NOTRE DAME — Thousands of Catholics from around the diocese made the pilgrimage to the University of Notre Dame campus last Saturday to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. While oppressive heat and heavy rains affected much of the country, northern Indiana enjoyed an unusually mild August day, and persistent gray clouds even held back their sprinkles until everyone had gathered in the Joyce Athletic and Convocation Center for the event’s closing Mass.

Some participants, particularly those from Fort Wayne, came on buses chartered by their parishes. Others drove with their families, often meeting up with fellow parishioners once they arrived on campus.

Like some of the other pilgrims, the Dan and Karen VanOverberghes family from St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish in New Carlisle proudly wore T-shirts with their parish’s name on the front. The VanOverberghes, who are youth directors at their parish, expected their distinctive shirts to help them locate other members of their youth group in the crowd.

Shuttle buses ran continuously from parking lots to deliver people to the various pilgrimage venues on campus, but many people brought their own “wheels” for moving around, including wheelchairs for seniors and the disabled, and strollers and wagons for the youngest generation.

The day’s events began with an ecumenical prayer service, which included clergy representing several denominations, Christian pastors of South Bend to pray together during the standing room only ecumenical service, which included clergy representing several denominations. Pastor Michael Cobbler of Hilltop Lutheran Church of the Ascension in South Bend felt honored to participate in the service saying, “It was a privilege to be here. It (the service) reflects the heart and mind of Jesus Christ, who desires that we continue to manifest his presence in the church.”

During the walk, the youth sang hymns of praise and worship and upon arrival at the basilica, its bells joyfully ringing a call to the faithful, the pilgrim youth lifted the cross at the foot of the stairs. Joann Dereiszewski of St. Pius Parish said, “It (the pilgrimage) was fun!”

Bishop John M. D’Arcy welcomed all Catholic faithful, the pilgrim youth lifted the cross at the foot of the stairs. Joann Dereiszewski of St. Pius Parish said, “It (the pilgrimage) was fun!”

Bishop John M. D’Arcy celebrates the closing Mass of the Eucharistic Congress at the University of Notre Dame on Saturday, Aug. 18. In the bishop’s homily, he told the people that we must be humble before the expression of faith because it is not something for which we should take credit, for it is all from the grace won by Christ on the cross. The bishop said he believed that the special grace of the Eucharistic Congress is the call to prayer.
Eucharistic Congress makes a grace-filled day for the diocease

BISHOP JOHN M. D’ARCY

A day of faith and prayer

The splendid day that our diocese experienced on Saturday on the magnificent campus of the University of Notre Dame will stay in my memory, and the memory of our diocese. Is there any place in the world so appropriate for an event like this as Notre Dame? Rome, certainly, for the World Youth Day in 2000 with its great basilicas and piazzas and its beloved old churches. Not too many other places.

We began at 10 a.m. with an eccumenical service at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. A huge crowd drawn to prayer, and about a dozen Christian pastors from the South Bend area, each one reciting a prayer. Archbishop Daniel Buechlein was kind enough to be the celebrant and to preach a beautiful reflection. Afterwards he, Bishop Daniel Jenky, Msgr. William Lester and many others took up their places in the consecration of the basilica. As I was told later, they heard confessions for a lengthy period of time. Confessions in the basilica went on all day.

Speaking of confession

Almost immediately, yellow umbrellas sprouted around campus and there was a priest at each one. I stopped by the grotto where the continuous rosary had already begun and the seats around that historic venue were filled.

I was offered by golf cart commanded by Drew Curry, one of our seminarians who is now a deacon, to the DeBartolo Classroom Building where I gave my seminar on the life of faith. I was provided with space in the beautiful amphitheater classroom. My talk was broadcast on our two Catholic radio stations — Redeemer Radio in Fort Wayne and Holy Radio in South Bend. I started with two of the apparitions to Abraham and proceeded to reflect on the characteristics of the life of faith, quoting such authors as Rudolph Schnackenberg, SJ; Joseph Ratzinger from his wonderful book, “Introduction to Christianity” where he talks about the challenges to faith today; and a lesser known author, Francis Turell, a priest of the Diocese of Rockville Center, author of “Man, Believer and Unbeliever.”

Then I climbed once again on a golf cart. I was off to my place near the Hesburgh Library where I heard confessions for 90 minutes.

A testimony to priests

The next day, I spoke to the pastor of Little Flower Parish, South Bend, a Holy Cross missionary who served years in Africa. Father Neil Ryan, CSC. He told me he heard confessions near the chapel of Alumni Hall at the forefront of the university from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Father Chuck Herman of Holy Family Parish was located near the basilica and heard confessions the same amount of time. So many priests had volunteered that we were able to escape the long lines we had in 2000. It was made convenient for everyone for who wanted to receive the sacrament.

Instructions everywhere

We are a church of word and sacrament. We believe in teaching. People coming to confession and being met on the grounds of the university spoke about lectures by Professor John Cavadiani on “Deus Est Caritas.” Professor Gary Anderson on the story of Joseph in the Old Testament and its application for the mystery of Christ. Dean Carolyn Woo of the Notre Dame Business School on Catholic ethics.

One of the most popular lectures with one of the largest crowds was by our own Father John Pfister, pastor of St. Mary Parish, Huntington. Father John has made a serious study of the Book of Revelation and its application. Combined with the questions people have about that book, produced a large crowd. There was a talk on immigration, on the death penalty, on teenage dating.

Well over 100 seminars by distinguished speakers. There were special events for youth. Some of the talks were given by our own seminarians, and the young people found them especially relevant to their lives. This beautiful and splendid day seemed to fly by.

The pilgrimage cross

This cross had been to every parish in the dioceese and to most of our institutions. It started at Notre Dame two years ago, and crisscrossed the diocese going from parish to parish. About 100 young people carried it from Saint Joseph’s High School onto the campus. It was brought first to the basilica and then to the youth events. At the end of the day, it was carried into the Joyce Center.

The closing liturgy

The rain held off as it did seven years ago. The day was sunny at the beginning and then cool and pleasant with some clouds. But no rain until we were all safely covered at Mass.

Then, there was the magnificent Mass at the Joyce Center. In my homily, I told the people that we must be humble before the event itself and because of something for which we should take credit, for it is all from the grace won by Christ on the cross. I believe, and I expressed this in my homily, that the special grace of this event is the call to prayer. We took our theme from the theme of Pope John Paul II, “Sir, I want to see Jesus,” said the Greeks to Phillip on the feast day just before the Lord’s Passion.

Churches and works of art

A special thank you to Sharon Little who traveled the length and breadth of the dioceese for the past year or more taking photos of our churches. Finding and photographing images of Christ, which she has published in a beautiful book now available. Throughout the rotunda near the Joyce Center were beautiful pictures of this art which she had taken alone with photos of our various churches. The book is available under the title, “Behold the Face of Christ.”

This magnificent service, gathering together under one cover the Christ-centered art of our dioceese, represents a great service of love which Sharon carried out assisted by Sister Agnes Marie Regan, OSF. The book is a treasure.

In all in all, it was an unforgettable day. After a nice reception following the Mass, I walked into the rainy surroundings and gave thanks to God for the privilege of this dioceese in the holy Jubilee Year. Thanks also to all our priests. About 120 priests concelebrated Mass and 50 or more heard confessions. Others gave seminars and talks. A day long to be remembered.

Pray that we will continue to press forth in this Jubilee Year contemplating the face of Christ for, if we do not do this, if we do not pray, our witness, as Pope John Paul II tells us, will be “painfully inadequate.”

Little Flower Parish

Off early Sunday to Little Flower Parish for the installation of the previously mentioned Neil Ryan, CSC. Delighted to hear the joy with which he has been received. He served as a missionary in Uganda in difficult times. We can never properly thank the Congregation of Holy Cross for the splendid and truly approachable and holy priests they have offered to our dioceese as pastors; and Father Ryan is one of these.

Report

Only four games ahead. Have I pressed the panic button? No, but I’m close. See you next week.
Eucharistic Congress offers catechetical insights

BY TIM JOHNSON

NOTRE DAME — A variety of workshops offered a broad array of catechesis at the diocesan Eucharistic Congress held at the University of Notre Dame Aug. 18. From families with young children learning contemplative prayer to young adults in deep reflection at the saints and shrines of our own diocese, the Eucharistic Congress had something for all ages. The congress included special catechetical tracks for teens, families and Hispanics.

Parents, grandparents and young children learned how to pray in a contemplative manner as Ginny Kindervatter, diocesan Office of Spiritual Development and Evangelization and Lisa Everette, Office of Family Life conducted workshops in the morning and afternoon sessions.

Although the weather may have been uncharacteristically warm, even for the Midwest, Kindervatter said the events were enrich our Catholic life are important, “sometimes it is good to pray to God by sending a message from my heart,” to Bishop Joseph M. D’Arcy.

Kohorn told the preschoolers and kindergarten children. The workshops for the younger children were highlighted with quiet time, music, storytelling, a chalk art drawing by Mary Hilger and a craft. Some were inspired to be a talking to Jesus, but also listening. A roster of speakers, including Bishop John M. D’Arcy, Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein, OSB, of Indianapolis, and Bishop Daniel J. Jenky, of Peoria, Ill., encouraged the bathed in the wood of the cross, and with the crucifixion, the simultaneous giving of the life and the gift of faith to Prayer and to Growth in Faith, workshop, The Call of the Disciple, the cannot be providing the tools to learn how to pray within a relationship as they are admired the preservation of historical artifacts and buildings on the campus. University of Saint Francis student Nicky Lenter from the basilica said, “I was looking up the whole time.” Workshops at the congress were quite varied and included adult, family and youth tracks. Some were interactive, like the family workshop, “Cathedrals Extreme” that recruited entertainers out of the audience of families from preschool through age eight. Other, more heady adult workshops covered everything from Scripture to the Blessed Mother to Pope Benedict XVI’s first encyclical. Workshops of a practical nature offered lessons in areas like preparing children for first Eucharist, encouraging vocations and inviting non-practicing Catholics back to the church.

One of the goals of the congress planners was to attract a wide variety of groups and the crowds moving around the campus gave testimony to their success. Several civic groups and youth all seemed to find something of interest, and one older person was overheard remarking that it was “very inspirational simply to be among so many other Catholics. Greg Sweeney, youth minister at Christ the King Parish in South Bend was very happy to see at least 20 young people from his parish at the event, but he was even more impressed by the large number of youth in attendance.

“I’m really thrilled and surprised to see so many young people here today with their families or by themselves, united for one cause,” Sweeney said. “They were laughing and really enjoying the day. For them, it was a chance to experience Christ in a new way.”

Archbishop Michael A. Bruehue, OSB, a native of South Bend who was the apostolic nuncio of Togo and Benin, and Bishop Felix TOPPO, OFM Cap., bishop of the diocese of Nkoliko in Cameroon, gave a homily that included a 30-minute musical prelude of music, storytelling, a chalk art drawing by Mary Hilger and a craft. Some were inspired to be a popular speaker.

At Bishop D’Arcy’s morning workshop, The Call to the Disciple to Prayer and to Growth in Faith, he discussed that a promise from God at the cross is to be forever with us in the biblical account of Abraham and the near sacrifice of his beloved son Isaac. Even though most people only have one thing to ask of a person with their families.

The bishop said that the dead visual of this occasion is the actual sacrifice of the Son of God; the carrying of the wood — the wood of the cross, and with the crucifixion, the simultaneous giving of the life and the gift of faith seen in the flow of blood and water from the savior’s body symbolizing baptism and the Eucharist. Archbishop Buechlein discussed the saints who labored in Indiana. Hoosiers walk in the hallway of the grotto at the University of St. Theodore Guerin and Bishop Simon Bruté, whose sainthood cause is underway and who nourished faith and Catholic education in Terre Haute and Vincennes when personal existence depended on the ability to live on the edge of wilderness. Central in their lives was a profound, acute devotion the Blessed Sacrament, the archbishop said. Each was an example that the Eucharist must be believed, must be celebrated, and must be lived. And the Eucharist is at the root of any form of holiness.

By their efforts, these saints laid the foundation for reviving the Eucharist and passed on to us the responsibility of continuing its presence.

Bishop Jenky’s workshop, The Eucharist: The Greatest Spiritual Gift, also proved a popular destination for the congress.

Bishop Jenky said that “sharing a meal defines the essential relationships and common identities.” When we share food, in some cultures, it is a sign of social bonding and identification. A meal is simply a social event where food happens to be served.”

Bishop Jenky said, Jesus nourished all of humanity with the gift of the Eucharist, “the central act of Christianity and the profession of the New Testament.” Table fellowship with Jesus enjoyed with his followers transformed people, Bishop Jenky related. They had known many of Christ crucified at that point in their spiritual journeys, and now they know of Christ through the Eucharist. Consequently, we are called to renew our appreciation of the Eucharist each time Mass is celebrated, and we gather around the sacrificial table of the altar.

Among the first session workshops, Father John Pfister, pastor of St. Mary Parish, Huntington, spoke on the Book of Revelation. A condensed version of a series of talks he has given numerous times over the years, the session began with Father Pfister describing Revelation as a mystery, and a mystery understood book of the Bible. He said it is largely associated with fear, but that it actually a message on the hope to the faithful of the early church during a time of persecution.

Priests offered the sacrament of reconciliation at 45 stationssprinkled all around the campus and marked by distinctive yellow umbrellas. Father John Stecher of the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne told Today’s Catholic that confessions had been “steady” all day. There weren’t long times of people waiting, he said, but people rolling around would come to confession when they saw that a priest was free. In fact, University of Saint Francis sophomore Megan Gamble said that for her, confessions was the best part of the whole congress.

“It’s probably the best confessions I’ve had in like, five years,” she said. “I don’t know the priest’s name, but he was just so down to earth.”

A vast array of workshops in morning and afternoon sessions kept the pilgrims moving between buildings, and many first-time visitors to Notre Dame enjoyed tourist the campus while walking to their chosen workshops. First-time visitor John Fedele of St. John the Baptist Parish in New Haven pronounced Notre Dame “breathtaking” as he admired the preservation of historical artifacts and buildings on the campus.

The grotto also experienced a constant stream of people waiting for ongoing recitation of the rosary, led by various diocesan groups. Day-long eucharistic adoration began at the grotto, a suitably quiet venue that experienced a stream of worshipers throughout the day.

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Pinnacle

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

service in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart that was filled to capacity. An array of Christian pastors and leaders from around the city of South Bend lined the front of the crossunchurching with Bishop John M. D’Arcy and Archbishop Daniel Buechlein, OSB.

Bishop Buechlein presided at the service and, at Bishop D’Arcy’s request, selected a reading on the early church’s “collage of ministry” as an insight into how different Christians can appreciate what each contributes to the church.

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Pinnacle

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INSIGHT
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father Miles O'Brien Riley drew near 400 people for the first of his two workshops in McKenna Hall Auditorium. With the use of video, music and mini-series from the workshops, Father Miles tackled So, We're quick to judge, expecting too much of ourselves and one another. We need to give ‘old bones’ and ‘new flesh’ a chance to establish a contract with God, a contract of wholeness, in the same way that we will establish a contract with our children. This is the contractual nature of faith. That’s the contract of wholeness, of the Father, Son, Holy Spirit. We are asked why a pope would choose, as a couple a daily habit were to establish a contract with Christ, the buddy Christ, who has been inspired by the life of Mother Teresa, said, “Now in our youth programs, we try to pick up kids who are not members of St. Augustine and invite them to be a part of the group.” All were challenged to seek the face of Jesus outside of their comfort zone because they don’t know in whose face we will appear. Father Daryl Rybecki, pastor of St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne, showed that Mary is the model of faith in his workshop, Making Mary Part of Your Everyday Life. Using various mysteries of the rosary, he explained how Mary shares our experiences in life from joy to sorrow. “There is something in those mysteries which we can relate to because they touch various parts of our lives,” he said. When we contemplate Mary’s life, we realize “we have someone who can talk to in our prayer, who can talk to us, who can say, I know, I’ve been there.” Bishop Luers High School religion teacher Bruce LeBarbera, Jennifer Murray, Tess Baxter of St. Monica’s, and several others joined the rosary in the grotto, confession and went to the Sacristy where he was having fun at the conclave. As the rain began to drizzle happy spirit-filled Catholics returned home knowing Father Dominique Carboneau’s, pastor of St. Aloysius Parsh in Yoder, words were true. “This was a special spiritual event for all those who participated.”

COMMENT
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Seaton Parish in Fort Wayne joined by new comer, Florence from Korea, came to “enjoy the company of the spirit and the spirituality of the day.” They would attend a workshop or two and of course, says Cliff, with a mischievous grin, “Find food!” Down at the serenely beautiful grotto where recitation of the rosary was led by various groups throughout the day numbers lined the kneelers in prayer as others lit candles for their own private intentions. Jed Horn, parishioner at St. Paul of the Cross in Columbia City, sitting quietly on a bench at the grotto had come to be in full communion with the church. “I came in 2002,” said Horn, “and had just started RCIA. I loved the Mass but was not in full communion then. Now I want to spend the day with the Lord and find out what he wants me to do with the big changes in my life.” Horn added that he enjoyed seeing people he knew on campus and he anticipated finding a yellow low sugar candy under which he would renew his faith with the sacrament of reconciliation. A group from Our Lady of Guadalupe in Warsaw had enjoyed reciting the rosary in Spanish and at the grotto as well. Teen Dan Baxter of St. Bavo Parish, Mishawaka, said he was having fun at the conclave when he and a friend were running to attend the teen keynote speaker presentation. Melissa Janiner teacher and parishioner of Holy Cross Parish attended a workshop on grief and spirituality and said, “It was helpful. It gave me insight into how to speak to families of students.” She was grateful to Jim for sharing. The family of St. Joseph, Hessen Cassel, had attended workshops with the children and grandparents and said, “We loved the workshops. They had a lot of good stuff.” The family also took the opportunity to participate in reconciliation where they were told that they were making the umbrellas, dotting the landscape throughout campus.

A family group of women, obviously long-time friends from St. Michael Parish in Waterford all exclaimed simultaneously about the congress opportunities. “Marvelous! Awesome!” one woman said with a brown, that she had participated in, “Walking!”

Tired but peaceful friends Shelly Garza, Jenny Stevens and Herlinda Zepeda of St. John the Evangelist in Goshen, found all the activities engaging, “It is beautiful what you have on campus. We said two rosaries in the rooms, confession and also covered the Five Pillars.”

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Teens encouraged to follow the truth at Eucharistic Congress

BY JOE KOZINSKI

NOTRE DAME — An overcast day filled with light may seem like a contradiction in terms, but the youth of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend were a shining example of our faith and spirit during the Eucharistic Congress.

The day was filled with promise and passion as teens from Fort Wayne to South Bend started the morning with a procession from Saint Joseph’s High School to the Basilica of the Sacred Heart with the Jubilee Pilgrim Cross. The cross was prominently displayed outside on campus throughout the day.

A praise and worship service performed by the Life Teen band Frankie and the Holy Rollers, from St. Vincent Parish in Fort Wayne had the masses swinging and swaying to the rhythmic tunes glorifying Christ’s name. The almost choreographed movements of the veteran Life Teen members had the young adults from other areas of the diocese playing catch up to enjoy the complete service to its fullest.

The keynote speaker, Ennie Hickman, took time to have the teens reflect on the day, the part they play in the Catholic Church and what part their faith plays in their lives.

Hickman began the talk with an anecdote of his life: “I can’t pick and choose.”

As the youthful audience held on to his words of wisdom, he began to talk about Luke’s Gospel account of Jesus and Simon Peter at the water when the Lord asked Peter to let out his nets after a night of an unfruitful fishing.

“As St. Peter reeled in the greatest catch ever, a catch that would have given him all the wealth of the day, Peter cast down his nets and followed the Lord,” exclaimed Hickman. “St. Peter gave up everything he had ever dreamed of to follow Jesus.”

“Are you astonished by Christ?” asked Hickman of the teens. “React and respond to Christ’s glory, take on his face and desire the truth?”

Hickman then asked this question: “Would you want to know? Do you want to know the truth? Do you desire the truth?”

The emotional Hickman then held the Bible high and said, “This is the truth, though you might not want to accept it.”

As the youthful audience held on to his words of wisdom, he began to talk about Luke’s Gospel account of Jesus and Simon Peter at the water when the Lord asked Peter to let out his nets after a night of an unfruitful fishing.

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Hickman explained the real focus of faith: “My mission is to comfort the disturbed and disturb the comforted,” Hickman remarked. “The disturbed are the people that need the Lord’s help and the comforted are the people that need to go out and show the Lord’s deeds to others.”

The day didn’t end with the keynote speaker. It also included workshops and laity. Topics included the following:

• Survivor: Winning the dating game by Father Dan Scheidt
• Who is Mary? Dignified mother not desperate housewife by Deacon Drew Curvy
• God’s Anatomy: Understanding the language of our bodies by seminarians Kevin Bauman and Andy Budzinski
• Deal, no deal or the real deal? by seminarians Gabriel Hernandez, Fernando Jimenez and Jake Runyon
• Extreme Makeover: For girls only by Mary Bielski
• Lost? by Bob Kloska
• My name is Earl (and Tyler and Emily and ...) by seminarian Matt Cooman

Teens offer prayers before they carry the Jubilee Pilgrim Cross in procession from Saint Joseph’s High School to Notre Dame for the Ecumenical Prayer Service.

Kay Cozad contributed to this article.

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 Mothers Day / Easter Gifts

Delete/Insert/Replace, if applicable
Bishop Baker of Charleston named to head Birmingham Diocese


While bishop of Charleston, he initiated annual observances focused on tenets of the Catholic faith, including years focused on prayer, the rosary, stewardship, the Eucharist and the family. In other efforts, he encouraged people to observe the traditional 12 days of Christmas, focusing on acts of kindness and prayer, and to keep Sunday as a day of rest. He joined bishops from Atlanta and Charlotte, N.C., in a 2004 letter saying Catholic politicians or candidates who support keeping abortion legal were barred from receiving Communion in any Catholic Church in the United States.

The Birmingham Diocese has been vacant since Bishop David E. Foley retired in 2005.

Consumerism, hedonism will be defeated by God’s love, pope says

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — The seemingly invincible ideologies of consumerism and hedonism and the reign of violence and terror will all be defeated by God’s love, Pope Benedict XVI said. “It still seems impossible today to think that God ... is the true ruler of the world,” the pope told Vatican Radio Aug. 18. Pope Benedict XVI met with Cardinal Christoph Schonborn of Vienna, said the newspaper. Baranorgo is named after the wife of Bennelong, a leader of the Eora clan of Aboriginal people who befriended Sydney’s first governor, Arthur Phillip, in 1788. Situated in the next inlet along from where the Sydney Opera House sits on Bennelong Point, Baranorgo is a former shipping container terminal earmarked for an urban renewal project.

Warm welcome, warm weather greet Archbishop Kurtz in Louisville

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (CNS) — With solemnity and celebration befitting the Archdiocese of Louisville’s nearly 200-year history, Archbishop Kurtz was installed Aug. 15 as its fourth archbishop during a Mass that drew about 5,000 people to a downtown Louisville arena. Successor to Archbishop Thomas C. Kelly, the new archbishop was installed at noon before a crowd that had been carried by another of Louisville’s shepherds, Bishop William George Mccloskey, who served at the turn of the 20th century.

Cardinal hopes pope’s visit to Austria will encourage evangelization

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Catholic leaders in Austria hope the pope’s Sept. 7-9 visit there will strengthen people’s faith in God and encourage Catholics to evangelize, said Austrian Cardinal Christoph Schoenborn of Vienna. “The biggest challenge today is mission” and taking the Gospel message to others, the cardinal told Vatican Radio Aug. 18. Pope Benedict XVI met with Cardinal Schonborn, president of the Austrian bishops’ conference, and Bishop Egon Kapellari of Graz-Seckau, Austria, at the papal summer residence in Castel Gandolfo, Italy, Aug. 18. The cardinal said that now, “after very difficult times,” there is “a great awakening” among Austrian Catholics, who realize “our society needs the Gospel, faith, prayer.” When a pornography and sex scandal at the diocesan theological seminary of Sankt Polten led to the closing of the seminary and the bishop’s resignation in 2004, Austrian bishops expressed concern the scandal would cause a drop in confidence in the church. The number of Catholics leaving the church by discontinuing “church tax” payments increased sharply after the scandal, according to an August 2004 report by Vienna’s Der Presse daily, raising fears of a permanent decline in Austria, where Catholics nominally make up 78 percent of the population of 8.1 million.

Sydney paper reports World Youth Day opening to be on waterfront site

SYDNEY, Australia (CNS) — Baranorgo, a stretch of waterfront named after the wife of an Aboriginal who befriended the first British settlers to Sydney, will be the venue for the opening Mass of World Youth Day July 15, 2008 in Sydney. A Sydney newspaper reported Aug. 18 that the 54-acre site, situated on the eastern side of Darling Harbour, also will be a main venue for other World Youth Day events, including the Stations of the Cross. Baranorgo will also make “a dramatic and telescopic backdrop” to the arrival, by boat, of Pope Benedict XVI on his first visit to Australia, said the newspaper.

Bishops of Charleston, N.C., as the bishop of Charleston, Al. He succeeds Bishop David E. Foley, who retired May 10, 2005. The appointment was announced in Washington Aug. 14 by Msgr. Martin Krebs, charge d’affaires of the Vatican nunciature. Bishop Baker, 63, has headed the Charleston Diocese since 1999. He will install himself in Birmingham Oct. 2. While bishop of Charleston, he initiated annual observances focused on tenets of the Catholic faith, including years focused on prayer, the rosary, stewardship, the Eucharist and the family. In other efforts, he encouraged people to observe the traditional 12 days of Christmas, focusing on acts of kindness and prayer, and to keep Sunday as a day of rest. He joined bishops from Atlanta and Charlotte, N.C., in a 2004 letter saying Catholic politicians or candidates who support keeping abortion legal were barred from receiving Communion in any Catholic Church in the United States.

The Birmingham Diocese has been vacant since Bishop David E. Foley retired in 2005.

Consumerism, hedonism will be defeated by God’s love, pope says

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — The seemingly invincible ideologies of consumerism and hedonism and the reign of violence and terror will all be defeated by God’s love, Pope Benedict XVI said. “It still seems impossible today to think that God ... is the true ruler of the world,” the pope told Vatican Radio Aug. 18. Pope Benedict XVI met with Cardinal Christoph Schonborn, president of the Austrian bishops’ conference, and Bishop Egon Kapellari of Graz-Seckau, Austria, at the papal summer residence in Castel Gandolfo, Italy, Aug. 18. The cardinal said that now, “after very difficult times,” there is “a great awakening” among Austrian Catholics, who realize “our society needs the Gospel, faith, prayer.” When a pornography and sex scandal at the diocesan theological seminary of Sankt Polten led to the closing of the seminary and the bishop’s resignation in 2004, Austrian bishops expressed concern the scandal would cause a drop in confidence in the church. The number of Catholics leaving the church by discontinuing “church tax” payments increased sharply after the scandal, according to an August 2004 report by Vienna’s Der Presse daily, raising fears of a permanent decline in Austria, where Catholics nominally make up 78 percent of the population of 8.1 million.

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Franciscan University sponsoring bioethics conference in October

STEUBENVILLE, Ohio (CNS) — The Institute of Bioethics at the Franciscan University of Steubenville will host an international conference in October aimed at health care professionals who must grapple with complex medical ethics issues, sometimes on a daily basis.

The Oct. 25-27 conference, on the theme “Human Life: Its Beginning and End,” will focus on abortion, stem-cell research, assisted suicide and other life-and-death issues. Panel discussions will be held on complex clinical cases involving beginning-of-life and end-of-life issues, material or formal cooperation, the meaning of suffering and the nobility of the health care professions. Nurses, physicians and psychologists can receive continuing medical education credits for attending the conference.

Bill aims to make motherhood easier for college students

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As the debate rages on whether abortion should be restricted or made more available, Feminists for Life sees clearly that abortion is a choice that no woman wants to make. Members of the organization were on Capitol Hill Aug. 14 to explain their support for the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Pregnant and Parenting Student Services Act of 2007, which was reintroduced to both houses of Congress this year. This bill would establish programs at universities to support pregnant college students; they don’t have to make the difficult choice between their education and parenting a child. The organization also introduced five women who shared their stories and will tour the country visiting college campuses to spread the organization’s message that “women deserve better than abortion,” said Liz Redford, president of Feminists for Life.
NOTRE DAME — Andrew M. Gawrych, CSC, and Stephen A. Lacroix, CSC, will make their final profession of vows in the Congregation of Holy Cross at a celebration of the Eucharsium on Saturday, Aug. 25, at 2 p.m. in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on the campus of the University of Notre Dame. The following day they will be ordained to the Order of Deacon at 10:30 a.m. at the Moreau Seminary Chapel at Notre Dame. Originally from Leavenworth, Kan., Andrew Gawrych earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Notre Dame in 2002 and served as a resident assistant in Keough Hall during his senior year. He entered Moreau Seminary as a candidate in the fall of 2002 and received a master of divinity degree from the University of Notre Dame in May 2007. He has been assigned to St. John Vianney Parish in Goodyear, Ariz., where he will serve as deacon until his ordination to the priesthood in March.

Stephen Lacroix attended high school in Sugar Land, Texas, and received a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas in 1994. He was awarded a master’s at the University of Arizona in 2000 and worked as an analyst for Intel Corp. prior to entering Moreau Seminary in 2001. This past May, Stephen also earned a master of divinity degree from the University of Notre Dame. He will serve as a deacon at Christ the King Church in South Bend until his ordination to the priesthood.

Two Holy Cross seminarians take final vows

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Saint Mary’s enters top 100 national liberal arts colleges

NOTRE DAME — For the first time ever, U.S. News & World Report gives Saint Mary’s College a national — rather than regional — ranking. Saint Mary’s ranks among the 100 best liberal arts colleges in the nation, of which there are over 2,000. Saint Mary’s ranks in the best of the nation at 91.

For 12 of the previous 13 years, Saint Mary’s College had made 101st among the nation’s Midwest Comprehensive Colleges, receiving an overall score of 100, the highest number possible.

Saint Mary’s College President Carol Ann Mooney set a goal early in her presidency of moving the college into the national rankings, and is pleased with this new placement. “We’ve long known we can compete on a national level and it is gratifying to see our quality recognized. While many of our peers in higher education would like to see ranking systems change, there is no doubt that students and their parents rely heavily on these rankings when making their decisions about college.”

Mooney’s goal is to move Saint Mary’s into the top 50 liberal arts colleges in the nation. She believes this is possible because of Saint Mary’s strong performance in areas such as student graduation and retention rates, and the college’s commitment to student learning.

With its small classes and talented, accessible faculty, Saint Mary’s offers a student-centered and empowering environment for its students.

The magazine’s annual “America’s Best Colleges” guidebook appears on U.S. News Online (www.usnews.com) today. The magazine hit newstand Mondays, Aug. 20.

Catholic Men’s Conference slated Sept. 22

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indiana Catholic Men’s Conference “Lions Breathing Fire” will be held Saturday, Sept. 22, at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis.

Men make a difference in today’s society. This conference hopes to provide ideas:

• To bring men closer to Christ;
• To strengthen families by strengthening husbands and fathers;
• To inform men of all ages, including high school students, about the wonders and truth about our Catholic faith;
• The obstacles that serve to pull men away from a strong relationship with God and with their families; the way to deal with the obstacles that a secular society sets in front of all; the theological hope that brings individuals the strength to be real men of faith in their beliefs; and how to better prioritize the true meaning of faith in every part of life.

Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein, OSB, of Indianapolis, Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, OFM Cap., of Denver, Darrell Miller, Jesse Romero, Father Larry Richards, Father Richard Doerr and Father Jonathan Meyer will be the highlight speakers.

For more information and a schedule, visit www.indianacatholicmen.com or call (317) 924-3982.

Noted memoirist delivers Christian culture lecture at Saint Mary’s

NOTRE DAME — Patricia Hampl, whose writing has appeared in The New York Times, Los Angeles Times and “Best American Short Stories” among many others, will give a public lecture at Saint Mary’s College. The lecture, titled “Sacrament of Self: the Catholic Roots of Contemporary Memoir,” is Thursday, Sept. 13, at 7:30 p.m. in the Little Theatre, Moreau Center for the Arts. The event, including a post-lecture reception, is free and open to the public.

This is the second year for the renewed Christian Culture Lecture at Saint Mary’s College. The annual lecture series is in recognition of the Humanistic Studies Program at Saint Mary’s (formerly the Christian Culture Program) and its founder, Professor Bruno Schleissner.

Hampl is a noted memoirist and spiritual writer. Four of her books have been named Notable Books of the year by The New York Times Book Review. She first won recognition for “A Romantic Education,” her memoir about her Czech heritage. This and subsequent works established her as an influential figure in the rise of autobiographical writing over the past 25 years.

“Memoir is not what happened; if we’re lucky, that’s the best journalism,” says Hampl. “It is what has happened over time, in the mind, in the life as it attends to these tantalizing, disquieting, broken bits of life history. Such personal writing is . . . a try at the truth.”

Hampl is Regents Professor and also McKnight Distinguished Professor at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis where she teaches fall semesters in the MFA program of the English Department. She also has a new memoir, “The Florist’s Daughter,” forthcoming from Harcourt in October 2007.

SAT classes offered at Bishop Dwenger

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Dwenger High School is offering an SAT prep course on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-7:30 p.m. Classes will begin on Sept. 18 and end on Nov. 1.

The 14 sessions will include the diagnostic testing, six verbal and six math sessions. The class fee is $160 and includes the text for the course. The class will address the new changes in the SAT.

The class is open to any high school student in the Fort Wayne and Allen County area. For more information and registration, please call the front office at Bishop Dwenger High School at (260) 496-4700 and ask for extension 320.

Knights to honor public safety at Blue Mass

ELKHART — The University of Saint Francis has announced that one of the most extraordinary avian gardens in the world will be opened in Fort Wayne. Sandy Skoglund, will install and exhibit her work Breathing Glass from Sept. 8 through Oct. 26, with an opening gala on Saturday, Sept. 8, at the Weatherhead Gallery in the Rolland Center. This exhibit is made possible in part by an American Masterpiece Grant provided by the Indiana Arts Commission from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Sandy Skoglund has participated in only one solo show in the state of Indiana. The exhibition at the university will feature one of the artist’s sets entitled Breathing Glass along with the artist’s famed photo of the installation. Visitors will have the opportunity to view the two side by side along with additional Skoglund photographs such as Gathering Paradise. Skoglund will attend the opening of the exhibit, sign copies of the catalog and deliver a public lecture Friday, Oct. 26 as part of the Closer Look Lecture Series.

Skoglund is famous for her elaborately dimensioned installations and resulting Cibachrome photographs. The environments where everyday objects are combined with unexpected elements suggest the anxieties and dangers of contemporary life.

For more information, call (260) 434-7391 or visit the Web site at www.arts.indiana.edu.

School to celebrate 50th anniversary

WARSAW — Sacred Heart Parish in Warsaw will celebrate the school’s 50th anniversary on Sunday, Sept. 23. Festivities begin with the 11 a.m. Mass celebrated by Bishop John M. D’Arcy followed by a groundbreaking ceremony for the new addition to the school.

A luncheon will be held at 12:30 p.m. in the parish hall. Tickets for the luncheon are $25 for a couple and $22.50 for an adult and $2.50 for children under 12. All tickets must be purchased in advance and will be available after Masses on Sept. 1-2, Sept. 8-9 and Sept. 15-16 or by calling Fran Feagle at (574) 838-9800.

Artist Skoglund to exhibit at USF

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MUSEUM MASTERPIECE

The monstrance, a portable shrine which holds the eucharistic Host for adoration by the faithful, is a 19th century Gothic style, which has from the top images of the Lamb of God, the Sacred Heart, Sts. Peter and Paul and figures of adoring angels. On the base are six illustrations of saints. Jewels surround the opening for the Blessed Sacrament. In this photo, the monstrance rests on a thabor, a small ornamented platform. The Cathedral Museum is located in the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center at 915 S. Clinton St, in Fort Wayne. It is open Tuesdays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Forever Learning Institute begins a new semester

SOUTH BEND — September 10 marks the start of the fall classes at the Forever Learning Institute located on the grounds of Little Flower Church in South Bend. This year’s theme, “Something for Everyone over Fifty,” aptly conveys what the institute is all about. This semester will welcome 12 new faculty members and students will be able to select from 39 new classes including two new off-campus situations where they can learn at a primary site such as the Snite Museum, LaSalle Grill and the Historical Society.

One of the great new classes is “75 Years of American Music.” It will be taught by Jason Gresl, education director of the South Bend Symphony, in conjunction with its 75th anniversary celebration. Also offered is a new series of lectures on topics that concern all seniors such as health, housing, insurance, and tax issues. Those interested in landscaping can learn from the expert who is in charge of the beautiful campus at Notre Dame. There will also be opportunities to learn to paint with either acrylics or watercolor.

Back by popular demand is another “21st Century Lecture Series.” The first speaker is Mike Wawrzynek, Army ROTC Director at the University of Notre Dame to be held on Sept. 14th at 9 a.m. Lt. Col. Wawrzynek will speak about his experiences in Iraq. Other noteworthy lecturers will be Mike Hoffman (WNDU-TV), and Jack Colwell from the South Bend Tribune. Those who want to catch up with their children can sign up for one of the computer classes.

Interested persons can register at the institute Aug. 29, 29 and 30 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., or do it online at www.foreverlearninginstitute.org or call (574) 282-1901.

— Sister Margie Lavonis

Father Paul V. Robb, SJ — 60 years in the Society of Jesus

CHICAGO — Born in Toledo, Ohio and raised in Fort Wayne, Jesuit Father Paul V. Robb is the oldest of three brothers. After attending St. John the Baptist School, he graduated from Lincoln High school, Vincennes, and attended Vincennes University. He joined the Chicago Province of the Society of Jesus in 1947 and was ordained a priest on June 12, 1960. In the meantime, he earned an undergraduate degree from Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio and advanced degrees in philosophy and theology at Loyola University, Chicago. He earned a doctorate in psychology in 1966.

After teaching at Loyola University, Chicago, he served as director of novices for the Chicago Province of the Society of Jesus. In 1964 he founded the Institute for Spiritual Leadership, an international, ecumenical program educating both men and women as spiritual directors. He continued to direct and teach at the Institute until 1990. During that time he gave workshops on spirituality in England, Holland, Norway, Japan and Rome, Italy. Since that time he has served as the assistant to the treasurer of the Chicago province.
Bishop William McManus years, 1977 to 1985

BY ANN CAREY

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


“With the (1977) appointment of Bishop William Edward McManus as the seventh bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend, the diocese received a spiritual leader committed to continuing the implementation of the reforms of Vatican II and making thoughtful responses to contemporary issues in the church and society.

Only 12 years younger than his predecessor, Bishop McManus projected a different style. His often repeated motto was that he was “more interested in people than in buildings.” On the one hand, the motto signaled that the era of constructing buildings had passed — at least temporarily — and he intended to ensure wide participation of the laity in Catholic life.

In 1977, 44 parish grade schools enrolled 11,790 students; in 1984, 43 schools had 10,263 students. The five diocesan high schools enrolled 3,880 students in 1977 and 3,470 in 1984.

“Religious education, whether in the Catholic schools or for public school students attending programs in their parishes, continued as a major ministry of diocesan and parish life. Parish programs of religious instruction for Catholic children attending public grade schools thrived, and these youth continued their faith education at the diocesan Religious Education Centers.”

Issues related to finances and the future of diocesan properties arose during the McManus years that led to decisions about letting go of some places and practices from the pre-Vatican II era.

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Jan. 20: Jimmy Carter succeeds Gerald Ford as 39th President of U.S.
Aug. 16: Elvis Presley dies, 42 years old.

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Aug. 6: Pope Paul VI dies at age 80.
Aug. 26: Pope John Paul I (Cardinal Albino Luciani) succeeds Pope Paul VI as 263rd pope.
Sept. 28: Pope John Paul I dies at age 66.
Oct. 16: Pope John Paul II (Cardinal Karol Wojtyla) succeeds Pope John Paul I as 264th pope. He is first Polish pope in history.

1979
June 2: Pope John Paul II visits his native Poland, becoming the first pope to visit a Communist country.
Oct. 1-6: Pope John Paul II visits the U.S.

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March 24: Archbishop Oscar Romero is killed by gunmen while celebrating Mass in San Salvador. At his funeral six days later, 42 people are killed amid gunfire and bombs.
July 16: Former California governor Ronald Reagan is nominated for U.S. President by Republicans in Detroit.
Nov. 4: Ronald Reagan defeats incumbent Jimmy Carter for President of U.S.
Dec. 8: Former Beatles John Lennon is shot to death outside his New York City apartment building.

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May 13: Pope John Paul II is shot and nearly killed in St. Peter’s Square.
Aug. 19: Sandra Day O’Connor is appointed as first female U.S. Supreme Court Justice.

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May 12: Spanish priest Juan Hernandez tries to stab Pope John Paul II with a bayonet during the latter’s pilgrimage to the Fatima, Portugal, shrine.

1983
Feb. 2: Giovanni Viigilietto goes on trial for multiple counts of bigamy involving 105 women.
Oct. 27: Pope John Paul II visits his would-be assassin Mehmet Ali Agca in prison to forgive him.

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Jan. 10: The U.S. and the Vatican establish full diplomatic relations.
Jan. 24: The first Apple Macintosh goes on sale.
Aug. 23: U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Vice President George Bush renominated at Republican convent in Dallas.
Nov. 6: Reagan defeats Walter F. Mondale, carries 49 states.

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Feb. 18: Bishop William Edward McManus retires as bishop of Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

World timeline 1977-1985

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Worthy of the Gospel of Christ
A History of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

Worthy of the Gospel of Christ
When we reflect on the past—the events and people who shaped the world we live in today—it gives us our lives meaning and context. We see that we are part of an ongoing community whose contributions are lasting. Discover the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend today! Includes photos.

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BEHOLD A DAY OF

Grace, Maggie and Lille Castleman of St. Louis, Besancon, found their parish photos displayed in the Catholic Art Exhibit in the Joyce Center.

Preschool and kindergarten-aged children are held spellbound in a workshop presented by Ginny Korhman of the Office of Spiritual Development/Evangelization titled Companions in Prayer.

Bishop John M. D'Arcy greets well-wishers at a birthday reception in the Joyce field house following the closing Mass.

Inspired teens carry the Jubilee Pilgrim Cross on the final leg of its two year journey across the campus where it will adorn the altar of the closing celebration Mass.

Three tired pilgrims enjoy a ride to their next destination on one of the available carts driven by volunteers throughout campus.

Opportunities for outdoor reconciliation, including those for Hispanic Catholics, were offered across the Notre Dame campus, found under the yellow umbrellas.

Bishop John M. D'Arcy greets well-wishers at a birthday reception in the Joyce field house following the closing Mass.
Many Graces

A display with complimentary rosaries graces the area surrounding the grotto where hundreds of pilgrims offered prayers of the rosary throughout the day.

Diocesan priests are led in procession to concelebrate the closing Mass in the Joyce Center.

Isaiah and Elizabeth Dilworth of St. John the Evangelist in Goshen hold rosaries at the grotto.

Holy Cross Brother Roy Smith, left, and Mel Tardy presented the workshop "The Jesus in me loves the Jesus in you."

Hundreds of faithful peruse the materials offered by the Cathedral Bookstore and other exhibitor table displays located in the Joyce Center.

Bishop John M. D'Arcy speaks with Father Peter Rocca, center, and Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein, OSB., following the ecumenical service at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.
Senior Spirit

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — Retirement can be a bittersweet time of dramatic change. For some it means giving up a fulfilling schedule with few plans for the future while for others it means finally having time for activities that lend themselves to personal desires. Nancy Riecke is retiring this year but is not throwing in the towel just yet.

Riecke is stepping down from her position as rectory housekeeper at Our Lady of Good Hope after 21 years. Though she enjoyed the work, it’s time now, she says, to leave the physical labor to someone else. But this spry septuagenarian adds that she’ll remain active in all the other ministries and activities that she loves there. And that’s a very long list.

Riecke, a Fort Wayne native, has been active as eucharistic minister, prayer chain volunteer, St. Vincent de Paul Society member and much more since the early days when she and husband Herman and their seven children attended St. Joseph Parish on Brooklyn Avenue.

“It’s always been a way of life. Only when you serve others do you serve God,” she says.

In between the ministry hours she fostered newborns and young children awaiting adoption as well. This convert to the faith was investigating the Catholic Church as a young teen even as she was attending another denomination. Her faith development came from her grandmother who helped raise her.

“She says, ‘I remember praying at grandma’s knees. She said, ‘Pray all times through life.’’ That faith formation continued in high school after she met her future husband Herm. She was welcomed into the faith in 1954, and was married the following year at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

Though very active in several ministries at St. Joseph Parish on Brooklyn Avenue, where they raised their children, the Rieckes’ moved to the north side of Fort Wayne in spring of 1986. By fall Nancy was working for the church.

“I had two kids at home and I saw an ad in the bulletin for a housekeeper. I said, ‘I can do that.’” Riecke recalls. In addition to being hired for the housekeeping position, Riecke and her husband jumped in to parish ministries with both feet.

The Rieckes had both been longtime participants in the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Herm as member, then president at St. Joseph Parish for years and Nancy as behind-the-scenes helper back, says Herm, “when they didn’t allow women to join.” Eventually at Our Lady of Good Hope, Nancy was able to join as a full member and then president where the couple assisted the Our Lady of Good Hope chapter to reorganize into the powerful ministry it is today.

The couple joined the ranks of eucharistic ministers at Our Lady of Good Hope, which they performed for years. Herm still substitutes when asked while Nancy knows her days of navigating the steps to the altar are over. And together they have created and facilitated such ministries at Our Lady of Good Hope as the Lunch Bunch, where adult parishioners gather to break bread and visit at a local restaurant and the Euchre Club, where couples meet in homes to play cards. They also participate in a small Christian community that meets for faith development, service and fellowship all year long.

Nancy is involved in ministries that she has created to support the people of her parish that she says are heaven sent. “God gives me ideas during Mass. And you just go with it,” she says with a knowing smile.

In between the ministry hours she fostered newborns and young children awaiting adoption as well. This convert to the faith was investigating the Catholic Church as a young teen even as she was attending another denomination. Her faith development came from her grandmother who helped raise her.

“She says, ‘I remember praying at grandma’s knees. She said, ‘Pray all times through life.’’ That faith formation continued in high school after she met her future husband Herm. She was welcomed into the faith in 1954, and was married the following year at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

Though very active in several ministries at St. Joseph Parish on Brooklyn Avenue, where they raised their children, the Rieckes’ moved to the north side of Fort Wayne in spring of 1986. By fall Nancy was working for the church.

“I had two kids at home and I saw an ad in the bulletin for a housekeeper. I said, ‘I can do that.’” Riecke recalls. In addition to being hired for the housekeeping position, Riecke and her husband jumped in to parish ministries with both feet.

The Rieckes had both been longtime participants in the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Herm as member, then president at St. Joseph Parish for years and Nancy as behind-the-scenes helper back, says Herm, “when they didn’t allow women to join.” Eventually at Our Lady of Good Hope, Nancy was able to join as a full member and then president where the couple assisted the Our Lady of Good Hope chapter to reorganize into the powerful ministry it is today.

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One ministry she is very proud of is the prayer line she has formed that boasts almost 200 participants who pray for the needs of the parish community. Prayer requests are disseminated via phone and email with assistance from two or three volunteers and the power of the prayer team continues to awe Riecke: “The prayer team gets so involved in the lives they pray for. It’s personal to them. It becomes a way of life.”

The Euchre Club stepped up to provide meals for a family who had suffered a loss and Sarah’s Dinners was created to support any family in the parish in need of meals including the elderly. Riecke is involved in the team that provides funeral dinners as well.

Riecke has helped form a parish nursing group that provides blood pressure checks after Masses and initiated a diabetes support group as well. Her fund-raising efforts have supported the parish over the years as well as the food bank that feeds the poor. And there’s the Angel Giving Tree and the bereavement ministry and as the list of her involvement goes on, Riecke’s modesty has her saying, “It’s great working with people with like mind. This parish is a very holy place. Faith surrounds you on a daily basis not just on Sunday.”

Nancy Riecke is slowing a bit physically, but has no intention of leaving any of her beloved ministries yet. Herm who has been business-property manager of Our Lady of Good Hope for 18 years hopes to cut his 40-hour week back a bit this fall, and together they hope to spend a little more time with their grandchildren.

But as for retirement, Nancy says, “I’ll stay with all the ministries except the paid position. They have become a way of life for me. We have a wonderful life of faith, family and parish. Our lives revolve around faith. Besides, God won’t let you shy away. He keeps bugging you!”
Coping with age

Becoming a senior citizen is relatively easy. All you have to do is live long enough to reach age 55 or 60. The typical lifestyle one is expected and even "entitled" to enjoy continues to include opportunities for recreation, travel and time with grandchildren. As we get older, we hear life is supposed to get better. After years of hard work and helping build a family, we now have the opportunity to truly enjoy giving ourselves to others.

There are no guarantees, however, when it comes to having a successful life when you reach senior status. No doubt you have observed many seniors having the time of their lives, while others are struggling to make ends meet with a limited income, poor health and virtually no family nearby.

Being successful at any stage of life depends upon several factors. The secret of an enjoyable retirement is how one defines success. For some success may mean reaching a level of social status, achieving an objective or simply not failing at something. But if you have reached retirement age, then you should know success not always is measured by the size of your estate, the amount of money or stock in your portfolio, the places throughout the world you have visited, the country club to which you belong, the titles and positions you have held or your golf score.

The reasons for success may be applicable for some but not all. Even the casual observer can see the unpleasantness often associated with reaching retirement age. Overcoming these obstacles in a daily objective for many seniors. Just getting to and from doctor's appointments, the drug store, the grocery and attending Mass on the weekend can be major undertakings for some seniors still trying to function on their own without the help of 80s and even 90s. For these seniors it is little opportunity to dine out, attend a concert or venture to another city even if they could afford it. In many cases, family and friends either have moved away or died, seemingly leaving them behind to cope with old age alone.

More than half of the senior population has a chronic illness, defined as a permanently altered state of health that significantly affects daily living. Upon diagnosis of a major medical condition, most people initially go into a state of shock or disbelief. Subsequent emotions usually include anger, fear, anxiety, guilt, sadness and loneliness.

With progressive diseases, losses can be many, including strength, coordination, communication, bodily functions, roles and responsibilities, previously enjoyed pastimes and plans for the future. Resulting dependence on others can strain relationships and negatively affect self-esteem. If you or a loved one has been diagnosed with a chronic illness, following are ways to cope and empower yourself mentally, emotionally and spiritually:

• Learn as much as possible about the illness and its management.
• Be receptive to learning new ways of doing things and trying new activities.
• Cultivate an attitude of gratitude, consciously focusing on the good things in your life.
• Redeﬁne what quality of life means to you, recognizing there are many ways to lead a meaningful life.
• Find an outlet for expressing your thoughts and feelings.
• Accept that how you feel and what you can do may vary from day to day.
• Recall past life challenges and how you overcame them.
• Allow yourself plenty of time to adjust to your illness and the lifestyle changes it necessitates.
• Do something nice for someone.
• Set aside quiet time daily to nurture your spirituality and help keep you grounded.

If you feel you have gotten stuck in one of the phases of grieving, such as anger or depression, or ﬁnd yourself making unhealthy lifestyle choices.

• Recognize that no matter what happens, you always have a choice regarding how you respond.

However unwelcome it may be, illness — like other life crises — presents opportunities for growth. Many people gain a richer perspective on life, discover hidden inner resources, develop new skills and relationships or experience deepening of existing ones. Attitude really does make a big difference!

We would do well to remember what really is important at any stage of life: finding comfort that each of us is a child of God. He is our Father who loves us for who we are and how we live, not for what we look like or what we own. Let us praise God who sees into our hearts, who always has us with us and who eases our suffering.
Catholic-Jewish relations: Bumps in the road should not slow journey

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Summer brought a few bumps in the road of generally good Catholic-Jewish relations, but the ambassador said: “Sometimes the mishaps, which looked terrible at the beginning, can strengthen us by forcing us to clarify them. Trial and error is a form of education.” More than 40 years after the Second Vatican Council, “given the long and difficult history between Christians and Jews, we may expect bumps along our common road, but if the commitment of those who hope to walk this road together is strong, the bumps won’t stop them.”

At the same time, he said, “brothers should always bear in mind the need to be sensitive and to remember the reciprocal responsibility of brothers and to be more aware of the implications the moves they make have on our relationship.”

More than a month after Pope Benedict XVI published his document granting wider use of the 1962 Roman Missal, often referred to as the Tridentine rite, concern continued over the text of a Good Friday prayer in the missal. Bishop F. Herbert Hendr the said chief rabbis of Israel sent a letter of concern about the prayer to Pope Benedict in early July and were expecting a response. The controversy demonstrated how even the most carefully studied papal document is open to interpretation and further fine-tuning.

According to most observers, the papal permission to use the old rite on Good Friday would be limited to parishes that always celebrate the liturgy only according to the 1962 Roman Missal, which is expected to be only a small portion of the Catholic faith.

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Even so, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Vatican secretary of state, told reporters in late July that the
A pontifical conciliar embarrassment

By Debra Wagner

The day had finally arrived. Ten months after committing to ride the bus with fellow parishioners, the faculty and staff of Most Precious Blood Parish in Fort Wayne as soon as the announcement was made and requested a bus with a wheelchair lift be reserved provided it did not cost the parish any additional expense. The wheelchair accessible bus was obtained and accommodated my electric wheelchair, enabling me to spend time together with my parish community. I needed my electric wheelchair to best navigate the University of Notre Dame campus.

Our bus ride to the Eucharistic Congress was a bit subdued, but I needed my electric wheelchair to be reserved provided it did not cost the parish any additional expense. The wheelchair accessible bus was obtained and accommodated my electric wheelchair, enabling me to spend time together with my parish community. I needed my electric wheelchair to best navigate the University of Notre Dame campus.

B ack in the early ’50s, a papal allocution to an assemblage of ENT specialists might deploy a phrase like “the divine mission of the human ear, nose and throat.” They were a kind of language-game, those baroque trills on Just About Everything: and, to be generous, they reflected the core Catholic conviction that the world fits together splendidly because the world was created through the Word, the reason, of God. Still, it was those who made these international dicus without being informed of the local paper were shared with those who wanted to catch up on events. Periodic discussions about the latest Fortune or Harper’s letter box or academics added variety to the comfortable silence. Anticipation mounted though as we drew closer to campus and people began to hastily map their routes for the day.

Fast forward nine hours, just one Eucharistic Congress later, and the bus trip home was much more lively. People were enthusiastic and conversation! Nearly all 35 people on this bus had an experience to share.

The workshops were a favorite of many. Parishes were entertained and enlightened by the presenters and learned how they might implement what other parishes have done into the ministries at Most Precious Blood. Some parishioners learned to appreciate even more vast Catholic culture and heritage in the presence of many other Congress. Anecdotally, one comment was, “To experience the presence of so many Catholics in one place was powerful. Their positive holy energy was amazing to witness.” We have a lot to be thankful for. We have many more people than I know many more people than me who had encountered if I had been driven in my personal vehicle separately. “Behold the face of Christ has now an even deeper meaning.

Debra Wagner, a freelance writer for Today’s Catholic.

Mass stipends explained

That’s a Good Question

Mass offerings were recently changed from $5 to $10 in our diocese. What is the background of the offerings? Why were they raised? How are they used?

Anonymous

Mass stipends were intended to assist the priest in paying for the cost of the bread and wine used at Mass. Traditionally, a stipend (in the past $5, more recently, $10) was offered as a thank you. There is no (nor has there ever been) a “cost” for the Mass, as one cannot buy or sell sacraments (that is a called simony, which takes its name from the notorious Simon Magus of Acts of the Apostles). The stipend is a gift from the person requesting the Mass to be said, and if one is unable to make a monetary gift, one can still make a Mass request; no Mass request will be turned down because one has no money to offer.

Father Michael Heintz, rector of St. Matthew Cathedral, answered this week’s question.

Today’s Catholic welcomes questions from readers. E-mail your questions to editor@fw diocesecatholic.org or mail them to Today’s Catholic, That’s A Good Question, P.O. Box 1169, Fort Wayne, IN 46836.

A pontifical conciliar embarrassment

George Weigel

For the Pastoral Care of the Road of (generally good-natured) mocking of (generally good-natured) ridicule, was abandoned by the language-game, which was open to (generally good-natured) mocking of (generally good-natured) ridicule, was abandoned by the language-game, which was open to various possibilities, but still a small plant that still needs time. The council’s presentation of the General Secretariat was replaced with a prayer that the Jews would continue to grow in love for God and in fidelity to the covenant he made with them. While Christians acknowledge that all believers — themselves first — are called to ongoing conversion, the history of Catholics who forcibly tried to convert Jews and other Christian attacks on Jews during Holy Week have made the 1962 prayer a symbol of an attitude definitively rejected by the Second Vatican Council and the popes who have followed.

The council’s presentation of the official Catholic attitude toward the Jews and Judaism is “still a small plant that still needs time to grow,” Ben-Hur said. “Our main mission is one of teaching to overcome the abyss of ignorance” of one another.

The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.
Ethical blind spots

When I traveled to Auschwitz a few years ago, one question plagued me over and over in my mind. Did they know? Did the German people know what was happening in this camp near their own border, in their own occupied territories? With the trains coming and going after the war, with the long line of prisoners and the following smokestacks, did they just turn a blind eye to the atrocities? Had they become desensitized to the point that they could no longer see the carefully choreographed death operations nearby?

Some concentration camps, like the one in Dachau, were set in comfortable suburbs right inside Germany itself, and the townsfolk could stroll past them during their daily routine. The grass in those suburbs continued to grow as mundane as elsewhere, young people got married, women gave birth, and life went on.

Walking through a place like Dachau or Auschwitz, one wonders: could it ever happen again? Could it be as similar to the situation here in America? Most would instinctively say “no” — after all, we live in a more enlightened time and culture.

A more perceptive eye, however, can discern troubling parallels. Nowhere are there parallels more evident than in the bioethical issues of our day. Our society, in fact, faces virtually the same temptation that Germany did: the temptation to normalize certain well-accepted death operations at the midst of polite society. If we look within our own culture and within our own time, we will see that suction machines have replaced smokestacks, and that fertility clinics and women’s health centers have replaced the barred wire.

Unborn humans and embryonic children are now dispatched with the same desensitized ease that camp inhabitants once were dispatched in the name of a greater society. Our great universities, which need to serve as a moral voice, remain mute or even foster such evil, as does the press, so often the mirror of public opinion. We need to ask if what quietly permeates the air. We need to ask.

One of the strongest influences to considering priesthood, and maybe some will laugh, was that of the Quarterly Subscription to Sacred Heart Grade School. We were (then) blessed with eight sisters in the school, and they were all so very kind and caring of us kids. Our principal then, Sister Dorothy, had a special interest in my growing up after my mother had died. I was only seven at the time of my mother’s death. I saw her caring very much linked with her vocation and her absolute dedication the God and the church. It stayed with me as an influencing factor in considering priesthood. Add to that, the sisters must have asked the boys at least once a week if they were considering becoming priests someday, and the girls if they were considering becoming sisters. Sister Dorothy came to my ordination and first Mass, and was then 52 years old, which must have made her a very young school principal but one with a world of wisdom and a strong faith. I still remember her in my prayers, and in my heart I send her to her special place in heaven, to be sure.

What is the most rewarding part of being a priest? Firstly, to be able to make present the Eucharist, and truly know that it is Christ himself, a gift of love for his people. Just to be able to be an instrument of Christ in that gift is awesome. Add to that being able to preach on the word of God and in so doing have it come even more alive to me as I live out my own life. I have been able to do so at many important times in their lives and be able to be of help at those moments when they need someone very much; that’s a special gift to us and likely does more for us personally than we might be doing for the one in need. Lastly, and maybe selflessly, it is pretty wonderful to have such a large family, as one who grew up as an only child.

What are your interests or hobbies? As with most of the priests I know, I like to eat (not sure what that says about us, but...) and therefore I seem to enjoy cooking. I’m probably not that much better at it than most who enjoy it, but it is enjoyable to prepare something well and then be able to bring others to one’s table to enjoy the food and company, always with a little glass of nice wine. I am not an avid sports person, but I have always enjoyed snow skiing, though I have not gone for several years now. I enjoy roller-blading too, and probably should do that much more often. I also garden. Just to see the flowers blooming come summer is almost as much as it all. Driving as I do so much (living in South Bend, but Fort Wayne being my original home), I enjoy books on tape/CD and especially the mysteries such as those by P.D. James or equal ability.

Do you have a pet? Yes, Bud is his name and companion is his game. He’s great. I think his health for a priest too: to always have some one to care for in a very real way, in their home, under foot, wanting attention. It is like those we serve who have the joy of children to care for. While not the same, of course, the joy is pretty much the same: wanting to give the care to another in the way a pet requires.

What do you do for relaxation? Relaxation is strangely enough often done with just visiting family or friends, I say strangely, as much as family was present during the time, but there’s a difference in just being able to relax with people who are close in varying ways. Walks with Bud are also good for both of us. I like drives — when one could afford the gasoline — to see new places, to see places near water. Michigan seems to be noted for so many such small towns.

What are your favorite reading materials? There are always the “books of the trade” as one might say. Bishop has been very good about sending me a good book on theology or spirituality as gifts at Christmas and sometimes Easter. As mentioned, I enjoy a good mystery as well as books that include details in forensics, though I don’t think I want to be a CSI.

What is the best part of being Catholic? It is the very universal nature of the church. We are everywhere, and we’ve been there, as the body of Christ, in so many countries, it would be difficult to comment on or even write enough about. It has always been a fun part of my ministry too. Though it may not always be the one that many of us ask for, I have no doubt, and it’s an awesome feeling, always.

What is your favorite Scripture passage? My favorite Scripture passage is one I think ends up being that of the Prodigal Son — the very human element not withstanding — since the beginning. I can go into a Catholic church in a foreign country, not understanding every word spoken, and yet when I go up to take Communion, I know at once, that I am home. I am one with them, regardless of their language, culture or song, I am a part of the body of Christ, which at that moment includes my parents, who are gone, all my loved ones who are or have been people of strong faith, the saints gone before me and any who await my return home. I am surrounded by a love that is God. I have no doubt, and it’s an awesome feeling, always.

Meet the Priest

Father John Delaney
Ordained June 20, 1981
Pastor, St. Jude, South Bend and Sacred Heart of Jesus, Lakeville

What was your primary influence in your decision to become a priest? One of the strongest influences to considering priesthood, and maybe some will laugh, was that of the Quarterly Subscription to Sacred Heart Grade School. We were (then) blessed with eight sisters in the school, and they were all so very kind and caring of us kids. Our principal then, Sister Dorothy, had a special interest in my growing up after my mother had died. I was only seven at the time of my mother’s death. I saw her caring very much linked with her vocation and her absolute dedication the God and the church. It stayed with me as an influencing factor in considering priesthood. Add to that, the sisters must have asked the boys at least once a week if they were considering becoming priests someday, and the girls if they were considering becoming sisters. Sister Dorothy came to my ordination and first Mass, and was then 52 years old, which must have made her a very young school principal but one with a world of wisdom and a strong faith. I still remember her in my prayers, and in my heart I send her to her special place in heaven, to be sure.

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ICCL season opens

BY ELMER J. DANCH

FORT WAYNE — The football athletes in the Inter-City Catholic League are anxiously awaiting their pre-season football jamboree set for Sunday, Sept. 2, at Marian High School’s field in Mishawaka where both varsity and junior varsity teams will test their skills.

The pre-season jamboree will also mark the 63rd consecutive season of action in the ICCL which today covers athletic competition in more than a dozen sports programs for both boys and girls.

Twelve parishes will be represented in the football circuit that will include five varsity teams and seven junior varsity teams. Only St. Matthew and Holy Family parishes have enough talent to field a complete team while the remaining varsity and junior varsity teams will be made up of a combination of parishes.

The official date for the season opening is set for Sunday, Sept. 9, with the following schedule:

Mishawaka Catholic vs. St. Matthew varsity teams to be followed by a game between the two junior varsity clubs.

Granger Catholic vs. Corpus Christi junior varsity teams.

Holy Family vs. Holy Cross—Christ the King varsity—Holy Family vs. Holy Cross—Christ the King junior varsity.

Eric Ade exemplifies what he teaches young athletes

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Dwenger High School cross country coach Eric Ade is widely known for practicing what he preaches. A competitive distance runner himself, Ade trains year-round with a group of post-college athletes in the area and participates in several marathons annually throughout the Midwest.

As third-year head coach of the boys’ cross country team at Dwenger, Ade conveys his own enthusiasm for the sport to his athletes and believes his ongoing participation gives his coaching added credibility. “It helps quite a bit. … I know what they’re going through,” he says with assurance, as he helps them push through mental barriers and difficult workouts to achieve their own long-term goals. Clearly, he has found the winning strategy since his teams have finished in the top 15 in the state the last two years.

A single 28-year-old, Ade is a Dwenger alumnus and graduate of Huntington University, where he ran cross country and track for four years. Job and family ties have kept him in the Fort Wayne area, he says, which works at Three Rivers Running Company, attends college classes at his alma mater and BFW (Indiana-Purdue Universities at Fort Wayne) and coaches 15 hours a week.

Though he already holds an undergraduate degree in mathematics, he is currently working toward a second degree in exercise science, or the science behind endurance running. “I’m passionate about it,” he says.

Life doesn’t stand still for the energetic and positive young man who says he plans to continue running “as long as I’m competitive,” and points out that his personal times are better than they were during his college days.

Dedication to his sport colors Ade’s coaching philosophy, yet keeps it simple. Ade wants his young athletes to “learn something about themselves and life in general … to leave not just as better runners but as better people.”

Eric Ade exemplifies what he teaches young athletes.
Study of American Catholics data could help the church

BY YORK YOUNG

Sociological studies have developed enough and been considered important enough over the last half-century that many organizations now conduct similar studies at regular intervals on a specific topic, better obtaining a snapshot of trends concerning a particular field of study.

A study of American Catholics that was first conducted in 1987 has been repeated in six-year intervals since then — the most recent in 2005 — and has offered data that theoretically could help the church and its adherents with information that can be used to counter what everyone recognizes as a steady decline in religious participation. Unfortunately, having solid numbers doesn’t necessarily make solving the problem easier.

In “American Catholics Today: New Realities of Their Faith and Their Church” (Rowman & Littlefield, $24.95), William D’Antonio, James Davidson, Dean Hoge and Mary Gauther have combined to analyze and study attitudes of Catholics concerning their identity as Catholics, how they view the sacraments and teachings of the church, what they think of church authority, how much they are committed to the church and even how religion and politics mix.

Interviewing self-identified Catholics (which could be someone who goes to daily Mass or someone who was baptized Catholic and has never darkened a church door since) can sound broad-based, but this is typical for such research.

The results are not encouraging for those charged with helping humanity more vigorously embrace the teachings of our Lord and Savior, but the research is vital to understanding where the church stands. For anyone who follows such matters, or might be a professional Catholic (one who works for the church in some capacity, such as those, for example, who work in a parish or for this paper), the numbers are all-too depressing.

Here’s the upshot: the younger the Catholic queried, the less likely that person is to see the importance of turning to the church for guidance on moral issues. The authors break interviewees into four demographies — pre-Vatican II, Vatican II, post-Vatican II and millennials. In each successive study, those in the first group become a smaller set of the overall study and the latter of the group become a smaller set of the younger Catholics, were less inclined to support the church’s teaching on a celibate male-only clergy, sex outside of marriage and contraceptive practices. On these issues, Catholics are clearly looking to the culture for answers, not the church.

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Ultimately, all groups still view the sacraments as very important to living a Catholic life, and generally accept core theological teachings such as Christ did resurrect from the dead and Mary is the Mother of God. However, all groups, and the numbers get more negative when talking to younger Catholics, were less inclined to support the church’s teaching on a celibate male-only clergy, sex outside of marriage and contraceptive practices. On these issues, Catholics are clearly looking to the culture for answers, not the church.

Practicing in any answer that is different than what the church teaches is the notion that “my conscience tells me what is okay.” Sadly, all those who trot out that bon mot ignore the fact that a conscience is only as good as the guidance it receives. That is why Jesus founded the church in the first place, to help guide us toward him.

The authors present good analysis, but avoid taking a particular view to the extreme — reading this book, you won’t be thinking this is an effort to promote “liberal” causes or a “conservative” church. Also, an appendix that breaks out Hispanic Catholics (a more rapidly growing segment of the church, and, perhaps surprisingly, with similar opinions and approaches to the faith as non-Hispanics) is an important addition. Concluding with the conclusions and responses of the actual survey, this is an important book.
What’s Happening?

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

Devotion

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 Aceto by Sept. 2 at (260) 486-1001.

Misc. Happenings

Gibault School focus of fund-raising
dinner
South Bend — A presentation about Gibault, the residential treatment program for teens founded by the Knights of Columbus in Terre Haute, will be given at a dinner Friday, Aug. 24, at Santa Maria Council #553, 553 E. Washington. A Polish-style dinner buffet is $12 with two free drink tickets. Reception 5:30 p.m., dinner 6:30 p.m., program starts at 7 p.m., ends by 8:30 p.m. For information and to RSVP, call Kevin Large at (574) 850-4001 or go to www.kofc553.com.

Labor Day chicken barbeque
Avilla — St. Mary Parish will have its 41st annual Labor Day chicken barbeque and festival on Monday, Sept. 3 from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Games, raffles and fun.

Luncheon card party planned
South Bend — The St. Anne Society will have a luncheon card party at Our Lady of Good Hope, 9113 Douglas Rd., with a multi-course dinner 6:30 p.m., program starts at 7:30 p.m. provided by The Jim Deka Roast on Sunday, Aug. 26, from noon to 3 p.m. Admission is $1 and enters you in a cash raffle.

TV Mass Guide for September

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<td>Father John Pfister St. Mary Huntington</td>
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<td>Sept. 30</td>
<td>26th Sunday of Ordinary Time</td>
<td>Father William Hodde Retired Fort Wayne</td>
<td>Father Christopher Cox, CSC St. Adalbert South Bend</td>
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MISC. HAPPENINGS

TV Mass Guide for September

Knights plan golf scramble
Huntington — The Knights of Columbus will have a golf scramble at Ena Acres Golf Course on Wednesday, Sept. 12. All-day golf, cart, food and prizes for $30. Meal at 5 p.m. Call (260) 356-0924 for information. Public is welcome.

School celebrates 50 years
Warsaw — Sacred Heart Parish School will celebrate 50 years on Sunday, Sept. 23, beginning with Mass celebrated by Bishop D’Arcy at 11 a.m. A ground-breaking for a new addition will follow. A luncheon will be held at 12:30 p.m. in the parish hall. Tickets for the luncheon are $8.50 for adults and $2.50 for children under 12. All tickets must be purchased in advance after Masses or by calling (374) 856-9800.

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

Send in your cards.

Dear Father:

Your card arrived on the 30th of July. Thank you for the joyful words you wrote in it. I always appreciate hearing the words of those who love me and care for me. I am sure you are very busy. Please continue to pray for me and have a happy August. May God bless you and your family.

With Love in Christ,

Nick J. Simms, 17,
St. Peter X

Children’s Place Focus of Fund-raising
tent sale
Fort Wayne — Ave Maria Press, 9113 Douglas Rd., will have a chicken and tenderloin dinner Aug. 23-26 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday. All books in the tent up to 75 percent off and 20 percent off everything in the bookstore. Hourly drawings and gift certificate giveaways.

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

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

Raffle at Avenue of Flowers
South Bend — Ave Maria Press, 9113 Douglas Rd., will have a gift certificate giveaway. All books in the tent up to 75 percent off and 20 percent off everything in the bookstore. Hourly drawings and gift certificate giveaways.

Redeemer Radio’s “Radio Rosary”
“Radio Rosary” airs 7:30 a.m. on WNOX 911 AM in Fort Wayne and at 7:30 a.m. on WDBF 960 AM in South Bend.

“Radio Rosary” airs M-F at 11 a.m. Saturday and Sunday at 7:30 a.m. on Redeemer Radio WZTV 1460 AM.

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MSC Cruise Lines has to get the new “date-of-the-art” LIRCA from Ft. Lauderdale to Amsterdam. Take advantage of this exclusive “Your Man” Tours vacation package departing March 29, 2008. You’ll spend 18 days and nights sailing to San Juan, Puerto Rico; St. John, Antigua, Ft. de France, Martinique, Funchal, Madeira Island; Vigo, Spain; Le Havre, France; and Dover, England. Your 5-day motor coach tour includes sightseeing in Amsterdam to visit the tulip fields at the best time of year and visit to the Keukenhof National Flower Exhibition. Next Antwerp, Belgium with optional tours to WWII battlefields (Battle of the Bulge). Travel to Paris. In route to Bruges, Belgium including a canal cruise in this middle ages city. Spend three nights in Paris. Sightseeing includes Notre Dame, Eiffel Tower, Louvre Museum and more!*Prices per person, double occupancy start at only $1999* Add $340 port charges, taxes and government fees. Add $1,100 airfare from Ft. Wayne. Family’s friends welcome. Space is limited and $1000 deposits are now due.

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Highlights from a very special day

A joint Fort Wayne-South Bend choir sings at the prelude to the closing Mass in the Joyce Center. Under the masterful direction of Jeremy Hoy, the choir and musicians brought a majestic tone to the Mass.

Among the families spending the day at the congress were the Joe and Autry Cataldo family, at left, and the Steven and Joanie Shaffer family, at the right. The Cataldos and Shafters are parishioners at St. Pius X Parish in Granger.

Archbishop Daniel Buechlein, OSB, of Indianapolis offers a reflection at the ecumenical prayer service at Sacred Heart Basilica.

Youth from several parishes from around the diocese carry the Jubilee Pilgrim Cross and portrait of Our Lady of Guadalupe from Saint Joseph’s High School in South Bend to the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at Notre Dame. The Eucharistic Congress marked the final journey of the two-year pilgrimage of the cross.

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