New Orleans archbishop visits Fort Wayne parish

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 concelebrated 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 benefit of New Orleans.

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.
Eucharistic Congress will be a momentous day for the diocese

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, C.S.C., and the authorities there for granting us use of this sacred ground for events that are most holy. I am convinced that this day will be a blessing for our diocese. How could it be anything but a blessing? Many priests are making themselves available for the sacrament of reconciliation and many lay people are 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.

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, Monsignor Al Hughes of New Orleans came to this diocese to preach the archbishop and I go back over 50 years. We were spiritual directors together at St. John’s Seminaries in Boston 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 diocese, 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 of the public school’s 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 such helpful input 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. Dominik 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 before the public school even considered reopening. I 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.

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Edwin Hughes, president of the American Council of Churches, has noted that the church in New Orleans has learned the value of vigilance, relationships because they can help the PCUSA 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 be 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 complet ed 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 severed 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 use our hands in restoring the church and the city," Archbishop Hughes said, noting that he announced at a recent Mass of St. Louis Cathedral that he would not reattach the severed fingers until the rebuilding of New Orleans was complete.

INDIANAPOLIS — Whether undergoing 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 conference. "Many of these individuals are seeking help and need support from the church in order to integrate their faith with their decisions.

"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 discusses legal terms and appropriate 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, "What should have a health care directive, if an attorney is needed, what happens if a person who is not able to make health care decisions, who to appoint 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 the 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 how to treat 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: "People morally obligated to have an advance directive, is organ donation permitted for the deceased? As long as it can 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 template for determining how a person is judged as legal, Catholic faith-based advance directive when a person is no longer able to communicate their wishes.

The health care guide will be distributed to hospitals and health care professionals statewide. Parishioners, hospital and community leaders will also receive copies to share with parishioners. Copies of the document can also be downloaded for personal use or for parish forums on the Conference’s Web page at www.indiana.nasc ed.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 Directives for Catholic Medical Treatment.

Ecumenical group hopes education helps undercut violence in Darfur

BY PAUL JEFFREY
NYALA, Sudan (CNS) — An ecumenical relief effort working in the 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 times they have to make it out of the camps to forage for firewood — journeys that often result in rape by Arab militia members.

Women have 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 Catholic Action for Compassion 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 right way of thinking.

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 print 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 there is not something international nongovernmental organizations should worry about," Ateem said.

When Darfur Emergency Response Operation officials insist ed that the rights of civilians to live 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, now they will take the survivor of the attack to a medical center for treatment.

They also took away any property 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 better communication between Arab and African communities, including exchange visits and the training of conflict resolution committees to negotiate small but significant accord s, 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 advantages of in its militarization of the region, Ateem said.

While the Arab-African conflict is the most prevalent antag onism 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 — the nomad Bakaria and 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.

Tribe alliances are deep-seated in the region and often are part of a broader political struggle.

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

"I ran into this old friend one day and 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 tribe and the fact that they have to have everything else, even if the government is going to use them to take care of the other 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 TELL

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 the Sea of Galilee and 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 moral 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 the 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 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-Dioecese of Hartford.

The archdiocesan phase of the canonization process 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: “In many respects the plight of Catholics in America today takes courage, but, the cardinal added, Father McGivney understood that good works lose their deeper meaning “if they are not rooted in faith.”

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Cardinal Bertone said: “In many respects the plight of Catholics in America today takes courage, but it is also inspired by its founder, Father McGivney, who died in 1890 at age 38.

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 to ‘follow me.’”

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 and Jean P. O’Malley of Boston, Justin Rigali of Philadelphia, Adam J. Maida of Detroit, Jaime Ortega Alaman of Havana, and Juan Sandoval Iniguez of Guadalajara, Mexico.

Other Vatican officials included U.S. Cardinals Francis E. George of Chicago, Edward M. Egan of New York and Jean P. O’Malley of Boston, Justin Rigali of Philadelphia, Adam J. Maida of Detroit, Jaime Ortega Alaman of Havana, and Juan Sandoval Iniguez of Guadalajara, Mexico.

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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 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 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. “Quintessentially, 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 “hated and bigotry.” She 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 it, it voted to embrace fear.”

She said a “vocal minority, pushed along by an angry mob, aided andabetted by well-known talkradio shock jocks, made the United States Senate — the greatest deliberative body in the world — itspawn.”

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 immigration 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 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

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 financially 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.

“Charity Navigator also said that 2006 was a breakthrough year for 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.

Recognized as eighth most financially responsible charity in nation

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VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has sent a personal letter and a gift — 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 1,000th 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 Utah's largest known coal mine, Bishop John C. Wester of Salt Lake City urged the miners' families, colleagues and rescuers Aug. 9 to place themselves “in God’s presence.”

“We entrust our prayers either with the safe return of the six miners to us, or the grace to see through our loss,” he said during a joint prayer service at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church of San Rafael in Huntington. The rescue effort to find three miners trapped in a massive mine collapse Aug. 6, was still under way Aug. 13. Two holes were drilled more than 1,800 feet into the mine but were believed to be trapped in hopes of finding evidence they were still alive. The first microphone lowered through the first hole picked up no sounds from the miners, and a video camera lowered through the second did not show what appeared to be 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 cardiologist who rejected 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 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 movements of dialogue” and praised his commitment to improving relations between Christians and Jews 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 Rydzek, 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, south of Rome, Aug. 9. He also greeted thousands of young people who could not fit inside the courtyard and gathered outside the residence’s entrance. Pope Benedict listened 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 Rococo Varela, helps prepare young Catholics to evangelize their peers.

Bishop Pelotte moved to Houston to 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 recovering from injuries he said he sustained in a fall at his home July 22.

In an Aug. 9 posting on the diocese’s 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. Donald 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. Bishop Pelotte had been a Houston hospitals nearly every day since his brother arrived.

Cardinal university removes bishop's name from library

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failed to take the necessary precautions to protect children from abuse during his tenure as head of the diocese. In his own case, he was abused after he came to the Denver Diocese in the late ’70s as an assistant pastor by a local religious brother, and reported it to the bishop, who did nothing, he said.

“The work of these catechists represents the dedication and love that all catechists throughout Latin America hold for the church,” he said.

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 Huanacavaca, Peru. “The work of these catechists represents the dedication and love that all catechists throughout Latin America hold for the church,” he said.

Auxiliary Bishop Jaime Soto of Orange, Calif., chairman of the committee, said, “I was flabbergasted by the willingness of some Catholics and Russian Orthodox leaders to put their differences aside to work together on joint meetings and conferences, including the pope’s August meeting with the Russian Orthodox patriarch.”

Pope sends personal letter, gift to Russian Orthodox leader

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has sent a personal letter and a gift — 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 1,000th 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.

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 Utah’s largest known coal mine, Bishop John C. Wester of Salt Lake City urged the miners’ families, colleagues and rescuers Aug. 9 to place themselves “in God’s presence.”

“We entrust our prayers either with the safe return of the six miners to us, or the grace to see through our loss,” he said during a joint prayer service at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church of San Rafael in Huntington. The rescue effort to find three miners trapped in a massive mine collapse Aug. 6, was still under way Aug. 13. Two holes were drilled more than 1,800 feet into the mine but were believed to be trapped in hopes of finding evidence they were still alive. The first microphone lowered through the first hole picked up no sounds from the miners, and a video camera lowered through the second did not show what appeared to be 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 cardiologist who rejected 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
SOUTH BEND -- Using the theme, "Something for Everyone for 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.forever-learninginstitute.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 e-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 or secondary site.

Among other noteworthy lecturers are Father John Daniel Reardon, Camillus, board member, who will lead the 21st Century Lecture Series, which will be started with a special lecture from Mike Wawrzyniak, father of one son, Jared, and his wife of 30 years, Theresa. Father John Daniel Reardon, Camillus, is the retired president of Immaculata University in Pottsville, Pa. The theme of his lecture will be "Living the Faith Message of Pope Benedict XVI." The event will be held in the Main Auditorium of the University of Notre Dame on Sept. 14 at 9 a.m. Lt. Col. Robert Sylvester, CSC, 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. Redemer 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."

Sylvestre makes first vocals as Brother of Holy Cross

DONALDSON — Registrations are now being taken for the Quiet Day of Reflection program “Sacrifice 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, bring focus and clarity to our lives by practicing breathing exercises, toning and rhythm.

For more information, contact Father John Daniel Reardon, CSC, 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: brotherrob@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 and feature Notre Dame coaches. Each luncheon will also provide highlights of a Irish football game, feature short talks from players as well as an open forum by head Coach Charlie Weis.

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

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

Golf outing benefits scholarships, charities

FORT WAYNE — The 13th annual Lebanon Presbyterian Church 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 Dunitz 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 last 12 years. Donations last year were made to Erin’s House for Grieving Children, Phoenix Institute, SCAN, YMCA Camp Potawotami, 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.
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.

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 Teteh, 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.

PHOTOS BY ELMER J. DANCH

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 Toep, director of the Indiana Knights of Columbus seminarian program. Standing, Brother Phillip Smith and Marilyn Toep, a past president of the Knights of Columbus Wives.

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Rain, shine or heat, ICCL is ‘alive and well’

By Joe Kozinski

SOUTH BEND — Gooey 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 the ICCL pertain to when school is in session, but the high schools, Marian and Saint Joseph’s, have again opened their facilities for all of the sports.”

“The softball teams are just now organizing, and we feel that they will be just as competitive as the previous seasons,” added Violi. “The early fall we content with 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 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.

“The league’s main concern is the safety of its participants,” 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,”

“The softball teams are just now organizing, and we feel that they will be just as competitive as the previous seasons,” added Violi. “The early fall we content with 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.

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:

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<td>1. St. Therese</td>
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<td>2. St. Vincent</td>
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<td>8. Q of A-Precious Blood</td>
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In Blue League volleyball action, teams finished last year:

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<td>2. Queen of Angels</td>
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<td>6. Precious Blood</td>
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<td>7. St. Joseph, Hessen Cassel</td>
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<td>8. St. Mary-St. Joseph, Decatur</td>
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**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 team will compete in 16 dual matches in coming weeks and several weekend invitational races before the regular season ends in late September.

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

**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 fullback Tyler Watts and senior center Ben Hendricks. Several underclassmen, junior linemen 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.”

**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 Schuster, “is going to be pretty competitive this year.”

The team will compete in 16 dual matches in coming weeks and several weekend invitational races 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 shared 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 and varsity level.

Two of last year’s all-conference players will return, junior Andrea Kleber and senior Melanie Huhn. Also contributing to a win is senior Gabbi Denning has a good defensive mind. Senior Zach Lepp and Lindsay Shutt work well together and have great leadership ability. Senior Kaityln Hire and juniors Emma Shutt and Gabrielle Shipman will be assistant.

Coach O’Brien is also pleased with the large number of rookies this year. Though they’re inexperienced, 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.

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**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.

“T hey’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 Cabotstone. 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.

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Dwenger fall sports program gets underway

BY BONNIE ELDERSON

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 was 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 Swinheart, defensive lineman Greg Swinheart, offensive lineman Ryan Myers and running back Jermainkis Willis. Other offensive threats are seniors Nick Yaten, Matt Maringer and Matt Eppard.

Coach Svarczkopf will also look for good things from junior wide receiver Tyler Eifert and from juniors Steve Secoufl and Stephen Fiacable on the offensive line. 19-2 will shine with Dan Khorshid kicking and quarter- back 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 con- struction, 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 October, the sea- son is fairly short as well.

Top singles player, senior Keith Welch, is back along with seniors doubles partner Mick Maxwell. Several sophomores will see vars- ity action, including Danny Schenkel, Eric 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 tennis team this year and 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 training and weight training and light summer condi- tioning since June.

After losing 14 seniors to grad- uation, Coach Ade says this year’s team will be fairly young. While incoming seniors Andrew Gilbert and Jack Davidson are expected to provide vital team leadership on and off the course, the majority of this year’s runners will be sopho- mores and juniors.

Juniors Patrick Brunner and Dane Olkeshian and sophomore Luke Allgeier, who varsity cross country is a freshman, will add depth to the lineup. Then, says Ade, “a whole slate 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 the 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 ath- letes’ progress, as 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 them- selves and life in general.”

Sixth-year girls’ cross country Coach Jessica Hayes welcomed a large contingent of 25 to a team meeting last week, then practice began in earnest on July 30. The first meet was slated for Aug. 14 at Fort Wayne’s Shoaf Park and fea- tured teams from seven or eight area schools.

Senior Mattie Goheen, who “did a good job last year,” and sen- ior Allie Polaski are expected to provide strong leadership to a younger squad of runners. Another experienced returnee will be sopho- more 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 hun- dreds 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 in 2007 as last year. Everyone remains healthy and injury-free. Assisting him on the field this sea- son will be Carlos Cruz.

Three recurring standouts are senior midfield-forward Steve Roberts, along with returning sen- ior defender Daniel Wider. 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 have that attitude and attitudes produce a good team and that usu- ally 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 admitted that he had two suc- cessive years as state champs defi- nitely prompts thoughts of a three- peak.

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 All-Conference selection Nicole Schon, Kateri Till, Dakota Helms, Brittany Lahmert, Margaret Allgeier, Ashley Dillon, Sarah Harg and Jessica Wagner. “A few are really good,” he confides.

Wisniewski’s coaching philoso- phy is simple but far-reaching. He works to develop people while encouraging appreciation for the sport of soccer. “I think in the end, students should teach values and build character.”

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

Golf

The Dwenger 2007 girls’ golf team went 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 Kucinski. 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 contribu- tor on the course. The team’s num- ber one player is Megan Ryan, fol- lowed by Jenna Voiler, Ashley Gross, Jacqlyn Stark and Kylee Kucinski. The first match was extremely tight with the top four scorers being tied 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’ vol- leyball 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 teams went 10-series long to Belmont in semi-state competi- tion.

Eleven players are returning to the squad so they should be pre- season favorites with everyone gunning for the title. But he says the “chemistry is really good” among the players and should result in excellent team- wood on and off the field.

Minnick will welcome back seven seniors including standouts Allie Cody, who has won a full scholarship to IPFW (Indiana- Purdue Universities at Fort Wayne), and Emily Meyers, who will enjoy a full ride to Xavier next year. Key roles will also be played by Lanie Mello and Christine Ludwiski, while junior Beth Fogler will be a big contributor by provid- ing “a nice offensive attack from the net.”

Coach Minnick will enjoy help on the sidelines from assistant coach Mike Mickelmi, reserve coach Brenda Wilkinson and freshman coach Kay Freiburger. While Minnick is “offensive-mind- ed,” Mickelmi and Wilkinson 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 the 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.
Outlook for Success in Many Sports

**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 McClellan 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. Monty Kay and Mitch Speer and we are expecting Chris Kosiński and Knute Knapp to fill the holes left by graduate student Joey Hecklinski".

"The defense has quality players in Teddy Padjakowski and linebackers Adam Arenault and Mike Krzyzewski," Downey remarked. "Chris Kosiński and Mitch Speer will have to hold the line at nose guard for 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 our other three year starters Lauren Paczkowski, our setter, will run our offense.

"The Coach Alberto Verteramo's experience is an extension of the team chemistry that focuses on the team getting better as the season progresses. "It's our senior year, hope to see how 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 Vetteramo mixes veterans and young athletes together after losing three scholarship players to graduation. "I’m really excited to see how we put it together," Vetteramo explained.

"Sean Leahy is a four-year starter on defense, Brooks Demarais is a senior goalie that started the first six games last year with pressure on him to hold the team together," Vetteramo continued. "Captain Greg Swygart is coming off an injury and is looking good along with three year varsity 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." Vetteramo 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 do n’t track 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 freshman Jennifer 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 Detrepence 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. "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 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 Lupperi.

"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 finalists 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 IHSSA), Anne Ormson and we hope to get her back," Troeger explained. “Colleen Hughes, Torie Jaques and Becca Jones who hold a hole in one in Plymouth will give us depth.”

"We have had a great month and some great matches we just need to continue the trend.”
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, head 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 Barany Athletic Complex,” exclaimed Glon, also the head football coach.

“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 Sammy 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 Reggie Farkus.

“Last year we went to the semi-state and some people are talking about us,” explained head Coach Farkus. “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 sectional and regional and had our all-stater,” Sandoval commented.

“We are counting on our four 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.

“Again the defensive line has some holes that we expect kids to step up and accept the challenge,” Farkus 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 shoul-
ders of the seniors on the offensive and defensive lines playing hard every down.”

Boys soccer

Work ethic and experience are the two strengths that the Knights are bringing into the season in honor of a rebuilding year, Indiana Conference crown while returning nine seniors.

“We should have our talent spread out all over the field,” commented Coach Ben Householder. “I expect good things from Jamal Farkus and Kyle Doxman 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 Householder. “It should be an exciting year and I encourage everyone to come out and watch this team play.”

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, played 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 Mischler and Stephanie Krager in the middle and we return setter Katie Mischler and Kathleen Chelmnik,” remarked Anderson. “Claire Farkas is our 5-foot, 10-inch returning outside hitter, and we hope to have good production from Renee Michler, Maggie Pajaskowski and Meredith Farkas.

“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 tennis

The Knights will be coming out swinging with a team that features even more depth, dedication and determination to 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 Barany and compete at the number two,” 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 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 Zilin and Caroline Tripel 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.

Marian High School

Athletic Department

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“Onward Knights to Victory, we back you all the way.”
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 their diocese. They seem to blow it off as a marginal issue aimed solely at reintegrating die-hardTraditionalists. Otherwise, they believe, no one cares.

Not so.

The 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 “make-tents” have chosen to remain within the church, praying that the day would come when a change could be made so that that sacred tradition should have its place beside modernist interpretations of the Eucharist. He is here, by God’s grace, and he should be obeyed.

Schismatic groups’ formal communion with the Roman Catholic Church is very unlikely ever to be achievable. But equally important is a full-hearted participation of 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 how 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 papers and files 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:
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. Haec sancta sanctorum juvatem meum.
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

Retired South Bend

physician writes book about Shroud of Turin

The world’s most mysterious “mystery” 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 supernatual aspect.

Dr. Saulco, 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 1,300 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. Saulco 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. Dr. Saulco says that its universal appeal to the young and old is because it is fast reaching its point of ascension.

“Resurrection Documented” should be available in bookstores. If not, contact Dr. Saulco at Shroud82@prodigy.net.
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.

“She 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 quirks” — the fact that the church is a universal reality 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

THE VATICAN LETTER
CINDY WOODEN

Be prepared to withstand many pressures

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL
MSGR. OWEEN E. CAMPION

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

T
he 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 governing the country primarily, 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 found themselves in conflict with the powerful.

Jeremiah in this reading is certainly one of those who saw himself as a prophet...
NFP enriches a couple’s 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 as well. As one husband said, “NFP has challenged me to self-mastery so that I can freely give of myself.”

Many couples say that an NFP lifestyle deepens their faith in God. NFP involved us with the Truth. … We experienced … the gift of truth. “NFP … involved us with the Truth. … We experienced … the gift of truth.”

By Patricia Kasten

Gospel for August 19, 2007

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.

Return to the roots of humility

Humility and I didn’t become acquainted with one another until nearly three decades into my life. I liked the way he talked. 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 hard for it. I had earned it. The future was bright. I felt the invincibility that youth and a little bit of success can bring.

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

Conversion can bring 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 the house of the Lord.

I was the hypocrite.

I seemed to have a particular problem with the Lord’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 hangup 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 childish, obvious, naughtly 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 born up in an environment of Christian values.

But 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 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 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 routine.

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 to each prescribed interval of the Mass. And there is no phrase that I look forward to saying more than, “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.

By Tim Prister

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WITNESSING

T R A E H S O L S O J
A H E P M O T H E R S L
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G H O J O L D I V I D A
B M Y R A E W B L O O D

LETTER
Continued from page 15

When disaster strikes, the local Catholic network provides the material, logistical and financial support it needs from Caritas members around the world.

Knights of the Americas, 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, Caritas in Mexico and for the British charities Oxfam and HelpAge International.

At 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

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 the same as it is at home. 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 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, then he, through each of us is called to be Eucharist, to be Christ for others. People can be present in all places we encounter.

There is an old hymn called “Anthem,” which reminds me of this. 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 people. Hopefully this belief should have an impact on the way we live our lives. Not only are we to be Christ for other people, 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. 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 holding 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 presences is in them. Also, you can’t love an enemy for too long before you begin to see the person differently. Barriers come down, prejudices are reduced.

So the next time I miss a celebration of Mass because of the lack of availability of a 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, now serves the Sisters of the Holy Cross communications department. mlavonis@cscsisters.org.
Musicians combine Catholicism, bluegrass

BY MITCH FINLEY

SPokane, Wash. (CONS) — 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 general evangelical Protestant Christianity. There are no gospel “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 Kentuck-Glenmon 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 exist outside Catholic tradition. He produced both video and print learning resources.

“Lawless grew up in 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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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, PO. Box 11169, Fort Wayne 46856; or e-mail: fhogan@fdiocesefwsb.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 Aciero 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 games for all ages. Admission is $1 and enters you for a cash raffle.

Tent sale at Ave Maria Press in a cash raffle.
Ave Maria Press, 735 W. Calvert, on Sunday, Aug. 17, from 5 to 7 p.m. Call (260) 749-6077 for more information.

Craft fair reservations accepted
Fort Wayne — St. Augustine Parish will have a Jim Frel Golf Tournament Saturday, August 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 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
Mushard Seed Furniture Bank can use your donations
Fort Wayne — The Mushard Seed Furniture Bank is in need of furniture. Donations may be picked up by calling (260) 471-5802. The Mushard Seed is dedicated to providing household furnishings to those in need.

St. Vincent de Paul Store always in need of donations
St. Vincent de Paul Store always in need of donations. Furniture, clothing, shoes and non-perishable food items are needed. Donations can be dropped off at the store, 1600 S. Calhoun St. (574) 287-1091.

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We also have Printery House 2008 Calendars in stock.
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 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 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 visit 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.

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 KOLLER, 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 6-4 and won the first game in the tournament. The grade 7-8 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 6-4 and won the first game in the tournament.

ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL, PLYMOUTH

ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL is located in Plymouth. The school has 191 students in grades kindergarten through eighth. Gertrude Nawara is the principal. Additional information is available at www.saintmichaelschool.org, tnawara@saintmichaelschool.org or by calling the school at (574) 936-4329.

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!

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.”

ALISON WIEHL, GRADE 4

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