NOTRE DAME — Nearly 200 speakers from the United States and from foreign countries came to the University of Notre Dame Nov. 29 through Dec. 1 to talk about the cultural divisions in the modern world. While the topics were wide-ranging — from human rights law to offshore industry to the ethics of exit from Iraq — all the speakers stressed the “dialogue” part of the conference theme: “The Dialogue of Cultures.”

That theme was taken directly from a Sept. 12, 2006, address given by Pope Benedict XVI in Regensburg, Germany, in which the pope called for the reconciliation of Christian faith and natural human reason to enable “that genuine dialogue of cultures and religions so urgently needed today.”

In Vatican City, lamenting the climate of consumerism and materialism in today’s world, Pope Benedict XVI criticized “unscrupulous adults” who victimize children through sexual abuse and prostitution.

Even the most sacred things, “like the human body, temple of the God of love and life,” have been turned into objects of consumption, he said before praying the noonday Angelus Dec. 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception.

“Adolescents, young people, even young children are easy victims of the corruption of love, deceived by unscrupulous adults who, by lying to them and themselves, lure them down the dead-end roads of consumerism,” he said, without specifically mentioning abuse or prostitution to pilgrims gathered in St. Peter’s Square.

“How sad when young people are robbed of the amazement, the enchantment of the most beautiful feelings” and the value of respecting the human body, he said.

Most young people growing up in a consumerist society are bombarded with “messages that offer false...”

POPE, PAGE 3

POPE’S ADVENT WREATH

POPE BENEDICT XVI blesses flowers during the feast of the Immaculate Conception near the Spanish Steps in Rome Dec. 8.

By Carol Glatz

Notre Dame conference encourages dialogue of culture

BY ANN CAREY

NOTRE DAME — Nearly 200 speakers from the United States and from foreign countries came to the University of Notre Dame Nov. 29 through Dec. 1 to talk about the cultural divisions in the modern world. While the topics were wide-ranging — from human rights law to offshore industry to the ethics of exit from Iraq — all the speakers stressed the “dialogue” part of the conference theme: “The Dialogue of Cultures.”

That theme was taken directly from a Sept. 12, 2006, address given by Pope Benedict XVI in Regensburg, Germany, in which the pope called for the reconciliation of Christian faith and natural human reason to enable “that genuine dialogue of cultures and religions so urgently needed today.”

Setting the tone for the conference was the keynote speaker, Archbishop Elias Chacour, Archbishop Metropolitan of the Melkite Catholic Diocese of Acco, Haifa, Nazareth and Galilee. In introducing him, Holy Cross Father John Jenkins, president of Notre Dame, called the archbishop a “noble” spokesperson for peace who has worked tirelessly for just relations between Palestinians, Christians and Jews in the Holy Land.

Archbishop Chacour told the audience in the full McKenna Hall Auditorium that dialogue is “the discovery of who the other is, and who are you in the presence of others.” The absence of dialogue, he said, means committing crimes like the Biblical Cain killing his brother, Abel.

In the Middle East, he said, dialogue has been refused, and the rejection of dialogue has resulted in nine wars, each one more...
The whole cathedral on Dec. 8 was ‘a song to Our Lady’

The third day:
St. Patrick Parish, Fort Wayne
This is a splendid old parish, and how joyful was that at the 9 a.m. Mass, despite icy footing and rain, we had an excellent crowd. Groups from two Masses — one for the Vietnamese and the other for the English-speaking were joined together. The occasion was the installation as pastor Father Chau Pham, SVD. We are very grateful to the priests of the Society of the Divine Word, for allowing Father Chau to serve at St. Patrick’s. Two of his brother priests, also from Vietnam and also members of the Society of the Divine Word, concelebrated with us as did Father Martin Lam Nguyen, CSC, a priest of Holy Cross and professor of art at Notre Dame. Father Martin has served the Vietnamese in both Fort Wayne and South Bend. There is an excellent Vietnamese choir. Some of the readings were in that language. After a substantial break and some Vietnamese food, we were back to the altar for the noon Mass. Standing room only. A full church. Mass in Spanish. I preached in English, and a very a young woman named Anna, who is a student at IPFW, translated into perfect Spanish. At the beginning of Mass there was Ave; dancing in honor of Our Lady, and the beautiful painting was present, featuring her apparition to Juan Diego. This was accomplished very prayerfully. Then a little bit of Mexican food and we greeted Father Eloy Jimenez, returning after some weeks in Mexico.

This splendid parish has always welcomed the immigrant, beginning with the Irish. It was my joy to have a little time after the first Mass with Agnes and Jim McArdle, longtime parishioners and supporter of St. Patrick’s. Here the Irish and the Vietnamese and the Mexicans and the other Latin Americans have been welcomed, and Christ and Our Lady, whom they knew in their homeland, were waiting for them here; and it was a privilege as their bishop to spend this day with them. I left St. Patrick’s at about 2:30 p.m.; however, Father Chau recounted to me his work from the previous day, which far surpassed mine. Our priests work hard.

Two important meetings
A long trek in midweek to Indianapolis to meet with the bishop of the Iowa, a long day for an important meeting with the Indiana Catholic Conference. We meet twice a year to look at matters that will be covered in the Indiana legislation and see what, if anything, we should support or oppose in light of the Gospel. After spending a little time in the chapel, Archbishop Buchelein has erected in the archdiocesan building, which was once the Cathedral High School, I drove north on Route 31. Route 31 is not the most scenic or delightful road in Indiana, but I was bound for Culver, where I had a soup and sandwich and a nice visit with Father Glenn Kohrman, a toppish retreat director. In addition to teaching at Ancilla College and Culver Academy, where he is chaplain, Father Glenn takes care of St. Mary of the Lake Parish. A cold night, indeed, in Culver at 14 degrees, but warm in the hearts of the people. They shared with me how much they appreciate Father Glenn’s teaching and his weekly seminar on Scripture. We dedicated a new altar in a small chapel for Mass; and after some hot coffee, I was on the way again — east towards home.

Back to Sacred Heart, Warsaw, the next day
Back to Sacred Heart, Warsaw, the next day for an important meeting with our presbyteral council, followed by the diocesan consultants. The meetings with the council are always very enriching for me and filled with joy. Nothing beats meeting with our priests; and I will be with them again this week at St. Martin de Porres Parish, Syracuse, for a Day of Recollection to be given by Msgr. Paul Langsfeld, the rector of the Josephinum Seminary.

I almost missed it
The 30th anniversary of my dear dad’s death was last Friday, and I only thought of it a day or two later. He died in Youville Hospital, a blessed place in Cambridge, Mass. I never met a finer man. I think of him and my dear mother more often now because my dear sister is with them in their blessed place of love, so well described by Pope Benedict XVI in his new encyclical. Dad died at Youville Hospital. As we left the building that long-ago night, mom, just beginning to feel the pain, noticed a little touch of Christmas — a small Christmas tree, I think. It lifted her heart that he should die at Christmas time, the season of hope. It is an old Irish conviction to believe that it is especially blessed to die in the Christmas season. Pope John XXIII, as death drew near said, “Any day is a good day to die.”

Jubilee indulgence
Do not forget that the Holy See has given an indulgence during this year for those who visit any of our parish churches, the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, or the Fatima shrine at Notre Dame and other designated holy places and prayers for the intentions of the Holy Father, while also going to holy Communion and confession. This plenary indulgence can be received for the deceased. And our priests, with their great tradition of penance services, give ample time for the sacrament of penance during Advent even with several priests available for confession. See you all next week.
FORT WAYNE — Father James O’Connor died Tuesday, Dec. 4, at Saint Anne Home in Fort Wayne. He was 91. He leaves a legacy as a devoted priest, educator and the longest-serving pastor of St. Henry Parish in Fort Wayne.

James O’Connor was born Aug. 27, 1916, in Gary to Irish parents, Luke and Bridgid O’Connor. He is said to have had a deep love for Mary, which he attributed to his own mother. He graduated from Holy Angels School in Gary and St. Joseph College in Chicago, where he received the Basilian Scholarship for studies at St. Louis College of Fine Arts in Washington, D.C.

On June 6, 1943, Father O’Connor was ordained by Bishop John F. Noll at the Catholic Chapel of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne. He served briefly as an assistant at St. Bridget Parish in Hobart, Ind., until fall classes began at Central Catholic High School in Fort Wayne, where he taught subjects including English, speech and religion from 1943 to 1953. Whether it was in a classroom or from the pulpit, Father O’Connor was known for being a scholar with a manner. “By his very demeanor, he demanded respect,” recalls Rita Belot, a Central Catholic alumna who would later become Father O’Connor as her pastor at St. Henry Parish in Fort Wayne. “He was a priest right down to the bone.”

In July of 1951, Father O’Connor was appointed assistant at St. John the Baptist Parish, Fort Wayne. This was followed in June of 1960 with his first pastorate at St. Xavier Parish, Pierceton. Two years later, he became pastor of St. Mary Parish in Huntington and, the same month, was also appointed a member of the diocesan church music commission as well as diocesan censor library, the church official responsible for reviewing books and texts for doctrinal accuracy.

Father O’Connor’s longest assignment came in July of 1968 when he became pastor of St. Henry Parish in Fort Wayne. At the time, the parish was only a little over a decade old with a number of younger families. He succeeded its founding pastor, Father Robert Hoovel. Father O’Connor’s time at St. Henry’s coincided with the implementation of post-Vatican II guidelines in ministry, including the formation of a parish council and board of education to assist with the implementation of these directives.

St. Henry parishioners still remember fondly Father O’Connor’s 23 years as their pastor. Father O’Connor had a wonderful command of the English language. His homilies were so profound and so inspirational.

In July of 1991, Father O’Connor retired from active ministry. At the time, he attributed his move to his own mother. “I don’t think he ever raised his voice,” Rita Belot recalls. “You didn’t expect the humor to come there, but when you got to know him, you could just sense it back there.”

When Father O’Connor retired on Sept. 1, 1991, he left a loving parish behind. “He was so revered and still is,” notes Belot. In retirement, Father O’Connor moved to Fort Wayne’s southwest side and, after a chance encounter with Father Bob Schulte, then-pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, began assisting with weekend and weekday Masses at St. Elizabeth. This, according to Father Schulte, gave Father O’Connor a chance to celebrate Mass in a community, rather than alone in his home. “He provided a little different perspective to the group of people,” Father Schulte, rector of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, says of recalling Father O’Connor as “more of a traditional preacher.”

Even as he grew physically frail, Father O’Connor was still a strong preacher. He was also always a good person to talk to who often had interesting or amusing stories.

Father Dominique Carboneau was a seminarian at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish during this time and recalls of Father O’Connor, “He was a sunny man and there was something of a Renaissance man. He was a gentleman and, though he knew a lot of things, was very humble. That always impressed me about him.”

Father Carboneau adds that Father O’Connor reminded him of the priest in the movie, “The Bells of St. Mary’s,” noting that he rarely cultivated, often in a dress hat. “He was the kind of priest they don’t make anymore.”

Father O’Connor is survived by his sisters, Therese O’Connor of Merrillville and a School Sister of Notre Dame, Sister James Marie of Rockford, Ill., several cousins and his former secretary of 40 years, Massa Messenger of Columbia City. Mass of Christian Burial was Dec. 7 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Burial was in Calvary Cemetery, Portage, Ind., with his parents. Memorials to Father O’Connor’s (Mullins Foundation fund for seminarians Diocese of Gary) or Masses.

FATHER JAMES O’CONNOR

He was the kind of priest they don’t make anymore.

(Author's note: This story was contributed by my father, Dr. Steven O’Connor.)

George Weigel speaks of O’Connor’s life

George Weigel, author of the biography of Pope John Paul II, said that Pope Benedict’s “hunger and thirst for justice” is similar to life during desertlike conditions where people’s lives and inner beings are “in the life-giving water that is Christ.”

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Mother Teresa’s relationship with Mary was spiritually intense
Missionary of Charity priest with Fort Wayne ties writes on Mother Teresa

BY LAUREN CAGIANO

FORT WAYNE — It was through a chance encounter with a book in 1972 in Rome that Father Joseph Langford came to know Mother Teresa.

Years later, in 2007, the priest is still in awe of the woman that led him to co-found her priest’s community, the Missionaries of Charity Fathers. The priest has released a book detailing her intimate relationship with the Blessed Virgin — “Mother Teresa: In the Shadow of Our Lady.”

“I saw her photo in the first book that came out on her in 1972,” he said. “I felt like I had before me a female Christ.”

Father Langford views his new book as a chance to “pay it forward” and pass on the power of Mother Teresa’s grace.

According to Father Langford, saints can be powerful intercessors in our everyday lives. “The grace God gives us through the saints can be mediated through other ways,” he said.

Father Langford’s book captures the mystery of Mother Teresa’s faith, particularly the visions that inspired her mission. It was while still in her original order, the Loreto Sisters, Mother Teresa experienced mystical graces and a great union with God, Father Langford explained. Later, on a trip to Rome in 1946 at age 24, she had an overwhelming experience of the love of God, during which she was given Our Lady to be a special presence in the lives of all.

“Each of us is called to do something beautiful for God, he said. “We have every available access to the fullness and richness of our faith,” he said. “But the poor have nothing.”

Furthermore, as Father Langford explained, we are called to make use of our gifts. “Each one of us has been given gifts,” he said. “We will be judged (according to) what we have done to live that grace of the kingdom.”

In closing, Father Langford said this book is “the first answer to the question of the daily life in this secular age.”

The book is currently available in Catholic bookstores and on www.osv.com.

John Norton appointed editor of OSV Newsweekly

HUNTINGTON — Our Sunday Visitor Publishing announced recently the hiring of John Norton as editor of Our Sunday Visitor Newsweekly.

A former correspondent for the OSV Newsweekly, Norton has also served as a reporter for the Rome bureau of Catholic News Service and as an international news anchor for Vatican Radio.

“John brings to the position a knowledge of the international church, solid reporting instincts and an ambitious desire to elevate OSV as a premier source for information and analysis on Catholic issues,” said Greg Erlandson, president of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing.

“We are excited about having him as a member of our publishing team, and look forward to the contribution he will make to Catholic journalism.”

As a correspondent for the Rome bureau of Catholic News Service, Norton wrote more than 1,000 stories from Rome, participated in Vatican news pools and covered papal trips to Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria and Egypt.

As an international news anchor for Vatican Radio, he wrote and anchored the daily English-language newscasts beamed worldwide, as well as covered a papal trip to Mexico City.

“I’m excited to be joining the editorial team of a newswEEKLY that has played such an important role in the history of the church in the United States,” Norton said.

“The next chapter in this history is successfully engaging, informing and inspiring U.S. Catholics in the age of new media. Our Sunday Visitor is uniquely placed to face today’s challenges because of the diversity of its publishing ventures, the talent it has gathered under one roof, and its strong corporate sense of urgency for continual improvement,” he said.

Norton’s responsibilities will include not only leadership of the newsweekly team, but also participation in the development of the publishing Web site, www.OSV.com. He brings to the position experience managing content and process management techniques, as well as a solid background in digital innovation.

Our Sunday Visitor Newsweekly is the flagship publication of Our Sunday Visitor, Inc. Founded in 1912 and published in Huntington. It is the most widely read national Catholic newspaper in the United States. The publishing division also produces several other Catholic periodicals along with hundreds of Catholic books, religious education resources and pamphlets.

John Norton appointed editor of OSV Newsweekly

Holy Cross and St. Stanislaus Parish

Christmas Eve - December 24
4:00 pm - Holy Cross Church (Family Mass)
5:00 pm - St. Stanislaus Church

Midnight Mass 12:00 am - St. Stanislaus

Christmas Day - December 25
9:30 am - St. Stanislaus 11:00 am - Holy Cross

Mary, Mother of God Vigil (New Year’s Eve)
5:30 pm - Holy Cross Church

Mary, Mother of God - January 1, 2008
9:30 am - St. Stanislaus Church
God remains source of comfort in shooting tragedy, Omaha priest says

BY LISA MAXSON

OMAHA, Neb. (CNS) — In a time of great sadness and pain, God remains present as a source of comfort, an Omaha priest said in his homily at a Dec. 6 prayer service for the victims of shootings the day before at one of the city’s shopping malls.

“We turn to God, not because God will reveal answers to all of our questions, but because God is faithful to his promise: to walk at our side in times of sorrow, even as he does in times of joy,” Father Harry Buse, pastor at St. Leo Church in Omaha, told a capacity crowd of family, friends and co-workers of the victims.

St. Leo Church is located just blocks from Westroads Mall where 19-year-old Robert Hawkins entered the Von Maur department store Dec. 5 around 1:30 p.m. with an AK-47 assault rifle and randomly shot and killed eight and wounded five others before turning the gun on himself.

On the night of the shootings, a candlelight vigil at St. John’s Church on the campus of Jesuit-run Creighton University was the first public gathering.

A midday prayer service was held at the campus church Dec. 6. Also, a bell rang for each victim, including the shooter, as candles were carried to the altar.

“At the St. John’s service, Jesus Father Roc O’Connor, rector of the Jesuit community at Creighton, asked the 800 people gathered to be ‘men and women for others’ in the face of tragedy.

“The men and women of Creighton University have always been here for each other,” he said. “Today is no different and that makes us a special community.”

Victim McDonald was a graduate of Creighton University, as is one of the wounded shoppers, 34-year-old Jeff Schaffart.

Father Buse went to Westroads Mall shortly after the shootings to offer pastoral assistance.

Ministering to people in times of tragedy is common for priests, but not normally a situation of this magnitude, he said.

“I am aware that as a priest one time come where we are called to be part of sad and tragic situations of various kinds, but the magnitude of this is certainly unexpected,” he told the Catholic Voice, newspaper of the Omaha Archdiocese.

“Certainly these tragedies remind us of the brokenness of the human condition, of the fact that sin is part of our lives as humans,” Father Buse said. “But it also reminds us to remember that Jesus rises above all of that.”

One of the last victims to be identified was Trent. Her family had been in agony waiting for the news. Father Frank Dvorak, one of several chaplains for the Omaha Police Department, ministered to them as they waited at the Hampton Inn across the street from the mall.

“It’s like any tragedy. To be able to be present to people suffering many times is really more important than what we say,” the priest said. “The presence we give to people in that time lets them know that they aren’t alone.”

While mourning the loss of the victims, Father Dvorak said that as Christians we can’t forget to pray for the shooter.

“If we really have faith that Jesus died for everyone we recognize that we can do some drastic evil things and be forgiven,” he said. “We don’t believe God will judge harshly those who are not sane. So when you think about the young man we should be thankful God is merciful.”

A tragedy like the mall shootings provides the opportunity for people to remember what the season of Advent is about and ask themselves if there is a place for Jesus in their lives, he said.

“God is always with us,” Father Dvorak said. “If we don’t have that relationship with God, then maybe this is a call to begin to find out what’s missing in our lives and to open ourselves up to the hope, peace and true joy that Christ brings.”

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ST. MONICA CHURCH, MISHAWAKA
Christmas Schedule - December 24 and 25
Children’s Mass
Monday, December 24, 4:30 p.m. with Caroling beginning at 4:00 p.m.
Christmas Vigil Mass
Monday, December 24, 10:00 p.m. with Caroling beginning at 9:30 p.m.
Christmas Day Mass, Tuesday, December 25, 10:00 a.m.
New Year’s Day Mass, Tuesday, January 1, 10:00 a.m.

All Saints Religious Goods
3506 South Calhoun Street, Fort Wayne
260-456-9173
(across from South Side High School)
• Fontanini Nativities
• Religious Christmas Cards
• Books • Bibles
• Rosaries • Statues • Crucifixes
POPE GREETS ORTHODOX METROPOLITAN AT VATICAN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI greeted Russian Orthodox Metropolitan Kirill before a meeting at the Vatican Dec. 7. The pope and Metropolitan Kirill, head of the Moscow Patriarchate’s office for external relations, held a rare meeting in a bid to improve often-strained relations.

An interview with Metropolitan Kirill was published late in the afternoon by L’Osservatore Romano, the Vatican newspaper. “The meeting with the pope was very positive and very beautiful,” he said. “On our agenda there are many important themes such as the promotion of basic values.”

POPE OKS plenary indulgence for Lourdes’ 150th anniversary

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — To mark the 150th anniversary of Mary’s appearance to St. Bernadette Soubirous near Lourdes, France, Pope Benedict XVI authorized a special indulgence to encourage renewed holiness. Catholics can receive a plenary indulgence for taking part in any public or private devotion to Our Lady of Lourdes, said U.S. Cardinal J. Francis Stafford, head of the Apostolic Penitentiary, a Vatican court dealing with indulgences and matters of conscience. As Christians strive to become more holy, they can look to Mary who “calls the faithful to her son and has sacrifice and to the love of the Father,” said the cardinal, quoting from “Lumen Gentium,” the Second Vatican Council’s Dogmatic Constitution on the Church. The Vatican published the cardinal’s statement announcing the indulgence and outlining the requirements for receiving at Dec. 5. An indulgence is a remission of the temporal punishment due for sins committed. A plenary indulgence is the remission of all punishment.

Cardinal has said he was assaulted over abuse crisis

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — Los Angeles Cardinal Roger M. Mahony told archdiocesan priests in October that he was assaulted during the summer by a man who was angry over the church’s sexual abuse scandal, according to reports that were released last week. Mahony told archdiocesan priests in October that he was assaulted over abuse during an Oct. 1 priests’ pastoral meeting, as an illustration of the toll the abuse scandal has taken on everyone in the church. The three news organizations each quoted several priests confirming that Cardinal Mahony had described being knocked down and beaten or kicked by a man who shouted obscenities and made angry statements about sexual abuse by priests. The Los Angeles Daily News broke the story Dec. 4, Cardinal Mahony’s archdiocesan spokeswoman for the Los Angeles Archdiocese, declined to comment on any of the allegations or to Catholic News Service.

Vatican discovers rare Michelangelo sketch of St. Peter’s dome

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican has discovered a rare sketch of the dome of St. Peter’s Basilica drawn by Michelangelo Buonarroti. Some believe the 1563 drawing may be the last surviving example of the Renaissance master’s work on St. Peter’s. Cardinal Camillo Ruini, the Vatican’s chief engineer, said the torn sketch was found recently in the archives of the Fabrica di San Pietro, the office of the Vatican’s chief engineer.

Myanmar’s bishops: Cut down on parties, focus on promoting peace

YANGON, Myanmar (CNS) — Bishops in Myanmar have called on Catholics to mark the Advent and Christmas season with a focus on promoting peace and development. Archbishopps Paul Zinzhtung Grawng of Mandalay and Charles Bo of Yangon, president and general secretary, respectively, of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of Myanmar, issued the message on behalf of the bishops. The message was dated Dec. 3, reported the Asian church news agency UCA News. In September, the government cracked down on protests — led by Buddhist monks — against rising prices and corruption.

Cardinal says he was assaulted over abuse crisis

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POPE GREETS ORTHODOX METROPOLITAN AT VATICAN

(VATICAN CITY, CNS) — The Vatican’s Congregation for the Clergy unveiled a Web site offering the Bible in nine languages, the Code of Canon Law and commentaries on Sunday liturgy. The congregation’s new site, www.biblia-clerus.org, is part of its www.clerus.org Web site which also has increased the number of resources available in its electronic library, said a Dec. 8 letter by the congregation’s prefect, Cardinal Claudio Hummes. While the Web sites are open to everyone, they are geared toward serving the world’s priests, deacons and catechists, the letter said. The resources on the new Web site already had been available from the congregation on a CD and had been distributed to 140,000 clergy around the world.

Pope says he hopes talks with Baptists bear fruit for dialogue

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI told Baptist and Catholic representatives he hoped conversations between the two denominations “will bear abundant fruit for the progress of dialogue and the increase of understanding and cooperation.” The pope met privately at the Vatican Dec. 6 with more than 20 delegates who were in Rome for an annual meeting of the joint international commission sponsored by the Baptist World Alliance and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. Pope Benedict said if reconciliation and greater fellowship between Baptists and Catholics were to be realized, it would be necessary to resolve certain issues “need to be faced together, in a spirit of openness, mutual respect and fidelity” to the Gospel. He said some of the “historically controverted issues” that needed further discussion include “the relationship between Scripture and tradition, the understanding of baptism and the sacraments, the place of Mary in the communion of the church, and the nature of oversight and primacy in the church’s ministerial structure.”

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New York (CNS) — Modern life does not inevitably entail the retreat of religion from the public forum, concluded participants in a Dec. 5 Fordham University panel discussion on the myths and realities of secularization. Those who argue the world is growing both more secular and more religious.

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**AROUND THE DIOCESE**

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY BLESSES NEW CARE-VAN**

**FORT WAYNE** — Father Daryl Rybicki, chaplain of the St. Vincent de Paul Society in Fort Wayne, and pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish in Fort Wayne, blesses the society’s new Dodge Care-Van, which will transport those in need to medical, dental and rehabilitation appointments. The Care-Van program transports approximately 1,200 people per year.

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**TV Mass marks 21 years**

**SOUTH BEND —** The Sunday televised Mass over WNDU TV marked its 21st anniversary on the first Sunday of Advent and was celebrated by Father Bernard Galic, pastor of Holy Family Church and Eucharistic Director of the Eucharistic Congress last August at the University of Notre Dame and since then has been hosted by several parishes of the diocese.

**SOUTH BEND** — The Sunday televised Mass marks 21 years on the air. The Mass was introduced at the Eucharistic Congress last August at the University of Notre Dame and since then has been hosted by several parishes of the diocese.

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**St. Meinrad monks write book on Catholic prayer**


Among the contributors are Archabbots John M. D’Arcy and Sharon Little was the photographer.

**FORT WAYNE** — The exhibit featuring color photos of 90 churches and chapels within the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend will open Dec. 17 at the History Center, 302 E. Berry St.

The exhibit consists of 360 color photos from the active Catholic churches, plus an additional eight sites, including oratories, religious communities/congregations and the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Notre Dame.

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**NOTRE DAME** — Dr. Libusa Radkova, a social work professor at St. Elisabeth University in Bratislava, Slovakia, visited Saint Mary’s College and South Bend the week of Dec. 10 to learn more about St. Joseph County’s Bridges out of Poverty program.

Saint Mary’s College introduced “Bridges” to the community in 2004. It is a national educational program based on author Ruby Payne’s book, “A Framework for Understanding Poverty and Bridges Out of Poverty.”

Saint Mary’s College Center for Women’s Intercultural Leadership and South Bend businesses, agencies and organizations are using “Bridges” as a framework to transform this into a sustainable community in which individuals move from generational poverty to self-sufficiency, enhancing the quality of life for everyone and creating a model for other communities.

During the week, Radkova visited area agencies to learn more about how the South Bend community is using the “Bridges” program to address poverty. She will then take the ideas back to Slovakia in hopes of bringing about social change there.

**Crèches on display at Archabbey Library**

**ST. MEINRAD** — An exhibit of Christmas crèches from around the world will be on display at the Saint Meinrad Archabbey Library, St. Meinrad, now through Jan. 7.

The display contains crèches from the monastery collection, as well as from the Catherine A. Smith Collection, which was donated to Saint Meinrad in 2002 in memory of Charles Patrick (“Pat”) Smith.

Smith began collecting Nativity sets in 1971, purchasing many during her extensive travels throughout the world. She donated the collection to Saint Meinrad in memory of her brother, who studied for the priesthood at Saint Meinrad and later served as a priest in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

The crèches selected for display represent a variety of styles and media: porcelain, wood, glazed tile, glass and others.

The exhibit is free and open to the public. Exhibit hours are: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to noon and 1-5 p.m.; Saturday, 9-11 a.m. and 1-5 p.m.; and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. Exceptions are Dec. 26-28, when hours are 1-4:30 p.m. The library will be closed Dec. 22-25 and Dec. 29-Jan. 1. All times are Central Standard Time.

Please arrive at least 30 minutes before closing to view the exhibit.

**St. Jude School plans to meet needs of South Bend's south side**

**SOUTH BEND** — St. Jude Catholic School announced Dec. 3 that it is anticipating expansion on South Bend’s south side and intends to meet the needs of today’s parents who are savvy consumers of education for their children.

A group of 17 participants, including school board members, alumni and special guests Tom Doyle of Notre Dame’s Alliance for Catholic Education and Harry Verhulyn from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, met on Nov. 27 to review school progress and engage in strategic planning for the next five years. This meeting comes on the heels of a more recent visit to St. Jude by Bishop John M. D’Arcy, who reiterated that St. Jude is a strong school, important to the architecture of the South and beyond.

The 50-year-old school provides all-day kindergarten and educates children through eighth grade. With its well-tenured faculty, faceted Opportunities program and strong athletics participation, it serves as a reliable feeder school for Marian and Saint Joseph’s high schools.

Strategic additions to faculty and programming have resulted in a state-of-the-art science laboratory, computer lab with up-to-date computers donated by the University of Notre Dame, after-school enrichment programs and a variety of programs for students’ reading comprehension and problem solving.

Recent standardized surveys of fifth and eighth grade students reveal school strengths such as: approachable faculty; positive teacher-student relationships; teaching of Christian values and morals; involved parental affection for the school; small class sizes; individual attention; and strong leadership.

“St. Jude is for anyone who values lifelong learning through faith-based education,” says Principal Kathleen Donnelly, a graduate of the University of Notre Dame’s ACE master of education program. The percentage of executives of the school’s ISTEP scores shows a general trend approaching the 90th percentile; the school is undertaking steps to improve scores in the 95th percentile range in 3-7 years. The strategic planners also report on new opportunities for St. Jude School to:

- Offer strong arts and foreign language programs.
- Differentiate instruction to...
Saint Joseph’s High School hosts career day

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

SOUTH BEND — Doctor, lawyer, judge, journalist and veterinarian over 107 parents, alums and community members spoke at the annual Saint Joseph’s High School Career Day. Throughout the day on Nov. 8, students of all grade levels had the opportunity to hear people from a variety of different career paths speak about their jobs. Parent and social worker Karen Matthews spoke to the students about her work in the neonatal intensive care unit at Memorial Hospital in South Bend.

“I talked about my role in the NICU as a social worker,” said Matthews. She talked about things that go on within the unit and about the work she does with families to help them through some very rough times with their little one.

“You realize after 20 years in this career you have something to offer,” said Matthews about what made her decide to participate in the event. “It’s a unique place to work, and I want to share my experience.”

Matthews was very happy with the way her sessions went and felt the students she spoke to seemed really interested in what she had to offer them about her career path.

“I thought it was really good. They asked good questions and the kids were really attentive,” said Nemeth. She mentioned that her sessions were in a classroom that was part of the girls’ wing when she was in high school.

“It’s a good thing,” said Nemeth about the career day program. “It does expose them to different people and different things.”

Former Indiana governor and 1964 graduate Joe Kernan attended the event and talked to the students about his life in politics and as an entrepreneur.

“I gave them a little background on the fact that 44 years ago I was sitting where they were sitting and that was a month after Studebaker closed,” said Kernan. Life changed drastically for families in Michiana after that closing, and he related how life changes like this affected his life and the career paths he took throughout his adult life.

“I wanted to help them recognize there’s lots of opportunities out there for them they might not think are possible or too big to reach that may come along that they can take advantage of,” said Kernan about what he hopes the students got out of listening to his talk. “I hope they got something that could be of use or value.”

St. Joseph School project aids community

MONROEVILLE — The Monroeville community will be a little better prepared for emergencies thanks in part to the efforts of St. Joseph School students. The school partnered with Monroeville EMS for a service project of folding and assembling two sizes of File of Life packets. These handy red files can be filled out with emergency information and posted on the front of a refrigerator or carried in a wallet to provide help should a life-threatening emergency arise.

The project started when fourth grade teacher, Debbie Groves, went home to visit in Rochester this summer and came back with some inspiration.

“They were handing out these little red packets that could be filled with emergency information,” said Groves. She had never seen anything like it before and thought it was a great idea.

“My grandmother is in her 90s — this would be great for the elderly. What if someone had a stroke and couldn’t talk or had a diabetic episode?” she questioned.

Groves may be more aware of emergency situations because she worries about her elderly grandmother, but it may be the fact that her son, Kyle, is now studying to be a paramedic. “I guess I am more aware of medical situations now that he is involved in that field.”

Groves picked up her File of Life at the farmers market in Fulton County. The local Lions Club supplied it. She thought that it was a great idea.

“Pumped up.”

Fourth-grader Evan Renninger thought it would be a good idea that his great-grandmother had one on her refrigerator.

Second-grader Sofia Love was inspired by the thought of helping others and said it made her feel “pumped up.”

Rylee Schane, a third grader, also thought it was a good idea. “If you have an emergency, people will know where to look right away.”

Monroeville EMS plans to distribute the File of Life to various locations including doctor’s offices, by request, at special events and setting up a table at a local business several times a year.

Sierra Wenger, Torry Wild and Elizabeth Zelt prepare the File of Life fold-ers.

The project was funded by memorial donations to Monroeville EMS.

As this year’s theme for St. Joseph School states, “We can do no great things; only small things with great LOVE” by Blessed Mother Teresa, “This project was just another example of doing what Jesus would do.”

Sierra Wenger, Torry Wild and Elizabeth Zelt prepare the File of Life fold-ers.

Wishing everyone a Blessed Advent and Christmas Season!
AROUND

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

BY LAUREN CAGGIANO

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Dwenger High School is offering an SAT prep course on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-7:30 p.m. Classes will begin on Jan. 15, 2008, and end on Feb. 28.

The 14 sessions will include the diagnostic testing, six verbal and six math sessions.

The class fee is $160 and includes the text for the course. The class will address the new SAT. The class is open to any high school student in the Fort Wayne area. For more information and registration, please call Pat Wilson at Bishop Dwenger High School at (260) 496-4700.

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Dwenger earned the moniker “City of Churches” in the late 19th century, as numerous towers and church steeples began to form the distinct skyline. The city’s Catholic churches and parishioners have shaped the city’s culture since its inception. Today, 16 remain in Fort Wayne, each with its own unique charm and notoriety.

Tom Castaldi, Allen County historian, and Janice Cantrell, the diocese’s archivist, are well-versed in the local churches’ histories. When it comes to notable architecture, the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and St. Mary Church come to mind. Both Castaldi and Cantrell assert that the older parishes have the most charm, but the variation in style adds to the city’s appeal.

“I would say that our older parishes are well known for their historical architecture,” Castaldi said. “These parishes are good examples of the traditional historic architecture of churches. All of our parishes in Fort Wayne are good representations of typical architecture for churches in the time period that they were built.”

Castaldi, moreover, is personally drawn to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception’s charm. “The cathedral itself and what it was today was completed in 1860 and at the time was the largest church in Indiana,” the historian said. “In 1998, it was closed for a major restoration and renovation project. In the process, the east window in the apse was made more clearly visible to the congregation. When it was installed in 1896-97, together with the other windows in the cathedral, they were described as the finest of their kind.”

As Castaldi recounts, St. Mary Church is alive with historical value.

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Early photo of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne.
Holy Cross teacher wins grant to visit Africa

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

SOUTH BEND – When Holy Cross School teacher Jennifer Sosinski applied for a Lily Endowment that would allow her $8,000 to renew herself, she never imagined her wish to go to Africa would come true.

It did, and Sosinski went to Africa June 21 through July 18 where she spent time living with a host family, learning the customs and traditions of the African people while working in an orphanage. She had the chance to teach fourth grade English and Science along with fifth grade English. On the last three days of her trip, she had the privilege to go on an African safari where she was guided by a local tribe through the jungles of Africa.

“I put this in and decided I might as well try. I put my grandest wish out there,” said Sosinski about the grant application. “This is a chance of a lifetime. I thought I would try to do something that I could never do by myself.”

Sosinski has always been interested and concerned about the conditions of orphanages overseas, and the care the children were receiving. As a mother, she felt a strong desire to help those children and was concerned by the media’s portrayal of orphanages in the early 1980s.

An African safari has also been something she was always interested in doing and creating a trip that would allow her to help orphans in Africa along with the adventure of a safari seemed like the perfect trip proposal.

“Every day my prayer was that if it’s your will I’ll win this grant,” said Sosinski about the long weeks of waiting and praying for the grant.

Sosinski said the trip was amazing and a life altering experience. She soon realized that the horrible images of orphans were a gross exaggeration. The facility, By Grace Center Orphanage, where she worked housed 200 children in residence and 150 children that lived elsewhere and came to school each day. Children had to wear uniforms to school and the children taught within the building were in preschool through seniors in high school.

Everything was written on boards because the children had no books and Sosinski was amazed at the children’s constant happiness no matter how much work they did or how great the obstacles of their environment. She was amazed at how all the children have a vision and purpose in their life at such young ages.

“They were quiet and they wanted to learn,” said Sosinski about her students. “They want to come to America to learn at our universities.”

Before leaving on her trip, she spent the month of May at Holy Cross School raising funds to take with her on her trip. She and her fourth-grade students spent time learning about Africa and educating themselves on the customs and traditions that Sosinski would experience on her trip.

The school adopted this orphanage as a group they wanted to help financially and pray for, raising $2,500 that was used to purchase supplies for the orphanage and install new tile flooring in the facility.

“It was an eye opener to me at how amazing the world really is,” said Sosinski about her entire trip and experience. She had the opportunity to meet some wonderful children, watch a baby be born while staying with the host family, learn about local tribes in Africa and dispel any myths she believed about life in an orphanage.

Sosinski is planning a return trip in summer 2008, but this time she is taking six other people with her on her adventure. Sosinski, another teacher at the school and five high school students are currently fundraising for their trip and they plan to work in the orphanage and embark on a three-day safari before they leave the area. It costs over $2,000 to fly and money to stay with a host family so the group has started holding bake sales, port-a-pit chicken sales, and various other fund-raising plans to try and raise the funds for all seven people to make the trip.

While in Africa, she read two chapter books about the character Flat Stanley and brought them back to America for her current fourth grade students to take around town (and the United States if traveling) to take back to Africa and share with their students on her next visit.

“My goal this time is to help a young third grader who is deaf and speaks by writing or by letter signing,” said Sosinski. “In spring I’m taking classes in sign language and I want to do something for him.”
**Sesquicentennial Year Nears End**

**Bishop D’Arcy Opens Jubilee Year**

“Let this year be a year of joy,” Bishop John M. D’Arcy announced in a letter that opened the diocesan Sesquicentennial Jubilee Year. He is shown at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Dec. 31 as he presided at the inaugural Mass that opened the jubilee. The year was opened in South Bend on Jan. 7 at St. Matthew Cathedral.

**You Can Always Come Home**

The Catholic Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

Celebrating 150 years

diocesefwsb.org

**Jubilee Pilgrim Cross Processes**

Young people from across the diocese processed the traveling Jubilee Pilgrim Cross across the campus of the University of Notre Dame to the Joyce Center for the closing Mass. The Jubilee Pilgrim Cross traveled across the diocese to all parishes and Catholic institutions and culminated its journey at the Eucharistic Congress.

**Billboards Promote Welcome Home**

“You can always come home” was the theme of billboards and posters throughout the diocese as part of an evangelization outreach to inactive or under-active Catholics. The campaign also featured television advertisements, Wells of Hope and a 1-877 MERCY4U telephone line. Mercy Day, on March 20, offered penitential opportunities and the return of many to the church.

**Pinnacle Of Celebrations**

The Eucharistic Congress held Saturday, Aug. 18, at the University of Notre Dame, was the pinnacle day of celebration. The day concluded with a diocesan-wide Mass at the Joyce Center. Saturday vigil Masses, weddings, funerals and reconciliation were suspended that day so priests and parishioners could travel to Notre Dame. Activities included an ecumenical prayer service, catechetical workshops, eucharistic adoration, rosary at the grotto and the sacrament of reconciliation.

**Entrustment To The Blessed Mother**

On Dec. 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception, the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend was entrusted to the Immaculate Conception at all parishes and Catholic institutions.
ALL SCHOOLS MASS IN SOUTH BEND
The 16th annual all schools Mass at the Joyce Center at the University of Notre Dame was celebrated Jan. 29. Students carry in the traveling Jubilee Cross, which visited every parish and Catholic institution during the jubilee year. A Mass in Fort Wayne was held on Oct. 2.

JUBILEE WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASSES
Married couples who observed their 25th, 50th or more wedding anniversaries were invited to special jubilee Masses celebrated in Fort Wayne and South Bend. Randy and Roberta Polovick are shown at the St. Matthew Cathedral celebration on Sept. 9.

JUBILEE CELEBRATION WITH RELIGIOUS
Religious sisters, brothers and priests gathered at Ancilla Domini Chapel in Donaldson on Nov. 4 for a jubilee celebration of religious life.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN FORT WAYNE
The Sisters of Providence, who served several parish schools and Central Catholic High School, were invited to a Mass on Nov. 18 in honor of the order’s foundress, St. Mother Theodore Guérin, who was canonized a saint in the Catholic Church on Oct. 15, 2006, in Rome.

ORDINATIONS
Bishop John M. D’Arcy ordained to the priesthood Fathers Jason Freiburger and Bob Lengerich on Saturday, Oct. 27.

JERUSALEM STONE...
QUARRIED IN THE HOLY LAND, IS ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE 20% DISCOUNT!

REMEMBERING FOUNDRRESS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN FORT WAYNE

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FIFTY YEARS
Bishop John M. D’Arcy celebrated his 50th anniversary to the priesthood on April 15.

REGIONAL CONFIRMATIONS
Bishop John M. D’Arcy, joined by parish priests, celebrated regional confirmations in both Fort Wayne, shown above, on Sept. 30 and in South Bend on Sept. 23.
Passing on the Catholic faith through schools and religious education programs has long been a priority throughout diocesan history. This commitment has remained strong during the D’Arcy years (and significant fund-raising programs and salary enhancements were put into place to guarantee the future of Catholic education).

…Through the years, overall enrollment figures for diocesan schools has remained stable. In 1985, the diocese’s 43 grade schools enrolled 12,042 students; in 2005, 41 grade schools enrolled 11,572 students. In 1985, the five diocesan high schools (including the one in Huntington closed that year) enrolled 3,114 students. In 1986, the four diocesan high schools enrolled 2,982. In 2005, the combined enrollment of the four was 3,160.

…The diocese’s growing financial strength from the Annual Bishop’s Appeal and a commitment to the church’s social mission has enlarged the scope of Christian service (through diocesan agencies such as Catholic Charities). … Bishop D’Arcy has insisted on the highest standards for seminarians and priests. … Accordingly, he has aimed to strengthen the priesthood with his personal access to seminarians and priests. …

It’s Christmas!
...is his gift in your heart?

He doesn’t need toys. He makes do with those he has. What he needs is comfort; the kind that comes from having a warm home, food and clothing and the feeling that things are going to be all right. You can be the one to provide that feeling by giving generously to Catholic Charities.

To donate online, visit our website http://www.ccfwsb.org and click on GIVE NOW

[Charitable donation details]
What Joseph teaches

In the first two chapters of Matthew’s Gospel there are two annunciations made to Joseph in dreams. The first one concerns the birth of Jesus; the second centers around the need to flee Herod. In a way, Matthew’s “dreams” prepare the need for inner peace and silence. And they also point out how in redemptive reality, all depends upon God’s initiative.

We know very little of Joseph’s background. Matthew concludes his account of this annunciation with the observation: “Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary. Of her was born Jesus who is called the Christ.”

Both the fact that he was the husband of Mary and his gentle sensitivity toward Mary when she was found to be with child (Mt. 1, 18-19) indicates that on a human level, Joseph could be a man of great love. And we might pause to reflect upon the truth, enunciated by Francois Mauriac, that the love of God is essential for understanding divine love.

The qualities of human love which he showed us help us understand God’s love for us. Many. We might just list a few.

Love is never an abstraction. It is always directed toward an individual. Love involves, as we know, total acceptance of the other. If we give thought to it, we realize that love is a gift — it cannot be programmed. Nor is it earned. As we know, true love is ever deepening. All of these qualities are reflective of the love God has for each one of us.

There is one specific quality of our human love that must be emphasized. The poet and writer Charles Williams singled out this characteristic when he wrote his bride-to-be: “I do not wish you to love me simply as I am, but I want you to love me as your way to God.” Loving others as their way to God afflicts the notion of love — on any level — with a specific Christian dimension.

As we turn to the annunciations which center about Joseph, we see how he was able to accept a mystery in faith. One could not — on a natural level — comprehend the angel’s message. As yet the idea of a three-person Deity had not yet been revealed. Thus the Holy Spirit as a Divine Person would have been unknown. And faith always demands, as mentioned above, an element of trust clining to God and his Word.

The message the angel delivered has deep relevance for our selves. The child to be born is Emanuel — God-with-us. God’s approach to us is one of attachment. At baptism, he irrevocably promises that he will walk with us every step of our earthly journey. We merely have to turn to him, in our difficulties, to seek his support.

Nor should we be afraid to turn to the Lord for his help. Indeed, later in the Gospel Jesus invites us to take his yoke upon us. His listeners would have grasped the meaning of this image. They would have seen how, for example, two oxen are yoked together to share the burden they are carrying. In an analogous way, Jesus is indicating to us that he is willing — rather desirous — to support us, to share our burdens and to strengthen us.

With what Joseph did in the first annunciation to Joseph, I am reminded of a question that I often ask myself: what do I want to bring to the Lord at the time of judgment. My answer is connected with verse 21: “…you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” The conversion and salvation of sinners is close to the heart of Jesus from the very beginning. And it is a challenge for myself to continually pray and sacrifice for this intention.

There are two final points to be made concerning Joseph. As the Scriptures indicate, he was a carpenter. His life was circumscribed by ordinary tasks. Yet he was chosen to be the guardian of the Child and his mother. In this, he teaches us the importance of the ordinary in God’s plan. It reminds us that it is through our ordinary activity that we too should be conscious of bringing forth Christ in our world.

The second point is to realize that sometimes the faith-life will lead to hardships. This is especially true in a culture which easily dismisses Christian values. In our case, Joseph sees the hardships in his journey to Bethlehem, his rejection at the inn, the birthplace of the Lord. And finally, we read: “Joseph rose and took the child and his mother and fled to Egypt.” From the Archdiocese of Boston.

Today’s Catholic welcomes letters from readers. All letters must be signed and include a phone number and address for verification.

Today’s Catholic reserves the right to edit for clarity and length. Address letters to: Today’s Catholic • PO. Box 11169 • Fort Wayne, IN • 46856-1169 or e-mail to: editor@fd.dio徊ceofwb.org

MSGR. THOMAS MCDONNELL

John the Evangelist

died c. 100
feast - December 27

John and James were Galilean fishermen called from mending their nets to follow Jesus, who nicknamed them “sons of thunder.” Along with Peter, the brothers were in Jesus’ inner circle: witnessing his transfiguration and agony in the Garden. John, always “the beloved disciple” tradition, was given the care of Mary on Calvary. In later years, he was exiled on Patmos, and reportedly died at a great age in Ephesus. Authorship of the fourth Gospel, three New Testament letters and the Book of Revelation are attributed to John and his followers.

John the Evangelist
Will new director take museums far from the madding crowd?

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Perhaps even more than Michelangelo’s frescoes or the statue of Laocoön, the discouragingly long entrance line — often stretching half a mile — has become the modern emblem of the Vatican Museums.

In peak seasons, visitors can wait more than an hour to get inside the museum complex. And once inside, it’s a kind of shoulder to some of the more popular rooms and hallways.

The congestion is the price of success at the Vatican Museums, where attendance has more than tripled over the last 30 years. In 1976, about 1.3 million people came to the museums; last year, the number reached nearly 4.3 million.

Economically, this is all good news. Last year, the Vatican Museum took in about $65 million. Last year, the Vatican was the number one most visited museum in the world.

Visitors are attracted by the art and history. This year, the Vatican is planning to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the death of Raphael, one of the most famous artists of the High Renaissance.

But for visitors, the experience can be more claustrophobic than cultural. A recent morning in the Sistine Chapel, where every-
that true? I have a friend who wants to get married in the Catholic faith, but would like to have his wedding outdoors at a park with a priest. Is this possible? **Anonymous**

This is a fairly common question, especially considering the picturesque scenes of weddings often depicted in movies and on television. The answer is that Catholic weddings should take place indoors, in a church. Canon Law states the norm: “a marriage between Catholics or between a Catholic and a non-Catholic baptized party is to be celebrated in a parish church.” It is not the practice in this diocese to grant outdoor exceptions.

This rule exists for both practical and theological reasons. Practically speaking, the participants in the wedding ceremony do not have to make last minute provisions for unpredictable weather, which can easily spoil any outdoor event. And aesthetically, wedding vows are ideally exchanged within the holy Mass as celebrated before the community in a church, the house of God. Moreover, like all the sacraments, Mass flows from the Eucharist.

Holy Communion is the ultimate sign and instrumentality that lends context to the nuptial union of a man and a woman, emphasizing that matrimony is a profound sharing in Christ’s marriage with the church. “Communion,” after all, speaks of unity, and of the free gift of Christ’s humanity and divinity for us — a total gift reflected in the sacrament of marriage.

This is also why candle “candles” are strongly discouraged as inappropriate for wedding Masses — they draw the connection and focus away from the true source and symbol of unity, the Eucharist.

Among the fallen

VALLE DE LOS CAIDOS, Spain — Judged by the standards of a century replete with political slaughter, the Spanish Civil War of 1936-39 can seem a tame affair. Tens of millions died in Stalin’s Ukrainian hunger famine. In the Pacific, Mao’s Great Leap Forward, and Pol Pot’s Cambodian killing fields; the civil war in the Philippines killed a mere 500,000. In the time, however, and for decades afterwards, the Spanish Civil War was a 20th century political Rorschach blot: whether you stood with the Spanish Republicans or with the Spanish Nationalists was a pretty good indicator of where you stood on other classic left/right divides.

The Spanish Civil War accelerated the development of an anti-totalitarian west in the United States (Orwell being a prime example); conversely, many European and American conservatives thought European Nationalists were fighting a kind of anti-modern crusade.

The truth is that just about everything behaved badly during the Spanish Civil War, and there are atrocities stories to spare on both sides. The victory of Francisco Franco’s Nationalists was frequent and brutal, at the time, as a preview of fascist ascendancy. Yet Anthony Beevor (a British historian sympathetic to the Republicans, a figure in his own right) argued recently that, had the Republicans won with the aid of the USSR, Spain would have become like Romania and Bulgaria after World War II — a Soviet dependency, freed only by the Revolution of 1989.

As the recent beatification of 498 martyrs of that period suggests, the Catholic Church suffered terribly during the Spanish Civil War: the norms of hundreds beatified in the 1980s and 1990s and the nine Martyrs of Asturias canonized in 1999. Yet the beatified and canonized are a fraction of the total — some 7,000 bishops, priests, seminarians, monks and nuns were killed simply because of who they were; no one knows how many thousands of lay Catholics were dispatched for the same reason. Some of the killings were beyond grotesque, as priests and seminarians were treated like bull’s in the ring: stabbed, flayed, their ears cut off, and so forth, before the coup de grace. Entire monasteries, seminaries and convents were wiped out; the dead bodies of nuns were exhumed and desecrated.

There was little (some say no) apostasy. On a clear, crisp mid-November morning, lethal wickedness seems far away as one approaches the Benedictine Abbey of the Holy Cross, the spiritual center of the Valley of the Fallen, the Valle de los Caidos, Spain’s national memorial to its civil war dead. Located about 40 minutes outside Madrid, the complex consists of a national park, in which 40,000 Nationalist and Republican dead are buried; a colossal basilica hewn out of a granite mountain, atop which is the world’s largest cross (some 150 meters high); and behind the memorial cross, a classic monastic grid composed of a monastery, a cathedral, a basilica, and an auditorium.

Reconciliation was preached at Mass; reconciliation is what the monks teach the visitors who come in large numbers every day.

**GEORGE WEIGEL**

Georges Weigel is the president of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.

**THAT’S A GOOD QUESTION**

Sacramental hymnology is technically not part of the actual liturgy. Hence the Mass ends with the final blessing and dismissal by the priest. “Sing to the Lord; Music in Divine Worship,” the newly released set of music guidelines from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, states that a recessional hymn is not necessary, and that an instrumental piece can be substituted.

Another reason for the absence of a recessional hymn may be that a hymn of praise or thanksgiving has already been sung by everyone after Communion, which is a practice that can be found in our diocese.

“Sing to the Lord” suggests that, if a hymn of thanksgiving is used, “it may be appropriate to choose an option other than a congregational song for the recessional. Other options include a choral or instrumental piece or, particularly during Lent, silence.”

**SCRIPTURE SEARCH**

By Patricia Kasten

Gospel for December 16, 2007

Matthew 11:2-11

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for Third Sunday of Advent, Cycle C: a question from John the Baptist to Jesus. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15**

The Vatican has also opened up new sections of the museum. The latest wing, inaugurated in September, was dedicated to Vatican postage stamps. But on a recent morning, the stamp museum was virtually empty, except for a few dozen tourists marched down the hallway toward Michelangelo’s frescoes. They were waiting their feet, and the Sistine Chapel was still king.
Panthers defeat Eagles in CYO basketball action

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — The St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne, Eagles may be 0-2 starting off the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) 2007-2008 season, but Coach Tom Starks is sure that “our best basketball is still very much ahead of us.”

In his opinion, Starks felt they faced the toughest two teams in the Gold League right off the bat. “St. Joe, Decatur, may be the best team in the league and St. Vincent’s, a very well-coached team, is a close second,” predicted Starks. The Eagles lost their opener to Decatur and were defeated by St. Vincent on Saturday, Dec. 8, at St. Joseph Hessen Cassel.

However, Starks is very pleased that his team is improving with each practice after a late start to the season due to the football team’s success. “We are a young team and still meshing together,” explained Starks.

The Eagles have just three eighth graders on the roster and made the decision to bring up seventh graders to complete a full team this season. The coaches agreed that this made the most sense given the large seventh grade class at the school and was a way to avoid cuts at this level. As fifth and sixth graders, this group went undefeated both of the past two years.

The Eagle lineup includes Herm Ross, Matt Wood, Steve May, David Shank, Thomas Starks, Tom Carrier, Dwight Richards, Jack Sturm and Channing Williams with John Shank, Dan Sink, Chris Yeager and Mike Williamson serving as assistant coaches.

As head coach, Starks assured the parents of two things this season: 1) he would make mistakes; 2) the boys would become better basketball players.

He hopes to win a few games for his eighth graders and teach the boys more knowledge of the game in preparation for the next level. Even without a key starter, St. Vincent Coach Todd Martin was very satisfied with his team’s performance in the Gold League matchup saying that it was their “best game of the season so far.”

The Panthers went into the locker room with a 19-10 lead at the half thanks to a trey at the buzzer from Justin Schaefer and went on to win by a final score of 42-25. Channing Williams scored 15 points for the Eagles while Joe Mollers led the Panthers with 11, and Keenan Fuller added 10.

In other action at St. Joseph Hessen Cassel last Saturday, the Hessen Cassel Squares downed the Crusaders from St. Therese, 62-49, despite a 28-point effort from St. Therese, eighth-grader Logan Dorman.

James Knape led the Squires scoring attack with 23 while teammate Mitch Castleman chipped in another 15.

In girls’ Blue League action, the St. Therese Lady Crusaders defeated the Twins from St. Louis, 34-22, Alisha Gerardot of St. Rose led all scorers chalking up 17 points on a night when the Lady Crusaders decisively outplayed the Twins.

In other contests, Holy Family Catholic Archdiocese of Saint Louis, has begun the first year of a new undergraduate program and seeks applicants for an additional full-time faculty position in the philosophical disciplines. Applicants should be Roman Catholic, should exemplify the Gospel in their lives, and should manifest a love for the Eucharist as a source of unity in the Church. They should possess an advanced (preferably terminal) degree, be dedicated to the total formation of seminary students, and be willing to form with the students and colleagues a genuine community of faith, formation, and learning. Applicants should be well versed in the classic themes of Western philosophy and capable of providing a consistent and sound philosophical education to undergraduate seminarians studying for the Roman Catholic priesthood.

Women and persons of color are encouraged to apply. Rank is open. Salary will be determined by qualifications and experience. Review of applications begins January 15, 2008, and continues until the position is filled. Appointment is effective July 1, 2008. Applicants are asked to send a letter of application and curriculum vitae to the following. Inquiries are welcome to the same.

Rev. Donald E. Henke, D.Th.M.
Associate Academic Dean
Assistant Professor of Moral Theology
Kenrick-Glennon Seminary
5200 Glennon Drive
St. Louis, MO 63119-4330
Phone: 314-792-6111
Fax: 314-792-6500
Email: henke@kenrick.edu
Kenrick-Glennon Seminary
www.kenrick.edu

St. Joseph Hessen Cassel Squire Wil Knape takes a shot at the Squares vs. St. Therese Crusaders game Dec. 8 at St. Joseph Hessen Cassel gym.

BISHOP DWENGER TO HOST WINTER FANTASY GUARD SHOW IN JANUARY

For those interested in learning more about Color Guard, Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne will host a day of excitement and competition with over 30 teams competing at the school on Saturday, Jan. 26, 2008, beginning at 10 a.m. and running through the day. Admission is $5. This is a fundraiser for the Bishop Dwenger Music Boosters.
Daily reflections to transform lives, “The Cross, Our Only Hope”

BY VINCE LABARBERA

NOTRE DAME — Ave Maria Press has just published a Holy Cross book titled, “The Cross, Our Only Hope.” The inspirational work was edited by Holy Cross Fathers Andrew Gawrych and Kevin Grove — both near graduates of the University of Notre Dame’s master of divinity degree program — with a foreword by Holy Cross Father Hugh Cleary, superior general of the Congregation of Holy Cross.

The editors of this volume of daily reflections managed to “reflect” and commemorate the images of the Holy Cross tradition as expressed through their founder, Blessed Father Basil Moreau, beatified on Sept. 15 in Le Mans, France.

“Holy Cross religious have been consecrated, set apart, not to condemn this age but to love and transform it,” wrote Father Cleary. “These reflections will accompany us each day through a year of grace. They will help us to be a people of faith in a secular age,” he continued. “They have hope to bring us. Happy are we who live in their promise.”

Many Holy Cross priests serving the diocese in the South Bend area as well as at Notre Dame are among the contributors of this moving collection. In addition, the prayerful work contains endorsements from more than a dozen well-known religious leaders, including Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, Father Theodore M. Hesburgh and Bishop Daniel R. Jenky, CSC.

“These reflections are meant to be read as part of personal, familial, or communal prayer and meditation each day,” wrote the editors. “They roughly follow the church’s liturgical year, while giving special attention to Holy Cross feasts and other major celebrations in the church.”

The Hammes Notre Dame Book Store will host a booksigning Friday, Dec. 14, from 1-4 p.m., featuring contributors to “The Cross, Our Only Hope: Daily Reflections in the Holy Cross Tradition.” Twenty-nine of the book’s contributors, along with one of the book’s editors, Holy Cross Father Kevin Grove will be signing books during the event.

THE HAMMES NOTRE DAME BOOK STORE

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What’s Happening?

What’s Happening carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. Send in your announcement at least two weeks prior to the event. Mail to: Today’s Catholic, PO. Box 11169, Fort Wayne 46856; or e-mail: fhogan@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.

Advent Christmas concert and evening of prayer
Bristol — St. Mary of the Annunciation will host an Advent Christmas Concert with Mark Forrest, International Irish Tenor on Sunday, Dec. 16, at 7 p.m. A free-will donation will be taken. On Monday, Dec. 17, there will be meditation, music, prayer and healing in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. A reception will follow both evenings. For more information, call (574) 848-4305.

Advent reconciliation service
Waterloo — St. Michael the Archangel Parish will have an Advent reconciliation service on Sunday, Dec. 16, at 5 p.m. Private reconciliation will be available.

Holiday Christmas concert and bake sale
Fort Wayne — Most Precious Blood Parish will have a holiday candy and bake sale Saturday, Dec. 15, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. and Sunday Dec. 16, from 8 a.m. to noon. A Christmas concert will be held Sunday, Dec. 30, at 7 p.m. in the church. The concert is free.

Knights plan spaghetti dinner
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a spaghetti dinner on Friday, Dec. 21, from 5-7 p.m. Adults $6, children (5-12) $3. Dinner includes spaghetti, salad, garlic toast and coffee. Carry-out available.

Fish fry
Fort Wayne — St. Joseph, Hessen Cassel, will have a fish fry on Friday, Dec. 14, from 4-7 p.m. Adults $7, seniors $6.50, children under 12 $4.

TV Mass Guide for Christmas

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<td>Dec. 16</td>
<td>3rd Sunday of Advent</td>
<td>Father James Stoyle</td>
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<td>Dec. 23</td>
<td>4th Sunday of Advent</td>
<td>Father Jason Freiburger</td>
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<td>St. Vincent dePaul</td>
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<td>Dec. 24</td>
<td>Christmas Eve</td>
<td>Midnight Mass live from the</td>
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<td>Conception, Fort Wayne</td>
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<td>Dec. 25</td>
<td>Christmas</td>
<td>Bishop John M. D’Arcy</td>
<td>Father Christopher Cox</td>
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<td>Airs 6 a.m. and 3 p.m.</td>
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<td>Dec. 30</td>
<td>Feast of the Holy Family</td>
<td>Father David Ruppert</td>
<td>Father David Porterfield,</td>
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Sacred Heart Parish, a parish of 900 families located on the campus of Notre Dame (although independent of Campus Ministry at ND), worshipping in the Crypt under the Basilica, invites applicants for the position of DRE. Duties include, but are not limited to, children’s religious education, sacramental preparation programs, adult formation, and RCIA.

The ideal candidate would have some years of experience directing religious education, a graduate degree in theology, a lively prayer life, a faith-filled character, knowledge of the Church and world, an interest in justice, a commitment to Christ’s peace, and the ability to work well with people of various backgrounds and experience. The parish wishes to fill the vacancy by January 2008. Send cover letter and resume to: Rev. John Patrick Riley, CSC Sacred Heart Parish, University of Notre Dame, 104 The Presbytery, Notre Dame IN 46556 or by email: John.PRiley.33@nd.edu

Requests for more information can be addressed to Chris Miller, DRE at cmiller4@nd.edu

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WASHINGTON (CNS) — The genesis for a documentary on why people use religion and faith as justification for some of history’s most horrible acts came from one recent horrible act: the World Trade Center attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Jules Naudet, who with brother Gedeon produced the upcoming CBS documentary “In God’s Name,” collaborated with his older brother on “9/11,” which aired on CBS five years ago.

Until those terrorist attacks, the Naudets were planning on making a documentary on the lives of firefighters. What resulted was something entirely different. And the effects of that tragedy provided some motivation for “In God’s Name.”

“It was the moment where I was filming in the lobby of the World Trade Center, and hearing that horrible roar coming from the World Trade Center tower coming down on us, me running for my life and thinking I was going to die,” Naudet said, “this strange question popped into my head: Why am I here? What is the meaning of life? I survived that day, and for a few months these questions were in the back of my head and nagging me. I talked it over with my brother.”

They decided “why don’t we go to see the people who should have these answers? These are kind of the spiritual beacons on our planet,” he said.

Pope Benedict XVI is one of 12 spiritual leaders, five of them Christian, featured in the documentary. Non-Christians include the Dalai Lama, the chief rabbi of Israel, a Hindu spiritual leader and a prominent Sunni Muslim leader. The pope was the only one of the 12 who did not sit down with the Naudets for a private interview.

“The Vatican historically has not given interviews. A pope has not given a private interview because his exclusivity in a way would not be fair,” Naudet told CNS. “But I think we worked very closely with him. We went through all the archives and found features of His Holiness to find answers to the questions we had. What is the meaning of life? What is the future, his hopes, his fears?”

Through the archival research, they were able to find images “that never had been seen before,” Naudet said. “I think people will look differently on the pope when you see him. ... That will give them another dimension that people would not previously see.”

The Naudets can’t say exactly what viewers will see when “In God’s Name” hits the airwaves Dec. 23, 9-11 p.m. EST. They’re still in the editing room when they’re not granting interviews. Making a film, Naudet said, is like “putting together this amazing and beautiful puzzle. It’s hard to do.”

The brothers calculated that over 180 days of filming “we have 180 hours of footage to condense into a two-hour special. It’s heartbreaking in a way. Every time you remove something you feel like you’re tearing a limb from yourself,” Naudet said.

The two have been a film making team since boyhood. “He (Gedeon) was 12, I was nine and I was more the actor and he was the director,” Naudet said.

“The lesson I get from this is what gave me great hope.”

“For me it was the fact that we have more to unite us than divide us,” he added. “Raised as an agnostic by their parents, Naudet said his beliefs didn’t change when making “In God’s Name.”

“We see slightly different things. We are a body with two different heads. We arrive at the same conclusion but from two different points of view,” he added.

The documentary is the first in a series of CBS specials in which faith leaders come together to discuss some of the biggest questions of their time including the nature of evil, how to get along, the meaning of religious freedom, and how faith can guide us in times of crisis.

“With this interview project we get to see the pope when you see him,” Naudet said. “That will give them another dimension that people would not previously see.”

Pope Benedict XVI leads the traditional Way of the Cross at the Colosseum in Rome in April. The pontiff is one of 12 spiritual leaders featured in the documentary “In God’s Name,” which airs Dec. 23 at 9 p.m. EST on CBS.

“We had our dad lend us a small camera and we made our first film, which I think was a small thriller, which was in our neighborhood in Paris, and then (we made) a small documentary about our school. Then we went to film school in New York together.

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St. John the Baptist - Fort Wayne

Holiday Schedule

St. Anthony de Padua Catholic Church
(Ironwood & Jefferson, South Bend)

Christmas Season Masses & Celebrations - 2007

December 24, Monday, (Vigil) Nativity of the Lord
4:00 p.m. Concert of Christmas Carols
4:30 p.m. Christmas Mass
11:30 p.m. Concert of Christmas Carols
Midnight - Christmas Mass

December 25, Tuesday, Nativity of the Lord
8:00 & 10:00 a.m. Christmas Masses
December 31, Monday, (Vigil) Mary, Mother of God (New Year’s Eve)
4:30 p.m. (Vigil) Mass
January 1, Tuesday, Feast of Mary, Mother of God (New Year’s Day)
8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. Masses
January 6, Sunday, The Epiphany of the Lord
4:30 p.m. (Vigil) Mass - 7:00, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. Masses

The Pastoral Staff and Parish Community extend to you prayerful wishes for a happy and holy Christmas celebration. May the New Year, 2008, bring you many blessings and graces.