SOUTH BEND — Being pro-life is more than a slogan. As Catholics, we are called to actively support the culture of life by our prayers and our actions.

That’s according to Bishop John M. D’Arcy, who presided over Sunday’s Vigil for Life Mass. The bishop encouraged the faithful gathered at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend to prepare themselves for a painful week ahead. He asked people to do penance on “Jan. 22, the very day when the Supreme Court of our beloved country said there should be no legal defense of the unborn. What was forbidden was made legal.”

While such penance is reparation for the continuing sin of abortion, the bishop also pointed to the gift of God’s unfathomable mercy.

“IF there is anyone within the sound of my voice who has had an abortion, or supported or incurred an abortion for another,” said Bishop D’Arcy, “this is also week of reconciliation.”

The bishop reminded those gathered that through prayer, counsel and good will we can, and should, reach out to help those who suffer the aftermath of abortion. He also reiterated the responsibility Catholics have to continue the fight for life.

“We must always teach our people,” began the bishop, “and we should speak in the public arena.”

Bishop D’Arcy illustrated how the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is doing this, with many people braving the cold winter weather to travel to Washington, D.C., for the March for Life. There is much to be done here at home...

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BDHS wrestling wins third straight SAC championship
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Father Hodde remembered as beloved pastor, Civil War historian

A beloved priest

We buried Father Bill Hodde on a cold but sunny winter day. The Mass was in the church of Our Lady of Good Hope, the church which he built and where he was the founding pastor. The church was packed. You could feel the grief and the sorrow, but also the joy at having known such an exemplary and splendid priest. People at the Mass were from St. Thomas, Elkhart, Our Lady of Good Hope, and especially the beloved little parish of St. Aloysius, Yoder, and other parishes where he had served as an associate.

Death challenges us all to look at the crucifix, at the one who bore his suffering for all of us and arose from the dead for our salvation. This is our hope. The death of a good priest brings a special sharpness in the pain. People in several parishes had lost a father and a shepherd. We priests lost a brother, and someone who faced the burden of the day with us. We could be said of Father Bill Hodde what the Lord said to his apostles in the Gospel of Luke: “You are the ones who have stood by me in my trials.”

Father Bill served on our priests’ Personnel Board for two terms as well as on the Presbyteral Council. He was elected by his brother priests and chosen by the bishop as a Vicar Forane — a priest who keeps a good pastoral eye on a hole area.

In recent years, he served on the Advisory Board for Retired Priests. His judgment was always sound.

A public figure

A Civil War historian, he was a docent at the Lincoln Museum in Fort Wayne. When Doris Kearns Goodwin came to Fort Wayne to speak about Lincoln and her recent book, “Team of Rivals,” Father Bill was in touch with me and other priests, and we all attended this excellent lecture after a nice dinner. I am told he visited every Civil War battlefield and served on various round tables and committees. He sent me a book once on Graymoor, N.Y. The monks eventually entered the Catholic Church and continued this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Father Bill had a gift of making people think. He always sound.

So, with Episcopalians, Lutherans, members of the United Church of Christ, and several of our priests and lay people, it was my privilege to speak at the historic Cathedral of St. James in South Bend.

Saturday with the saints

Our last Sunday morning for part of a day at St. James. There, under the direction of Professor Larry Cunningham, were a magnificently presented presiders by Sister Ann Astell, a new member of the excellent theology department at Notre Dame. Her conference was on the chapter in the decree on the Constitution on the Church, “Lumen Gentium,” entitled The Universal Call to Holiness in the Church. A beautiful presentation. Sister Ann is an expert on such medieval saints as Catherine of Siena.

Later the rector of the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, San Francisco, made a presentation on the various tapestries in that celebrated building. There were breaks in his talk as we all sang the litany of the saints. I made a lunch presentation about lunch about holiness and optimism in the life of John Paul II.

Sunday

The first confirmation of the new year at Holy Cross Parish with Father Mike Mathews, CSC. Thus, I began my 34th year of conferring the sacrament of confirmation. It has always been a joy. While I have grown weary at times, as the spring rolls on, I have considered it a privilege. To see the vitality of the parish and the goodness of so many parents, is a splendid opportunity; and that was true at Holy Cross, South Bend.

Afterwards, I was pleased to meet two friends, Professor Matt Ashley of the theology department of Notre Dame and his wife, Anselma, who is working on her doctorate in the same place, as well as their children, one of whom was confirmed taking the name Catherine of Siena. Professor Ashley will be giving a course this spring to our catechists on Catholic spirituality talking about such medieval saints as Ignatius of Loyola, Catherine of Siena, and some modern Catholics, such as Thomas Merton and Dorothy Day. What a privilege for our catechists, and I speak for Sister Jane Carew and others as to how pleased we are with the professors of Notre Dame who have enriched our preparation of catechists. Sister Jane writes: “This will be our 10th course given in both South Bend and Fort Wayne and many people have attended classes at Notre Dame during the summer. This has been truly a blessed experience for our diocese.” The quality of the courses is extraordinary. Back then to St. Matthew’s Cathedral for the 5:30 Mass and the eucharistic holy hour of prayer, part of our diocesan observance for the tragic Roe v. Wade decision. Despite the frigid night, a large number of people remained at St. Matthew’s to spend an hour in adoration praying for the ending of abortion in our land and asking forgiveness and reconciliation for those who have made this terrible decision that they will return to Christ and to the Eucharist.

After soup and sandwich with the devoted pastor, Father Michael Heintz, now completing his doctorate in pastoral studies, I was off through the cold night to Fort Wayne, where I heard the news on the radio about the Patriots. Home in time to see the New York Giants win in overtime. Up early the next morning to prepare a fitting homily for the New England 30, New York Giants 20. I heard a magnificent presentation by Sister Ann. She is an expert on such medieval saints as Catherine of Siena.

TODAY’S CATHOLIC

January 27, 2008

BISHOP JOHN M. D’ARCY

His bishop to study philosophy. He told me how many were veterans of World War II and how one was a convert to the Catholic faith. They had two reunions in Fort Wayne, and I took the opportunity to tell the class what a splendid priest was their classmate Bill Hodde. I think he always took seriously the words said to the priest at ordination when the bishop gives him the chalice and the patten, symbolic of the privilege of making present the Eucharist — “Understand what you are doing, imitate what you handle, and model your life on the Lord’s cross.”

Safe home, dear Bill, safe home. May the angels lead you into paradise, may the martyrs receive you at your coming.
FORT WAYNE — Jennifer Kohrman is delighted to be the newest member of the team known in the Office of Spiritual Development and brings a strong desire to welcome others.

This Fort Wayne native attended St. Vincent de Paul School with her two brothers and two sisters. She graduated from Bishop Dwenger High School and earned her degree in school counseling from Indiana University-Purdue University at Fort Wayne in 2002.

Her faith development, she says, began at home where her family prayed the rosary together every Sunday following Mass.

Kohrman became a parishioner of St. Jude Parish in 1994 and began serving as an RCIA sponsor. “It inspired me. That’s when I started a hunger for shar- ing. I thought it was beautiful to call or share in faith in that way,” she says.

Her professional journey led her to a school counseling position in the parochial school system in Fort Wayne for two years. Though she enjoyed her work, she continued to feel God was calling her to evangelize in different ways.

“I’m in spiritual discern- ment then,” Kohrman recalls. Then she says, as God has always worked in her life, he sent an invitation to take the next leg of her journey. “My cousin was in the master’s in the theology program at Notre Dame through our Sunday Visitor. I called Sister Jane to inquire and was accepted into the program in 2004.”

The theology program has given this young Catholic woman a new perspective on her already deep faith.

“I’m a cradle Catholic. It’s great to see faith through a different lens, the second time around. I appreciate my faith even more,” she says with a smile. And this new perspective has instilled in her a desire to share her faith more fully.

Along with her studies at Notre Dame, her discernment continued until she read an in the Today’s Catholic newspaper for the diocese of Fort Wayne. “It seemed similar to what I wanted to do — share faith in some capacity,” she notes. Kohrman interviewed and was hired to begin work in the office in November of last year as administrative assistant.

Currently she is shadowing and observing before she takes on the responsibility of guiding the number of parishes she will be assigned.

Her duties include assisting parishes in mission planning, developing enrichment days for Lent, promoting Women of Faith Bible study groups and the Wells of Hope program.

Kohrman is assisting in developing programs for men as well and feels this position offers the opportunity to experience so many new activities. “I’ve done lots of things I’ve never done before. I’ve writ- ten petitions for Mass, articles,” she says.

Her hope is to “get to know what people are thirsting for in the faith,” she adds.

Kohrman says she knows their needs and work with them to empower parishioners and parishes.

Kohrman intends to meet the faithful of the diocese at mis- sion, Mass and other events: “The key,” she says, “is to listen and keep in contact.”

Of her new position she says engaging with the people here. It feels like a good place.”

Her hope for the future is to earn her master’s in theology by 2009 and continue to share her faith in whatever venue God directs. “I’m open to the future. Right now this is where I feel I should be.”

JENNIFER KOHRMAN

FORT WAYNE — Father William G. Hodde died Thursday, Jan. 17, at Saint Anne Home. He was 81. He served the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend for over 55 years and is remembered as a lov- ing pastor and the founding pastor of Our Lady of Good Hope Catholic Church. Fort Wayne, and described as a lov- ing believer of history, especially the Civil War.

Known as Father Bill to his friends, he was born June 15, 1926, to Harry and Ann Klein Hodde. His father was an International Telephone and Telegraph founder and the member of the Evangelical Reformed Church. His mother was a devout Catholic and the lone mother of the Scout troop that included a young Adam Schmitt, also a future priest of the diocese.

Father Hodde earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Notre Dame and graduated from the School of Theology at The Catholic University of America in 1952.

In 1969, Bishop Leo Pursley appointed Father Hodde as found- ing pastor of Our Lady of Good Hope Catholic Church in Fort Wayne.

“That was a lot of fun, starting from scratch,” he said in 2002. “I think the first two or three years at Our Lady of Good Hope were some of the happiest of my priest- hood.”

After breaking ground in 1971, Masses were held in the Bishop Dwenger High School cafeteria and gymnasium while the church was being built. Since there was no rectory while the farm house was being renovated, Father Hodde lived at the Fort Wayne chancery and assisted dur- ing the day with the Marriage Tribunal. Evenings included home Masses, as well as planning committee, parish council and activi- ties committee meetings in parishes.

Father Hodde’s brother was draft- ed, so Bishop Noll reassigned him to Sacred Heart Church in Fort Wayne as an associate pastor so Father Hodde could be close to his mother. He served 11 years at Sacred Heart.

On Nov. 7, 1963, he was appointed assistant pastor at St. John the Baptist Parish in Fort Wayne and served under Msgr. Stanley Manoski.

In 1969, Bishop Leo Pur- sley appointed Father Hodde as found- ing pastor of Our Lady of Good Hope Catholic Church in Fort Wayne.

Father Hodde’s diocesan appointments included being the 14th bishop of the diocese, his being named as a cardinal on April 6, 1977, and vice president of the Pontifical Commission for the Church in the Far East.

Cardinal Hodde served the diocese from 1977 to 1987.

In 1986, he was appointed as the apostolic administrator of Saint Michael the Archangel Parish in Elkhart.

He loved all the little chil- dren of our parish,” recalls Father Hodde’s parish secretary at St. Aloysius.

“You could see this love on his face at a baptism or when he greeted people after Mass.”

“He was faithful to his promises. He was faithful to his friends,” recalls Father Adam Schmitt who, having known Father Hodde from childhood, was a close friend. Father Hodde preached at Father Schmitt’s first Mass, and Father Hodde sometimes joined Father Hodde on his many travels. Father Schmitt recalls Father Hodde mak- ing the effort to visit his family and classmatest all over the country. “He was just a wonderful person,” Father Schmitt says.

Father Hodde had a tremendous love of God and of his fellow man.

Father Hodde celebrated his 50th anniversary as a priest and retired from St. Aloysius in 2002.

Moving to an apartment in Saint Anne Home in Fort Wayne, Father Hodde remained very active in retirement, helping parishes with Masses and penance services all around the Fort Wayne area and even co-organizing a pilgrimage to the Mediterranean in November of 2007.

In 2009, he was named pastor emeritus of Our Lady of Good Hope Catholic Church. Father Hodde died 12 years as the pastor.

He remained a beloved fig- ure in the parish, even substituting at Masses till just before his death.

FATHER WILLIAM HODDE

FATHER WILLIAM HODDE loved God, the people he served

FATHER WILLIAM HODDE loved God, the people he served

Pope: Church-run schools need Christian perspective amid diversity

BY JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI said modern education is threatened by exaggerated rationalism on one hand and reli- gious fundamentalism on the other.

In order to fight against this “educational crisis,” church-run schools and universities should propose a distinctly Christian per- spective, even as they welcome cultural and religious diversity, the pope said.

He made the comments Jan. 21 to members of the Congregation for Catholic Education meeting at the Vatican.

The pope said the world today faces a double challenge: a rational- ization “false liberating and unchained from every religious reference,” and “fundamentalisms that falsify the true essence of reli- gion with their own distinctive educators, violence and fanaticism.”

Cultural pluralism raises new questions in education, he said. Clearly, a school cannot exclude anyone because of his or her cul- tural or religious identity, he said.

But it’s not enough simply to recognize such diversity, he said. The important thing is for people of different religious or cultural backgrounds to speak to each other and understand each other.

And he said that a Catholic school is open to everyone and respects the cultural identity of each person, “it cannot fail to pro- pose its own distinct educative, human and Christian perspective,” he said.

Noting that the education con- gregation was considering an update of the “Norms for Priests Formation,” the pope said priests today need particular preparation in order to dialogue with contem- porary culture.

“The human and cultural for- mation therefore should be signifi- cantly strengthened and supported even with the help of modern sci- ences, because some destabilizing social factors today — for exam- ple, the situation of so many sepa- rated families, the educational cri- sis, widespread violence, etc. — are making new generations frag- ile,” he said.

In an address to the pope, Cardinal Zenon Grocholewski, head of the education congregation, said the updating of the priests formation norms could also include the new possibilities offered by the Internet.

Cardinal Grocholewski also said the congregation still intended to offer guidelines for the contributions of psychological sci- ences in seminary admission and formation. The congregation has been working on that document for several years; the cardinal did not say when it would be finished.
Notre Dame conference celebrates saints in the Catholic tradition

BY ANN CAREY

NOTRE DAME — A conference on sainthood at the University of Notre Dame last week celebrated the September beatification of Blessed Basil Moreau, founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross.

This conference explored the Communion of Saints, from the early martyrs to the venerated saints of the 16th-century Council of Trent.

This conference also explored how the Catholic Church has continued to recognize saints, from the early martyrs to the sainthood of Blessed Basil Moreau, founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross.

The University of Notre Dame marked Moreau’s first feast day on Sunday, Jan. 18-19 with a special conference on sainthood and a calendar of who was to be venerated. After the period of martyrdom ended, interest in holy people continued, with the faithful making pilgrimages to venerate these holy people at their shrines, he said.

The 16th-century Council of Trent made veneration of saints and their relics a part of Catholic devotion, but the process for canonization was not normalized until the 18th century.

Lawrence Cunningham, the John A. O’Brien Professor of Theology at Notre Dame, talked about how the Catholic Church understands the role of saints and how the recognition of saints evolved over the centuries.

A general definition of saint is someone who is close to God in this life or in eternity, Cunningham observed. He said that the Catholic Church has a rigorous process for recognizing saints. He also noted that the canonization process was developed to investigate the life and story of the proposed saint, and that the canonization process was developed to investigate the life and story of the proposed saint.

“In the Christian life in depth and show us how to find new ways to serve Christ.”

Saints teach us perameral truths and give us new insights,” Cunningham said. When we ask them to join our prayers to God, they do not cease to intercede with us.

Cunningham also reminded the audience — many of whom were students — that we have saints among us today, perhaps in the person of a devoted parent or teacher or patient living with a difficult illness.

“Everywhere and in every time, there are heroic people who radiate the Gospel of Christ,” he said, and these people are indeed saints, even if they are never formally canonized by the church.

Journalist and author Kenneth Woodward observed that saints are familiar figures in all world religions, but the Catholic Church is the only religion that has a rigorous formal process for recognizing saints. He said that the Catholic Church has a rigorous process for recognizing saints.

The conference was sponsored by Notre Dame’s theology department, as well as Notre Dame’s Office of the President, the Campus Ministry and the Blessed Moreau’s beatification committee.

Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, archbishop emeritus of Washington, D.C., who has closely followed the beatification of Blessed Basil Moreau, speaks at the University of Notre Dame conference, “A Great Cloud of Witnesses: Saints in the Catholic Tradition.” He presided over the solemn vespers at the Church of Our Lady of Loretto Saturday evening with the Sisters of the Holy Cross.
VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has no intention of launching a liturgical “return to the past” but would like to recover some important elements that have been lost or forgotten in recent decades, the Vatican’s liturgist said.

Msgr. Guido Marini, master of papal liturgical ceremonies, made the comments in an interview Jan. 19 with Vatican Radio. He was asked about fears that the pope wants to abandon the liturgical reform of the Second Vatican Council.

“These are certainly incorrect inferences and interpretations,” Msgr. Marini said. The path of Catholic liturgy is “development in continuity,” in which change never loses touch with the church’s living traditions, he said.

“This may also require, in some cases, the recovery of precious and important elements that along the way have been lost or forgotten,” he said.

On Jan. 13 the pope celebrated a Mass in the Sistine Chapel using the original main altar, which meant he faced away from the people during parts of the liturgy.

Msgr. Marini said the change in direction reflected the special artistic circumstances of the Sistine Chapel and was not out of line with Vatican II reforms.

“There may be particular circumstances under which, because of the artistic conditions of the holy place or its singular beauty and harmony, it becomes desirable to celebrate at the ancient altar, where among other things the exact orientation of the liturgical celebration is preserved,” he said. “This is exactly what happened ... in the Sistine Chapel. It is a practice allowed by liturgical norms, in tune with the conciliar reform,” he said. In such circumstances, the celebrant is not so much “turning his back on the faithful” as orienting himself, together with the faithful, toward God, Msgr. Marini said.

“I think it is also important to remember that, in these cases, the amount of time the celebrant turns his back on the faithful is relatively brief. The entire Liturgy of the Word takes place, as usual, with the celebrant turned toward the assembly, indicating the dialogue of salvation that God holds with his people,” he said.

“Therefore, there is no return to the past, but the recovery of a form of celebration that in no way calls into question the teachings and directions of the Second Vatican Council,” he said.

In general, Msgr. Marini said, the orientation of every celebration of Mass is toward “the Lord, the savior who was crucified and rose from the dead.” This should be the interior orientation of the faithful and the exterior celebration as well, he said.

“The placement of the cross on the altar at the center of the assembly is able to communicate this fundamental element of liturgical theology,” he said.

One recent innovation for papal Masses in St. Peter’s Basilica has been the placement of a crucifix in the center of the altar, instead of alongside the altar.

Nicholas Becker looks over his mother’s shoulder during the Vigil for Life Mass held Jan. 20 at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend. Nancy and Rick Becker and their seven children were among the many who prayed for the unborn during the period of adoration that followed Mass.

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Provena Health, a Catholic health system, builds communities of healing and hope by compassionately responding to human need in the spirit of Jesus Christ.
Jesus working in Asia elected new head of order

ROME (CNS) — Spanish-born Father Adolfo Nicolas, moderator of the Jesuit Province of East Asia and Oceania, was elected superior general of the Society of Jesus Jan. 19. The 217 voting delegates to the Jesuit General Congregation elected Father Nicolas, 71, on their second ballot. He succeeds Father Hans Kolvenbach, 79, who had asked to resign because of his age.

Pope Benedict XVI was informed of the election of Father Nicolas before the Jesuits announced it publicly. The election came after four days of prayer, silence and quiet one-on-one conversations among the voting delegates, who were chosen to represent the more than 19,000 Jesuits around the world. Father Nicolas was ordained to the priesthood in Tokyo and is the former Jesuit provincial of Japan. He also had served as director of the East Asian Pastoral Institute in Manila.

Immigration issues top concerns at border bishops’ meeting

LAREDO, Texas (CNS) — Bishops from adjoining U.S. and Mexican dioceses said the main concern they shared at a Jan. 12 meeting was how immigration reform is being treated in both countries. Regardless of their legal status, people who try to cross the border into the United States need to be treated as human beings, said Bishop Patrick J. Zurek. The auxiliary bishop from San Antonio will be installed as bishop of the Diocese of Laredo. He will be president of the Catholic Conference of Mexican bishops.

Bishops from adjoining U.S. and Mexican dioceses said the main concern they shared at a Jan. 12 meeting was how immigration reform is being treated in both countries. Regardless of their legal status, people who try to cross the border into the United States need to be treated as human beings, said Bishop Patrick J. Zurek. The auxiliary bishop from San Antonio will be installed as bishop of the Diocese of Laredo. He will be president of the Catholic Conference of Mexican bishops.

Cardinal Lehmann resigns as head of German bishops’ conference

COLOGNE, Germany (CNS) — After 21 years as head of the German bishops’ conference, Mainz Cardinal Karl Lehmann has resigned as its president, but will continue to serve as bishop of Mainz. The 71-year-old cardinal announced Jan. 15 he made the decision after being hospitalized for cardiac arrhythmia in December. He had been in a coma for several days effective Feb. 18, after the next conference meeting, where his successor will be elected. Tributes came from his fellow bishops, as well as from prominent Germans. Germany’s prominent Anglican, Archbishop Justin Welby, said he had had many deep conversations with Cardinal Lehmann. “He always accompanied us politicians in our work, even in the process of making difficult decisions,” she said, who was also president of the Social Democrats, Kurt Beck — who is also prime minister of the state of Rhineland-Palatinate, which includes Mainz — said, “As a brilliant theologian, with his humanity and his humor, he has often been able to reconcile different views.”

Cardinal outlines Rome basilica’s activities for Pauline year

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Dedicating 2008-2009 to reading the letters of St. Paul and rediscovering the zeal that led him to establish Christian communities throughout the Mediterranean basin, the Catholic Church also hopes to promote Christian unity, an Italian cardinal said. Cardinal Andrea Cordero Lanza di Montezemolo, archpriest of Rome’s Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, said that if Christians seriously follow the apostle’s example of allowing Christ to work in and through them, they naturally will draw closer to one another. Pope Benedict XVI proclaimed the special Pauline year, which will begin June 28, to coincide with the 2,000th anniversary of St. Paul’s birth. In Rome, the basilica where his tomb is located will be the focal point of Catholic as well as ecumenical activities. Presenting a brief outline of the kinds of activities the basilica will host during the year, Cardinal Cordero Lanza di Montezemolo also announced Jan. 21 that a special Web site — www.annopolano.org — had been launched and would be updated as events are confirmed.

Pope to change Tridentine prayer for Jews

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has decided to reformulate a Good Friday prayer in the 1962 Roman Missal that was offensive to Jews, according to an Italian newspaper. The new prayer will drop all reference to the “blindness” of the Jews in refusing Christ as savior, the newspaper, Il Giornale, reported Jan. 18. The Vatican did not officially confirm the report, but sources said privately that a rewriting of the prayer was likely and could be made public soon. The issue arose last year when the pope lifted the ban on the 1962 missal, known popularly as the Tridentine rite. The missal contains a prayer for the conversion of Jews, recited on Good Friday. While the prayer would not be recited in most parishes, particular Catholics might use it in the old rite could use it in Good Friday liturgies.

Polish, Ukrainian prelates warn Catholics against schismatic group

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — Warn Catholics against a schismatic group is trying to spread in Poland, Archbishop Tadeusz Gocłowski of Gdansk said in a pastoral letter read in archdiocesan churches Jan. 13. The archbishop noted that last year Pope Benedict XVI broadened permission for the use of the Tridentine Mass, the Latin-language liturgy that predates the Second Vatican Council. In a letter accompanying the decision, the pope noted the importance of the Tridentine Mass to the breakaway Lefebvrites but said the reasons for their schism with the Vatican “were at a deeper level.” In a pastoral letter for the Jan. 7 Ukrainian Catholic Christmas, Archbishop Ihor Voznuk of Lviv, said Father Vasyl Kovpak, who was excommunicated in 2006 by a Ukrainian church tribunal, had defied the Vatican’s confirmation of his excommunication and continued to head the Ukrainian Lefebvre movement, which runs a seminary and conven in L’viv as well as several parishes with some 3,000 adherents. “The work of this priest is damaging to the spirit — this is why I forbid any support for his followers,” Archbishop Voznuk said.

To preach effectively, have passion for Gospel, says U.S. archbishop

ROME (CNS) — Preaching effectively in the U.S. “requires the church’s multiracial, multicultural Church — the way the church structures itself ensures a great deal of autonomy at the parish level to minister to the local needs of the people of God.” Under the current civil structure, Bishop Olmsted is listed as the property owner of all parish assets in trust for the given parish. But in actual practice, as prescribed by canon law, the pastor makes almost all decisions at the parish level.

Pope says ecumenical dialogue should lead to concrete activities

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Meeting members of the Lutheran-Catholic pilgrimage from Finland on the first day of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Pope Benedict XVI said the theological agreements reached in ecumenical dialogue should lead to concrete joint activities. “May the ongoing dialogue lead to practical results in actions which express and build up our unity in Christ and therefore strengthen relationships between Christians,” he said Jan. 18 to the pilgrimage sponsored by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland. “In the new and challenging circumstances of today, and within our own country, there is much that Luthers and Catholics can do together in the service of the Gospel and the advancement of the kingdom of God,” the pope said. Pope Benedict said that prayers for Christian unity reinforce the bonds of communion already existing among Christians and enable them to face courageously the painful memories, social burdens and human weaknesses that are so much a part of our divisions.”

Phoenician parishes to become nonprofit entities separate from diocese

PHOENIX (CNS) — The Phoenix Diocese is undertaking a comprehensive restructuring process so that its civil organization matches the one already in place canonically. Currently, the diocese is a corporate sole — a legal entity consisting of a single incorporated office occupied by Bishop Thomas J. O’Mullin. Through July 1, church leaders will be preparing each individual parish to become a separate, nonprofit corporation. Little will change in day-to-day parish operations, according to
Around the Diocese

Four Generations of Catholic Education in Yoder

With 151 years of continuous education, St. Aloysius School, Yoder, has fifth and sixth generation students attending the school as well as many new families. The Heckler family is one such family with multiple generations. In the center, Velma Heckler, her son Steve Heckler, to Velma’s left, Steve’s daughter Nikki Thompson, second from right, who also teaches fifth grade at the school, and her children, Brooklynn, grade 3, far left, and son Reid, kindergartner, right.

Founded in 1994, the Alliance for Catholic Education supports a variety of programs serving Catholic schools in the United States and abroad. Central to its mission is the preparation of teachers and leaders for service in Catholic schools. While earning a master in education degree, approximately 180 college graduates serve annually in schools in 32 communities.

12-step retreat at Lindenwood

DONALDSON — Registrations are now being taken for a “12-step Compulsive Eating and Eating Disorders Retreat” to be held at Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center. The program is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 1, and conclude on Sunday, Feb. 3, at 1 p.m. The fee is $165 for single room, $155 per person for a double occupancy room and $85 for commuter.

This weekend is designed as time away from work and home to focus on where you are in life and in your recovery. The focus will be on the spirituality of the 12 Steps, which are recognized as the foundation of most successful recovery programs. For information or to register contact Lindenwood at (574) 935-1780 weekdays or e-mail lw@lin denwood.org. Web-site: www.lindenwood.org.

Deadline to register is Jan. 29.

USF recognizes best classroom practices

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis Center for Academic Excellence and Scholarship will host a Best Practice Teacher Recognition Showcase. This event identifies and recognizes teachers who demonstrate best classroom practices. The second annual event is scheduled for Feb. 2 from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

Admission is $5 for those who pre-register or $10 at the door. Lunch will be provided for those who pre-register. Call Nancy Hankey at (260) 399-7799 Ext. 8405 to register or for additional information.

The University of Saint Francis appoints new dean of Keit Busse school of Business and Entrepreneurial Leadership

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis has announced the appointment of Dr. Rita Padmore as the new dean of the Keit Busse School of Business and Entrepreneurial Leadership. Padmore was formerly the academic dean at Rosbury Community College, where she developed, implemented and managed academic and administrative programs in the business management, math, science, engineering technologies, computer information systems, and sports management/physical education departments. In addition, Padmore has held positions at IBM Corporation’s K-12 and Higher Education Divisions, Harvard Graduate School of Education, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and Kmetia Systems.

Padmore earned a doctorate in education at Harvard University, a master’s degree from St. Louis School of Management at MIT, and Columbia University’s Teachers College. She holds a bachelor’s degree from Syracuse University.

St. Jude seeks nominees

SOUTH BEND — St. Jude Catholic School, South Bend, will be awarding the NCEA Distinguished Graduate Award this year. This award is intended to honor graduates of Catholic elementary or middle schools who have made a contribution to American life and/or the Catholic Church. The only requirement is that the individual must be a graduate of St. Jude at least 10 years ago, in good standing.

An electronic version of the nomination form will be available online at the school Web-site at www.stjudeeschool.net. Deadline is Friday, Feb. 22.

In addition, graduates or friends of graduates and St. Mary of the Assumption are invited to register to join a new alumni network that honors the legacy of both schools. A graduate or an enthusiastic supporter of St. Jude or St. Mary, please register from the link found at www.stjude-school.net or call (574) 291-3820.
INDIANAPOLIS — Each year the Indiana Catholic Conference hosts a legislator luncheon and brings a notable expert from the Catholic community to Indiana to help form the hearts and minds of state lawmakers on pressing public policy issues facing the state.

This year’s expert, University of Notre Dame Law School Professor Matthew J. Barrett, was given the daunting task of enlightening legislators on effective, yet morally acceptable ways they could deal with the looming issue of property tax reform.

If the Indiana General Assembly is successful in reducing or eliminating property taxes this year, which is their goal, this tax cut must be made up in other areas to provide sufficient revenue to support the common good of Hoosier families and children, including money for schools, police and fire protection, and also provide a safety net for basic needs of the poor.

To address this concern of the church, Professor Barrett provided legislators with a “macro” perspective of forming morally and fiscally sound taxation, rather than a single approach of property tax reform.

“Render unto Caesar” in Indiana and Catholic Social Teaching on Taxation, the title of Professor Barrett’s Jan. 16 presentation to lawmakers, covered basic concepts in Scripture and church teaching that recognize the role of government and the obligation people have to pay taxes, but more importantly stressed the words in Luke’s Gospel that “much will be required of the person entrusted with much.”

Reacting to Professor Barrett’s presentation, Speaker of the House, Rep. Patrick J. Bauer (D-South Bend) said, “I applaud Professor Barrett’s work and the ICC for bringing him here for this legislator luncheon. The presentation offered a realistic approach to tax reform.”

“His suggestion to include sales exemptions for the poor is something we actually did in 1973. We exempted food and standard deductions from sales tax. I was in the legislative body in 1973 and it helped promote that. Increasing certain standard deductions, giving utility exemptions for the poor and giving sales tax exemptions, I advocate all of the above and I have worked toward many of these.”

Senator Broden, Sen. Richard Young (D-Milltown) who also attended the luncheon said, “Sen. Broden and I have been talking to each other saying there must have been a micro-phone on our Caucus room because these are all concepts the Senate Democrats have been talking about for the last five years and are ideas that we have offered amendments on.”

Professor Barrett began his talk saying, “I come to you because of my faith and 25 years of experience … I come on behalf of the poor.”

Quoting from the National Catholic Conference of Bishops 1986 pastoral letter “Economic Justice for All,” Bishops referred to “a system of taxation which Professor Barrett said that in order to accomplish basic economic justice, the U.S. bishops refer to “a system of taxation based on assessment according to ability to pay” as a “prime necessity.”

The 1986 pastoral letter uses three principles to evaluate the U.S. tax system, saying it should 1) raise adequate revenues to pay for society’s needs, especially the basic needs of the poor, 2) use a progressive structure so that those with greater resources pay a higher tax rate, and 3) not require families below the poverty level to pay income taxes.

The Iowa Catholic Bishops in 2003 issued a Statement on Taxation which Professor Barrett said could be used as a guide for Indiana.

“Catholic moral teaching raises two essential questions that apply to all economic policies including tax policy,” said Professor Barrett “First, does this policy maintain or enhance the life and dignity of the human person? And secondly, how does this policy affect the poorest and the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters?”

Professor Barrett explained that Catholic teaching offers two basic principles which should govern tax policy — contributive and distributive justice. Contributive justice requires everyone to contribute based on their ability to pay. Distributive justice requires that wealth be allocated in such a way to ensure that the basic material needs of people are met.

In evaluating Indiana’s current tax system, Professor Barrett told lawmakers he gave them “a passing grade” on the contributive justice aspect since everyone contributes to sales taxes, income taxes and all homeowners pay property taxes. However, he pointed out that on the issue of ability to pay, while the poor do receive some tax breaks, said Professor Barrett, “the state does not ask the rest of us, the non-poor, the blessed, to pay progre- sively more.”

Professor Barrett challenged legislators to adopt tax policies that were “both in fact and in appearance” more progressive. He recommended progressive income tax rates, increases in standard deductions and personal exemptions, progressive local options and all rather than a flat tax; exemptions from sales tax for residential utilities and school supplies and a variable home- stead exemption that decreases as the assessed value increases.

In his closing remarks, Professor Barrett said that Speaker Bauer was quoted recently in the South Bend Tribune on this year’s property tax reform outcome saying that “he hoped there were more winners than losers.” Professor Barrett said he would offer a friendly addition to Rep. Bauer’s comments, “If the poor win, we all win.”

Winter is here - time to take an enrichment class at the college or an online course from home. We offer free, convenient parking, excellent teachers and senior discounts of 10%. To enroll or receive a complete schedule, contact Pat Adams at 574-239-8364 or email padams@hcc-nd.edu or go on-line at our web site www.hcc-nd.edu and click on the Continuing Education Button.

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Youth Summer Enrichment Program June 16-20
WASHINGTON (CNS) — Your chance of getting a ticket to Pope Benedict XVI’s April 20 Mass at Yankee Stadium might depend on whether you live in a diocese close to the Archdiocese of New York or in one of the nation’s oldest archdioceses.

Or it might just come down to sheer luck.

The precise formula that will be used to distribute tickets to the Yankee Stadium Mass and other events during the pope’s April 15-20 visit to Washington and New York has not yet been made public, but some details are emerging.

Dioceses from Anchorage, Alaska, to Holyoke, Mass., have been posting notices on their Web sites about how to request tickets for the papal Mass at Yankee Stadium, which holds 66,000 people, and an April 17 Mass at Nationals Park in Washington, D.C., where the crowd is expected to number about 45,000 people for the event.

But the various notices make one thing clear: If your opportunity to request a ticket has not already passed, it will soon.

The Diocese of Syracuse, N.Y., posted a notice that it had “filled all the requests possible” for the New York Mass, with its allotment of 500 tickets already reserved.

Catholics in the Archchorge Archdiocese were told they had until Jan. 1 to submit ticket requests to the archdiocesan chancery office.

The Diocese of Davenport, Iowa, said requests for its “very limited number of tickets” had to be submitted by Jan. 15, and any tickets not claimed by that date would be reserved.

The Diocese of Deputy, Mass., said requests for tickets exceeded the number available.

“I suggest contacting the diocesan Web site,” the archdiocese said.

The Archdiocese of New York issued a similar warning.

“The Archdiocese of New York Archdiocese, tickets will be distributed in the parish/s and parishes, seminaries, etc., in the Archdiocese of New York and other dioceses in the immediate New York metropolitan area.”

For those unable to submit a request, the archdiocese said, the New York Archdiocese will distribute tickets through the parish office.

The office also is distributing tickets for the pope’s April 19 meeting with young people and seminarians at St. Joseph’s Seminary in New York.

Those will be allocated “through Catholic schools, parish catechetical programs, parish youth groups, seminaries, etc., in the Archdiocese of New York and other dioceses in the immediate New York metropolitan area.”

For those unable to submit a request, the archdiocese said, the New York Archdiocese will distribute tickets through the parish office.

“Unfortunately, it will be a small number” for each parish, Reynolds said, although the exact number is not yet known until the papal visit office in New York issues a final ticket count.

The New York office extended the deadline for dioceses to submit ticket requests until Jan. 15 and said the Archdiocese of New York Archdiocese would receive information about ticket allocation during the week of Jan. 21. Each bishop will distribute the tickets “at his discretion,” the New York Archdiocese said.

For details on tickets to papal events, visit the Web site www.ncepapalvisit.org. For more information, contact the Diocese of Syracuse, 830 N. Salina St., Syracuse, N.Y. 13204; tel: (315) 425-2211.

Nancy Frazier O’Brien is a reporter for the National Catholic Register, the newspaper of the Archdiocese of Washington.
Project Gabriel launched at Knights’ right-to-life march, program

BY TOM UEBBING

SOUTH BEND — Stalwart souls endured the 8-degree temperatures to commemorate the estimated 50 million babies lost to abortion since Roe v. Wade.

A little over 50 persons turned out for the annual Knights of Columbus Right to Life March and Respect Life Program Sunday, Jan. 20, in South Bend. Knights’ Right to Life Committee member Kevin Large offered the participants the option of a footrace rather than a march, but nearly everyone chose to make the trek from the council building down to St. Joseph Church for a prayer service led by Holy Cross Father John DeRiso.

The prayer service

The cantor intoned a beautiful litany of saints that reflected some aspect of the Right to Life movement such as St. Michael and Sts. Monica and Augustine.

Knights’ Right to Life commit-tee member Bill Schmitt read from Romans 8, “For I am certain that neither death nor life ... can sepa-rate us from the love of God that comes to us in Christ Jesus, our Lord.” The congregation sang Psalm 139 which includes “you knit me in my mother’s womb, I praise you, so wonderfully you made me.”

In his homily, Father DeRiso reflected “we have come here to praise and pray that the unborn child will be welcome. We pray that the child will be received with love and respect. We ask all to join in prayer for the unborn child.”

Hartman establishes Project Gabriel

The Knights’ event was the kickoff for establishing Project Gabriel in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Hartman said, “It’s only fitting that we announce our arrival in the area through an event of the Knights of Columbus since they have been a major support factor for us from the start of the project in Columbus, Ind., in 1999.”

Earlier in the year, diocesan pro-life coordinators Fred and Lisa Everet put the groundwork down when they invited Hartman to address the pro-life coordinators from area parishes at two diocesan meetings. Fred is also a member of the Knights’ Right to Life committee.

In 1999, a friend of Hartman learned about Project Gabriel online and suggested she get it started in Indiana. She thought she was already doing a lot for the cause and did not see how she could add anything else to her life. Then Father Frank Pavone Priests for Life spoke at a Right to Life event in Columbus, which Hartman helped coordinate. When he was asked what was the most effective means to help women in crisis pregnancies Father Pavone described Project Gabriel and added, “When you call our office on Monday, we’ll help you get started.”

Hartman responded to that straightforward call to action, but before they could complete their training period they had to jump start the ministry when a girl called about an expectant mother in need, an undocumented Mexican woman.

“This helped her. There was some controversy in our church about it,” Hartman said. “Word got out (about our services). We had no time for (long-term) training. We had someone from Dallas come and train us.”

The volunteers quickly learned “it’s not our project it’s God’s project. Sometimes that’s a hard lesson to learn, even on a daily basis — you don’t have to handle it. It’s God’s project,” Hartman said.

In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, since the highly effective Women’s Care Center is well established, Project Gabriel is entering into a partnership with them.

Hartman described the Women’s Care Centers as “the emergency room and Project Gabriel as “intensive care.” Volunteers try to build a relationship with the woman and visit her in her own home.

They are even available nights and weekends if needed to minister to the mother-to-be and also as she gets started caring for and raising her child. If they get a crisis pregnancy, they will visit the hotline number they will refer the caller to a Women’s Care Center location.

If the woman opts for life for her baby, then Project Gabriel can help her through the rest of the process by building a strong relationship with her. Participating parishes will display a sign that invites mothers-in-need to call for help. When someone calls or is referred by the Women’s Care Center, volunteers will visit her at home and determine her needs.

Then they go back to the parish volunteers and line up the support the mother needs. If a woman has no other support, a volunteer may even be present for labor and delivery.

Volunteers from the parish can assist in several ways:

• Prayer support — making a daily commitment to pray for the project and/or participate in a prayer chain;
• Provide personal help — for example, transportation, cooking, shopping, baby-sitting for the expectant or new mother;
• Providing material support such as baby clothing, diapers, etc.;
• Financial support;
• And educational support such as speaking to parish groups and also approaching other area pastors (Catholic and non-Catholic) about starting a Gabriel project.

Eileen Hartman, left, launched Project Gabriel, a program that partners with the Women’s Care Centers to work with pregnant women and new mothers in their homes and determine their needs. With Hartman in the photo is the Knights’ Right to Life program emcee Bob Zielinski, right.
Welcome to Catholic Schools Week. This is the time we set aside each year to celebrate what makes Catholic education special. During this week we focus on the high quality, faith-filled education that our schools provide here in the diocese. We honor everyone who contributes to their success; not only by the students, families, and teachers, but also everyone who makes our Catholic schools possible in today’s world.

This year’s Catholic Schools Week theme is “Catholic Schools Light the Way.” It combines the concepts of God as the light of the world and the light of knowledge that our schools kindle in our students. The stain-glass logo underscores the faith-filled education that our Catholic schools emphasize. The theme also represents the role of Catholic schools, teachers and parents in lighting the way through a faith-based education that supports the whole child in learning about and leading a fulfilled life. It is our hope that our students in turn will “Light the Way” to a brighter future through leadership in their communities, businesses and families.

All one has to do is to look around the diocese and see the many ways that people are lighting the way for Catholic education.

In our parishes, one can see the commitment and stewardship that is taking place, especially when we look around the diocese this year and see the many building projects; buildings that are built on solid foundation that will serve this generation and many more to come. From Bishop Dwenger’s addition of their fine arts building, to the kindergarten expansion at St. Vincent School in Fort Wayne, to the building of a gym at Holy Cross in South Bend, and the major accomplishment of building a new school that will open in the fall at St. Pius X in Granger, all of this is a sign of the strength of Catholic schools in this diocese. It is also a reflection on the commitment of parents and parishioners who are willing to strive and build on a good foundation, a rock of foundation of the faith that we believe and wish to pass on.

We can also see people that light the way by giving of their hard earned treasure to support those who want to attend a Catholic school. Whether it is the parish which subsidizes the school, or the person who donates money to the Legacy of Faith and the Bishop’s Annual Appeal, these funds provide the financial support so that all children can take part in the wonderful Catholic education that we offer.

Also a provider of tuition assistance is the Large Family Fund, established specifically to help families with three or more children in Catholic schools. There are also other private foundations like the Freedom 22 scholarship program in South Bend, the Guardian Angel Society and corporate sponsorship through Filling Schools-Fulfilling Lives, all which accomplish the goal of helping to provide a Catholic education. These are all organizations and individuals who recognize the wonderful gift that Catholic education has on communities. They are willing to commit funds so those that might otherwise be unable financially to attend are able to come to Catholic education to study and strive for excellence in our schools for a better life in the future.

We also see “Lighting the Way” by our parents and students. Parents are the primary educators of their children, the first teachers, and we see in them the commitment to contribute to our schools, to be there as volunteers, and to assist in many ways that make a day of Catholic education possible. This continues by parents giving support to their children as they bring the new knowledge that they have learned and are able to expand upon it.

At Catholic schools we are striving to improve that communication between the parents and the school, using initiatives such as new technology and the PowerSchool program. These are modern-day tools that increase our communication so that we can become true partners. Through the collaboration of parents and schools, we enlighten our students on a daily basis in the hope that each child will “Light the Way” for others as they continue to grow and mature in their faith.

Let us not forget our wonderful pastors and priests in our parishes, that by providing their leadership and their experience, they are “Lighting the Way” not only for our students, but for all of the people of God, by using their gifts to continue the legacy that our Catholic schools have formed.

Let us continue to pray for vocations to the religious life and priesthood. Our schools are producing vocations to both the priesthood and religious life. In a way, they are fertile ground, exposing our students not only to the vocation of marriage and single life, but of ordained ministry and religious life.

Finally, we remember our teachers. They are, on a daily basis, “Lighting the Way” for all of our students. They are truly committed to excellence in education. They are striving to identify our weaknesses in school by looking at school improvement plans and by participating in professional development so that they may always offer the best strategies in reaching our students. Because of the efforts of our teachers, students grow in love and learn how to use the tools that we offer so that they may have a successful life after being in our schools. They are truly a gift from God for all of us, not just in their schools, but for society and the church around the world.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank all those who help our Catholic schools, especially in striving for the excellence that they offer.

If you have not seen what we do in Catholic schools, many of our schools will have open house during Catholic Schools Week. I invite you to participate in these open houses or to arrange to come and visit our schools. Witness for yourself how many are “Lighting the Way” for our students and for our future.

Let us pray together that we continue to be blessed in many ways, especially as educators in the faith, and in passing on our traditions to the next generation. Reflecting on the words of St. Augustine, “God does not give heed to the ambitiousness of our prayers, because he is always ready to give to us his light; not a visible light, but an intellectual and spiritual one.”

Holy Cross Father Stephen Kempinger, CSC is the superintendent of Catholic schools for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.
Catholic schools are bursting at the seams

BY KAY COZAD

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend has a rich history of Catholic education dating back to 1845 when St. Mother Theodore Guérin established the first school, St. Augustine Academy, in Fort Wayne on what is now Catholic Square. The parochial school system currently boasts 44 elementary and four high schools. With shifting student population and parents seeking the excellence of Catholic education, many parish schools have been prompted to undergo renovation and expansion projects. The following are a sampling among the many that are constructing new and enhancing existing structures.

In Fort Wayne, St. Vincent de Paul Parish is currently constructing a new wing, which will include eight new classrooms. Four of those will be offered to include kindergarten students this year in the student population that numbers 695. The other four classrooms will allow for extension of the resource department. The building will be completed and ready for the start of school in 2009. St. Vincent School is currently taking applications for kindergarten placement.

St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School opened its 2007-08 school year with a 5,000-square-foot addition to the St. Elizabeth campus that houses a high school-size gymnasium/parish community center, 400-seat cafeteria, administrative offices, computer lab, resource room and four new classrooms for the new third and fourth grade students attending the St. Elizabeth campus this year. The Aboste Center Road campus educates 287 students in kindergarten through fourth grades.

St. Jude School in Fort Wayne is anticipating a change and is currently awaiting architectural plans to consider for their building plans.

Bishop Dwenger High School is in the midst of phase two of their exciting expansion-renovation project. A two-story addition will grace the south side of the existing building and offer eight new classrooms for the English and math departments by June of this year. The entire staff of full-time teachers will now each have their own room. Renovations of an office complex will allow for the guidance department and will be completed in March.

Bishop Luers is currently upgrading the heating and air-conditioning system of its existing building. Replacement windows have been installed in the majority of the school and new lighting brightens several areas as well.

South Bend’s Holy Cross Parish School, with enrollment of 350 students, began a renovation-expansion in November of 2006 that includes a high school-size gymnasium with a beautiful wood floor gifted by the University of Notre Dame from the 2001 NCAA Women’s Basketball Championship team. A new kitchen, office, suite and handicapped-accessible elevator make this school state-of-the-art. The completed construction included renovations of existing space that produced a new library, cafeteria/theater, expanded computer lab, music room and art room with gallery space. The new configuration allows for a new entrance that provides easy access to the new offices. South Bend Saint Joseph’s High School is conducting a feasibility study to choose from two options, renovating the existing or building a new high school. Renovation of the existing building on the current 19 acres of land would include adding administrative and guidance offices, a media center, an auxiliary gymnasium and a football stadium. The new building option would allow for the construction of a new high school on the donated 22-acre site of Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center allowing for a football stadium and tennis courts to be included.

The 169 students of St. Mary of the Assumption in Avilla have enjoyed the 2006 near $1 million expansion that added four new classrooms and expanded office space and media center as well as a new computer lab. The seventh- and eighth-grade students who attended classes in mobile units are now under the main school roof. The addition allowed the school to offer preschool classes as well.

Queen of Peace School in Mishawaka completed construction in fall of 2007 on a new wing that added new administrative offices, library, commons area and three classrooms with a science lab. The preschool through eighth grades have now 350 there.

Sacred Heart School in Warsaw is expecting construction for an addition of four new classrooms to the existing building. The additional space will be utilized by special classes such as art, music and computer. Kindergarten students will also enjoy the new area. Preschool through sixth-grade students number 200 there. A 200-seat expansion of the sanctuary of the church is also expected to be included. Anticipated date of construction is summer of 2008.

St. Thomas School in Elkhart hopes to offer their 434 students several new classrooms in the future including renovated space, upgraded facilities that will include handicap accessibility following approval by the bishop. St. Pius X in Granger is in the process of constructing an all-purpose parish education center that is due to be completed in the fall of 2008 for the start of the school year. The center will house 23 classrooms for pre-kindergarten through eighth grades, which will be shared by the religious education classes. The structure will include administrative offices, a media center/gathering area, several small conference rooms, computer lab, music and art rooms and more. Enrollment is expected to be near 300 students.

The growth within the diocesan school system is evidence that Christ-centered, exemplary education is still much valued by the faithful of the area.
Learning the difference between wants and needs

St. Matthew Young Vincentians on course to help the poor of South Bend

“Fruity Fall Challenge” and collected 2,158 cans of canned fruit over a two-week period. The fruit went into Christmas baskets assembled and distributed to poor families in December by the St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Joseph County.

Vincent de Paul, this group of dedicated students meets once every two weeks to plan or participate in activities that will help the poor.

“We felt there was a lot that the kids could be doing,” explains Pam Van Huffel, the third-grade teacher who started the Young Vincentians several years ago. An adult Vincentian who wanted to bring the Vincentian spirit to the school, she first asked student council members to do projects.

“What we really needed, instead of the student council doing projects, was a dedicated group to work on projects for the poor,” Van Huffel says. “Now, they even earn a chevron for their letter jackets.”

Last fall, they held the "Fruity Fall Challenge" and collected 2,158 cans of canned fruit over a two-week period. The fruit went into Christmas baskets assembled and distributed to poor families in December by the St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Joseph County.

One of the sixth-grade classes, 6B, won a pizza party for collecting the most cans (380). But they decided to forego the party and donate the pizza money to the society instead.

In April of 2007, the Young Vincentian group also walked in the Homeward Bound Walk for the homeless, helping to earn almost $2,000 for the society and its work.

In December, they also completed a project for the CASIE Center in South Bend, which helps abused children. They packed 92 backpacks with games, books, toothbrushes and toothpaste and other items the children could use.

Right before summer vacation, they also held the annual “pantry challenge” to fill the church pantry for the summer break. The winning class will have lunch in the rectory with Father Michael Heintz. Usually, he grills hot dogs for them.

The group is actually divided into two sections, one for older students in fifth through eighth grade, and one for younger students in third and fourth grades. Both the older and younger group each have about 30 students, for a total of 60.

The older students do more planning and organizing — and they follow the same agenda for meetings as do adult Vincentians. The agenda includes a spiritual reading and discussion.

Vincent Coiro, an eighth-grader who is president of the older student section, says it helps to keep some perspective on poverty while planning all the food and fundraisers: “Jesus said that the poor will always be with us. So the St. Vincent de Paul job is not to totally delete or wipe out poverty, but to decrease it. This is just a starting point.”

Olivia Griggs, a fifth-grader, says the Vincentian work keeps reminding her how blessed she is. “It makes you feel different when you learn how some people don’t have it as good as you do. You’re sad for them, and it makes you want to help.”

Another student said the Vincentian work helps her understand “what real needs are, like paying for rent or electricity. I understand now how wants and needs are different.”

Van Huffel has great expectations for these students. “I feel they are much more spiritual because of their Vincentian work. It makes them stop and think more about what they’re all about. And, I hope many of them will move on to become adult Vincentians.”

Students of the diocesan high schools of Fort Wayne-South Bend...

• Consistently outperform their counterparts on standardized tests.
• 97% go on to some form of higher education.
• 90% participate in co-curricular activities and community service.
• 98% graduate.

• Are taught by educators who instill the basic values of family, faith, respect, and discipline in their curriculum.

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FORT WAYNE — The students at St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, Fort Wayne, have a unique opportunity to develop their talents and offer them for God’s glory. Students with an interest in music can take guitar classes as an elective under the direction of the parish’s music director, Ken Jehle.

As the students develop their ability, they are invited to play music during the school Mass once or twice a month. Currently five students play regularly for the Mass: Taylor Busch and Megan Quigley, both sixth graders; Dan Christian and Cody Rice, both seventh graders; and Chris Williams, an eighth grader.

Having a more active role in the liturgy has been enriching for the students.

Cody said, “You’re actually a part of the Mass. You’re doing something, and it makes worship twice as fun. ... When you’re playing it helps you to listen to what the songs are, to get to know God.”

Dan added, “… Singing or playing at Mass is a fun way to be part of the liturgy.”

The students want to continue using their musical talent even beyond the parish school. Megan said, “I’ve started playing on Sunday nights (at Mass);” Taylor also sings in choir, and Dan is already thinking of giving lessons once he becomes more experienced.

The students enjoy their guitar class, but they have learned a lot beyond which chords to use.

“It requires a lot of hard work and wanting to be better,” said Cody, who sees this as a lesson he will apply in other areas of his life.

Taylor said, “I’ve learned that if you really want to be good at something you have to work hard.”

Megan added, “I’ve learned patience because you’ve got to have patience to learn (something new).”

The students plan to continue playing at Mass for their peers this year and hope that as they learn more songs, they will be invited even more frequently than a couple of times a month.

In the meantime, Ken Jehle is busy helping all the guitar students cultivate their talent.

Beyond these five students, he has several others who are ready to begin playing at a few of the Masses.

When Jehle first came to St. Joseph in 2002, he inherited this program but he feels it has really grown. “I’ve been really impressed. They practice hard and they’ve really accomplished a lot.”

He sees how the students in the pews enjoy the talent of the students who play during the Mass. The third and fourth graders watch the older students and want to be a part of that. As they listen to favorite songs such as “Trading My Sorrows,” “Blessed Be Your Name” or “Let The River Flow,” future musicians are inspired. By the time they are able to take the guitar class, they are willing to work hard to learn the skill and develop their talent and play their hearts out for God.

And so the program continues, one group of kids encouraging and inspiring the next group to answer a call to develop the talent God has given them and to take a more active role in the church as music ministers.
High tech Smart Boards arrive at many Catholic classrooms

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — Say good-bye to chalk dust and erasers, and say hello to high-tech Smart Boards. Smart Boards have been greeted with much enthusiasm by teachers, students and parents at several Catholic elementary and high schools in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

It looks like a white board, but this Smart Board takes a chalkboard or white board to a whole new learning level. It can show movies and the Internet, provide presentations, yet allow the user to write on it and save the notes on a computer.

“Connected to a computer, the Smart Board not only offers for interactive lessons correlated to the curriculum, but also acts as a ‘chalkboard,’” described Sandra Guffey, principal at St. Vincent de Paul School, Fort Wayne, in a recent parish bulletin announcement.

“However, unlike the chalkboard, lessons are saved, and their content can be displayed again and again, gaining teachers valuable learning time. Notes generated during class discussion can be saved and provided as study guides to the students ensuring instruction is aligned with assessments.”

Guffey added, “Another benefit of the Smart Board is the connectivity to the computer that is coupled with a projector, providing teachers the ability to display computer assignments and interactive curriculum content to the entire classroom in a larger visual format.”

A visit to the middle school campus of St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School in Fort Wayne quickly revealed the many tasks these boards can perform. Science teacher Jodi Jump demonstrated the dissection of a frog, just as if one were dissecting the real lab creature, minus the smell of formaldehyde and purchase of the lab frogs.

“I have used the Smart Board to complete an open heart surgery with my seventh-grade science classes using the Internet as a tool,” Jump said. “I have been able to have my students record their data from investigations for the other students to compare and make conclusions based on the entire class data rather than only their own data.”

“Anything that can be done on the computer, can be done on the Smart Board,” Jump said.

St. Aloysius School, Yoder, teacher Priscilla Harless said she uses the Smart Board and its accessories (electronic colored pens to write directly on the board) “for every class I teach.”

“The Smart Board has been especially helpful in my pre-algebra and algebra classes,” Harless said. “I’ve preprogrammed the pre-algebra and algebra notes for the substitutes. As far as preparation for class, I like to preprogram the graphs, story problems and graphics before I teach the lesson. I also use the type the English examples ahead of time so the students can identify parts of speech and practice the skills instantly instead of waiting for examples to be written.”

At St. John the Baptist School in Fort Wayne, second-grade teacher Angie Jurczak uses the Smart Board with daily oral language (DOL) studies — math, language arts and social studies.

“When we use the Smart Board for DOL, I type the sentence that we need to correct and then the children come up to the Smart Board and correct the sentence,” Jurczak said. “They love this. It is something different than the chalkboard — and a lot cleaner. What is also nice about the Smart Board is the different colors of the pens. The children are able to use a different color to correct the sentence and everyone is able to see what changes they made.”

The students’ ‘wow’ factor

And the students seem to respond well with many teachers calling the “wow” factor.

“The students in my classroom liked that you could ‘write’ on it and it showed up,” Jurczak said. “It is different than the chalkboard because the Smart Board would allow ODL stories — math and play with different shapes (in math) and show the fractions on the shapes. When I had tried to use the Smart Board to one of my co-teachers, my students were very upset. They miss it and are counting down the days until we get it again.”

“It is just like the overhead projector only more. It captures the student’s interest through its visual impact. Now lessons have a ‘wow’ factor,” Jump said.

Harless said she does demonstrations so that parents can see their “turn” to have a Smart Board in their room.


“At our Back to School Night last fall, four of our teachers gave demonstrations so that parents could see the versatility of the Smart Boards” said Sandor. “(The parents) were very impressed and excited.”

And Sandor said, “It has been encouraging this year as we rotate the boards from class to class to see the students anxiously await their ‘turn’ to have a Smart Board in their room.”

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St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton science teacher Jodi Jump demonstrates a biology project, dissection of a frog on one of the St. Joseph School campus Smart Boards. Jump also added an airliner which allows the students to compare and to have my students record their "turn" to have a Smart Board

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Not the typical summer school
Catholic Schools Summer School Program engage and inspire students to learn

BY MICHELLE DONAGHEY

SOUTH BEND-MISHAWAKA — “I was so impressed. I had a lot of trouble getting her to read. The teachers were just so creative in how they interested them in reading and writing. They go to any means they could, even with creating a newspaper. I just saw Annie at home reading things. She wanted to get up every morning. She loved the diversity of the place and loved there were so many girls of so many races. And there were at least three teachers in each room,” said May Lee Johnson, parent of Annie, 11, in praise of the Catholic School Summer Program her daughter attended last year at St. Adalbert Parish, which is held in partnership with ACE of Notre Dame.

Johnson said she will send her daughter to summer school again this coming summer, happily noting that her daughter passed the English ISTEP test this year. She believes the curriculum, teachers and the children are the reasons her daughter eagerly attended last summer.

“(The teachers) have the energy and are new and creative. And they are just wonderful teachers dealing with the kids,” added Johnson.

Catholic Schools Summer School Program in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is not a typical summer school, usually less than the cost of hiring babysitters and is designed to engage and inspire students to learn no matter what their learning ability.

This year will be the 12th summer for the Catholic Schools Summer School Program. It is held six weeks in the summer — generally mid-June to late-July — with two three-week segments that offer summer school learning experiences at a number of different Catholic schools in the South Bend and Mishawaka.

Class offerings for grades 2-8 include language arts and math, which are held at four to six different sites yet to be named. As part of the initiative, a middle school summer science seminar is also offered at Christ the King School for rising middle school students. The classes are held from 8-11 a.m. each day. Costs are around $75 for each three-week session, “but we let local schools determine if the student should have a discounted cost,” noted John Staud, the ACE director of pastoral formation and administration.

Staud said the teacher to student ratio is low — one to three teachers for every 10 to 15 children per classroom — “so there is a lot of individual attention. Typically there are two teachers with one local teacher and a former ACE teacher working, though sometimes they work alongside a beginning ACE teacher.”

“So (teaching) is very student centered,” noted Tom Doyle, director for the master’s of education program, ACE Notre Dame.

“They really have worked out a wonderful curriculum that is age appropriate and the kids do really neat things.”

— JOHN STAUD

Doyle noted that just three years ago, a pilot summer program was developed, which works on a two-year cycle. If a child attends two years in a row, they will not repeat the same curriculum. Each year, ISTEP test scores are looked at and then analyzed for significant weaknesses in math and language arts.

Those who are in fourth through eighth grades have two three-week programs, each focusing separately on either math or language arts.

Meanwhile, in grades 2-3, the students each day focus on both math and language arts. Students are given a pre-test at the beginning of the summer to assess their prior knowledge and to allow the teachers to deliver effective instruction for the session’s duration. At the end of the summer, students are given a post-test to measure their progress on these fundamental skills and concepts in math and language arts.

Each year, bidding for curriculum ideas is open — starting just before Christmas with 12 to 15 bids for six positions. “We try to give (students) programming that would engage them differently than during the school year. We wanted to take a different approach in learning,” said Staud.

“Two years, we had fourth and fifth graders in language arts that focused on doing biographies,” said Staud. He explained that the students chose an older person in their parish and were taught interviewing skills. Students were then divided into pairs, with each pair selected according to the years of the person being interviewed. Pictures were taken of the group and assembled for the children to take home.

Last year, Doyle noted that some of the students in a math class did work that involved designing houses using geometry and math calculations as well as determining square feet for the painting walls of the houses they designed.

While the curriculum and locations have yet to be determined, parents should take note that information will be sent home from school in late March or early April in a packet for their review.

Johnson urged the parents to look over and to register their children for rising middle school students.

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Two students from last year’s ACE Summer School program enjoy each others company.

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— JOHN STAUD
PowerSchool links students, teachers, parents

BY DON CLEMMER

For Catholic schools of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, the ongoing move into the 21st century is also about another move, the move by almost all of the diocesan elementary schools, and even a couple of the high schools into a common computer program: PowerSchool.

PowerSchool is a student information system that currently holds the information of about 11,000 students across the diocese. This includes academic records, such as attendance and grades and, for some schools, even schedules and lunch accounts.

“It’s the first time I can sit at my desk and find out if a child is in one of our schools,” Holy Cross Father Stephen Kempinger, superintendent of diocesan Catholic schools, happily notes.

Getting a system this extensive in place has required a lot of work behind the scenes by the director of technology for Catholic schools, Lorenzo Lopez. Bringing every school online has involved meeting with over 800 teachers individually and teaching them how to use the grade book, as well as teaching secretaries and principals how to use the administrative software for attendance.

The end result will hopefully be a comprehensive and convenient record, one that can be referenced, updated and transferred with ease. Father Kempinger notes that this efficiency is one way PowerSchool really helps the diocese.

And this is only the beginning of the features offered by PowerSchool. The database calculates GPAs, honor rolls and even report cards.

“It does a lot of calculations that no longer have to be done by hand anymore,” says Lopez.

Stephen Donndelinger, principal of St. Jude School in South Bend, says that the switch to PowerSchool provides the school with a safer way of keeping students’ records than paper files in an office. It also allows him to access records even when he is at home.

Administratively, he says, the program promotes communication, not only via its e-mails and posted bulletins, but among teachers, who range from technologically savvy to technologically fearful.

“They help each other. That’s the neatest thing,” Donndelinger says. “The more capable ones will help the ones who have a little bit larger learning curve. They will ask me for help. They will ask each other. Really, it’s worked out well.”

Donndelinger has been a vocal proponent of PowerSchool, and St. Jude, South Bend, embraces use of the program to a degree that other schools have not, really exploring its features.

“We even used the honor roll to create an extracurricular eligibility search, which tells us which students are not eligible to be in extracurricular activities,” Donndelinger lists as an example of a function of the program that isn’t required, but is something a school can add in “if and when they’re ready.”

One next step all schools are expected to make with PowerSchool when they’re ready is to open up their online database for parental access. This brings a completely different dynamic to the program, allowing parents, with the use of user-names and passwords, to follow their children’s progress online.

According to Father Kempinger, this sort of access is in keeping with the mission of Catholic schools.

“As the Catholic Church, parents are the primary educators of their children, and they are entrusting them to the Catholic schools in their parish and the community.”

With PowerSchool, then, parents are drawn even more closely into the process, able to follow their children’s every grade, if necessary.

“It’s pretty much real time,” Lorenzo Lopez adds. “So the moment a teacher enters a grade and enters an assignment, and they save that information, within just a couple seconds, it’s there for the parents to see.”

While most diocesan schools have PowerSchool, only a few, like St. Matthew in South Bend and St. Jude in Fort Wayne, have gone to the next step of parental access.

St. Jude, Fort Wayne, had already been in the practice of issuing an electronic report card before the school implemented PowerSchool.

According to Sister Kathleen Marie Knieven, principal of St. Jude, the new system has yielded greater interaction and positive feedback from parents.

“I have found it very successful, especially those who look at it on a regular basis,” Sister Kathleen says, noting that with regular daily access to their children’s grades, parents can affirm a good academic performance or ask questions and work with a child if a problem arises.

Corrective measures of this sort can play out on a much broader level with PowerSchool too. Father Kempinger notes that if, for instance, a particular school were having difficulty with writing, the Catholic Schools Office would become aware of the problem much more quickly thanks to PowerSchool and work with the school to rectify the issue.

This is one of many reasons PowerSchool will likely help as Catholic schools pursue the ongoing goal of excellence in education into the future.

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**Catholic Schools celebration set for last week of January**

WASHINGTON — Catholic Schools Week, the annual celebration of Catholic schools and their contribution to their communities and the nation, is set for Jan. 27 through Feb. 2. For more than three decades, the nation’s Catholic schools have spent the last week of January recalling what makes Catholic education special.

The 2008 theme is “Catholic Schools Light the Way,” which highlights the mission of Catholic schools to provide a faith-based education that supports the whole child academically and spiritually and prepares students for future success.

“As a result of the excellent, multifaceted education they are receiving today, our students will 'light the way' to a brighter future through their leadership in our communities, government, businesses and families,” said Dr. Karen M. Ristau, president of the National Catholic Educational Association.

Across the country, schools will observe the week with special Masses, community service projects, academic and artistic showcases, and athletic and family events. Many schools will hold open houses so that community members can learn more about the value of Catholic education.

On National Appreciation Day for Catholic Schools on Jan. 30, delegations of students, faculty and parents will visit Washington, D.C., and many state capitals to promote awareness among government leaders of the contributions of Catholic education. Nearly 2.4 million students attend the nation’s 7,800 elementary, middle and secondary Catholic schools.

“With their emphasis on academic excellence and moral values, Catholic schools enjoy high satisfaction among students and parents and high achievement rates, including high school graduation rates of more than 99 percent,” said Marie Powell, executive director of Catholic Education at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. “This is a message we want to share with our nation’s leaders.”

Catholic Schools Week is a joint project of the National Catholic Educational Association, the world’s largest private, professional education organization, and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the national public policy organization of U.S. bishops.

For more information, visit www.ncea.org/news/CatholicSchoolsWeek.asp. Established in 1904, the NCEA is the largest private professional education organization in the world, representing 200,000 Catholic educators serving 7.6 million students in Catholic elementary and secondary schools, in religious education programs, in seminaries and in colleges and universities.
Diocesan teacher, farming family attend agricultural program in China

BY LAUREN CAGGIANO

FORT WAYNE — Never underestimate the power of corn to unite two cultures.

Wyss Farms Enterprise, WFE, was originally founded in 1948 by Donald A. Wyss as a family farm business specializing in grain and livestock production. Now in its third generation, WFE is engaged in the core business of commercial grain farming and has expanded to include custom farming, straw sales and an executive dealership with Agrigold Seeds.

Today, husband and wife Andrew and Pat, along with their four children, run the operation in southwest Fort Wayne. Pat, along with her husband Andrew, is co-owner of the operation and a teacher at St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel School in Fort Wayne. Their four children assist in running the operation through various roles.

It was through a chance meeting in 2006 at a presentation at Purdue University that the Wysses met a visiting professor from China, Dou Penghui. Impressed by their enterprise, the professor invited the family to his homeland to share the details of their success in the family farming niche.

In November of 2007, four members of the Wyss family embarked on the trip of a lifetime. As part of a Chinese government-sponsored program, Pat, Andrew, and their sons, Don and Joe, visited Yangling, China, to present the American view of agriculture at the 14th annual China Yangling Agricultural Hi-Tech Fair.

“The Chinese are trying to improve the agricultural sector of their economy,” Pat explained. The purpose of the five-day fair was primarily to share information about state-of-the-art technology and agricultural practices.

According to Joe, the family presented their portion, “Farmer’s Forum on Business Startup,” three out of the five days. Principles such as technical farming, analytical business management, and family and business balance were among the discussion topics.

Following the presentations, the family toured the agricultural communities seeing how the farmers live and work.

As many as 500 people live in the small farming communities in rural China, where they farm such crops as corn and wheat, Joe said. The corn husks are quite a sight to see, Joe noted, as the farmers place them on roofs to dry in strings as long as seven feet.

The Chinese view of farming differs a great deal from that of Americans, the Wysses soon learned. According to Andrew, children who do not perform well in standard tests are destined to remain on the family farm. Those who test well, however, attend colleges and leave the family farm. It is uncommon for someone with a college degree to return to the family farm, unlike in the United States when business savvy is desirable. This attitude, according to Andrew, has contributed to the downfall of the traditional Chinese family farm.

The Wysses were able to taste the fruits of the farmers’ labor. Pat shared how a farmer invited them to his home for a delicious meal. The Chinese are known to be gracious hosts, Andrew noted.

The Chinese cuisine is not what we know it in the United States, Pat said. Noodles, vegetables and vegetable oils are staples in the midland Chinese diet, and rice is served most often as a side dish. And much to their surprise, fortune cookies common in Chinese American restaurants do not exist in China as we know it; instead the Chinese enjoy thin crusted pastries with a thick filling, called Mooncakes.

According to Joe, the trip exposed them to the rich cultural beauty of the country. Moreover, it provided an opportunity to present a favorable image of the United States.

“We showed by words and actions that we were ambassadors for the United States,” she said. As Pat said, the learning was a two-way street. “We were willing to share information about our culture and were open to learning from them.”

If more Americans adopted this attitude, “maybe people would get a different picture of the U.S.,” she added. In the end, she said, “we’re all under one God.”

Another unifying factor was their Catholic faith. In a country that is 99 percent Buddhist, it was comforting to find a Catholic Church, Joe said.

“I had an appreciation for the universality of the Catholic Church,” he said. “We, as a family, learned about people who view our faith from a different language.”

“You learn so much about a culture through visiting,” Pat said.

Taking the culture to the classroom

Indeed the elementary school teacher has embraced this philosophy in her classroom at St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel School Jan. 17 when she prepared a special four-day multicultural unit in correlation with the Chinese New Year.

From traditional foods to making paper lanterns, the goal of the day was to introduce the “sights, sounds and smells of China and get the students immersed in the culture.”

Each student was responsible for researching and preparing a report on a different aspect of Chinese culture. Pat explained.

“We had so much fun,” the teacher said. “The kids took a lot of ownership because they did it themselves.”

For more information about the Wyss family’s farming operation, see their Web site, www.wyssfarms.com.
Catholic Schools Week 2008 fact sheet

• What is Catholic Schools Week?
  Catholic Schools Week is an annual national celebration of the important role that Catholic elementary and secondary schools across the country play in providing a values-added education for America’s young people. Catholic schools are proud of their educational network that emphasizes intellectual, spiritual, moral, physical and social values in their students.

• When is Catholic Schools Week 2008?
  Catholic Schools Week begins the last Sunday in January. This year it is Jan. 27-Feb. 2.

• What is the theme of CSW?
  The theme is: “Catholic Schools Light the Way.”

• What is the purpose of the Catholic Schools Week celebration?
  The purpose of Catholic Schools Week is to build community awareness of, and involvement in, Catholic schools throughout the country. During this week, many dioceses and schools encourage parents to take full advantage of the benefits of local Catholic schools by enrolling their children in those schools. CSW also is an occasion for schools to interest citizens in volunteering their time and talents to the local Catholic schools.

• Who sponsors Catholic Schools Week?
  Catholic Schools Week is a joint project of the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. (USCCB).

• How long has Catholic Schools Week been around?
  The Catholic Schools Week celebration became an annual event in 1974. The first national Catholic Schools Week slogan was “Different Where It Counts: Message, Community, Service.”

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Top ten ways for parents to observe Catholic Schools Week

Here are 10 ways for parents to participate in the annual celebration of Catholic education:

• Write a note of appreciation to your children’s teachers. Thank them for the attention and energy they give your children every day, as well as for their dedication to Catholic education.

• Write a letter to your parish priest, thanking him for supporting the Catholic school that is preparing your children for a bright future.

• Write a letter to your representatives in the U.S. Congress and state legislature to let them know why Catholic education is important to you and your community. Send a copy of your letter to your school principal.

• While you’re at it, write a thank-you note to that special teacher from your own Catholic school days who had a significant impact on your life.

• Donate books or other learning materials to the school library. If you can, ask the librarian if the school needs books on certain subjects or for particular grade levels.

• Set aside time for family prayer for all those who contribute to the success of your children’s school, including students, teachers, staff and volunteers. Add a prayer for vocations to continue the Catholic education tradition in your community and throughout the country.

• Volunteer to help plan and carry out Catholic Schools Week activities. Whether you are able to contribute a little time or a lot, your effort helps make the week special for all.

• If, through your work or volunteer activities, you learn of a need in the community that students at your children’s school can help fill, recommend a Catholic Schools Week or ongoing service project. Better yet, volunteer to organize it.

• Join in the fun! Gather the entire family — from younger siblings to grandparents — and participate in the week’s events at your children’s school.

• Extend a special invitation to your school’s open house and other Catholic Schools Week events to friends and neighbors who might want to learn more about the value of Catholic education.
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OPEN HOUSE
January 27, 2008
11:30AM-1:30PM

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Technology part of Catholic education

From the stories highlighted this week in Today’s Catholic, Catholic education is right on when it comes to incorporating technological innovations.

Parishioners can monitor their child’s progress in school, see if their child was tardy for class or caught up with homework assignments. This can all be done through PowerSchool.

It’s no longer dusty chalk and erasers in some of our classrooms. Today’s Smart Boards combine contemporary technology with dry-erase. Not only are the teachers excited about this technology, the tech-savy students like it too.

Despite the technological advances in the classrooms of our Catholic schools, the heart of learning is still the individual student — and the child’s formation not just in reading, writing and arithmetic but also growth in the Catholic faith, realizing one’s talents to be all that God wants them to be in life and then eternal happiness with God. Despite the complexities of a technological and a secularized culture, Catholic education is still something you can have faith in.

Working with young people in public schools

The diocese recognizes that, due to a host of reasons, not all Catholic students will attend Catholic schools. In many ways, this is especially prominent with diocesan high school students. A priority of Bishop John M. D’Arcy has been outreach and religious education to not just those in the elementary education years, but also to the high school students.

It is recognized that strong high school programs in our parishes have proven successful for nourishing vocations, whether the young people attend a Catholic high school or a public high school. The leadership of diocesan Youth Ministry and Evangelization is strengthening this by working with individual parishes or cluster parishes. The diocesan youth program that includes instruction in the faith, prayer, celebration of the sacraments and volunteer work. One such program recently introduced throughout the diocese is XLT. This evening of prayer, reflection, adoration and benediction is combined with contemporary Christian music. It has not only attracted youth, but adults as well.

For more information about Youth Ministry, visit the diocesan Web site, www.diocesefwsb.org or contact Cindy Black, director, at (260) 422-4611.

Business stewardship

It’s no secret that it costs a lot of money to keep the doors open at our Catholic schools. But there are many businesses willing, literally, to “lend a hand.” Heading the list, in fact, is Quality Dining, Inc., parent company of local Burger King and Chili’s restaurants and Parent’s Club of the South Bend. Since 1982, the “You-Can-Lend-A-Hand” program has raised more than $7.2 million for Catholic schools in our diocese.

Several businesses also support our schools or the parents of Catholic school students through community partnerships and rewards programs, including Meijer, Don Hall’s Restaurants and Specialty Services in the Fort Wayne area, and many others.

SCRIP

There is another way in which families can get involved in fundraising. Most schools and parishes offer the SCRIP program. Here’s how it works. The school or parish sells gift cards that the purchaser can use at various businesses and services. The vendor then gives a percentage of the purchase to the school or parish. Some schools split the percentage between the school and the child’s tuition — a win-win for the parents or guardians.

Many Buskirk-Emmon support individual schools through the generic SCRIP certificates program. Please check the list of merchants, restaurants and miscellaneous services at your parish to learn who is participating. Often, it’s more inclusive than you might think involving several national or regional businesses such as Sears, Lowe’s, Macy’s, Menards, J.C. Penney’s, Walmart, Applebee’s, McDonald’s, Pizza Hut, Best Buy, Blockbuster Video, Barnes & Noble, Bed, Bath & Beyond, Walgreen’s and many others.

Feeding our loved ones

Many families are faced with decisions about what to do when their loved ones suffer serious brain injury. When individuals are unlikely to come out of so-called “vegetative states,” should we discontinue nourishing them by tube feeding? Is there anything wrong with causing patients in continuing to live from starvation and dehydration under these circumstances? We all lived through a situation when Terri Schiavo died in 2005 in Florida. Her death raised disturbing ethical questions, which continue to reverberate in society today.

I remember discussing her situation with somebody who remarked, “Well, I wouldn’t want to live the way Terri did, with such poor quality of life.” Me, I wondered what I would want the way to live that she did — yet we all face deficits and disabilities that we have to live with.

The bigger question is whether other people should be taking up Terri’s suffering and choice. Remember feeding tubes are that effectively nourishing individuals who are compromised or disabled.

Oftentimes people fail to grasp several of the key factors regarding Terri’s condition. First, she was not dying of any particular illness. She was living with a disability, surrounded by the love and support of her family and friends. She had been living reasonably well with her disability for nearly 15 years, before her estranged husband made the decision to stop feeding her. Terri was an otherwise healthy young person who suffered under the burden of a serious brain injury, which left her unable to do many things on her own. In many ways, she was like a young, helpless child because of her injury. But she was not actively dying from liver failure.

A second error that is sometimes made is to imagine that Terri Schiavo did not undergo a segment for a national news program where the reporter asked me why Catholics were required to do everything their power to keep people alive who were basically brain dead, like Terri Schiavo. I had to spend a moment explaining how Terri was not even close to being brain dead, and that she had significant brain function remaining, resulting from her ability to initiate movement, her ability to breathe on her own (even without a ventilator), and her ability to pass through sleep-wake cycles. Brain-dead individuals can never perform these kinds of activities because the brain has died, and such individuals are, in fact, dead.

A third error that is made in analyzing Terri’s situation is to suppose that tube feeding would be required only if it might improve or cure her vegetative state. Some bioethicists, including sadly some priests, seem to pursue this erroneous line of thought. One of them has written: “Even though her parents disagreed, her husband and the people whose life support in the form of ANH (artificial nutrition and hydration) was removed. Was it ethical or sound medical opinion, he would be on sound ethical grounds if he requested that ANH be removed because if it does not offer her any hope of benefit.”

Tube feeding, of course, cannot offer her significant benefit or cure for the vegetative state. Tube feeding is not meant to be a therapy for brain damage. Rather it offers a different kind of benefit, namely, the very real benefit of preventing dehydration and starvation, which nobody ought to be deprived of dying. Generally speaking, we ought to die from a particular pathology or a sickness, not from a state of dehydration or starvation that could easily be prevented by tube feeding. Thus, tube feeding was a consequence of a refusal for Terri, and did offer her benefit. In fact, it enabled her to be nourished for 15 years before being disconnected on March 18, 2005, resulting in her death nearly two weeks later.

A committee issued by the Vatican’s Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in 2007 describes the benefits of tube feeding in this way: “It does not involve excessive expense; it is within the capacity of an average healthcare system, does not of itself require hospitalization, and is proportionate to accomplishing its purpose, which is to keep the patient from dying of starvation and dehydration. It is not, nor was it ever, a treatment that cures the patient, but is rather ordinary care aimed at the preservation of life.”

Sometimes patients suppose that tube feeding can be generically declined, by specifying it beforehand in a will. It would never be ethical, however, to decline an ordinary or proportionate means and treatment provided by the federal health system. We are morally obligated to use all such ordinary means, because we must take care of the life we have received as a gift. It is not ours to dispose of or act upon. We cannot ever ethically engage in suicide or euthanasia, nor specify such actions beforehand in written instruments, like living wills.

On the other hand, we should not draw the conclusion, that tube feeding will always be required. There will be circumstances and situations where tube feeding may become extraordinary or disproportionate, as when it is no longer effective (the food is not absorbed), when it causes extreme discomfort, pain or serious infection, or when causes other grave difficulties such as repetitive aspiration or coughing and breathing the vomit into the lungs, often resulting in pulmonary infection. Normally, however, tube feeding is not unduly burdensome and is not unduly expensive or difficult, and therefore should be provided to those patients who may need it, unless and until it is shown to be no longer providing any benefit, or causing significant complications and harmful side-effects.

Often what lies at the heart of these debates is the view that a life may have a certain amount of “quality” or else it need not be continued. But every life has imperfect qualities, and some have more than others. It is never our place to judge whether another’s life is “worth living.” Our duty is to provide loving care and strong support to those whose “quality of life” may be less than perfect, including those who are sick or old or who are struggling with serious disabilities like those in Terri Schiavo’s situation, rather than targeting them for an early demise through the withholding of food and water.

BY FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK

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

Today’s Catholic reserves the right to redact or edit for clarity and length. Address letters to: Today’s Catholic • P.O. Box 1169 • Fort Wayne, IN • 46856-1169 or e-mail to: editor@fw.diocesefw.org

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D., earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, Mass., and serves as the director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.nchcenter.org
Teaching contraception wrong approach

By Lisa Everett

Planned Parenthood of Indiana has launched a campaign to push for “comprehensive” sexuality education in our schools, which would include instructing teens in the use of contraceptives. A recent editorial in the South Bend Tribune by the vice president of education and training for Planned Parenthood of Indiana made some misleading claims about the effectiveness of this “education.”

The truth is that Planned Parenthood has known for decades that teens who learn about contraception in school are significantly more likely to become sexually active. According to a 1987 poll conducted for Planned Parenthood by Louis Harris, the rate of sexual activity among teens who took a “comprehensive” sex-ed course was more than three times higher than among those who either had no sex education in school, or who had taken a course that taught nothing about sex but left out the promotion of contraception.

Go a step further, as Planned Parenthood does, and actually targeting teens for contraceptive “services” only makes the problem worse. Stan Weed, director of the Institute for Research and Evaluation, documented this fact in two separate studies that found that as the number and proportion of teenage Planned Parenthood clients increased, there was “a corresponding increase in the teen-age pregnancy and abortion rates: 50 to 120 more pregnancies per thousand clients rather than the 200 to 300 fewer cases estimated by researchers at the Alan Guttmacher Institute (the former research arm of Planned Parenthood). In that same time period, when the size of the teen population was little changed, teen abortion was increasing by 90,000 to 430,000.” Recent studies in England have reaffirmed that increased access to contraception for teens leads to higher pregnancy and abortion rates, as well as a dramatic increase in sexually transmitted disease rates among 16 to 19-year-old girls.

The problem with “comprehensive” sex ed is that it teaches abstinence is encouraged, teaching teens how to use contraception is like speaking out of both sides of one’s mouth. Simply put, teens who are taught in school how to use contraception believe that they are being given “permission” to have sex as long as they use “protection.” More teens having sex inevitably leads to higher rates of teen pregnancy, abortion and STDs because, to be highly effective, contraceptives have to be used correctly and consistently.

According to a 1986 article in the Journal Family Planning Perspectives, the “typical use” failure rate for teens using condoms to prevent pregnancy is over 18 percent, while the “typical use” failure rate for teens on the Pill is 11 percent. In addition, oral contraceptives do nothing... In that same transmission of STDs, and have recently been classified by the World Health Organization as Group 1 carcinogens, causing breast, cervical and liver cancer in humans. Teenage girls are especially vulnerable to breast cancer risk from the Pill because their breasts are still growing and will not develop mature, cancer-resistant cells until they have had a full-term pregnancy.

The evolution of Planned Parenthood’s own mission is evidence of the colossal “real life” failure of contraception. In the early 1960s, Planned Parenthood for teens leads to higher pregnancy and abortion rates, as well as a dramatic increase in sexually transmitted disease rates among 16 to 19-year-old girls.

However, by calling them to confess their sins and quarrels. He boldly denounced the Corinthians’ sins and quarrels. He called by calling them to conversion, he presumed that they had the power within themselves to be holy.

We are sinners, but we need not be sinners. We can be free. Sin binds us. We can be free if we embrace ourselves by disowning sin and by being one with Christ. We encounter Christ by hearing... and knowing the apostles whose works live on yet today in the Church.

The genuine apostles be kept intact and be followed.

Reflection

These readings remind us of how much humanity can be and also how of powerful humans can be.

In the first reading, Isaiah criticized the people for their religious listlessness, but he also presumed that, if they wished, they could repair their wayward hearts and turn again to God.

In the same essence was the second reading, from Paul’s First Epistle to the Corinthians. He boldly denounced the Corinthians’ sins and quarrels. He called them to conversion, he presumed that they had the power within themselves to be holy.

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PERSONAL READING: Luke 15:3-7

ANSWERS:

1. The truth that Planned Parenthood believes that they are being given “permission” to have sex as long as they use “protection.”

2. More teens having sex inevitably leads to higher rates of teen pregnancy, abortion and STDs because, to be highly effective, contraceptives have to be used correctly and consistently.

3. According to a 1986 article in the Journal of Family Planning Perspectives, the “typical use” failure rate for teens using condoms to prevent pregnancy is over 18 percent, while the “typical use” failure rate for teens on the Pill is 11 percent.

4. Teens are the offering of this: a. The first fruits of a harvest b. 10 percent of one’s income c. The first born, to be brought up as a priest or nun

5. Titus (aka Tynnconius) was a member of a heretical group, the Donatists, yet influenced this mainstream Christian churchman and theologian.

6. Matthew Tidal was a famous English deist, but he was also careful, because during the brief reign of the Catholic King James the Second, Tindal took this precaution: a. He fled to Ireland, then a mostly Protestant area. b. He became a Catholic for a while. c. He went into exile in the United States.

7. William Tindal was a famous religious leader, who was mostly famous for his efforts to produce this: a. The Holy Grial b. The descendants of Jesus described in the Da Vinci Code c. A Bible in English rather than Latin

8. Timothy, a priest of the main Constantinople Church Hagia Sophia, became known for assigning heretics joining the church to three categories. These were (and still are): a. Those who need to renounce the use of Latin, the meek and the reprobat b. Former Catholics, apostate clergy and deities c. Those who need baptized, those who need confirmed, those who just need to profess faith.

9. Timothy was a 5th century Patriarch of Alexandria. He was nicknamed “catt” because a. He was small b. He preached the eventual triumph of cat-holism over orthodox c. He punished recalcitrant monks with a cat’s nine tails

10. Louis Sebastian Le Nain de Tillemont was a French churchman whose work is generally unknown in the English speaking world. His work was used heavily however by Gibbons in his monumental work a. “The Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire” b. “The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich” c. “The Rise and Fall of the Irish Empire”

11. John Tiltlon was an Anglican Bishop of Canterbury in the 17th century, who, while he tolerated some dissenters, loathed and detested this institution: a. Parliament b. The Catholic Church c. The Orthodox Churches

12. St. Tikhon, of the Russian Orthodox Church, was patriarch during this most challenging occurrence for the Russian Church: a. The Russian Revolution b. World War II c. The end of communism

13. Tintoretto was a famous Renaissance artist creating such masterpieces as a large equestrian. His name, exotic sounding to English speakers, simply means: a. a tin maker b. a metal tortoise maker c. a dyer

ANSWERS:

1.a, 2.b, 3.c, 4.b, 5.b, 6.b, 7.b, 8.c, 9.c, 10.a, 11.a, 12.b, 13.a, 14.c
Easter’s date calculated on lunar calendar

Why isn’t the celebration of Easter the same every year? NW, Fort Wayne

Easter, like the Jewish celebration of Passover, is a movable feast, calculated on the basis of the lunar, not the solar calendar. It is established yearly on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox (March 21); this year, Easter is as early as March 21. A calendar called the Liturgical Calendar, which is based upon the lunar calendar, is followed by most professing Catholics in the United States.

Each group represented a different part of my life — in some respects, a different part of my personality — and those friendships meant a lot to me. I didn’t want to relinquish any of them. But as we grow older, many of those friendships fade, or are replaced by other relationships. Marriage and children relegate many of those friendships to the past while career paths carry us away as well.

There also isn’t nearly as much time to simply “have fun,” as that which is what those early-year relationships were predicated upon in the first place...all that is a young person’s job, isn’t it? To have fun?

Being young is about being with your buddies, your pals, those who make you laugh. I had a couple of friends who made me laugh just about anything they were saying to go.

My wife and I have been married for 32 years. She is my best friend. We prefer that it that way. But it’s important to occasionally tap back into some of those old relationships that meant so much to us decades ago.

I’m not talking about annual retreats with childhood friends. Those are fine for some people, especially for unattached adults. But any lengthy time away from work may be going to be spent with my wife and/or my sons. Not a dusty buddy from the ‘70s. Maybe an evening with one of my old pals, but not a week-long hiatus in Vegas. For me, that would be living in the past at the expense of my family.

I’m talking about simply picking up the phone and calling an old friend. We hesitate to initiate these conversations because there may be a period of discomfort. What do I say? Do we still have anything in common? Does he really care what’s going on in my life?

When I was a junior in high school, I had a group of friends — five seniors — who played on the baseball team together. We were inseparable, of course quickly changed in college. Two of us went to Notre Dame and the other four each went to a different college. Other than my friend also at Notre Dame, there was very little communication.

A couple of years ago, I bumped into one of the four that had gone to college out of town, and we started to periodically call another. We laughed at some “remember when...” stories, and he and another from our group got together for a meal during the recent Christmas holidays. It was 90 minutes, at least that many laughs, a warm feeling when we all drove away.

I have had five class reunions since I was 18, with the sixth one — my 30th coming up. I’ve attended each one. We’ve all gained a little weight or lost a bit of hair or hairline or have achieved as much as the next person.

But as God’s plan would have it, they thrust us all together for a small segment of our lives way back when. Why not take a couple of hours away from our work and worries and share a laugh or two with old friends?

Many of those early-year relationships were predicated upon in the first place...all that is a young person’s job, isn’t it? To have fun?

Each group represented a different part of my life — in some respects, a different part of my personality — and those friendships meant a lot to me. I didn’t want to relinquish any of them.

But as we grow older, many of those friendships fade, or are replaced by other relationships. Marriage and children relegate many of those friendships to the past while career paths carry us away as well.

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But as we grow older, many of those friendships fade, or are replaced by other relationships. Marriage and children relegate many of those friendships to the past while career paths carry us away as well.
Three CYO teams on top in Gold League battle

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — The St. Jude Eagles boys’ basketball team is having a great season with nine eighth-graders on their roster for 2007-2008. Cameron Abel, Dakota Becker, Trevor Eccleston, Andrew Eickens, Cody Haston, Seth Henline, Michael Kindler, Ben Rorick and Tristan Young are working hard this year for coaches Pat Henline, Scott Eccleston and York Young. After their first five Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) games, the Eagles are 4-1 in the Gold League, which includes a five-point loss to St. Vincent and an exciting triple overtime win over St. Joseph, Decatur.

In a non-conference pickup game, the Eagles lost a well-played match-up to Blue League powerhouse, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel, on Wednesday night, Jan. 16, by a score of 45-36. James Knapek pumped in 25 points for the visiting Squires, while Kindler led the offensive attack for St. Jude with 20. Last weekend, the Eagles faced St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth, 44-29, in a Gold League conference battle and won by a score of 44-29. Andrew Yaney and Drew Morken led the Panthers in scoring while Kindler and Henline paced the Eagles.

One of St. Jude’s strengths this year includes a tough defensive game. In his fourth season with the Eagles, Coach Henline reports, “We hope to have a strong showing at the CYO tournament.” At midseason, the Eagles are 14-9 overall with a few big games left including St. Charles this weekend. With a win over St. John, New Haven last weekend, the Cardinals are also 4-1 in league play.

Dwenger wrestling team takes SAC tournament

FORT WAYNE — The Bishop Dwenger High School wrestling team won the SAC tournament Jan. 19, providing the third consecutive SAC championship title.

Individual champions were:
• 103 pounds — Austin Vore, Bishop Dwenger
• 119 pounds — Tony Lovejoy, Bishop Luers
• 135 pounds — Ben Porter, Bishop Dwenger
• 145 pounds — Dan Nix, Bishop Dwenger
• 285 pounds — Scott Campbell, Bishop Dwenger

The wrestling sectional is Saturday, Jan. 26. Dwenger will be at Carroll and Luers will be at New Haven.

Dwenger’s gymnastics team receives accolades

FORT WAYNE — The Bishop Dwenger High School gymnastics team participated in the Concordia Classic gymnastics meet on Jan. 19.

The Saints lost a tight meet to Valparaiso, 113.0 to 112.4. Individual winners for the Saints were: Alicia Roche was the all-around champion with a career high of 38.575; Zachary Van Roey was the beam champion with a 9.65; Olivia Lee placed fourth on beam with a 9.2; and Katharine Nix placed ninth on floor with a 9.175.

The team also won the Team Spiritmanship Award.

Consistent teamwork keeps ICCL Panthers on winning streak

BY ELMER J. DANCH

SOUTH BEND — St. Anthony’s basketball Panthers flashed consistent teamwork style and as a result maintained their unblemished record in the Inter-City Catholic League. The Panthers extended their winning streak to eight games in the John Bosco East division after beating the St. Thomas 58-50, in a tight defensive struggle. Robert Mischler tossed in 25 for the victors and Alex Brewers netted 14 for the Spartans.

St. Joseph of Mishawaka also maintained its leadership in the Martin de Porres East with an easy defeat of St. Monica, a city rival, 41-11. Coley Schulteis and Thomas Stuewien combined their efforts for 26 points. Corpus Christi’s Cougars also kept their steady winning pace by defeating Christ the King, 41-26, with Tate Bellegante looping in 28 points to share top individual scoring honors.

St. Jude rolled over St. Pius X, 48-10, with Drew Hasler and Kyle Laczkowski combining their efforts for 22 points. St. Bavo of Mishawaka topped its city rival, Queen of Peace, 44-26, with Zach Gill burning the nets for 26 points in another outstanding individual performance.

In other games, St. Joseph of South Bend defeated St. Matthew, 24-21, and St. John the Baptist edged St. Michael of Plymouth, 19-15. In the Colors Division, St. Joseph Green of Mishawaka defeated St. Thomas Gold with Zach Taylor of St. Thomas as high point man with 10 points. Christ the King White whipped St. Matthew Black, 37-16, and Connor Edmonds tossed in 14 points to lead the victors.

In other games, St. Thomas Maroon defeated St. Pius Blue, 32-6; Corpus Christi Red downed Christ the King Blue, 36-19; St. Jude Green beat Christ the King Gold, 51-43; and St. Joseph (South Bend) Gold won over St. Joseph (South Bend) Blue, 21-13.

Redeemer Radio announces games

FORT WAYNE — Redeemer Radio, Catholic Radio AM 1450 has announced the following sports to air next week:
• Notre Dame basketball
• Notre Dame vs. Villanova on Saturday, Jan. 26, at 12 p.m.
• High School Basketball
• Bishop Dwenger vs. Homestead, on Tuesday, Jan. 29, at 6:15 p.m. with the junior varsity game; and 7:30 p.m. with the varsity game; and Bishop Dwenger vs. East Noble on Wednesday, Jan. 30, at 7:30 p.m. with the girls varsity.

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Now in our fourth generation of service, D.O. McComb & Sons has worked hard to provide the families in this community with the very best service possible. As a family-owned funeral home, we take personal pride in every service we arrange.

For more information, please visit us at (260) 426-9494.
NEW YORK (CNS) — The study of genealogy once again leads to a deeper appreciation of the black experience in America in PBS’ revealing four-part series, “African-American Lives 2.” A follow-up to the well-received 2006 programs, the new installments will air on PBS stations over two Wednesday evenings, Feb. 6 and 13, 9-11 p.m. EST (check local listings).


In the first two one-hour installments, Gates’ guests include actors Morgan Freeman and Don Cheadle, poet Maya Angelou, comedian Chris Rock, theologian Peter Gomes and publisher Linda Johnson Rice, daughter of John Johnson, the founder of Ebony and Jet magazines.

John Johnson’s story illustrates a period of black history known as the Great Migration. As Gates explains, over the first three decades of the 20th century, thousands of African-Americans left their homes in the rural South seeking freedom from segregation and enhanced economic opportunity in Northern cities like New York and Detroit. In Johnson’s case, this meant relocating from Arkansas to Chicago, where he was able to establish his highly successful publishing business, leaving behind an estate that would be impressive enough for a white Southerner of the time.

Some of Gates’ other interviews touch on interracial marriage and the phenomenon of light-skinned black people “passing” for white. Continuing his quest from the first series, Gates also explores his own family background, visiting the West Virginia farm his ancestors first purchased in 1906.

Whether surveying this lush rural landscape or the decaying urban infrastructure of East St. Louis, Ill., where Olympic gold medalist Jackie Joyner-Kersee grew up, the photography is excellent. The interviews in which Gates presents information about their ancestors to his guests are often moving, while the series as a whole shows the enduring personal impact of this long-neglected chapter of the nation’s past.

John Mulderig is on the staff of the Office for Film & Broadcasting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. More reviews are available online at www.usccb.org/movies.
Parish will have a Polish dinner toddm@cse-nh.com for tickets.

Casa. Contact Todd Martin at 

p.m. in the parish hall. Texas be Saturday, Jan. 26, from 6-11 

fund raiser and casino night will 

de Paul Notre Dame athletics 

Fort Wayne — The St. Vincent 

casino night 

St. Vincent de Paul men’s club plans 

from 9 a.m. to noon. 

also be served in the school gym 

noon. A pancake breakfast will 

Sunday, Jan. 27, from 10 a.m. to 

will have an open house on 

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Open house 

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TV MASS GUIDE FOR FEBRUARY

DATE FEAST FORT WAYNE SOUTH BEND
Feb. 3 Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Father Bruce Piechociki St. Francis Xavier Pierceton Father Terry Fisher St. Joseph Mishawaka
Feb. 10 First Sunday in Lent Father John Suelzer St. Charles Borromeo Fort Wayne Father David Scheidel, CSC St. Adalbert South Bend
Feb. 17 Second Sunday in Lent Father Mark Gurtner Our Lady of Good Hope Fort Wayne Father Dan Scheidt Queen of Peace Mishawaka
Feb. 24 Third Sunday in Lent Father Robert D’Souza St. Jude Fort Wayne Father Edward O’Connor, CSC Corby Hall Notre Dame

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Pro-life officials praise decline in U.S. abortion rate

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A study showing that abortion rates in the United States have fallen to their lowest level in nearly 30 years is good news for pro-life officials who attribute the decrease to changing attitudes.

“I am not surprised that the number and rate of abortions is falling steadily,” said Deirdre McQuade, director of planning and information for the bishops’ Office of Pro-Life Activities, who credits the shift in part to recent debates about partial-birth abortion, which have increased public awareness about abortions.

She said she was confident abortions would continue to decrease in the United States as more information about abortions was made available to the general public, support networks expanded for expectant parents in crisis, people sought healing from past abortions and adoption was “treated as a courageous choice for birth mothers.”

The number of abortions declined to 1.2 million in 2005, a figure that is 25 percent below the 1.6 million abortions in 1990 and is the lowest level reported since 1.179 million in 1978, according to a study released Jan. 17 by the Guttmacher Institute, a Planned Parenthood affiliate based in New York.

The report shows the abortion rate, the number of abortions per every thousand women ages 15-44, was down to 19.4 for 1,000 women — the lowest it has been since 1974.

The study, “Abortion in the United States: Incidence and Access to Services, 2005,” is based on the organization’s survey of abortion providers in the United States and analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data. The study will appear in the March 2008 issue of the institute’s journal, Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health.

Randall O’Bannon, director of education and research for the National Right to Life Committee, said the data indicate that women are rejecting abortions because they are becoming more informed about the procedure.

He said information about abortions has become increasingly available, particularly in the 23 states with informed consent laws ensuring that women seeking abortion are provided with detailed information about abortion and its risks, biological information about the development of their unborn child and financial information about the types of governmental and private assistance available to them.

Although the Guttmacher report did not list reasons for the decreased number of abortions, researchers said it could be a combination of factors, including the possible increased use of contraception, restrictions on abortions and the wider availability of the abortion pill RU-486.

The report also noted a decline in the number of U.S. abortion providers since 2000. The number of abortion providers decreased in 26 states, increased in 15 states and stayed the same in nine states.

Abortion Decline

The number of reported abortions began to gradually decline in 1991 and continued to fall.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Abortion in Millions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>1.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>1.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>1.59</td>
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<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>1.61</td>
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<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>1.36</td>
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<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>1.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>1.21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Guttmacher Institute ©2008 CNS

Communications Coordinator

Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters, located in Huntington, Indiana seeks an experienced Communications Coordinator. The Communications Coordinator will be responsible for internal and external communications, media/public relations programs supporting the ministries of the congregation, coordinating and designing publications and designing and updating website. Some knowledge of Catholic culture and religious life is required. Must have excellent writing and computer skills. Bi-lingual, English/Spanish is desirable. Excellent benefit package. Please send resume to attention: Kathi Sands
PO Box 109, Huntington, IN 46750-0109 or e-mail ksands@olvfm.org

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Application deadline: March 1, 2008.

For application packet contact: Annette “Mickey” Lentz
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