Catholics in the United States are obliged to abstain from the eating of meat on Ash Wednesday and on all Fridays during the season of Lent. They are also obliged to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Self-imposed observance of fasting on all weekdays of Lent is strongly recommended. (U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ pastoral statement of Nov. 18, 1966)

Persons between the ages of 18 and 58 are bound by the law of fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday; persons 59 years of age and older are not bound to the law of fasting on these days. All persons 14 years of age and older are bound to observe the law of abstinence during the Fridays of Lent.

The law of fasting, which obliges on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday and is recommended on other weekdays of Lent, allows only one full meal a day, but does not forbid taking some food at the other two meal-times. — “Apostolic Constitution of Poenitemini” 111, 1 and 2.

Bishop John M. D’Arcy has urged that, according to a long-standing tradition, people try to attend daily Mass during Lent. Other traditional practices, such as Stations of the Cross, personal prayer and visits to the Blessed Sacrament are highly encouraged. Concrete sacrifices, however small, for those in need are strongly encouraged. All are asked to pray for those among us who are preparing for baptism or reception into the church at Easter time. All are also asked to pray for more young men and women to respond to the call of the priesthood and religious life.
Catholic Schools Week includes activities with bishop

Schools and Students

Catholic Schools Week

IT was for us last week when we had our annual All Schools Mass in South Bend. Michiana is a community that stands snow pretty well. It is nothing to have to wear 12 to 15 inches of lake effect snow in a day while the sun is shining in surrounding areas. With that in mind, I determined not to go up until an early morning phone call with our supervising superintendent of schools, Holy Cross Father Steve Kempering. Touching base with him at 6:45 a.m. indicated all schools were “go.” So I set out on the journey, and sure enough, arriving in South Bend snow was intense. But all schools showed up, and we had a beautiful Mass with several thousand young people from all around the South Bend area. It was a joy to offer Mass with our school community.

This was followed by a lunch with the priests in the area, and then my annual visit with Mike Brey, the excellent coach of the Notre Dame basketball team. I do not know if this had any affect with their first league road win over Villanova, but perhaps it did not hurt.

You Can Lend a Hand

This Mass also launched the annual You Can Lend a Hand effort. Children from our elementary schools sell booklets in collaboration with Quality Dining, which brings in great funds for individual schools. Unlike the private schools, we do not have tax, and this particular effort has brought in over $7 million to our elementary schools over the years.

Diocesan School Board

I met this week with the Diocesan School Board and was pleased to share with them that we have given out our first grants to parish schools from the Legacy of Faith. It was our intention not to give these grants until our income from pledges reached $20 million as an endowment for the elementary schools. However, we moved it up by one year. This year, $828,000 will be distributed to all our elementary schools. Next year, when we go over our goal, this will rise significantly.

Every parish with a school received a grant this week, and those parishes with greater economic needs, determined by how many students were on the Federal Lunch Program, received more. Next year, when we go over the goal, this will rise significantly. Every parish with a school received a grant this week, and those parishes with greater economic needs, determined by how many students were on the Federal Lunch Program, received more.

In the near future, I will give a fuller report on the Legacy of Faith: How much has come in, and how much has been distributed, etc. In addition to the grants for the endowments, almost $6 million has been returned directly to parishes. The parishes are the heart of the diocese, and when they are strong, the diocese is strong. More on all this later.

Religious education

I was especially pleased to share with the Diocesan School Board a report on many areas, but one, of great importance to the bishop and I am sure to our people, was a brief report from Sister Jane Carew of our Office of Catechesis.

Every year students in various grades are given an annual test. Our schools rank 10 to 20 percent above the national average in their response to a national test prepared by the National Catholic Education Association. It is given in grades 5, 9, and 12.

Andy Oross, who has taught for many years, first at Bishop Dwenger and more recently at Saint Joseph’s High School and now is chair of the theology department at Saint Joe, tells us that he is very struck by how much the young people know about their faith when they come to Saint Joe High.

This is essential. How can people think of following Christ when they do not even know what he has taught? How can one think of being a priest or a consecrated religious unless they learn about his love?

There are 28 teachers of theology in our four high schools, and all have or are studying for a masters degree in theology. This would not be possible except for grants from Our Sunday Visitor.

More on schools

I was off early on a Monday morning to Holy Cross Parish on the west side of South Bend. This is very much an urban school with a diverse population, and it receives $1 million to each of our four high schools in honor of my golden jubilee as a priest. This money is given for an endowment in each school for grants to those students who otherwise could not attend our schools. Each year, according to the guidelines laid down by Our Sunday Visitor, $50,000 or 5 percent, whichever is greater, will be set aside at each school for tuition grants.

I am grateful to the Our Sunday Visitor board for this grant, especially to Greg Erlandson, our president; Bill Newell, our vice-chairman; and Thomas Blae, our executive director of the Our Sunday Visitor Institute and secretary of the board.

The money, which Our Sunday Visitor realizes, is gained from the sale of the Sunday envelopes that all of you use each week. It is invested, and then the grants are given to Catholic institutions all over the country. Our Sunday Visitor, as you know, was founded by Archbishop Noll and is a great institution in this diocese. I thank them for this great generosity to our schools.

Another grant

In addition, Quality Dining has donated $50,000, also in honor of my jubilee for the same purpose. I talked to people at the time of the jubilee that they could give money, if they chose, to the Catholic Education Fund. With the money from the Quality Dining grant, this fund will be well over $100,000. This will also be in an endowment so we can give grants to all our schools, elementary and secondary, beginning in the coming academic year.

Now comes Lent

The earliest Lent ever, I am told. It is a blessed time. There are so many graces for every parish and for each individual in these weeks. It is a moment to open our hearts to Christ through prayer and fasting and the giving of alms. I really think my vocation was born or certainly nourished in the Lents of Our Lady of Presentation Parish so many years ago.

Struggling up that steep hill for morning Mass during the elementary grades, half-asleep and later, in the high school years attending early Lenten Mass at B.C. High. Most of all I remember the Stations of the Cross on Friday afternoon in my parish church. I found them hard and difficult with the standing and kneeling, but I was so impressed with the one carrying the cross and so sorry for my sins.

Lent and Easter is a great time for priests. Demanding, but beautiful and a chance to preach to our people about the saving action of Jesus Christ, and how close he is to us in the sacraments and his word. Also, it should be noted that the pitchers and catchers report to spring training in about 10 days, I am awaiting a call to come and throw batting practice for the Red Sox. See you all next week.
Bishop Warfel installed as seventh bishop of Great Falls-Billings

BY FATHER JAY H. PETERSON

GREAT FALLS, Mont. (CNS) — More than 1,000 Catholics from eastern Montana welcomed Bishop Michael W. Warfel as the new bishop of the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings during a Jan. 16 installation Mass at the newly constructed Holy Spirit Church in Great Falls.

Bishop Warfel, who had led the Diocese of Juneau, Alaska, since 1996, took possession of his new diocese in a liturgy filled with song and ceremony. His symbolic chair, known as a cata
dra, was transferred for the occasion from St. Ann Cathedral in downtown Great Falls to the new church.

Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States, read the mandate from Pope Benedict XVI appointing Bishop Warfel to the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings.

Archbishop John G. Vlazny of Portland, Ore., questioned the bishop regarding his willingness to receive the assignment as the seventh bishop of the diocese.

During the installation Mass, Archbishops Sambi and Vlazny escorted Bishop Warfel to the cathedral, where he received his crosier, the staff that represents his pastoral office.

Also attending the installation were Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles, 20 bishops and about 80 priests. The Native American elements of worship included an honor song, incens

ing at various points of the litur

gy and drumming for the proces
osional and recessional.

The Great-Falls-Billings Diocese had been vacant since June 2006, when Bishop Anthony M. Milone retired at age 73 for health reasons.

In his homily, Bishop Warfel said the first thing he hoped to do as the new bishop was to “spend a lot of time getting around the diocese, listening and observing.”

He said he hopes to work with Catholics in the diocese to carry forward on the mission of the church, which he described as “providing support and encouragement to the active membership of the church” and reaching out to Catholics who are “alienated from or feel disconnected from the church.”

He said the church mission likewise required Catholics to be united with other Christians and to reach out to those without faith.

The bishop also urged Montana Catholics to respond to the poor and vulnerable and address the causes of poverty and injustice.

“While we always remember that together, as a eucharistic people, we are charged with the mission of sharing salvation in Christ,” he said.

The diocese covers more than 94,000 square miles and serves about 51,000 Catholics in 66 parishes and 44 missions in the eastern two-thirds of the state.

In a Jan. 22 letter to Catholics, Archbishop Buechlein said he received the diagnosis Jan. 18 after having undergone a series of tests the week of Jan. 13 following “a lot of fatigue” and after he noticed a swelling under his right arm.

“I am meeting this week with my oncologist to determine where I go from here concerning a course of treatment,” the archbishop said. “I already know that chemotherapy is required.... Chemotherapy has proven to be a highly effective method for treating this disease.”

Archbishop Buechlein, who will turn 70 in April, added he would return to his duties after completing chemotherapy in May.

“We must continue to pray for all of you,” the archbishop wrote.

“May this loving contemplation mark our lives this Lent.”

Most Rev. Daniel M. Buechlein, OSB
Archbishop of Indianapolis

According to the institute, in Hodgkin’s disease, cells in the lymphatic system become abnormal. They divide too rapidly and grow without any order or control. Because lymphatic tissue is present in many parts of the body, Hodgkin’s disease can start almost anywhere. Hodgkin’s disease may occur in a single lymph node, a group of lymph nodes or sometimes in other parts of the lymphatic system such as the bone marrow or spleen.

This type of cancer tends to spread in a fairly orderly way from one group of lymph nodes to the next group. For example, Hodgkin’s disease that arises in the lymph nodes in the neck spreads first to the nodes above the collarbones, and then to other nodes under the arms and within the chest. Eventually, if left untreated, it can spread to almost any other part of the body.

For more information about Hodgkin’s disease, visit the National Cancer Institute’s Web site, www.cancer.gov/cancer-topics/types/hodgkin

Lenten Message

Lent is about Jesus Christ. If it is not centered on Christ and his sacrifice and the deliverance which he accomplished through his suffering, through the offering of himself in love, then we miss the point of this holy season.

That is why prayer is so central for us if we are to embrace this season and be open to many graces that are offered to us as we pass through Lent.

The author of the Letter to the Hebrews helps us to understand the cross as the source of our sanctification. It is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all — Heb 10:11.

“This is why in previous generations people found the Way of the Cross such an instrument of holiness, and Pope Benedict XVI picks up this theme when he tells us that by contemplating the pierced side of Christ, one begins to find the way of love.

“It is from such contemplation that the definition of love begins. In its con

templation, the Christian discovers the path along which his life and love must move.” — Benedict XVI, “Deus Caritas Est.”

“This is why we pray to God to give us great saints, like St. Francis of Assisi before the crucifix.”

Most Rev. Daniel M. Buechlein, OSB
Archbishop of Indianapolis

Indianapolis archbishop discloses he has Hodgkin’s lymphoma

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) — Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein of Indianapolis disclosed in his archdiocese he has been diagnosed with Hodgkin’s lymphoma, a cancer of the lymph nodes also known as Hodgkin’s disease.

In a Jan. 22 letter to Catholics, Archbishop Buechlein said he received the diagnosis Jan. 18 after having undergone a series of tests the week of Jan. 13 following “a lot of fatigue” and after he noticed a swelling under his right arm.

“I am meeting this week with my oncologist to determine where I go from here concerning a course of treatment,” the archbishop said. “I already know that chemotherapy is required.... Chemotherapy has proven to be a highly effective method for treating this disease.”

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For more information about Hodgkin’s disease, visit the National Cancer Institute’s Web site, www.cancer.gov/cancer-topics/types/hodgkin

February 3, 2008

TODAY’S CATHOLIC

Confirmation schedule, spring 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Parish</th>
<th>Bishop</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 20</td>
<td>1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Holy Cross, South Bend</td>
<td>D/Rey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 2</td>
<td>5 p.m.</td>
<td>St. Therese, Fort Wayne</td>
<td>D/Rey</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 3</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>St. Mary, Bristol</td>
<td>D/Rey</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 30</td>
<td>2:50 p.m.</td>
<td>St. Flora, South Bend</td>
<td>D/Rey</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 2</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Great Falls-Church of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne</td>
<td>D/Rey</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 7</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Immaculate Conception, Auburn</td>
<td>D/Rey</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 9</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Queen of Angels, Fort Wayne</td>
<td>D/Rey</td>
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<td>April 11</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>St. Jude, Fort Wayne</td>
<td>D/Rey</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 12</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>St. Anthony of Padua, Angola</td>
<td>D/Rey</td>
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<td>April 13</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
<td>Combined confirmation for...</td>
<td>D/Rey</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 20</td>
<td>2:30 p.m.</td>
<td>St. Michael, Plymouth</td>
<td>D/Rey</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 22</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>St. Patrick, Fort Wayne</td>
<td>D/Rey</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 23</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>St. Charles Borromeo, Fort Wayne</td>
<td>D/Rey</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 25</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>St. Joseph, South Bend</td>
<td>D/Rey</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 26</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
<td>St. Mary of the Lake, Culver</td>
<td>D/Rey</td>
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Campus Ministries of University of Notre Dame
Holy Cross College
(at Sacred Heart Basilsica, Notre Dame)
(at St. Joseph)
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‘It is a major issue of my generation’

Amanda Banks encouraged by youthfulness of pro-life movement

BY LAUREN CAGGIANO

FORT WAYNE — The young and old gathered to rally for the pro-life cause at the 34th annual March for Life at the Scottish Rite Auditorium in Fort Wayne on Jan. 26.

One could feel the intensity as keynote speaker Amanda Banks addressed the crowd of ardent pro-life supporters in the auditorium.

Banks, whose photo is seen on the Allen County Right to Life billboard around town, has been an active participant in the pro-life movement since her college years. Soon after graduation, Banks worked for the evangelical group Focus on the Family in the public policy department, where she lobbied for pro-life legislation. A few years later, the Indiana University graduate returned to northeast Indiana to co-found a public affairs firm in Columbia City.

Banks explained how her generation has grown up in the current climate where abortion is legal. In fact she said from an early age she remembers discussing the controversial issue.

“It is a major issue of my generation,” she said.

Although the decision has been the status quo for 35 years, Banks still has hope for the future. The youth, she said, are and will be the agents of change in this fight.

Banks lamented the fact that an unknown number of babies, potential neighbors, colleagues, friends, etc. have been victims of abortion. The pro-life advocate said it’s important to preserve the right to life for future generations.

“I believe there’s good reason to expect change,” she said. “I posed rhetorically, “What will our victory be in 2008?”

Banks noted the recent finding that adult stem cells can be reprogrammed to act as human cells. “It can not only lead to new therapies but cripple abortion efforts,” she said.

Scientists advancements, like the Embryonic Stem-Cell Research Act, have further stirred up the controversy. The pro-life community won more battles in 2006 and again in 2007, when the president vetoed the Embryonic Stem-Cell Research Act.

Banks cited a few landmarks in the pro-life movement as accomplishments. In 2002, the Born-Alive Infant Protection Act was passed, which grants full rights to babies born alive after unsuccessful abortions. Moreover, the 2003 Partial Birth Abortion Ban prohibited late-term abortions. In 2004, the country saw the Unborn Victims of Violence Act enacted. This legislation recognizes unborn children as victims when they are injured or killed during the commission of federal or military crimes of violence.

Lobbyists need to find ways to get more ultrasound machines in pregnant care centers, she added. “Countless Lives, Banks said, have been saved through the use of this tool. Statistics indicate that 89 percent of women choose to carry their babies to full term after seeing their baby’s image, she cited.

Banks said she has hope in the educational power of the Internet.

The ArchAngel Institute is appropriately housed in the former Women’s Health Clinic at 827 Webster St. According to the organization’s Web site, the mission of the organization is to promote the “rebirth of Christian charity that advances the culture of life by encouraging, empowering and emboldening Christians to cherish, defend and advance faith, family and freedom.”

For more information, see www.archangelinstitute.org.

Representatives from the Silent No More Awareness campaign carry a banner in the 34th annual Allen County Right to Life march held in downtown Fort Wayne on Jan. 26. The organization held a brief gathering at the Federal Courthouse after the march.

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www.archangelinstitute.org.

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For more information about the general pro-life movement in Allen County, go to www.ichooselife.org.
St. Michael, Plymouth, Congratulations Ms. Trudy Nawara on receiving the Light of Learning Award for excellence in education. We are proud of you and congratulations.

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- St. Joseph Academy
- St. Joseph, South Bend Academy
- St. Jude Academy
- St. Matthew Academy
- St. Michael Academy
- St. Monica Academy
- St. Nicholas Academy
- St. Thomas the Apostle Academy

FORT WAYNE AREA PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

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- Fort Wayne Academy
- St. John the Baptist Academy
- New Haven Academy
- St. Joseph Academy
- St. Joseph, Decatur Academy
- St. Joseph, Garrett Academy
- St. Joseph, Hasson Cassel Academy
- St. Joseph, Monroeville Academy
- St. Joseph, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Academy
- St. Jude Academy
- St. Louis Academy
- St. Mary of the Assumption Academy
- St. Therese Academy
- St. Vincent de Paul Academy

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Archbishop Broglio installed as fourth U.S. military archbishop

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The many worlds of Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio came together at his Jan. 25 installation Mass as the fourth head of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services. There were military chaplains and members of the armed forces, representing his new post. There were bishops, priests and lay Catholics from the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico, where he served until recently as the papal representative. There were friends from his days at the Pontifical North American College in Rome and his 11 years working in the Vatican Secretariat of State. There were fellow priests from the Diocese of Cleveland, his home diocese. And from even further back, there were his three brothers, Tony, Larry and John; his sister, Joan; and other friends and relatives.

In his homily for the installation Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, Archbishop Broglio pledged to “offer the best that I have to the faithful who have been entrusted to my pastoral care.”

“Our thoughts cannot fail to turn this afternoon to the thousands of young men and women who unsellably serve our nation and mankind. These are the men and women of their faithfulness,” he said, mentioning Iraq and Afghanistan in particular. “We, in our prayers, and beg Almighty God to bring them home safely.”

The architect also prayed for wounded veterans and those who have died in battle.

“Men and women who have sacrificed themselves for values in which they believe, their given their youth and often their health and their lives in the service of our country,” he said.

Vatican official says Christians must recover spiritual inspiration

ROME (CNS) Divided Christians need to recover the original spirit of ecumenical movement, always ensuring that it is grounded in a desire to proclaim salvation in Jesus Christ more effectively, said Cardinal Walter Kasper. Mergers to form a “church that is ashamed” of past actions by a minority of priests but also by the church that is ashamed “of all its people, has risen to leadership on this issue.” “In the past, the church was, at times, a model of what not to do; now we are looked to as a model of what to do,” he said.

Pope Benedict XVI poses with Jesuit Father Adolfo Nicolas, newly elected superior general of the Society of Jesus, Jan. 26 at the Vatican.

Pope Benedict XVI meets with New Jesuit Superior

Bishops offer condolences to Greek Orthodox mourning leader’s death

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Catholic bishops of Greece offered their condolences to the country’s Orthodox majority as they mourned the death of Archbishop Christodoulos of Athens. The prince of the Greek Orthodox Church, 69, died Jan. 28 in Athens after a long struggle with intestinal cancer. Under the leadership of Archbishop Christodoulos, who was elected in 1998 to lead the Greek Orthodox Church, relations between Catholics and Greek Orthodox improved remarkably.

People’s anti-immigrant bias comes from not knowing them, says priest

LAREDO, Texas (CNS) — People are biased against immigrants because they don’t know them, said the director of a migrant shelter in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico. “If you know them, it changes you. It touches your heart,” said Father Francisco Pelizatti, a Scalabrinian priest, who directs Casa del Migrante Nazareth in the border city. He made his comments in an interview with the South Texas Catholic, newspaper of the Diocese of Corpus Christi, after the Jan. 13 Day of the Migrant (“Día del Migrante”) Mass celebrated by Mexican and Texas bishops who lead border dioceses. Casa del Migrante workers and volunteers helped coordinate the liturgy, held at the Mexican Institute of the Rio Grande and attended by about 400 Catholics from both sides of the border. “The church is a family without borders,” Bishop Ricardo Watty Urquiolo of Nuevo Laredo said in his homily during the Mass.

Bishop Leibrecht retires; Knoxville diocesan chancellor is successor

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has accepted the resignation of Bishop John J. Leibrecht, 77, of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, Mo., and has named the bishop-elect of the Diocese of Knoxville, Tenn., Father Vann Johnston Jr., as his successor. The resignation and appointment were announced in Washington Jan. 24 by Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States. Bishop-designate Johnston’s episcopal ordination will be March 31.

In a statement released in Springfield, he pledged “to serve in generosity and charity all of the priests, deacons, consecrated religious, seminarians and lay faithful of southern Missouri with the help of God’s grace and wisdom. I will strive to serve you as a shepherd after the heart of Christ,” he said.

“The bishops of the United States are biased against immigrants,” he said. “We offer our prayers for them and beg Almighty God to bring them home safely.”

Bishop Leibrecht said the director of a migrant shelter in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, is a great model of holiness in St. John Bosco.

New episcopal vestments for St. John Neumann mark his feast day

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — St. John Neumann, Philadelphia’s fourth bishop who is enshrined in a glass casket under an altar at St. Peter the Apostle Church, was clad in a new set of vestments, just in time for his Jan. 5 feast day. “It is the bicentennial of our archdiocese and we want to celebrate the holiness of the church in Philadelphia,” said Cardinal Justin Rigali, who oversaw the revelatory opening of the saint’s casket and the exchange of the episcopal garb. “We have great model of holiness in St. John Neumann and it was thought it would be good if we could put him in new vestments, also vestments that could reflect the period during which he was actually a bishop and in which he lived and died,” the cardinal said.

In addition to the new vestments, a new pectoral cross modeled from the cross Bishop Neumann wore in life was placed on the body, as was a new episcopal ring. A new face mask, expertly crafted by forensic sculptor Frank Bender, was placed on the body.

Archbishop criticizes bills removing time limits on sex abuse suits

MADISON, Wis. (CNS) — Two bills before the Wisconsin Legislature would erase or remove the statute of limitations for child abuse cases “will kneecap or bring to an end” church ministries to the needy and punish innocent Catholics for years to come, Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of Milwaukee told a state Senate committee Jan. 16. The archbishop was among several witnesses against the proposed legislation at a public hearing in Madison by the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Corrections and Housing. The Senate bill, SB 356, and its counterpart in the Assembly, AB 651, would restore childhood sexual abuse limitations for all future civil suits filed by childhood sexual abuse victims and open a three-year grace period for filing lawsuits now barred by current statute of limitations. Wisconsin increased the statute of limitations for personal injury suits in 2004, allowing a victim to bring suit against his or her abusers or other guilty parties until he or her 30th birthday. The Catholic Church had backed that legislation. In his Jan. 16 testimony, Archbishop Dolan again expressed “a church that is ashamed” of past actions by a minority of priests but also of the church that is ashamed “of all its people, has risen to leadership on this issue.” “In the past, the church was, at times, an example of what not to do; now we are looked to as a model of what to do,” he said.

Pope says science can’t help people discover their true identity

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — While the sciences may help people live better, there is no way they can ever help people discover who they really are, Pope Benedict XVI said. “No science can say who man is, where he came from or where he is going,” the pope said Jan. 28 in a speech to participants in a conference sponsored by the Pontifical Academy of Sciences and the French Academy of Sciences.

The academies were discussing changing notions of human identity, a subject the pope said is mystically tied to the question of human dignity from the embryonic stage to natural death.

“Human identity cannot be defined from today’s viewpoint by looking at a person, studying his physical and intellectual abilities or by summarizing his experiences speaking out against the person back, there were his three brothers, Tony, Larry and John; his sister, Joan; and other friends and relatives. In his homily for the installation Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, Archbishop Broglio pledged to “offer the best that I have to the faithful who have been entrusted to my pastoral care.” “Our thoughts cannot fail to turn this afternoon to the thousands of young men and women who unsellably serve our nation and mankind. These are the men and women of their faithfulness,” he said, mentioning Iraq and Afghanistan in particular. “We, in our prayers, and beg Almighty God to bring them home safely.” The architect also prayed for wounded veterans and those who have died in battle. “Men and women who have sacrificed themselves for values in which they believe, their given their youth and often their health and their lives in the service of our country,” he said.

Pope Benedict XVI poses with Jesuit Father Adolfo Nicolas, newly elected superior general of the Society of Jesus, Jan. 26 at the Vatican.

Bishops offer condolences to Greek Orthodox mourning leader’s death

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Catholic bishops of Greece offered their condolences to the country’s Orthodox majority as they mourned the death of Archbishop Christodoulos of Athens. The prince of the Greek Orthodox Church, 69, died Jan. 28 in Athens after a long struggle with intestinal and liver cancer. Under the leadership of Archbishop Christodoulos, who was elected in 1998 to lead the Greek Orthodox Church, relations between Catholics and Greek Orthodox improved remarkably. The country’s Catholic bishops called his death “a great loss for the Greek Orthodox Church and for the ecumenical movement,” report ed L’Osservatore Romano, the Vatican newspaper. The statement issued by the Catholic bishops’ conference of Greece called Archbishop Christodoulos a “great pastor” and an ardent supporter of Christian unity. “We pray that the Holy Spirit will raise up a guide who is just as strong and pro found,” they said.

Bishop Leibrecht retires; Knoxville diocesan chancellor is successor

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has accepted the resignation of Bishop John J. Leibrecht, 77, of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, Mo., and has named the bishop-elect of the Diocese of Knoxville, Tenn., Father Vann Johnston Jr., as his successor. The resignation and appointment were announced in Washington Jan. 24 by Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States. Bishop-designate Johnston’s episcopal ordination will be March 31.

In a statement released in Springfield, he pledged “to serve in generosity and charity all of the priests, deacons, consecrated religious, seminarians and lay faithful of southern Missouri with the help of God’s grace and wisdom. I will strive to serve you as a shepherd after the heart of Christ,” he said.

“Likewise, I will seek out those who have fallen away from the practice of their Catholic faith, reach out to the unclothed, and seek to meet brothers and sisters of other faith communities and churches on areas of common belief and shared concerns.”

People’s anti-immigrant bias comes from not knowing them, says priest

LAREDO, Texas (CNS) — People are biased against immigrants because they don’t know them, said the director of a migrant shelter in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico. “If you know them, it changes you. It touches your heart,” said Father Francisco Pelizatti, a Scalabrinian priest, who directs Casa del Migrante Nazareth in the border city. He made his comments in an interview with the South Texas Catholic, newspaper of the Diocese of Corpus Christi, after the Jan. 13 Day of the Migrant (“Día del Migrante”) Mass celebrated by Mexican and Texas bishops who lead border dioceses. Casa del Migrante workers and volunteers helped coordinate the liturgy, held at the Mexican Institute of the Rio Grande and attended by about 400 Catholics from both sides of the border. “The church is a family without borders,” Bishop Ricardo Watty Urquiolo of Nuevo Laredo said in his homily during the Mass.

Bishop Leibrecht said the director of a migrant shelter in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, is a great model of holiness in St. John Bosco.
Cardinal George to speak at theological conference

NOTRE DAME — A theological conference specifically designed for undergraduate students will bring Cardinal Francis George of Chicago and other speakers to the University of Notre Dame March 31.

The conference, “Christ is Risen! So Now What?” has been organized by the Center for Liturgy and the Notre Dame Vocation Initiative (NDVision), which held a similar conference on vocations for undergraduates last year.

“We thought it important to assist and encourage theological discussion of issues of personal concern to undergraduates,” said David W. Fagerberg, director of the Center for Liturgy and one of the conference organizers. “In this conference, which will take place a few days after Easter, we want to address what appears to be a false dichotomy between those who pray and those who act — that is, between the student drawn to a contemplative retreat and the student more inclined toward service and pursuing justice. We wish to show that both these demands of Christian discipleship have their source in the empty tomb.”

The conference will consist of three presentations, all in the ballroom of the LaFortune Student Center.

Joan Neal, executive vice president of U.S. operations for Catholic Relief Services (CRS), will speak on “A Life of Service” at 4 p.m. A graduate of Loyola University in Chicago, Neal holds a master’s degree in pastoral studies and a certificate in biblical spirituality from Catholic Theological Union. She directs CRS domestic programs and advocacy, overseeing six regional offices across the country and working in partnership with dioceses, parishes, colleges, universities and other Catholic organizations. Before joining CRS in 2002, she was president of her own management consulting firm whose clients included Catholic dioceses, parishes, organizations and churches in the Midwest.

Father Cyprian Consiglio will speak of “Lent: A Life of Prayer” at 7:30 p.m. Father Consiglio is a musician, composer, author, teacher and monk of the Camaldolese Congregation. For 10 years, he lived at New Camaldoli Hermitage near Big Sur, Calif., serving as liturgical choir director and teacher. Deeply interested in comparative religion, he frequently travels to India to study and teach. He divides his time evenly between his home in Santa Cruz, Calif., and travel for performing, teaching and leading retreats.

Cardinal George will speak on “Easter: A Life of Prayer and Service” at 9:30 a.m. A native of Chicago, he oversees the second largest Catholic archdiocese, after Los Angeles, in the nation. Recently elected president of the American bishops conference, Cardinal George has taught in several seminaries and served as vicar general of the Archdiocese of Mmunch at the religious order to which he belongs. He holds master’s degrees in philosophy and theology from Catholic University of America and the University of Ottawa, respectively, a doctorate in American philosophy from Tulane University and a doctorate in sacred theology from the Pontifical Urban University in Rome.

Course in Judaism offered at Noll Catholic Center

FORT WAYNE — The Archbishop Noll Catholic Center will be the host for a Lenten adult course. Our roots in Judaism: From Old Testament Covenant to Christ. Martyn Fech will present on five Wednesday evenings: Feb. 13, 20, 27 and March 5 and 12. The session will take place from 7-9 p.m. Registration is required: online at www.diocesefwsb.org/OC under Adult Faith Formation, or call Janice Martin at (260) 399-1411 or e-mail at jmartin@fw.diocese-fwsb.org.

Lindenwood offers Lenten retreat for men

DONALDSON — Registrations are now being accepted for the men’s Lenten retreat titled “Conversations with the Lord Jesus in the Gospel of John.” Experience the conversation of Jesus in the community of John and how the men and women of the early faith community gave a living example of the Lord’s presence. Men of faith today are called to recognize within faith communities the power of God’s word and the ability to carry out his work within today’s culture.

Father Jerry Schwetz, pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Wanamah, St. Mary, Otto, and St. Martin in LaCrosse, will facilitate the retreat. He is a teacher of sacred Scripture. The program begins Friday, Feb. 22, with check-in at 4:30 p.m. and concludes Sunday, March 2, with lunch. The fee is $165 for single occupancy or $135 per person, for double occupancy and includes all meals. Registration deadline is Feb. 25.

For more information or to register, contact Lindenwood at (574) 935-1780, or visit the Web site at www.lindenwood.org.

Vocation discernment retreat offered by Missionaries of the Precious Blood

CARTHAGENA, Ohio — The Missionaries of the Precious Blood will hold a vocation discernment retreat at St. Charles Center in Carthagen, Ohio, on March 7-9.

The Missionaries of the Precious Blood is a religious society of priests, brothers and lay associates who work in parishes in the U.S. and abroad in education and in a wide range of apostolates, promoting the cause of God’s reconciliation worldwide, and proclaiming the word of God. Missionaries of the Precious Blood are in ministry in this diocese.

The vocation discernment weekend is for men completing high school, of college age and older who are discerning a vocation to religious life as a priest or brother. Discernment is an ongoing, prayerful reflection about the circumstances in our daily lives by which we seek to discover God’s unique call. Retreatants will spend the weekend in prayer and conversation with the Missionaries of the Precious Blood. The theme of this year’s retreat is To Be Called Forth.

For more information, contact the Missionaries of the Precious Blood Father Ken Schimpl, director of vocation ministry, Missionaries of the Precious Blood, at (937) 228-6224, or e-mail him at vocation@cpss-preciousblood.org

Mendoza series to explore trends in next decade

NOTRE DAME — From terrorism to immigration to what it means to be “green,” national experts will present their views of the next decade of change in vital areas impacting American lives during the 10th Years Hence speaker series, an annual event sponsored by the Mendoza College of Business at the University of Notre Dame.

The spring series of seven lectures will run from Feb. 1 to April 25, with the talks to be held on Fridays at 10:40 a.m. in Mendoza’s Jordan Auditorium. The schedule is as follows:

• Feb. 1: Erik Peterson, senior vice president of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, “Seven Revolutions”


• March 14: George Borjas, Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, “The Economics of Immigration and Illegal Immigration”

• March 28: James B. Quillian, managing director of the Centre for Global Studies, “Imagining the Convention on the Global Commons”

• April 4: Gen. James L. Jones, president and chief executive officer of the U.S. Chamber Institute for 21st Century Energy

• April 11: Anne Thompson, NRC News chief environmental correspondent, “Green is the ‘New Black,’ but Will It Stay in Style?”

• April 25: Holy Cross Father Edward A. Malloy, president emeritus of Notre Dame, “Terrorism: Looking Ahead Through Patterns of Past Revolutions”

Ten Years Hence has been offered since 2005 as a signature event of the Mendoza College. The speakers are invited to forecast the major national and global trends in their areas of expertise, with each lecture followed by a question-and-answer period.

The intention of the series is to develop a sense of a "knowledgeable future" in a dynamic world, so that trends can be anticipated and positively influenced. The lectures are free and open to the public.

For more information about the speakers, visit the Ten Years Hence Web site at www.nd.edu/~cba/tenyearshence.

Many Catholics from South Bend and Mishawaka carried signs and marched in front of the Federal Building to take a stand for life on Tuesday, Jan. 22. Shown in the photo is Marian High School Principal Carl Loesch.
ST. THERESE PRESCHOOL MAKES PLANS FOR FALL 2008 ENROLLMENT

Father Dave Ruppert dedicated the room for the new pre-school at St. Therese on Sunday, Jan. 27, at the start of Catholic Schools Week. The preschool will open this fall and will be accepting registrations for full-day and half-day classes for fall 2008. Call the school at (260) 747-2343 for more information.

Pharmacists conscience clause bill defeated in Senate

INDIANAPOLIS — Pharmacists could follow their conscience and refuse to dispense drugs that result in abortion, euthanasia, assisted suicide or mercy killing under a bill defeated in a deadlock vote (24-24) in the Indiana Senate Jan. 24.

Nearly a dozen senators, one by one, approached the microphone to voice concerns or explain why they supported or opposed the bill in a floor debate that lasted over an hour. The bill failed for lack of a constitutional majority. To pass, the conscience clause bill, Senate Bill 3, needed at least 26 “yes” votes.

Glen Tebbe, executive director of the Indiana Catholic Conference, said that even though the bill’s primary focus was to give pharmacists the same professional courtesies as other medical professionals in exercising their professional judgment and conscience, the debate on the Senate floor focused on a fear expressed by some senators that pharmacists would be given too much discretionary power and that some might refuse to fill oral contraceptives due to their potential abortifacient nature or they would arbitrarily refuse to fill other drugs they deemed harmful to or possibly misused by the patient.

Sen. Jeff Drozda (R-Westfield) author or SB 3 said he authored the bill because several pharmacists had come to him who had been reprimanded or fired because in following their conscience they would not dispense drugs, which could cause a chemical abortion. “I find it very troubling that people who are following their conscience are being punished, reprimanded or even fired because of their moral convictions.”

“I was disappointed that some of my colleagues, who normally support life bills, voted against Senate Bill 3,” Sen. Marvin Riegecker (R-Goshen), a pharmacist since 1967, who voted for the bill, said he supported SB 3 for two reasons. “First it allows the pharmacist to follow his or her conscience in dispensing drugs and secondly it protects the pharmacist from being fired for following his or her conscience. “My philosophy is we need to be respectful of life,” said Riegecker. “Pharmacists are one of the most respected and trusted groups of medical professionals.”

Riegecker said he thought some of the comments voiced on the Senate floor during the debate and the concerns raised by those opposing the bill were “overstated” and were “somewhat disrespectful of the pharmacists’ professional judgment.”

Earlier in the day, Senators Vi Simpson (D-Elletsville), Sue Errington (D-Muncie), Earline Rogers (D-Gary), Connie Sipes (D-New Albany) and Karen Tallian (D-Portage) held a media event to bring attention to the conscience clause bill and their concern over an attempt to restrict access to healthcare.

“First they limited access to information on reproductive health, and now they want to limit access to reproductive healthcare,” said Tallian. “This could have been a dangerous step back from 40 years of progress.”

Following the floor debate and tie vote, Sen. Simpson said, “I hope that this debate brings about a renewed awareness of how tentative women’s reproductive rights can be.”

Tebbe, who serves as the official representative of the Catholic Church on matters of public policy, testified in support of SB 3, at a Jan. 9 hearing before Senate Health and Providers Services Committee.

Tebbe told lawmakers, “The Church believes that pharmacists should be treated in the same manner as other healthcare professionals, be able to follow their conscience, and have the right to reject participating in a moral evil.”

The Senate panel approved SB 3 in a (6-5) vote. Drozda said that representatives from St. Vincent Hospital, St. Francis Hospital and the Hospital Association had expressed concerns from a hospice perspective to a public law that might prevent some patients from receiving pain medication.

Sen. Drozda amended the bill to require pharmacists to contact the prescribing physician to clarify the clinical condition of the patient before refusing to fill a prescription or dispense a medicinal device. This provision would protect hospice patients and patients needing high doses of pain medication. The amendment also provides that the pharmacy, where the pharmacist is employed have a policy in place to dispense or sell the drug.

Referring to a publication of Americans United for Life called Defending Life 2007: Proven Strategies for a Pro-life America, Drozda said five states have enacted a pharmacist conscience clause law including Arkansas, California, Kansas, Maine and South Dakota. Thirty four states have general provisions allowing medical professionals and medical institutions to refuse treatment or procedures that would violate ethical standards of the individual or institution.

This is the fourth time the Indiana General Assembly has considered a conscience clause bill for pharmacists, but Drozda said it is the first year the bill has passed out of committee and been voted on by the full Senate. Under Senate rules as author of the bill he can call the bill down for another vote with no debate. He said he just needs to get two more “yes” votes.

Call the school at (260) 747-2343 for more information.
OSV Board grants $4 million to Catholic high schools in honor of Bishop D’Arcy

HUNTINGTON — In honor of Bishop John M. D’Arcy’s Golden Jubilee as a priest, the Our Sunday Visitor board of directors and the executive director of the Our Sunday Visitor Institute that is providing the funds, Blee also said that “was a sign of support for, and confidence in, the strong Catholic school system in the diocese.”

The funds have been placed in the Catholic Community Foundation of Northeast Indiana. According to the terms of the gift, the money will be distributed at 5 percent or $50,000, whichever is larger, each year for each high school beginning with the 2008-2009 school year. Blee announced the gift at the annual “You Can Lend-A-Hand” luncheon “In Celebration of Excellence in Catholic Education,” hosted by Quality Dining, Inc, in South Bend Jan. 26, and hosted by James K. Fitzpatrick, representing local Burger King and Chili’s restaurateurs, in Fort Wayne Jan 29 in conjunction with Catholic Schools Week, Jan. 27 through Feb. 2. Blee presented a facsimile of the endowment checks to Bishop D’Arcy and Holy Cross Father Thomas Blee, the secretary of the Our Sunday Visitor board of directors and the executive director of the Our Sunday Visitor Institute.

Bishop D’Arcy was ordained to the priesthood of the Roman Catholic Church on Feb. 2, 1957, in Boston. Based in Huntington, Our Sunday Visitor, Inc., is one of the largest Catholic publishing companies and the largest producer of Catholic offering envelopes in the nation. The company is a leader in producing Catholic periodicals, books, religious education resources and stewardship related materials. The Our Sunday Visitor Institute financially supports worthwhile Catholic organizations and institutions around the country.

The president of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing is Gregory R. Erlandson. The president of Our Sunday Visitor Offering Envelopes is Kyle Hamilton. Other local members of the Our Sunday Visitor board of directors are William Newell, vice chairman, and Richard Doerner.

This gift is a sign of the great appreciation of the board of directors has for Bishop D’Arcy, who has presided over the board for the past 22 years,” said Blee.

Jesus helps those who are willing to help themselves

Mamiella Brown holds a mission to educate the undereducated

SOUTH BEND — Mamiella Brown continues to live a life of service to others — not only to the church but to children in the school system.

In honor of his 50 years as a priest, namely that, so many will receive help in our four schools beginning in the next academic year. It is to be hoped that these funds will increase steadily through investment over the years.” Bishop D’Arcy was ordained to the priesthood of the Roman Catholic Church on Feb. 2, 1957, in Boston. Based in Huntington, Our Sunday Visitor, Inc., is one of the largest Catholic publishing companies and the largest producer of Catholic offering envelopes in the nation. The company is a leader in producing Catholic periodicals, books, religious education resources and stewardship related materials. The Our Sunday Visitor Institute financially supports worthwhile Catholic organizations and institutions around the country.

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TOM BLEE

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Black Faithful

MAY LEE JOHNSON

Black Catholics, the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, are involved in the National Black Catholic Congress. She and the late Thelma Schulte were the fuel that propelled local participation in the National Black Catholic congress. Brown has taken part in many of the gatherings of black Catholic women around South Bend and the country. She has been a part of many women’s groups gathered in prayer and praise.

Brown has been an evangelist carrying the message that helps those in need. Her message is that Jesus helps those who are willing to help themselves.

Mamiella Brown holds a mission to educate the undereducated

SOUTH BEND — Mamiella Brown continues to live a life of service to others — not only to the church but to children in the school system.

The children of St. Augustine Parish in South Bend affectionately call her Mrs. Brown.

A retired teacher from the South Bend Community School Corp., Brown has a mission of trying to educate the undereducated.

Brown is a Catholic in every sense of her being. She is a sister in Christ who is not afraid to take up the mantle of Catholics, blacks and women.

Today, she runs the after-school program at St. Augustine Parish. She is a eucharistic minister there and sits on many boards around the city.

She uses her experience as a teacher and counselor to advise both adults and children. She also tries to instill Christ in all who are open to receive him.

Brown has received many awards and was recently honored with the Rosa Parks Award for service to the community. She received the award at this year’s celebration of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Brown’s dedication to local causes was one of the reasons she was selected for the award.

“We picked Mamiella because of her service to the young people of the community,” said Gladys Muhammad, of the Martin Luther King Jr. Foundation.

“Not only has she served the children in her church, the neighborhood and the schools, she continues to do so through her program based at St. Augustine Catholic Church in South Bend,” Muhammad said. “I don’t think there is anyone more deserving of this award than Mamiella.”

After receiving the award, Brown shared with St. Augustine Parish a bit of what touched her about Rosa Parks’ life: “Rosa Parks’ husband really worried about her work with the Civil Rights movement. In fact, he had a few nervous breakdowns, but she persevered and continued working for the movement.”

Brown is also known for her attendance at every Black Catholic Congress that has been held.

“Mamiella is serious about her faith,” said Charlotte Hudson.

“I know for a fact she has attended all 10 of the congresses because I have been her roommate on occasion,” Hudson.

Hustled added, “She is a wonderful person who cares for people and would do anything she could to help others. More than anything, she is an example of devotion and love for the Catholic Church. Mamiella is authentically black and truly Catholic as proven by her witness in faith and her

Mamiella Brown speaks to members of St. Augustine Parish about the life of Rosa Parks. Brown was awarded the Rosa Park Award at last week’s citywide celebration of the life Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. She is also a lifelong Catholic and community leader.

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May Lee Johnson

encouragement.” Brown challenged the black Catholics of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend to continue the work she had done in the National Black Catholic Congress. She and the late Thelma Schulte were the fuel that propelled local participation in the National Black Catholic congress.

Brown has taken part in many of the gatherings of black Catholic women around South Bend and the country. She has been a part of many women’s groups gathered in prayer and praise.

Brown has been an evangelist carrying the message that helps those in need. Her message is that Jesus helps those who are willing to help themselves.
Create a Lenten wreath as a tangible way to stay focused during Lent. Buy a styrofoam ring, some flowers or greenery and eight candles, seven purple and one white. Votives in glass may be used. Press the candles evenly into the ring. Decorate with the flowers or greenery. Light the first purple candle on Ash Wednesday in a prayer ceremony. Each day that week light the same candle for prayer time. Light two candles on the first Sunday of Lent and for the rest of that week. Light three candles on the second Sunday and so on. Light the white candle on Easter Sunday to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ and our new life in him.

Legend of the pretzel
The history of the pretzel dates back to A.D. 610 when, as the legend is told, an Italian monk baked scraps of left over dough to serve as a reward for his students. The dough was twisted to resemble the folded arms of the praying children. The three-hole shape represents the Holy Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The pretzels were “pretzels,” Latin for “little rewards” and spread through the cities and towns of Europe to become a symbol of luck and prosperity. By the mid-1500s, the tradition of eating pretzels during Good Friday dinner was introduced in Germany, since the pretzels didn’t contain eggs, milk, butter or lard, ingredients not used for consumption during the Lenten season.

Easy pretzel recipe
2-1/2 oz. leaves of frozen bread dough 1 egg white, slightly beaten 1 teaspoon water Coarse salt

courtesy of www.thatismyhome.com

directional tasty bread into 24-1/2 inch balls. Roll each ball into a rope 14-1/2 inches long. Shape into desired design. Put pretzels one inch apart on a greased cookie sheet. Let stand for 20 minutes and brush with combined egg white and water. Sprinkle with coarse salt. Place a shallow pan containing one inch of boiling water on bottom rack of oven: bake pretzels at 350 degrees for 20 minutes or until golden brown.
Experience Lent as time for prayer, penance and sacrifice

BY KAY COZAD

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Sunday in Lent</th>
<th>Compliment a child.</th>
<th>Play cards with a senior or shut-in.</th>
<th>Attend morning Mass.</th>
<th>Fast from dessert today. Give your piece to someone else.</th>
<th>Hold the door for someone.</th>
<th>Cut cross shapes out of construction paper. Write a prayer or good deed on each.</th>
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<td>After Mass, discuss the Gospel reading with family.</td>
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<th>Second Sunday in Lent</th>
<th>’Tell someone “I love you!” today.</th>
<th>Run an errand for someone in need.</th>
<th>Turn the TV off and read or play a game together.</th>
<th>Place a crucifix or picture of Jesus in a prominent place to remind you of the focus of Lent.</th>
<th>Pray for your deceased loved ones and those who grieve.</th>
<th>Do a chore before you are asked.</th>
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<td>Pray for priest and religious. Discuss the need for vocations.</td>
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<th>Third Sunday in Lent</th>
<th>Say “I’m sorry” to someone you’ve hurt.</th>
<th>Send a card to someone you haven’t seen for a while.</th>
<th>Rest in silence with God for 10 minutes.</th>
<th>Do a job you’ve been putting off and offer it to God.</th>
<th>Attend the Stations of the Cross at your parish. Reflect on your Lenten journey so far.</th>
<th>Visit someone who is sick or grieving.</th>
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<td>Write a letter of gratitude to Jesus for his sacrifice on the cross.</td>
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<th>Fourth Sunday in Lent</th>
<th>Write your grandparents a love note.</th>
<th>Plant seeds in a styrofoam cup and watch them grow throughout the season of spring.</th>
<th>Create an original family Lenten prayer and pray it together.</th>
<th>Attend a reconciliation service or go to private reconciliation.</th>
<th>Make pretzels and discuss their origin. (See page 10)</th>
<th>Clean out a closets and toy boxes and donate to local charity.</th>
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<td>Tell your pastor how much you appreciate him and why.</td>
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<th>Fifth Sunday in Lent</th>
<th>Smile at everyone you see today.</th>
<th>Investigate the life of your favorite saint. Tell the story to family or friends.</th>
<th>Hug your children or family members.</th>
<th>Visit a nursing home.</th>
<th>Take a walk and pick up all the litter along the way.</th>
<th>Have a family night where the children plan the activity.</th>
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<td>Mom and dad, spend some alone time with each of your children.</td>
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<th>Holy Week, Palm Sunday</th>
<th>Bake a treat and take it to a neighbor or friend.</th>
<th>Go out of your way to be nice to someone you don’t like.</th>
<th>Research the meaning of “mercy” and forgive someone.</th>
<th>Tell someone “thank you” today.</th>
<th>Contemplate the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.</th>
<th>Pray the rosary with family or friends.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Read Psalm 100 with family or friends. Discuss.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Holy Week</th>
<th>Make a Lenten wreath with a candle to light for each week. Use it in daily prayer. (See page 10)</th>
<th>Fast from meat today. Use the money saved for charity.</th>
<th>Perform an anonymous good deed for a special person.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ash Wednesday</td>
<td>Attend Ash Wednesday service and receive ashes. Discuss what the ashes mean.</td>
<td>Fast from dessert today. Give your piece to someone else.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The season of Lent brings with it the much needed time to reflect on life, death and the saving Resurrection of Jesus Christ, and its 40 days are traditionally marked for prayer, penance and sacrifice. It is a season of fasting but can also include the addition of loving service to daily routine. Today’s Catholic offers this Lenten calendar to assist in making each day of the six weeks of Lent a personal journey to be experienced from the inside out to a world that thirsts for the love of Jesus.
Opening prayer

O Lord, most loving God, guide us this Lent into a quietness that listens attentively to your Word. As we enter this season, mold our hearts, our minds and our souls into more holy and more loving forms. May we be better able to do give and to receive from you and from others. This we ask in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Commentary

I suppose it’s somewhat ironic to begin a Lenten faith-sharing series on sin with a confession — but it’s one to which many of you will probably relate. Even though I received a good Catholic education, I confess I didn’t fully understand some concepts I was taught as a child. One of these is original sin. Continuing my education as an adult has strengthened my understanding of original sin and helped my faith grow.

Original sin

Our Catholic tradition teaches that even though Adam and Eve were “cogged” by Satan, part of their decision to disobey God was that they believed they would become Godlike. Adam and Eve forgot that they owed their very existence to the one who made them; they forgot about their “right relationship” to God.

Pope John Paul II in “Theology of the Body” explained it this way: “The man who picks the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil makes at the same time a fundamental decision that he is to become Godlike. Adam and Eve forgot that they owed their very existence to the one who made them; they forgot about their “right relationship” to God.

The next capital sin is lust, another imbalanced attachment, this time to a physical aspect of our lives. We forget that God’s gift of sexuality is intended to express love in a committed relationship and to be open to new life. If we allow our thoughts and minds to be filled constantly with lustful thoughts, then other people become objects for us to satisfy our desires. The counterbalancing virtue is chastity.

Another capital sin is sloth or laziness. Laziness can be just spiritual and physical inclinations. They can be compared to genes that cause illness such as cancer or diabetes. The person with these genes does not automatically have the disease, but the physical inclination can allow cancer to develop if the circumstances are right. Naming and claiming that we have the predisposition puts us on alert for the risk of sin.

Capital sins

The seven deadly or capital sins are seven manifestations of original sin at work. The church calls each capital sin by a name, and they are the root of all other sins or tendencies towards vice and evil. They are the “seeds” that lead us away from God, just as they did for Adam and Eve.

 Tradition names these seven sins: pride, gluttony, avarice (greed), lust, sloth, envy and anger.

They can be compared to genes that carry a predisposition to illness such as cancer or diabetes. The person with these genes does not automatically have the disease, but the physical inclination can allow cancer to develop if the circumstances are right. Naming and claiming that we have the predisposition puts us on alert for the risk of sin.

This one offers you over 40 links to articles and other Web sites. Many are written especially for women. Others focus on things both dads and moms can do with their families. Teachers will like this one too.

• The Vatican’s Lenten resources — www.vatican.va
• You can enter this site in Spanish, French or English. Then click on “Liturgical Year” Lent. You will find many resources here, including commentaries on Lenten topics from both Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI. There is also a fascinating “Music and Lent” section and some “live” video programs.
• Edmonton-Toronto Redemptorists — ca. — At “Quick Links,” click on “Daily Meditation.” This will take you to Father John Mohr’s introductory article on developing your sense of prayer. His daily meditations are based on the Psalms.
• Lent — The Road to Easter — www.osv.com From this homepage, click on the “OSV4Me” tab, then Church Resources. Articles from our Sunday Visitor’s staff range from the historical to the practical. The Lenten Links section usually tackles the primary capital sins.
• EWTN — The holy season of Lent — www.ewtn.com/lent/lent — This is a highly developed site with sections on the Stations of the Cross, foods and plants of the season, and an extensive section for children. I think all of us will find them thought-provoking. One of the most extensive lists of audio files for listening on your PC, Mac or MP3 player.
• Franciscans — www.sacredspace.ie — The “Prayer For Today” can be accessed in 20 different languages. Scroll down the page to the special Lent section. Other links here focus on developing your awareness of God in your life (www.owherof).”

Online Lenten resources ... for those on the road

O ur jobs will keep many of us “on the road” more often than not during the Lenten season. But Lent itself is a journey. And if you’ll have your laptop with you, you’ll have no lack of resources. These Web sites make good traveling companions for you on a very special journey.

• Lent: Call to Conversion — www.americancatholic.org/Feature/Lent — This site is sponsored by www.catholicmom.com — for your iPod.
• The Vatican’s Lenten resources — www.vatican.va — A highly developed site with sections on the Stations of the Cross, foods and plants of the season, and an extensive section for children. I think all of us will find them thought-provoking. One of the most extensive lists of audio files for listening on your PC, Mac or MP3 player.
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Reflection and discussion

Just as each of us has a unique personality, so too, each of us has our own “brand” of sinfulness. Let’s use the weeks of Lent as an examination of conscience where we look at personal habits and attitudes that, while they may not seem to do us much harm, indicate that capital sins are still active in some way in each of us.

As we journey together through Lent, however, I’d like to address the capital sins: greed, anger, envy, sloth, pride, avarice, lust, gluttony and envy. We all must live with the realization that deep within us is a tendency to sin. But we also know that we have been washed clean in the blood of Christ, and that Christ dwells within us; and, no matter how difficult the struggle is to overcome the capital sins, we need to become humble. For gluttony, we can learn moderate; for avarice, generosity; for lust, chastity; for sloth, diligence; for envy, love and for anger, meekness.

Lenten examination of conscience

The capital sins are gods, then why should we even bother with anyone or anything else? The virtue that helps us overcome pride is humility.

The next capital sin is its laziness or an attitude towards just about anything. The sin of sloth is laziness in our relationship with God. If we are lazy, we neglect to pay proper respect to God in our daily lives. Couch potatoes exist in the spiritual order, too. Sloth lets our creature comforts override what God is asking of us. It takes diligence to see the Spirit in action in our lives and to use the gifts we have been given by God.

Then comes envy, a sin that looks resolutely at who other people are, what they own, or what positions they have achieved — so much so that we cannot recognize our own gifts, our own blessings, our own accomplishments. The capital sins are gods, then why should we even bother with anyone or anything else? The virtue that helps us overcome pride is humility.

The next capital sin is pride, clearly evident throughout human history. We can become so proud of our own accomplishments, with our titles and positions that we forget the source of those gifts — God. If we are guilty of pride, we have made ourselves gods. And if we are gods, then why should we even bother with anyone or anything else? The virtue that helps us overcome pride is humility.

The next capital sin is lust or a failure to practice restraint. Its counter virtue is temperance. If we spend all our time with our hands in our pockets, we and to others should be a source of joy and satisfaction for every one, not of resentment and anger.

Closing prayer

God of open arms and merciful heart, when we fall, you pick us up. When we turn away, you patiently wait. When we sin, you readily forgive. Give us the compassion and strength to do as you would have us do and live holy lives with our own hands and feet, who are the body of Christ. This we ask through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.
Lent — A spiritual opportunity

SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

Lent is really early this year. I don’t know about you, but it seems like we just took down our Christmas trees and put away the holiday decorations. The season of Lent is a very important time for Christians, especially Catholics. Each year the church, in her wisdom, gives us 40 days to reflect on our relationship with God. Lent is a yearly opportunity to slow down and take stock of how we are living our faith. It is also a good time to examine our actions to determine how well we are living our faith. It is also a good time to do the things that we want to do but never seem to find the time.

Our Catholic tradition suggests that during Lent we use the disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving to renew our Christian life. It is not so much doing a lot of extra things, but living our lives more deeply in Christ.

Lent is a time to give more attention to the place of prayer in your life. Prayer is communication with God. No relationship grows unless we are willing to listen and share ourselves with the other person. God is no exception.

During Lent set aside, if you don’t already, some time daily for regular prayer. Try to find a quiet place where you can just be with God and let God love you. You might want to read and reflect upon some Scripture and get to know the Lord better.

Don’t call upon God only when you are in trouble or want something. Spend some time praising and thanking God for all your blessings.

Fasting is the second discipline of Lent. Most people think that fasting is primarily something to do with food, like giving up candy or ice cream or not eating in between meals. However, there are other ways to fast. Only you know what type of fasting would best help your spiritual life. Maybe it would be more beneficial for you to fast from gossip or negative words rather than chocolate cookies. Or perhaps you could try to talk less and become a better listener, especially to people who could use your attention. It can be a real discipline, especially when you have a lot on your mind, to focus on the other person and truly hear what he or she is saying.

Lastly, there is almsgiving, the third discipline of Lent. For many, to give alms means donating money to a charitable cause. That is an important part of it, but it also means to share the precious gifts of our time and talent with people in need.

Lent calls us to give of ourselves, not just our financial and material resources. This Lent you might think about people who can use some of your time. Who would most benefit from your gifts and talents? Reconciliation is also a Lenten practice. Who do you need to forgive or from whom do you need to ask forgiveness? I think this is a very important way to give alms and is a sacrifice pleasing to our God. It can be difficult, but it brings a lot of peace to those involved and, after all, it is what Jesus tells us to do.

During this Lent let us try to slow down and be more reflective. If we don’t already, set aside some regular time for the Lord. Let us also try to raise our awareness of the needs of others and not focus primarily on ourselves. This might be a good time to do some charitable work that you can integrate into your life after Lent is over.

Lent is a yearly opportunity to reflect on our life in Christ. Classes, papers, committees, projects, spring breaks, jobs, etc., will pass away, but our relationship with God is forever. Don’t let this be just another forty days in the year. Use it as a time of conversion.

Sister Margie Lavonis, CSC, a former campus minister and vocation director, works for the Sisters of the Holy Cross communications department. mlavonis@cscsisters.org.
Gratitude for Peter’s Pence contribution

With sincere gratitude I wish to acknowledge receipt of the check in the amount of $56,787.43, representing the Peter’s Pence contribution from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend which you had forwarded this past month to the apostolic nunciature.

In our own Western church, Vatican II’s liturgy has several new Mass precedes for Lent. Among them is this exultant and solemnly conscious text: “Each year you give us this joyful season when we prepare ourselves to help our brothers and sisters in need. It is a time to experience the joy and comfort of the Lord’s help and of willing service to our neighbor.”

“The Lenten season mirrors nature’s mixed weather,” the “Sourcebook” continues. “Present indeed is a certain awareness of sin, even at times a harshness of repentance and the sting of discipline. But the time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God has come near.” In the springtime of the world and in the garden of the soul life is stirring as the Lord makes all things new.”

Meditation is a key to making the season of Lent a success. An excellent source of meditation occurs on the first day of this season of reform when Ash Wednesday we are reminded we die! A sacramental reminder of our own death has the power to cleanse our inner vision to see more clearly the ultimate purpose of life.

How do you want to be remembered?

Here’s an exercise to practice for the feast of ashes as well as the season of Lent. Create the epitaph you would like carved on your tombstone. Write a brief sentence or phrase that summarizes your life. In just a few words express your deepest beliefs of how you would like to be remembered. This prayerful perhaps painful exercise can be a powerful reminder during Lent if you place it on the wall of your home to remind you to live up to the words of our epitaph.

Eternal rest to Father Hodde, a dear priest and friend, Father William Hodde — someone who was a part of my life and the life of my family.

Father Hodde was my pastor for 16 years at St. Aloysius Parish, Yoder. I was his parish organist those years, less than the two years I was away to college at Middle Tennessee State University finishing my bachelor’s degree. I left just a few weeks after he arrived in Yoder. But whenever I came home for visits, he always welcomed the prodigal organist back to the bench.

Father Hodde loved history, especially Civil War history, and he was very familiar with battle sites near Murfreesboro, Tenn., where I lived — especially the Stones River National Battlefield.

After college, I was back on the organ bench at St. Aloysius. Father Hodde was there through some major changes in my life. Immediately after the death of my grandfather, he was with the family at my mom and dad’s home. He visited and brought Communion to my dad during the numerous hospital stays, at the nursing home as he recuperated and at home as my dad’s health failed.

He supervised the marriages of my sisters and their husband, my brother and his wife and my own marriage. He also organized a south side Catholic singles group with a buddy, Father Hodde was through the days of the new millennium and enthusiastically watched the group “marry itself out of existence.”

In that group, I met my wife Rose. I remember the first time that I check into the priesthood, he made that suggestion the very week after I proposed to Rose.

One day after Mass, Rose and I were talking with Father Hodde and some friends about how expensive we were going to be. He replied, “Have your reception in the school hall. We’ll let you use it for free.” At that remark, our friends offered to cater the meal. What a bargain!

Rose and I married on my 29th birthday and what has been the 64th anniversary of my grandparents Herman and Frances Hoffman’s marriage in the same church. I remember Father Hodde saying, “I’m sure Frances and Herman are smiling down from heaven today.”

Father Hodde would come over for dinner on occasion. When we built our new house in the country, he blessed our home and enthroned it in the Sacred Heart.

I worked with Father Hodde planning weekly Masses, parish missions, weddings, children’s choirs at Christmas and school Masses. I witnessed him bring friends and a sister-in-law into the church. And he was one of my references that I was a Catholic in good standing as I applied for my job at Today’s Catholic.

Father Hodde’s years at St. Aloysius weren’t all that easy. He broke his leg one year on vacation, which presented some mobility problems — especially in a building designed for the 1860s.

He coordinated a major capital campaign at St. Aloysius — the first in 50 years — and dealt with a lot of differing opinions and some problems. He always wanted what was best for our parish, and sometimes he took a good bit of ridicule. But he wasn’t one to hold a grudge with those who disagreed with him.

He would often quip, “When I die and if they ask me to serve on a committee, I know I didn’t make it to heaven.”

Father Hodde stayed on a year after retirement age and saw the completion of the building project. He was looking forward to retire-

 Trom Johnson

MANY HATS

BY TIM JOHNSON

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Editorial board consists of Bishop John M. D’Arcy, Tim Johnson and Vince LaBarbera.

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

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All ecumenism is local: Christian unity begins at the grass roots

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In Rome, like in any other diocese, the search for Christian unity is fueled by the prayers and friendships of neighbors and their local pastors. Often near the bishop of the Diocese of Rome — the pope — hosts other Christian leaders at a Jan. 25 prayer service marking the end of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. But the faithful of his diocese have a full schedule leading up to the final night. Father Marco Gnawi, director of the Rome diocesan office for ecumenism, says, “Rome is a unique diocese ecumenically, first of all because of the presence of the pope, but also because of the variety of Christian communities represent- ed and because of the numbers of centers and movements that focus on unity.”

One of those is the Centro Pro Unione, a dialogue and study center operated by the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement, the center operated by the Franciscan Christian communities represent first of all because of the pres- suret leading up to the final night of his diocese have a full sched-

The leadership and guidance of the pope and the Vatican, especially ecumenical, are an essential part of ecumenism, he said, “but real work is going on locally where people know each other, help one another and pray with each other.”

Speaking at his Jan. 23 gener al audience about the week of prayer, Pope Benedict XVI said greatly improved relations among divided Christians have been the result of a multifaceted approach “from mutual understanding to result of a multifaceted approach for some scholars that Zephaniah was preached. The weak, at least upon a paradox that has confound ed people since Zephaniah’s time, is in the last analysis a waste of time. Only in God, as revealed by Jesus, is there to be found a clear and true vision of what life is all about, and of what is important or unimpor tant in life.

St. Matthew’s Gospel provides the last reading. It is the beautiful presentation of the Beatitudes. In general, the similarity between Jesus and Moses always intrigued Matthew, and this similarity is a theme of his Gospel. For example, there is a coincidence between God giving the Ten Commandments to Moses atop Mount Sinai, in the midst of the flight of the Hebrews from slavery and death, and the pronouncement by Jesus of the Beatitudes on a mountaintop at the edge of the Sea of Galilee as the people yirmed to be freed from hopelessness and doom.

Each revelation, that to Moses, and that of Jesus, is a series of statements for virtuous living addressed on God to the faithful. Living by the Beatitudes builds the kingdom of God.
Fasting, abstinence explained as we enter Lenten season

Please explain the difference between fasting and abstinence, K.C. Fort Wayne

Fasting is willingly refraining, either partially or totally, from a legitimate pleasure or need. So, for example, one might fast from food by eating only one full meal during the day or one might fast from a month from eating candy. There are innumerable ways that one might fast. There are two specific days of fasting to which the church calls us during Lent: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. On these two days, all those who are 18 years old through 59 years old are required to fast for one full meal except for one full meal and one or two small snacks. Also, in general, there has been the traditional practice in the church of fasting from something during the entirety of Lent such as candy, television, radio, etc.

Abstinence is a type of fasting where one is called to refrain from eating meat or some other type of food. Again, the specific abstinence to which the church calls us during Lent involves refraining from eating meat. This is to be done by all Catholics who are at least 14 years old on all the Fridays of Lent, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Instead of “giving up” something for Lent, I want to do something. Any suggestion for a fast?

“Giving up” something for Lent has always been seen as a way for us Christians to discipline our wills. In other words, many times we can get caught up in getting what we want, when we want it, and this can be true especially regarding sinful pleasures. By fasting, we are in a sense exercising the power of our wills over the desires of our bodies. While many times the desires of our bodies are legitimate (food, relaxation, etc.), we all have a tendency to indulge these desires and to take more than we really need. Fasting is a way of tempering ourselves. So I would be careful about quickly abandoning the fruitful practice of “giving up” something. Many times, I think, saying that I want to “do something” for Lent rather than “give up” something for Lent is just an excuse to avoid fasting. The necessity of fasting can be seen in the words of Jesus himself in the Gospels, in the practice of the apostles in the Book of Acts, and in the letters of St. Paul. However, I think that one might creatively do both. For example, one could give up watching television during Lent and spend the extra time visiting the elderly in the nursing home. In this way, one is combining the fruitful practice of fasting with a corporal work of mercy.

Do Sundays count as days of Lent? In other words, if I give up candy for Lent, can I eat candy on the Sundays of Lent or should I be cheating?

Anonymous

Technically speaking, all Sundays are celebrations of the Resurrection of the Lord, even during Lent. Thus, the Sundays of Lent do not count as part of the 40 days of Lent. I think that one can legitimately take a “day off” on Sundays during Lent and enjoy in moderation whatever legitimate pleasure they have given up for Lent. I love fish. It seems on meatless Fridays of Lent, eating fish by no means a sacrifice. Eating bologna would be a much greater sacrifice.

What do you think? Anonymous

I think that we should all do what the church asks of us. The church asks us to refrain from eating meat on Fridays of Lent. Not only are we fasting from something particular, but we are also doing it together. There is powerful symbolism in doing this together. We are reminded that not only do we come before God as individuals, we also stand before God together. We are reminded that we are all sinners in need of God’s mercy. So, we all abstain from meat together as a corporate expression of our willingness to repent from our sins.

Father Mark Gurtner, pastor of Our Lady of Good Hope, answered this week’s question.

Anonymity and remembrance in Berlin

I’d not been in Berlin since 1987 — before the Wall came tumbling down. As I eagerly accepted an invitation to speak at an international conference here this past November. The change is dramatic. Where the dreaded “Vopos” or Volkspolizei once goose-stepped, Starbucks now beckons. East Berlin’s Fifth Avenue, the Unter den Linden, and find buildings peckmarked by World War II artillery shells; today, the only relics of that period are a few buildings. (Of course, they have claimed squatters’ rights.

On my first night in town, I walked through the Brandenburg Gate and into the old Soviet zone to see if my 1987 memories still gave me navigational bearings. They did, but barely. No Man’s Land has been replaced by the massive Potsdamerplatz multi-use center; several Christmas Markets were doing a brisk business; and the radio, etc.

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The memorial consists of two small snacks. Also, in general, there has been the traditional practice in the church of fasting from something during the entirety of Lent such as candy, television, radio, etc.

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ICCL crowns champions in three of four divisions

BY ELMER J. DANCH

SOUTH BEND — The Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL) crowned three division basketball champions and will have to wait another week before deciding the Knights division leader while the circuit winds up its 63rd regular season. After that will come the post season tournament.

Three division champions — the St. Anthony Panthers of John Bosco East, St. Joseph, Mishawaka, Wildcats of the Martin De Porres East, and St. Jude of the Martin De Porres West — all have perfect league records of 5-0 entering the last week of play. St. Anthony and St. Joseph, Mishawaka, also have unblemished overall marks, while St. Jude had only one defeat on its overall mark.

Corpus Christi and Holy Family share the leadership of the John Bosco West with 4-1 league records and will settle their differences later.

The top individual performance of the day was rapped up by Coley Schulteis, who drained the nets for 23 points in leading his St. Joseph, Mishawaka, teammates to a 67-25 win over an outmatched Queen of Peace.

St. Anthony edged St. Joseph of South Bend in a tight defensive struggle, 32-26, with Robert Mischler leading the way with 13 points. St. Jude clinched the title beating St. John the Baptist, 43-19, with Nick Bauer popping in 14 points for St. John.

Holy Cross upset Corpus Christi’s bid to clinch the division title with a score of 35-27, as Dana Johnson tallied 12 points to lead the victors.

Holy Family defeated Christ the King, 46-39. Zach Zehender poured in 20 points for Holy Family, which maintained its advantage throughout the second half.


In the Colors Division, St. Thomas Maroon defeated St. Thomas Gold, 32-29, as Matt Hammond and Alex Sorthic combine their efforts for 22 points. Michael Madden tallied 15 points in pacing his Corpus Christi Red team to a 48-36 win over Christ the King White.


Holy Cross Blue defeated St. Matthew Black, 55-29. Anthony Douglas rolled in 20 points to lead the victorious Crusaders.

St. Joseph, South Bend Blue beat Anthony Gold, 21-17, to wind up the colors action.

Warsaw Knights announce free-throw winners

WARSAW — The Knights of Columbus Council 4511, Warsaw, held their annual free-throw contest on Saturday, Jan. 12, at the Sacred Heart School gym. The contest was open to all boys and girls ages 10 to 14 years of age.

The contest allowed all the entrants to warm up for a period of time, shooting from anywhere around the basket except from the free throw line. When the contest actually began, each contestant was allowed three warm-up shots from the foul line and then shot 15 free throw shots in a row. In case of a tie, there was an additional five shots allowed until a winner was determined. The winners from this local council competition progressed to a district competition on Feb. 2. Distinct winners will then proceed to the state contest and the national winner is determined by the best cumulative score acquired throughout all the levels of the contest.

All contestants were awarded a participation certificate by the Knights and the winner in each category was awarded a winners certificate. Winners at the council level were Curtis Archer, 10-year-old boy; Nicholas Sands, 11-year-old boy; Taylor Myers, 11-year-old girl; Zarek Finley, 12-year-old boy; Kathy Frazzetta, 12-year-old girl; Zarek Finley, 12-year-old boy; Taylor Myers, 11-year-old girl; Lauren Burish, 14-year-old girl.

These winners will compete again on Feb. 2 at Sacred Heart for the district competition which can include contestants from Plymouth, Bremen, Syracuse and other surrounding communities.

Hessen Cassel courts week seven CYO basketball action

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN


In the first matchup, the St. Aloysius boys’ team defeated Most Precious Blood in a non-conference game by a score of 34-24. Scoring for the Gators came from Thiele with 10 points, Little with 9 and Rider with 8. Chase led the Royal Reds with 9 points.

After that, the Lady Gators downed the Twins from St. Louis-St. Rose-St. Joseph, Hessen Cassel, 35-19. Zarembo and Sterrett led St. Aloysius with 11 and 10 points respectively, A. Gerard paced her team with 10 points in the loss.


The seventh-grade boys also took on St. Joseph, Decatur. They came out on top by a score of 38-25. Deiser pumped in 18 points for the victors while Vergara and Kon added seven each for Decatur.

Then it was the seventh grade girls turn. This time, however, St. Joseph, Decatur, won in a close one, 14-13. Gigli had seven points for the Lady Panthers while Schultz scored all but one point for her team.

Finally, the St. Joseph, Hessen Cassel, Squirt boys attended the seventh-grade Cardinals from St. Charles in a non-conference win, 47-28. James Knapke had seven baskets to lead all scoring. Eighth grader Alex Miller also chipped in a season-high nine points for the Squares. Kosiarek had seven points for St. Charles and Barton rounded out the scoring with six.

In other action, the Gold League title is still on the line with St. Vincent’s improving to 5-1 in conference play over the weekend on their home court. The Panthers beat St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth, 36-22. Evan Fechter scored 21 points for St. Vincent while Andrew Yaney added six for St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth. St. Charles also boasts a 5-1 Gold League record after knocking off a tough Eagles team from St. Jude at Queen of Angels on Saturday. The Eagles lost by just three points and drop to 4-2 in the Gold League.
Jennifer Garner, Jason Bateman and Ellen Page star in a scene from the movie “Juno.” The USCBC Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13.
WHAT’S HAPPENING?

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

Annual Lenten fish fry
Fort Wayne — Bishop Luers Alumni High School will serve a fish fry Friday, Feb. 15, from 4-8 p.m. in the cafeteria. Tickets are $7 for adults, $5 children ages 6-11 and $1 for children age 5 and under. Carry-out and drive through available at the Paulding Road entrance.

Fish fry and salad bar
South Bend — St. Alphonsus Parish will have a fish fry on Friday, Feb. 8, from 3:30-6 p.m. in the Heritage Center. Adults and carry-out $7, children 5-12 $3 and children under 5 free.

Soups sponsor fish fry
Fort Wayne — St. Vincent Scouts will have fish dinners on Fridays Feb. 8, 22 and March 14 in the school cafeteria. Tickets are $7.50 adults, $3 children 6-11.

Lenten fish fry
Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus, Father Solanus Council 11276, will have a fish fry Friday, Feb. 15, from 5-8 p.m. in the parish hall at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church. (Northeast corner of Homestead and Abote Center Road) Adult meals (12 and up) will be $8, children meals (ages 6-11) will be $6 and children five or under eat free. Carry-out available, but only at the adult meal price.

Fish fry hosted by Holy Name Society
New Haven — The Holy Name Society of St. John the Baptist Parish will have a fish fry Friday, Feb. 8, from 4-7 p.m. Adults $6.50, children 5-12 $3.50 and children under 5 free.

Knights plan fish fry
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on Friday, Feb. 1, from 5 to 7 p.m. Adults $7.50, children 5-12 $3. Chicken strips for $7.50 and shrimp for $8.50 will be available.

Fish and tenderloin dinner
New Haven — St. Louis Besancon Parish will have a fish and tenderloin dinner on Saturday, Feb. 2, from 4-7 p.m. Adults $7, children 6-11 $4 and children 5 and under carry-out available.

Fish fry announced
Fort Wayne — St. Joseph, Hessen Cassel, Parish will have a fish fry Friday, Feb. 8 and 22 from 4-8 p.m. Adults $7, senior citizens $6.50, children 6-12 $5 and children under 5 free. Carry-out available.

Super Bowl party
Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council #1083 will have a Super Bowl party, Sunday, Feb. 3, at 4 p.m. in the Northside Recreation Center (basement of Most Precious Blood School) Tickets are $15 and include food beverage and bowling.

Mardi Gras party
South Bend — The Tolton Society of St. Augustine Church, 1501 W. Washington St., will have a Mardi Gras Auction and authentic New Orleans meal of gumbo, dirty rice and King Cake on Saturday, Feb. 2. Silent auction/rationception begins at 5:15 p.m. Dinner and dancing begins at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are $20 at the door. Contact Annie or Mel Tardy at (574) 243 2743 for information.

Tatiana coming to St. Joseph
Fort Wayne — Tatiana’s presentation of “I Thirst — The Crucifixion Story” will be Thursday, Feb. 7, at 7 p.m. at St. Joseph, Hessen Cassel, 11357 Old U.S. 27 south. A free will offering accepted.

Panacea and sausage breakfast
Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 9460 will have a pancake and sausage breakfast Sunday, Feb. 10, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the St. Therese Parish Hall, 2220 Lower Huntington Rd. A goodwill donation will be accepted at the door.

All family rosary dates changed
Fort Wayne — The all family rosary has been changed to the last Sunday of each month with the next rosary being held on Sunday, Feb. 24, from 3:30-4:30 p.m. at MacDougal Chapel.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter
South Bend — The next Marriage Encounter weekend will be Feb. 22-24. Call Greg and Norma Germann at (574) 287-6432 or go to www.wwe- ni.org.

Mardi Gras dinner planned
Fort Wayne — The Bishop Dwenger music department will have a Fat Tuesday celebration on Feb. 5, in the Bishop Dwenger cafeteria. A dinner featuring jambalaya, crawfish and King Cake with your choice of beverage for $12. Seating begins at 6 p.m. and dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. Following dinner the Bishop Dwenger music department will perform. Tickets are available through any music student or contact Louise Grabner at (260) 627-7547 or Lori Stock at (260) 627-0170.

Trivia night supports school
South Bend — Our Lady of Hungary School, 735 W. Calvert, will have a trivia night backyard BBQ sponsored by the Home and School Association on Saturday, Feb. 9. Cash bar opens at 5 p.m. and trivia contest begins at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are $10 per table (10 person maximum per table). First prize is $100 cash. Best theme prize. To reserve a table call Andrea Davis (574) 288-2348.

Day of recollection planned
South Bend — The Christ Child Society will have a day of reflection/recollection on Wednesday, Feb. 6, at the Sacred Heart Parish Center at 9:30 a.m. The reflection will be by Father Kenneth Grabner, CSC. Cost for the day is $17 and includes lunch. Call (574) 291-8492 or e-mail mary-tread@sbglobal.net.

Fish Fry
Fort Wayne — Father Paul Buehr will celebrate the holy hour at MacDougal Chapel Tuesday, Feb. 5, at 7:15 p.m. Father Paul is pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Warsaw.

Fish Fry
Sponsored by: Granger Knights of Columbus 4263
February 8 and 22 and March 7, 2008
at St. Pius X Church, 52553 Fir Road, Granger 4 - 7 p.m. ALL YOU CAN EAT! Adults: $7.00  Children 4 up $3.75 CARRY-OUTS AVAILABLE!

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@olvm.org

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R E S T I N PE A C E
Activists gather on the stage and on the streets at March for Life

BY PATRICIA ZAPOR

WASHINGTON (CNS) — When Cindy Black, diocesan director of youth ministry for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend attended the annual March for Life on Jan. 22, she was struck that the overwhelming majority of the participants in this year’s march were 25 or younger.

“It was very encouraging that this young generation is embracing the message of life,” she said. “It was a lot more inspirational because of the numbers.”

She said the crowd was “just endless.”

For Rosemary, March for Life organizer Nellie Gray introduced a long program of politicians, clergy and other anti-abortion activists who helped warm up a crowd shivering in freezing temperatures and light drizzle.

“I was completely blown away,” recalled Leo High School senior and St. Vincent de Paul parishioner Jeff Jehl, 18. Of the large number of young people present, Jehl offered, “We’re not afraid to step up to have our voice be heard about what we’re really passionate about. I think it was probably one of the biggest reasons that all of the sudden this big boom is coming forth, this pro-life boom.”

“Look at the youth here,” said Father Charal Hatfield, an Orthodox priest from New York, gesturing to the crowds of high-school-age and younger people near the “other side has abandoned their future (by having abortions). We’re creating ours.”

Among the speakers on the stage, Rep. Christopher Smith, R-N.J., head of a long string of politicians to take to the microphone to make sure participants saw the link against abortion in political terms.

Rep. Ron Paul, R-Texas, himself a formidable candidate downplayed those ambitions to emphasize his experience as an obstetrician, helping bring 4,000 babies into the world. Dozens of “Ron Paul for President” held high above the crowd made a point of his political ambitions.

In his remarks recorded at a White House breakfast earlier that morning and replayed at the rally, Bush lauded those who work for “a culture of life where a woman with an unplanned pregnancy knows there are caring people who will support her; where a pregnant teen can carry her child and complete her education; where the dignity of both the mother and child is honored and cherished.”

March organizer Gray said the turnout for the annual event underscored the recognition that “it’s not going to work trying to change this from the top down. It’s not working that way. We’re going to unite the grass roots.”

Knights of Columbus Supreme Knight Carl Anderson said the Knights, who help organize anti-abortion events around the country, do so because “abortion hurts everyone,” from the unborn child and the parents to doctors and nurses who are compromised by their action.

“It undermines respect for judges,” he said. “It implicates the taxpayer who pays for it. It coarsens the society that tolerates it.”

At a Jan. 21 evening Mass that opened the annual National Prayer Vigil for Life, Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia gave the homily.

“Roe v. Wade is incompatible with human dignity,” said Cardinal Rigali, chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities. “It must not stand. It cannot stand. It will not stand.”

His declaration drew applause from the packed Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. Cardinal Rigali, echoing the New Testament reading from First Corinthians for the St. Agnes feast day Mass of Jan. 21, told the packed church that, “instead of choosing ‘great’ or impressive people in the eyes of the world, God uses the humble, the foolish, the weak, and those who count for nothing” to accomplish his purposes.

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