FORT WAYNE — The Fort Wayne Serra Club sponsored a luncheon to honor the seminarians of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend at the Summit Club in Fort Wayne on Dec. 27. The Serra Club has been sponsoring the luncheon for several years, alternating between Fort Wayne and South Bend.

Diocesan seminarians in attendance were Deacon Drew Curry, Jake Runyon, Andrew Budzinski, Fernando Jimenez, Tink Coonan, Chris Lapp, Matthew Soberalski, Matthew Soberalski, Zachary Barry, Ryan Briscoe, Ben Muhlenkamp and Brandon McCaffery. Many of the absentees were away for foreign travel, including trips to Honduras and Rome.

Steve Smith of the Fort Wayne Serra Club emceed the event with Father Glenn Kohrman giving the invocation and Serran Prayer for the Perseverance of Vocations.

Past president of the South Bend Serra Club and current district governor Dick Dornbos presented awards for leadership of the Serrans to Nick Gray, past president and now vice-president, and Burt Bryan, president of the Fort Wayne Serra Club.

“Without the seminarians, there would be no liturgy,” Dornbos said at the start of his remarks in honor of the seminarians.

Dornbos cited the standing-room-only Mass attendance that accompanies the Christmas season as an example of the church’s need for seminarians and added that, with 22,000 members worldwide and 11,000 members in the United States with over 300 clubs, Serrans are working and praying hard to see that the need for priests is met.

Dornbos also discussed that South Bend will be holding the National Serra Convention next summer.

Father Bernard Galic, director of vocations for the diocese, introduced the seminarians, who then introduced any family members honored at annual luncheon

SOUTH BEND — The feast of Epiphany provided a fitting occasion for the official closing of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend Jubilee Year. Presiding over the Vigil Mass on Jan. 5 at South Bend’s St. Matthew Cathedral, Bishop John M. D’Arcy took the opportunity to mark this ending as a new beginning and a time to look ahead. Bishop D’Arcy celebrated the Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday.

This feast of Epiphany, where we officially close the Jubilee Year, should be seen by all of us as a call to take ever more seriously our vocation to bring Jesus Christ to others,” said the bishop during his homily. “While looking back with gratitude, let us look forward in all our institutions, especially our parishes and in our personal life, to seek out ways to bring Jesus Christ to others.”

In the Gospel of Matthew, Bishop D’Arcy pointed out three tenets of our faith illustrated by the evangelist.

“The first is the profound truth of Christ’s divinity,” explained Bishop D’Arcy. “The Magi prostrated themselves before him and gave gifts. We are all asked to believe in this divinity.”

The bishop’s second point concerned the presence of evil, even as God manifested himself to us in the form of a little child. King Herod immediately brought bloodshed to the innocent children,

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The Three Wise Men offer gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the Christ Child in this display at St. Jude Parish, Fort Wayne.

Rubies and amethysts adorn this commemorative gift to Msgr. John F. Noll, in celebration of the 25th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. The chalice is now on display in the Cathedral Museum in the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center, Fort Wayne.

Seminarians honored at annual luncheon

Bishop D’Arcy says Epiphany is a call to bring Jesus Christ to others

BY DIANE FREEBY

SOUTH BEND — The feast of Epiphany provided a fitting occasion for the official closing of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend Jubilee Year. Presiding over the Vigil Mass on Jan. 5 at South Bend’s St. Matthew Cathedral, Bishop John M. D’Arcy took the opportunity to mark this ending as a new beginning and a time to look ahead. Bishop D’Arcy celebrated the Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday.

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Bishop presents an overview on religious vocations in diocese

This weekend is given over to the focus of fostering of vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life, and so I will try to reflect on a few questions that may be on the minds of many of our people.

Is there hope that men of good quality will present themselves for the priesthood in our diocese?

Definitely, yes, hope is always based on God’s grace, and we see many positive signs as well. This week we held our Andrew Dinners — first in Fort Wayne, and the next evening in South Bend. Between the two nights, 51 young men, most of them sent or accompanied by their parish priest, joined us for dinner, discussion and prayer. In St. John’s Gospel, Andrew brought his brother to the Lord, and that is the origin of these dinners. In the same spirit, our priests bring these young men to these events.

On the first evening at St. Therese Parish in Waynedale, 36 young men joined us. This shows the love of our priests for their priestly life and also their pastoral closeness to the young people of the parish. There were nine from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, three from St. Mary’s Huntington, five or six from St. Jude’s and St. Charles, and a large number from St. Vincent Parish. There were young men from Bishop Dwenger and Bishop Luers high schools and also from a number of public high schools, as well as some college students.

There were talks by the recently ordained Father Jason Freiburger and Terry “Tink” Coenan, a student of theology. Father Galic, director of our vocation office, spoke, as did I.

The next evening at Holy Family, South Bend, we had young men from Marian and Saint Joseph’s high schools, as well as several public schools and one college student. Sixteen in all. The discussion concerned prayer, difficulties in prayer, the sacrifice entailed in becoming a priest, the application process, etc. So the interest is there, and for these two nights the help of our priests was essential.

How many are in the seminary?

We just ordained two exemplary young priests, and 16 more are in the seminary. A significant increase in men of good quality to the priesthood.

How about prayer? Is it working?

You may know a wonderful couple — Dolly and Terry Coonen. They have been very active in the Fort Wayne St. Vincent de Paul Society. They have a large family, and they told me they always prayed that one of their sons would become a priest. It was not in God’s plans, but they kept praying.

What is the way forward?

What we have learned in recent years is the importance of careful selection of candidates to the priesthood. It is not for everyone. Indeed, the way out of the present, serious shortage is to ordain men of good quality, men who would also make good husbands and good fathers. Priests who are hardworking, joyful, dedicated and truly love and serve their people will draw other men of good quality to the priesthood.

The importance of pastoral and spiritual renewal

A significant increase in men of good quality coming into our seminaries also in the continuing renewal of what we might call the infrastructure of the church. We must constantly strive to strengthen the Catholic identity of all of our institutions. Parishioners see that the life of the church is conducted in a manner that is prayerful and according to the liturgical norms; schools where there is prayer and true learning, religious education with trained catechists, so that the teaching of the church is taught in all its beauty and richness; visible service to the poor. All these are central if the church is to be constantly built up. Above all, family life must be strengthened. So we see how important our programs of marriage preparation are on both the parish and diocesan level. Interestingly, two of the priests who spoke at one of our Andrew Dinners came from large families. I am told that where there is only one boy in the family, parents are reluctant to encourage vocations to the priesthood. I have three sisters and no brothers, and I do know that my parents were always open to the possibility of my becoming a priest. Despite all of the difficulties of the times, married couples must accept the call to become more and more open to life. It is all connected.

What about the sisters and brothers?

If you read the history of our diocese, it is easy to see the great heritage we have in this area, and how consecrated religious were central to the growth of our diocese. Just before Christmas I was visited by several young women who are in formation for the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in Mishawaka. This congregation and others are growing. This is a positive sign. Many of our young people have never known a sister. I believe with all my heart that this will grow too; for we can never possibly overestimate how important it is to have consecrated men and women in our diocese, in our schools and other institutions.

I look to the future with great hope, but we need the prayers of everyone.

I am off to Boston to visit my two sisters and the rest of the family and to get some much-needed rest. Back in a week.
National Migration Week encourages welcoming newcomers.

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Though there has been little movement on the political or government policy fronts to improve the situation of immigrants to the United States, the Catholic Church is encouraging a weeklong observance focused on welcoming newcomers.

National Migration Week, Jan. 6-12, was intended to raise awareness about the causes of migration and the situations in which migrants find themselves. The 2008 theme was “From Many, One Family of God.”

The 27th observance of National Migration Week by the Catholic Church in the United States typically involves a wide assortment of local activities organized by dioceses and parishes. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops includes suggestions for prayer and worship, as well as educational and service activities in a packet of materials sent in November to every diocese or parish school in the United States.

In a letter accompanying those materials, Bishop John C. Wester of Salt Lake City, chairman of the USCCB Committee on Migration, notes that “rather than embracing newcomers to our land whose circumstances have compelled them to seek new lives among us, we too often respond in fearful and hate arribi- tudes of resentment and suspi- cion.”

He referred to the New Testament story of the loaves and fishes, when Jesus’ disciples wanted to send away a crowd who had come to listen to him, because the disciples feared there was not enough food.

“In the same way, we are tempted to turn away migrants, fearing that our nation does not have enough resources — jobs, schools, housing, medical care and other necessities — to accommodate those who have made their way to this abundant land,” Bishop Wester wrote.

“The miracle of the loaves and fishes is God’s promise not only to the disciples but to us as well. If we fail to minister to the needs of these newcomers, we fail Our Lord himself.”

The letter went on to quote the passage from Matthew in which Jesus answered the question “Lord, when did we see you a stranger ... and not minister to your needs,” with the response, “What you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.”

Possible activities suggested in the USCCB materials include multicultural liturgies, sponsoring a refugee family, organizing an ethnic food festival or hosting a screening of a migration-themed film, such as the recent documentary “Posada” about children who entered the United States unaccompanied by a parent.

The pope made the remarks at a Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica Jan. 6 on the feast of the Epiphany, which marks the manifestation of Jesus as savior to the world.

In his homily, the pope said people need hope in something greater than themselves, which would also lead them to “prefer the common good of all people (as opposed to abundance for the few and misery for many).”

“The great hope only can be in God who showed his human face with the birth of Christ, he said.

Prayer, we allow joy to manifest in our hearts and become joyful witnesses,” Bishop D’Arcy pointed to an encounter he had in California during a visit with Pope John Paul II. Another bishop noted how today we have the most educated laity ever the pope agreed, but then asked, “Have you taken this educated laity and changed anything in our culture?”

Bishop D’Arcy elaborated on the new evangelization of which we are all asked to take part.

“To evangelize, we must first make our homes holy by prayer,” said the bishop. “Then, we can go about changing the culture, affecting things like film, journalism and education.”

“We can certainly take a moment to look back at our Jubilee Year,” concluded Bishop D’Arcy, “and give thanks to God for the graces granted to us, and for the many people who have returned to the practice of their faith.”

“I give thanks to God also for our beloved priests, so willing and so joyful, who gave themselves to the labor of this year. I thank all the laity both on the diocesan and parish level who labored to make it a year of holiness, purification and evangelization.”

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More information is available on the USCCB Web site at: www.usccb.org/mrs/nmw/prayer.shtml.


If people have hope in Jesus, then they can persevere in living a moderate lifestyle, he said.

Otherwise, “if this true hope is lacking, one seeks happiness in intoxication, the superfluous, in excess, and one mins oneself and the world,” said the pope.

Pope Benedict said living in moderation “is not only an ascetic rule, but also a way of salvation for humanity.”

“It is by now obvious that only by adopting a sober lifestyle, accompanied by a seri- ous commitment to a fair distri- bution of wealth, will it be possi- ble to establish a just and sustain- able model of development,” he said.

The pope recalled the New Testament account of the Magi.

He said the Wise Men demon- strated great courage by embark- ing on a long journey following a star, kneeling before a humble baby and offering him precious gifts.

The pope said everyone needs to become courageous enough to seek out virtue and make sure that courage is “anchored to steadfast hope.”

After the Mass, Pope Benedict gave his noonday Angelus address to those gathered in St. Peter’s Square.

From his studio window, the pope said that throughout history and even today men and women need guidance.

The Magi were guided by a star shining in the East, the pope said, asking what star is there today for people to follow to find God.

He said a “spiritual light is ever-present in the word of the Gospel, which today is also able to guide every person to Jesus.”

While the mission of the church is to be a star guiding humanity, individual Christians, too, carry a “tiny light” inside themselves as they are faithful to their vocation, he said.

With that light, every authentic believer in Christ “can and must be of help to those he or she finds by his or her side and who perhaps are having trouble finding the road that leads to Christ,” he said.

The pope noted that the day also marked World Day of Missionary Childhood and praised the efforts of so many Christian children who help the church by spreading the Gospel and reaching out to those less fortunate.

The pope also extended a Christmas greeting to Eastern Christians who follow the Julian calendar and were preparing to celebrate the birth of Christ Jan. 7.

BISHOP CELEBRATES MASS TO CLOSE SESQUICENTENNIAL JUBILEE YEAR

Bishop John M. D’Arcy and St. Matthew Cathedral rector Father Michael Heintz are shown at the preparation of gifts of the vigil Mass cele- brating the Epiphany and closing of the diocesan Sesquicentennial Jubilee Year. Bishop D’Arcy celebrated Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception to close the Sesquicentennial Jubilee Year on Jan. 6.
VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Addressing diplomats from around the world, Pope Benedict XVI warned that numerous armed conflicts and social disorders have left global stability in a fragile situation.

In Iraq, the pope said Jan. 7, the latest attack on Christian churches reflects a continuing climate of terrorism and violence in the country and illustrates the need for constitutional reform to safeguard the rights of minorities.

On nuclear weapons, he urged the international community to undertake a joint effort to prevent terrorists from gaining access to weapons of mass destruction.

The pope also condemned “continually perpetrated attacks” against human life, in areas ranging from the death penalty to biotechnology, and criticized efforts to weaken the traditional family and the institution of marriage.

The world’s problems illustrate that real solutions must be “solidly anchored in natural law, given by the Creator,” the pope said.

“This is another reason why God can never be excluded from the horizon of man or history. God’s name is a name of justice; it represents an urgent appeal for the need in the spirit of Jesus Christ,” he said.

The pope delivered the annual talk, sometimes called his “state of the world” address, to represent the 176 states that have diplomatic relations with the Vatican.

“Diplomacy is, in a certain sense, the art of hope.”

The pope warned diplomats that conflicts threaten global stability.

“Terrorists from gaining access to weapons of mass destruction would undoubtedly strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime and make it more effective,” he said.

“Addressing the danger of nuclear armaments, the pope urged the international community to make a global commitment on security that can deal in particular with new threats from terrorism.”

The pope also encouraged the reduction of conventional weapons and cluster bombs, considered a particular threat to civilians.

In a passage that hinted at a potential theme for his planned U.N. visit in April, the pope noted that 60 years ago the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which enshrined human dignity.

“In every continent the Catholic Church strives to ensure that human rights are not only proclaimed but put into practice,” he said.

“This is the way to make peace with the true dignity of human persons, created in the image of God. And on the basis of these considerations, I cannot but deplore once again the continual attacks perpetrated on every continent against human life,” he said.

In bioethics, new discoveries or technological progress should not require people to choose between science and morality — “rather, they obligue us to a moral use of science,” he said.

He said he rejected at the recent U.N. support for a moratorium on the death penalty and added: “I earnestly hope that this initiative will lead to public debate on the sacred character of human life.”

“Regret, once again, the disturbing threats to the integrity of the family founded on the marriage of a man and a woman. Political leaders of whatever kind should defend this fundamental institution, the basic cell of society,” he said.

He said religious freedom is still not fully respected in many parts of the world.

The pope closed his talk with a reflection on peace, which he said must involve various areas of human development: food, water and energy resources, access to medicine and technology, and even the monitoring of climate change.

In confronting these serious problems, diplomats should build on the positive, he said, telling them, “Diplomacy is, in a certain sense, the art of hope.”

Kathleen Anderson is one of more than 30 Barnes & Thornburg attorneys providing legal services to their fellow parishioners in the Diocese of Fort Wayne - South Bend.
Father Richard Smith, who was married 14 years to his wife, Rita, before she died after a seven-year illness:

"Men, if they're retired, they might play golf, work in the yard and then after a TV dinner, they just watch TV. They're just existing. They sit at home and wonder why their partner died first. Men tend to isolate themselves.

"Women seem to bounce back better," Father Smith said.

"Women, at least, can gather in small groups, but men don't want to express their feelings."

That hurt from losing a spouse isn't even fully understood by the children of the widow or widower, he said:

"A husband and wife, they chose each other. They went through a courtship. Children don't totally understand that you've lost your best friend, you've lost your soul mate, you've lost your lover."

Because of the profound nature of the loss, Father Smith is encouraged that there are "many other priests doing similar work in the diocese" with widows and widowers:

"It means a lot if your parish, your church, some of your leaders, your religious, some of your ministers, some shepherding the widows and widowers know that the church understands their loss."

The priest hopes his meetings help widows and widowers know the church understands their loss. And on Sundays, when they see each other in church, he hopes they'll wave to each other and talk so "they can fill that void with support and strengthen each other."

**B Y J O S E P H R A N Y**

OCEAN CITY, Md. (CNS) — Father Richard Smith has walked the heart-rending journey that's familiar to every new widow and widower.

"The old story is everybody is around you through the funeral and you're oblivious to it," Father Smith recalled. "You leave the grave site and go to a lunch or something; then the people have to go back to their lives. In a couple of days you realize you're alone."

Father Smith, an associate pastor at St. Luke-St. Andrew Parish in Ocean City, the Diocese of Wilmington, Del., was married and widowed before he entered the seminary. It's a personal experience he brings to his priesthood that helps him understand the feelings of the members of a prayer group he started for widows this fall at St. Andrew's.

"It's a spiritual gathering," Father Smith told The Dialog, Wilmington's diocesan newspaper.

Participants bring a brown-bag lunch; there's coffee, then prayer and conversation.

The group also uses a prayer book for widows published by Our Sunday Visitor and written by Kay Cozad, staff writer for Today's Catholic.

The book is a big help because "there's not much out there," he said.

"There's nothing out there for widowers."

**B Y M A R Y A N N P O U S T**

NEW YORK (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI will lead an ecumenical prayer service for national and local Christian leaders April 18 at St. Joseph's Church, a Catholic parish in Yorkville section of Manhattan.

The German-born pope will conduct the late afternoon service in the diocese, after a speech at St. Andrew's, an associate pastor at St. Luke-St. Andrew Parish, was married and widowed before he entered the seminary.

**Priest’s ministry to widows, widowers arose from own experiences**

Father Smith plans to begin a breakfast group for widowers in the Ocean City parish. He hopes the men will meet, talk and pray in a local restaurant.

"That might work," he said.

"It's easier to go out and talk to a couple of guys. It's worked in other parishes."

Widowers are much harder to start with, Father Smith said, because men don't want to express their feelings.

"Men tend to bottle up their grief and all that kind of stuff, except when they're alone. I know their pain. I bared myself in my work for a year or so," said Father Smith.

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Charity begins at home: Pope visits Vatican shelter, greets residents

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — They welcomed him with a red paper garland and a few whispered words about themselves. Pope Benedict XVI’s 45-minute visit to the Vatican City’s emergency shelter for the poor and homeless was distinctly simple and low-key. It began with a song about Jesus, sung by the Missionaries of Charity sisters who run the institution. In the small, crowded women’s sitting room, an atmosphere of quiet dignity prevailed. The pope greeted each of the women personally, and they kissed his hand or kissed his ring. This was not a media event, and the pope didn’t dish up soup or wait on tables. “I am here to tell you the pope loves you and is close to you,” he said in a brief talk. To the room of 90 women wearing shawls and dresses and even on hard times, he said he wanted to remind them that “God never abandons us.” The pope paused in the men’s dining room just long enough to wish the group “a nice lunch!” Then he visited the quarters for sick women. Authorities estimate Rome has some 3,000 homeless people, and it’s been a cold winter for them. Two froze to death Jan. 1. At the Vatican shelter, the pope left practical gifts for the guests: food and blankets.

Vatican official proposes plans for reparation for priestly abuse

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A leading Vatican official has proposed a worldwide program of eucharistic adoration to seek spiritual reparation for the damage caused by sexual abuse of children by priests. Cardinal Claudio Hummes, prefect of the Congregation for the Clergy, said the initiative would involve dioceses, parishes, monasteries, convents and seminaries in a prayer movement to support priestly holiness. In a particular way, the initiative will ask for reparation “for the victims of sexual abuse, for the sinners, for prayer and for the movement to support priestly holiness. In a particular way, the initiative will ask for reparation “for the victims of sexual abuse, for the sinners, for prayer and for the movement to support priestly holiness.”

Ukrainian cardinal says married men not answer to vocations crisis

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Ordaining married men is not a guaranteed way to solve a vocations crisis, and it will not automatically improve the quality of priests, said Cardinal Lubomyr Husar of Kiev-Halych, head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church. “The quality of the priest does not depend on whether or not he is married,” the cardinal said in a Jan. 4 interview with the Vatican newspaper. The cardinal, whose Eastern-rite church ordains married men, spoke to L’Osservatore Romano about the Ukrainian bishops’ decision to proclaim 2008 “The Year of the Christian Vocation.” “We are not limiting ourselves to vocations to religious life and the priesthood, but are focusing on the Christian concept of vocation,” he said. “This is because we have seen a serious instability both in the family and in religious life.” The rate of separation and divorce, as well as the rate of priests and religious asking to be released from their vows, has increased, the cardinal said.

German company gives pope gift of solar panels for audience hall

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A German solar company has given Pope Benedict XVI something new for his summer: a photovoltaic-generating solar rooftop for the Vatican’s Paul VI audience hall. The Bonn-based SolarWorld is donating approximately 2,000 solar modules to be installed on the audience hall roof to provide “the very first solar power ever generated in the Vatican,” said a company press release. The solar system will produce some 315,500 kilowatt-hours of power a year, offsetting some 315 tons of carbon dioxide emissions, it said. Carbon dioxide is one of the greenhouse gases that trap heat in the earth’s atmosphere and is seen as a major cause of global warming.

Members of the Jesuit order gather for Mass at the opening of the 35th General Congregation of the order Jan. 7 in Rome. The service was attended by 225 Jesuit delegates at the Church of the Gesu, which houses the tomb of St. Ignatius, the order’s founder. They were set to elect a new superior and decide on other matters of the order.

The Vatican will ask reparation “for the victims” of sexual abuse of children by priests. Cardinal Claudio Hummes, prefect of the Congregation for the Clergy, said the initiative would involve dioceses, parishes, monasteries, convents and seminaries in a prayer movement to support priestly holiness. In a particular way, the initiative will ask for reparation “for the victims” of sexual abuse, for the sinners, for prayer and for the movement to support priestly holiness. In a particular way, the initiative will ask for reparation “for the victims” of sexual abuse, for the sinners, for prayer and for the movement to support priestly holiness.

Vatican official expects new level of dialogue with Muslims in 2008

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican official in charge of interreligious dialogue said he is confident a new level of dialogue with Muslims will take place in 2008. "There is good will on both sides," said Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, president of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue. After 138 Muslim scholars sent a letter to Pope Benedict XVI and other Christian leaders in October outlining a proposal for a new dialogue and greater understanding, the pope invited a representative group of the scholars to meet with him at the Vatican. At the same time, the pope suggested the scholars hold a working session with officials from Cardinal Tauran’s office, the Pontifical Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies and the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome. The scholars will meet February or March to work out the details of the dialogue.

Dispassionate court considers lethal injection as execution method

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In the Supreme Court’s first look more than a century at the constitutionality of a method of execution, several justices Jan. 7 seemed inclined to pass on deciding whether lethal injection constitutes cruel and unusual punishment.

The oral arguments dealt compassionately with the clinical details of how lethal injection works and how it can sometimes go wrong, rather than addressing the morality of capital punishment itself. Even Justice John Paul Stevens, generally an opponent of capital punishment, said that if the main legal question the court faces is whether Kentucky properly follows protocols intended to avoid unnecessary pain and preserve dignity then the state would probably win the case. But by not getting at the legal question of whether the procedure can cause excruciating pain, Stevens said, the case “leaves open a whole area of litigation.” Since the court agreed to take the case in September, there has been an effective nationwide moratorium on executions, as lower courts and state governments put executions on hold because they use the same three-drug combination for lethal injections as the method challenged in Kentucky. The federal government and all but one of the 36 states that have capital punishment use the combination as their primary method of execution.

Phoenix bishop named apostolic administrator of Gallup, N.M.

GALLUP, N.M. (CNS) — Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted of Phoenix has been appointed apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Gallup, N.M., during the medical leave of absence of Bishop Donald E. Pelotte. Archbishop Pietro Sambi, the apostolic nuncio to the United States, announced Thursday that the Gallup Diocese announced Dec. 13 that Bishop Pelotte, 62, had taken a medical leave of absence to focus on his recovery from injuries he sustained in a fall down the stairs at his home last summer. The pope named a new diocesan team to begin its work in Gallup. The announcement said Bishop Pelotte was granted a one-year medical leave by the Vatican.

Cuban cardinal says officials have created expectations for change

HAVANA (CNS) — Statements by President Fidel Castro last October 2007 acknowledging the "need for changes" in the country were a "promising step that has created expectations," said Cardinal Jaime Ortega Alamino of Havana. Cardinal Ortega said that through openness, the Cuban people have created a cloud of criticism, complaints and hopeful proposals based on the need for changes, even structural changes, in the way of life, which is organized and lived." The prelate noted that Cuban authorities have received "a wave of opinions about all issues of concern" in society and that "this has been a promising step."
The Sisters of the Holy Cross: The challenge of being a truly international congregation

NOTRE DAME — From its beginning the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross has had a missionary charism. The first Holy Cross religious came to Indiana in 1841 as missionaries from France. The congregation’s founder, Blessed Basil Moreau, wanted his community to be international and was willing to send sisters wherever the church had a great need.

The little community that settled in Indiana eventually broke off from France and became an independent North American congregation. As time went on, bishops from around the world requested Sisters of the Holy Cross to come to their dioceses to help carry on the work of the sisters during an event. Eventually there were sisters ministering in Bangladesh, Brazil, Uganda, Israel (1974-1997), Peru, Ghana and more.

For many years community members who served in countries outside the United States were viewed as foreign missionaries. At first the sisters did not recruit native women to enter the Holy Cross congregation. The intention was to strengthen the religious communities in these countries. Eventually new members flourished and the Sisters of the Holy Cross accepted them into its ranks and eventually grew into an international congregation. The Sisters of the Holy Cross evolved from being an American congregation with an international mission to a congregation of multi-cultural women who serve worldwide in eight countries across four continents.

Sister Joy O’Grady, president of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, says about her experience of internationality, “It is the sharing of our gifts to offer. Each of us must allow ourselves to be influenced by the richness and depth that diversity offers.”

The congregation has also established an international formation team that coordinates the formation of new members around the world. There are also committees that have representatives from all areas where the congregation serve.

Sister Mary Tienman, international vocation director, who served in Brazil for many years, comments, “We are becoming aware that we are from different cultures and that each person has unique gifts to offer. Each of us must allow ourselves to be influenced by the richness and depth that diversity offers.”

Sister Pushpa Teresa Gomes, a native of Bangladesh, who serves on the leadership team of the congregation and who celebrated 25 years as a professed sister this year, says about her experience of internationality, “It is the sharing of our blessings and cultural richness with my sisters and others, where we value diversity, mutuality, and allow ourselves to be transformed, and enriched by one another.”

The Sisters of the Holy Cross see themselves as global citizens who carry the mission of Christ throughout the world. Those who went to Le Mans, France, last September for the beatification of Father Basil Moreau could not help but appreciate the internationality of Holy Cross with so many Holy Cross sisters, brothers and priests present from around the world.

Sister Margie Lavonis, CSC, English-speaking members are asked to learn one other language spoken in the congregation. All the members are encouraged to develop relationships with sisters from other cultures.

Holy Cross Sisters in Bangladesh rejoice as they erect a peace pole on the grounds of their college in Dhaka. These poles have been erected in all the countries where the sisters serve as a reminder of the great need to pray for peace.

Study calls for changes in the use of student test score data

NOTRE DAME — In a finding with implications for the debate over the No Child Left Behind Act, a faculty-student research team at the University of Notre Dame has concluded that test score data currently used to make comparisons among schools could be better used to diagnose strengths and weaknesses and improve performance within individual schools.

Writing in the journal Educational Researcher, the Notre Dame researchers said that the current system of “cross-sectional comparisons of different cohorts of students,” say Kelly and Monczunski, “for example, a comparison between the test scores of one year’s fourth-grade class and the scores of the previous year’s fourth graders.” Such comparisons fall far short of measuring value-added, they said.

In contrast, they note, existing state test data can reliably identify important differences in subject matter performance within schools. The use of standardized test data might have a more positive impact on classroom instruction if it is used to detect and showcase best practices within schools, rather than labeling and sanctioning schools.

Diocese sponsors trip for high school teens to papal Mass

FORT WAYNE-SOUTH BEND — The Office of Youth Ministry director Cindy Black will lead a trip to New York City, April 18-20 for Mass with Pope Benedict XVI. Teens will be selected from this diocese for pilgrimage. The number of travelers will depend on how many tickets the diocese receives.

To apply for one of the spots, teens must: be recommended by their pastor, compose an essay, and provide required forms. The packet of materials must be postmarked by Jan. 28 and sent to: Office of Youth Ministry B XVI in NCY 915 S. Clinton St. Fort Wayne, IN 46802.

For more information, contact your parish office, visit www.diocese-fwb.org/youth or contact the Office of Youth Ministry at (260) 422-4611 e-mail: cblack@fw.diocesefwb.org.
Ordications involve parish communities

By Tim Johnson

When a transitional deacon from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend in preparing for ordination to the priesthood, it seems as if the whole parish community and sometimes the extended parish community takes a personal role of prayers and special activities. The key to success seems to be the deacon’s immersion into parish life.

This immersion into parish life brought an outpouring of support and prayer at the recent ordinations of Father Jason Freiburger and Father Bob Lengerich, ordained just this last fall, Father Tony Steinacker in 2006 and Father Dave Ruppert in 2005.

Father Tony Steinacker, associate pastor at St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Fort Wayne, became immediately involved in parish life when he was assigned there as a deacon, teaching eighth grade students and attending meetings of the St. Charles Vocation Committee.

“I could not ask for a better first assignment as a priest,” Father Steinacker said. “From the very first weekend that I arrived at St. Charles, I felt very welcomed and appreciated. A parish this large was intimidating at first, but the support and encouragement from everyone has been most helpful.”

The vocation committee, very active within the parish, coordinates a program called the St. Charles Family Vocation Cross program. Each Sunday, a family, couple or individual comes for ward during the Parish Vocation Prayer, receives the vocation cross and book of vocation prayers written for each day of the week, and commits to prayer through the week.

“People got to know Deacon Tony,” Cece Dunderman, St. Charles’ secretary, told Today’s Catholic.

Months before the ordination bulletin telling parishioners to reserve Oct. 28 on their calendars, St. Charles pastor Msgr. John Suelzer made pulpits announcements asking parishioners to keep Deacon Tony in prayer.

All parishes with the transitional deacon—St. Pius X, Granger; St. Vincent de Paul, Fort Wayne; St. Charles, and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, held parish novenas, eucharistic adoration and special prayers. Interest in the novena at St. Vincent for Father Freiburger was so overwhelming that the novena cards had two printings.

St. Vincent pastor, Father John Kuzmich, approached his parish council and staff about prayer and activities regarding ordination.

Father Jason Freiburger, then a transitional deacon, is shown receiving a special blessing by the students of St. Vincent School, Fort Wayne, during a pep rally before his ordination to the priesthood. The religious education students at the parish also held a similar blessing.

Dorothy Schuerman, St. Vincent pastoral associate, said, “Everyone was quite excited about involving as many people as possible, particularly the youth of the parish. With a large school of around 700 students, a large religious education program to match, and the very active Life Teen program, the desire to use this event as an opportunity to deepen the formation of our youth in the ordination was pretty overwhelming. So lots of people got involved.”

Both the religious education program and the students from St. Vincent School had a special blessing over then-Deacon Jason Freiburger led by Father Kuzmich with the children blessing the deacon.

The school held a special pep rally with the band, choir and cheerleaders.

Schuerman said, “The students also designed classroom door decorations for a contest, and used that Friday as a ‘dress like Deacon Jason’ day. They were also able to dress in his favorite color if they chose. Deacon Jason used this opportunity to speak to the seventh- and eighth-grade classes about his vocation and the need to discern what God is calling each of us to do with our lives.”

St. Vincent’s WINGS (Women in God’s Service) group also held an ordination shower for Deacon Freiburger.

The new priests have found much support.

Father Lengerich reported, “As I was preparing for ordination, and now as I minister as a priest, I’ve received a lot of strength and courage from people’s prayer support. My home parish of St. Vincent’s (in Elkhart) has kept me in the intercessions at Mass since I left for the seminary and in the last nine weeks before ordination.”

Father Bill Scholer, pastor of St. Pius X in Granger, reported that on the day of ordination St. Pius chartered two buses to travel to Fort Wayne, and the turnout of parishioners at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception was astounding.

Scholer, now assigned as associate pastor at St. Vincent de Paul, said he was “blessed to have so many prayers showered upon me.”

Father Dave Ruppert, who is now assigned as pastor of St. Therese Parish, Fort Wayne, but served his diaconate at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, said, “Their kind interest in my call to priesthood, and our relationship became an intimate invitation for them to learn about, prepare for and participate in the ordination rite.”

How will this parish involvement foster future vocations?

Father Lengerich said, “I think one of these graces is an increase in priestly vocations. It’s only natural that when a whole community is lifting up a young man who’s discerning the priesthood that other young men think, ‘Why not me too?’”

Father Scholer said Father Lengerich’s “ordination was a boost for the parish, and I am confident that it opened some hearts of young people to begin thinking about their own vocations.”

Father Scholer said he believed these activities at St. Elizabeth planted many seeds for vocations. At the Jan. 3 Fort Wayne dinner, reported Father Scholer, “Father Bernard and I (took) nine young men to the Andrew dinner. Four more could not make it for one reason or another.”

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Priests choose more than priesthood

BY ALEX SCHEIDLER

SOUTH BEND — Perhaps when a person thinks of the calling to the priesthood, he may think it entails a general discernment of whether or not to become a priest. However, there are various other “callings within the call” that could be considered equally distinct and important as the vocation to priesthood.

One such part of your life is the decision to enter diocesan seminary to become a parish priest, or to enter a religious community, such as the Congregation of Holy Cross, among many.

Father Bill Schooler discerned a call to the priesthood at an early age, but from the beginning of his formation until his ordination, he considered only diocesan priesthood. “I was never really exposed to a religious order,” he said.

“When I grew up, they were all parish priests that served my parish. “I was never really exposed to a religious community until after I was ordained.”

Father Schooler began the process of discernment in high school while attending pre-seminary at Wawasee Prep.

He graduated college from St. Gregory Seminary, Cincinnati, Ohio, with a degree in English literature. He immediately began studies for the priesthood at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary, Cincinnati, receiving his masters in theology after four years. Father Schooler was ordained at St. Jude on May 25, 1974.

Presently, Father Schooler serves at St. Pius X Parish in Granger, where he has served for nearly seven years. Among his regular responsibilities as pastor, he is also overseeing the construction of the grade school at St. Pius X.

“What I like about being a diocesan priest is that I’ve made a commitment to this particular diocese. So I know I’ll be in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend for the rest of my life,” he said.

Holy Cross Father David Scheidler began his discernment process much differently.

“I had graduated from the University of Notre Dame in ’87, moved to New York City, and was not happy with my job,” he said.

“The more I thought about it, the more I realized I didn’t want to be in the business world at all,” he continued.

He first opened up to the idea going back to school for advanced studies, but after having the question of the vocation to priesthood posed by his father, Father Scheidler began looking into various seminaries.

“I suppose my vocation was born much earlier,” said Father Scheidler.

Father Scheidler remembers a homily by the associate pastor of his parish he heard in grade 4. “He mentioned that it’s the honor and privilege of a priest to be present at people’s most critical times, and I thought, ‘Hmm...’”

There were various times throughout childhood that Father Scheidler was exposed to religious life. As a child, his father would take the family to St. Meinrad Archabbey in southern Indiana for the Easter triduum.

He was also exposed to the Franciscan Sisters of Oldenberg, or the Benedictine Sisters in Beech Grove and both of their convents. Later, in college at Notre Dame, he was invited to a community night at the Holy Cross seminary.

“All of these experiences left a favorable impact on Father Scheidler when considering the priesthood, and ultimately, the vocations director at Holy Cross had the most inviting response to Father Scheidler’s inquiries.

After six years in formation, Father Scheidler was ordained on April 10, 1994 at the Basilica of Sacred Heart, Notre Dame.

Both Father Schooler and Father Scheidler enjoy similar aspects of the priesthood. In his role as pastor of St. Pius X, Father Scheidler enjoys celebrating the sacraments and being a part of the important times in his parishioners’ lives.

Father Scheidler serves as associate pastor at St. Adalbert and St. Casimir parishes, where he, too, enjoys celebrating the sacraments such as presiding at Eucharist, preaching, hearing confessions and preparing people for marriage.

In the role as parish priests, Father Schooler and Father Scheidler both share similar responsibilities, but what sets them apart is the community they share.

“If you’re an order priest, your first commitment is to the community. With me, the first commitment is to the diocese, and so the parish becomes the focus,” said Father Schooler.

Father Schooler does not believe this makes diocesan priests any better servants of the parishes, but just different.

“When I was never really exposed to a religious order.” he said.

Father Schooler lives in community with five other priests — several of which have as their main apostolates work outside the parish in other ministries.

However, as a community of Holy Cross priests living together, they pray the Liturgy of the Hours together, participate in Divine Liturgy and share meals in common throughout the week. As well, they join larger Holy Cross community on a regular basis for community nights and retreats.

Living in community is a blessing as well as a challenge.

“Sometimes I think it’s like marriage (or family life) where you do not get to choose the people you live with at all. Depending on the size of your local community you have to adapt to always changing idiosyncrasies of your brothers... it’s not always easy,” explained Father Scheidler.

Father Scheidler explained that there is the added challenge of obedience to the superior, where there are varied ministries around the world to which the Holy Cross priests are assigned.

So far, Father Scheidler has served in Phoenix, Ariz., the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame High School in Skokie, Ill., and currently at St. Adalbert and St. Casimir in South Bend.

There is a mutual respect and admiration between Father Schooler and Father Scheidler in the two distinct vocations of diocesan priesthood or religious order.

“I know a lot of Holy Cross priests and admire them,” said Father Schooler.

“I appreciate my relationships with the Holy Cross priests,” he added and explained that it is a unique privilege here in South Bend to get to develop good relationships with them.
COLUMBUS, OHIO — Twenty seminarians were instituted into the liturgical ministries of reader or acolyte at the Pontifical College Josephinum on Nov. 18, 2007 by Bishop George V. Murry, SJ, of Youngstown and member of the seminary’s board of trustees. The installation Mass was celebrated in St. Turibius Chapel in the company of visiting priests, families of the candidates, as well as benefactors and friends of the Josephinum.

Once termed minor orders, the positions of reader and acolyte are conferred to first and second year theologians prior to their diaconate and priestly ordinations.

“In accepting the call to be instituted as lectors and acolytes, you aspire to participate in an ancient ministry as a means of furthering your preparation for ordination to the priesthood,” said Bishop Murry. “The church is grateful for and blessed by your willingness to serve.”

First-year theology students installed as readers are commissioned to proclaim the word of God in the liturgical assembly and to catechize the faithful. During the ceremony, the candidates knelt before Bishop Murry, who gave then a Bible, and said, “Take this book of holy Scripture, and be faithful in handling on the word of God so that it may grow strong in the hearts of his people.”

The candidates for acolytes, who are second-year theologians, were entrusted with the duties of attending to the altar, assisting the deacon and priest at Mass and distributing holy Communion as an extraordinary minister. They may also expose the Blessed Sacrament for adoration.

The candidates approached the bishop and knelt before him as he held a paten with bread in it and said, “Take this vessel with bread from the consecration for the celebration of the Eucharist. Make your life worthy of your service at the table of the Lord and of his church.”

Seminarians from 12 dioceses received ministries during the liturgy. They were charged by Bishop Murry to “proclaim God’s word clearly and authoritatively. Distribute the holy Eucharist with patience and reverence. Be witnesses to the Gospel in your lives so that in and through your ministry the deaf may hear, and the poor may rejoice in the good news.”
Priestly vocations are the proof, and, at the same time, the condition of the vitality of the Church... Every vocation to the priestly ministry is an extraordinary gift of God’s love.”

-Pope John Paul II

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District governor of the Serra Club, Dick Dornbos, presents an award to the Fort Wayne Serra Club president Burt Bryan at the Dec. 27 luncheon honoring diocesan seminarians. The event, which alternates between Fort Wayne and South Bend, was held at the Fort Wayne Summit Club.

Seminarians stand with Bishop John M. D’Arcy at the annual luncheon in their honor sponsored by the Serra Club. Left to right in the front row are Deacon Drew Curry, Ryan Briscoe, Zachary Barry, Andrew Budzinski and Father Bernie Galic, diocesan director of vocations. Left to right in the back row are Jake Runyon, Brandon McCaffery, Tink Coonan, Chris Lapp, Bishop D’Arcy, Matthew Soberalski, Ben Muhlenkamp and Fernando Jimenez.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

members attending with them.
Bishop John M. D’Arcy gave a talk on vocations and how the diocesan seminarians face the challenge of countering a shortage of priests caused in the diocese by priest retirements and the loss of religious orders staffing parishes.
Bishop D’Arcy also gave the background for the diocese’s selection of the Pontifical College Josephinum and Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary as the institutions where diocesan seminarians study.
At the end of the luncheon, the Serrans presented the seminarians with gifts, including books and gas cards, the latter to facilitate their often extensive travel.

Jim Andrews and Don Clemmer contributed to this story.

Jim Andrews and Don Clemmer contributed to this story.
Promoting religious life in today’s church

BY SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

NOTRE DAME — Religious vocation directors in today’s Catholic Church have the important responsibility to promote the life and mission of their congregations to potential new members. For many years, vocations to the priesthood and religious life were fostered primarily through personal contact. The majority of Catholics had many opportunities to interact with religious sisters and brothers in Catholic schools and other parish programs. At times one would see an advertisement in a Catholic magazine or newspaper, but usually those who answered the call knew a member of a religious community and it was a local community member who mentored them. However, much has changed in the United States. The numbers of religious men and women teaching in Catholic schools have declined. Fewer Catholics have direct contact with sisters and brothers. In fact, many people today know little, if anything, about the consecrated life. Unfortunately, the only depiction of religious life some know is the often inaccurate picture portrayed in the movies or on television.

New approaches are necessary to get the word out about the life and mission of congregations. One major tool used more and more by religious orders is the Internet. A well-designed Web site is an effective way to educate others about the life and mission of a community. Most Web sites include sections on membership and the steps to become vowed members or associates. Congregations without Web sites are at a great disadvantage because most people, especially the young, go to the Internet for information. They search the Web and look for companies to produce informational DVDs and CDs about their communities. “Come and see” programs and discernment retreats, service opportunities, “come and see” programs, visits to the motherhouse and other ways to meet particular congregations, are also a great means to advertise dis- cretion of some who feel called to the consecrated life. Many congregations, such as the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ and the Sisters of the Holy Cross, have enlisted professional companies to produce informational DVDs and CDs about their communities that can be viewed on a computer by those who inquire about life in their congregations. Developing relationships is still key; but congregations can no longer wait for prospective members to knock on their doors. They must find more and more ways to reach out and tell the story of what they are doing to extend the mission of Christ and invite others to join them.

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Ministering with the People of Fort Wayne/South Bend Since 1842
Bishop responds to ‘People of Praise’
Reliving on Scripture alone is best bet’ by Kenneth Barnes, Dec. 1, 2007

Editorial

by Bishop John M. Darcy

For several years, the Journal Gazette has run much appreciated faith page have offered space to religious leaders to give the title “People of Praise.” This articles, which have sought to nourish faith in a culture that is often alien to the word of God, I have found worthy praise.

Afas, this otherwise positive column has since more recently into false claims what about what the Catholic Church teaches.

Does this mean that our morning paper is now to be used on a weekly basis to distort the teachings of the Catholic Church? I hope not. presentations critical of Catholic teachings are to be allowed on the morning paper, but it would not be fair to place both the criticism and response side by side.

That has been the modus operandi of the ecumenical dialogue, which the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend has cosponsored with Methodists and Lutherans in my 22 years as bishop. It has also worked the inter-religious dialogue, which we have had with our dear Jewish friends, toward whom we bear special responsibilities.

While disagreement with Catholic teaching in these dialogues will occur and constructive criticism can in certain circumstances be appropriate, distortion of our teachings is never acceptable, and that is what has taken place in the past month in the Journal Gazette Faith page.

Distortion does not contribute to the harmony and mutual respect which I have always had in our city and which in recent years we have marked our morning newspaper and the media in general.

Questions about and disagreement with Catholic teaching: fair enough. Distortion of that teaching in print: not acceptable.

The practice of hurling Biblical quotes at another and alleging certain translations from the Greek New Testament is an old game that surfaced again in this column. It does not lead to truth, and I propose not to play it.

Catholicism is an apostolic faith. It was the Twelfth of that Jesus Christ gave a mission and authority, and that mission continues in the church through the bishop, who are the successors of the apostles.

This does not mean that the church is above the word of God. Rather we are subject to it. This is made clear in the Second Vatican Council in the document entitled “Dei Verbum” (“The Word of God”). Here we read: But the task of giving an authentic interpretation to the word of God, whether in its written form or in the form of tradition, has been entrusted to the living teaching office of the church alone. Its authority in this matter is exercised in the name of Jesus Christ. Yet this magisterium (teaching office) is not superior to the word of God, but is its servant. It teaches only what has been handed down from the divine command and with the help of the Holy Spirit, it listens to this devotedly, guards it with determination, transmits it faithfully. All that it proposes for belief as being divinely revealed is drawn from this single deposit of faith.


A recent writer in this column used this newspaper to claim that the Catholic Church has added something. Thus we read: “The main problem is the addition of sacraments practiced in the Catholic Church.” It is the teaching of the church that the sacraments were instituted by Jesus Christ. If one reads the Fathers of the Church and the Scripture itself, one can find ample documentation of this. For example, Pope St. Leo in the fifth century wrote: “Everything our Redeemer accomplished has passed into the sacraments.” We do not hold, as the writer claims, that the sacraments are a replacement of the redemption of Christ. Rather they draw us into the redemption and join us to the Redeemer. We are a church of word and sacrament, rooted always in Christ. He is the Savior of all that has been revealed. As Charles de Foucauld wrote in the 16th century: “By giving us, as he did, his Son, his only Word, he has in that one Word said everything. There is no need for any further revelation.”

The question of Mary

The assertion is made in the same column that “Mary is her Son’s co-mediatrix.” If the author read the Second Vatican Council and the Catechism of the Catholic Church, he would have found the following:

In the word of the apostle there is but one mediator: “For there is but one God and one mediator of God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself a redemption for all.” — 1 Tim 2:5-6. But Mary’s function as mother is peculiarly her own. She is the only one whose influence on men originates not in any inner necessity but in the dispensation of God. It flows forth from the superabundance of the merits of Christ, rests on his mediation, depends entirely on it and draws all its power from it. It does not hinder in any way the immediate union of the faithful with Christ but it is the contrary fosters it.

— Vatican Council II; “Lumen Gentium,” 60.

No creature could ever be counted along with the Incarnate Word and Redeemer: but just as the person of Christ is shared in various ways both by his ministers and the faithful, and as the goodness of God is radiated in different ways among his creatures, so also the unique mediation of the Redeemer does not exclude any activity of the manifold cooperation which is but a sharing in this one source.


One may choose to differ with this teaching, but one should not distort it by claiming that the church makes the actions of Mary equal to Christ. It does not.

The separation among Christians is sad. Our history for the past 500 years and more is marked by division even, God help us, by religious war. But the division nor the quarrels are the will of God. It is the task of the church to mediate Christ, to be his mediators. What is a human person? When does human life begin? If two men or two women are allowed by the state to “marry,” what will this do to the fabric of society? When is war justified?

Thirdly, we must be willing to participate actively in political life as our different vocations may allow. Running for office entails great sacrifice. But some Catholics are called to this and can make an enormous difference in society by holding office. Some are in other positions of influence to affect public policy. With a well-informed Catholic conscience, these too are in positions to make an enormous difference for good.

Finally, we all have the duty to vote. Morally speaking, voting is not optional. We have the duty to form our society by good for our use by our voting power. If we are not a policy that the United States bishops have written a document (called “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship”) that helps Catholics do that.

Secondly, we must be willing to ask questions. As it has been put Catholics do that. We are called to this and can make an enormous difference for good.

Neither the division nor the quarrels are the will of Christ who prayed, “that they all may be one.”

We begin, once again, the process of electing a new president for our country. This gives all Catholics the opportunity to reflect on our role and duty as participant’s in our nation’s civil life.

Catholic political responsibility is more than just voting. We have to make sure, first of all, that our consciences are well-formed by the teaching of the church. For example, if we wish to engage positively with the public world with a truly informed conscience one should understand what the church teaches concerning stem-cell research (embryonic and adult), same-sex unions, poverty, war, abortion, capital punishment, human cloning, euthanasia and assisted suicide. One also should be able to discern how these issues relate to each other and which ones are of greater weight. This is a little more tricky, however. The United States bishops have written a document (called “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship”) that helps Catholics do that.

Secondly, we must be willing to ask questions. As it has been put Catholics do that. We are called to this and can make an enormous difference for good.

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John salutes Jesus as God’s anointed

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OEN F. CAMPION

Baptism of the Lord Mt 3:13-17

This weekend the church celebrates the third of its great feasts, leading up to the reality of salvation in Christ Jesus. This weekend we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. The other two of these great feasts were Christmas and then the feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. Each of these feasts, through its Liturgy of the Word, introduces us to a vital dimension in the identity of Jesus and an important consideration for Christians as they seek to follow the Lord.

Supplying the first reading for this weekend is the Book of Isaiah. Isaiah writes about a loyal servant of God, a servant who is steadfast in his faithfulness despite enduring the hostilities of others who are hostile to the very existence of his faith and life.

This reading, along with three others quite similar in Isaiah, are called the “Songs of the Suffering Servant” and could form a major part not only of Scripture, but also of the liturgy as they are used in Holy Week when the faithful concentrate on the sacrifice of Jesus on Calvary.

The second reading, from the Acts of the Apostles, reveals what life was like in the first generation of Christianity. It verifies the structure of the church even as this structure exists today.

Peter is central. Peter appears before Cornelius, whose name indicates Roman origins and preaches in the very name of Christ. He is discharging his responsibility as an apostle, a responsibility given him by the Lord.

The reading is revealing since it shows that Peter offered salvation not just to Jews, whose heritage Peter shared, but also to pagans, indeed even to the brutal Romans of his day. The baptism and occupation of the Holy Land had resulted in so much misery, death and despair.

Peter’s preaching leads to one conclusion. Salvation is in Jesus alone. Jesus came as God’s representative. In God’s love, Jesus went about “doing good works” and healing the sick.

St. Matthew’s Gospel offers the last reading, revealing not only the event of the story of the Lord’s baptism in the River Jordan by John the Baptist, but also the import of the event for us and for all believers.

Throughout, we see how Jesus was not just the only Son of God, but also the Son of the human race. He was able to be called the “Son of Man” because he was God’s Son and also a servant of God.

Reflection

This feast of the Baptism of the Lord reveals to us the Lord’s identity. He is the Son of God. He is the Savior, rescuing us from eternal death by assuming our sins and by making amends to God for our sinfulness. He unites us with God. He is the mediator.

The church makes the words of Peter to Cornelius its own words. It calls us to recognize the Lord as our Savior.

And, the church calls us to admit that we are sinners. We need Jesus as Jesus reconciles us with God. He is our hope. He is life. He is God’s love.

**Readings**

Sunday: 1-421-4-6 Ps 291-4-3, 9-10 Acts 1034-38 Mt 3:13-17

Monday: 1 Sm 1:1-8 Ps 116:12-19 Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20 (Ps) 1 Sm 2:1-4, 8 Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10 19:20-20 Ps 402,5,7-10 Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: 1 Sm 4:11-1 Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25 Mk 1:40-45

Friday: 1 Sm 6:4-7, 10-22a Ps 89:16-19 Mk 21-12

Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19:10 Ps 212-27:23-17

**Grieving well after the holidays**

Following the death of my husband in the fall of 1990, getting through the holidays was all I could do. I was unaware of any church services in these days and found little solace then, though currently there is a slow moving, grassroots attempt to minister to the bereaved.

December had come and gone as if my well-meaning family and friends, and there I was, alone again, faced with what seemed like an eternity of despair stretching out before me. What does one who is grieving the loss of a loved one do following the Christmas holidays?

Though I was young and my pain was raw, I felt I was expected to resume life as I knew it as those around me had the luxury of activity that is Christmas. But life as I knew it no longer existed, and I found no manual on how to “grieve after the holidays.”

I quickly learned that though the grieving process seemed to take a back seat during the hustle and bustle of holiday activities, it eventually vied for the driver’s seat — and frequently at the most inopportune times. The days seemed mundane and melancholy following the seasonal business, leaving me with what seemed like too much alone time.

However, the days following the Christmas holidays may be the perfect time to be alone with grief. Consider this: Being alone can be different than being lonely (have you ever felt lonely in a room full of people?) and can be a healthy way to pursue healing. To descend into the starkness of grief may be painful for a time, but only by working through it will you transcend into light and life.

Take some of the alone time per- haps after the Christmas rush to sit quietly and concentrate on the sacrifice of Jesus on Calvary.

Consider this: Being alone can be another healthy way to express your grief and need to remember. Find a meaningful passage or prayer that is meaningful to you. As I know it no longer existed, and I find no manual on how to “grieve after the holidays.”

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**CATEQUIZ’EM**

By Dominic Caplison

To mark the beginning of one year and the end of another, this week’s quiz looks at all things Finnish.

1. Catholics in Finland are notable mainly for their ____________
   a. piety            b. generosity         c. scarcity

2. The origins of Christianity in Finland are ____________
   a. fairly unclear, though with clearly Russian and Eastern influences
   b. documented in the saga “Fenominen” written by Eric the bishop
   c. easily understood, if we realize it was a Danish colony until 1289

3. Christianity is believed to have appeared by ____________
   a. magic              b. the 12th century    c. accident

4. One of these involved, Henry Bishop of Upsala was, quite surprisingly.
   a. English             b. A Lapp                        c. Norwegian

5. He met this fate: ____________
   a. He was murdered.
   b. He was forced to convert to the native religion of animism.
   c. He was exiled to Iceland by Eric Greenough.

6. When the Finnish Catholic Church did take root, it was centered on ____________
   a. the Bishop of St. Petersburg
   b. the Diocese of Abo/Turku
   c. the ethnic minority of Karelians who had moved to Finland in the 1200s

7. Finnish clergy held some key positions in the church. Bishop Olaus Magnus was at times: ____________
   a. Pope of the Pole
   b. Rector of the Sorbonne in Paris
   c. Cardinal of the Scandinavian Inquisition

8. The Catholic Church suffered severely when this came to Finland in the 16th century: ____________
   a. Literary
   b. The order of the Teutonic Knights
   c. Lutheranism

9. Catholics were hounded and their faith eradicated. One beneficiary of the reform movement was however ____________
   a. the reindere because prohibitions against red noses and other “pagan” items were removed
   b. the Finnish language because the translation of the Bible helped fix and revive the language
   c. the lay Catholic who was freed of taxation and the need to attend bingo

10. Another group hounded by the majority church were these believers, linked culturally to Karelia and Russia: ____________
    a. the Old Believers
    b. the Orthodox
    c. the Luthers

11. What helped ease the burden on these people? ____________
    a. The acquisition of the country by Russia in 1809
    b. The merger of Sweden and Finland in 1819
    c. The independence of Finland from Denmark in 1821

12. Government acts in the 19th century signaled the first time since the reformation that these were tolerated: ____________
    a. Catholics
    b. Church buildings, which contained decorations
    c. Vernacular Bibles

13. Finland is unusual in that it has two state churches. Neither however is ____________
    a. English
    b. A Lapp
    c. Norwegian

14. This, often the subject of controversy in Protestant countries, was last undoubtedly explored when all Finnish cows came vacant at the same time in the 19th century: ____________
    a. The right to free speech
    b. The continuity of the Catholic tradition
    c. The apostolic succession among the bishops

15. The slight increases in the number of Catholics in Finland in recent years is almost entirely due to ____________
    a. the conversion of the Pagan Lapps
    b. the immigration of Catholics from poorer, more southern areas
    c. the Vatican’s policy of establishing diplomatic relations only with nations which allow Catholic conversions from state churches

**ANSWERS:**

1, c 2, a 3, b 4, a 5, a 6, b 7, b 8, c 9, b 10, h 11, a 12, b 13, b 14, c 15, b
SAMARITANS WERE AMONG FIRST PEOPLE TO ACCEPT CHRISTIANITY

**THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION**

also profaned the temple of Jerusalem around A.D. 6 by cat-
ter the bones of dead men in the sanctuary.

W White mentions that Jesus’ relationship with the Samaritans was sometimes aloof. When Jesus spoke to the woman at the well, he was on a mission, he said, “Do not visit pagan territory and do not enter a Samaritan village.” Said after the last sheep of the house of Israel.” When Jesus spoke to the woman of Samaria at the well, he bade her together or a song along shipping only on Mount Gerizim, saying that soon people will worship God the Father neither on Mt Gerizim nor in Jerusalem. On the other hand, Jesus did have dealings with the Samaritans. Jesus planned to enter a Samaritan town and sent Christians ahead to prepare for his arrival, but the Samaritans would not welcome Jesus, because he was on his way to Jerusalem. Jesus did, however, speak at length to the Samaritan woman at Jacob’s well. He healed 10 lepers, one of whom was a Samaritan who returned to thank him. Jesus told the parable of the Good Samaritan suggesting that the Samaritans might be more faithful to the love of God than the Jews. Before the risen Jesus ascended into heaven, he commis-
sioned his disciples to preach in Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria, and even to the ends of the earth. The Samaritans were actually among the first people to accept Christianity through the efforts of Philip the Deacon.

The parable of the Good Samaritan fits the geography of the Holy Land perfectly. J. Finegan says the ancient road from Jerusalem down to Jericho, on which the unfortunate man was travelling, was the shortest route, but it contained a treacherous pass called the “Ascent of Blood.” Another good reason to bowl was that he scores higher bowling four frames of not-so-great bowling another son good-naturedly-naval after the gutter claims the ball. She gets a strike, and entertaining to bowl left-handed after the second frame. Dad gets the mid-lane. We use bumpers for one of our family members, and worn-tie (yes, we rent them) to spend vacations or Sunday afternoons. Said about 10 minutes lasting the first things that pop into family members’ heads. No criticisms are allowed. Parceled thoughts of how we can support the break the ice and yield to more practical ones. Choose the activities that appeal to most members and start in on the list. Be realistic. Don’t expect your teenagers to want to spend the afternoon at the petting zoo or the toddlers at an all-day sporting event. However, compromise is in order. Be positive attitude when one’s first choice activity isn’t chosen. Be willing to try something new, remember, too, that you don’t need to spend money to have fun. A backyard game of baseball played in the street at the piano can yield as much fun, bonding moments as a trip to the movies.

With a little planning every family can experience fun together. Which experts tell us how to strengthen the bonds of brothers and sisters, parents, and children.

For me, knowing this not only makes spending the evening with my family in the neighborhood bowling alley fun, but also makes it worthwhile.

**THESA A. THOMAS, parochial historian of St. Matthew Cathedral Parish in South Bend, is the mother of nine children and wife of David. Visit her Web site at www.theresa-thomas.typepad.com.**

**HOPE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15**

**OPEN HEAVEN**

**SCRIPTURE SEARCH**

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the First Sunday of the Lenten Cycle A. Jesus begins his mission with his baptism. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

**HOPE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15**

**OPEN HEAVEN**

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THRU OUT THE YEAR TO COME.

OPEN HEAVEN

TO THE TABLE, the guests, after their final prayer and desire to call their own. The Web site www.parenting.org makes these suggestions: Brainstorm to trigger ideas, community projects or ways to spend vacations or Sunday afternoons. Said about 10 minutes lasting the first things that pop into family members’ heads. No criticisms are allowed. Parceled thoughts of how we can support the break the ice and yield to more practical ones. Choose the activities that appeal to most members and start in on the list. Be realistic. Don’t expect your teenagers to want to spend the afternoon at the petting zoo or the toddlers at an all-day sporting event. However, compromise is in order. Be positive attitude when one’s first choice activity isn’t chosen. Be willing to try something new, remember, too, that you don’t need to spend money to have fun. A backyard game of baseball played in the street at the piano can yield as much fun, bonding moments as a trip to the movies.

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THRU OUT THE YEAR TO COME.
Transforming mid-life

BY GINNY KOHRMAN

Opening prayer

Make your ways known to me, O Lord; teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and instruct me, for you are God, my Saviour, and in you I hope all the day long. — Ps 25:4-5

Mid-life and beyond

When I told my friend Mary that I was going to write an article about my struggle with mid-life, she quickly reminded me that, in reality, I was already beyond that stage. How depressing was that? Maybe it shouldn’t be, though, because in November 2006, an A.C. Nielsen survey found that 70 percent of those aged 45 plus consider the 60s to be the “new middle age.”

Whether we experience it in the 40s or the 60s, mid-life comes to all of us. And, even though I try not to be negative about the natural effects of aging, I am really frustrated with all the bulges and wrinkles that seem to be accumulating, despite my attempts to ward them off. I am buying more vitamins and antioxidants than I can possibly take, with an equal share of tedious and irritating ones, like those mentioned above.

Causse says that we are to welcome all things as part of God’s will for us and to “accept what we very often cannot avoid, and endure with love and resignation things, which could cause us weariness and disgust.”

Enduring with love and resignation necessitates an active and growing faith in Jesus Christ. Causse writes, “Faith sees the creator acting in all things... every fraction of a second, every atom of matter, contains a fragment of his hidden life and his secret activity.”

In addition, he teaches, “Faith transforms the earth into paradise... faith is our light in this world... faith unlocks God’s treasury.”

Unlocking God’s treasury

“For those who have surrendered themselves completely to God, all they are and do has power. Their lives are sermons. They are apostles. God gives a special force to all they say and do, even to their silence, their tranquility and their moods... which, on second thought, are God’s gifts. As I read on, I learned that it was only by lifting my own veil of blindness and seeing my present situation through the eyes of Christ that I would find any meaning in it. I began to realize that I may not be able to control or alleviate those situations I disliked, but I could use them in the present moment as opportunities to grow in holiness. ‘To be satisfied with the present moment is to relish and adore the present moment as it is, to live through all we have to do and suffer as events crowd in upon us. If we are like this, the liveliness of our faith will compel us to adore God no matter how humiliating the circumstances in which he places us.’ These wise words seemed difficult, but determined to unlock God’s treasury, I began to imagine how I could transform my mid-life difficulties.

Unlocking God’s treasury is a patient journey through the present moments of each day, guided by the inspired words of Scripture and the help of the Holy Spirit. If we can view mid-life as a time of transformation with many opportunities to grow in holiness, it may be easier to see this stage as God’s treasury of blessings.

So, as I struggle with new wrinkles and more gray hair, I can joyfully thank God for another day of life. When I can’t immediately recall information, I can momentarily say a prayer for those who truly suffer from Alzheimer’s disease or other forms of dementia. Sore muscles and backaches can remind me of those who are chronically wheelchair bound and totally dependent on others for movement. In the darkness of heartaches and suffering, I know — through faith — that God is there with me, unlocking his limitless treasury of unexpected opportunities and gifts.

Closing prayer: Chin Up!

‘My step is slower, uncertain, as the ground becomes rougher, and the slight rises become a challenge. I study the path I follow, my head bowed. You have promised to smooth the rough, lift up the valleys, make the hills low and to make the way straight. I am over- looking — or under-looking — your assurance for each step of this day. Lift my heart to your sufficiency, a willingness that your love carries me in joy, all the way.” — Mary Callahan
Sports

ICCL hoop action returns with Panthers, Wildcats unbeaten

BY ELMER J. DANCH

SOUTH BEND — The Inter-City Catholic League played the lid off the second half of its 63rd successive schoolboy basketball season when a full complement of games which were played at Holy Cross, St. Thomas, Saint Joseph’s and Marian — each team played two games, one Saturday and one on Sunday. At the top of the leadership heap were unbeaten St. Anthony Panthers and the St. Joseph, Mishawaka, Wildcats.

St. Anthony’s powerful offensive drive literally smothered Christ the King, 44-15, leading from start to finish and holding the Kings to four field goals. Robert Muscler powered in 18 points for St. Anthony.

St. Joseph of Mishawaka also displayed its early offensive power by bouncing St. Jude, 48-24, behind the scoring duo of Micheal Whittle who nailed the nets for 19 points and his teammate Andrew O’Leno who popped in 13 points. Coley Schulteis scored 10 points. The victors held a 10-point halftime lead and never looked back.

St. Matthew Blazers, showing improvement with each game, rallied to defeat Holy Cross, 45-42. Joe Watkins paced the Blazers with 12 points including three vital free throws. Tre Olive tallied 13 for Holy Cross. St. Pus X nipped St. Monica, 39-35, behind a 14-point performance by Mike Szrom. Teammate Emerson Maranyi added 11 points. Mishawaka Queen of Peace improved its record with a win over St. John the Baptist, 37-20, as Adam Jarowiak cashed in 13 points.

Holy Family were victorious in the contest with St. Joseph, South Bend, 35-24. Zach Fozo lead the Trojans with 11 points. In the final varsity tilt, St. Michael of Plymouth edged St. Bavo of Mishawaka, 25-20.

In the Colors Division, St. Joseph Gold of South Bend lost to St. Joseph Green of Mishawaka, 22-18; St. Thomas Gold beat St. Jude Green, 31-10; Holy Cross Blue downed St. Anthony Gold, 41-25; St. Pus Blue defeated Christ the King Blue, 29-25; Christ the King Gold beat St. John Maroon, 36-11; Corpus Christi Red beat St. Matthew Black, 27-7; and Christ the King White beat St. Joseph, South Bend, Blue, 32-18.

Bishop Luers cheerleaders attend nationals

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Luers High School cheerleaders participated in the High School Cheerleading Nationals in Dallas, Texas, Dec. 27-30.

The competition will be televised in March on ESPN and is the oldest and most prestigious competition in the nation.

The Luers’ squad competed in the Colors Division, which is for religious-based, private schools. The nine-girl squad is composed of the following: Josi Rowdabaugh, senior; Amelia Windom, Monica Roth and Laura Fennelly, juniors; Shelby Kendall, Kaitlin Krudop, sophomores; and Morgan Carroll, Kourtney Freiburger and Alexia Hamel, freshmen. The Knights are coached by Anita Correll.

“I am very proud of these young ladies and of what we represent — the best Bishop Luers has to offer,” Correll commented. “We intend to leave a positive memory of Luers in Texas and with NCA.”

San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy (CNS) — The body of St. Padre Pio will be exhumed, studied and displayed for public veneration from mid-April to late September, said the archbishop who oversees the shrine where the saint is buried.

Archbishop Domenico D’Ambrosio, papal delegate for the shrine in San Giovanni Rotondo, announced Jan. 6 that he and the Capuchin friars of Padre Pio’s community had decided it was important to verify the condition of the saint’s body and find a way to ensure its preservation.

“It is my personal conviction and that of the conferees of St. Pio that we have an obligation to give the generations that will come after us the possibility of venerating and preserving in the best possible way the mortal remains of St. Pio,” Archbishop D’Ambrosio said.

In addition to marking the 40th anniversary of Padre Pio’s death Sept. 23, 1968, the public veneration of his remains also will coincide with the 90th anniversary of the day on which he was believed to have received the stigmata. Immediately after Archbishop D’Ambrosio announced the exhumation of Padre Pio’s body, Italian newspapers and television stations began reporting that members of his family were opposed to the move and were threatening to sue the archbishop and the Capuchins.

But a spokesman for the family denied the rumors and Archbishop D’Ambrosio told Avvenire, the Italian Catholic daily newspaper, that he had been in contact with the family and they raised no objections.

St. Padre Pio’s body exhumed, displayed

Bower North Mystery Dinner Theater

Saturday, January 19, 2008
Knights of Columbus
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Your choice of Prime Rib or Chicken Breast

$40.00 per couple • Reservations required
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For Reservations
CASH BAR 6 PM • DINNER 7 PM • SHOW TIME 8 PM

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Learning for Life

Bishop Dwenger High School
Preferred Dates for Freshman Registration

January 28, 2008 6:30-8:30 p.m. St. Vincent and Precious Blood
January 29, 2008 6:30-8:30 p.m. St. Charles and St. John New Haven
January 30, 2008 6:30-8:30 p.m. St. Jude, Queen of Angels, Others
February 9, 2008 9:00-11:00 a.m. Open Registration (Library)

If for some reason you are unable to come on your assigned day, you may select any of the other available dates and times. Registration will take place in the cafeteria unless specified otherwise.

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Citizens of Two Worlds

Bishop Dwenger High School
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CATHOLIC EDUCATION IS IMPROVING OUR WORLD

TODAY’S CATHOLIC

January 13, 2008

DICE’S 3-POINT SHOOTING HELPS UNIVERSITY OF SAINT FRANCIS ROLL MAPLE LEAVES IN SECOND HALF

Tara Dice and Jamika Banks led the University of Saint Francis in a 20-6 second half start and the third-ranked Lady Cougars pulled away from Goshen College for a 60-40 win on Jan. 5 afternoon in a Mid-Central Conference game. It was the Lady Cougars’ 14th consecutive win, which ties the 2000-01 team for the third-longest streak in women’s program history at USF.
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 full listing. For additional listings of that event, please call our advertising sales staff at (260) 456-2824 to purchase space.

DEVOTIONS

Little Flower Holy Hour
Fort Wayne — Father Tony Steinmacker will celebrate the Holy Hour at MacDugal Chapel on Tuesday, Jan. 15, at 7:75 p.m. Father Tony is associate pastor at St. Charles Parish. Join in praying for priests and vocations.

The Knights of Columbus annual Respect Life program
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus St. Joseph Valley Chapter and the Santa Maria Council #553 will have a Respect Life program Sunday, Jan. 20, from 2-4 p.m. The program begins by gathering at council #553, at 553 E. Washington St. and marching to St. Joseph Church, at the corner of Hill and LaSalle Streets for an ecumenical prayer service at 2:20 p.m. Return march to council #553 at 2:30 p.m. for speaker Eileen Hartmann, the regional director of Project Gabriel, refreshments, soup and salad. Garv at (574) 287-4821, or the office.

St. Vincent's 45th annual Mardi Gras
Fort Wayne — St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 1502 E. Wallen Rd., will have a Mardi Gras party Saturday, Feb. 2, from 6:30-11 p.m. at the parish hall. “Cheers to the past, present and future” will feature dinner, dancing, silent auction, door prizes and other games. Tickets are $20 per person or $35 per couple (pre-sale) or $25 per person at the door. Free babysitting will be offered on site. For pre-purchased tickets and to schedule babysitting please contact Erin and Chris Lowden at (260) 348-3181 or e-mail derden07@gmail.com. Proceeds benefit LifeTeen and The Women’s Care Center.

Luau
South Bend — The Rosary and Holy Name Societies of St. Hedwig Parish are sponsoring a buffet chicken dinner on Sunday, Jan. 27, from noon to 2 p.m. at the Hewdgd Memorial Center, corner of Western at Scott St. Advance sales only by calling Sal at (574) 287-4821, or the rectory before Jan. 21. Adults and carryouts are $10, children under 12 free.

Chicken dinner planned
South Bend — The Rosary and Holy Name Societies of St. Hedwig Parish are sponsoring a buffet chicken dinner on Sunday, Jan. 27, from noon to 2 p.m. at the Hewgd Memorial Center, corner of Western at Scott St. Advance sales only by calling Sal at (574) 287-4821, or the rectory before Jan. 21. Adults and carryouts are $10, children under 12 free.

St. Charles Parish. Join in praying for priests and vocations.

St. Charles Borromeo
Fort Wayne — Velma A. De Konik, 81, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel Hillert Welling, St. Peter Richard J. Hageman, St. Theresa George W. Haehnick, St. Charles Borromeo W. Edward Faurote, 83, Our Lady of Good Hope James Edward Talacina, 56, St. John the Baptist James J. Murphy, 89, St. Charles Borromeo

Rest in Peace

Arcola
Gwendolyn L. McMillen, 68, St. Patrick Decatur
Loretta R. Lafontaine, 83, St. Mary/Assumption Elkhart
Dorothy J. Zyzak, 80, St. Vincent de Paul Theresa G. Cappelletti, 88, St. Thomas the Apostle
Fort Wayne
Velma A. De Konik, 81, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel
Hilbert Welling, St. Peter
Richard J. Hageman, St. Theresa
George W. Haehnick, St. Charles Borromeo
W. Edward Faurote, 83, Our Lady of Good Hope
James Edward Talacina, 56, St. John the Baptist
James J. Murphy, 89, St. Charles Borromeo

Donald J. Minnick, 79, St. Jude
John M. Berke Jr., 55, Most Precious Blood
Eugene R. Runser, 72, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
Robert Samuel, 71, St. Charles Borromeo
Goshen
Donald Schlabach, 81, St. John/Evangelist
Huntington
David W. Worthen, 90, St. Mary
Mishawaka
Louise Fiewek, 89, St. Bavo
Donna Lannoo, 93, St. Bavo
Monroeville
Alice E. Gerardot, 63, St. Rose of Lima
Notre Dame
James F. Gruver, 89, Holy Cross College
Plymouth
Agnes R. Shi, 79, St. Michael

South Bend
Eleanor Poulin, 87, Corpus Christi
Theresa Voorde, 95, St. Patrick
Clementine Skosinski, 91, St. Stanislaus
Matthew H. Zultanski, 86, St. Matthew Cathedral
Ariela Kubica, 90, St. Casimir
Paul L. Saus Jr., 58, St. John the Baptist
Mary M. Horvath, 79, Our Lady of Hungary
Casimir T. Bezinski, 96, St. Adalbert
Emery Papp, 71, St. Matthew Cathedral
Jean H. Plunkett, 77, St. Matthew Cathedral
Mary Richelis, Catherine Bollman, 32, Holy Cross
Brother Mary Laurence (Gerald) Hoevel, 78, Monks Corner, S.C.

FOOD FUNDRAISERS

Family trivia night
South Bend — The Youth Ministry program of Christ the King Parish will host a family trivia night, Saturday, Jan. 12, at 7 p.m. in the lower level of the church. Designed for families with children of all ages, the cost is $5 per person with a maximum of $30 per family. Family units can join together to make up tables of no more than 10. There will be categories for all ages and the night will also include heads or tails and a 50/50 drawing. Teams are invited to bring their own food to share and there will be beverages and desserts for sale. For information contact Greg Sweeney at (574) 272-3113 ext. 318. Proceeds will benefit the youth program.

Knights plan spaghetti dinner
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5531, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a spaghetti dinner on Friday, Jan. 18, from 5 to 7 p.m. Adults $6, children (5-12) $3. Dinner includes spaghetti, salad, garlic toast and coffee. Carry-out available.

Square dance dates announced
New Haven — St. Louis Besancon Academy’s HASA is sponsoring a square dance at the parish hall on Saturday, Jan. 12 and Saturday, Feb. 9. The doors open at 7:30 p.m. and dancing is from 8-11 p.m. Music by Breakaway. Tickets are $10 per person.

Pancake breakfast
South Bend — Area high school students making a pilgrimage to Medjugorje will have a pancake breakfast at Corpus Christi Church on Sunday, Jan. 20, from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is $6 for adults, $5 for children under 12, and free for children under 3. Save a dollar by buying tickets in advance. Call (574) 243-9879.

Local Color
Fort Wayne — An evening of entertainment will be held at Sacred Heart Parish, a parish of 900 families located under the Basilica, invites applicants for the position of DRE. Duties include, but are not limited to, the ability to work well with people of various interest in justice, a commitment to Christ’s peace, character, knowledge of the Church and world, an understanding of religious education, a graduate degree in Early Childhood or Elementary Education, Human Resources Management, or related degree and/or at least three years of related supervisory experience. Previous experience in a licensed and accredited child care facility. Current knowledge of NAEYC and/or COA accreditation. Proficient in computer applications (prefer Microsoft Office). Must be able to professionally represent the agency in oral and written communication. Responsibilities also include developing and working within a yearly budget. Please send resume with salary requirements by January 18, 2008 to: Attn: Human Resources - Catholic Charities 315 East Washington Blvd., Fort Wayne, IN 46835 e-mail: clalevich@ccfwsb.org.

Sacred Heart Parish, a parish of 900 families located on the campus of Notre Dame (although independent of Campus Ministry at ND), worshiping 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 the pastor: Rev. John Patrick Riley, CSC Sacred Heart Parish, University of Notre Dame, 104 The Presbytery, Notre Dame IN 46556 or by email: John.P.Riley.33@nd.edu. Requests for more information can be addressed to Chris Miller, DRE at cmiller4@nd.edu

Child Care Center Director

Bachelor’s Degree in Early Childhood or Elementary Education, Human Resources Management, or related degree and/or at least three years of related supervisory experience. Previous experience in a licensed and accredited child care facility. Must be able to professionally represent the agency in oral and written communication. Responsibilities also include developing and working within a yearly budget. Please send resume with salary requirements by January 18, 2008 to: Attn: Human Resources - Catholic Charities 315 East Washington Blvd., Fort Wayne, IN 46835 e-mail: clalevich@ccfwsb.org.

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Director of Religious Education

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Vigil for Life

Sunday, January 20, 2008

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne
The Reverend Robert Schulte, Main Celebrant
Mass at 5:00 p.m. • Benediction - 7:00 p.m.

Cathedral of St. Matthew, South Bend
The Most Reverend John M. D’Arcy, Main Celebrant
Mass at 5:30 p.m. • Benediction - 7:30 p.m.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
(immediately following Mass)

The Mass will mark the 35th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision of Roe v. Wade which legalized abortion in our country. Please come and pray for a renewed respect for human life in our nation.

Sponsored by the Office of Family Life