Pope to visit New York, Washington in April, papal nuncio confirms

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI will visit Washington and New York April 15-20. Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States, confirmed the dates of the papal trip and announced the pope’s itinerary in remarks Nov. 12 at the beginning of the annual fall meeting of the U.S. bishops in Baltimore.

“Peter, the rock on which Jesus founded this church, will be among us in the person of his successor, Benedict the XVI,” Archbishop Sambi told the bishops.

The official title of the upcoming papal trip is “Apostolic Visit to the United States of America and to the Seat of the United Nations.”

According to the archbishop, the pope will arrive in Washington April 15 and will receive an official welcome at the White House April 16. That afternoon, coincidentally his 81st birthday, he will address the U.S. bishops.

The following day he will celebrate Mass at the new Washington Nationals baseball stadium in Washington. Later that day he will meet with directors of Catholic universities and colleges and diocesan educational leaders at The Catholic University of America in Washington and then he is to attend an interreligious meeting at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center.

Therapist brings wheelchairs to orphans

NAPANEE — There are two things that St. John the Evangelist, Goshen, parishioner Loren Hartman cares very deeply for — helping children with physical disabilities improve their quality of life and participating in Mass.

Hartman is a physical therapist who works exclusively with children. He said he chose to go into private practice because he didn’t want to turn families away because of lack of insurance.

“I wanted it to be more focused on children, not money,” Hartman said.

In 2001 he bought an old school in rural Nappanee and opened Children’s Therapeutic Services in what was once Union Center Elementary School. The practice took care of children in St. Joseph, Elkhart, LaGrange, Kosciusko, Marshall and Noble counties.

“We service a lot of Hispanic and Amish families who might not get served otherwise; for some we’re a buggy ride away,” Hartman said.

In the front entrance of the building there’s a picture of Jesus stating he is the founder of the center. “This is his mission, not mine. I just sign my name to it,” Hartman said.

Hartman very recently had to make the sudden decision to close the center due to difficulties with Medicaid.

Hartman, who is going through RCIA to convert to Catholicism, has been attending Mass for six years — first at St. Dominic Parish in Bremen and for the past year at St. John the Evangelist in Goshen.

Hartman was asked what led him to the Catholic Church.

“I love that the Mass is a ceremony of celebration and worship. It’s an opportunity for me to be in the presence of God without distraction. I’m not there to be entertained, I’m there to worship. I don’t care who sees me at church. It’s not about who has the best speaker, it doesn’t really matter who the priest is,” he said.

This is the second time Hartman has gone through RCIA and he said, “The doctrine is sound and as it should be. I do like the traditions and teachings, the veneration of Mary. I have questioned it, and I’m good with the answers.”

Trip to Kyrgyzstan

Hartman puts that faith into action and recently returned from a trip to Kyrgyzstan
A parish mission, nothing like it

In whatever parish he has found himself, Father Terry Fisher, now a pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Mishawaka, has turned to the Office of Spiritual Development for what he calls “a spiritual boost,” a spiritual enlightenment and a revitalization of parish life. Also, he has taken this up early during his stewardship. So it was a joy for me, even after a hard and demanding day, to strike out from Fort Wayne, northwest to St. Joseph, Mishawaka. I arrived late for the now customary soup and sandwich, which priestly hospitality provides more and more like an event. It is easier for them and always more than enough for me. Father Mark Thesing, CSC, was there and Jim Fitzpatrick, and we enjoyed the simple but tasty affair very much.

Then, over to one of the most beautiful churches in the diocese, St. Joseph’s, Mishawaka. This parish was founded in 1848. Located in a beautiful square, it towers over the working-class city of Mishawaka and surely is one of the most beautiful churches in the diocese. More important, this church was almost full on this fourth night. The three excellent speakers before me were Father Mike Heintz, Father Dan Scheidt, and the newly ordained Father Bob Lengerich. In fact, Father Bob was there; I believe, for the night on reconversion. He said:

“Engagement.”

“Politics based on ‘powerful interests, some unscrupulous politician or interest group’ should not address a topic raised during the debate and a vote on the docu-

A Byte of News and Notes

Unprecedented consultation brings political document to bishops

BISHOP JOHN M. D’ARCY

Baltimore (CNS) — The U.S. bishops began consideration Nov. 12 of a document that rejects poli-
tics based on “powerful interests, partisan attacks, sound bites and media hype” in favor of “a different kind of political engagement.”

That engagement must be “shaped by the moral convictions of well-formed consciences and focused on the dignity of every human being,” the pursuit of the common good and the protection of the weak and vulnerable,” the document says.

By NANCY FRAZIER O’BRIEN

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That engagement must be “shaped by the moral convictions of well-formed consciences and focused on the dignity of every human being,” the pursuit of the common good and the protection of the weak and vulnerable,” the document says.

Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio of Brooklyn, N.Y., introduced “Forming Consciences for Faultless Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility From the Catholic Bishops of the United States” on the first day of the bishops’ fall general meeting in Baltimore. Debate and a vote on the docu-

Method, in expression and in ardor. Part of the new evangelization is it involves lay people. Indeed, the laity are central. In this program, every parishioner received a phone call and a letter from the pastor. There was babysitting service, so more couples could attend; and their general enthusiasm pervaded the evening and the whole week.

It is strange. Driving to Mishawaka in the November evening, I felt very tired. Coming home, after a Mass so well attended and a wonderful reception afterwards, the fatigue was gone. So it is with the work of Christ.

Redeeemer Radio

Speaking of the new evangelization, I had a wonderful afternoon with Redeemer Radio in Fort Wayne. It was founded entirely by lay Catholics and located at 1450 W. Main St. 

“Unprecedented” consultation brings politics document to bishops

The donations came pouring in. I promised if anyone gave $50, they would get a free subscription to Today’s Catholic. A $100 gift meant they would also get a copy of “Worthy of the Gospel of Christ: A History of the Catholic Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend” by Father Terry Fisher. A $150 gift meant the donor could get you those two plus Pope Benedict XVI’s beautiful book, “Jesus of Nazareth.”

It was wonderful to see the joy and collaboration and good spirit of the volunteers squeezed into the very small space of Redeemer Radio. Catholic radio is growing throughout the country, and we are thrilled to be part of it.

About Bishop Robert Muhirwa

Bishop Robert Muhirwa studied for a degree at Duquesne University and a mas-
ter’s in theology at the University of Notre Dame. He was a priest then, and he served at St. Jude in Fort Wayne; St. Jude, South Bend; and helped out at St. Matthew Cathedral. Many of our priests know and love him. He regularly sends us a priest. Right now, we have Father Benedect, who is serving at St. Mary of Assumption, Decatur.

Our diocese helps Bishop Muhirwa financially, and I hope to bring him here sometime to speak and to have a Sunday collection at our cathedrals. We recently gave him $10,000 from the Zegler Fund. This is a fund left to the diocese by a wonderful couple from St. Dominic, Bremen.

Bishop Muhirwa has many friends here, and it was a joy to have lunch with him. He has 800,000 people. There are only 24 parishes, but about 240 outlying ‘stations.’ In some parishes, the priests might have 20 stations where he has Mass. The people may have Mass once every two or three months, and it is a great and memorable day when the priest arrives to hear confes-
sions, baptize, pray for the dead and cele-
brate the holy Eucharist.

He accompanied me to Redeemer Radio, and it reminded us of all of the universal church.

I am off to Baltimore, the Primatial See of our country for the meeting of the bishops. A new beautiful component has been added in the past few years—we will have an afternoon of reflection with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and the opportu-
nity to receive the sacrament of penance. I shall pray for you there; and as always, the best moment is arriving home on Thursday evening.

See you then.

BISHOP JOHN M. D’ARCY

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Debate and a vote on the document were scheduled for Nov. 14. Bishop DiMarzio said he spoke not only as chairman of the bish-

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See you then.
Local Catholic Campaign for Human Development Awards grants

The local Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD), the Catholic Church’s domestic antipoverty program, has awarded grants totaling $37,000 in seven local and area institutions who demonstrated an ability to attack the causes of poverty rather than just the poor.

Founded by the Catholic Bishops of the United States in 1970, this campaign is the nation’s largest private-funding source of projects that empower the poor, and work to eliminate poverty and injustice within our nation. An estimated 37 million Americans live in poverty — more than the population of California.

Those receiving grants and the amount of the awards are:

**In South Bend**
- St. Augustine Church — a $2,500 education grant to help support and sustain its African-American tutor program aiding students to achieve academically and develop life-learning skills
- St. Adalbert Church — $1,000 grant for its adult education program helping to educate the poor in the parish

**In Fort Wayne**
- Catholic Charities — a $3,000 community organizing grant for its Refugee Resettlement Department to address numerous and varied health and mental healthcare issues of refugees in Allen County
- Vincent House, Inc. — a $2,000 community organizing grant for its support for its Basic Financial Literacy project for homeless adults residing in Vincent House Transitional Shelter and Vincent Villages affordable rental housing
- RSVP Volunteer Center — a $3,000 community organizing grant to provide technical assistance to leaders in non-English-speaking immigrant and refugee communities in Allen County to increase their capacity to provide financial literacy services — training three groups of 15 parishes — to non-English-speaking low-income immigrants and refugees
- St. Joseph Church — a $1,000 education grant for its English as a Second Language program organizing grants — those which build solidarity among poor and non-poor, and educate Americans about the root causes of poverty.

For 37 years, CCHD has distributed its $300 million in grants to self-help projects nationwide. This year, CCHD is supporting approximately 315 local projects in the diocese of Fort Wayne — South Bend including more than $30 million in total.

**CHCD intern learns to empower poor in diocese**

**FORT WAYNE**- Christ told us to love all and care for the poor. But on a daily basis, we may find it difficult to realize the poor around us and difficult to know what to do for them. Therefore, we don’t think about them because we don’t know what to do. However, when we drop some money into the collection basket at church or a coin or two into the Salvation Army bank, isn’t that enough?

Kristin Bjorkman, a student at the University of St. Francis in Fort Wayne, didn’t feel like that was enough. But she also didn’t know what more she could do.

She was a student, with a hectic schedule and a very tight budget. “How can I make this world a better place?”

Then one day, walking into campus ministry changed all that. Her campus ministry director told her about an opportunity for an internship with the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD).

When she found out about the program, she knew just about as much as anyone around her, that is, nothing.

She applied and was accepted into the internship program and began learning about ways to help the poor around her. However, the program does not just give to the poor such as in soup kitchens or clothing banks, although they do appreciate what the charities bring to the community. The CCHD campaign works to teach and empower poor people to get out of the cycle of poverty.

Bjorkman had training in Washington, D.C., and discovered the work of CCHD, which began about 37 years ago by a group of United States bishops who took Christ’s words to heart.

This program is based on empowering and teaching not only the poor, but everyone. As the saying goes, “It is better to teach a man to fish than to give him one fish.”

Right now Bjorkman’s job is to educate herself and others about Catholic social teaching, the principles on which CCHD is based, and to increase her knowledge about CCHD funded programs in the Fort Wayne-South Bend including Vincent House, the TAPS program, and a few other great opportunities for the poor to escape from the cycle of poverty.

CCHD is about finding the right programs to break this cycle and helping them to get started with a plan.

Bjorkman is excited about the leadership position and the teaching capabilities. She is majoring in English and hopes to someday become a teacher in her field. This internship provides a great experience builder, and it helps her further her dream of helping others.

Bjorkman is only the second intern in the diocese and, therefore, has a lot of work to do. But, thanks to her predecessor Jeanne Eisler, her diocesan director Ann Helmke and hard work, she knows that she can make a difference.

To learn more about the CCHD or to learn when to donate to the cause of helping to break the cycle of poverty, go to the Web site, www.usccb.org/chcd.

The annual collection for CCHD is held on Sunday before Thanksgiving — Nov. 18 this year.

The collection is a means that readers, as well as Bjorkman through her internship, can help provide a way out of the cycle of poverty in the diocese and the nation.

Catholics were looking forward to the pope visit "a moment of true spiritual joy and the resurrection of our nation," said Bishop William J. D’Arcy.

WASHINGTON

On April 18, the pope will be in New York to address the United Nations in the morning and attend an ecumenical meeting in the afternoon. The following day, the third anniversary of his election as pope, he will consecrate the new Cathedral in New York at a ceremony with the archbishop of Washington.

Archbishop Timothy Dolan of New York, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said the pope is not just the leader of Catholics, he is also a man of inspiration for all those who work for peace.

Cardinal Edward M. Egan of New York said New York Cardinal Edward Egan "in every way" thought the pope’s decision to visit the United States next year to “a sign of the spirit of the Lord is with us.”

The archbishop called the upcoming visit “an enormous privilege” for the church of Washington and he said the archdiocese would work to make the visit “a moment of true spiritual renewal and a vibrant manifestation of God’s kingdom at work among us.”

Vincentian Father David O’Connell, president of Catholic University, said he looked forward to the papal visit with “great anticipation and enthusiasm.”

“The visit is an honor beyond measure,” he said, for the university to welcome the pope.

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Archbishop says women seeking ordination risk excommunication

BY JAMES RYGELSKI

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — Two women who say they were to be ordained Catholic priests Nov. 11 risk excommunication, as do any Catholics aiding them, Archbishop Raymond L. Burke of St. Louis said in his newspaper column two days before the purported ordination.

“The attempted ordination is a violation of what is most sacred to us in the church, one of the sacredness’ most sacred,” he wrote in the Nov. 9 edition of the St. Louis Review, archdiocesan newspaper.

“It imperils the eternal salvation of the woman seeking the attempted ordination and the woman, claiming to be a Roman Catholic who proposes to attempt the ordination,” Archbishop Burke added. “It generates confusion among the faithful and others who are not Catholic regarding an infallible teaching of the Catholic faith.”

Rose Marie Dunn Hudson of Festus, Mo., and Elsie Hainz McGrath of St. Louis are part of a group called Roman Catholic Womenpriests. Begun in 2002, it claims to have had “women-priests” ordained every year since then. The two are to be co-consecrated in the central west end, according to a statement from the organization.

Archbishop Burke also said the fact that the ceremony was to take place in a local synagogue “constitutes a grave violation of the mutual respect which should mark the relationship between the Jewish faith and the Roman Catholic faith.”

If the attempted ordination did go forward, the archbishop said the church would respond by excommunicating the two women and anyone who might help them. But he also asked Catholics to pray for the two women.

“I urge you, therefore, to offer fervent prayers for the women involved, that they will repent, and be reconciled with the church. Please pray, too, for all who will be confused and led astray by their sinful action,” he wrote.

Responding to the women’s claim that the ordination, two Catholic authorities said the Catholic Church ordains only men as priests because Christ chose men to be his apostles and the first priests.

Never settle for a ‘good enough’ marriage

BY MICHELLE DONAGHEY

BREMEN — Couples should take time to commit to their marriages, taking a half hour a day to talk and one hour once a week suggested Fred and Lisa Everett at a talk, “Marriage — A Mutual Gift of Self, at St. Dominic Parish, Bremen.

“Never settle for a ‘good enough’ marriage,” noted Fred. The Everetts, co-directors of the Office of Family Life for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, spoke to a group of around 30 people on marriage and offered steps to make a marriage great.

They explained that the depth of the gift of self in Christian marriage requires the quality of a couple’s communication, intima- cy, partnership, sexuality and spiri- tuality.

One of the suggestions was to take time to talk alone with one another — not just about the never-ending to-do lists of life.

“It’s really important to catch up on an emotional level,” said Lisa. She pro- posed that couples should use the H.A.L.T. checklist, which stands for Hungry, Angry, Lonely and Tired or perhaps for time, and not just to talk at those times.

Communication is best when couples are sure to praise, give thanks, ask for forgiveness when needed and resolve arguments. The Everetts suggested that cou- ples should tell each other on a regular basis what they appreciate about one another. They also should be aware of their nonverbal communication, studies have found to be used much more than verbal communication in a relationship.

“When it comes to marriage, there are no rules,” one speaker said. “In order to have a good marriage, you have to make your own rules.”

“Over 93 percent of (nonverbal communication)” said Lisa. Couples should always “be very conscious of your facial expressions,” she noted.

Every couple also has an emotional bank account in which they deposit thoughts that would be con- sidered acts of love for their spouse, such as a wife accompanying her husband on a fishing trip or a husband going out shopping with his wife.

The Everetts asked that each couple at the talk to write down and then share with each other five to 10 special things that would be “real deposits for you” and then try to do them.

“Build emotional intimacy by keeping a 5-to-1 ratio of deposits to withdrawals,” they suggested. “The ratio is that for every deposit you make another person should show you love God is the way you treat your spouse,” said Lisa.

While many don’t like to think about it, Fred said that putting your financial house in order and saving is some- thing that should always be a part of your mar- riage. “Time, talent and trea- sure,” said Fred. 

“If you’re not going to have time to understand their relationships and to respect the gift of their sexuality as God designed it and “welcome children with a generous sense of responsi- bility,” said Lisa.

“Couples are a couple to grow in spiritual parenthood is necessary for making a marriage great. All of us are called to be spiritual parents,” said Fred who added that we can do this by the way we edu- cate our children, how we can give them “solid values and help them find what their vocation can be,” not only as parents, but grandpar- ents.

Marriage should always be grounded “on the rock of faith — the rock of Peter and the church,” said Fred who noted that “with the church, we have an infallible guide. All we have to do is say, ‘yes.’

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ARCHBISHOP RAYMOND L. BURKE

Father Vincent A. Heier, director of the St. Louis Archdiocese’s ecumenical and interreligious affairs office, and Lawrence J. Welch, professor of dogmatic theology at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, also expressed dismay that a synagogue was to be the traditional ordination of men.

Father Heier said he “have to respect the teachings of other faiths. We would expect others to respect ours as part of good interfaith relations. They’re (Central Reform) not respecting our teachings. We wouldn’t do that.”

Father Heier said he expected that another congregation would invite the two women to be co-consecrated.

Welch, appointed in 2002 to the Pontifical Council for Christian Unity, has been part of interfaith discussions with the Disciples of Christ.

“It doesn’t surprise me that non-Catholics do not accept the church’s teaching (on male-only ordination), but it does surprise that another congregation would host (the ceremony). One of the basic principles of interreligious dialogue is that you don’t spon- sor things or people in opposi- tion to the tenets and leadership of another faith,” Welch said.

The Jewish Community Relations Council of St. Louis issued a statement acknowledging that Catholics were upset about Central Reform’s decision to hold the ordination of women.

“Non-Catholics do not accept the Catholic Church’s teaching on ordination of women,” the statement said.

“The Jewish Community Relations Council of St. Louis recognizes the ordination of women is a decision of the church and that another congregation would host (the ceremony). One of the basic principles of interreligious dialogue is that you don’t sponsor things or people in opposition to the tenets and leadership of another faith,” the statement said.
where he delivered 11 wheelchairs, many to orphans. This ministry came about because of his work with children, who as they grow, also grow out of their wheelchairs and equipment.

Families began giving the used equipment to Hartman. He often gave or loaned some of that equipment to others in need.

“I began collecting it and ran out of space. God told me to take it somewhere,” he said.

He first looked at Ecuador because one of the therapists worked as a missionary there for two years, but Hartman said he didn’t get the feeling there was a huge need there. He also attempted contact with a director of orphanage in Pakistan but never got a response.

Finally he was in touch with someone whose daughter had just returned from a mission trip to Kyrgyzstan, part of the former Soviet Union. Hartman said people often ask, “Why do you pick Kyrgyzstan?” I tell them, Kyrgyzstan picked me.”

He first tried to ship the wheelchairs, contacting the Air Force and then UPS, which was too expensive and realized he’d have to take the chairs himself.

“I took 11 wheelchairs on British Airways for under $200 a chair. Five went on the ticket, the rest were carryon. It was the most cost-effective way to do it.”

Hartman visited two areas: the first the small village of Talas. Kyrgyzstan is an Islamic country, according to Hartman, but most don’t practice. Hartman said the people were “very delightful. The children are loved by their families but hidden away. (Being disabled) brought shame upon the whole family.”

Hartman said he stayed with a family who knew why he was there, but it took a while before Hartman was told there was a nice in the family with cerebral palsy who needed a chair. Hartman questioned why he wasn’t told right away, and the family member admitted they were ashamed. He delivered seven chairs in Talas and called it “miraculous.”

He toured Kyrgyzstan with the minister of disabled. The first child, he said, was easy to fit for a chair.

“After five chairs, it was still perfect. Every chair was a perfect fit. It was as if Christ himself picked the chairs,” Hartman said.

Hartman also visited Bishkek, a capital city. He visited a baby orphanage where he had three very small chairs to deliver. Then he visited an orphanage for the disabled where 250 children with mental and physical disabilities lived.

“That was an eye opener,” he said. “The staff did the best they could, but there were so many children profoundly disabled — one child won’t be there when I go back.”

That child, Stanley, had problems eating, and Hartman said there weren’t any gastric tubes to be found, which is what would be done here. The kids were lying in huge cribs; their arms were just bones, their stomachs distended. He said their needs were being met, but they just lay around. Where they had wheelchairs, the chairs didn’t fit the child.

Hartman said in some cases he questioned whether the chairs were being used. He said he gave a chair to a family and the next day saw a grandparent pushing the child in a stroller instead of the chair.

He asked the translator to question why. Hartman was told that in the Kyrgyzstanian culture, if one sees someone in a wheelchair, it means they’re never going to walk. They wanted to hold out hope the child would be okay. Also it was a shameful thing, the translator said.

“What I said is if he sits better in a wheelchair he’d develop more strength in the hips and back, and it may help him walk,” he said.

Hartman had some help putting the trip together through Kids Connection, a division of Cross Path Ministries, a nondenominational ministry out of Wakarusa. The whole trip cost $3,800, and Hartman paid his own expenses. His flight was $2,000, and it cost a little under $200 to ship a chair.

British Airways did give him a little under $200 to ship a chair.

He said. “The staff did the best they could, but there were so many children profoundly disabled — one child won’t be there when I go back.”

That child, Stanley, had problems eating, and Hartman said there weren’t any gastric tubes to be found, which is what would be done here. The kids were lying in huge cribs; their arms were just bones, their stomachs distended. He said their needs were being met, but they just lay around. Where they had wheelchairs, the chairs didn’t fit the child.

Hartman said in some cases he questioned whether the chairs would be used. He said he gave a chair to a family and the next day saw a grandparent pushing the child in a stroller instead of the chair.

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Hartman plans to return in May and focus on bringing walkers this time. “If the kids had a walker they could walk instead of being carried and be more independent,” he said.

He wants to build a relationship and return to Kyrgyzstan twice a year. Hartman contacted Riley Hospital to start saving used equipment for him to bring as well.

“I’ll be going back for a while, my main concern is the children,” he said.

To donate or to help Hartman continue to provide wheelchairs, contact him at (574) 773-7733. Donations made through Kids Connection should make a notation with Hartman’s name on the donation.
Bishops’ draft says Iraq 'unacceptable, unsustainable'  
BALTIMORE (CNS) — Citing an alarming political and partisan stalemate in Baghdad, a statement discussed by the U.S. bishops Nov. 12 again laid out a moral and political framework for a transition in Iraq. Noting that the bishops have called for bipartisanship for almost two years, the draft said the current political situation in Iraq “remains unacceptable and unsustainable.” The draft said, “Our country needs a new direction to reduce the war’s deadly toll and to bring our people together to deal with the country’s moral and human dimensions. Our nation needs a new bipartisan approach to Iraq policy based on honest and civil dialogue.” On the opening day of their fall general meeting in Baltimore, the bishops voted to take up the statement, which would be issued in the name of Bishop William S. Skylstad of Spokane, Wash., the bishops’ conference president. A final version of the statement was to be reworked to incorporate suggestions from the floor of the bishops’ fall general meeting in Baltimore and released Nov. 13.

Cardinal beatifies Argentine Mapuche  
CHIMPAY, Argentina (CNS) — A top Vatican official beatified Cereño Namuncura, the son of a Mapuche Indian chief who embraced Catholicism in the 19th century. The Vatican secretary of state, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, presided over the Nov. 11 beatification Mass in Blessed Namuncura’s hometown of Chimpay. More than 200,000 people attended the ceremony; they included the country’s vice president, Daniel Scioli, and nearly 100 Latin American bishops. Blessed Namuncura already enjoyed a popular, saintlike status among the Argentine poor. He was a Salesian novice when he died of tuberculosis in 1893 at the age of 18. In his homily, Cardinal Bertone, a Salesian, said Blessed Namuncura never forgot he was a Mapuche and that his goal “was to serve his people.”

Priest put on leave after being charged with stalking TV show host  
BOSTON (CNS) — Father David Ajemian, a Boston Catholic priest arrested on charges of stalking late-night NBC talk-show host Tony Camacho, a supervisor with ServiceMaster, on Nov. 4 about cleanup work under way in the St. Lawrence Church parking lot after a late-night fire on All Souls Day caused by votive candles that melted and burned out of control.

Bishops urge House to expand tax credit for children of poor workers  
WASHINGTON (CNS) — The chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Domestic Policy called on the House of Representatives to “make the well-being of poor workers and poor families with children a central priority” as they consider tax legislation. H.R. 3996, the Temporary Tax Relief Act of 2007, would improve and expand the child tax credit, “an essential element of our national safety net,” said Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio of Brooklyn, N.Y., in a Nov. 7 letter to members of the House. “Too often, poor families are overlooked in public policy debates,” the bishop said. “While their voices are not always heard, poor people have compelling needs that should have a priority place on our consciences and the choices made in Congress.” Unless the changes in H.R. 3996 are enacted, “millions of poor and working families” would not be eligible for the refundable child tax credit because they do not make enough money to qualify, Bishop DiMarzio said. Without the changes families would have to earn more than $11,750 in 2007 to receive the credit, he said. The legislation before the House would lower the earnings level to $8,500 and remove the current inflation index.

Doctrinal official says people, not religions, are equal in dialogue  
VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The secretary of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments criticized bishops and priests who have given a narrow interpretation to Pope Benedict XVI’s permission for the wider celebration of the Tridentine Mass. Archbishop Albert Malcolm Ranjith Patabendige Don told an Italian Internet news site that he found it difficult to understand the action “and even rebellion” of churchmen who have tried to limit access to the older Mass. “On the part of some dioceses, there have been interpretive documents that inexplicably aim to limit the ‘motu proprio’ of the pope,” he told the Web site Petrus Nov. 5. Pope Benedict’s apostolic letter, published in early July, eased restrictions on the use of the 1962 Roman Missal, which governed the liturgy before the new Order of the Mass was introduced in 1970. The papal document said the Latin-language Tridentine Missal should be available when a group of the faithful requests it and should be celebrated by qualified priests. However, differences exist over what the precise characteristics of the group should be and over what specific knowledge and training a priest must have before he can celebrate the older Mass.

Las Vegas teen fatally injured after arriving in Ohio for conference  
COLUMBUS, Ohio (CNS) — Veronica Gantt, 16, who had traveled to Columbus from Las Vegas to attend the National Catholic Youth Conference, was struck by a vehicle and died in the early morning of Nov. 12. Bishop Dennis J. Moe of Las Vegas was part of a Las Vegas delegation that had arrived just a few hours before to view the Young Adult Ministry Center. Mark Butler, director of the Columbus diocese Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, said Gantt was part of a group of 15 young people and adults from a Las Vegas parish who were traveling to the conference with another group from the Diocese of Colorado Springs, Colo. The two groups arrived on a flight that was delayed and didn’t get into Columbus until past midnight. There was no meal available on the plane, so after the Nevada youth checked into a hotel near the Ohio State University campus, Gantt and another adult went to a nearby McDonald’s restaurant to purchase food for everyone. They were walking back to the hotel from the restaurant and facing traffic when Gantt was struck at about 1 a.m., Nov. 12. She died on a truck that continued up the road without stopping.

Judge grants San Diego Diocese’s motion to dismiss bankruptcy  
SAN DIEGO (CNS) — The San Diego Diocese said Nov. 1 it was grateful Judge Louise DeCarl Adler of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of California granted its motion to dismiss its bankruptcy case. “This gets us one step closer to implementing the terms of the global settlement agreement,” it said in a statement released the same day as the bankruptcy ruling. The settlement released the same day as the bankruptcy ruling. The settlement included an agreement to pay $198.1 million to settle lawsuits with 144 people for abuse or neglect that occurred between 1958 and 1993. “Nevertheless, it is extremely disappointing that the presumption continues, as if it were a conclusion, that the assets of diocesan Catholic institutions and parishes are available to the diocese for the financial resol-
NOTRE DAME — The Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture, concerned by the deep cultural divides that characterize so much of our world, has found inspiration in Pope Benedict’s Regensburg address, and has decided to devote its eighth annual fall conference to the theme: The Dialogue of Cultures.

In interdisciplinary fashion, this conference will take up a variety of questions related to both the difficulties and opportunities involved in addressing cultural conflict. Contemporary political issues will certainly be on the table, as will philosophical and theological inquiries into the broader conception of reality which Pope Benedict speaks, along with its relation to Christian faith. Legal theorists, also, will bring their perspective to the discussion, perhaps especially in regard to questions of natural law. And, as always, those who hold that literature matters, literary theorists, artists and people in business will make their own substantial contributions.

One of the key purposes of The Dialogue of Cultures is to help restore the richness in the notion of dialogue, which has devolved into a cultural cliché. But above all, the center wants to be the弘扬 the thought of Pope Benedict, who closes the Regensburg address by declaring, “The courage to engage the whole breadth of reason, and not the denial of its grandeur — that is the program with which a theology grounded in biblical faith enters into the debates of our time . . . . It is to this great logos, to the breadth of reason, that we invite our listeners in the dialogue of cultures.”

Elías Chacour, Archbishop Metropolitan of the Melkite Catholic Church in Latin America, Nazareth and Galilee, and a recipient of an honorary degree from the University of Notre Dame in 2007, will inaugurate the conference with a keynote address entitled “The Role of Religions in Promoting Dialogue,” on Thursday evening, Nov. 29, at 7:30 p.m in the Main Auditorium of McKenna Hall.

On Friday evening, Nov. 30, George Weigel, senior fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center and author of “Witness to Hope,” the authorized biography of Pope John Paul II, will give a lecture entitled “Reading Regensburg Right,” at 7:30 p.m, also in the Main Auditorium of McKenna Hall.

Bishop John M. D’Arcy will preside at the 5 p.m. Mass on Saturday evening, Dec. 1, in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, after which the conference will conclude with a festive banquet.

Conference talks are free and open to the public, but those wishing to participate in the meals and receptions must register.

Registration questions should be addressed to the Center for Continuing Education by telephone at (574) 631-6691, by e-mail to cce.1@nd.edu, or by facsimile to (574) 631-8083. Any questions related to the conference itself should be directed to ndtheics@nd.edu.

St. Vincent de Paul Parish children support newly ordained priest

FORT WAYNE — Angelic voices “raised the roof” on Wednesday, Oct. 24, in the St. Vincent de Paul Parish Activity Center for Deacon Jason Freiburger, just before his ordination to the priesthood on Oct. 27. Both the students and religious education classes sang praises to God for the gift of vocations and the ordination of Deacon Freiburger.

The three separate services ended with a special prayer over the deacon led by Father John Kuzmich.

At the school, children met at 1:30 beginning with the band playing the school song. Following a couple of songs led by the choir and cheerleaders, student council members and representatives from all classes, grades 1-4, raised hands over the deacon as he knelt in the center of a circle.

Father Kuzmich talked to the children about the deacon’s journey from St. Therese School to high school at Bishop Luers and college at Purdue. Then, Deacon Freiburger spoke directly about his call from God and how his vocation came to him. He thanked the students for the support and expressed to them the importance of praying for God to let them know what he has planned for their lives. He emphasized how grateful he is for the opportunity to serve the people of St. Vincent de Paul Parish and all of God’s people as a priest. The students chattered louder, and the band led more songs.

Other school activities during the week included a decorate the door contest with themes of vocations and the Holy Spirit. The week culminated with “dress like Deacon Jason Day.” The deacon look-a-likes included students and teachers as many donated the priestly white collar and the deacon’s signature red belt.

On Sunday, Oct. 21, religious education students presented Deacon Freiburger with pictures of himself drawn by second graders and a poem about the sign of the cross.

Father Freiburger celebrated his first school Mass with students on All Saints Day.

Task force raises awareness of homelessness

FORT WAYNE — The Allen County Housing and Homeless Task Force kicked off National Homeless Awareness and Homeless Week Nov. 12 by releasing one balloon for every homeless person counted on the streets of Fort Wayne on Jan. 25, 2007. These are citizens who sleep in abandoned buildings and places not meant for habitation to escape the bitterness of the cold. While 90 homeless people living on the streets on a cold January day do not seem a lot for a city the size of Fort Wayne, this count hardly represents a true number.

There are a number of people experiencing homelessness, living on the streets, suffering from paranoia and other disorders who were not counted because of fear or because they were just not located by the team.

It is difficult to accurately count the homeless. What is a better indicator of homelessness is that city shelters are full, many with waiting lists.

The food banks have seen record numbers of requests and are having difficulty keeping up with the demand for food. People are hungry. Many are foregoing food to pay bills trying to stave off homelessness.

Fort Wayne has lost ground in leveraging federal dollars targeting homelessness over the past few years as the agencies funded by HUD have entered the competition with the state of Indiana.

This year, two homelessness programs were cut and the current trend of housing foreclosures, rising heat bills and shocking increases in the cost of gasoline are making it difficult for families and individuals to sustain their housing.

“We, as a task force, want the public to know that while we do not have the very visible problem of homeless people standing on every corner in larger metropolitan areas, we do have men, women and a significant number of children experiencing homelessness in the local city and towns,” noted the task force coordinators, including Ann Helmke of Vincent House, in a press statement released last week.

Tatiana returns to Fort Wayne with Advent-Christmas concerts

Tatiana will return to the Fort Wayne area Dec. 7-9 to perform an Advent-Christmas concert. The performances will be at the following venues:

• On Dec. 7 at 7 p.m., she will have a concert at St. Joseph Church, Garrett.
• On Dec. 8 at 7 p.m., she will have a concert at St. Mary Church, Fort Wayne.
• On Dec. 9 at 7 p.m., she will have a concert at St. Vincent De Paul Parish, Fort Wayne.

Tatiana has a new DVD for Advent. A freewill offering will be collected at the concerts.

Lancers to hold visitation day, exam make up day for eighth graders

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Luers High School has announced Eighth Grade Friday Day on Friday, Dec. 7, from 7:30 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. All eighth-grade students are welcome to attend.

The purpose for this day is for eighth graders to spend some time in the Bishop Luers community learning about school academics as well as meeting ninth-grade teachers and other current and prospective students.

If a student attends a non-feeder grade school, call the Bishop Luers High School Development Office at (260) 456-1261 for more information.

Tatiana has a new DVD for Advent.
Cathedral Books & Gifts

Preparin to kneel in Bethlehem...
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Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High.”

KOSCIUSKO KNIGHTS CONTRIBUTE TO CHARITIES

The Knights of Columbus Council 4511, through their annual Tootsie Roll fundraiser, were able to make contributions to the following: $3,000 to Special Olympics of Kosciusko County and $14,435 to the Cardinal Center. Above, Paul Hurst, financial secretary of the Knights, is shown with Becky Walls and Ruby French from Special Olympics and Jeff Neumann of the Knights. Below, Hurst is shown with Jane Greene of the Cardinal Center, Neumann and Candy Townsend with the Cardinal Center.

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Taking your faith to college and living it

BY LAUREN CAGGIANO

November is prime time for college applications, campus visits and other major considerations. For Catholics, the question of whether to attend a public or private (Catholic) school often arises. However, going away to a public college doesn’t mean you have to compromise your Catholic faith. Many programs exist with the purpose of preserving and promoting the Catholic faith on a collegiate level.

The following is a guide to resources for students considering state schools, like Purdue University, Indiana University or Ball State University.

Purdue University

Tom Landrigan is a senior and president and cofounder of the Catholic Truth League at Purdue, a group that “defends, lives, propagates Catholic faith with fidelity and orthodoxy.”

Landrigan, a Fort Wayne native, started the group in January in response to the abundance of evangelical groups on campus. He said Catholics have a stereotype of not being as outgoing as evangelical Protestants and he wanted to change that. “Our main emphasis is on apologetics,” Landrigan said.

The group is comprised of about 45 students and meets Friday evenings from 7 to 8:30 in the Stewart Center, a multipurpose building on campus. “We discuss a different topic each week, generally something pertaining to our Catholic faith,” he said. “Our main focus is how to explain the scriptural basis for church teachings and how to defend them.”

The Purdue student offered some advice for high school seniors preparing for the transition to college. “Choose your friends wisely because the people you associate with will have the greatest influence on you,” he said.

Landrigan encourages high schoolers to visit the Purdue campus and see what the Catholic Truth League is all about. Those interested can e-mail him at catholictruthleague@gmail.com.

Ball State University

Mindy Bowman, a campus minister at Ball State University, is proud of the campus’s rich Catholic life. According to Bowman, Ball State University has St. Francis of Assisi University Parish, a fully-functioning church just off campus that serves families and students. In addition to Masses, students can attend weekly gatherings, small-faith groups, men’s and women’s groups, retreats social dinners and service projects through the Newman Center.

“We have tons of different opportunities (available through the Newman Center),” Bowman said. “We’re always willing to try new things,” she added.

According to Bowman, Ball State University offers a “hands on” approach to living Catholic faith. Ball State University students can elect to become peer ministers through the Christian Leadership Program and live at the church center with other Catholics, free of rent. This situation is ideal for someone who wants to grow spiritually and learn more about Christian leadership.

Like Landrigan, Bowman, also from Fort Wayne, has some advice for newcomers. “Seek us out because we’re here to reach out to students,” she said. “You can find great friends and support (at the center).”

Bowman said that attending a public college can be just as or more conducive to a healthy faith life, as attending a Catholic institution.

“The Newman Center is open Monday through Friday, but there are people there seven days a week, the campus minister said. Bowman encourages prospective Ball State University students to come and “get a feel for what the church is like.”

Take a tour and pick up a brochure, she urges. Putting things into perspective, “students that end up (at the Newman Center) don’t expect to find themselves here,” she said.

For more information about the programs, visit the St. Francis Parish’s Web site, http://stfrancisnewman.org/html, e-mail the church office at admin.stfrancis@comcast.net or call (765) 288-6180.
Families come in all shapes and sizes

Adoption, Teens, Tweens and Those that are Very Special

St. Jude Parish hosts adoption support ministry

BY DEB WAGNER

FORT WAYNE — St. Jude’s Adoption Ministry group has met once a month for the past two-and-a-half years in Fort Wayne to build support for those who have adopted or are considering adoption. Each meeting begins with an educational component regarding one facet of adoption. Those in attendance quickly find that they have something to contribute to the presenter’s information and soon the direction of the discussion changes to meet the need of those present. There is a core group of five couples that regularly attend the meetings and guests are always welcome.

Many of the couples feel that in some way they were called by God to adopt and that maybe infertility was a blessing. Some couples were open to adopting any child; others simply asked that the child be healthy. Consequently, many of the core participants have adopted children who are cross-cultural and trans-racial.

Krista Stockman, who along with her husband, Dan, adopted an African-American baby before having their biological son who is Caucasian. Krista says that the adoption agency they went through said they needed to expose their daughter to those things that would have been a part of the child’s cultural heritage. As a result, there are a few pictures of black people, a black Santa and a few African American dolls around the house.

Steve and Emily Cook also adopted their three African-American children. Steve questions what culture we are supposed to orient their children since racial cultures vary greatly depending on the geographical location in the country.

“Our February we talk more about African Americans and Martin Luther (King),” said Emily, “but our kids are just Midwest American, corn-eating kids.”

The assumptions and stereotypes by which people live might not always be true, but that is the reason education and early intervention are so important in decreasing social tension and increasing cultural understanding.

Change is more difficult for some than it is for others and cross-cultural and trans-racial adoptions are not excluded from this. Group members said that they had initial fears about what others would think, but then were pleasantly surprised by how much love was given to the child.

They were also stressed about whether the extended family, many of whom grew up with segregation, would react. Over time, many of these concerns became a distant memory.

The St. Jude’s Adoption Ministry, shown at a recent meeting, has met once a month for the past two and a half years in Fort Wayne to build support for those who have adopted or are considering adoption.

Pictured, from left, are group members MaryLou and Chris Mettler, Steve Cook and Brenda Brelage discussing an adoption issue.

To aid in this education effort to promote understanding, Krista bought the Sesame Street book entitled, “We’re Different, We’re the Same” for all of her daughter’s cousins so that they might have some of their questions answered. She also recommends the book, “Shades of Black.”

Dealing with questions factual-ly from preteens seems to be the key to keeping communication lines open and allows the preteens to direct the path of the conversa-
tion.

Dave and Brenda Brelage adopted two girls from China who are now 8 and 10 years old. For the Brelages, it is important that they live in a community that embraces cultural diversity and is free of prejudice.

Dave recommends that adoptive parents objectively look at the environment and seek out places such as St. Jude’s and college towns where open-mindedness seems to be more prevalent.

MaryLou and Chris Mettler’s two adopted children are now beginning to experience the subtle innuendoes that could hurt a child. “They feel about what others think about the children who matter-of-factly educate the adults to expose less prejudi-cial thoughts and behaviors.”

Prejudice is a learned behavior from elders and observations made. It is not necessarily that a particular playgroup is better for a child because everyone in that playgroup has the same ethnic back-ground either. Support groups come together because it is a shared experience for the participants and children might also ben-fit from such a shared experience.

A conscious effort should be made to achieve balance between exposure to cultural differences and the support gained through a shared experience.

Steve Cook suggests that times are changing and that acceptance in older adopted children might be more related to self-esteem issues than cultural issues.

“You don’t get the reaction in the classroom that you did in the 1960s,” he said. “It’s easy to blame teasing on nationality, but sometimes it’s normal kid-to-kid interaction or self-esteem issues.”

Mark and Mary Lou Graf are also among the core group of couples who have adopted. They believe there are more issues to be concerned about as the children grow older. Adoption can bring with it feelings of insecurity and questions about one’s identity in addition to those often grappled with as a teenager.

For this reason, open adoptions are important in that through them adopted children can receive answers to questions about who they are.

The St. Jude’s Adoption Ministry group is available to help anyone find answers to their ques-tions surrounding adoptions and related concerns. Group members gain strength from one another because they simply love their children.
Couple convinced they were meant to be loving parents of adopted children

BY JUDY BRADFORD

SOUTH BEND — Sometimes, God has something different in mind for you. When you look back on it, you may not have understood it at the time.

Maria and Paul Kil understand.

In 1995, they were just trying to be parents. While this decision was probably the best for the birth family, it left the Kils feeling “at the lowest low.”

“But there was a plan, and God’s plan was for us to have Abraham. If that first adoption hadn’t worked through, we wouldn’t have Abraham,” says Paul.

One year after they adopted Abraham, they put in the paperwork for another adoption.

Nine weeks later, Susanna came.

Then they made the conscious decision to adopt a Down Syndrome child, which resulted in getting Natalie, now 5. Natalie had some health issues about six months later, causing them a lot of worry about her weight and a congenital heart defect.

They had just joined Little Flower Church. “The parish was with us through it all, praying with us every time she needed surgery,” says Paul.

Then, when Natalie was one year old, they received a newsletter about Down Syndrome children. In it was the picture of “a cute little girl from Bogota, Colombia.”

They considered another adoption, and that’s how they got Angie.

“A few of our family members and friends thought we were crazy to adopt a fourth child, and one from Bogota,” says Maria. “But we felt it was something we needed to do. For Natalie, in particular, we thought it would be great to have another child close to her age and abilities. This was a leap of faith for us, going to another country. But we were able to understand another culture, and the needs of a developing country. This is something we would not have done, had we given birth.”

The Kils say that Little Flower Church has been very supportive. “It’s a dynamic parish, and very family oriented,” says Maria, who works out of her home as program director for the Michiana Soccer Association. “They are very accepting of lots of different types of people. They’re also very involved in the community, and have their own food pantry.”

Being Catholic and being faithful has helped them to be nonjudgmental of the birth mothers for all their children. Since the adoptions were open, their experiences have also led to ongoing relationships with some of the birth families for their children.

“They were doing such a selfless act, to give their children up for adoption. And without them, we wouldn’t have children,” says Paul, who teaches elementary school art for the New Prairie United School Corp.

In addition to raising a big family, the Kils are also marriage preparation advisers. They invite engaged couples into their home to talk about the challenges of marriage — a task for which they are highly qualified now that they’ve been through the adoption process several times.

They are grateful for the church and diocesan emphasis on family. “On a regular basis, we say to our children, ‘God gave us this beautiful day,’ so our kids will think we’re old-fashioned. And if God has given us it, we forum to help others. And it gives us a sense of peace.”

For more information on foster care, including care for special needs children, contact Catholic Charities at (260) 422-5625 or Foster Care Select at (260) 425-9828.

The training includes CPR and Universal Precautions, and, once licensed, the foster family participates in annual in-service trainings in order to maintain their license.

During the initial information meetings, families decide what level of care they wish to provide. “Most want newborns,” says Springfield, and where there is as great a need for the special needs population, which not only includes children who are considered medically fragile, have behavior difficulties, ADHD or other mental health diagnosis, but those who are teens or in large sibling groups as well.

Foster training special needs children, considered therapeutic care, requires participation in an additional 10 hours of specific training. Many who become therapeutic care foster parents are nurses or have special needs children of their own, reports Springfield. Others believe it’s a calling and just want to help.

“IT takes a lot to be a foster parent and work with special needs,” says Springfield. “But there are a lot of people out there with hidden potential and just don’t know how to help.

Because the foster care system is a matching process, the need for more foster families is ongoing to provide the best placement for each individual child.

Kathy Bosk, foster family support coordinator, is the liaison between foster parents and the Department of Child Services (DCS). “I’m there if the parents need some help,” she reports. Her role involves networking to assist foster parents in receiving additional services according to their need.

Bosk visits each licensed home at least once a year, facilitates monthly support meetings and assists with child care. She also works closely with the DCS to coordinate information to facilitate problem solving within the homes.

Assisting those who foster special needs children requires Bosk to locate specific training needed, such as the community training at Park Center, which includes workshops on attachment and bonding issues and severe behaviors.

“People need a strong support system and utilize the many community services available. We can help them do that,” says Bosk.

And though the area supports over 250 families, she too reports there is an ongoing need to serve the special needs population.

Another area agency, Foster Care Select of Northern Indiana, works collaboratively with Catholic Charities to place children referred by the DCS with foster families, including those with special needs.

Shelly Edwards, regional coordinator there, oversees the programming of the agency and assists with recruitment and retention of foster parents. For those families who foster special needs children, therapeutic care requires specialized services from the agency including more frequent home visits, clinical intervention, respite care and counseling.

To those considering foster care, Edwards offers, “It’s a wonderful community service to the kids and families. Make sure you are ready to do it. Research it. Be committed and work through the problems with the kids but also have fun as a family. Tell parents try to find the lightness.”

She says of the special needs population, “At the end of the day, these kids are like any others. They need safety, consistency, fun and love.”

And that is just what Betty Jackson has provided for many area children over the years as she opened her home to them. Jackson is the mother of three grown children and began providing foster care after it became apparent she needed to take care of her daughter’s foster sister.

Jackson’s daughter was attending her sister’s day care program 15 years ago.

A few of our family members and friends thought we were crazy to adopt a fourth child, and one from Bogota,” says Maria. “But we felt it was something we needed to do. For Natalie, in particular, we thought it would be great to have another child close to her age and abilities. This was a leap of faith for us, going to another country. But we were able to understand another culture, and the needs of a developing country. This is something we would not have done, had we given birth.”

The Kils say that Little Flower Church has been very supportive. “It’s a dynamic parish, and very family oriented,” says Maria, who works out of her home as program director for the Michiana Soccer

For more information on foster care, including care for special needs children, contact Catholic Charities at (260) 422-5625 or Foster Care Select at (260) 425-9828.

A couple convinced they were meant to be loving parents of adopted children

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — The number of children who are in need of foster care is staggering due to instability in the home, abuse, neglect and a myriad of other factors. There are several agencies in the area that offer foster care support for foster care providers.

Catholic Charities offers four adoption-foster care program supports that serve nine counties, including the Foster-Adoptive-Kinship Training (FAKT) Program, home studies, foster family support liaison and the adoption program.

The FAKT Program serves those interested in providing foster care to a single child or sibling groups. The kinship care piece, says FAKT coordinator Robin Springer, supports those with a relative in the foster care system and wishes to take that child into their own home.

Those interested in providing foster care or who are required to participate in 20 hours of pre-service training, following a criminal background check, a home study and completion of personal information paperwork.

Additional permanency planning training is also required for those interested in adoption.

The couple contacted Catholic Charities. Their first attempt at adoption fell through because the birth mother changed her mind and decided to be a parent. While this decision was probably the best for the birth family, it left the Kils feeling “at the lowest low.”

“But there was a plan, and God’s plan was for us to have Abraham. If that first adoption hadn’t worked through, we wouldn’t have Abraham,” says Paul.

One year after they adopted Abraham, they put in the paperwork for another adoption.

Nine weeks later, Susanna came.

Then they made the conscious decision to adopt a Down Syndrome child, which resulted in getting Natalie, now 5. Natalie had some health issues about six months later, causing them a lot of worry about her weight and a congenital heart defect.

They had just joined Little Flower Church. “The parish was with us through it all, praying with us every time she needed surgery,” says Paul.

Then, when Natalie was one year old, they received a newsletter about Down Syndrome children. In it was the picture of “a cute little girl from Bogota, Colombia.”

They considered another adoption, and that’s how they got Angie.

“A few of our family members and friends thought we were crazy to adopt a fourth child, and one from Bogota,” says Maria. “But we felt it was something we needed to do. For Natalie, in particular, we thought it would be great to have another child close to her age and abilities. This was a leap of faith for us, going to another country. But we were able to understand another culture, and the needs of a developing country. This is something we would not have done, had we given birth.”

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Foster homes special place for children in need

The training includes CPR and Universal Precautions, and, once licensed, the foster family participates in annual in-service trainings in order to maintain their license.

During the initial information meetings, families decide what level of care they wish to provide. “Most want newborns,” says Springfield, and where there is as great a need for the special needs population, which not only includes children who are consid-
Parish music director brings hope to her parish, family

BY LAUREN CAGGIANO

FORT WAYNE — St. Charles Borromeo Parish has seen new songbooks, carpet and even new doors recently, but one thing has remained the same for 25 years — the director of music and liturgy.

Karen Hope, 51, boasts more than two decades of experience as the director of music and liturgy at St. Charles. Prior to her employment at St. Charles, Hope obtained a master’s degree in education, but God had other plans for her.

The young teacher was unexpectedly laid off and trying to make ends meet. Under the discretion of Msgr. Edward Hession, pastor at St. Charles at the time, she approached her about a possible position as the director. Hope agreed to give it a try and, well, the rest is history. What started as simply a way to pay the rent ended up as a career, she said.

“I’ve been able to do so many different things with the church and with my life,” Hope said reflecting on her 25-year career.

In 25 years’ time, a great deal has changed liturgically, but her passion for music and people has remained steadfast through the years.

“I love being able to work with so many talented people and share music with them,” she said.

Hope said she has learned a great deal along the way, but she’s always anxious to discover more each day.

FAMILY/TEENS

NEW HAVEN — “I wanted it for my kids.” That was the original motivation for St. John the Baptist, New Haven, youth director Hanna Eakin. When they moved into the parish, Eakin inquired if there was a youth group. The answer was yes, but it “wasn’t all that active.”

Recently, the group held a fall scavenger hunt, including a “No Deal.” Much to their surprise, over 150 people came for free pizza and pop after a youth Mass and round of Deal or No Deal.

According to Hope, the half-siblings were members of her extended family who needed a maternal figure. Hope wanted to make a difference in the world and raising the children happened to fulfill this desire. The director made a major decision to become their guardian and legally adopt them several years later.

So what is her secret for managing work and family life? “You just do your best,” she said. “Keep it in prayer all the time. God provides for you but you have to be open to (his plan).”

The mother of two said she’s thankful for the love and support of family and friends along the way. The parish priests were particularly supportive during the adoption process, she said.

Without them, she said she wonders how she would have functioned.

“It’s been a lot of blessings,” she said summarizing her experience at St. Charles.

New Haven parish youth group motivated and thriving

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

NEW HAVEN — “I wanted it for my kids.” That was the original motivation for St. John the Baptist, New Haven, youth director Hanna Eakin. When they moved into the parish, Eakin inquired if there was a youth group. The answer was yes, but it “wasn’t all that active.”

So, Eakin set out to make the program stronger.

After much prayer and discernment, support and direction from diocesan youth director Cindy Black and months of volunteer hours, the position for a new youth director became open and Eakin was hired.

“I was at home with my children (Lizzie and Alex) and available. It was something I felt God was calling us (along with husband, Tim) to do,” recalls Eakin.

Before their first official event, Eakin and a core team of adult volunteers asked the members of St. John Parish to pry for the success of the program. They prayed that just five youth would show up. Much to their surprise, over 150 junior high and high schoolers came for free pizza and pop after a youth Mass and round of Deal or No Deal.

Remembering how they had to scramble to make preparations, Eakin says, “It was like the story of the big catch in empty waters.

“We were not prepared for such a crowd. Our nets were overflowing!”

Since then, the ministry has continued to grow and flourish. Each month, they now offer two youth Masses followed by a connecting activity, lesson and snacks. They also make eucharistic adoration available and try to do some sort of service project.

“Our goal is to offer enjoyable programs without watering down the truths of the Catholic Church,” explained Eakin.

Speakers have been brought in to discuss topics focusing on relevant issues in today’s culture and last month Father James Seceloff talked on the Mass and gave a tour of the church. Teen witnesses have also been a very powerful means of sharing a particular message. Recently the group held a fall cleanup day for two elderly residents in the community. Afterwards, the youth were able to meet the homebound they served, to see their frailty and their need.

Eakin also prayed with them reminding them about the verse from James 3:26, “Just as the body is dead without a spirit, so also is faith death without good deeds.”

She encouraged them to always have a zeal for God and to make sacrifices for others. “I think the kids truly felt good after a day of giving themselves away,” Eakin concluded.

The group, which also welcomes youth from neighboring St. Louis and St. Rose parishes, attends various diocesan events including the XLT worship programs in the area.

Down the road, Eakin would love to see St. John providing Saturday night events, mini versions of XLT.

Another one of her goals is to get more teens attending weekly adoration. “We have purposely tagged a teen Bible study after adoration to draw more teens,” said Eakin. “We want to get them looking at their day to day through God’s eyes rather than through the world’s eyes.”

In January 2008, the St. John’s Youth Ministry is planning to offer their first retreat for high-school age members of the parish.

Eakin summarized, “It is beautiful to see kids absorbing ‘Christian’; to open up to and ready for all that we can offer them.”
Prayer sustains aspiring young ballerina

BY KAY GOZAD

FORT WAYNE — Dance is a way of life for 16-year-old Shaely Simonton whose dream is to dance for one of the major ballet companies in the United States. Prayer, she says, is what keeps her focused and on track.

Born in Kendallville to Sandra and Powell Simonton she attended St. Mary’s School in Avilla from kindergarten through eighth grade. Her natural interest in dance began at a very early age when she twirled around in a living room.

“I’ve always liked to dance. It’s fun,” she says.

By five Simonton was attending recreational tap, jazz and other dance classes at a nearby dance studio. But she admits sheepishly that ballet was not originally her favorite.

“When I was 10, my mom forced me into ballet because she knew it would help me in other forms of dance,” she said.

By age 13 Simonton had fallen in love with ballet and after speaking with her dance instructor Beth McLeish decided to focus all of her attention and energy on it.

“She (Beth) thought I had a talent,” says Simonton.

As eighth-grade graduation approached, the Simonton family discussed high school placement for Shaely. East Noble High School was out of the question, yet faith formation was a concern. The family considered the commute to Goshen.

Bishop Dwenger as well. But as divine providence would have it, Simonton’s dance instructor, McLeish, formed a new school, the New American Youth Ballet, in time for Shaely’s freshman year and offered her placement in the school.

In response to the faith concern, McLeish, who had been Shaely’s confirmation sponsor, assured the Simontons that she would assist their daughter in this area as well. So after much discussion and prayer, Shaely was enrolled.

She is currently involved with the LifeTeen program at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Fort Wayne as well as attending their retreats.

Interestingly, three of the four teachers at the ballet school are Catholic and Simonton says, “I can go to any of them with my problems. I’m very close to them.”

At one point in her academic career, Simonton admits she began to stray from her faith and it was McLeish who counseled her. “I was feeling like I wanted to quit ballet, and Beth told me, ‘You’ll always be faced with challenges. She got me back on track,” says the teen dancer, adding, “I prayed about it and God helped.”

The New American Youth Ballet, located in Fort Wayne, offers dance as well as academic classes. A junior this year, Simonton boasts of her studies in advanced math, chemistry, biology, world history Spanish and more. She, along with 30 other students

GOSHEN — St. John the Evangelist Church in Goshen started a new Sunday evening Mass eight weeks ago, but it’s really three new things wrapped into one: a Sunday evening Mass for a weekly youth Mass and a regular bilingual Mass.

“It’s been a real team effort,” said Father Christopher Smith, pastor of St. John. He, along with associate pastor Father Constantino Rocha, youth ministry coordinator Sara Knight, and liturgy and music director Stephen Royal, had been thinking about and planning for the evening bilingual youth Mass since last year, when both Smith and Royal joined the parish staff.

About 80 people attended the first 5:30 Mass on Sept. 23. “Some people were a little apprehensive when they found out it would be bilingual,” said Knight. “But Mass is the most important part, and it’s a language we all speak.”

The most encouraging thing for Giovanni Muñoz, who has been at St. John’s for seven years and has worked with the Hispanic young adults in the parish for the past year, is the effort he sees the two priests putting into the project.

“It’s such a great thing they’ve been doing. Father Chris in particular has been trying a lot to get both cultures together,” Muñoz said.

And his efforts have been fruitful, Muñoz says, because “You can tell the Anglos and Hispanics are really working together on this.”

Father Smith and Rocha alternate Sundays, and the two priests have tried different strategies to make all parts of the bilingual Mass accessible to everyone.

Father Smith has had his sermon translated into Spanish and printed up in the program for people to read as they deliver it in English, while Father Rocha has had a translator speak an English version of his sermon as he gives it in Spanish.

Prayers like the Our Father and the creed are said in whatever language each Mass goer chooses.

In grades 5-12, starts her day after commuting from Kendallville at 7:50 a.m. when academic classes begin. After four periods of instruction, she enjoys a ballet class followed by another academic class. After lunch, Simonton catches up on homework in a structured study hall and from 2 to 5 p.m. she rehearses with the other students for the many performances held throughout the year.

The performances, she reports, are held quarterly, with the fall concert held on Nov. 11. The girls also travel following graduation from academics in the spring to areas with performances for the elementary students.

But she doesn’t want to sound like a socialite. “I’d like to see more youth attend. I’d like to see more youth attend. This year and will begin her auditions for some major ballet companies in December.

“I’m at the right age to start auditioning for a job in a company,” she says confidently. “I’ve put a lot into it and hopefully I’ll get a lot out of it.”

Living away from home isn’t an issue for this young woman as she has spent the last five summers traveling for five-week summer ballet camps to locations in Washington, California, New York, Florida and Washington, D.C.

Attending Mass has always been her faith anchor, so she intends to find a church in the area she will live. When asked what company she would choose, Simonton replies without hesitation, “New York City Ballet. That’s the number one company.”

Her advice to others who dream of ballet is “Trying to mix it up a bit is a challenge because the approaches are so different.”

Royal says the Hispanic choir plays by ear, while “Anglos need notes. When we get together in rehearsal, I’m furiously writing down chords.”

Attendance has been between 80 and 120 each week, and, despite the youth focus, many of the Massgoers are well past their 20s.

“I go to Dwenger football games,” she says, naming a few other fun activities she enjoys.

Simonton says she has always been close to God and continues to pray for guidance as she discerns her future path. She hopes to graduate from high school as a junior this year and will begin her auditions for some major ballet companies in December.

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other communities typically have functioned almost as two individual parishes, there’s been growing interest in finding ways to interact.

Because most of the young people speak English, it seemed a youth Mass could bring the two communities of the parish together.

“You’ve got to start somewhere and thus this seemed like a good first step,” said Knight.

The staff didn’t rely on an outside template for how to incorporate both languages into the liturgy. Knight said, but really started from scratch and focused on what they wanted to reach.

Previously, the parish had a youth Mass only on the fourth Sunday of every month, so Knight said she was very excited to move to a weekly schedule.

Such and Muñoz schedule youth and young adults to work as readers, ushers, musicians, and altar servers. Regular volunteers include musicians Maria Weaver and Erica Budowski, altar server Patrick Wheeler, translators Flor Garcia and Edgar Macias, lector Humberto Perez, lector and eucharistic minister Christian Elliot.

One highlight of the Mass is the music, which Knight calls “youth friendly.” From praise music to traditional Hispanic worship music, the Sunday evening musical styles tend to be ones that aren’t heard at St. John’s Sunday morning English Masses.

About 15 musicians, both Anglo and Hispanic youth and adults, have been involved. “It’s a lot of work,” said Smith, “but it’s worth it to the community.”

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Attendance has been between 80 and 120 each week, and, despite the youth focus, many of the Massgoers are well past their 20s.

Knight says the feedback she has gotten has been overwhelmingly positive. Part of that, she states, is “because the youth who are coming want to be there.”

But Knight has high hopes for the evening bilingual youth Mass. “I’d like to see more youth attend. The more that show up, the more youth are exposed to Mass and homilies, and the more their parents, brothers, sisters and grandparents will follow.”

“Cultural differences can be difficult to get past, but I hope both communities can focus on our similarities. It’s the same Church, the same liturgy,” said Knight. “We all make up the body of Christ.”

Goshen’s multi cultures pull together to celebrate the ‘same Eucharist’

BY HEATHER GRENNAN GARY

GOSHEN — St. John the Evangelist Church in Goshen started a new Sunday evening Mass eight weeks ago, but it’s really three new things wrapped into one: a Sunday evening Mass for a weekly youth Mass and a regular bilingual Mass.

“It’s been a real team effort,” says Simonton.

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Father Constantino Rocha, associate pastor at St. John the Evangelist in Goshen, distributes holy Communion at the youth Mass. The Mass is a team effort to bring together the Hispanic and Anglo youth communities.

And his efforts have been fruitful, Muñoz says, because “You can tell the Anglos and Hispanics are really working together on this.”

Father Rocha and Rocha alternate Sundays, and the two priests have tried different strategies to make all parts of the bilingual Mass accessible to everyone.

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Building a family

November is adoption month. In this week's issue of Today's Catholic and also in some issues to follow, we journey through some families' experiences who have followed the path of adoption to build their families. Others, as we explored this week, have found foster parenting as a means of offering family.

If either fostering or adoption is a consideration, a good place to start is with Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. In the next few issues, you will meet families who have found assistance from the services offered by Catholic Charities.

A visit to their Web site, www.ccfwswb.org, and a click to adoption services, will offer the range of adoption-related services: agency placement, private assessment, special needs adoption, self-referred, assessments for relative or stepparent adoption, international placement, family assessments or home studies, adoption case management services and post-placement supervision, finalization services, counseling for adoption-related issues, and search and reunion.

Prospective adoptive parents are screened, participate in adoption education training, and undergo a family assessment to be approved through Catholic Charities. Supervision continues six months following placement until the adoption is legally finalized.

Catholic Charities also works with birth mothers and children who have been adopted. They have also assisted those desiring reunion with the adoptee and birthparents.

Although many couples prefer newborns, that is not always a viable option in a day when most births occur to raise their children. But there are many children who need a loving and caring family, and Catholic Charities offers services with additional paths to building a family.

International placement, adoption outside of the United States, is offered. Catholic Charities works with Associated Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Baltimore to facilitate adoption of children from the Philippines and Korea. They also work with Children's Home Society and Family Services in St. Paul, Minn., to facilitate the adoption of children from a variety of countries.

For those interested in foster care services, Catholic Charities completes foster home assessments for six counties: Allen, Fulton, Kosciusko, Miami, Wabash and Wells. The agency provides training services for foster parents applying to become licensed or already licensed in Adams, Allen, Cass, Fulton, Huntington, Kosciusko, Miami, Wabash and Wells counties.

Adoption and foster care can offer its challenges.

The adoption process has its shares of ups and downs — a birthmother decides to keep the child, another couple is selected, a couple can be on a list for long periods of time. There is also some expense — some of which is reimbursed by the government after the adoption is finalized — depending on the option selected. But when that child enters the family, the heartache and trials sting a bit less and life as a family is most appreciated. One can only thank God for his bounteous blessings.

Thank you Squanto and Mr. Lincoln

When our pilgrim forefathers enjoyed the first Thanksgiving feast, which well may have featured venison instead of turkey, they were just happy to be alive, and saw as their agent for survival Squanto, an Indian who taught them how to catch eel and grow corn.

Through the years an annual feast continued to be associated with harvest and was endorsed by President George Washington proclaiming thanks for God’s providence.

Beginning with President Lincoln, who established Thanksgiving as a national holiday, every U.S. president has issued a Thanksgiving proclamation.

Part of the Thanksgiving mystic is that although it is not a religious feast day, we instinctively treat it that way and at many tables, personal expressions of gratitude to God will last much longer than composed prayers.

For many of us, at the top of our list is the fact that we know of our heavenly Father and consider him to be the provider of what we have on our tables, personal expressions of gratitude to God will last much longer than composed prayers.

In this week’s issue of Thanksgiving proclamation.

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Thank you Father ... thank you Squanto and Mr. Lincoln ... now please pass that eel salad and fried corn.

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

INVITATION TO JOIN SILENT PEACE CIRCLE

From Huntington to Laurens, when President Lincoln and President Johnson visited Huntington and heard of the Silent Peace Circle she exclaimed, “I need to talk to that with my Laurens, S.C.”

Again and again have been asked to explain or write something about the Silent Peace Circle. Where is the flyer to pass the news about this circle? What is the circle? Why the circle? What do people do in this circle?

The Silent Peace Circle is a way of saying we value people. We are for all peoples. We value global peace.

Global peace is why we form a circle. We stand in a circle, we hold hands in this circle. The circle is a symbol of the globe. This global world belongs to all and yet belongs to some. We participate in some as a sign of our trust in one another.

A circle is endless yet it has many pockets. In the United States we have people who crossed the Bering Strait to enter. Others emigrated from Europe. Others from New York. Still others came by ship through the port of Galveston, Texas, and some through Florida.

The circle allows freedom. It allows all to take a part, to share their gifts, to be enriched with the gifts of others. The circle is porous flexible very strong in what seems to be its flexibility.

In the Silent Peace Circle people come and go by simply coming to the circle, placing their hand on the hand of one in the circle. The person in the circle lets go of the hand they were holding and takes the hand of the newcomer. The person in the circle let their hands open and take the hand of the arrival or arrivals.

When a person needs to leave the circle they simply let go of the persons hands they have joined in the circle. These two people rejoin their hands as the person goes their way.

A circle is a symbol of many different peoples, cultures, races and creeds coming together to seek peace, promote and reflect on peace. In order to reflect people need silence.

The purpose of the silence is to allow people to reflect upon what peace, silence, circle and the globe would be like with peace. One person shared his experience of the Silent Peace Circle experiences, “I have not had such stillness in my life since last month when I stood in this circle. I need this.”

Come join the circle. It is simple. You may stay along as you are able. Come experience peace with your neighbor in a circle of sisters and brothers.

The Silent Peace Circle is held each second Saturday of the month in Huntington. The circle is held on the first Saturday of the month at Clinton and Berry streets by the courthouse from 11 a.m. until noon. Come dressed for the weather. Bring your own chair if you wish.

Sister Angeline Walczyk, OVM

Huntington

It’s time for turkey

Tuesday, Nov. 20, about a.m., while it’s still dark and cold outside, the parking lot at The Franciscan Center will have people standing in line waiting for the food bank to open at 9 a.m. hoping that they will receive a turkey for their family’s Thanksgiving meal.

We do not buy any turkeys or promise any. It strictly depends on the turkeys that are donated to us. If you would like to donate turkeys to needy families for Thanksgiving, you can bring them to The Franciscan Center, 4643 Gaywood by Nov. 19. Please feel free to call The Franciscan Center (260) 744-3977.

Sally Ley

CEO, The Franciscan Center

Fort Wayne

Thankful for ‘motu proprio’ series

The third piece of the four-part series that I was asked to write for the “motu proprio” document by Pope Benedict XVI was extremely informative and exciting. To read that the one-time much anticipated periods of silence found in the older Mass form can be a part of the new Mass form without diminishing the suggested changes addressed in the Vatican II document was exciting.

Active participation of the laity in the Mass is essential for full appreciation of all the richness the Mass can offer. Participation in prayer can only enhance one’s spiritual experience.

A recent decision that too-loud and too-orchestrated liturgical music is at best entertainment rather than a true and pure expression of worship. Thank you for this wonderful series on the liturgy.

Michael A. Baensky

Fort Wayne

As Senate begins debate, stage set for battle over new farm bill

BY MARK PATTISON

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The harvest is in. The apples have fallen from the trees. One thing is awaited, though, before farmers can declare whether 2007 was a good season for them: the passage of the federal farm bill.

The biggest issue in the five-year, $285 billion bill is crop subsidies. Though the subsidies account for only about $40 billion in the bill’s food stamps and nutrition assistance programs, as compared to $200 billion, account for only about $40 billion in the bill’s food stamps and nutrition assistance programs. Though the subsidies could only enhance one’s spiritual experience.

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Fort Wayne

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Vatican ambassadors: Potpourri of insiders, politicians, scholars

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Many countries’ embassies to the Vatican have a priest on staff to help advise their ambassador on pontifical protocol and all things Catholic.

But most of them could learn a few things from Mary Ann Glendon, the Harvard law professor President George W. Bush nominated as U.S. ambassador to the Holy See.

In 2004, Pope John Paul II named her president of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, an advisory body chock full of experts in law, economics, sociology and other fields. She led the Vatican’s delegation to the 1995 U.N. Conference on Women in Beijing and to a follow-up meeting on the status of women in 2005.

At first glance, it would seem that it says a lot about Glendon’s resume, but her nomination Glendon’s Vatican connections would make her a unique member of the diplomatic corps.

But Poland’s ambassador to the Vatican, Hanna Suchocka, also is a member of the social sciences academy and, like Glendon, she is one of the original members appointed by Pope John Paul when he established the academy in 1994.

Suchocka, again like Glendon, has a background in law. But the Polish ambassador also was deeply involved in partisan politics, elected to Poland’s legislature before serving as Poland’s prime minister, 1992-93.

The Polish ambassador currently is one of 17 women in the 175-member group of diplomats accredited to the Vatican.

While Glendon can be described as a Vatican “insider,” she has never been a salaried Vatican employee, like two other members of the diplomatic corps serving at the Vatican.

Montenegro’s Ambassador Antun Stubeta is a former economics professor who spent almost 13 years working at the Society of St. Peter Apostle, one of four pontifical missionary societies under the jurisdiction of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.

Slovenia’s Ambassador Ivan Rebernik earned a doctorate in philosophy from Rome’s Pontifical Gregorian University, then entered the library sciences program at The Catholic University of America in Washington. He returned to Rome, where he worked in the Gregorian library, 1964-88, then spent the next 16 years as the director of the prints catalogue at the Vatican Library.

Many of the nations that have diplomatic relations with the Vatican always send a Catholic as ambassador, believing it gives their representatives a jump on the learning curve.

But other countries believe that sending a non-Catholic ensures the objectivity and impartiality of their ambassadors, who are sent to the Vatican to represent their countries, not their faith.

Those who love God will triumph

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

Mt 21:5-19

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Book of Malachi is the source of this weekend’s first reading. Malachi actually was not a proper name for a person in ancient Israel. Rather, it was an abbreviation of an informal title, “Messenger of God.”

This prophet is thoroughly in step with all the other prophets whose writings we now possess in saying was that humans are responsible for their own misery and disappointment in life. Their sinfulness, or indifference to God, leads them into trouble.

The effects of sin do not simply slide away. One day, sinners will have to pay the piper.

Paul’s Second Epistle to the Thessalonians supplies the next reading. Paul must have been an interesting personality. He hardly was withdrawing and quiet. Yet, for all his assertiveness, he had the humility that rises from genuine wisdom and true faith. He knows that he owes everything to God’s mercy, and he knows that everything that happens in the world happens with God. He offers himself as an example, because God will save others as God saved Paul.

Here in this reading, he goes to his well-schooled Hebrew roots, essentially repeating the theme of sinfulness. God is patiently waiting the day of vengeance. The pitying God will not be in a hurry. Humanity has to prove it can be saved by its own efforts.

Refrain: God will save others as God saved Paul.

Reflection: The church is closing your year of instruction and worship. Next weekend, it will rejoice that God’s salvation has been poured forth on the world, and it celebrates the feast of Christ the King.

So, the church’s last statement of its fusing year will be its excited proclamation that, despite all the negative forces in the world, despite the attacks of the devil, even despite human inclinations to sin and pride, Christ is king! He is the rock of salvation upon which all may find refuge on the edge of a raging sea.

For six years now, Americans, and others in the world, have lived in uneasiness if not fear. The sights of the crashing towers in New York, the bleeding commuters in Madrid and London, and the slain in Iraq, haunt us.

These grim realities should teach us. As the prophets warned, as Paul emphatically declared, sin brings us death. And, none of us can forget the future, our own future, with exactitude.

Our deaths may not come as the result of such evil, terrifying circumstances, but we will die. However, come what may, if we are in Christ, if we are with God, WE shall live. If we are of God, WE shall live forever.

Where then is the cause to fear? When, death, is your victory?

READINGS

Sunday: Mal 3:19a-20a Ps 95:5-9 2Thes 3:7-12 Lk 21:15-19


Tuesday: 2 Mc 6:18-31 Ps 3:2-8 Lk 19:1-10

Wednesday: 2 Mc 7:1-20, 31-37 Ps 171:1, 54, 15 Lk 19:17-28

Thursday: 1 Mc 2:15-29 Ps 50:1-2, 5-6, 14-15 Lk 19:41-44

Friday: 1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59 (Ps) 1 Chr 29:10-12 Lk 19:45-48

Saturday: 1 Mc 6:13-14 Ps 92:4-6, 16b, 19 Lk 20:27-40

CATEQUIZ’EM

By Dominic Camplisson

This quiz looks at doctors of the church.

1. What is a doctor of the church?
   a. a bishop who has a doctorate
   b. any cleric who is an MD
   c. a saint with this special title

2. What (amongst other things) do you have to be to be a doctor of the church?
   a. licensed
   b. a male
   c. dead

3. What does the designation “doctor” actually mean?
   a. the person lived a saintly life
   b. their teachings or writings are determined by the church to have value
   c. they are known to have performed miracles

4. How does time play a factor in the process of being named doctor of the church?
   a. The person must have been declared a saint at least 50 years before becoming a doctor of the church.
   b. It does not, as time is relative, and many clergy have no relatives.
   c. Their writing or preaching is determined to have value to any age of the church.

5. How influential are the writings of a doctor of the church?
   a. They may include infallible teaching, but the status of doctor does not confer that.
   b. As infallible as the pope’s, only harder to prove.
   c. Not at all, in fact the writings contain no truths at all.

6. Are there doctors of the church who are not saints?
   a. no
   b. yes
   c. only if they are so voted by acclamation by the College of Cardinals.

7. In the Middle Ages only this many doctors were recognized:
   a. four
   b. six
   c. twelve

8. Which of these men were amongst them?
   a. Jude the Obscure
   b. Augustine
   c. Julian the Apostate

9. Which of these men were not included in the medieval doctors?
   a. Abelard
   b. Ambrose
   c. Jerome

10. When other doctors were added, this 3rd to 4th century apostolic was added:
   a. John the Evangelist
   b. Justin Martyr
   c. Athanasius

11. Which doctor is referred to as the Syrian?
   a. St. Assad
   b. St. Ephraem
   c. St. Joppa

12. This doctor is named for the birthplace of the church:
   a. St. Cyril of Jerusalem
   b. Jeffrey of Nazareth
   c. Francis of Rome

13. This doctor even has his own adjective:
   a. Carlus Theis (theistic)
   b. Thomas Aquinas (Thomistic)
   c. Leo the Munificent (Leonicne)

14. Catherine of Siena is part of a minority among church doctors; why?
   a. Most are male
   b. Most were single
   c. Most are male

15. Despite dying very young and living a mostly sheltered life as a nun, this saint was
   a. declared a saint at only 50 years old
   b. recognized as a doctor of the church before becoming a doctor of the church
   c. the only woman to be named a doctor of the church

ANSWERS:

1. c, 2, c, 3b, 4c, 5a, 6a, 7a, 8b, 9a, 10c, 11b, 12a, 13b, 14c, 15c
Making total gift of self to the other

I believe life begins the moment of conception, so what is wrong with using pills that prevent conception? Why is NFP so important? Being a woman myself, it takes a long time to really even know when it’s “safe” and when it’s not “safe.” Both NFP and this pill that prevents conception, aren’t they doing the same thing? — Melanie

There is a world of difference between contraception and NFP. What is important here is to understand and appreciate God’s plan for marriage and the spiritual dimension. In the marital act, God designed it “until death do us part,” and it requires total fidelity.

What is the spousal act supposed to express and accomplish, as God designed it? The Catholic Church understands conception as God’s plan for marriage and the human right that, acknowledged in the Enlightenment, those achieve.

Those achieve a freedom, and governance posed by one of the addressees, the Roman Curia. There, Benedict XVI proposed that the government's views to the Vatican. Catholic ambassador "gains credit, and is a senior fellow of the Catholic Center in Washington, D.C.

Father Matthew Habiger, OSB, answered this week's question.

O n Oct. 11, at the end of Ramadan, 138 Muslims from around the world addressed a letter to Pope Benedict XVI and numerous other Christian leaders. Entitled “A Common Word Between Us and You,” the letter was released in a media-sawy rollout in several world capitals and was welcomed with enthusiasm by one of the addressees, Canterbury's Rowan Williams. Catholic ambassador "gains credit, and is a senior fellow of the Catholic Center in Washington, D.C.

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John Goodman

Kyle Sovine

James Knapek
D’Arcy Stadium expansion completed in time for critical game, playoffs

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis (USF) has added nearly 400 new seats to D’Arcy Stadium just in time for the crucial match-up between the fifth-ranked USF Cougars and sixth-ranked St. Xavier on Saturday, Nov. 10. The seating is located on the east side of the stadium and will accommodate visiting teams’ fans.

“In the past, USF has rented portable bleachers to accommodate the overflow crowds for big games, including the NAIA playoff games,” said Mark A. Pope, USF director of athletics. “Those bleachers were no longer an option for us.”

USF Athletics partnered with Fort Wayne-based manufacturer National Recreation Systems to build and install a new seating facility for visiting fans in time for this game, which had NAIA playoff implications. It was the last regular-season game for both teams.

It took just over 16 minutes for the University of Saint Francis to score, but once the No. 5 Cougars did, they outscored No. 6 Saint Xavier 42-10 and locked up the season’s first-round home game with its 44th consecutive home win.

“We really played as close to a complete game as possible,” USF Coach Kevin Donley said after getting his 100th win at USF and 215th career victory. “We played well in nearly every phase of the game. Doug Wasylk really played the way we knew he could play.

“Daniel Carter, Taylor Vleck, seniors Brian Smiley, Echo (Josh Ekovich), Zach Rainey, Bo Thompson, William Knepper, Tim Farrell, so many names the list just goes on and on.”

USF assured itself an NAIA Football Championship Series first-round home game with its victory at Bishop D’Arcy Stadium.

“The seats are constructed to maintain the USF’s fans’ view of picturesque Mirror Lake, yet allow visiting teams’ fans to be closer to their team. Construction was started in late October and completed last week. Visiting fans were previously seated at the south end of the west stands near the entrance/exit for the visiting team.

“We are deeply appreciative to our corporate partners for their assistance in making this addition a reality,” said Pope. Corporate contributors include Garrett State Bank, Kirby Risk Corporation, Fort Wayne Orthopedics, Glenbrook Dodge Chrysler Jeep, Design Collaborative and Leepoxy.

USF will install signage to direct visiting fans to a new entrance, located on the east side of D’Arcy Stadium.
**WHAT’S HAPPENING?**

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

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**Legion of Mary plans rosary**

Fort Wayne — A rosary for deceased members of the Legion of Mary will be at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 18, in St. Charles Borromeo chapel, 4916 Trier Rd. The 5 p.m. Mass will be offered for the repose of their souls. For information about the Legion of Mary, call Connie Acietto at (260) 486-1001 or Chester Mackowiak at (574) 287-9204.

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**Day of Reflection**

Mishawaka — A day of reflection will be held at St. Francis Convent (across from Marian High School) on Wednesday, Nov. 28, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The theme for the day is “Promises, Promises.” Please bring your Bible. The cost of the day is $15 and includes lunch. Register by Friday, Nov. 23, to Sister Barbara Anne Hallman at (574) 259-5427.

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**Craft and Bake Sale**

Fort Wayne — The St. Joseph Rosary Sodality, Brooklyn and Hale Ave., will have a bake sale in the parish hall on Saturday, Nov. 17, from noon to 7 p.m. and Sunday Nov. 18, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call Kathy at (260) 459-1008 for information.

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**Little Flower Holy Hour**

Fort Wayne — Father Edward Erpelding will celebrate the Holy Hour at MacDough Chapel on Tuesday, Nov. 20, at 7:15 p.m. Father Erpelding is pastor of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Avilla.

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**Eighth Grade Day**

Join us for... Eighth Grade Day

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**Eighth Grade Students**

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- Lois E. Fleck, 73, Our Lady of Good Hope
- Vera Margaret Johnson, 73, St. Therese
- Robert W. Pequignot, 88, Our Lady of Good Hope
- George W. Ables, Jr., 69, St. John the Baptist
- Maria Kline, 39, Our Lady of Good Hope
- Susan J. Beatty, 62, Most Precious Blood
- Richard Hale, 80, Most Precious Blood
- Colleen Harris, 35, Our Lady of Good Hope
- James F. Neidhart, 82, Our Lady of Good Hope
- Paul Walter Schoenie, 88, St. Peter
- Dorothy Ann Schelbes, 80, Sts. Peter and Paul
- Geraldine Edwards, 92, St. Monica
- Thomas G. Murphy II, 61, Queen of Peace
- Martin R. Cole, 81, St. Joseph
- Mary Clare Skendzel, Infant, Sacred Heart
- William Thomas Karban, 4 mo.
- Genevieve Zuk, 93, St. Hedwig
- Charles P. Nix, 90, St. Matthew Cathedral
- Margaret R. Rozmarynowski, 87, St. Stanislaus
- Florence A. Winkel, 89, Holy Family
- Mary E. Kiplinger, 97, Bishop Dwenger High School • December 5, 2007

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St. Bernard, a tradition of excellence

BY JORDAN RAUH, SIXTH GRADE

St. Bernard’s mission statement is, “St. Bernard Catholic Elementary School is a partnership of students, faculty, staff, parents and parish; teaching what the Catholic Church teaches, fostering a spiritual, academic, physical, social and emotional climate where children grow to their maximum capabilities.” Many students of St. Bernard are following in their grandparents’ and parents’ tradition by attending the school. This tradition shows the true excellence of the school.

St. Bernard started on the first floor of the old church on Sept. 5, 1922. At that time there were a total of 40 pupils. Nuns from the convent of St. Joseph’s in Tipton were assigned to administrate and teach at the school. There were no real walls, only partitions, to separate the classrooms. They had a central potbelly stove for heat and used textbooks from the public school. The following year the student enrollment almost doubled up to 70 students. St. Bernard was on its way to building a solid foundation for children.

Then on Sept. 4, 1951, the doors opened on a separate two-story building holding a total of 141 pupils. This was thanks to Father Leo Hoffmann who started the fund for building the school. At this time, the church was torn down and the basement of the school became the chapel for the parish. When the church was completed, the basement was converted into a kitchen and lunch room for the students.

Ten years later a third floor was added to the school. Each classroom could now have just one grade in it instead of two. Later the sisters of St. Joseph withdrew from the school. The school then hired lay teachers to teach.

Today, St. Bernard has 101 students in grades pre-k to sixth grade with a full day of kindergarten. Of these 101 students, 45 percent of them are Catholic and the other 55 percent are other denominations. The church is located across the alley of the school, which enables students to attend Mass every Tuesday and Thursday and holy days. The school also has enrichment programs such as Symphony in Color, Fine, Hoopshoots, Earth Day activities, champs camp and plays at the Honeywell Center. The choir also performs at different functions throughout the year.

St. Bernard School’s goal is to have all the students grow in their spiritual education and to have Christian principles in their everyday lives. These ideas were voiced by Father Hoffman and is known to be the heart of St. Bernard continues to thrive. The parents are an integral part of the partnership that is between the school, home life and the surrounding community.

BORN: 1090 in Burgundy, France
DIED: Aug. 20, 1153 at Clairvaux
Cannonized: 1170 by Pope Alexander III
Patron saint of beekeepers, bees, candlemakers, candleholders
Feast day: Aug. 20
• he was one of seven children
• his mother died when he was 19 years old
• he was of French nobility
• he loved literature and poetry
— Jason Mackey, sixth grade

The game place

Joke corner

Not so very long ago, an old German man was feeling guilty about something he had done so he decided to go to confession. He said, “Bless me, father, for I have sinned. I feel terrible because I hid a refugee in my attic during World War II.”

The priest said, “But that’s not a sin! I wouldn’t feel terrible about that!”

The man said, “I made him pay 50 marks for every week he stayed.”

The priest said, “Well, I admit that wasn’t the most noble thing to do but you did save his life. Don’t worry about it so much; God forgives.”

The man said, “Oh thank you, Father, that eases my mind. I have only one more question to ask you. Do you think I should tell him the war is over?”

• • •

After the baptism of his baby brother, little Johnny sobbed all the way home in the backseat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong.

Finally, the boy replies, “The priest said he wanted us to be brought up in a Christian home, but I want to stay with you guys.”

• • •

The children were lined up in a cafetaria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. A nun made a note, and posted it on the apple tray; “Take only ONE apple, God is watching.”

Moving further along the table there was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A child had written a note; “Take all you want. God is watching the apples.”

• • •

A boy asked his father to take out the car. The father said, “Not until you get a haircut.”

The boy said, “But Jesus had long hair.”

The father said, “Yeah but Jesus walked everywhere.”

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