccer teams Jeff Deitchley will have his hands full again as he

schedules games and playoffs for 36 boys and girls teams.

"Sometimes it seems almost overwhelming with all the people watching the games and the teams coming in for the next game, but we make it all work," Deitchley commented. "Our numbers are great, and Marian High School has been fantastic with their fields, I expect a tremendous year."

As for the midsummer weather that has cast its spell on the practice fields the ICCL has some specific guidelines as it pertains to the safety of its participants.

"The easy weather rules for the ICCL pertain to when school is in session," explained Violi.

"Especially during the winter, when school is canceled because of snow or ice, all contests and practices are automatically canceled."

"Weekend games are monitored and weather advisories taken into consideration on if games are played," continued Violi. "Or spring rain policy for track and baseball are called by officials, umpires and league directors only."

"The early fall we content with extreme heat and occasional light-

ning," remarked Violi. "Lightning in the area means that the players immediately take shelter, the heat is a little more difficult for the coaches."

"The league's main concern is the safety for all of the athletes," Violi said. "Water breaks and constant monitoring all the players looking for signs of heat exhaustion and heat stroke occupy our staffs the entire practice."

"We spend time talking to our players about what they eat and drink prior to practice and keep

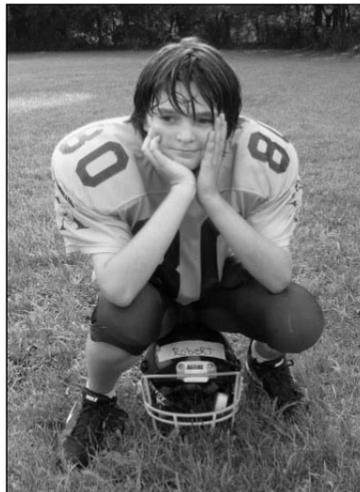
them hydrated during practice," commented Carey Rogers head coach of the Granger Catholic Titans. "We are looking for kids that are struggling and not sweating, we remind them that there is always practice tomorrow."

While the weather is sometimes a struggle, the ICCL has shown its resiliency and resolve to offer the Catholic grade schools not only great competition but a safe atmosphere to hone their athletic talents.



JOE KOZINSKI

Members of the Granger Catholic Titans cool off during a hot day at practice. Shown with his water is No. 50, Ryan Grochowalski, above and No. 80 is Robert Irvin, right.



Fall CYO football, volleyball action looms

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — As summer vacation comes to a close and the academic school year kicks off, the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) fall teams begin to prepare for the 2007 season. Practices began for most teams early in the month and schedules are in the process of taking shape as coach's meet to set dates, times and locations.

Reigning champions, St. John-Benoit-St. Joseph Hessen Cassel Eagles, are practicing two hours each day with basic fundamental instruction and drills.

Coach Jim Carroll, in his seventh season, reports, "We have 33 young Eagles ready to embark on what we hope will be a very memorable and successful season."

The Eagles have just two returning starters, but realize each newcomer will contribute to the team effort. Carroll says, "Our goals are the same as always: give our best effort and be the best we can be."

All CYO football teams will gather at Zollner Stadium on Sunday afternoon, Aug. 19, for weigh-ins. Teams finished with the following records for 2006:

1. St. John, Fort Wayne	7-0
2. St. Vincent	6-1
3. St. John, New Haven	5-2
4. St. J-A-T	4-3
5. St. Charles	3-4
6. St. Jude	2-5
7. Holy Cross	1-6
8. Q of A-Precious Blood	0-7

In Blue League volleyball action, teams finished last year:

1. St. Therese
2. Queen of Angels
3. St. Aloysius
4. St. Rose-St. Louis
5. Benoit
6. Precious Blood
7. St. Joseph, Hessen Cassel
8. St. Mary's-St. Joseph, Decatur

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Smorgasbord of fall sports on tap at Bishop Luers

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

FORT WAYNE — Although Bishop Luers High School welcomed students in mid-August, activity on the sports fields has already been in high gear.

Athletic director and head football coach Matt Lindsay says he expects the fall season to be "a good one overall" in keeping with Luers' strong tradition.

Football

The Luers Knights open Friday, Aug. 17, against Northrop and Coach Lindsay refuses to rate the degree of difficulty of the first matchup. "There are no easy ones," he says.

However, he will welcome back several experienced players, an important asset on the field.

Some key positions will be filled by senior receiver and defensive back, Adrien Spencer, senior linebacker Isaac Baker, senior full-back Tyler Watts and senior center Ben Hendricks. Several underclassmen like junior linebacker Tyquan Hammock are expected to add to the strength of the defense. But Coach Lindsay says his offensive and defensive lines need strengthening so he will be looking for other players to step up during the season.

Lindsay has been head football coach the past 20 years and his coaching philosophy is unchanged. He expects his players to represent their school well, to "play with class, uphold tradition and put their names in the record book."

Cross country

Boys' and girls' cross country

Coach Linda Keuneke saw 30 runners sign up last spring and most have been working hard during summer conditioning to prepare for the fall season.

The boys' team will feature varsity runners, juniors Jeff Andrews and Ryan Green. Keuneke says many incoming freshmen look good, as well.

On the girls' side, juniors Nicole Wellman and Jordan Crouch and senior Kristen Daniel will set the pace on and off the course.

The first meet is slated for Wednesday, Aug. 22, and is a five-way event. Later in the year a parochial school meet will pit Blackhawk Christian, Concordia, Canterbury, Dwenger and Luers high schools. Coach Keuneke confides that Concordia has a good cross country program. "I don't forget Concordia," she says.

Head Coach Keuneke will have help this season from former Bishop Luers runner and first year assistant Jacob Doctor, whom she calls "a fine addition to the program."

Tennis

The boys' tennis season officially kicks off with a two-way match Aug. 16 at South Adams High School. Head Coach Brady McArdle has a full complement of players and is hoping for a good start. Last year's team "had a pretty good year," ending up fourth in the SAC and this year's prospects look promising.

Three seniors are returning, doubles players Mike Scher and Max Hall, and Steve Kelso, who plays singles as well as doubles. And Coach McArdle says his

number one singles player, junior Brett Schuhler, "is going to be pretty competitive this year."

The team will compete in 16 dual matches in coming weeks and several weekend invitationals before the regular season ends in late September.

Coach McArdle enjoys his sport and wants his players to do likewise. He likes to remind them, "Work hard, be smart and have some fun."

Soccer

The Luers ladies' soccer team will benefit from the expertise of two head coaches this season.

Katie Muirs, a Luers graduate, and Katie Hathaway, a Concordia alumna, both played on their respective high school teams and competed in club soccer in Fort Wayne for several years. So when the opportunity arose to combine their skills as head coaches, they jumped at the chance. Muirs says they have similar coaching ideas and work well together.

Summer soccer camp saw 32 girls participating, so Muirs expects to place 18 or so at the varsity level and the balance at junior varsity as practice officially gets underway.

Overall, Coach Muirs says her players have varied talents. Returning junior Gabby Denning has good tactical and technical tools, junior Kara Baumgardner has a lot of speed in covering defense, and junior Liz Helsner has a good defensive mind. Seniors Lexie Fyfe and Lindsay Shutt work well together and have great leadership ability. Senior Kaitlin Hire and juniors Emma Sharay and Lauren Hellinger also

exhibit similar qualities. Muirs hopes to have the girls step into those roles naturally.

She says, "I don't like to do a lot of coaching." Her style is to watch the girls develop their soccer skills and then help each other on the field. There's only so much a coach can do from the sidelines, she says, so she gives pointers during practice and allows her players to "pick each other up" during matches.

The first contest is slated for Tuesday, Aug. 14, vs. Carroll High School. Muirs says she has "a solid group of girls who are up for challenges," so she and Coach Hathaway hope to find the key to a successful season.

Volleyball

Good summer workouts and open gyms have girls' head volleyball coach Scott Shipman excited about the season's prospects. A large complement of nearly 40 players will be enough to form a freshman, junior varsity and varsity team, he says.

Two of last year's all-conference players will return, junior Andrea Kleber and senior Melanie Huhn. Also contributing to a winning effort will be junior Cassie Davis, senior Monica Lohmiller and sophomore Kristy Gerardot. Coach Shipman calls these players "pretty solid." Shipman says he has good freshmen coming up and other players have stepped up to fill vacant positions as well. He's looking forward to a preseason tournament that will give him a chance to assess their strengths and weaknesses.

Shipman will be assisted by Chella Harris at the varsity level, by Elise Rupright with the jayvees, and by Kay Armstrong with the freshmen.

Golf

First year girls' head golf coach Tom O'Brien is pleased to have a record number of golfers out this season. With 16 girls, he will be able to field both a varsity and a junior varsity team, he says.

They're ready to hit the links in their first match on Aug. 13. He admits, "I'm excited because the kids are excited."

Leading this year's lineup will be senior and top golfer Katie O'Brien, an all-state performer and three-handicapper who won regional honors last year with a 69 at Cobblestone. Next up will be No. 2 golfer Heather Hendrickson, an all-area player last year and all-SAC her two previous years. Other varsity players are seniors Haylee Eckert, Morgan Tobias, Erin Springer and junior Chelsea Pritchard.

Coach O'Brien is also pleased with the large number of rookies this year. Though they're inexperienced golfers, they're athletic girls with good potential, he says. He's implementing a big/little sister program so that the more experienced players can share their knowledge of the game with those who are new to it. Assistant coaches Steve Gillie and Bobby O'Brien will also lend their expertise.

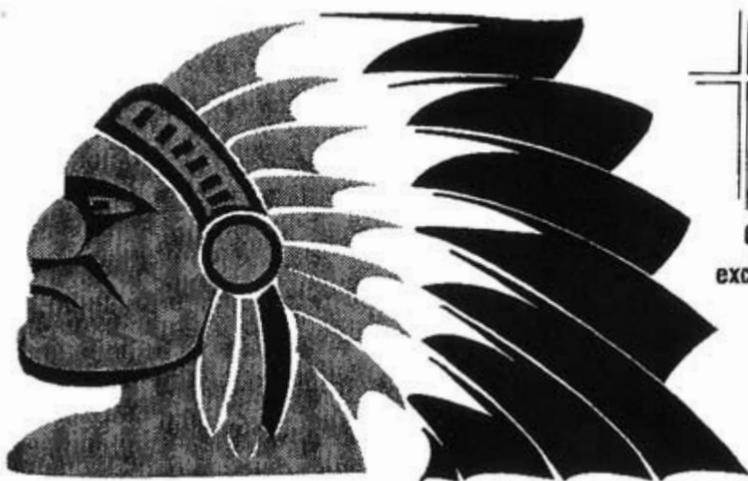
Last year's Luers ladies were second in sectional play and advanced to regionals as a team. This year, says Coach O'Brien, "their goal is to get to state" and with all six varsity players back he is optimistic about their prospects. "It's going to be fun."

It won't be long before the leaves begin to change and a new season advances. With a full complement of fall sports on tap, Bishop Luers High School is positioned once again to add to its long tradition of athletic excellence.

"The will to win is important, but the will to prepare is vital."

Joe Paterno

Saint Joseph's High School wishes the best of luck to all of our student athletes and teams as they prepare for a new season of competition.



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Dwenger fall sports program gets underway

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Dwenger High School athletic director Andy Johns can barely contain his enthusiasm for the upcoming panoply of fall sports. With a great fall season last year, he says, "We're excited, ready to go."

Football

Head football coach Chris Svarczkopf echoes that sentiment. "We're looking forward to it."

Last year's pigskin brigade went 12-2, losing in semi-state competition to Elkhart Concord. This year, with three returning first team — all conference players, his squad should be stronger than ever. Senior John Goodman, an "outstanding player" and Notre Dame recruit who will start at quarterback this year, senior line-backer Mick Mentzer and senior defensive end Alex Cuttitta are expected to provide solid team leadership.

Another defensive leader will be Aaron Hendricks at end, along with defensive back David Swinehart, defensive lineman Greg Svarczkopf, offensive lineman Ryan Myers and running back Jermakis Willis. Other offensive threats are seniors Nick Yates, Matt Maringer and Matt Eppard.

Coach Svarczkopf will also look for good things from junior wide receiver Tyler Eifert and from juniors Steve Seculoff and Stephen Fiacable on the offensive line. Special teams will shine with Dan Khorshid kicking and quarterback Goodman exhibiting punting prowess.

Coach Svarczkopf is pleased with the team's early season strength and experience at key positions. While admitting that his offensive line is still under construction, he feels sure that less experienced players will step up to the challenge.

When Dwenger opens Aug. 17 against Concordia, the Saints will enjoy home field advantage and David Watercutter will be assisting head coach Svarczkopf as defensive coordinator.

Tennis

Like her male counterparts, boys' tennis coach Anne Schenkel also says she's "looking forward to a good season." With 12 scheduled

matches and team tournament play to follow in mid-October, the season is fairly short as well.

Top singles player, senior Keith Welch, is back along with senior doubles player Mick Maxwell. Several sophomores will see varsity action, including Danny Schenkel, Carson Braun, Austin Rang and Sam Freistroffer.

Coach Schenkel likes to keep as many as 22 players and is pleased with the large number of returnees this year. She notes that middle school tennis programs have increased participation and interest in the sport in recent years.

Schenkel is optimistic about the team's prospects. She says, "We should be able to hold our own in the SAC."

Cross county

Although boys' cross country coach Eric Ade conducted his team's first official practice last week, he notes that 30 runners have been in strength and weight training and light summer conditioning since June.

After losing 14 seniors to graduation, Coach Ade says this year's team will be fairly young. While incoming seniors Andy Gilbert and Jack Dahm will be expected to provide vital team leadership on and off the course, the majority of this year's runners will be sophomores and juniors.

Juniors Patrick Brunner and Dane Okleshan and sophomore Luke Momper, who ran varsity as a freshman, will add depth to the lineup. Then, says Ade, "a whole slew of sophomores can step up."

With less experienced runners this year, Ade admits the job of coaching "will be more challenging." But as a competitive runner himself, third-year head coach Ade welcomes that challenge. He says that because he knows what his athletes are going through, he is better able to help them "push through the mental barriers" to attain their goals.

Ade is cautious about his athletes' prospects. Ideally, he would like to see them make it to state competition. Realistically, he believes semi-state status is achievable. Either way, he hopes that by participating in the sport they "learn something about themselves and life in general."

Sixth-year girls' cross country Coach Jessica Hayes welcomed a large contingent of 25 to a team



BILL SCOTT

Bishop Dwenger and Bishop Luers held their annual scrimmage Aug. 10 at Bishop D'Arcy Stadium at the University of Saint Francis.

meeting last week, then practice began in earnest on July 30. The first meet was slated for Aug. 14 at Fort Wayne's Shoaff Park and featured teams from seven or eight area schools.

Senior Mattie Goheen, who "did a good job last year," and senior Allie Polaski are expected to provide strong leadership to a younger squad of runners. Another experienced returnee will be sophomore Staci Roberts.

Coach Hayes says the toughest area competition usually comes at the hands of Concordia, Snider and Northrop high schools. Then the New Prairie meet will pit hundreds of teams in head-to-head competition and provide a good barometer for success, she points out.

Her coaching philosophy is simply stated. She likes to take her runners where they are and help them improve. "Continued improvement is always the goal," says Hayes.

Soccer

The boys' soccer program saw 50 prospective athletes at tryouts last week, says head Coach Michael Khorshid, but he will eventually pare down that number, leaving 18 each on the varsity and junior varsity squads.

Last year's Saints were reigning SAC champs with a 14-3 record, so interest in the sport is high. Khorshid says he hopes to do as well or better in 2007 if everyone remains healthy and injury-free. Assisting him on the field this season will be Carlos Cruz.

Three returning standouts are senior midfielder Danny Khorshid, senior fullback Danny Nix and senior midfielder-forward Steve Roberts, along with returning senior defenseman Daniel Wilder. Some underclass players will move up as needed.

Coach Khorshid emphasizes that soccer requires a team effort and a "passion for the sport." Good players with good attitudes produce a good team and that usually leads to success, he points out.

Girls' soccer coach Jason Wisniewski says it's hard to avoid high expectations this season after coming off a record of 23-0-2 in 2006. And he admits that two successive years as state champs definitely prompts thoughts of a three-peat.

But the 10-year head coach is quick to point out that Snider, Homestead, Carroll, Canterbury and Zionsville are traditionally tough opponents and nothing should be taken for granted this early in the season.

He is fortunate to have eight returning seniors to provide strong leadership in this year's effort. They include Mallorie Schon, Katereri Till, Dakota Helms, Brittany Lahrman, Margaret Allgeier, Ali Smelko, Blair Sorg and Jessica Wagner. "A few are really good," he confides.

Wisniewski's coaching philosophy is simple but far-reaching. He works to develop people while encouraging appreciation for the sport and believes a good coach should teach values and build character.

Wisniewski will be assisted on the field by Michelle Pray and Vasil Chapla.

Golf

The Dwenger girls' golf team got off to a good early start with a win in the late July three-way match vs. Concordia and Carroll high schools, says third-year head Coach Kurt Leffers. Since Concordia is traditionally their toughest opponent, the win makes Leffers cautiously optimistic about the season. "It's the first time I've ever done it," he remarks.

His squad is small with only nine golfers, but each of his senior varsity players is a major contributor on the course. The team's number one player is Megan Ryan, followed by Jenna Voirol, Ashley Gross, Jacqlyn Stark and Kylie Kucinski. The first match was

extremely tight with the top four scores ending in a tie and the fifth golfer bringing home the win, he notes.

Leffers says, "I'm hoping for a good season with the girls. We'll see what happens."

Volleyball

The Dwenger 2007 girls' volleyball team debuted Tuesday, Aug. 14, in a home contest against arch-rival Belmont. Head Coach John Minnick says, "It should be a really good match."

Since Dwenger volleyballers were SAC champs last season for the first time in 24 years, fifth-year head Coach Minnick is justifiably proud. He expects interest in the first match to be high since last year's team went 26-5, losing only to Belmont in semi-state competition.

Eleven players are returning to the squad so they should be pre-season favorites with everyone gunning for them, he admits. But he says the "chemistry is really good" among the players and should result in excellent teamwork on and off the field.

Minnick will welcome back seven seniors including standouts Ashley Dillon, who has won a full scholarship to IPFW (Indiana-Purdue Universities at Fort Wayne), and Emily Mayers, who will enjoy a full ride to Xavier next year. Key roles will also be played by Laine Mello and Christine Ludwiski, while junior Beth Fogler will be a big contributor by providing "a nice offensive attack from the right side," he says.

Coach Minnick will enjoy help on the sidelines from assistant coach Mike Mickelini, reserve coach Rhonda Winkeljohn and freshman coach Kay Freiburger. While Minnick is "offensive-minded," Mickelini and Winkeljohn focus on defense and Freiburger concentrates on serving to provide a three-pronged approach to each match.

"I like the girls to have fun and have a good work ethic," says Minnick. "They're very promising," and they should be fun to watch, he tells volleyball fans.

With a full complement of fall sports on the schedule and classes set to begin this month, things are definitely buzzing at Bishop Dwenger High School. Sports fans should have plenty to watch as Dwenger teams vie for superiority in a wide variety of venues.

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Saint Joseph's potential is there for success in many sports

BY JOE KOZINSKI

SOUTH BEND — Saint Joseph's High School has set the stage for another successful fall campaign even after graduating 19 athletes on scholarships in division I, II and III.

"The proof is in the pudding," explained Eric Gohlke, athletic director. "The potential is there for us to be very successful."

Football

The Indians' football team graduated many of its starters but plan to replace them with players

that have been dedicated and have worked hard in the program for the last four years.

"On offense we have some good skill players back headlined by Jordan Taylor a four-year starting tailback that is one of the school's top 10 rushers," Downey commented. "We have a transfer that will see some time in the backfield in Dustin White and junior quarterback Joey Hecklinski threw for more than 1,000 yards last season.

"We have five good receivers that all played last season in Ben Hinz, Zack Matthews, Chris Hoffman, Bobby McClintock and Mike Krzyzewski, and we expect

Ben Stone to pick up the tight end responsibilities," Downey continued. "We have two starters back from the offensive line, Montana Knapp and Mitch Speer and we are expecting Chris Kosinski and Knute Knapp to fill the holes left by graduation.

"The defense has quality players in Teddy Padjakowski and linebackers Adam Arsenault and Mike Krzyzewski," Downey remarked. "Chris Kosinski and Mitch Speer will have to hold the line and work with some young players until they get experience.

"What we really have is a group of smart, intelligent players that get along great together and work hard," praised Downey.

Volleyball

With one of the toughest schedules against the best teams in the state, Coach Mary Kay O'Connell is excited about this year's group of seasoned players.

"The team gets along great together with no internal conflicts, they understand the goal and they play well together," exclaimed O'Connell.

"We of course will rely on last year's NIC MVP and first team all-state player, Alex Hunt," O'Connell remarked. "Elise Jordan is our captain and we will expect her leadership on the floor and Lauren Paczkowski, our setter, will run our offense."

O'Connell's exuberance is an extension of the team chemistry that focuses on the team getting better as the season progresses.

"Its senior year, how can you not be excited," commented Hunt, who will be attending the University of Michigan next year on a volleyball scholarship. "We have team chemistry, good plays and great players. I expect a fantastic season."

Boys soccer

The success for the Indian soccer team will be dependent on how Coach Alberto Verteramo mixes veterans and young athletes together after losing three scholarship players to graduation.

"I'm really anxious to see how we put it together," Verteramo explained.

"Sean Leahy is a four-year starter on defensive, Brooks Demarais is a senior goalie that started the first six games last year with pressure on him to hold

the team together," Veteramo continued. "Captain Greg Swygart is coming off an injury and is looking good along with three year defensive starter, junior Brian Norquist.

"Brad Callahan has played on varsity for four years and will be at midfield and sophomore Dylan Mares is highly skilled playing on the Olympic Development Team," Veteramo quipped. "We have no real superstars, but the kids will be successful by working hard together."

Girls soccer

"Balance, Balance, Balance" is the battle cry of Coach Johan Kuitse as he brings a big group of seniors into the 2007 campaign with depth, talent and experience.

"The last two years we have split the conference title with Marian and Penn, this year we are not depending on one or two players to win," Kuitse explained. "We have mixed our squads together in scrimmages and mixed them again and there has been no dominate group, that shows me that we are even and have a competitive team.

"Our midfield has eight players that can all compete at the varsity level," Kuitse commented. "We do have six seniors that have been on varsity all four years and they are our strength.

"Another big piece of our team is the leadership we get from backup keeper, Jenifer James," added Kuitse. "The expectation is to win the sectional and go from there."

Boys cross country

Saint Joe looks to be the leader of the pack when it pertains to cross country in the Northern Indiana Conference with 20-year Coach Jerry Hoffman expressing his delight in the talent of the squad.

"We have more pure talent than we have ever had," boasted an exuberant Hoffman. "Our ultimate success however will depend on our competition.

"We have a total of 40 boys out, we had 30 to 40 kids (boys and girls) at workouts everyday this summer and we have a solid group of seven or eight runners," Hoffman explained. "Sophomore Mike Bradley and senior Ben Detrempe are leaders that should pull runners up with them.

Girls cross country

Moving to the New Haven Semi-State shouldn't get in the way of the girls cross country team's goal of competing on the state level this year according to Coach Jerry Hoffman.

"We look fairly solid after losing three very good seniors," Hoffman exclaimed. "The girls are working hard and it looks like we will be strong again.

"Our number one Katie Dunlap, is back and I expect leadership from Christi Nurkowski," Hoffman continued. "We really have some good looking athletic young runners that could compete early."

Boys tennis

Top two in the conference is the goal of Coach Eric Mahone as the tennis team readies itself for the upcoming season.

"We have four returning players from last season's team and a couple of young players adding to the mix," Mahone stated. "Tommy Krcmaric should be our number one player and we will add two top area players that are freshmen in Will Corrigan and Anthony Lupresto.

"We have three seniors that we expect solid leadership from; James O'Connor, Oliver Temple and Eli Lenard," continued Mahone. "We will have high expectations and I think with the level of talent we have we can be successful."

Girls golf

Going 18-0, winning the conference, winning the city meet and being state finalist last season looks to be only the first chapter for the girls golf team, which has five out of its six top girls back.

"Our expectations are high, we can do well in the conference and it would be great to get back to state," remarked Coach John Troeger.

"One of our better players is currently ineligible (National tournament conflicts with the IHSA), Anne Ormson and we hope to get her back," Troeger explained. "Colleen Hughes, Torie Jaques and Becca Jones who had a hole in one in Plymouth will give us depth."

"We have had a great month with some great matches we just need to continue the trend."

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The Tradition of excellence lives on.

Saint Joseph's High School Athletic Association

Quality coaching, solid athletes goals of Marian program

BY JOE KOZINSKI

MISHAWAKA — Marian will start its fall campaign with the same head coaching staff it started its successful 2006 season with.

"Very good things are expected from all of our teams," commented Reggie Glon, athletic director.

"We should be able to compete for not only conference titles and sectional titles, but at the state level again this season.

"As our facilities are concerned, we will be continuing work on the Baranay Athletic Complex," Glon explained.

"We have also added an asphalt pathway and ticket booths for the football and track facility," continued Glon. "Quality coaching, top facilities and solid athletes are the goals of our program."

Football

The gridiron Knights return 15 starters and 21 letter winners from last season's 8-2 team and have good numbers with 110 players in the program.

"Big numbers mean big competition," exclaimed Glon, also the head football coach.

"We have skill players back on offense in starting quarterback Connor Creevey, fullback Nate Milligan, running back Jared Diltz and wide receiver Nick Fitzpatrick," remarked Glon. "We have some holes to fill on the offensive line but we do have returning starters Ken Kozinski and Chris Brennan that we will lean on early.

"On defense we return six starters led by middle linebacker Jordan Weidner and defensive tackle Matt Horvath," commented Glon. "Our defensive backfield

returns Corey Walz, Shawn Geraghty and Jake Zielinski accompanied with linebacker Ian Blair, our secondary should be one of our strengths.

"Again the defensive line has some holes that we expect kids to step up and accept the challenge," Glon said. "We have added some tougher teams to our schedule in Clay and Penn, with the hopes to prepare us better for the post season.

"The season rests on the shoulders of the seniors on the offensive and defensive lines playing hard every down."

Volleyball

The schedule is as hard as it can get for 15-year veteran Coach Dan Anderson and his squad wants it that way.

Last season's team was just three points away from winning the state championship, plays in one of the toughest conferences and has scheduled some perennial powerhouses for seasoning.

"It's important for us to be mentally as well as physically prepared to make a run at this year's state championship," exclaimed Anderson.

"We will rely on three-year starters Katie Britton and Stephanie Kreager in the middle and we return setter Katie Mischler and Kathleen Chelminiak," remarked Anderson. "Claire Farkas is our 5-foot, 10-inch returning outside hitter, and we hope to have good production from Renee Michler, Maggie Pajakowski and Merideth Farkus.

"We turned it up at midseason last year and were playoff ready, our goal is not to let up and win the state title this time."

Boys soccer

Work ethic and experience are the two strengths that the Knights are bringing into the season in hopes of competing for a Northern Indiana Conference crown while returning nine seniors.

"We should have our talent spread out all over the field," commented Coach Ben Householter. "I expect good things from Jamal Fatti and Kyle Dosmann at mid-field, coming off an injury is Tommy Blum at forward.

"Adam Urbanski and Bob Cassidy will anchor the defensive end of the field for us," continued Householter. "It should be an exciting year and I encourage everyone to come out and watch this team play."

Girls soccer

Be prepared to play is the moniker that Coach Carlos Reynolds is drilling into the girls heading into this year's soccer campaign.

"Last year we went to the semi-state and some people are talking about this being a rebuilding year," commented Reynolds. "I think that the girls have a very different way of looking at the season.

"Our girls have been working so hard, we had a goal set at a seven minute mile to make the team," Reynolds explained. "All of the girls made it, that's what type of player we have on the team.

"Our strength should be with depth and our midfield," remarked Reynolds. "We are led by our three captains, Lisa Veldman, Kat Wade and Ali Groot. They have led by example.

"I also expect very good things from Hanna Brammer, Andrea

Wade, Shanna Barry and defender Jordan Ludwig," continued Reynolds. "All the girls have been very committed. I'm so excited to get the season started."

Boys' cross country

A year of improvement is the focus Coach Natalie Sandoval has placed on this season's squad.

"Right now we are looking pretty good. We have a large group of seniors, and we only lost one of our top seven," remarked Sandoval. "Last year we didn't finish the way we would have liked. We are looking to improve on that.

"I expect some big things out of Ben Krucina, Matt LaFournie, Sam Probst and Greg McMillion," explained Sandoval. "Again, improvement is the key to our successful season."

Girls cross country

Camp Tannandoonah was the preseason home for both the boys and girls cross country teams.

"The week at the camp was definitely the hardest week of training the kids have ever experienced," explained head Coach Sandoval. "Last season was our first ever showing at the semi-state and the girls have talked all off-season about goals and are focused.

"We have a big group of seniors, and we have all of our top runners back with the exception of our all-stater," Sandoval commented. "They have added a half mile to the girls course so we have worked on more distance training this year. The added distance makes for a better race.

"I'm really looking for good years from the following runners; Elizabeth Marquarot, Elizabeth Majewski, Katie Gergathy, Kaitlyn Koscelski and Jessica Theuerl," remarked Sandoval.

Boys tennis

The Knights will be coming out swinging with a team that features even depth, dedication and determination and may be a team to be reckoned with.

"We had some pretty significant losses from last season with nine seniors departing," claimed Coach Sarah Stanchin.

"I think we will be able to fill the holes and surprise some people with the quality of our team," remarked Stanchin. "Our Captain Andy Krizman can fill the void at the number one and returners Jack Chartier and Shiva Thinakal should handle the singles duties for us."

"We also have some newcomers that are very good athletes in Curtis Staun, Steve Baranay and Danny McShane," added Stanchin. "The team spirit has been great during the hot summer practices and hopefully it will carry over into the season."

Girls golf

A solid season is what the girls' golf team had last year without the ending that they had hoped for, this year's squad is focused to improve throughout the fall campaign.

"We have already had a couple of tough matches so far this year," commented Coach Connie Vandenburg. "Right now our goal is to be around 350 for 18 holes, and I know we can improve upon that as the season goes on."

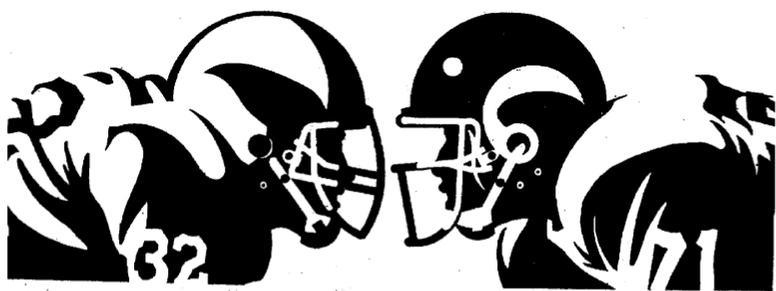
"We are counting on our four returning players: sophomore Haley Van Es, juniors BreAnna Zilm and Caroline Trippel and senior Annie Brennan," explained Vandenburg.

"Our goals are to make out of the sectional and regional and compete at the state level," remarked Vandenburg.

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EDITORIAL

Making it a good habit to maintain our spiritual health

“Spirituality” or being “spiritual” means nothing more (but also nothing less) than being animated and guided by the Spirit of the Lord which is received at baptism. This is what St. Paul means by “living according to the Spirit” or being “spiritual.” It does not necessarily mean some intense form of interiority.

Perhaps the most helpful way we can understand the spiritual life is to see our goal as the reformation by grace (particularly by the Holy Spirit, often called “uncreated” grace) of the image of God within us, wounded by original and actual sin. Grace purifies our intellect in knowing the truth and rectifies our will in loving the good.

Essential to spiritual health — maintaining the health and vigor of the Holy Spirit’s life within us — are prayer, silence and nourishment through reading. All of these require dedication, discipline and the development of habit.

Silence is an essential prerequisite to prayer and the spiritual life. It is imperative to cultivate times of silence within our daily life. Silence helps us to grow in self-awareness, which is essential to genuine growth (since pride is the absence of self-perspective induced by self-absorption). As we grow in self-awareness, two things happen:

- We recognize our real poverty; and
- Come to see our true identity in Christ.

Nourishment through solid spiritual reading is also essential. Pride of place belongs to the inspired text of sacred Scriptures. Scripture must be read Christologically: Christ is the key to unlocking the meaning of the Scriptures as a whole — including the Old Testament (he is the Word revealed in and through the words). He is the alpha (“In the beginning was the Word”) and omega (the One who will “draw all things” to himself), framing the text.

If you plan on reading the Scriptures, always start with the Gospels, which provide the “lens” for the rest of the Bible. Small bits of Scripture each day over which we can mull or meditate are the basis. Also helpful is to read the Scriptures along with the whole church: following the Lectionary cycle, we can follow the daily Mass readings and make them a source of real nourishment.

Another source of nourishment is the Liturgy of the Hours: the official prayer of the universal church. Comprised of psalms, canticles and passages from the Scriptures, it is designed to become the “hinge” or “pivot” of our daily prayer life. The cycle of Morning Prayer (called lauds) and Evening Prayer (called vespers) can structure and mold our day-to-day existence.

Look to the saints

The lives and writings of the saints are another excellent source of spiritual nourishment. The more we see ourselves as part of a living tradition of spiritual practice, the more we can appropriate the best of it for ourselves.

All of these practices are predicated upon self-discipline: the ability to shut off the TV, computer, and the iPod and set time aside every day for God. The secret is to start small and let it grow. All of these practices have to be in accord with one’s state in life. A mother of seven cannot be expected to live like a Trappist; one has to discover what works for oneself, based upon the formula outlined above.

Like everything else in life, balance is important. These practices will be helpful only if you are striving to live fully the sacramental life of the church, in particular through faithful and regular celebration of the Eucharist (which the church teaches is the most effective thing we can do) and the regular celebration of the sacrament of reconciliation.

In the end, it is all about habit (not simply as repetitive behavior, but habitus, a firm and reliable disposition of the will): inculcating good habits and rooting out bad habits, assisted all the while by grace. This is why regularity is more important than volume. It involves more than mere willpower or self-discipline — that alone is insufficient because it means we are relying primarily upon our own efforts and not upon the grace of God.

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

COMMENTARY

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

Latin Mass is more than a ‘non-starter’

I strongly disagree with the priests who say that Pope Benedict’s insistence on a far wider availability of the Latin Mass is a “non-starter” in our diocese. They seem to blow it off as a marginal issue aimed solely at reintegrating Lefebvrist into the Catholic Church. Otherwise, they believe, no one cares.

Not so. The only reason such schismatic movements have any following at all is that many Catholics are frustrated by the bishops’ stingy permissions to use the older form of worship. The Latin Mass was never banned, except “de facto” by bishops. Most of us “malcontents” have chosen to remain within the church, praying that the day would come when a saintly pope would insist that sacred tradition should have its place beside modernist interpretations of the Eucharist. He is here now, by God’s grace, and he should be obeyed.

Schismatic groups’ formal communion with the Roman Catholic Church is very important. This may or may not be achievable. But equally important is a full-hearted participation of pre-Vatican II Catholics who have felt alienated for over 30 years by liturgical innovations that distract them from worship. This is achievable with far less effort.

I am happy that our bishop has wisely chosen to ask those who know best to instruct those of our priests too young to remember the Latin Mass in how to celebrate it. I believe that those of us who still have our St. Joseph Missals buried away somewhere with our other first Communion gifts should dig them out and refamiliarize ourselves with their beautiful poetry — Latin on one side and English on the other so we can understand what the priest and the servers are saying:

P: In nomine Patris, et Filii, + et Spiritus Sancti. Amen. Introibo ad altare Dei.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, + and of the Holy Ghost. Amen. I will go to the altar of God.

S: Ad Deum qui laetificat juventutem meam.

To God who gives joy to my youth. So he did, and so he does. And may he be allowed to do so more fully come the feast of the Triumph of the Cross.

Kathleen A. Martin
Walkerton

Observance of the law is necessary

An excerpt from your piece commenting on the failure of the Immigration Reform Bill to wit: “When the latest immigration reform bill died in the U.S. Senate, it carried with it another part of the church’s defense of the family unit — the defense of families who cross the U.S.-Mexico border seeking better opportunities and livelihood.”

We all understand that these are human beings created in the image of God, that they have legitimate aspirations for themselves and their young ones to live in a land of freedom with hopes of achieving their dreams and that they deserve the same respect that our common human dignity demands.

But we do these poor souls no service by elevating their illegal attempts to acquire those dreams virtually to the realm of martyrdom.

My home is a comfortable and relatively secure refuge of peace for me and my family and occasionally also for those with whom we choose to share it. Our lifestyle is neither opulent nor grand. What little we have we have worked for and have a moral right to keep and to secure. Our doors are locked when I am away, and should “uninvited guests” show up in our attic or basement I would dispute most vigorously their assertion of a right of entry not withstanding their hopes to seek better opportunities and livelihood in my home at the expense of my family budget.

May we please cease the red herring tactic of equating (legitimate, orderly) immigration with the illegitimate and disordered stampede that is taking place on our southern border?

Though the tactic does provide a marginally useful smoke screen for the furtherance of political and social agendas, it is fast reaching its point of diminishing returns and is carrying off with it trust in democratic and ecclesiastical institutions as it is becoming an insult to the sensitivities and intelligence of an increasingly sophisticated public conscience.

The only difference between those sneaking across our borders and those sneaking across my threshold is that with the latter I am free to express a merciful charity and to minister to their needs, or to have them arrested.

But in the case of “illegals,” we do not have the means of protecting that to which we have a morally legitimate right, our property and our security, and we are experiencing diminishing state and national resources required for administering those blessings to those coming into our home country by the front door.

If we are brave enough to remain a land of the free we had better insist on every front and from every person and institution, the observance of the laws of this land until such time when those laws can be amended or rescinded.

D. L. Federspiel
Fort Wayne

Retired South Bend physician writes book about Shroud of Turin

The world’s most mysterious “wonder” is presented in the second edition of “Resurrection Documented” just off the press. The book contains the significant and most recent scientific findings on the Shroud of Turin. However, its focus is on its supernatural aspects.

Bart Saucelo, M.D., author of the book, claims that the image on the Shroud of Turin will continue to have universal appeal to the young and old in every generation because it involves history, science, religion, archaeology and photography and leads people to think on death and the afterlife, miracles and God, and offers glimpses of the invisible world of the supernatural.

He believes that the “Seven Wonders of the World” recently announced are far less mysterious, far less significant and far less meaningful and instructive than the image on the burial cloth of Jesus of Nazareth. It is a “photograph” of the tortured body of Jesus 1,800 years before photography was invented. The most intensive scientific study by a team called Shroud of Turin Research Project (STURP) confirmed centuries of belief that the image was not done by human hands.

Dr. Saucelo is a Filipino American who retired 10 years ago after working 32 years in family medicine in South Bend. He believes that the focus of his book on the supernatural aspect of the image on the shroud is what makes his book distinct from other publications on the general subject of the Shroud of Turin. He thinks that it is what makes the image most fascinating and which gives meaning, significance and purpose to the Shroud of Turin.

“Resurrection Documented” should be available in bookstores. If not, contact God and Country Publishing: Shroud824@prodigy.net

Eugene Lindorf
South Bend

Dominic

1170-1221
feast – August 8

As a theology student, this Spaniard sold his books to help others during a famine, and later held positions at the Osma Cathedral, where community life followed the Rule of St. Augustine. Dominic and his bishop went to southern France on a papal mission to fight the Albigensian heresy. He remained in Toulouse, as head of a preaching mission that evolved into the Order of Preachers, or Dominicans. Dominic always preferred persuasion to establish orthodoxy and was said by a friar to have “a lively sympathy with any suffering.”



At the helm: British woman steers worldwide Caritas aid network

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Lesley-Anne Knight has a warm smile and a big vision, but not one that includes doing anything single-handedly.

Knight, 51, is the new secretary-general of Caritas Internationalis, the umbrella organization for 162 national Catholic charities around the world.

The Briton is the first woman appointed to the position, which involves overseeing the day-to-day operations in the network's Vatican offices and implementing the strategic plan that network representatives approved for people-first humanitarian assistance, development, peace and environmental protection projects.

The fact that she is certain to be one of the few women in the room at many meetings does not seem to bother her or fire her up; it simply makes sense.

Since most of the network's organizations are sponsored by national bishops' conferences, they have tended to have bishops or

priests as presidents and directors, she said. But with the growing priest shortage and the willingness of qualified laypeople like Knight to pitch in, that is changing.

In addition, she pointed out, much of Catholic charitable work involves volunteer action on the parish level, where 70 percent to 80 percent of the volunteers are women.

"My wish is that I am not seen first and foremost as a woman, but as a competent leader of the secretariat in Rome," Knight said during a late-July interview in her Vatican office. "It is a professional job as well as a vocation."

From emergency disaster response to long-term development projects, from feeding the hungry to caring for people with HIV/AIDS, the individual Caritas affiliates look to the secretary-general for help in reaching out to and supporting one another.

Knight speaks about the benefit to aid work that comes from "Catholic quiriness" — the fact that the church is a universal reali-

THE VATICAN LETTER

CINDY WOODEN

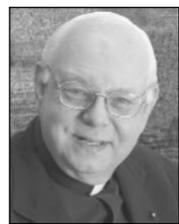
ty that can tap into huge resources, but it is also a network of parishes scattered around the globe.

"If some disaster happens today anywhere in the world, I can find someone there who knows what is going on," she said.

"The starting point in any disaster has to be what people on the ground are saying, what they need," Knight said. "We must work through the local Caritas, no matter how small, because they were there before the disaster, they lived through it and they will be there when it is over."

LETTER, PAGE 16

Be prepared to withstand many pressures



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time Lk 12:49-53.

The Book of Jeremiah is the source of the first reading for this weekend. Jeremiah is regarded as one of the more important prophets. In fact, three prophets, Isaiah, Ezekiel and Jeremiah, are called major prophets.

Jeremiah was active as a prophet during the reign of King Josiah of Judah, or between 640 and 609 B.C. Generally, Josiah was seen as a good and upright king, loyal to God.

It is important to remember that kingship in the eyes of the devout ancient Hebrews was not a matter of governing the country primarily, or of conducting foreign affairs, or of commanding the military.

Instead, for the faithful, the king's responsibility, regardless of the person who was wearing the crown at any given time, was to see that the law of God was obeyed, and that the people of the kingdom were aware, and attentive to, the covenant with God.

Very often, this view meant that prophets placed themselves in conflict with the powerful.

Jeremiah in this reading is certainly involving himself in politics. Politics can be controversial. So, Jeremiah made enemies. Indeed, enemies gathered to plot his death.

The reading speaks of their wish to annihilate this worrisome prophet.

However, despite the threat, despite the scheming of his enemies, Jeremiah still with determination spoke that God deserved obedience. The covenant had to be honored.

The Epistle to the Hebrews provides the second reading.

Written for a Jewish audience, eloquent and even majestically so, with strong references to Hebrew history and symbols, this epistle splendidly proclaims the Lord Jesus to be the redeemer, the lamb of God and the high priest.

The epistle's section, read this weekend, says that Jesus was "shameless" even when dying the ignoble death of crucifixion. Regardless of the insults and scorn of others, Jesus rose to sit at the right hand of the Father in glory.

For its last reading on this weekend, the church offers us a passage from St. Luke's Gospel.

Always in reading the Gospels, it is important to note that they were written not at the time of Jesus, but years later. This Gospel, for instance, was probably written 40 years after Jesus.

By the time this Gospel was composed, hostility against Christians already was beginning to form in the Roman Empire. In a short time this hostility would erupt into a full-fledged persecution. However, even without legal persecution, the Christian ethic stood utterly opposite the prevailing culture.

So, the evangelist had to select words spoken by Jesus to apply to conditions important to the evangelist's audience.

This being the case, it is easy to see what the Gospel in this reading quotes Jesus as saying that there would be no peace on the earth. Jesus brought fire. It can be a chilling thought, or it might be assumed that this somehow contra-

dicts the Gospel of peace.

In reality, however, it says that Christians must be prepared to withstand many pressures to forsake the one true message of Christ.

Reflection

The church is always inviting us to follow the Lord. Indeed, its most magnificent liturgical moments are in Holy Week when it tells us so brilliantly of the Lord's love for us, given in the Eucharist, and on Calvary, and of the Lord's identity as Son of God, affirmed by the Resurrection.

Nevertheless, in inviting us to discipleship, the church never leads us down a primrose path. It is very frank.

It is being very frank in these readings. Following Christ may often cause us to swim against the tide. Pushing us the other way will be the setting in which we live, those among whom we love, or ourselves.

As was Jeremiah, as was Christ, we must withstand all that is contrary to God.

READINGS

Sunday: Jer 38:4-6, 8-10 Ps 40:2-4, 18 Heb 12:1-4 Lk 12:49-53

Monday: Jgs 2:11-19 Ps 106:34-37, 39-40, 43-44 Mt 19:16-22

Tuesday: Jgs 6:11-24a Ps 85:9, 11-14 Mt 19:23-30

Wednesday: Jgs 9:6-15 Ps 21:2-7 Mt 20:1-16

Thursday: Jgs 11:29-39a Ps 40:5, 7-10 Mt 22:1-14

Friday: Rv 21:9b-14 Ps 145:10-13ab, 17-18 Jn 1:45-51

Saturday: Ru 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17 Ps 128:1-5 Mt 23:1-12

THE CATEQUIZ'EM

By Dominic Camplisson

In August, the church remembers St. Dominic (What a great name!). This quiz looks at all things Dominican.

1. The order of Dominicans is officially known by which other name:

- a. The Brothers Dominici
- b. Order of Preachers
- c. The Friars Minor

2. When did the order originate?

- a. the 13th century
- b. the 15th century
- c. the 18th century

3. Members of the Dominicans general have "OP" after their name. What does this refer to?

- a. Oper Pater
- b. Order of Preachers
- c. Only Priests

4. In England, the Dominicans were historically known as Black Friars. Why is this somewhat strange?

- a. They do not generally wear habits.
- b. Their habits are brown.
- c. Their habits are white.

5. However the most likely explanation is that this refers to their

- a. skin color
- b. black mantels worn over the white habits
- c. fact that their brown garments were usually soiled

6. In France, the same order was known as Jacobins. Why?

- a. They supported the Jacobin party during the Revolution.
- b. They gave refuge to supporters of the deposed Stuarts (Jacobites).
- c. They were headquartered at a house called St. Jacques.

7. The founder, Dominic, asked the order to go beyond individual poverty, and so the order owned nothing except

- a. their churches and houses
- b. slaves
- c. shoes

8. Dominic's inspiration for the need for greater education in the faith was spurred on by seeing the strength of the Albigensians. What other name is commonly given to these heretics?

- a. Cathars
- b. Bulgars
- c. Non-bingo players

9. Historically, Dominicans were to be supported by

- a. selling saki
- b. a tax on all local Catholics
- c. charity

10. The focus on their educational and spiritual functions meant that they avoided this, a mainstay of many monastic communities:

- a. meat
- b. manual labor
- c. prayer

11. In keeping with their focus, Dominicans recruited many of these into their ranks:

- a. women
- b. academicians
- c. Muslims

12. The order has a Master General and two Houses of Representatives selected to make decisions. This is thought by historians to have influenced the structure of this:

- a. the British Houses of Parliament
- b. the conclaves used to elect popes
- c. the government of the Dominican Republic

13. This most famous mediaeval teacher and writer was a Dominican:

- a. Luther
- b. Richelieu
- c. Aquinas

14. Sister Jeanine Deckers had a hit with the 1960s recording "Dominique." What was she usually referred to as?

- a. The Singing Nun
- b. Sister Sledge
- c. Twisted Sister

15. What about the Dominicans today?

- a. Alas, all gone
- b. There are Dominicans in every religious order and parish.
- c. There are orders in many countries and related sisters and third orders.

ANSWERS:

- 1.b, 2.a, 3.b, 4.c, 5.b, 6.c, 7.a, 8.a, 9.c, 10.b, 11.b, 12.a, 13.c, 14.a, 15.c

NFP enriches a couple's relationship

How does NFP enrich a couple's relationship? — Anonymous

Many people are distrustful of NFP because they think that periodic abstinence is inconvenient, too difficult, or contrary to spontaneous sex. But these are all false impressions. True, NFP does require some discipline, and self-mastery, but the rewards this brings to the relationship vastly outweigh any hardships. Mary Shivanandan, STD, associate dean and professor of theology at the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family at The Catholic University of America, explains from a woman's perspective, the subtly complex nuances of a spousal relationship that only the values of NFP can make possible.

Couples who adopt NFP to space the births of children find that it brings about many positive changes in their relationship and even becomes a way of life. It begins with acceptance, and even wonder, at the way the human body is made. As one woman noted, "Knowing and learning about what goes on inside of my unique body amazed me."

Women especially find this information empowering. The woman gains a new respect for herself and often finds that her

husband has a new supportive attitude: "My husband respects me as a person in my own right. He accepts my fertility as part of me."

This newfound confidence contrasts with what one woman explained about how she felt using contraceptives: "I was required to sacrifice my health ... I felt as if I were an object and not an equal partner in our marriage."

Couples using NFP accept their fertility not as a nuisance or even a disease, but as a gift. When the physical pleasures of sexual intercourse are a couple's primary focus, the woman can feel used. NFP treats the woman not as a sexual object, but as the unique person she is. NFP does not downplay the importance of sexual union and sexual pleasure.

Through the practice of periodic abstinence NFP helps couples to find other ways in which to be attentive to each other in each cycle. These other ways may be through cooking a favorite dish, or bringing home flowers. NFP can re-ignite the romance of dating for a married couple. As couples who use NFP often say: "Every cycle we have a wedding night." When spouses love one another enough to abstain and be more considerate of each other, both become more secure in their relationship.

THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION

Periodic abstinence is difficult at times. It also brings its own reward. Men find they can direct sexual urges in the service of love and not be controlled by it. Only if a man is in full possession of himself can he love his wife well. As one husband said, "NFP has challenged me to self-mastery so that I can freely give of myself." The nature of married love is total self-giving.

If one is controlled by sex or withholds part of himself or herself (his or her fertility), that person cannot give totally to another. Self-mastery, on the other hand, can actually enhance sexual pleasure. Many couples explain: "Giving our whole selves to each other intensified the sensations of pleasure and the feeling of unity in this expression of our love."

When NFP is adopted as a lifestyle, fertility is regarded as a gift and children are valued and

welcomed. A sense of awe at their power to procreate strikes many couples during the fertile time. One couple remarked that "NFP opened our hearts to children ... Children are a gift, a blessing, not a burden." Others have remarked that the time of fertility comes to be viewed with "a tremendous reverence" because fertility "is the time God created us to create."

NFP instruction puts the emphasis on a couple's shared responsibility not only for having children, but also for managing their combined fertility. Taking joint responsibility for fertility means that both spouses accept the challenge of abstinence during the fertile phase if they wish to avoid pregnancy. NFP requires couples to communicate. It helps them to talk about many things that may have been difficult to talk about before, including their sexuality. Through charting their fertility, they have a starting point for dis-

cussing the intimate aspects of their life, such as their sexual feelings and desires and their hopes or fears about pregnancy. Good, substantive interpersonal communication strengthens a marriage.

Many couples say that an NFP lifestyle deepens their faith in God. "(NFP) involved us with the Truth. ... We experienced ... the conversion point in our lives." "NFP is putting ourselves in God's hands, totally allowing him to work spiritually in our lives."

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

Returning to the roots of humility

Humility and I didn't become acquainted with one another until nearly three decades into my life.

Life had treated me well. Good athlete, good grades, good education, the job I had dreamed of, a happy marriage, a beautiful son... It was almost as if I didn't have time to stop and be thankful.

I had everything I needed. I had worked for it. I had earned it. The future was bright. I felt the invincibility that youth and a little bit of success inspire.

Despite a Catholic education, including through my college years, I had not learned how to humble myself before God, which is the main reason I had grown apart from the church.

I tried to blame it on the hypocrisy of others. Can you imagine that? I convinced myself that's why I had grown apart from the church. Because of their hypocrisy, I could no longer be in their presence in the house of the Lord.

I was the hypocrite.

I seemed to have a particular problem with the congregation's proclamation prior to Communion. "Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed."

I believed the second part. I knew God would heal me. But I had a problem with the "Lord, I am not worthy to receive you" part.

Why wasn't I worthy? I was a child of God. What had I done wrong? I was as worthy as the next guy.

Of course, that's a childish, obnoxious, haughty way to look at my unworthiness to receive the Lord. I was missing the point completely. I'm ashamed to admit that I felt that way at one time. But I'm

also relieved and thankful that I can now look back on those days and realize what an utter fool I had become.

I actually thought that I was the one who had achieved all those things ... on my own! I had achieved a modicum of success through dedication and hard work. I had earned it. I deserved that much credit.

But I had become so self-centered — so lacking in humility — that I had forgotten the real reason for my accomplishments. God had blessed me well beyond anything I deserved. But it had become all about me as opposed to the incredible blessings God had bestowed upon me.

It took an act of God — the conversion of my wife — to bring me back to the roots of my Catholic upbringing. In many respects, I "converted" as well.

When my son was born, we decided to go back to church. I felt better about myself, and I knew my son was growing up in an environment of Christian values.

But it wasn't the Catholic Church. It didn't feel quite right. It didn't feel complete. We had done the right thing by returning to a life of spirituality, and the people were wonderful. But it just didn't feel like it was enough.

Then one day my wife said she would like to convert to Catholicism. Everything changed — for her and for me — from that day forward. And so the journey began.

I say journey because not only was it a journey for her and my son as he entered into a Catholic grade school, but also for me as I traveled down the road I had walked many years before.

I appreciated my faith, my religion, my church more than I had



FROM THE SIDELINES

BY TIM PRISTER

before. I took it for granted growing up. Going to Mass was something I had to do. Now, it became something I wanted to do. Going to Mass just on Sunday wasn't enough, so I worked it into my daily schedule.

Every prayer, every response at Mass, suddenly had a crystal clear meaning. I could say the words — feel the words — and believe in what I was saying. It all suddenly made sense.

Twenty-five years ago, I thought I knew everything, had everything figured out. I was educated, had some money in my pocket and was going to take the world by storm.

I'm far from having the humility that I need to be the Christian I want to be. But today, I take great joy and satisfaction in responding at each prescribed interval of the Mass. And there is no phrase that I look forward to saying more than, "Lord, I am not worthy to receive you ..."

Indeed, I am not worthy. But I relish every moment I spend in church and at Mass. And that's a very comforting — humbling — feeling to have.

Tim Prister is a 1978 graduate of Marian High School and a 1982 graduate from the University of Notre Dame.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

By Patricia Kasten

Gospel for August 19, 2007

Heb 12:1-4; Luke 12:49-53

Following is a word search based on the Second reading and Gospel reading for the Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

SURROUNDED	PERFECTER	FAITH
THE SAKE	THE JOY	ENDURED
THE CROSS	HIS SEAT	THRONE OF GOD
SINNERS	WEARY	LOSE HEART
BLOOD	FIRE	PEACE
DIVIDED	THREE	FATHER
AGAINST	MOTHER	DAUGHTER

WITNESSING

T R A E H E S O L S O J
 A H E P M O T H E R S L
 E T R A E H H J E E U M
 S I I O E A E T T N R K
 S A F S N D C D S N R R
 I F A T H E R E N I O E
 H K T H F R O D I S U T
 E D H R M U S F A N N H
 A A E E E D S G G F D G
 N P J E L N A N A O E U
 G H O J D E D I V I D A
 B M Y R A E W B L O O D

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LETTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

When disaster strikes, the local Caritas affiliate receives the material, logistical and financial support it needs from Caritas members around the world.

Knight came to the Vatican from the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, or CAFOD, the Catholic charity of England and Wales, where she had been international director for

three years. A British citizen born in Zimbabwe, she also has worked for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees in Guatemala and Mexico and for the British charities Oxfam and HelpAge International.

As a Catholic network, the Caritas members must have the courage "to put our head above the parapet and communicate what we do and why, and not constantly feel we are in the firing line because we will be judged only on one or two issues" related to human sexuality, Knight said.

We are Eucharist for one another



THE CUTTING EDGE

SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

With the diocesan Eucharistic Congress coming up, I have reflected a lot on the gift of the Eucharist. The other day I went to a church for Mass and waited and waited, but the scheduled priest never showed up. This experience made me think of how easy it can be to take Eucharist for granted. When we go somewhere to Mass, we expect that it will be celebrated.

Fortunately, with some exceptions, in most parts of our country, one is able to find a Mass to attend each day, or at least every weekend.

In contrast, there are many places around the world where people cannot count on daily or even weekly Mass. It is true in several of the countries where the Sisters of the Holy Cross minister. As many of the priests

in the United States die and new vocations decrease, we may soon be in the same boat.

As Catholic Christians we believe that the Mass, the Eucharist, is the source from which all the graces of the church flow. It is our greatest encounter with Christ. When we come together to celebrate Mass, we are united to Christ and to one another. We experience his presence in a special and profound way.

The Eucharist is truly the ultimate gift of God's presence. God is also present in the Scriptures and in us, the members of his body. When we think of it, it is important to remember that, if Christ is present in us, and he is, then each of us is called to be Eucharist, to be Christ for others. Some people will never participate in Mass, but they may encounter us.

There is an old hymn called "Anthem," which reminds me of this fact. It says, "We are called. We are chosen. We are Christ for one another."

We are indeed called to be the presence of God for others. Hopefully this belief should have an impact on the way we live our lives. Not only are we to be Christ for others, but also we are to respect God's presence in all we encounter. Sometimes we may have to look hard, but God is there.

If everyone lived this way, respecting the goodness of God in each person, I don't think we would be talking about Iraq or a war on terrorism. So many people around the world would not be hungry and living in destitution. Our jails would not be overflowing, etc.

I am convinced that this atmosphere of respect won't happen globally until it happens in each of our daily lives. No doubt we would look at and treat some people a lot differently if we truly believed that God is present in them.

Our sisters from Bangladesh extend the greeting of peace at Mass by folding their hands and bowing to one another. They honor and respect God's presence in each person. This can't but help to contribute to peace in the world.

I would wager that if we would put the face of God on each person we encounter throughout each day of our lives, our world would truly be transformed.

Maybe that is why Jesus told us to love our enemies. We are to love them because God's presence is in them. Also, you can't love an enemy for too long before you begin to see the person differently. Barriers come down and God's reign is extended.

So the next time I miss a celebration of Mass because of the lack of availability of a



YOUNG ADULT PERSPECTIVES

priest, I will remind myself that I am called to be Eucharist, to be Christ for others outside of Mass and they are Eucharist for me. That may be the only "holy Communion" some people ever receive. What a responsibility that is!

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

The promise of a new season

This year could be The Year. The year the 49ers win the Super Bowl. The year the Raiders regain their dignity. The year of Brady Quinn.

As the preseason unfolds, football fans are debating the impact of hot trades over grills, across cubicles and in chat rooms. Which incoming rookies and high draft picks will make the team a winner? Who will be a star and who will be a role player? Who's a team player and who's a play maker?

They're weighing old standings and statistics, then casting bold predictions. Anyone could turn any team around. Anything is possible.

There's something about the advent of autumn that inspires a sense of possibility. Leaves may be dying, but something is being born, too: crisp hope.

It stems from the school cycle that's deeply ingrained in us. The start of a new year, well-rested minds and revamped wardrobes, blank notebooks and neat handwriting, the signature of good intentions to stay on top of school work this time around.

Christians have the best reason to be hopeful. Our mighty God gives us reason to believe in the possibility of a new season and a blank slate. "Behold," he says, in Rev. 21:5, "I make all things new."

All things — not just the things that already show promise, such as the Patriots. Even the Raiders, who lost 14 games last year, could win 14 games this year. Even if last season was marred by fumbles and interceptions, poor coaching and sloppy playing, this season they could reach the Super Bowl.

We too make mistakes — treating people badly, treating ourselves badly — and we can start over next season.

"As far as the east is from the west, so far have our sins been removed from us," Psalm 103:12



TWENTY SOMETHING

BY CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

reassures us. That's the power of confession: a clean slate. We can be distanced immeasurably from our sins. We can be made new, again and again.

In the process, as we inhale deeply and prepare to begin a new season, we hear others' expectations. Some are murmured, others shouted. Some are direct, others second-hand. Over the phone. In an e-mail. At a family party. Everyone has an opinion, it seems.

Young adults, like rookie athletes, are vulnerable to an expectation overdose. We aren't 100 percent sure of our plans or purpose, so we keep our ears open just in case some friend, relative or passerby has a better idea.

Just in case.

The trouble is, those thunderous expectations can muffle the whisper of the Holy Spirit. They can paralyze us with the knowledge that it's impossible to fulfill every one.

We must slide outside the weight of others' expectations. We must find that place where we're alone with God — a bedroom corner, an empty chapel, an open meadow. And we must consider God's expectations, the only ones that matter.

What does God expect of us? That we love our neighbor and live up to our potential, using and multiplying our talents in a way that glorifies him.

It's that simple. So go for it: Touchdown Jesus!

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

Young adults invited to Grill and Chill

BY JENNIFER MURRAY

FORT WAYNE — The Office of Campus and Young Adult Ministry is hosting Grill and Chill on Saturday, Sept. 8, at Shoaff Park, Fort Wayne. The event will begin with a prayer walk at 1 p.m. Throughout the day, there will be a number of activities to appeal to young adults (from 18-40) whether they are single or married. Food, games and celebration of Mass are among a few of the plans for the day.

Mike Gibson, a staff member of the Office of Campus and Young Adult Ministry, says, "The Grill and Chill is meant to be a fun event and a means through which young adult groups and other people can better understand the role of Campus and Young Adult Ministry in their parishes. The very nature of the event is meant to reflect ... the goal of young adult ministry ... to provide a means through which people can develop friendships, grow spiritually and serve those in need."

The Grill and Chill is being organized by young adults from several parishes. They are planning a variety of activities for the day, something for everyone. Married couples who have children are encouraged to bring them along to enjoy this day at the park with events planned from 1-10:30 p.m. In addition, prizes will be offered throughout the day and, of course, food.

The prayer walk will take place around the golf course. It is

recommended that participants bring rosaries and walking shoes. Following the prayer walk, there will be time for games such as baseball, volleyball, Frisbee golf, soccer, basketball or fishing. Participants are encouraged to bring any sporting gear that they want to the park.

Obviously, given the name, there will be a cookout. This will take place from 4-6 p.m. Hot dogs, hamburgers and drinks will be provided. The organizers ask participants to bring something to share:

- Single men: a salty snack
- Single women: a dessert

Grill and Chill

1 p.m.	Prayer walk around Shoaff Park golf course
4-6 p.m.	Dinner served
7 p.m.	Mass at the Riverlodge Pavillion
8:15 p.m.	Ice cream sundaes
8:30 p.m.	Family movie on the lawn

- Couples and families: a side dish

Following the cookout, Father Tim Wrozek, pastor of St. Joseph Parish on Brooklyn Avenue, will celebrate Mass at the Riverlodge at Shoaff Park at 7 p.m. for some spiritual nourishment.

By then, after a day of playing hard, everyone will need a snack to sustain them, so the organizers have planned ice cream sundaes for everyone. Participants may bring blankets or lawn chairs to sit under the stars to enjoy the family movie that will begin at 8:30 p.m. The Grill and Chill will end at approximately 10:30 p.m., after the movie.

The organizers hope to get the word out about the Grill and Chill so that more young adults

will be encouraged to become involved in this program and the many others offered by the Young Adult Ministry, both at the parish and diocesan levels.

The diocesan office encourages young adults to meet within their parish to plan events and strengthen friendships as well as join with young adults from other parishes. In recent years, the church has renewed its outreach to this population.

Gibson states, "The greatest transition in people's lives and their most important decisions are made in this age group (18-40). This ministry is meant to be

a support to parishes and an outreach to help people into the church and also to help encourage, motivate and challenge young adults as they are sent out into the world to try to live out the joy and the chal-

lenges of the Gospel message. I think it is important for others to recognize the role of the young in our parishes as Pope John Paul II did. He often pointed out that young people were humanity's hope."

The Office of Campus and Young Adult Ministry offers a variety of events each year. Some, such as the bishop's retreat held each spring, challenge young adults to strengthen their spiritual lives. Others, such as the fall camping trip, offer a way for young Catholics to reach out to each other as they form deep friendships that are both fun and spiritual.

But Catholics between the ages of 18 and 40 are encouraged to get involved.

Musicians combine Catholicism, bluegrass

BY MITCH FINLEY

SPOKANE, Wash. (CNS) — Bluegrass music, with its high lonesome sound, has roots in both hillbilly music and early blues music.

In 1947, Bill Monroe, known as the "father of bluegrass music," put together what many regard as the first true bluegrass band, when banjo innovator Earl Scruggs joined Monroe's Blue Grass Boys.

Monroe always included sacred or gospel songs in his repertoire, but the primary influence was a generic evangelical Protestant Christianity. There are no gospel

bluegrass "standards" about the Mass, the sacraments — except vague references to baptism — or any of the saints, in particular Mary.

Catholic bluegrass music simply has never existed — until recently, that is.

Father Edward James Richard — pronounced "Ree-shard," revealing the priest's Louisiana Cajun roots — is a LaSalette Missionary priest who teaches at his order's Kenrick-Glennon Seminary near St. Louis.

On the side Father Richard, 50, is a bluegrass musician who has played guitar since he was a boy and five-string banjo since college.

"I learned by listening and watching others," he said, and he has the Scruggs book, "Earl Scruggs and the Five String Banjo."

He said his "main influence" is banjoist and singer Ralph Stanley, and he has "learned a lot listening to" the recordings of veteran five-string banjo player Butch Robbins.

With a bluegrass band he put together, Father Richard has recorded three CDs, the sales of which help support the missionary efforts of his order's 200 members in North and South America.

"I like bluegrass music," Father Richard commented, "and I have liked it since I first heard it (growing up in Louisiana). ... Music is

spiritual and healing. It's a special gift that God gave us."

On his CDs, the priest includes songs he wrote based on themes that those outside Catholic tradition overlook.

"I write about the Eucharist," the priest said, "the Blessed Virgin Mary and other Catholic themes."

Another influential Catholic presence in the American bluegrass music community is five-string banjo player and publisher John Lawless.

His company, Acutab Publications, promotes and supports playing the traditional bluegrass instruments, primarily banjo, guitar, mandolin and fiddle. Acutab

produces both video and print learning resources.

Lawless grew up Norfolk, Va., in Sacred Heart Parish, attended the parish school and graduated from Norfolk Catholic High School in 1973. Today he lives in Roanoke, Va., and attends Mass at St. Andrew Church.

"My interest in banjo music goes back to a very young age," he remarked, "although I didn't start playing seriously until I graduated from high school."

Father Edward James Richard's music is available at the Web site www.msmissionmusic.org.

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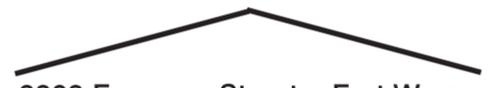


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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

DEVOTION

Little Flower Holy Hour

Fort Wayne — Father Robert Schulte will celebrate the Holy Hour at MacDougal Chapel on Tuesday, Aug. 21, at 7:15 p.m. Father Bob is rector of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

Our Lady's Birthday Party

Fort Wayne — The Legion of Mary, will celebrate the birthday of Jesus' mother on Saturday, Sept. 8, from 5:45-8 p.m. in the gym at Our Lady of Good Hope, 7215 St. Joe Rd., with a multi-lingual rosary, a potluck dinner, a short talk, rosary-making and games for all ages. RSVP to Connie Acierio by Sept. 2 at (260) 486-1001.

MISC. HAPPENINGS

Corn and sausage roast

South Bend — St. Casimir Parish, 1308 W. Dunham St., will have a corn and sausage roast on Sunday, Aug. 26, from noon to 5 p.m. Music from 2-5 p.m. provided by The Jim Deka Trio. Food, beverages, cake booth and other prizes. New this year is bingo from noon to 3 p.m. Admission is \$1 and enters you in a cash raffle.

Tent sale at Ave Maria Press

Notre Dame — Ave Maria Press, 9113 Douglas Rd., will have a tent sale Aug. 23-26 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday. All books in the tent up to 75 percent off and 20 percent off everything in the bookstore. Hourly drawings and gift certificate giveaways.

Living Healthier series sponsored by University of Saint Francis

Fort Wayne — The Living Healthier series will offer "Tai Chi: Balancing your sun and moon," with physical therapist, Diane Martyin, BS, on Wednesday, Aug. 22, at 6:30

p.m. in Gunderson Auditorium. Doors open at 6 p.m. Refreshments and healthy snacks provided. Free admission. Non-perishable food item donations accepted.

Ed Fox chicken and tenderloin dinner planned

Fort Wayne — St. Henry Parish, 2929 E. Hessen Cassel Rd., will have a chicken and tenderloin dinner from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 24. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$6.50 for seniors and \$4.50 for children 6-11. Proceeds will help St. Henry's 50th anniversary expenses.

Ignatius night at the movies

Fort Wayne — St. Therese Parish will host Ignatius night at the movies featuring the film "Bernadette" on Saturday, Aug. 25, at 6:30 p.m. Admission is a non-perishable food item for the St. Vincent de Paul food bank. For information call (260) 747-9139.

Fall festival announced

Fort Wayne — St. Therese will have a fall festival Saturday, Sept. 8, beginning at 10 a.m. Children's games and food till 4:30 p.m. Mass at 5 p.m. Raffles and auction items plus evening music by Pop 'n Fresh after 7:30 p.m.

Craft fair reservations accepted

Fort Wayne — St. Charles Parish is accepting applications for a craft fair held on Nov. 3. Cost is \$40 per table. Hand made items only. Call (260) 749-6077 for information.

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.

Poor Handmaids sponsor 63rd annual bazaar for ministry support

Donaldson — The Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ will have their annual mission bazaar on Sunday, Sept. 9, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Children's games, raffles, bingo, food, crafts, rummage sale and music by "The Great American Songbook." Admission is free. Call (574) 936-9936 for information.

Golf Tournament planned

South Bend — St. Augustine Parish will have a Jim Freely Golf Tournament, Saturday, Aug. 25, at 10 a.m. Shotgun start, 18 hole scramble. New car hole-in-one prize, men and women longest drive and closest to the pin prizes. Cost is \$60 per player and includes cart, greens fees and lunch buffet. Contact Kevin Irvin at (574) 273-3778 or Father Chuck Lavelly at (574) 234-7082.

Central Catholic High plans reunion

Fort Wayne — A reunion is planned for all alumni of Central Catholic High School Sunday, Sept. 16. Mass at the cathedral at 11:30 a.m. and party at the original high school site from 1 to 4 p.m. Call (260) 485-6164.

DONATIONS

Mustard Seed Furniture Bank can use your donations

Fort Wayne — The Mustard Seed Furniture Bank is in need of furniture. Donations may be picked up by calling (260) 471-5802. The Mustard Seed is dedicated to providing household furnishings to those in need.

St. Vincent de Paul Store always in need of donations

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Notre Dame

Sister Alicia Marie Maloney, 98, Church of Loretto

Mary M. Grabner, 97, Holy Cross Village

Father Robert C. Kramer, CSC, 90, Sacred Heart Basilica

Plymouth

William R. Xaver, 57, St. Michael

Richard J. Lewis, 74, St. Michael

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George J. Urbanski, 73, Holy Family

Peter A. Gyori, 81, Holy Cross

John D. McMann, 49, Little Flower

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St. Michael School, our other home

BY KELLY BRYANT, GRADE 7 AND
AMANDA MASTER, GRADE 8

PLYMOUTH — Our school has been serving the Catholic community since 1870 when it was St. Michael Academy. Several of our teachers were students here, themselves, during the 1950s and '60s. Our current building was built in 1953 with a new addition in 2000 which has a gymnasium/parish center with a stage and a science laboratory/art room.

Our priest, Father Bill Kummer, has served our parish and school for five years, coming here from Fort Wayne and Wabash. Father Kummer has been a priest for 32 years, having attended a Catholic elementary school himself. His faith grew, he says, because of the strong bond he had with his classmates who shared his commitment to Christ and the Catholic Church.

"I really enjoy being at the school and sharing the excitement the children have for learning and growing in Christ," Father Kummer said. He helps us keep our Catholic identity.

Service and missions also help us grow in faith and in our Catholic identity. Each month we have a canned food drive to help the American Red Cross food pantry. Also, we help to financially support a girl named Diana through Christian Foundation for Children and Aging. Each student brings in a donation which is collected before Mass and sent to Diana to help pay for food and clothing for her. At Thanksgiving, we collect food and make large baskets, and even boxes, for needy families in our community. For seventh and eighth graders, it is a rewarding experience



ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL, PLYMOUTH

to personally deliver these baskets along with our prayers and words of encouragement. Before Christmas we also have an annual toy drive for needy children, and several classes write letters to servicemen who are overseas during the holidays. The fifth grade class service project is to write to a pen pal who is a retired sister or an elderly lay person living at Catherine Kasper Home at Ancilla College in Donaldson. The students visited these elderly friends three times this year at the home and had them come to our school to watch our Christmas play. Everyone looks forward to their visit each year.

Academics are also a very important

part of St. Michael School. Once again, our school has received an "exemplary status" for academic performance by the State of Indiana Board of Education. Over the past four years, we have had four first and second place state winners for essay writing contests sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution. We are honored to have participated in such things as the county spelling bee, the state geography bee, the state troopers essay contest, Indiana media fair and the stock market game sponsored by the *South Bend Tribune*, where we gratefully accepted the awards we earned. We take pride in doing our best and representing our school.

St. Michael students visit Rome and the pope

In March 2006, I learned about an opportunity to go to Rome through a club I belong to at St. Michael School. The trip was planned for June 1-13 so that we would be able to celebrate Mass with the Pope for the feast of Pentecost. Angels Club members worked hard to raise the money needed for the trip and we were able to go.

While in Rome, we saw the pope six times. That alone was just a wonderful experience. Once, my friends and I were on the edge right where the pope went by. He was only six feet away as he waved to us from his pope mobile. We also saw the Trevi Fountain, several cathedrals, and the Holy Stairs where Christ shed his blood before his crucifixion.

I know that not many 11-year-olds get to experience what I did. Words and pictures cannot even explain what I experienced in Rome. It is truly a holy place. My trip to Rome was a blessing from God. — *Emily Blake, sixth grade*

I traveled to Rome with five friends. We were all able to meet different Catholics our age, who were not only from the United States but from other countries as well. We visited the basilicas, statues, the Coliseum, and many other sights. For me, the best part of this trip was seeing the pope. Just by looking at him and hearing his voice, you could tell how devoted he is to Christ.

Every day we would pray, do Gospel reflections, learn about the founders and all the young martyrs who sacrificed themselves for Christ, or just play some fun sports or religious activities. And every day I grew closer in my relationship with Jesus.

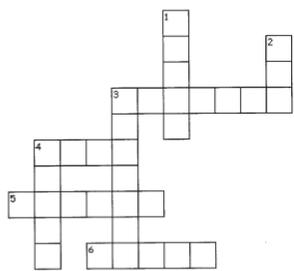
On my way home, I thought about how awesome this experience was and how much I had gotten to know Christ. Instead of going home with five friends, I would be traveling back home with six. That new friend was the one who I had been with my entire life without even noticing. My friend was Christ. It just took a little time to get to know him more than I already did. — *Pauline Dagaas, sixth grade*

Crusader sports

BY NATE KOLTER, GRADE 5

St. Michael Crusaders grade 6-8 soccer team ended with a record of 4-2. They played St. Matthew in the semi-final tournament and got beat. The grade 7-8 basketball team was 6-4 and won the first game in the tournament. The sixth grade boys basketball team record was 12-1 and came in second place for the league. Our fifth grade boys basketball team was 14-3 and in the tournament came in third place. St. Michael's grade 5-6 baseball team record was 6-2. They lost in the semi-final round of the tournament to St. Jude.

Hebrews 9:12, 14



Across

3. "But he _____ the most holy place once for all."
4. "How much _____, then, will the blood of Christ."
5. "_____ obtained eternal redemption."
6. "By his own _____."

Down

1. "Cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to _____."
2. "So that we may serve the living _____!"
3. "Who through the _____ spirit offered himself unblemished to God."
4. "He did not enter by _____ of the blood of goats and calves."



ALLISON WOLFE, GRADE 4

The whip, spear, nails, and cross that hurt and killed him, His feet and hands that were nailed, but yet he still lives in each of us today. He is Jesus!



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