During visit to Austria, pope expected to strengthen faith’s impact

BY JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI makes his first papal visit to Austria in early September, a three-day mission to strengthen the faith and its public impact in one of Europe’s traditionally Catholic countries.

The visit Sept. 7-9 will focus on the 850th anniversary of the Marian sanctuary at Mariazell, which has long been a spiritual beacon for Central Europe.

In keeping with the theme of the visit, “Look to Christ,” the pope is expected to emphasize Mary’s role as a gateway to faith in Jesus and as a model of the church as mother.

The rest of the pope’s schedule is designed to spotlight the importance of the Christian faith in Austrian history, the church’s recent signs of parish vitality, and its presence in social debates and works of charity.

Among Austrian church leaders, the hope is that the papal visit will mark a new and positive chapter after a troubled period. Over the last 10 years the number of Austrian Catholics declined by 6 percent, partly as a result of a seminary sex scandal and a bishop’s resignation, as well as new tensions between lay Catholics and the hierarchy.

Cardinal Christoph Schönborn of Vienna said the Austrian church today is turning the corner.

“After very difficult years, we are witnessing a new awareness and a more explicit sense of courage among Austrian Christians, who increasingly understand that our society needs the Gospel, faith and prayer,” Cardinal Schönborn said in a recent interview with the Vatican newspaper, L’Osservatore Romano.

“In this sense, Pope Benedict is coming to encourage us and to strengthen us in the faith,” the cardinal said.

The trip, the pope’s seventh foreign journey, will be his first to Austria.

A poster welcoming Pope Benedict XVI appears at the entrance of the Cistercian Abbey of the Holy Cross in Heiligenkreuz, Austria, Aug. 16. The pope is scheduled to visit the 12th-century monastery during his Sept. 7-9 visit to Austria.

Diocese to hold regional confirmations in September

BY VINCE LABARBERA

In continuance of the observance of its Sesquicentennial Jubilee Year, the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend will hold regional confirmation ceremonies this month in South Bend and Fort Wayne.

On Sunday, Sept. 16, more than 1,200 Catholic confirmands from 30 parishes will gather in South Bend at 2 p.m. in the Joyce Center on the University of Notre Dame campus.

On Sunday, Sept. 30, more than 1,100 candidates representing 36 parishes will assemble at 2 p.m. in the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum in Fort Wayne to be confirmed.

Bishop John M. D’Arcy will preside at both liturgies along with several pastors from the participating parishes.

Most of the students being confirmed are high-school freshmen who would have been confirmed at their parishes last spring when they were in eighth grade, although there will be some eighth-graders confirmed as well, said Brian MacMichael, director of the Office of Worship for the diocese.

Like baptism, which it completes, confirmation is administered only once. The sacraments of Christian initiation — baptism, confirmation and the Eucharist — lay the foundations of every Christian life, according to The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC), “The faithful are born anew by baptism, strengthened by the sacrament of confirmation, and receive in the Eucharist the food of eternal life (1212).”
Mariazell lacks dazzle, but its simplicity helps make it Austria’s most popular site

BY JOHN THAVIS

ROME (CNS) — The sanctuary at Mariazell may lack the dazzle of more famous Marian shrines, but its simplicity has helped make it Austria’s most popular pilgrimage site.

“Mariazell is not a ‘spectacular’ sanctuary. There are no apparitions or miracles that fill the pages of newspapers,” said Benedictine Father Karl Schauer, superior of the sanctuary.

“There is no particular form of religiosity here, and no particular group has taken over this place for itself,” he told the Vatican newspaper L’Osservatore Romano.

Perhaps because Mariazell is “so normal,” as Father Schauer put it, the place attracts about 1 million pilgrims each year. They make their way to a mountain valley that is off the beaten track, far from major transportation centers.

Among past pilgrims was Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, who last visited Mariazell in 2004, a few months before his election as Pope Benedict XVI. He is coming back Sept. 8 to help mark the sanctuary’s 950th anniversary.

Tradition holds that a Benedictine monk named Magnus was sent by his monastery to this remote area in 1157 to minister to local Christians. He brought with him a small statue carved from linden wood, depicting Mary with Jesus, who holds an apple while sitting on her lap.

According to legend, near the end of his journey Magnus prayed before the statue at a place where a boulder blocked his path. The boulder split and he continued on his way.

When the monk arrived, local residents helped him build a monastic cell with a chapel, where the statue of Mary was kept. The name Mariazell refers to “Mary’s cell.”

Over the years, as people came to pray, the statue was credited with miracles and answered prayers, and the church had to be expanded several times to accommodate the ever-increasing crowds.

By the 1500s, the sanctuary was drawing pilgrims from regions that today are part of Austria, Hungary, France, Italy, Croatia, Czech Republic, Switzerland, Germany and Poland. Our Lady of Mariazell has been honored as Austria’s Great Mother, the Mother of the Slavic Peoples and the patroness of Hungary.

In 1377, King Louis of Hungary built a Gothic church at the site, in thanks for an earlier military victory over Turkish forces.

Under the House of Habsburg, a leading defender of the Counter-Reformation, Mariazell was made a national shrine in the 17th century, further stimulating pilgrimages.

The modern Basilica of the Shrine of Mariazell dates to the mid-1600s, and has recently undergone a major restoration. The church is built over the site of the cell of a Benedictine monk who came to the remote area in 1157. Pope Benedict XVI will visit the famous Marian shrine Sept. 7-9.
U.S. poverty down slightly, but those with no health insurance up

BY MARK PATTISON

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The number of Americans living in poverty went down slightly last year, according to the Census Bureau’s annual report, but the number of uninsured Americans rose a bit.

The dip in the poverty rate — the first this decade — brought the percentage of Americans living in poverty from 12.6 percent in 2005 to 12.3 percent in 2006. The number of people in poverty — 36.5 million — “was not statistically different” from 2005 levels, the Census Bureau said in an announcement. The child poverty rate stayed the same, at 17.4 percent, while the poverty rates for adults and senior citizens declined.

But both the number and percentage of Americans without health insurance rose from year-before levels — from 44.8 million to 47 million, and from 15.3 percent uninsured to 15.7 percent. The number of uninsured children increased from 8 million, or 10.9 percent in 2005, to 8.7 million, or 11.7 percent in 2006.

“Catholic Charities USA is extremely troubled that the number of uninsured, including children, continues to increase,” said Father Larry Snyder, the organization’s president, in a statement issued shortly after the bureau released Aug. 28. “We firmly believe that there is no excuse for any child to go without access to health care, which is critically important to the well-being and development of all children.”

In a separate statement Aug. 28, Sister Carol Keenan, a Daughter of Charity who is president and CEO of the Catholic Health Association, decried the fact that “in a supposedly strong economy, millions of people are still struggling for life’s basic necessities, including health care.”

“Whether we are talking about children, parents, or grandparents, poor class parents working hard to provide for their families, millions of people are simply falling out of our health care system,” she added. “This is unforgivable and embarrassing for our nation.”

The increase in the number of uninsured Americans coincided with a dip in the percentage of people who have private health insurance. In 2005, 65.8 percent had private health insurance; in 2006, 64.8 percent did.

Texas led with 24.1 percent of its residents uninsured. Minnesota was lowest with 8.3 percent of its residents uninsured. As of 2006, more than one-third of all Hispanics, and one-fifth of all African-Americans, lacked health insurance.

While household income increased — by 0.7 percent in 2006 — for the second year in a row, American income has yet to match its 1999 peak, said David M. Dorn, the bureau’s chief of the Economic Analysis Branch of the Household Statistics Division, dur-

ing an Aug. 28 teleconference. Even though household income is up, individuals’ earnings are lower. The disparity, Johnson said, is “maintained driven by the fact that there are more full-time, year-round workers in the country.”

“Any time the poverty rate decreases, we should celebrate,” Father Snyder said in his statement. “However, we must never lose sight of the fact that in one of the world’s wealthiest nations, 35.5 million people living in poverty, including 12.8 million children, continue to struggle to make ends meet.”

Among large cities of 250,000 or more population, the highest poverty rates were recorded in Detroit, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Miami, St. Louis and Buffalo, N.Y. The lowest percentage of people in poverty in big cities was in Plano, Texas.

Women have historically earned less than men for comparable work, a finding that held true for all 50 states in the Census Bureau report. However, in the District of Columbia, “there was no statistical difference between the earnings of men and women,” the report said.

Father Snyder said “it is critical that both the House and Senate take real steps to help those living in poverty” when Congress returns from its August recess.

“I’m very concerned that we get to work and find the political will needed to make poverty a top agenda item and help the most vulnerable in our nation,” he said.

Legislative priorities he listed included expanding the State Children’s Health Insurance Program, affordable housing, Head Start and a farm bill that makes it easier to qualify for federal food stamps.

The annual report by the Census Bureau includes details on every metropolitan area of at least 65,000 and takes in every congressional district.

AUSTRIA
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

take him back to a country where he frequently visited and vacationed before his election in 2005. Cardinal Schonborn said Austrians sense that the German Pope loves their country and they have shown a growing interest in the substance of his visit.

After arriving in Vienna, the pope will begin his public program in the city’s historic Am Hof Square. In keeping with the Marian focus of the visit, he will pray before the baroque Column of Our Lady that stands in the center of the square. The pope will then go around the corner to stop at the Holocaust memorial in Vienna’s “Judenplatz,” or Jews Square, where he is expected to briefly greet Jewish leaders. Most of the country’s approximately 200,000 Jews left Austria after it was annexed by Nazi Germany in 1938, and many of those who remained were killed in Nazi death camps.

The highlight of the trip is the papal Mass in Mariahilf Sept. 8, the feast marking the birth of Mary. Some 40,000 Catholics have reserved bus transportation to the liturgy, which will be celebrated in the square outside the shrine’s basilica.

Mariazell, nestled in an Austrian mountain valley, dates to 1157, when a Benedictine monk arrived to care for local Christians. He carried with him a wooden statue of Mary, which is preserved in the sanctuary’s chapel and venerated as miraculous by many of the faithful.

Mariazell is Austria’s most popular pilgrimage site, drawing about 1 million visitors each year. Especially during the era of European communism, the sanctuary was seen as a symbol of enduring faith by Christians throughout much of Central and Eastern Europe — a point the pope is expected to underline.

At the end of the Mariahilf Mass, the pope will consecrate a new basilica. Construction began in 1989, and the basilica was to open in 2006. Work stopped in 2002, and the basilica was consecrated in 2005.

In other encounters, the pope is expected to address problems and positive developments in the church. He presides over an opening prayer service Sept. 8 with priests and religious at Mariahilf, an opportunity to reflect on the steep decline in vocations in Austria and the rest of Europe.

On Sept. 9, when the pope celebrates Sunday Mass in Vienna’s St. Stephen’s Cathedral, he may address the decline in weekly Mass attendance in Austria, which continues to worry pastoral leaders.

Throughout his stay, in public events and in closed-door meetings with the country’s political leaders, the pope will have a chance to speak about life-and-death issues like abortion and euthanasia.

The church in Austria runs programs for unwed mothers, as well as homes for the dying, and the pope is expected to highlight the importance of these and other church-sponsored social programs when he meets with Catholic volunteers on the last day of his visit.

Perhaps more than anything, the visit will allow Austrians to listen to a pope who, as Cardinal Schonborn said, measures his words carefully. The pope’s undeterred style probably means his trip will be short on verbal fire-and-brimstone, but he is expected to underscore the “missionary mandate” to represent the church and its message in public life.

The pope will arrive in Austria Sept. 5, 2007. Father James Seculoff reads the order of installation and oath of fidelity as he is installed as pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish, New Haven, at Sunday Mass on Aug. 26. Father Seculoff expressed his gratitude to Bishop John M. D’Arcy and former pastor Father Paul McCarthy, noting that the parish was in great shape.
Guatemalans working in U.S. find life has mixed blessings

BY PATRICIA ZAPOR

SALCAJA, Guatemala (CNS) — Father Juan Poz can quickly tick off the mixed blessings of emigration from this town in Guatemala’s western highlands where he is pastor of San Luis Rey Parish.

Immigrants to the United States have made it possible for the families of Salcaja to fix up their houses, buy land and open small businesses. At his parish, when he needs money to repair the roof or help a family in need, it’s much easier to raise the funds. More children are able to go to school instead of having to help support their families by working.

“It is people’s dream to have nice houses, better roofs, a small business, a piece of land,” Father Poz said in an interview early in 2007 at his church. One person working in the U.S. for a relatively short time can dramatically improve a family’s fortunes.

“Some are away for two years and they come back and their houses are fantastic,” he said. The typical way of building a home for the majority of Guatemala’s population is to start with a basic one- or two-room structure — often of adobe. Bathrooms, a bathroom, electricity, plumbing and flooring are added and building materials are upgraded as money permits.

But Father Poz is also very aware of the downsides of having 60 percent or more of the families in town dependent upon relatives who send money from another country.

Some families, unaccustomed to having extra quetzales, the national currency, don’t save. Instead they splurge on fancy clothes and luxury items from Quetzaltenango, the region’s major city, a short bus ride away. For some households, the pressures of having one parent — or sometimes both — working thousands of miles away leads to kids who aren’t properly supervised, have time on their hands and get into trouble with drugs, drinking and gangs. Marriages fall apart.

“The father is living away, the children are living with grandparents,” Father Poz said. “The children are without control, without support, without education, without both parents. It is a very difficult situation. The grandparents can’t manage them.”

“The youths say ‘I have money,’” and think that means they don’t have any responsibilities, he continued. “They don’t study, they get bored, get into drugs, get into trouble. The reality is families are disintegrating. The husband gets another woman up there, the wife finds someone else here. This is a big problem with consequences for many.”

Cesar Yovani, who works at the Salcaja parish, estimated that 80 percent of the people he knows have relatives working in the United States illegally, paying a smuggler the going rate of 15,000 quetzales (US$2,000), he said. The current wait for a visa to immigrate legally is at least three years. In 2005, the U.S. issued 6,167 temporary worker visas and 6,241 immigrant visas to Guatemalans. During 2006, 26,000 Guatemalans were apprehended by the U.S. Border Patrol.

Meanwhile, in Salcaja, the evidence of prosperity is obvious. In the blocks around San Luis Rey Church, homes sprout new second-story additions and fresh paint. Satellite dishes and stores selling electronics are ubiquitous.

The church and the small plaza in front of it are tidy and well-maintained, lacking the trash, graffiti and other signs of neglect typical of Guatemalan towns without the resources to pay for upkeep.

The town’s traditional industry, weaving fabric isn’t providing the cash to finance such civic improvements. It’s the $100 or more a month sent home by relatives working in the United States illegally, paying a smuggler the going rate of 15,000 quetzales (US$2,000), he said.

“When he returns, he can’t live up to it,” Gonzalez said. “Yovani said he knows many families where the lack of a father in the home leads to discipline problems. When then he returns, they have no respect for the father.”

In one U.S. enclave of Salcajenses, Hugo Sotovando of Trenton, N.J., said he is struck by the changes in his hometown when he visits every two to three years. The prevalence of televisions, refrigerators, microwave ovens and home improvements are among the obvious differences, he said in an interview this summer at his business, Salcaja Towing in Trenton.

He also sees “the destruction of the family” in such things. “Parents try to buy the love of their children with a car,” for instance, he said. It’s clear that children in Salcaja have better childhoods because money is more available. More poor families can afford health care, and fewer children have to work to help support their families.

“But many children get into trouble,” he said. “It’s part of the evolution of prosperity.”
Catholic doctor fights cancer with stem cells from umbilical cords

BY MARK INDERIKA

MAYWOOD, Ill. (CNS) — About 10 years ago, Holly Becker’s future appeared bright. At 24, she had just graduated from college, moved out of her parents’ home and taken a job in sales and marketing. But then something went terribly wrong.

She started running temperatures of 105.4 degrees and she couldn’t eat. At first her doctors thought she had the flu, then mononucleosis. Soon she couldn’t get out of bed; she couldn’t work and had to move back home.

Doctors diagnosed Becker with stage 4 non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma. The cancer had already spread to the liver and was threatening to spread to other organs.

“I was really as bad as somebody could get,” she told the Catholic Explorer, Ioliet diocesan newspaper, in a telephone interview.

Running out of options, she went to the Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood for an umbilical-cord-blood stem cell transplant.

“Cord blood has opened the door to patients who otherwise would die,” Dr. Patrick Stiff, director of Loyola’s Cardinal Bernardin Cancer Center, told the Catholic Explorer. “We actually have transplanted patients in whom the only other option was a hospice program.”

The use of cord-blood stem cells does not involve the destruction of a child. The Catholic Church supports their use. They are taken from an umbilical cord after birth, not from treat cancers originating in bone marrow or in the lymphatic system when a traditional bone-marrow transplant is not an option.

According to a statement released by Loyola, “umbilical-cord-blood transplants at Loyola are curing or slowing the progression of many cancers.”

Stiff, also a professor of medicine and pathology at the Loyola Medical Center in Maywood, said, “We don’t need to go to embryonic stem cells. There are obvious differences, but we think that the differences are so minor as to not warrant the use of embryonic stem cells for any research or clinical use.”

Stephen Sprague, a New York man who has been free of leukemia for 10 years after a cord-blood transplant as part of Stiff’s study, now advocates for cord-blood usage.

He said that in spite of the law signed by Bush an obvious differences, but we think that the differences are so minor as to not warrant the use of embryonic stem cells for any research or clinical use.” One theory is that cord blood has a natural immunosuppressive effect, allowing it to be used for patients who would not otherwise be able to receive a transplant.

The use of cord-blood stem cells has been a controversial issue in the United States, with some lawmakers and doctors arguing that it is akin to harvesting a child’s organs.

In 1998 Becker was one of the first patients to be treated in the Chicago area. Although at the time she didn’t fully understand how bad it was, “pretty much my only chance for survival would have been to have a cord-blood transplant,” she said.

She spent five very difficult weeks at Loyola, trapped in isolation where she felt “completely horrible.” People around her had to wear masks, and she couldn’t “do anything.”

Before receiving the cord blood, she received full-body radiation treatments twice daily and high-dose chemotherapy to wipe out her immune system.

“It was obviously the worst thing I’ve ever been through in my entire life,” Becker said, crediting her family and friends for helping her through the ordeal.

She said getting the cord blood was easy. “It’s just like a blood transfusion,” she said.

Two years ago, President George W. Bush signed the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act of 2005, creating a national network matching cord blood with patients.

Strengths of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed (CCC 1285).

“This is a rare opportunity that, hopefully, the confirmed will remember for the rest of their lives,” said MacMichael. “It also is a sign of unity in the Jubilee Year, especially with Bishop D’Arcy ministering with his brother priests in tending the flock.”
Peruvian earthquake destroyed churches, other cultural sites

LIMA, Peru (CNS) — Three churches on Peru’s list of cultural heritage sites were declared a total loss and more were badly damaged after the huge earthquake that struck the country’s southern coast, the Vatican spokesman, said.

The earthquake hit nearby home of the pope. 

Body of first bishop of Mississippi exhumed in Baltimore

Baltimore (CNS) — The first bishop of Mississippi recently made his final trip from Baltimore to Natchez, Miss. — 155 years after he died in Maryland. 

Catholic high schools ranked among top U.S. football powers

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A list of football powerhouse Catholic high schools in Division I of the National Catholic Collegiate Athletic Association would probably start with Notre Dame and end with Boston College. 

Head of ex-Legionaries group offers court computer files

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The head of a network of former members of the Legionaries of Christ and Regnum Christi has offered to hand over computer files to a Virginia circuit court after being sued by the religious order. 

Scottish cardinal resigns from Amnesty to protest its abortion policy

LONDON (CNS) — A Scottish cardinal has announced his resignation from Amnesty International to protest the group’s new policy to fight for the decriminalization of abortion around the world.

Vatican police cadet dies in apparent suicide

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A 25-year-old Vatican police cadet died from a gunshot wound to the head, the victim of an apparent suicide, the Vatican said. 

News Briefs

Archbishop speaks at episcopal church

ARCHBISHOP HUGHES SPEAKS AT EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Archbishop Alfred C. Hughes of New Orleans speaks to the congregation Aug. 29 at an evening interfaith prayer service at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Lakeview, La., on the second anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. During the service at the church, which has been restored after being inundated with 10 to 12 feet of water in the storm, Episcopal Bishop Charles Jenkins, Archbishop Hughes and other faith leaders signed a statement, “A Vision for a Renewed New Orleans.” 

Archbishop Hughes speaks at episcopal church

Bishop Pelotte released from hospital, to recuperate in Florida

GALLUP, N.M. (CNS) — Bishop Donald E. Pelotte of Gallup has been released from a Houston hospital that specializes in traumatic brain injuries and is continuing his recuperation at a private residence in Florida, according to the diocese’s chancellor. Deacon Timoteo Lujan, chancellor of the Gallup Diocese, said the bishop was discharged from Memorial Hermann/The Institute for Rehabilitation and Research in Houston during the weekend of Aug. 25-26. An update posted by Deacon Lujan on the diocesan Web site Aug. 29 said the bishop’s twin brother, Father Dana Pelotte, remains with him. Both brothers are members of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament. Father Pelotte is pastor of a Houston parish. “While the bishop’s condition has improved sufficiently to move him from Texas to a private home, he is under the care of medical personnel as an outpatient,” said the update. “The rehabilitation program continues at a hospital near the residence. It is expected that his recovery will be protracted and there is no prediction on when he can return to his duties in the Diocese of Gallup.”

Bishop Pelotte released from hospital

Judge pulls 42 abuse cases out of San Diego Diocese’s bankruptcy

SAN DIEGO (CNS) — A federal judge over several abuse claims to be removed from the Diocese of San Diego’s bankruptcy case so they can go to jury trials in state court. Bankruptcy Court Judge Leonard DeGrahn has granted the 42 plaintiffs in the group that the diocese has sought to settle with in bankruptcy proceedings would amount to depriving them of their Seventh Amendment right to a jury trial and “will cause severe prejudice to the plaintiffs, especially since these cases are intensely fact-driven.” Adler’s 14-page ruling said that although the diocese filed for bankruptcy because of the lawsuits “prompt resolution of these claims through the bankruptcy process is unlikely.”

Judge pulls 42 abuse cases
Bishop Luers Walk-A-Thon set Sept. 28
FORT WAYNE — Bishop Luers High School will hold its 27th Annual Walk-A-Thon on Friday, Sept. 28. The event is scheduled to begin in the school gymnasium at 9:15 a.m. following an all-school prayer service.

The walk travels through south Fort Wayne area neighborhoods and Foster Park. Each of Luers 550 students is required to raise a minimum of $75 in order to participate in the walk. The money raised is to support general operating expenses for Bishop Luers High School. The goal for the school this year is $47,000.

For more information, contact the school at (260) 456-1261.

Al Kresta to speak at Our Lady of Good Hope
FORT WAYNE — Fort Wayne’s Redeemer Radio, Catholic Radio AM 1450, announced that it will host Detroit-based Ave Maria Communications founder and nationally-syndicated broadcast journalist Al Kresta for two exciting events on Sept. 11.

Freshman p.m., Kresta will broadcast “Kresta in the Afternoon” live from Redeemer Radio’s studio in Fort Wayne.

From 7:30-9 p.m. at Our Lady of Good Hope Catholic Church, 7215 St. Joe Rd., Fort Wayne, Kresta will share his inspiring conversion story from Protestant pastor to a Catholic media missioner.

The speaking event at Our Lady of Good Hope is free to the public. The event will begin with a Rosary led by Fourth Degree Knights from around the Fort Wayne area. The evening concludes with a reception where everyone will have the opportunity to meet Kresta.

In announcing the Al Kresta event, Redeemer Radio program director Patty Becker said, “Such an event brings Catholic Radio in the Fort Wayne area to a whole new level, and we are thrilled to be part of the Al Kresta tour. Our listeners love Al Kresta.”

For more information regarding Al Kresta, please visit www.avemarianradio.com

Christ Child Society to begin Clothe A Child Campaign
SOUTH BEND — The excitable flurry of back-to-school shopping is not a reality for all children. However, nearly 4,000 underprivileged children in St. Joseph County will have free, new, warm coats, shoes and school clothes thanks to the Christ Child Society’s Clothe A Child Campaign during the months of September and October.

Bright red, yellow, green and blue dolls will decorate the walls of local Martin’s Supermarkets, Notre Dame Credit Union and MFB. Each doll represents $1 donated by customers. The money collected goes directly to the purchase of children’s clothing.

The Christ Child Society is a nonprofit organization whose 500 volunteer members are dedicated to clothing children and babies in our community, as well as to providing educational services. The Clothe A Child Campaign is a major fundraiser, which involves the entire community through the purchase of paper dolls, each dressed in a coat, hat and mittens to represent the goal of the campaign. One hundred percent of the money raised in the campaign is spent on new clothing, which is distributed from the Christ Child Center on West Thomas Street each Wednesday morning and Sunday afternoon. Referrals are made through local agencies and schools.

For more information about this topic, contact Linda Brammer at (574) 287-3048.

More funds to rebuild Queen of Angels playground
FORT WAYNE — Funds continue to be raised to replace the wooden playground equipment at Queen of Angels School that was burned in a fire on June 13. One of the youngest benefactors, Miguel Hernandez, a second grader at Whispering Meadows, presented over $80 to Queen of Angels School principal, Marsha Jordan, during the summer, after raising funds door to door in his neighborhood. Recently the young humanitarian spoke at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Fort Wayne, Jonna Kawiecka of Poland, Stan Podzielinski, chairperson of the Plock Council of Fort Wayne Sister Cities International, Dwenger Principal Fred Tone, Jenny Roy and Jeanna Van Hoey of Bishop Dwenger and Gosia Przybysz of Poland.

After Mass on Aug. 24, Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne, officially welcomed three students from Plock, Poland, an official sister city of Fort Wayne as part of an exchange program. Three American students visited Poland in June. Pictured from left are Oskar Bednarski of Poland, Brendon Keen of Canterbury School and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Fort Wayne, Jonna Kawiecka of Poland, Stan Podzielinski, chairperson of the Plock Council of Fort Wayne Sister Cities International, Dwenger Principal Fred Tone, Jenny Roy and Jeanna Van Hoey of Bishop Dwenger and Gosia Przybysz of Poland.

In a reversal of this trend, the U.S. government after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks began calling “war” what many would see as crime, O’Connell said. “During war, the law changes fundamentally,” she said. “Under the argument that the U.S. is conducting a ‘global war on terrorism, people have been killed, imprisoned without trial, had their property confiscated and lost many other rights that could never have been violated in times of peace.”

Among the speakers will be two former commanders in Bosnia, retired British Army Gen. Sir Michael Rose and retired U.S. Army Gen. William Nash, as well as experts around the world who examine war from legal, historic, political, academic and journalistic perspectives. Father Theodore M. Hesburgh, CSC, president emeritus of Notre Dame, also will offer remarks.

An agenda and list of speakers and biographies are available at http://kroc.nd.edu/events/ The second day of the conference will coincide with the release of Gen. David Petraeus’ report on progress since the U.S. military “surge” in Iraq.

The conference, which is free and open to the public, is sponsored by the Market Center for Security Studies at Ohio State University, Notre Dame’s Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies and Notre Dame Law School.

The conference is an outgrowth of a study group formed by the International Law Association, a worldwide organization of international lawyers and law scholars. Under O’Connell’s chairmanship, the study group is charged with addressing the legal challenges raised by the Bush administration’s “global war on terrorism.” The committee’s work is expected to have a major impact on the international community’s understanding of the rights of individuals under the state of war.
Diverse speakers on men's conference's itinerary

Nearly 1,000 men attended the first conference last year. Those who attend this year’s conference will be treated with a lineup of speakers with a diverse background.

Lay evangelist Jesse Romero is a former member of the Los Angeles Police Department who is a three time world Police Boxing Champion and a two time U.S. Kickboxing Champion.

Darrell Miller, the brother of retired Indiana Pacers Reggie Miller, is a retired Major League Baseball player. He was received into the full communion of the church as an adult and currently leads MLB’s Urban Youth Academy.

Father Larry Richards is nationally known for mission preaching and retreat master. He is a priest of the Erie, Pa. diocese. Local priests will also speak at the conference. They are Father Jonathan Meyer, associate pastor of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis and Father Richard Doerr, pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Carmel, in the Lafayette diocese.

Overall, the scheduled speakers represent a broad array of cultural and racial backgrounds in the Church. Romero is Hispanic. Miller comes from the African-American community. Archbishop Chaput is a Native American.

Teipen thinks this diversity is an important part of a conference for Catholic men.

“It attests to the universality of our church. It’s a big net out there. We’re trying to draw all in. Jesus didn’t limit the Gospel.”

Robert Teipen

Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein of Indianapolis will be a part of a conference for Catholic men.

Archbishop Chaput from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., will include Mass. Archbishop Chaput will be the homilist. The sacrament of reconciliation will be available throughout the conference. Overall, Teipen hopes the conference will make the men who attend it “emboldened in their faith.”

“We’re supposed to go out and proclaim and evangelize,” Teipen said. “Don’t be ashamed to let people know that you’re Catholic and why you’re Catholic and the fact that you’re proud that you’re Catholic.”

For more information about the conference or to register for it, log on to www.indianacatholicmen.com or call (317) 924-3982 or (317) 888-8888.

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NOTRE DAME — “Migration, Documented,” sponsored by the University of Notre Dame’s Institute for Latino Studies (ILS), will present six films to be shown at 7 p.m. each Wednesday from Sept. 5 to Oct. 10 in 126 DeBartolo Hall on campus.

The films are free and open to the public.

• Sept. 5 — “La Fuerza,” produced with the help of students at Goshen College, demonstrates how Apan, Mexico, and Goshen, Ind., are linked by transnational migration amidst a growing Hispanic population in Elkhart County, crackdowns on illegal immigrants and issues of justice.

• Sept. 12 — “Letters from the Other Side” tells the stories of many families affected by the immigration of Mexicans into the United States. Offering intimate windows into the lives of the immigrants and those they left behind, the film depicts the difficult complexities intertwined in issues of immigration, U.S. foreign policy and the importance of family structures.

• Sept. 19 — “H-2 Worker” exposes the harsh exploitation of migrant laborers in Jamaica and other West Indies nations to work in the sugar cane fields of Belle Glade, Fla.

• Sept. 26 — “Life and Debt” is a woven tapestry of sequences focusing on the stories of individual Jamaicans whose strategies for survival and parameters of day-to-day existence are determined by the U.S. and other foreign economic agendas. It allows the complexity of international lending, structural adjustment policies and free trade to be understood in the context of the everyday realities of the people whose lives they impact.

• Oct. 3 — “Snakeheads: The Chinese Mafia and the New Slave Trade” explores the complicated issues of illegal immigration and sweatshop labor framed against a background of compelling global economic forces and shines an uncompromising light on the modern day slave trade.

• Oct. 10 — “My American Girls: A Dominican Story” captures the joys and struggles over one year in the life of the Ortiz family, first generation immigrants from the Dominican Republic, capturing the rewards and costs of conducting transnational lives that straddle national borders.

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TODAY’S CATHOLIC
SEPTEMBER 9, 2007
FRISHBURG — Scott Foppiano, organist, choirmaster and coordinator of liturgy at St. Louis de Montfort Church, recently was named 2007 Organist of the Year.

He received the title and a plaque at the national convention of the American Guild of Organists and the American Theater Organ Society, held in New York City in July.

“The candidates are chosen from an international roster of players and voted for by the awards committee and board of directors,” Foppiano told The Catholic Moment, newspaper of the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana. “Those who have received the award in previous years are among the top shining stars in the organ world and some of the most famous players of the last 100 years. It is truly an honor to be recognized.”

While in New York state, he performed in the Cadet Chapel of the Military Academy at West Point. Foppiano also played a solo recital at the Cathedral of St. Patrick in Manhattan on its historic Kilgen Grand pipe organ.

“It was, without question, an absolute thrill to sit at those consoles, to play music through the same pipes and bounce sound off the same walls as so many of the top organists from decades past, he said. “It is almost overwhelming, and something I will never forget.”

“Scott is a truly gifted musician,” said Julie Males, director of RCIA. “He is extraordinarily talented, and has a great knowledge of organ repertoire.”

Foppiano began playing the organ as a child in his hometown of Memphis, Tenn.

As a student at St. Paul the Apostle Catholic School, “I discovered the grandeur and majesty of the pipe organ,” he said.

“I was drawn to the organ and its music in church by the grandeur of its power and sound,” he said. “However, as capable as the instrument is of a majestic swell of sound, it is also capable of some of the most prayerful, reflective and almost-inaudible nuances possible.”

He added, “As the Holy See proclaims, ‘The organ is the traditional instrument of worship in the Latin Church,’ and I agree.”

The organ brings “substance and a sense of the divine and the sacred” to the Mass, Foppiano said.

“The Mass must bring us to a different and higher plane than that of ordinary, everyday life: engaging all of a participant’s being — sight, sound, smell, taste, touch — a kaleidoscope of dimensions in which to approach and find God.”

“I wish to add reverence, solemnity, majesty and a marked differentiation between the secular and the sacred.”

Since his arrival at St. Louis de Montfort in 2005, Foppiano has built up the parish’s program to include a vested parish choir, a treble choir, a boys’ choir and a Schola Cantorum specializing in early music. He also has played at several diocesan liturgies at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Lafayette.

FISHERS — Al Kresta, convert from Protestant pastor to Catholic media founder and missionary will broadcast “Kresta in the Afternoon” live from the Redeemer Radio studio 4-5pm and offer his inspiring conversion story at OLGH from 7-9pm.

Al Kresta to Redeemer Radio and Our Lady of Good Hope September 11th!

Al Kresta, convert from Protestant pastor to Catholic media founder and missionary will broadcast “Kresta in the Afternoon” live from the Redeemer Radio studio 4-5pm and offer his inspiring conversion story at OLGH from 7-9pm.

Redeemer Radio
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CHURCH AROUND INDIANA

KENTLAND — A new steeple, with a cross pointing heavenward, sits atop St. Joseph Church here, a re-creation of the 1888 original.

“After all these years, it’s really great to put it back the way it was meant to be,” said Julie Schlotman, parishioner of St. Joseph.

The new steeple is a visual replica of the church’s first steeple. Father Bernotas used old drawings to come up with the design. Campbellsville Industries, Inc., of Campbellsville, Ky., built the steeple and installed it.

In the fall of 2005, Schlotman approached Father Robert Bernotas, pastor of St. Joseph, to propose installing a new steeple. He found the cost would be about $44,000.

Don Funk, a former parishioner now living in Chicago, offered to match the contributions made by parishioners. A notice was put in the parish bulletin; within one month, $22,000 was donated.

The new steeple is a visual replica of the church’s first steeple. Father Bernotas used old drawings to come up with the design. Campbellsville Industries, Inc., of Campbellsville, Ky., built the steeple and installed it.

“The new steeple should complement the church very well,” Father Bernotas said. “Though it’s shiny now, as it ages it will turn dark gray to look like the slate of the original steeple.”

He explained that louveres on the tower beneath the steeple don’t duplicate the original louveres as they were replaced in brick instead of wood in 1962. The rest of the roof area, however, is now identical to that of the old church building.

Diedam Decorating of Kentland did all the structural work in preparation for the installation. Brothers Mike and Jim Diedam, both parishioners of St. Joseph, were among the work crew. Their father installed the iron steeple in 1962.

A crane was extended to 120 feet to lift the 32-foot tall, 3,000-pound steeple into place.

A crane lifts a new 32-foot tall, 3,000-pound steeple into place at St. Joseph Church in Kentland. The steeple design is a re-creation of the 1888 original.
Preparation for confirmation begins at home

**Directors of religious education and their catechists guide these students through the formal training**

**BY JENNIFER MURRAY**

The sacrament of confirmation perfects baptism, flood- ing the recipient with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. These gifts are not for the recipients alone but rather to strengthen the confirmed who are now obligated to witness to the faith and defend it.

In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, this sacrament is normally given to seventh through ninth graders. It is the task of the directors of religious education and their catechists to guide these students through the formal training to understand the importance of this sacrament in order to prepare them to receive this gift with open hearts.

However, the parents are the first teachers. More than by words, they must teach by example. Linda Thomas, director of religious education at St. Therese in Fort Wayne offers this prayer for parents to help them in their role:

“Pray that I do nothing today that will cause my child not to want to be a Catholic.”

She said that as the students are preparing for confirmation, it is especially important that the parents turn to God for help with their children.

“Pray for your teenager,” Thomas said. “Trust God will lead them through this (time in their life) and trust in your prayers.”

Preparation for confirmation, then, begins at home. By their example and by their prayers, the parents have an enormous impact on their children and the strength of their faith. As the time draws closer for their confirmation, the directors of religious education and catechists must help the students to embrace the gift of the sacrament and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. How do they do this?

With a lot of prayer certainly. This sacramental preparation is beyond teaching facts about the faith, although that is certainly an important part of religious education.

When asked how she helps students understand the importance of confirmation, Amy Woodfill, director of religious education at St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne, said, “We make them a part of the process. They hold those sacraments very high. We start with getting them familiar with the gifts (of the Holy Spirit) and service and the role they play. If you are truly free, you are a servant. Once they recognize the gifts and see the fruits, it is just a domino effect.”

Thomas added, she “emphasizes they are not in the infancy stage of religion but should grow in adult religious education. I’ve never been one who thought it should be sit down and read through the book. It’s hands on, just different experiences to tempt them to learn.”

Thomas said that guiding the students to the spiritual level where they are ready for this sacrament requires “good teachers and catechists ... a sponsor who is strong in the faith, having adults who are strong in their faith.”

It is also important for the students to have opportunities to meet with many other youth who are preparing for confirmation, to get an idea of how large the church is, and to feel that Spirit moving.

Thomas said, “The youth rally is an awesome way (for students to experience the church as community). When we gather them in large numbers they see the kids as a whole diocese ... This is an age where they all feed off that energy. I’m sure every kid who participates will never forget that.”

There are great challenges in preparing these students to accept their roles.

Thomas noted that one difficulty is “meeting all the kids’ needs ... to enhance their learning experience so they are all eager to learn.”

Woodfill felt the challenge lies in the egocentricity of the society and the students’ age. The students need to learn “to let go of themselves, that it is not all about me.”

If there are challenges in preparing students for confirmation, there are even more blessings. When asked to name the greatest blessing, Woodfill said, “Oh, there are so many. Their desire to know (the faith), to figure it out, to find their place in the world ... when they want to do more.”

When the students open themselves to God as they receive the gift of confirmation, that blessing is really bestowed upon the whole church. When they have been prepared by the faithful examples of parents, sponsors, religious educators and by all of us, these young people learn how to accept the gifts of the Spirit so that they can serve as witnesses and defenders of the faith.

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**May the saints whose names are chosen by our Confirmandi bestow special blessings as each receives the grace of the Holy Spirit.**

*St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish*  
*New Carlisle*

**May the gift of The Holy Spirit be with you forever.**

*St. Charles Borromeo Parish*  
*Fort Wayne*

**G**od’s blessings and Best Wishes to the Confirmandi of St. Patrick’s  
*Arcola*

**Through Confirmation You are by word and deed true witnesses of Christ.**

*LITTLE FLOWER PARISH*  
*SOUTH BEND*

**Congratulations and Best Wishes to the Confirmandi of St. Joseph Parish, Roanoke and St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish Nix Settlement**

**To Our Confirmandi...**  
As you receive the Seal of The Holy Spirit, be assured that you are in the thoughts and prayers of the parishioners of St. Bavo - Mishawaka

**CONGRATULATIONS to our Confirmation Students from**  
**ST. MARY PARISH**  
**Huntington**

**Receive the Holy Spirit and new fellowship with Christ among members of the parish of St. Anthony de Padua**  
**SOUTH BEND**
Confirmation — Living in God’s spirit

BY SISTER JOLENE HEIDEN, SSND

Opening prayer

Oh God, send down upon us your Holy Spirit to enlighten our minds. Let that same Holy Spirit continue to work in our world through us who believe. Grace with the seven-fold gifts of the Spirit, may we acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord who lives with you and stays on hands forever and ever. Amen

Scripture: Acts 2: 1-6; 1 Cor. 12: 4-13; Is 61: 1-3, 6, 8-9

Commentary

Confirmation is one of the three initiation sacraments, the other two being baptism and Eucharist. However, confirmation has gone through many more stages of refinement throughout the centuries. As we know, in the early church confirmation was part of the initiation or catechumenate process. After a time of serious preparation, catechumens joined the church at the Easter Vigil when the community joyfully welcomed them by celebrating all three sacraments of initiation at one time. Chrismation (the act of applying sacred oil and later called confirmation) had no separate rite; it was simply the name for the last ritual of the initiation or catechumenate process. Before Vatican II remember confirmation as the sacrament of Catholic action. We were being ‘soldiers for Christ,’ emphasized by the gentle blow on the cheek. Today the emphasis goes far deeper. Not only does confirmation complete baptism, but it also confirms and strengthens us so we can speak for ourselves, be committed and carry out the mission of Jesus.

The rite of confirmation is so rich in meaning that it may be good to consider its signs and actions since many of us, myself included, maybe don’t realize the impact this sacrament has had in our lives. Anointing, in Biblical and other ancient symbolism, is very rich. Oil is a sign of abundance and joy as well as of cleansing and consecrating (setting apart). Oil limbers as in the anointing of athletes and wrestlers in ancient times. Oil also is used for healing and making radiant with beauty, health and strength (CCC #1293).

Anointing with oil, with its qualities of cleansing, healing, health and strength, is used as sign and symbol in the sacraments of baptism, anointing of the sick, confirmation and holy orders. Through the anointing at confirmation, “those who are anointed, share more completely in the mission of Jesus Christ and the fullness of the Holy Spirit with which he is filled, so that their lives may give off “the aroma of Christ” (CCC #1294 and 2 Cor 2:15).

As the church spread through ancient times and later in the East, anointing was reserved for those people who is confirmed is sealed — or marked — with the fullness of the Holy Spirit, which signifies one’s total belonging to Christ to carry out the mission of Jesus.

Another part of the rite is the laying on of hands, usually done by a bishop, the successor to the apostles who received God’s Spirit when Jesus breathed on them and then the Spirit was given to others. Laying on of hands signifies the outpouring of the Spirit’s gifts so that the person is strengthened to carry on Christ’s work, to publicly defend the faith if called upon to do so. It also reminds us of the first Pentecost: “Suddenly there was a noise from the sky which sounded like a strong wind blowing, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire which spread out and touched each person there” (Acts 2:2-3).

Just as the Pentecostal symbol of wind is necessary for life on our planet so is living with God’s Holy Spirit necessary for life as a Christian. Without the Spirit’s gifts of courage, joy, understanding, wisdom, etc., our spiritual lives would be cold, dried up, barren and lifeless. We would be living very superficially with no purpose except perhaps for material gain, wealth and comfort. The Spirit of the Lord is God’s Holy Spirit, which signifies one’s total belonging to Christ, and is the fullness of the Holy Spirit which is poured out on us in the sacrament of Confirmation.

The rite of confirmation is so rich in meaning that it may be good to consider its signs and actions since many of us, myself included, maybe don’t realize the impact this sacrament has had in our lives. Anointing, in Biblical and other ancient symbolism, is very rich. Oil is a sign of abundance and joy as well as of cleansing and consecrating (setting apart). Oil limbers as in the anointing of athletes and wrestlers in ancient times. Oil also is used for healing and making radiant with beauty, health and strength (CCC #1293).

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Our culture today readily enounces so much this kind of living. We have choices to make. Confirmation is a sacrament of choice. What kind of choices are we making in and about our lives? We can either choose to serve and love our God, or we can choose other idols. We cannot serve both God and money (Mt. 6:24). The Spirit has so much more to offer us.

Are you aware of the Spirit’s power within you? Do you ever stop and call upon the Spirit when you have a difficult choice to make? Many saints are models for us. In our time we have the testimony of one woman who believed and trusted deeply in the power of the Spirit at work in her life. She responded “unreservedly to the call of the divine teacher” and followed him by becoming a Sister of Providence. St. Theodore Guérin is a saint for our time who, through obedience to her superiors, traveled to the United States under very difficult conditions to implement the Catholic school system in Fort Wayne. She is a person who opened her life to the Spirit and was guided in all she did by this Holy Spirit.

Reflection and connection

What was your experience of confirmation? Recall what happened — how you felt — your preparation.

How do you experience God’s Holy Spirit acting in your life today? Do you act with courage, wisdom, understanding, right judgment, knowledge, reverence and wonder and awe at God’s presence — or not? Explain.

Evangelizing challenge

For interior renewal: Take one of the suggested Scripture passages and pray with it. What words or phrases touch your heart? Try often during the day to recall that word or phrase and be aware of God’s Spirit alive in you.

For reaching out to others: Be aware of the many opportunities during the day in which someone may ask you for some help or assistance. What will your choice be? Sometimes the choice may be to say no (parents, be aware)

For transforming society: Write an editorial to your local newspaper and suggest that you would like to see more good news appear in our papers. Support an affirming campaign, highlighting the good things people are doing in our city.

Closing prayer

Spirit of light, let the fire of your wisdom burn brightly within us. Spirit of clarity, let the still moment may we be open to God’s presence.

Spirit of courage, dispel the fear that lingers in our hearts.

Spirit of fire, engulf us with the passion of Christ’s Love.

Spirit of peace, help us to be attentive to God’s word in the world.

Spirit of joy, enthuse us to proclaim aloud, like the Good News.

Spirit of love, compel us to open ourselves to the needs of others.

Spirit of power, bestow the gift of your strength upon us.

Spirit of truth, guide us to walk in the way of Christ. Amen

Taken from “Prayer for Parish Groups” by Donal Harrington and Julie Kavanaugh

St. Monica Parish Mishawaka

May the Spirit

May the Gift of the Holy Spirit allow you to Behold the Face of Christ St. Mary of the Assumption

St. Michael Parish Plymouh

May you always reflect the Light of Christ

On the joyous occasion of the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation, the parishioners of QUEEN OF PEACE - MISHAWAKA extend congratulations and prayerful best wishes to our Confirmation Class

We are pleased to share the joy and the spirit of the occasion, as the Seal of the Holy Spirit comes upon our Confirmandi.

Sacred Heart Parish NOTRE DAME

Best wishes to our Confirmation Class as they receive the seal of the Holy Spirit, the Gift of the Father.

St. Michael Parish

Mishawaka

CONGRATULATIONS

ST. TIERCE

CONFIRMANDI of 2007!

May you always reflect the Light of Christ

Decatur

Shared Faith literature can be found at www.diocesefwsb.org/OSD
A confirmation sponsor ...

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — As area faithful continue to celebrate the sesquicentennial anniversary of the diocese several important events will unfold on the heels of the spectacular Eucharistic Congress of Aug. 18. Two of the upcoming events are the regional confirmations to take place at the Joyce Center on the campus of the University of Notre Dame in South Bend and the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum in Fort Wayne.

Hundreds of confirmands will participate in the sacrament of confirmation at both sites this fall joined by family, friends and confirmation sponsor. Bishop John M. D’Arcy will officiate while area priests will represent the members of our Confirmation Class.

The ninth-grade students, whether in Catholic school or religious education classes, have been preparing for this special day for over two years, from participating in required parish and community service to attending retreats to researching and choosing a saint’s name for their own confirmation name. And while all of these activities took place, the student was required to designate a sponsor to accompany them on this sacramental journey.

Many choose family members, such as an aunt or uncle, while others invite a trusted friend to sponsor their faith development. In all cases the church requires that the sponsor be 16 years or older and fully initiated into the Catholic faith, including baptism, first Eucharist and confirmation, as well as in good standing with the church. The sponsor must also actively participate in the faith and parish life.

Following the invitation to sponsor a confirmand, the sponsor then is asked to attend any number of meetings that the individual parish requires for confirmation preparation.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Fort Wayne requires the sponsor to accompany the student to two sponsor meetings in which the group reflects on the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Participation in at least one of the community service projects is encouraged. And of course practice for the actual ceremony is a must for the student and the sponsor.

Requirements notwithstanding, the power the sponsor wields in preparation for receiving the Holy Spirit comes from within. While some may take the position lightly, many know the benefit of lending faith experience to the developing heart.

Enthusiasm for the faith is paramount in sharing faith-based relationships. Many have a relationship that nurtures outings or attendance at a sporting event. All contact with the student offers the message that the faith and in return may find a deeper relationship not only with the student but with God.

As importantly as the logistics of attending the required meetings, the sponsor has any number of opportunities to connect spiritually with the student. Some choose to send cards in the mail for special dates or holidays. These cards may include an underlying message of God’s coming promise in confirmation and a prayer intention as well.

Prayer, both shared with the confirmand and spoken privately for him or her, provides the spiritual foundation for the reception of confirmation. Many times students are pleasantly surprised that someone is praying on their behalf.

In addition to an occasional phone call, others use e-mail to stay in contact with the student. Many have a relationship that nurtures outings or attendance at a sporting event.

All contact with the student offers the message that the faith-based relationship is important and the sponsor’s commitment to living and sharing faith is imparted as the confirmation journey unfolds.

Ultimately, the responsibility of the sponsor is to offer the student a model for joyful participation in the life of faith and in return may find a deeper relationship not only with the student but with God.

God bless our CONFIRMANDI
Corpus Christi School & Parish
SOUTH BEND

ST. ADALBERT PARISH
Congratulations! ¡Selicidades! to our newly ‘Confirmed Youth’ Nuestros Jóvenes Recién Confirmandos

We congratulate our CONFIRMANDI
from St. Joseph GARRETT

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. May the Spirit guide you always.

As our Confirmandi are marked with the sign of the Holy Trinity and enriched with the special grace of the Holy Spirit, we congratulate the students of St. Matthew school and our CCD students as they become more closely linked with the mystical Body of Christ.

As some members of our parish take another sacramental step forward in their journey with Christ, our entire community at St. Vincent de Paul - Elkhart rejoices with them.

As our Confirmandi are

ST. JOHN the BAPTIST PARISH
Fort Wayne

CONGRATULATIONS to our CONFIRMANDI
as through this sacrament, they become true witnesses of Christ.

CONGRATULATIONS to our CONFIRMANDI from St. Francis Xavier PIERCETON

We congratulate our Confirmandi as they are touched by the Grace of the Holy Spirit.

With friendship and affection for the members of our Confirmation Class, the parishioners of St. Pius X - Granger extend sincere congratulations.

With firm confidence in the mysterious richness bestowed with the sacrament of the Holy Spirit, we rejoice and congratulate the members of our Confirmation Class.

Father Daryl Rybicki, pastor, and the parishioners of St. JOHN the BAPTIST PARISH Fort Wayne Congratulate our Confirmandi!

As members of a parish dedicated to the love of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, we ask their blessing on the Confirmandi of Holy Family Parish.

CONGRATULATIONS to our CONFIRMANDI from the parishioners of Holy Family Parish.

Enjoy enrichment of the Holy Spirit, we pray for your growth.

With friendship and affection for the members of our Confirmation Class, the parishioners of St. Joseph Parish Pierceton extend heartfelt congratulations.

The ninth-grade students, whether in Catholic school or religious education classes, have been preparing for this special day for over two years, from participating in required parish and community service to attending retreats to researching and choosing a saint’s name for their own confirmation name. And while all of these activities took place, the student was required to designate a sponsor to accompany them on this sacramental journey.

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Congratulations to all the Confirmandi!

**CHRIST THE KING**
Parish and School
Would like to extend our Congratulations to our Confirmandi.

**Our Lady of Hungary**
Members share the joy of Confirmation with the members of our Confirmation Class.

**St. Vincent de Paul Parish**
May the blessing brought by the Chrism and the Cross enrich your life forever.

**St. Jude Parish - Fort Wayne**
Congratulations to all, whom through the sacrament of Confirmation, are now in full embodiment with the Mystical Body of Christ.

**St. Mary Parish**
Congratulations to our Confirmation Class as they receive "The Baptism of The Spirit".

**St. Michael the Archangel Parish**
Congratulations to our Confirmation Class!

**St. Michael the Archangel Parish**
Congratulations to the members of our Confirmation Class as they receive "The Baptism of The Spirit".

**St. Joseph Parish**
Congratulations to the Confirmandi from the St. Joseph, Fort Wayne Parish Community. On the reception of their Confirmation.

**AQUINAS**
Congratulations to our Confirmation Class!

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**St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish**
May the memories and blessings of this occasion allow you to behold the face of Christ in all whom you may encounter.

**St. Jude Parish**
Extends prayerful best wishes to all Confirmandi as they receive the special blessings of The Holy Spirit.

**St. Mary Parish**
Congratulations CONFIRMANDI of South Bend, from the priests and people of your parish. May the Holy Spirit guide you today and always!

**St. Michael the Archangel Parish**
Congratulations to the Confirmandi of Waterloo.
Jubilee confirmations show unity of the church

Next Sunday and at the end of this month, our diocese will be celebrating the sacrament of confirmation at two confirmation Masses, one in South Bend and one in Fort Wayne. As part of our continuing celebration of the 150th anniversary jubilee of our diocese, all our young people to be confirmed will do so together in two great celebrations.

On the one hand, some may be disappointed that this celebration of the sacrament is not happening in their own parish. Indeed, it is wonderful when the bishop comes to the parish, and it is a wonderful celebration for the parish. However, years of jubilee celebrations are rarely chances to experience a special outpouring of grace, and gathering together in such large gatherings for confirmation is a reminder to us that we are formed all together as a church around our bishop.

Although the Masses will always remain the most pivotal place for most believers in the formation of faith, Jesus Christ forms his church around the bishop. We, altogether around our bishop, form the church of Fort Wayne-South Bend, united, of course, in two veins of church.

Individual parishes are not grouped together to form the diocese. Rather, the diocese is divided into individual parishes in order to provide pastoral care. These “group confirmations,” as they are sometimes called, are opportunities to express this reality, namely, that no matter which parish we happen to belong to, we are all united together as the church of Fort Wayne-South Bend around our bishop.

Culture of death example

In Italy this past week, a healthy twin child was mistakenly aborted by doctors instead of a twin with Down’s Syndrome. The abortion was performed on a woman in Milan at 18 weeks of gestation. After it was discovered that the “wrong” child had been aborted, the woman had the child with Down’s Syndrome also aborted. This horrific story puts us before the continuing gruesomeness of abortion. Stories like this continue to remind us as followers of Christ of our need for continual, unrelenting intercession for the unborn, spiritually, socially and politically. This story also reminds us how far human culture has fallen.

Our culture gives us the option of eliminating at will those we find undesirable or those we perceive will be a “burden” to us. This is nothing less than eugenics. It is what Hitler did. It is what the Nazis did. It is what abortion seeks to do. This abortion reminds us how far human culture has fallen.

Congress highlights available

The diocesan Office of Communications is seeking those who may be interested in obtaining a DVD copy of the Eucharistic Congress closing Mass on Aug. 18 at the University of Notre Dame. The DVD would be a freewill offering. Contact the communications office at (260) 422-4611, ext. 3367, or e-mail Vince LaBarbera at vlabarbera@fw.diocesefwsb.org or write: Office of Communications, 915 S. Clinton St., Fort Wayne, IN 46802.

Today’s Catholic will soon make photos from the Eucharistic Congress available for download, at no cost, from the diocesan Web site at www.fwdiocese.org. A blog site is also running on the diocesan Web site and eager to receive comments about the congress.

Also, Today’s Catholic welcomes your comments about the Eucharistic Congress in a letter to the editor format.
Pilgrim globe-trotters: Modern jet-setters or old-fashioned trekkers?

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The sky was no longer the limit when a Rome travel agency started offering specially charter flights exclusively for globe-trotting pilgrims.

Opera Romana Pellegrinaggi, run by the Diocese of Rome, had long been offering special package tours for religious destinations worldwide. Each year some 300,000 pilgrims book religious journeys by plane, train and bus through the agency, which is headed by Cardinal Camillo Ruini, papal vicar of Rome.

But those numbers have kept soaring — so much so that Opera Romana could barely keep up with finding spots for its clients on scheduled airline flights. So the agency signed a five-year contract with a small Italian airline run by the Italian postal agency, Mistral Air, to run charter flights exclusively for pilgrims.

After a successful inaugural flight from Rome to Lourdes Aug. 27, Mistral Air’s next pilgrimage flights were set for next year and were expected to transport an estimated 150,000 people each year.

Father Cesare Atuire, an official at Opera Romana, told reporters Aug. 27 the pilgrimage charters will be “a religious experience from the moment the pilgrim leaves home to the moment he or she returns.”

While local plane travel to holy places will make visiting Christian sites possible for many more people, some wonder whether jetting thousands of people for quick visits will fundamentally alter the slower-paced spiritual nature of a religious pilgrimage.

Despite the conveniences of air travel, greater numbers of modern-day pilgrims are traveling the old-fashioned way with a backpack, plenty of water and a sturdy pair of shoes.

One of the most ancient and most popular paths for the foot pilgrim is to the Spanish city of Santiago de Compostela. More than 100,000 people walk, bike or ride atop donkeys or horses every year to visit the cathedral where, according to tradition, the remains of St. James the Greater are buried.

But perhaps the road least traveled out of all the ancient pilgrimage paths is the one that runs from France to Jerusalem. In an effort to bring it back to life and spread a message of peace, one U.S. pilgrimage completed the 2,700-mile trek from Dijon, France, through 10 countries and two continents in five months.

Brandon Wilson of Maui, Hawaii, told Catholic News Service he “wanted to open this path up as a path other pilgrims could follow.”

Without the signposts and services, the experienced

Discipleship requires determination

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN E. CAMPION

23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time
Lk 14:25-33

The Book of Wisdom provides this weekend’s liturgy with its first Scriptural reading. This book was written, according to scholars, in Alexandria by a Jew who had emigrated from the Holy Land. Jews who had come from the Holy Land. Originally, it was composed in Greek. Since it was written outside the Holy Land and in Hebrew, orthodox Jews have never accepted it as genuine Scripture. However, the church long has revered it as inspired by the Holy Spirit.

As is so much of the Wisdom Literature, and indeed much of the Book of Wisdom, this weekend’s reading is a series of admonitions and comments. It insists that the deepest and most enduring values of life are those inspired by the Holy Spirit.

The reading simply says that much of life cannot be predicted beforehand, nor can it be understood. Humans are limited. God is all-wise. The wonder is that God has shared with us in speaking to us through representatives, such as Moses and the prophets.

For its second reading, the church gives us a passage from the Epistle to Philemon. Only rarely is this epistle the source of a reading in the liturgy. Possibly a reason for this is that Philemon is so short, in fact the shortest volume in the New Testament, with only one chapter, and in this chapter only 25 verses.

The story is dramatic. Paul writes to Philemon, whose slave, Onesimus, escaped from Philemon’s custody and went to be with Paul. Now, in this letter, Paul announces that he is sending Onesimus back to Philemon, but Paul counsels Philemon to receive this runaway slave as a brother in Christ.

Beyond the particulars, several lessons strongly appear. The first is that all humans are equal in dignity, having been created by God, and having been redeemed by Christ.

Secondly, to be a disciple means to live strictly according to this understanding, moreover always guided by the principle of loving all others.

With these points in mind, Paul tells Philemon that there must be no punishment awaiting Onesimus. (To run away from slavery was a very serious crime in ancient Roman law at the time.)

St. Luke’s Gospel supplies the last reading. The Gospel already has made clear that true discipleship builds upon a deeply personal wish to follow the Lord, but enabling a disciple to express this wish and to abide by it requires not just determination but God’s strength and might.

Going farther, the Gospel bluntly says that many obstacles can stand between a disciple’s initial intention to follow Christ and actually living as a disciple.

(1) It is important to remember that Luke was written when Christianity, albeit an infant religion in the Roman Empire, very much was sailing into the hot, strong winds of cultural opposition to Gospel values and even persecution under the law.

A tradition, and hardly far-fetched when considering the situation, is that Christians had to face pressure to forsake the Gospel from their loved ones. Thus, the evangelist here recalls that Jesus said a true disciple should turn away even from father and mother, brother or sister, if these close relatives urged abandoning Christ.

Good Christians should anticipate a struggle and prepare themselves for it.

Reflection

The Gospel sets the stage. Living the Christian life is not easy. Christians must withstand much if they are committed. Among other pressures is the pressure not to see God in others, not to give others their due. However, only in standing firm against such pressures can a disciple expect to stay the course. To stand firm the disciple first must admit personal inadequacy and ask for strength and wisdom from God. Blessedly, if humbly sought, this gift of strength and wisdom will come.

READINGS

Sunday: Wk 6:13b-18b Ps 90:3-6, 12-17 Phlm 9-10, 12-17 Lk 14:25-33
Monday: Coll 1:24-23 Ps 62:6-7, 9 Lk 6:5-11
Tuesday: Coll 2:6-15 Ps 145:1-5, 8-11 Lk 6:12-19
Wednesday: Coll 3:11-11 Ps 145:2-3, 10-13 Lk 6:20-26
Thursday: Coll 3:12-17 Ps 150:1-6 Lk 6:27-38
Friday: Nm 21:1b-9 Ps 78:1-2, 3-48 Phil 2:6-11 Js 3:13-17
Saturday: 1 Tr 11:15-17 Ps 113:1-5, 6-7 Hs 19:25-27

ANSWERS

1. a. Goldlocks (he was blonde)
   b. Goldened-mouthed (for his preaching skills)
   c. Gold finger (he had the Midas touch)

2. Gold is mentioned in Scripture a. never, because it is worldly.
   b. 27 times — no more, as it was not an important item for the Jews.
   c. many hundreds of times

3. How did the Israelites discover the value of gold? a. Gold was sent down from Sinai with the commandments.
   b. Gold was mentioned in Exodus as being God’s favorite metal.
   c. Gold was well established throughout the ancient world as a valuable.

4. In which book of the Bible is the first mention of gold? a. Genesis
   b. Exodus
   c. Leviticus

5. Who were the Israelites to ask for gold as they left Egypt? a. the brick makers who moonlighted as goldsmiths
   b. their Egyptian neighbors
   c. Moses

6. What idol did some Israelites make of gold to worship at Sinai? a. the Golden Calf
   b. the Golden Tabernacle
   c. the Golden Horde

7. Two golden cherubim were to be placed on the ark. What are cherubim? a. rings
   b. incogs
   c. angels

8. In the Book of Job this is described as more valuable than gold a. a good pair of boots
   b. a beautiful woman
   c. wisdom

9. Whose preaching included what has come to be known as the “Golden Rule”? a. Jesus
   b. Paul
   c. Mary Magdalene

10. In a metaphorically incorrect statement, the Letter of James notes that gold and silver have a. value
   b. been polished
   c. have rusted

11. In Revelation this city is made of precious materials including gold a. Constantinople
   b. Rome
   c. New Jerusalem

12. The Golden Horn was a strategic harbor coastal area near what significant Christian city? a. Constantinople
   b. Rome
   c. Jerusalem

13. What does the 1883 Code of Canon say about mandatory use of gold in chalices? a. Failure to follow this norm results in excommunication.
   b. It only implies it is required, because references to “Aurum” can be translated as “ore.”
   c. Nothing. It does not mandate the use of gold in chalices.

14. What is the “Golden Rose”? a. a figurative mane for a rose shaped scar produced along with the stigma
   b. a papal ornament presented, in Lent, to a worthy recipient
   c. the name of the ship that brought the first Catholics to the New World

15. In what Catholic college campus in the U.S. is the Golden Dome a major landmark? a. University of San Diego
   b. Loyola Marymount
   c. Notre Dame
A relative of mine is living with his fiancé. I have heard different priests give different answers concerning the morality of this. Is this okay with the church now? K.S., St. Joe

Unfortunately, there have been priests here and there who have told people that there is no problem with this situation given the fact that this practice is so accepted by the culture. However, living with a partner of the opposite sex outside of marriage continues to be a grave moral and pastoral problem. Especially when it involves a relative, not just a near occasion of sin of a serious nature for a couple. Sexual relations are designed by God to express physically the spiritual bond of marriage. Outside of marriage, the use of sexual relations is a grave sin and does grave spiritual harm to a person and a relationship. A couple who live together outside of marriage does not fit the near occasion of sin for a serious moral and pastoral problem. Outside of marriage continues to be a grave moral and pastoral problem. People see absolutely nothing wrong with this. In our society, many people see a sin of leading others into sin or leading others to think that something that really is a sin is not. In our society, many people see sexual intercourse wrong with people who are not married living with one another. The more that Catholics engage in this practice, the more we will continue to go down the slope of deeper belief that there is nothing wrong with this.

Third, for couples who are planning to marry, studies have shown conclusively that living together before marriage does significant harm to the relationship itself. In fact, divorce rates for those who live together before marriage are significantly higher than those who do not. There is something about living together outside of marriage that “short-circuits” the necessary process of growth and understanding during the dating and engagement period.

Dioceses, including our own, have adopted strict policies regarding the cohabitation of engaged couples preparing for marriage, and, although we always wish to treat couples in this situation with love and respect, we cannot stay away from the Gospel truth that this is a gravely sinful situation.

How does the church bring children into the church? My children were baptized in a Lutheran Church, but will be brought up in the Catholic Church. We would like them to be members of the Catholic Church. What steps can we take to bring them into the church even though they are not old enough to receive any sacraments but baptism, which they have already received? Anonymous

This situation is remedied easily enough. If the child is below the age of reason, that is, below the age of about seven years old, the parents (or the Catholic parent if only one of the parents is Catholic) go to their parish and explain the situation. The Church will then record in the baptismal register that the child was received into the church by virtue of the profession of faith of his or her parents. This should be done before first holy Communion. If the child is above the age of reason, they must go through the Rite of Christian Initiation for Children and be brought into the church the normal way at which time they would receive holy Communion and confirmation.

Father Mark Gurtner, pastor of Our Lady of Good Health Parish, Fort Wayne, answered this week’s questions.

Today’s Catholic welcomes questions from readers. E-mail your questions to editor@tw.diosese.ofw.org or mail them to Today’s Catholic, That’s A Good Question, P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne, IN 46856.

The Catholic Difference

GEORGE WEIGEL

monarchy in her lifetime. But they helped create a media climate that blasted the public reputation of her ex-husband into smithereens, with consequences that can’t be foreseen.

So now the whole nasty story is out — or is it? For, while reading “The Diana Chronicles,” I kept remembering those nights in the small church of the Holy Family in Hanahan, South Carolina, where I had “changed from an institution to a desperate magic” — lest Diana’s funeral in Westminster Abbey, scant yards from the mortal remains of Edward the Confessor. A historic Christian nation that has abandoned, culturally, its biblical heritage confronts a public tragedy, and what happens? The quiet courage of the Battle of Britain — “England can take it” — goes unappreciated.

That’s a question Tina Brown asks in her book, perhaps because she doesn’t explore the spiritual emptiness of so much of contemporary British life. That emptiness helped wreck the old Catholic marriage; it was embodied, with unintentional irony, in the decision to have Sir Elton John sing at Diana’s funeral in Westminster Abbey, scant yards from the mortal remains of Edward the Confessor. A historic Christian nation that has abandoned, culturally, its biblical heritage confronts a public tragedy, and what happens? The quiet courage of the Battle of Britain — “England can take it” — goes unappreciated.

It took this 11th-century duke three years to get to the Holy Land because “he had to fight along the way,” Wilson said. Wilson wanted to turn this “trail of war” into a path for peace, especially since large tracts of the route cut through areas still shaken by violence or instability today.

He said he traveled according to the true pilgrim tradition: no tent, just 15 pounds of supplies in his pack and a lot of faith in the goodness of humanity. “We were helped by people we called angels who appeared along the way with food when we were hungry and water when we were thirsty,” he said.

The site of a lone man traveling across Europe and parts of Asia carrying nothing but a backpack and a message of peace attracted the attention of many, he said.

On the 10th anniversary of a breakdown

I n the late summer of 1997, I flew Washington with 20 linear feet of files, a Toshiba laptop, and two manuscripts of Kenneth Newmeyer. I was so focused on the task that I, the most searching at all the royals she had “changed from an institution to a desperate magic” — lest Diana’s funeral in Westminster Abbey, scant yards from the mortal remains of Edward the Confessor. A historic Christian nation that has abandoned, culturally, its biblical heritage confronts a public tragedy, and what happens? The quiet courage of the Battle of Britain — “England can take it” — goes unappreciated.

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CYO teams labor through holiday weekend

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — While many people headed to the lake over the holiday weekend, Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) fans headed to either John D’Arcy Stadium or Bishop Luers’ Field to see their team during week 2 football action. Queen of Angels/Precious Blood, the Eagles, Raiders and Panthers all reported victories once again this week.

In the first game of the day at the University of Saint Francis, it was St. Vincent 12, St. Charles 6. The play-by-play action was aired on Redeemer Radio 1450 A.M.

In the first half, eighth-grader Evan Feichter proved his “big time” with a 109-yard and scoring twice for the St. Vincent Panthers to put them up 12-0. Feichter’s second score came just before the halfmaking it into the end zone by half-time.

Early in the fourth quarter, Colin Stuerzenberger intercepted a Holy Cross pass running it back to the 40-yard line for the Raiders. Dillon Carey followed with a 20-yard gain, which set up Andrew Hoffer for the only touchdown of the game on a 20-yard run. Jeffrey Heaton scored the PAT.

Raiders’ Adam McCarthy also had a pick during Holy Cross’ final drive keeping them from scoring in the match up. Heaton, Westin Painter, Caleb Henry and Hoffer combined for numerous sacks leading the defensive front for the Raiders, now 2-0.

In the final game, Precious Blood/Queen of Angels picked up a win downing St. Jude 18-0.

Seek God’s Guidance!
Immediate Opening for Parish Music Director

St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Parish in Decatur, Indiana seeks a full-time (or perhaps part-time) music director. Responsibilities: playing piano at weekday children’s Masses during school year, adult choir, cantors, helping with organ/piano at Mass on the weekend and whenever needed, i.e., weddings and funerals. (We do have two other pianists/organists who help). Organizational and liturgical planning skills are needed. A music degree preferred, or equal experience is required. This person should be a committed Roman Catholic, with a love for people and be strong in their faith.

Please send resume to:
Fr. David Voors, Pastor
St. Mary of the Assumption Parish
414 West Madison • Decatur, IN 46733
1-260-724-9159 • www.stmarysdecatur.org

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Fall TV selections offer wide variety

BY HARRY FORBES

NEW YORK (CNS) — Here are some television program notes for the season 2006-2007, with their TV Parental Guidelines ratings if available. They have not been reviewed and therefore are not necessarily recommended by the Office for Film & Broadcasting.

• Sunday, Sept. 3, 1:30-2:30 p.m. EDT (ETN): “In Concert: Stabat Mater.” The passion of Christ and the grief of Mary are beautifully evoked in this musical performance of Giovanni Battista Pergolesi’s “Stabat Mater.”

• Sunday, Sept. 3, 9-10 p.m. EDT (History): “Ground Zero Search and Recovery.” The Sept. 11 terror attack that killed 2,749 people was the largest act of mass homicide in the nation’s history. What had once been the World Trade Center was instantly transformed into America’s biggest crime scene. Using previously unseen film and the testimony of crime scene detectives, led by Detective Joe Blois, agents and scientists, the program details what the unit uncovered at ground zero.

• Sunday, Sept. 3, 9-11 p.m. EDT (Discovery): “Nostradamus.” Everyone knows Nostradamus—or thinks they do. But no one knows why this obscure astrologer from southern France became a household name. Blending drama and cutting-edge special effects, the program shows the unlikely chain of events that created a legend that’s lasted more than four centuries.

• Monday, Sept. 4, 10-11:30 p.m. EDT (PBS): “The Blitz: London’s Longest Night.” On the eve of the Battle of Britain, the German Luftaffe attacked London with devastating results. Tens of thousands of civilians were killed or injured.

• Monday, Sept. 11, 9-11 p.m. EDT (Discovery): “Nostradamus.”

• Tuesday, Sept. 12, 8:30-9 p.m. EDT (PBS): “Brown Is the New Black.” This documentary, whose focal point is George Lopez, an icon and advocate for Latinos moving into the mainstream, offers rare behind-the-scenes insights into the world as he shares his struggles to represent Latinos in a manner true to their realities and aspirations. (TV-PG — parental guidance suggested).

• Wednesday, Sept. 12, 9-10:30 p.m. EDT (PBS): “Tony Bennett: The Music Never Ends.” “The man Frank Sinatra called ‘the best singer in the business’” was in business more than 50 years, selling 50 million records and rapping 15 Grammy awards, including two at the age of 80. Many of a common man with an uncommon gift, the film includes complete coverage of Bennett’s 2005’s life and world as he shares his struggles to represent Latinos in a manner true to their realities and aspirations. (TV-PG — parental guidance suggested).

• Wednesday, Sept. 12, 9-10:30 p.m. EDT (PBS): “The Camden 28.” This dramatic campaign of 28-year-old Erin McPherson, led by Detective Joe Blois, agents and scientists, the program details what the unit uncovered at ground zero.

• Thursday, Sept. 13, 9-10 p.m. EDT (Discovery): “Democrats.”

• Thursday, Sept. 13, 10-11 p.m. EDT (History): “Ground Zero Search and Recovery.”

• Friday, Sept. 14, 10-11:30 p.m. EDT (PBS): “Jesus in the House: Gospel Reflection on Christ’s Presence in the Home.”

• Sunday, Sept. 16, 7-8 p.m. EDT (History): “Nostradamus.”

• Sunday, Sept. 16, 9-10 p.m. EDT (Discovery): “Nostradamus.”

• Sunday, Sept. 16, 9-10 p.m. EDT (History): “Ground Zero Search and Recovery.”

Books cross the editor’s desk

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — From time to time, Today’s Catholic will offer a sampling of books that have been sent to Today’s Catholic. This is not necessarily recommended by the editor, but the wonderful diversity of ideas and information included in the programs of today’s authors should allow the reader to seek out those which are of interest to her.

The book, released by Paraclete Press, is illustrated by Ann Biellman.

Although written to appeal to children, it can serve as a guide to help parents teach centering prayer, a method of helping children to be comfortable with silence so they can speak with God in the quiet of their hearts. (ISBN: 1-55725-482-5)

The book is published by Paraclete Press and is also available on compact disc. (ISBN: 1-55725-555-6)

The book is published by Queenspoint Publishing Company.

The book is published by Servant Books.

South Bend’s Denis Nolan has recently published his book, “Medjugorje and the Church.” Nolan explores various commentary, notes and letters from church leaders about Medjugorje, including Pope John Paul II and Mother Teresa.

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What’s Happening?

What’s Happening? carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. Send in your announcement 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.

Bishop Luers Alumni host tailgate party Fort Wayne — Bishop Luers Alumni tailgate party for all Bishop Luers alumni and their families will be Friday, Sept. 21, from 5:30-7 p.m. at Bishop Luers High School. Food and beverages will be served outside the café. Cost is $3 per person or $12 per family. Bring lawn chair and a memory to share.

Bandido’s to host homecoming fiesta Fort Wayne — Bandido’s Homecoming Fiesta will be Friday, Sept. 21, after the Bishop Luers homecoming football game at Bandido’s on饮Farrand Road. Tickets are $15 per person and include a taco buffet. Cash bar is available. To purchase a ticket, call Bishop Luers High School at (260) 456-1261.

Bishop Luers Alumni host golf outing Fort Wayne — Bishop Luers Alumni and Friends Golf Outing will be Saturday, Sept. 22, with a 2 p.m. shotgun start at Foster Park Golf Course. Cost for golf and food is $55 per person, food only, $25 per person. To register, sponsor a hole, help with the outing or for additional information, call Bishop Luers High School at (260) 456-1261.

Celtic fest planned South Bend — The Celtic Fest and Bryan Verkler Invitational Highland Games will be held Saturday, Sept. 8, at Roseland Town Park from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information visit www.michianascottish.org

Legacy luncheon celebrates St. Vincent de Paul Society’s 100 years of service Mishawaka — The Butler and Crowley Legacy Luncheon will be Tuesday, Sept. 11, at Windsor Park Conference Center. Bishop John M. D’Arcy will be keynote speaker. A reception begins at 11 a.m., with lunch and program from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will also be a silent auction with many items related to Notre Dame football. Reserved seats are $45 and $60; call (574) 234-2824 to purchase space.

Corporate Communion planned South Bend — The Daughters of Isabella, Notre Dame Circle 572 will celebrate a Corporate Communion on Sunday, Sept. 9, at the 9:15 a.m. Mass at St. Casimir Church. Breakfast will follow at Tom’s Restaurant, 131 S. Lafayette St.

New LifeTeen group starting New Haven — St. John the Baptist Parish is forming any high schooler who wishes to join the LIFE TEEN program on Sunday, Sept. 9, Mass at 6 p.m. following by pizza, pop, and fellowship in the Community Center until 9 p.m.

Community among high school students will be discussed. Prizes given for new comers. Call Hanna at (260) 493-4553 ext. 308 for information.

Health fair at St. Monica Mishawaka — St. Monica’s outreach program will host a community health fair on Saturday, Sept. 8, in the school gym. Vision screenings, veteran affairs, Alzheimer’s services and more.

Fish fry and salad bar South Bend — St. Adalbert Parish will have a fish fry and salad bar on Friday, Sept. 14, from 3:30 to 7 p.m. in the Heritage Center. Adults and carry-out $7, children 5-12 $3.

Parish festival planned Fort Wayne — St. John the Baptist Parish will have a festival on Sept. 14-15 on the parish grounds. Friday is adults only from 7:30-9:30 p.m. featuring a silent auction and adult games. Saturday is family day from noon to 11 p.m. with adult games, food and drink and raffle all day. Bingo, children’s games, talent show, teen tent and live music from 8 to 11 p.m.

Casino night supports BASA Monroeville — St. Joseph School will have a Texas Hold ‘em tournament on Friday, Sept. 15, at the park pavilion. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., tournament starts at 7:30 p.m. $30 buy in. $700 first place and nine other place winners. Must be 21. Call Bishop Luers High School at (260) 456-6810 to register.

Benefit for coach Herb Widner New Haven — A drive-through chicken dinner will be held on Sunday, Sept. 16, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Besancon Recreation Hall. Dinner includes 1/2 chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, sides and brownie for $7.

Spaghetti dinner South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council #5570 will have a spaghetti dinner, Thursday, Sept. 13, from 4-6 p.m. for the benefit of the Gibraltor School for Boys and Girls. Adults $7, children ages 5 to 12 $2.50. The council is located at 5202 Linden Ave.

Alaska Cruise And Pacific Northwest Vacation Join other Catholics and depart (your choice) May 11 or June 22, 2008 on this 15-day vacation including a seven-day deluxe Alaska Cruise with Holland America Line and a seven-day Pacific Northwest vacation with Your Man Tours. More will be celebrated daily while on board ship for those in the group who wish to participate. Your group will fly into Salt Lake City starting a six-night coach tour of the Pacific Northwest visiting Salt Lake City (including the Mormon Tabernacle, Beehive House and Great Salt Lake); Jackson Hole, Wyoming; Grand Teton National Park; West Yellowstone; two days in Yellowstone (Old Faithful); National Park; Montana; Lake Coeur d’Alene; the Grand Coulee Dam, Washington; the Cascade Mountains; and British Columbia. In Vancouver you will board your five-star ship, HAL’s ms Statendam. Next, travel through a windswept mosaic of forested island and glacier-carved fjords, past charming coastal villages, rugged whales and calving glaciers to Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan and spectacular Glacier Bay. After the cruise you’ll take a scenic drive to Seattle, spending one night before flying home. Prices for this 18-day vacation start at only $1684 (per person, double occupancy) add $150 for the June 22 departure. Included is the seven-day deluxe Alaska cruise, seven nights hotels, lots of motor coach sightseeing throughout the Pacific Northwest, transfers, baggage handling, port charges and taxes. Enjoy springtime on the May 11 departure or larger daylight hours departing June 22. Add $500 for round-trip airfare from Ft. Wayne. $100 deposits are now due. Friends and family are welcome.

For Information, Reservations, Brochure, Call 7 Days a Week: 1-800-986-7626

Join Other Catholics on an...
The Catholic Roots of Contemporary Memoir

Patrick Hamp is Regents’ Professor and McKnight Distinguished Professor at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. His fiction, poems, reviews, essays, and travel pieces have appeared in many publications, including The New Yorker, Paris Review, New York Times Book Review and Los Angeles Times. His most recent works are Blue Anthology, a nonfiction book about Matisse, and a memoir about her parents called The Parisian Daughter.

Catholic Charities seeks a flexible self-starter to provide brief services in the St. Joseph County area. This individual will also oversee a busy food pantry. A Bachelor of Social Work or related degree is required with six months of experience. Knowledge of social service providers in the area is essential. A working knowledge of word processing, spreadsheet, and e-mail applications (prefer Microsoft Office) is desirable. Starting salary: $12.02 per hour. Please send resume to:

Attn: Operations Director - Catholic Charities
315 East Washington Blvd., Fort Wayne, IN 46802
e-mail:dkrabach@fwsb.org
EOE

Catholic Charities seeks an individual to provide assistance in completing required documentation/paperwork for immigrants in Allen County. The qualified applicant will have a Bachelor’s degree in a human services or business-related field, be detail-oriented, be comfortable working with various government agencies, and have the ability to work under minimal supervision. Excellent written and verbal skills are a must. Bilingual (Spanish) is preferred. A working knowledge of word processing, spreadsheet, and e-mail applications (prefer Microsoft Office) is desirable. This position will require some travel in the area, plus mandatory out-of-town training. Salary $12.02/hour. Please send resume to:

Attn: Operations Director - Catholic Charities
315 East Washington Blvd., Fort Wayne, IN 46802
e-mail:dkrabach@fwsb.org
EOE

Catholic Charities seeks an individual to provide counseling services in South Bend Catholic schools and in-office. This position may also supervise unlicensed counselors and interns. Applicant must be a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in the State of Indiana. The qualified individual should be familiar with general counseling issues, and sufficiently familiar with the Catholic faith to identify and appropriately respond to issues unique to Catholic clients. Starting salary: $32,971. Send resume to:

Attn: Operations Director - Catholic Charities
315 East Washington Blvd., Fort Wayne, IN 46802
e-mail:dkrabach@fwsb.org
EOE

For this Peace Corps volunteer, ‘Actions show your faith’

BY LAUREN CAGGIANO

FORT WAYNE — Aly Martin, 22, is about to embark on the adventure of a lifetime.

In November, Martin will leave for Namibia, Africa, to teach English with the Peace Corps.

So what prompted her to take interest in the corps? According to Martin, it was a combination of a gut feeling and her socially-conscious upbringing that influenced her decision.

“It was something I always wanted to do,” she said. “It was always in the back of my head.”

Likewise, her parents have been active volunteers and encouraged her to embrace community service in high school. Twelve years in Catholic schools at St. Jude and Bishop Dwenger also shaped her world view.

“(In Catholic school) it’s so pushed and talked about,” she said. “It’s not just about you — it’s about the world.”

Martin recently graduated from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, where she received a degree in secondary education. The Fort Wayne native will bring her love of teaching to a remote village in Namibia, where she will instruct students in the upper primary and secondary levels. The 22 year old said she will be teaching English as a second language to students as old as 24.

Martin said she began the application process about a year ago. The process is intense and exhaustive because they want to ensure candidates are physically, emotionally and mentally healthy, she said. Most of the application process is done electronically via a Web site, according to Martin.

But the wait was worthwhile. An e-mail update appeared in her inbox notifying her that her status had changed from “nominated” to “invited.” About a week later, Martin found out she was assigned to Namibia. (It turned out Martin had ranked Africa as her first preference for region.)

In addition to her role as a teacher, Martin said she’s particularly excited about having time outside the classroom. In the corps, volunteers are assigned both primary and secondary projects. Martin said she hopes to become involved with HIV/AIDS prevention and education programs. Namibia has one of the highest HIV/AIDS infection rates in Africa, according to Martin.

Martin said she hopes to build camaraderie through her service. “I want to build relationships with students and community members,” she said.

“I’m looking forward to meeting people and seeing the world. I want to grow as a person and come back as a better person,” she said.

The 26-month commitment includes three days of training in the United States followed by thorough two month in-country training, during which volunteers learn the culture of the host country. Martin said she will be officially sworn in as a Peace Corps volunteer Dec. 29.

The Bishop Dwenger graduate offered some advice for those considering a commitment like the Peace Corps. “Think about it,” she said. “Pray about it. Talk to someone about it.”

However, she cautions the corps is not a shallow commitment. “It’s not for everyone,” she warns. However, “if it’s right for you, you’ll realize it.”

Martin is scheduled to leave Oct. 29 for her three-day orientation. In the meantime, she is working for Vera Bradley doing human resources, visiting friends and packing.

Follow Aly’s journey on her blog found at alymartin.blogspot.com. To learn more about the Peace Corps, visit www.peacecorps.gov.