GRANGER — Joel Fox and Lauren Kreager are two young people in love. This past year they excitedly anticipated their wedding day, set for Dec. 29 of 2007. This year they are just happy that Fox is alive. This after a devasting accident last September left him burned and in a coma for six weeks.

The couple met as juniors attending Marian High School. Kreager was an active faith-filled Catholic, while Fox, like many other students his age, had fallen-away. During the early days of their relationship, Kreager questioned whether she should continue to see this boy who lived a very secular lifestyle. "I always knew I wanted to marry a Catholic guy. I wasn’t sure I should date him," she says.

After meeting with her parish priest, Father Dan Scheidt, then-associate pastor at St. Pius X, Granger, and speaking to Fox about his faith, one-on-one faith counseling brought Fox back to the church. "For the love of her, he came to speak with me. And he began to practice his faith in earnest. It’s a real love story," says Father Scheidt, who is now the pastor of Queen of Peace Parish in Mishawaka.

The following years of high school had the couple attending Mass at St. Pius X Parish, youth group and several weekend retreats to strengthen their faith. "As our relationship started to become stronger, we became more faithful," says Fox. They were known in the community for their chaste lifestyle choice and spoke on the subject to all who would listen.

Following high school graduation, the two attended college together, as they continued to offer talks on chastity and faith issues to those around them. Kreager studied theology and philosophy, while Fox, whose family is part owner in J.R. Fox Jewelry Store, majored in general studies.

"My goal was to get a general studies degree so I could work at Fox Jewelers," he says. In 2006, Kreager was off to Austria to study while Fox transferred to South Bend to attend Indiana University-South Bend (IUSB).

FORT WAYNE — Father George Gabet discovered his love for the old Latin Mass years before his ordination while attending it at Sacred Heart Parish in Fort Wayne. Now he will be serving Sacred Heart, as well as Catholics in South Bend, through his new assignment as a chaplain of a community formed especially for Catholics who worship in the pre-Vatican II rite.

This rite, called the 1962 Roman Missal, the Tridentine Rite and, more recently, the extraordinary form of the Roman Missal, has received greater attention since the July 2007 publication of Pope Benedict XVI’s motu proprio, “Summorum Pontificum,” allowing for greater use of it.

To meet the needs of Catholics wishing to worship in this rite in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Bishop John M. D’Arcy has established the St. Mother Theodore Guérin Community. This community, which came into effect March 1, will consist of parishioners at Sacred Heart in Fort Wayne and St. John the Baptist in South Bend, two parishes that have offered the Tridentine rite Mass since 1988. Father George Gabet will be the community’s chaplain.

While a native of Fort Wayne, Father Gabet is a priest of the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter, an international community of priests formed in 1988 by Pope John Paul II, the charism of which is the celebration of the Tridentine rite.

Father Gabet is a graduate of Bishop Dwenger High School and Ball State University. Partly through his
Dioecese solidifies celebration of the Latin Mass

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BISHOP JOHN M. DARCY 

Must be given due honor for its venerable and ancient usage 

With such words does Pope Benedict XVI present us the reason for the right use of what he has called the extraordinary form of the Roman rite. In this decision, Pope Benedict showed his great pastoral heart and gave a place to the traditional Latin Mass, the Mass promulgated by blessed Pope John XXIII in 1962, “never abrogated” and named it as “extraordinary form of the liturgy of the church” — he also showed his understanding of history. In a letter written to bishops, the Holy Father said too often the serious divisions in the church could have been avoided if the church or the Holy See had taken an extra step toward reconciliation. He hopes to reconcile those who have separated themselves from the church. 

Mindful of all those who treasure the Latin rite and indeed of many young people who find themselves better able to worship in it because of what they sense as a strong sense of mystery, the pope has made it possible for the older Latin rite to be celebrated without any special permission. 

Indeed since Pope John Paul II allowed this under some conditions and encouraged bishops to be open to it in a special apostolic letter in 1988, we have been blessed to have in our diocese what is now called the extraordinary form. This is the Mass that I grew up with and the Mass that I celebrate according to the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite. Before Pope Benedict made this available, I salute Father Stanislaus Kostka, New Carlisle. My purpose in writing is to assure all those who treasure the Latin Mass that they will be cared for and that they will be received with open arms. 

His community has asked that he be assigned as a chaplain to each group and that the group have a heavenly patron. Of course, we have chosen St. Mother Theodore Guerin.

Diocese solidifies celebration of the Latin Mass 

Professor Mark Searle 

Many years ago when the Latin Mass was reintroduced in our diocese at the request of Bishop Paul H, I met Professor Mark Searle, who served for a short time on our Diocesan Liturgical Commission and who was an eminent liturgical scholar at Notre Dame. He later died quite prematurely. At any rate, he gave me clear advice when this Mass was first restored. He said, “Bishop, it is very important for you to celebrate that Mass with the people so they have a sense that they are fully part of the diocese.” I was privileged to do so, and now I intend to do so again. I have asked Father George to set up a time so I can celebrate this Mass in each end of the diocese. I will need to visit each place again, and I look forward to meeting those many people including, I am told, a few young people who come from the surrounding area to pray at this Mass. 

Saint Joe Medical Center 

Recently I made a pastoral visitation to Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center, South Bend. Founded, like so many other institutions in our diocese, by the Congregation of Holy Cross, in this case the sisters. This hospital has served with a special devotion to the poor and needy in this diocese since 1882. I offered Mass in the chapel and concelebrated with Father Henry Eyekwassho, the chaplain. Also present was Father David Tyson, CSC, provincial of Holy Cross, and Father Tony Szakaly, CSC, associate provincial, along with many Sisters. 

I want to single out one beautiful event that was shared with us at the luncheon that followed. You know that one of the most painful things that can happen to a mother, indeed to a father as well, is the loss of an unborn child through a miscarriage. Just when it seems there is to be a new person in the world, something unexpected happens, and the birth does not take place. 

Saint Joseph Medical Center as part of its pro-life efforts will, with great sensitivity, take the remains of the unborn child and bury them in a special cemetery plot. Then once or twice a year, all the parents who have lost a child in this way are brought together for a prayer service at the cemetery. This gives closure to a very painful event. Many thanks to Sister Laureen Painter, pastoral minister at the medical center, who has put together this effort along with Nancy Hellyer. 

Gratitude also to Nancy for her strong emphasis on the Catholic identity during her time as administrator at Saint Joseph Medical Center, and to Father Henry for his devotion to the sick and the dying for over 20 years. A beautiful day at Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center, South Bend. 

Another parish mission 

I was off west on a wintry northern Indiana night to our westernmost parish, St. Stanislaus Kostka, New Carlisle. My purpose was to close the mission with Father Paul McCarthy. Despite some health problems, Father Paul has begun a vigorous ministry among the people there. He has instituted eucharistic adoration on a weekly basis and is working hard for the renewal and restoration of the sacrament of penance. 

I arrived just after the eucharist and had the opportunity to speak to the people there. I want to stress how much they appreciate his presence and his leadership, and there was a fine crowd despite the wintry evening. 

Looking forward to next week and also to watching spring training from afar. No call as of yet from the Red Sox, but there is still time. 

See you all next week.
Essays reveal how teens plan to make a ripple effect

FORT WAYNE — “One of the great sources of hope in our faith and world is that among the roughly 2,000 years of our church being battered and beaten, an 80-year-old man can gather so many young people. He can do this not only because of who he is but also because of what he represents,” said Bishop D’Arcy in his Fort Wayne assignment, “and also our 40th apostolate within those 35 dioceses in the United States and Canada.”

Bishop D’Arcy’s assignment in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South BendBeginning in January 2008, he was looking for a ministry that was less demanding and required less time in airports, and Bishop D’Arcy was looking for a priest to continue the work and dedication of priests like Father T. de Gyor, Father James Seculoff, Father Adam Schmitt and others who have said the Latin Mass in Fort Wayne and South Bend in recent decades.

“I think we need to build up the community in South Bend,” Father D’Arcy says, noting that the St. John the Baptist community has been very much in the foreground, who says the Latin Mass since Father Seculoff’s move to New Haven in 2007. Father D’Arcy says he would like to see a daily Latin Mass in Fort Wayne and South Bend almost every Sunday to celebrate Mass at St. John the Baptist. He will also offer a daily Latin Mass every other week at Fort Wayne. Other priests who are willing and available will say the Sunday Mass in Fort Wayne.

Along with saying Mass, the pope’s motu proprio allows for administering the sacraments according to the earlier rituals, notes Brian MacMichael, director of the Office of Worship for the diocese. This, he adds, fits with Father D’Arcy’s role as a chaplain. Also as a result of the motu proprio, demand has risen for priests of the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter.

“We feel blessed to have my ministry here in this diocese,” said Father Robert Schulte, vicar general of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Father D’Arcy says he too is having a ‘performative’ — that is to say, doing a daily task.”

He represents.”

And Alan Pizana, from St. John the Baptist Parish, South Bend.

Ben Keller, a freshman from Walkerton, wrote: “If I was chosen to lead this event, I would do it immediately. I would be able to spread the word to those insecure about their faith, or those that don’t believe in the Lord. If I was accepted, I would be able to make a presentation, and present it to my English class and to the community that first introduced me to the Catholic faith.”

“Ben, I believe he will be a good steward, a good pastor, a good leader. He will be a good shepherd, strongly unwavering in the faith, teaching, sanctifying and serving all in the name of Christ,” he added.

The 10-county diocese covers about 6,200 square miles. It has a population of about 2.2 million people, serving about 1.8 million people.

In his remarks, Bishop Boyea said the pope’s decision “to entrust the extraordinary form of the Roman Missal, as detailed by Pope Benedict XVI in ‘Summorum Pontificum.’”

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Pope welcomes Glendon, urges Americans to let values guide choices

CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Welcoming Mary Ann Glendon as the new U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, Pope Benedict XVI praised those working to defend human life and urged Americans to let moral values influence their political choices.

“The American people’s historic appreciation of the role of religion” in making policy decisions that take ethical and moral values into account, he said, “is reflected in the efforts of so many of your fellow citizens and government leaders to ensure legal protection for God’s gift of life, from conception to natural death.”

The pope said the same commitment to moral values is seen in efforts to safeguard “the institution of marriage, acknowledged as a stable union between a man and a woman, and that of the family.”

With members of her family looking on Feb. 29, Glendon and the pope exchanged speeches focused on protecting human dignity, eliminating poverty and promoting peace.

And both of them mentioned Pope Benedict’s planned April 15-20 trip to Washington and New York.

“I will look forward to my pastoral visit to the United States in April,” the pope told Glendon.

“On your first visit to the U.S., as pontiff, you will find a warm welcome from a nation that understands the important contribution offered by people of faith in our society,” the ambassador assured him.

“You will be among friends,” she said.

Glendon, 69, is no stranger to the Vatican. The Harvard law professor has been a member of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences since 1994 and served as president of the body for almost four years before being sworn in as U.S. ambassador to the Vatican.

Welcoming Glendon in her new role, Pope Benedict said, “I am confident that the knowledge and experience born of your distinguished association with the work of the Holy See will prove beneficial in the fulfillment of your duties.”

Pope Benedict’s concerns about certain trends in U.S. society and certain policies of the U.S. government were framed as expressions of praise for those working to protect human life and the traditional family and statements of hope for peace.

Looking at global issues, the pope said, “the plague of international terrorism” is not the only threat facing the human family.

“The quickening pace of the arms race and the continuation of tensions in the Middle East” also threaten the future, he said.

The pope repeated his call for “patient and transparent negotiations” to reduce and eliminate nuclear weapons, and he expressed his hope that the November Middle East peace conference hosted by the United States in Annapolis, Md., was “the first of a series of steps toward lasting peace in the region.”

Pope Benedict also praised the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, an anniversary Glendon said she hoped the United States and Vatican could celebrate with a joint commemoration.

Pope Benedict said the declaration “was the product of a worldwide recognition that a just global order could be based on the acknowledgment and defense of the inviolable dignity and rights of every man and woman.”

“The massacres and wars of the 20th century, culminating in the planned extermination of whole peoples, particularly the Jews during World War II, demonstrate that political bargaining alone cannot ensure the future of humanity and the protection of individuals, the pope said.

“It must be the fruit of a deeper consensus based on the acknowledgment of universal truths,” he said.

Pope Benedict praised the people of the United States for the way they have worked together to unite “people of good will, regardless of race, nationality or creed.”

“Today this task of reconciling unity and diversity, of forging a common vision and summoning the moral energy to accomplish it, has become an urgent priority for the whole human family,” he said.

The pope also praised the United States for its generosity in foreign aid.

“The building of a more secure future for the human family means first and foremost working for the integral development of peoples, especially through the provision of adequate health care, the elimination of pandemics like AIDS, broader educational opportunities to young people, the promotion of women and the curbing of the corruption and militarization which divert precious resources from many of our brothers and sisters in the poorer countries,” he said.

Glendon told the pope, “Your Holiness, the United States is an instrument of hope in the world because its people are compassionate and generous.”

“I am confident that the knowledge and experience born of your distinguished association with the work of the Holy See will prove beneficial in the fulfillment of your duties.”

POPE BENEDICT XVI

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Vatican says baptisms using wrong words are not valid

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A baptism administered “in the name of the Creator, and of the Redeemer and of the Sanctifier” is not a baptism at all, said the Vatican’s Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

The congregation’s statement was published Feb. 29 as a brief response to questions regarding the validity of baptisms using that formula.

Asked whether a baptism performed with that formula — or a similar one referring to the “Creator, Liberator and Sustainer” — would be valid, the congregation answered “Negative.”

The statement said one must ask whether a baptism is administered “in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,” the congregation answered “Affirmative.”

The congregation said Pope Benedict XVI “approved these responses” and ordered their publication.

If the formulas — recently initiated in North America to avoid referring to the Trinity with masculine names — was used, the person is not yet formally a Christian and any subsequent sacraments the person receives also are invalid, said Cardinal Urbano Navarrete in a commentary commissioned by the doctrinal congregation.

“Persons who were baptized or will be baptized in the future with the formulas in question in reality are not baptized,” the cardinal wrote. If they are now adults and want to be baptized, they must receive the instruction prescribed for all preparing for baptism and they should receive baptism, confirmation and the Eucharist during the same Mass, he said.

The most serious practical consequences, he said, are likely to be seen in the area of marriage where no sacrament exists if both spouses had been baptized with an invalid formula.

Even if only one of the spouses had been baptized with an invalid formula, there is still no valid sacrament of marriage unless before the wedding the couple had obtained the dispensation needed for a marriage between a Catholic and a non-Christian, the cardinal said.

Cardinal Navarrete also said that, obviously, the sacraments of confirmation and of holy orders also are invalid if conferred on people baptized with an invalid formula.

In addition, he said, anyone who attempts to baptize someone using an invalid formula is subject to church penalties, which should be applied since it is “seriously illegitimate and unjust to deceive both the baptized and the community” by presenting the rite as a baptism.

In a separate commentary also commissioned by the doctrinal congregation, Msgr. Antonio Miralles said “expressions that invalidate the conferral of a true baptism cannot be tolerated by the church.”

The monsignor, a consultant to the doctrinal congregation and a professor at Rome’s Pontifical Holy Cross University, said the church believes it has no authority “to change the name of the Father, the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

The problem with using “creator” and “redeemer” is not that they do not identify God as male, but that they “subvert faith in the Trinity” because they do not make clear the relationship among the three distinct persons, he said.

The monsignor also argued that the use of the recent formulas — more common among Protestants than among Catholics — could have a negative impact on ecumenism, because a common baptism is essential for Christian unity.

The doctrine recognized as valid by all dialogue partners is what allows them to call each other Christians, he said.

“All of us Christians are called to remain solidly faithful to the unity well expressed in the Letter to the Ephesians,” which calls for a common profession of “one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all,” he said.

WASHINGTON (CNS) — According to a new study on the religious affiliation of U.S. adults, 28 percent of Americans have either changed religious affiliations or claim no religion at all.

The study also shows the Catholic Church has been hardest hit by these shifts, but that the influx of Catholic immigrants has offset the loss. So, the percentage of the adult population that identifies itself as Catholic has held fairly steady at around 25 percent, it says.

The 148-page study, “U.S. Religious Landscape Survey,” was conducted by the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life and based on interviews with 35,000 adults last year.

Its findings, released Feb. 25, show that roughly 10 percent of all Americans are former Catholics. Almost half of these former Catholics joined Protestant denominations, while about half do not have a religious affiliation and a small percentage chose other faiths.

“If everyone raised Catholic students, if everyone raised an atheist, (Catholics) would be one-third of the population,” said John G. Green, director of the Pew Forum’s “Religious Landscape Survey” and a principal author of the study.

Jesus Father Allan Figueroa Deck, executive director of the U.S. bishops’ Secretariat for Cultural Diversity in the Church, said he was hardly surprised by the recent shifts relating to the Catholic Church, saying they were initiated with a rite using similar one referring to the “Creator, Liberator and Sustainer” — would be valid, the cardinal said.

Asked whether a baptism performed with that formula — or a similar one referring to the “Creator, Liberator and Sustainer” — would be valid, the congregation answered “Negative.”

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ARCHBISHOP BLESSES BODY OF ST. PADRE PIO

Six U.S. prelates named as delegates, alternates to October synod

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Six U.S. bishops have been named as delegates or alternates to the October world Synod of Bishops that focuses on the theme of the family. The six U.S. bishops are Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago, Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago and Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas of Tucson, Ariz., respectively.

The other two delegates are Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston and Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl of Washington. Bishop William S. Skylstad of Spokane, Wash., the immediate past USCCB president, has been named as an alternate, as has Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia. The U.S. delegates and alternates were elected by the bishops’ conference and ratified by the Synod of Bishops on March 23. They also were a member of the special task force that drafted a guide to the implementation of the U.S. bishops’ essential norms for diocesan and episcopal policies dealing with the allegations of sexual misconduct. A former associate general secretary of the U.S. bishops’ conference, Sister Ewart serves as a consultant to the bishops’ Committee on Canonical Affairs and Church Governance and is the director of the U.S. bishops’ Women’s Committee.

Cardinal sister named

Canon Law Society of America executive coordinator

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Mercy Sister Sharon Ewart has been named executive coordinator of the Canon Law Society of America, effective Aug. 1. Sister Ewart is the first woman to hold what is the society’s chief administrative officer position. She was president of the organization 2004-05. Sister Ewart has been a member of the Canon Law Society of America since 1984 and has been a consultant to its board of governors, 1995-97, a member of the organization’s publications task force; and served on the Canon Law Society of America’s Council of the Bishops’ Conference.

Aspects of the Sexual abuse of Minors. She also was a member of the special task force that drafted a guide to the implementation of the U.S. bishops’ essential norms for diocesan and episcopal policies dealing with the allegations of sexual misconduct. A former associate general secretary of the U.S. bishops’ conference, Sister Ewart serves as a consultant to the bishops’ Committee on Canonical Affairs and Church Governance and is the director of the U.S. bishops’ Women’s Committee.

Catholic Church fights bills to limit limits on sex abuse cases

SEATTLE (CNS) — The Catholic conferences in at least two states are opposing bills in their state legislatures that would eliminate the statute of limitations for suits brought on behalf of victims of child sexual abuse. The previous law required the legislation in Colorado and Wisconsin also would permit “window” of time to allow retroactive suits dealing with incidents that occurred decades ago. In a third state, Maryland, a similar bill has been withdrawn by the lawmaker who introduced it, Democratic Delegate Eric Bromwell. The Maryland Catholic Conference led the opposition to the measure and credited his decision to withdraw it to efforts to fight it by his Catholic constituents. In each state the Catholic conference has said such legislation is biased for treating church institutions differently from public bodies and would seriously impact the church’s ministry to the community at large. A Catholic conference is an agency created by the bishops of a state to represent the public policy and pastoral interests of the church and to advocate positions in the legislative process.

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Ticket distribution plan set for pope’s Washington Mass

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Close to 14,000 people out of the 45,000 expected to be in attendance at Pope Benedict XVI’s April 17 Mass in Washington will hail from the neighboring Diocese of Baltimore who will receive 2,500. Nearly 120 U.S. dioceses that had requested tickets were sent letters Feb. 25 by the Archdiocese of Washington on how many tickets they will receive, according to an announcement by the archdiocese. The Mass will take place at Nationals Park, the new stadium for the Washington Nationals baseball team. It will be the first nonbaseball event at the new stadium. More information about the pope’s U.S. visit April 15-20 is available online at: www.uspapalvisit.org.

Cardinal Bertone to travel to Azerbaijan

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Vatican secretary of state, has traveled to Azerbaijan to inaugurate a Catholic church built on land given to the Holy See by Azerbaijan. The church will be paid for with royalties from the late pope’s books. The Vatican said the cardinal and Cardinal Bertone would travel to Armenia March 2-6 and Azerbaijan March 6-9. In Azerbaijan, a predominantly Muslim country, Cardinal Bertone also is scheduled to meet with Sheikh Allahshukur Pashazade, chairman of the Muslim council of the Caucasus region, and with other religious leaders “to express the will of the Catholic Church to collaborate in the common commitment on behalf of peace, agreement among peoples and the good of the human family,” the Vatican said.

Number of priests increases, not as fast as number of Catholics

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The latest church statistics show that the number of U.S. Catholic priests in the world continues to increase, but not as fast as the general Catholic Church population. The sampling of statistics was released Feb. 29 in connection with the presentation of the Vatican yearbook, known as the “Annuario Pontificio,” which catalogs the church’s presence in each diocese. The Vatican said the global Catholic population increased during 2006 by 1.4 percent, from 1.115 billion to 1.131 billion. The number of priests in the world also rose, but by 0.21 percent. At the end of 2006 there were 407,262 priests in the world, 851 more than at the beginning of the year.

Observers describe photo of Chinese president greeting Liu as strange

HONG KONG (CNS) — Observers of the Catholic Church in China said a recently published photo of Chinese President Hu Jintao shaking hands with the vice chairman of the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association is strange. A photo in a national newspaper, who requested anonymity, told the Asian news agency UCA News Wednesday that “the Chinese authorities always have seen religion as “a closed area and a controversial subject,” regardless of whether conservatives or liberals in the government were gaining ground. He described the photo as “unsual.” The photo first appeared on the front page of the Jan. 2 issue of the official Chinese-language People’s Daily. The caption mentioned that Chinese President Hu Jintao was greeting people from various sectors but did not name Anthony Liu Bainian, vice chairman of the Beijing-based patriotic association. The patriotic association acts as a liaison between registered Catholics and the Chinese government.

Vatican secretary of state to inaugurate church in Azerbaijan

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Vatican secretary of state, has traveled to Azerbaijan to inaugurate a Catholic church built on land given to the Holy See by Azerbaijan. The church will be paid for with royalties from the late pope’s books. The Vatican said the cardinal and Cardinal Bertone would travel to Armenia March 2-6 and Azerbaijan March 6-9. In Azerbaijan, a predominantly Muslim country, Cardinal Bertone also is scheduled to meet with Sheikh Allahshukur Pashazade, chairman of the Muslim council of the Caucasus region, and with other religious leaders “to express the will of the Catholic Church to collaborate in the common commitment on behalf of peace, agreement among peoples and the good of the human family,” the Vatican said.

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Luers students to participate in FBLA state conference

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Luers High School Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Club will be sending students from every grade (9-12) to participate in the State Leadership Conference on March 14-16 in Indianapolis.

During this conference, FBLA members will compete in various business education events. The competitive events will range from straight testing on bubble sheets, computer testing and public speaking events including public speaking, impromptu and interviewed speaking.

Additionally, students will attend meetings and social events that will introduce them to students from the many chapters across the state. If a student performs well at the state level, it may be possible for him/her to compete nationally in Atlanta, Ga., this summer.

In the past, FBLA participants have attended conferences at Disney World, Opryland in Nashville, Tenn., Dallas, Denver and Chicago. In 2007, Bishop Luers had 15 students attend the national competition earning awards in public speaking, word processing, business communications, computer applications, banking and financial systems and networking concepts.

Two USF students advance to finals of Nascent 500 Business Plan Challenge

FORT WAYNE — Two University of Saint Francis students have been selected as finalists in the Nascent 500 Business Plan Challenge to be held at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway on March 28.

Students Krista Van Lae, a senior majoring in business/management from Syracuse, and Bridget Becker, a senior majoring in religion/communication from Fort Wayne, are among the nation’s top 12 entries for their business plan, "Destination."

The student team has won $500 each for advancing to the finals. This is the first time that the Keith Busse School of Business and Entrepreneurship at the University of Saint Francis has participated in a national contest.

Intensive courses for teachers offered during summer at USF

FORT WAYNE — The Department of Education at the University of Saint Francis will host an Educator’s Academy featuring three separate, three-credit classes for teachers this summer: The Differentiated Classroom, Strategies for Struggling Readers and Strategies for High Ability Gifted Students.

The Differentiated Classroom will run June 9-13 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The purpose of this course is to help teachers respond to the learning needs of an increasingly diverse student body while also meeting the demands of their curriculum.

Strategies for Struggling Readers runs June 16-20 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. This course will teach research-based strategies and approaches to improve student reading comprehension, vocabulary and decoding that can be applied across grade levels.

Tuition for each three-credit class is $750 until May 2 and $775 after May 2. For more information or to register, contact Nancy Hankey at (260) 399-7700 ext. 8405 or e-mail her at nhankey@sf.edu.

Film series looks at human side of immigration

NOTRE DAME — Saint Mary’s College invites its students and the greater South Bend community to the immigration film series, sponsored by the college’s Justice Education and political science departments, the film studies and intercultural studies programs, and the Office of Multicultural Affairs. Admission to the remaining two films is free. The purpose of the series is to raise questions about the human side of the immigration and for audience members to have an opportunity to assess the issue from a faith perspective.

“De Nadie” (“No One”) will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 18, at the Carroll Auditorium, Madeleva Hall. The film deals with impoverished Central Americans who put their last money, dignity, health and life on the line as they travel from southern Mexico to the northern border in hopes of making it into the United States. The refugees make their way through Mexico by hitching illegal rides on freight trains. Along the way they face threats by the Mexican immigration service, police, railroad security and a gang. The film, directed by Mexican filmmaker Tin Dirdamal, won the Audience Award at the 2006 Sundance Film Festival.

“The Guestworker” will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 27, in the Vander Venet Theatre, Student Center. This documentary follows a 69-year-old Mexican farm worker who for 40 years has come to the United States to harvest crops to provide for his family back in Mexico. He is enrolled in the U.S. government’s H-2A Guestworker Visa Program, which ensures safe passage to America but offers no hope of citizenship. This movie was filmed on both sides of the border and examines the issues surrounding the guestworker program. The 2006 film was directed by North Carolina Filmmakers Cynthia Hill and Charles Thompson.

Dolores Huerta to speak at Saint Mary's during Women's History Month

NOTRE DAME — Saint Mary’s College announced that Dolores Huerta, one of the most powerful and respected labor movement leaders in America in the 20th century, will be on campus on March 11 as a Diversity Lecture Series speaker. Huerta, who is co-founder of the United Farm Workers (UFW), will speak at the convocation on “De Nadie” (“No One”). At noon Huerta will lecture on “Women’s Activism for Social Change” in the Vander Venet Theatre in the Student Center. At 6:30 p.m. she will speak about “Immigration Reform” in Carroll Auditorium. Both lectures are free and open to the general public.

Lutheran Men in Action sponsors two USF film series

FORT WAYNE — The Bishop Luers Minstrels to perform in Florida

FORT WAYNE — The Bishop Luers Minstrels have accepted the invitation of “Showstoppers,” a show choir invitational held at Walt Disney World Resort on March 13-16. The Minstrels, under the direction of Karlene Krouse, will be taking over 75 students.

The show will be part of an ongoing lecture series sponsored by the Office for Multicultural Affairs (OMA) called “Building Connections: Equity in Multicultural Societies.” Huerta’s appearance is co-sponsored by the Center for Women’s Intercultural Leadership (CWIL) and the Women’s Studies Program.

Her expertise is known as an advocate for the rights of farm workers. In 1962 she and Cesar Chavez co-founded the National Farm Workers Association (NFWA), then the United Farm Workers (UFW). In 1997 Huerta successfully negotiated a new contract for farm workers and the corporate grape industry; it was the first of many negotiations she would facilitate between workers and growers.

She would later have a hand in establishing the first medical and pension benefits for farm workers in the history of U.S. agriculture. Her life of social action continues today.

Bishop Luers High School announces nominees for Sterling Sentinel Awards

FORT WAYNE — The following Bishop Luers High School students were nominated by department head teachers for the Sterling Sentinel Awards. Nominees based on outstanding achievement in their given disciplines: art, Elise Ronck; athletics, Isaac Baker; business, Bridgett Wyss; drama, Elizabeth Clinger; English/literature, Andrea Alford; foreign language, Mein Le; voca- tional/industrial, Rachel Talarico; world language, Heather Hendrickson; science, Stephanie Anspaugh; mathematics, Joe Crouch; social science, Phil Helser; music/voice, Elliot Barger; music/instrumental, Mandy Lazzaro; and journalism, Lindsay Shutt.
Property tax debate continues, concerns over welfare of poor

INDIANAPOLIS — The finish line is in sight for lawmakers racing to deliver property tax relief for Hoosier residents by the March 14 adjournment deadline. Which property tax relief plan will make the final hurdle? Will it be the governor’s plan, the Senate Republicans’ plan, the House Democrats’ plan, or some combination of the three? Perhaps the bigger concern, a question being asked by the Indiana Catholic Conference, the Indiana bishops’ official public policy representative, is, “How will the property tax relief plan affect the least among us — the poor?”

The church is not a lone voice raising this concern for the poor. Two Catholic lawmakers, Rep. John Day (D-Indianapolis) and Sen. John Broden (D-South Bend), have chimed in to stand for lower income Hoosiers. Day offered an Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) amendment to HB 1001, which was adopted and passed the full House late January. The Indiana Catholic Conference supported the amendment.

Day’s amendment increases the EITC from 7 percent under current law to 9 percent. “The Earned Income Tax Credit is a very targeted, focused tax credit to benefit the families that really need it — the working poor,” said Day.

“The tax policy should be fair,” said Day. “It should be based on ability to pay and should help those like the elderly on fixed incomes, the working poor, and anyone that is struggling to get by,” said Day. “In hindsight, the U.S. bishops got it right in their 1986 pastoral letter ‘Economic Justice for All’ when they specifically mention tax fairness and that the tax code should reflect a sensitivity to the needs of poor.”

House Bill 1001, which contains significant portions of the House Democrats’ property tax relief plan, passed the full House in a bipartisan vote of 93-1 on Jan. 24. The primary components of the House Democrats’ plan include: 1) homeowners would pay property taxes based on income and caps the maximum payment of homeowners’ property taxes to 1 percent of household income beginning in 2009; 2) increases the renter’s deduction from the current $2,500 deduction to $5,000; 3) eliminates township assessor positions statewide; 4) excludes instruction school building projects from voter referendums; and 5) excludes local debt from the cap.

The Republican-controlled Senate amended HB 1001 and ties property tax relief to assessed valuation of property rather than to household income. The Senate Republicans’ plan also includes a property tax cap of 1.5 percent of a home’s assessed value in 2009; and 1 percent of home’s assessed value in 2010; excludes the earned income tax credit; increases the renter’s deduction from the current $2,500 deduction to $3,000; and allows for voter referendums on all building projects.

The Senate Democrats offered several amendments on the floor to help low to moderate income earners in Indiana with no avail. Sen. John Broden, offered an amendment to tie property taxes to one’s ability to pay, which paralleled the House Democrats’ plan. Broden’s amendment would cap property taxes to a maximum 1 percent of household income. “Those with the lowest income would receive the highest property tax credit,” said Broden. “Households with an adjusted gross income (AGI) of $35,000 and below would get a 90 percent credit; $35,000-$50,000 get a 75 percent credit; $50,000-$75,000 get a 62 percent credit; $75,000-$100,000 get a 52 percent credit; and those with incomes over $100,000 would get a 40 percent homestead credit.”

Broden said, “The problem with Senate version of HB 1001 is the people’s homes with an assessed valuation of $200,000 or more are getting the lion’s share of the property tax relief.”

Broden explained that because the House and Senate version increase in the sales tax from 6 to 7 percent, which disproportionally burdenslower to middle income families, the Senate version doesn’t offer poorer families any way to offset the higher taxes they will pay.

Under the House Democrats’ plan, which in part was contained in Broden’s amendment, “The big winners would be the widow or older couples that have a lot of equity in their home, but are on a fixed income,” said Broden. “Local governments and schools are very nervous about the Senate version of HB 1001 because they are not sure when they are going to get the money to fill the short fall. The House Democrats’ plan allows local governments the flexibility they need,” said Broden.

HB 1001 entered the conference committee phase Feb. 29, where the four conferees, one
Latin, North American group works on production of ‘Romero Seeker of Justice — Martyr for Truth’

Property tax relief plans of House and Senate

House Democrats’ property tax relief plan

Primary components include:
- Homeowners would pay proportionate taxes based on income and caps the maximum payment of homeowners’ property taxes to 1 percent of household income beginning in 2009;
- Increases the renter’s deduction from the current $2,500 deduction to $5,000;
- Eliminates townships assessor positions statewide;
- Excludes instruction school building projects from voter referendum;
- Excludes local debt from the cap.

Senate Republicans’ property tax relief plan

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- Homeowners would pay property tax based on assessed valuation of property rather than on household income;
- Includes a property tax cap of 1.5 percent of a home’s assessed value in 2009; and 1 percent of home’s assessed value in 2010;
- Excludes the earned income tax credit;
- Increases the renter’s deduction from the current deduction of $2,500 to $3,000;
- Excludes a voter referendum on all building projects.

Moral tax policy guidelines by U.S. bishops

U.S. Catholic bishops’ 1986 pastoral letter “Economic Justice for All”

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

Catholic teaching raises two questions when forming tax policy:
1. Does this policy maintain or improve the distribution of wealth among the nation’s citizens?
2. Is there a “preferential option for the poor”?

NOTRE DAME — Latin America North America Church Concerns (LANACC) at the University of Notre Dame was founded to promote pastoral and academic bonds between the churches of the Americas. In general, this has been a mission of information, interpreting the Catholicism of Latin America for that of its fellow communions in the north.

Careful review of church documents and attendance at conferences and lectures over the years has continued to develop these associations. Much of this has been accomplished by special projects, publications and participation in Latin American meetings initiated and conducted by bishops, priests, religious and laity. Many of those have been devoted to the memory of Archbishop Oscar Romero. Currently, LANACC is engaged in a major production with The Salt River Production Group to be titled, “Romero Seeker of Justice — Martyr for Truth.” The motivation for this effort at this time is preparation for the 30th anniversary of Archbishop Oscar Romero’s martyrdom.

To assist LANACC, they have Michael Doyle who was for many years at Golden Dome Productions. Msgr. Ricardo Urioste, Romero’s vicar general and current president of the Salvadoran Romero Foundation, and Bishop Rosa Chavez, a spiritual son of Romero, will review the script for this documentary.

The documentary is taking note of the need for educational input, especially in the area of three questions important to Romero and ourselves:
- Was Oscar Romero a martyr?
- Was Romero committed to the church?
- What opened Romero’s eyes to the reality of his own country?

The documentary is scheduled for production and airdate separate educational followup in order to give the messages learned from Romero’s life and martyrdom a present and positive witness; therefore, there will be prepared separate educational materials. While these will be directed especially toward young people in the high school years, they will, nonetheless, be valuable to all who appreciate Romero’s practical and down-to-earth holiness.

From 1987 until the present time LANACC has, each year, sponsored at Notre Dame an annual Romero Lecture. Speakers from these lectures have included some of the persons most intimately connected with Romero during his life. One year brought Msgr. Urioste. Another time LANACC heard from Bishop Rosa Chavez. In 2002, the lecture welcomed Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez who called Archbishop Romero “a model bishop for the third millennium.”

Another important facet of LANACC’s work has been the development of filmed documentaries regarding the life, and death of Romero. The first was produced by The Salt River Production Group (formerly known as the Stepstone Productions). In 2005, a 30-minute video "Archbishop Romero-Martyr and Prophet" was released in celebration of the 25th anniversary of Romero’s death. The production was a companion piece to a book with the same title, now in its third edition.

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Catholic Schools Week went out with a bang in January, showcasing the exceptional diocesan education system offered to area families. Today’s Catholic highlights three of its exemplary teachers who exemplify the best of Catholic faith teaching.

Cindy Esch, her husband of 33 years, recently retired and says her children have been parishioners of Christ the King Parish in South Bend for the last 22 years. She attended the University of Dayton, following the example of her parents who were parishioners of Christ the King Parish in North Dakota. After graduating with a bachelor’s degree, Esch taught at St. Charles School in South Bend and Colleen Case, Christ the King, South Bend; Justin Himle, St. Bavo School, Mishawaka; Rachel Sweda, Holy Family School; and Michael Kasznia, Queen of Peace, Mishawaka. These six winners were also among the top ten Catholic School students. Six Catholic school spelling champions from the South Bend area will compete in the regional finals on March 20 at the Century Center with their public school counterparts. The two champions in front are Justin Himle, St. Bavo School, Mishawaka, and David Bohr, St. Joseph School, South Bend; back row: Suzanne Wiwi, principal of St. Joseph School, South Bend, chairman; Michael Kasznia, Queen of Peace, Mishawaka; Tommy Favorite, St. Joseph School, South Bend; Colleen Case, Christ the King, South Bend; Rachel Sweda, Holy Family School, South Bend; and Holy Cross Father Stephen Kempinger, diocesan superintendent of schools.

BY KAY COZAD

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Joseph Garcia

Garcia was recognized for her exemplary teaching with the Light of Learning award, presented on Jan. 28 at the Century Center in South Bend.

“Todays Catholic” is published by the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend two times each month. Items appearing in Todays Catholic are not necessarily statements of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Information on topics of interest to the Catholic community may be submitted to Todays Catholic c/o Pat Sorensen, 10911 St. Joseph Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46845. Phone: (260) 484-2824. Fax: (260) 319-3474. Email: pat@sorensen.com.

SOUTH BEND — Six Catholic elementary school students spelled their way to championship laurels and into the regional finals of the Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee after winning top spots in the South Bend Metro Area Catholic School Spelling Bee.

Before a near-capacity crowd in the Santa Maria Council of the Knights of Columbus, Father Kempinger also opened the ceremony and introduced the 13 Catholic school spelling bee winners.

“Thirty-two Catholic school students qualified for the regional finals, which is a great achievement,” said Kempinger.

The six Catholic school students included: St. Bavo School, Mishawaka — David Bohr, St. Joseph School, South Bend — Justin Himle, Holy Family School, South Bend — Rachel Sweda, St. Vincent de Paul Parish — Bobbi Flores, St. Charles School, South Bend — Suzanne Wiwi, Holy Family School, South Bend — Colleen Case, St. Vincent de Paul Parish — Cindy Esch, and Holy Cross School, Mishawaka — Carter Delaney.

The six Catholic school winners were selected from a pool of 148 Catholic school students who competed in the regional spelling bee.

“On behalf of the Catholic Schools Week, we wish to congratulate these Catholic school students who qualified for the regional finals,” said Kempinger.

The Catholic school students who qualified for the regional finals are:

St. Bavo School, Mishawaka — David Bohr
St. Joseph School, South Bend — Justin Himle
Holy Family School, South Bend — Rachel Sweda
St. Vincent de Paul Parish — Bobbi Flores
St. Charles School, South Bend — Suzanne Wiwi
Holy Family School, South Bend — Colleen Case
Holy Cross School, Mishawaka — Carter Delaney

Catholic campus advances to regionals

Six Catholic school spelling champions from the South Bend area will compete in the regional finals on March 20 at the Century Center with their public school counterparts. The two champions in front are Justin Himle, St. Bavo School, Mishawaka, and David Bohr, St. Joseph School, South Bend; back row: Suzanne Wiwi, principal of St. Joseph School, South Bend, chairman; Michael Kasznia, Queen of Peace, Mishawaka; Tommy Favorite, St. Joseph School, South Bend; Colleen Case, Christ the King, South Bend; Rachel Sweda, Holy Family School, South Bend; and Holy Cross Father Stephen Kempinger, diocesan superintendent of schools.

FORT WAYNE — Several area Catholic school students placed in the recent 17th Annual Student Engineering Bridge Design Contest held Feb. 23. The challenge is sponsored by the Engineers Week Committee, Science Central, and the Department of Engineering at Indiana-Purdue Universities at Fort Wayne (IPFW) during National Engineers Week. The junior high school competition was held Feb. 16 at Science Central, and the high school school competition was held at IPFW.

The object of the competition is to design and build the lightest possible bridge, using only Elmer’s yellow wood glue and a maximum of 200 wooden popsicle sticks that is able to span the 24-inch gap of the testing machine with minimal deflection. Bridges are loaded until they fail, and the bridge with the highest load to weight to deflection ratio wins the contest.

Placing first in the junior high competition was St. Jude eighth-grader Carter Delaney, placing second at the high school level was a team of Bishop Dwenger sophomores Joe Woers and Danny Schenkel, and placing first was Bishop Dwenger sophomore Corey Dease.

The high school students split their winnings with Bishop Dwenger’s science department for a total $250 donation.

Carter and Corey’s father, Patrick Delaney, also received an award over the weekend, being named Citizen Engineer of the Year for his work and volunteerism in the community, with his church, and for various engineering organizations. Pat Delaney coaches CYO football, basketball, and volleyball. He has coached Holy Family School wrestling, teaches Junior Achievement, is on the board of Science Central and works with National Engineers Week and the Fort Wayne Engineers Club among other activities. He is employed by GE in Fort Wayne.
FORT WAYNE — The Chicago Cubs won the World Series in 1908 and haven’t been able to do it again in 100 years.

By contrast, a girl born in Rockford, Ohio, that year has had many personal victories against tough odds, and although she has 100 candles on her birthday cake, she still doesn’t feel the heat of a full century on planet Earth.

She’s Josie Manter, an active, alert and attractive great, great grandmother, who at age 99, experiencing problems with mobility, decided it was time to quit living alone and enter a retirement home.

Josie heard about The Villa of the Woods, run by Catholic Charities, through the grapevine when her mother died and at 12 she knew no one. Hard work and hard feelings prompted Josie Dull to hit the streets for the parish.

The first two months were like boot camp for Josie — getting used to rules, routine and food prepared by others was stressful, but Josie had adjusted to tension prepared by others was stressful, getting used to new situations and things that have come to be amazed by comforts, condition and has observed his 17 successes.

Josie married, she stayed home and raised two sons, Bob and Don. Eventually, she reentered the job market working as a maid, waitress and dry cleaner, before beginning a 24-year career in the food service department at the International Harvester plant in Fort Wayne. She retired on her 65th birthday.

For someone who was born when Teddy Roosevelt was president and has observed his 17 successes, Josie Manter continues to be amazed by comforts, condition and has observed his 17 successes.

Because she knew life without electricity, indoor plumbing and modern transportation, she does not take such things for granted, including a power driven wheelchair that takes her into the elevator that rolls her into the elevator that takes her to the second floor and her cozy room at Villa of the Woods.

As she visits with her great, great grandson, Adam, she must wonder what he will experience if he lives as long as she has.

Josie Manter, who turned 100 on Feb. 23 visits with her great, great grandson, Adam Manter, a regular visitor, who is known as the mascot of the Villa of the Woods in Fort Wayne.

Josie Dull has lived in the city.

She found work as a maid and then Cupid found her; a blind date led to marriage that lasted 35 years until her husband died. After Josie married, she stayed home and raised two sons, Bob and Don. Eventually, she reentered the job market working as a maid, waitress and dry cleaner, before beginning a 24-year career in the food service department at the International Harvester plant in Fort Wayne. She retired on her 65th birthday.

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Local company launches campaign to get seniors and their families talking

FORT WANE — Home Instead Senior Care, a company serving Fort Wayne, has launched a public education campaign to help adult children and their aging parents talk about difficult issues. This campaign, called the “40-70 Rule,” tackles such sensitive topics as driving, finances, independence and even romance.

“The ‘40-70 Rule’ means that if you are 40 or your parents are 70, it’s time to start the conversation about some of these difficult topics,” said Jim Sullivan, owner of the local Home Instead Senior Care office.

The campaign is based on research conducted in the U.S. and Canada by Home Instead Senior Care, which revealed that nearly one-third of adults in the U.S. have a major communication obstacle with their parents that stems from a continuing feeling of being a parent-child role. In other words, it can be difficult to get the conversation going because the child is still a child rather than adult role with their aging loved one.

At the center of the “40-70 Rule” campaign is a guide of conversation starters for sensitive senior-care subjects, which is available from the local Home Instead Senior Care office. The guide was compiled with the assistance of Lake Harwood, Ph.D., national author and communication professor from the University of Arizona who is the former director of that school’s geriatric program.

In general, the Home Instead Senior Care survey found that Boomers were most likely to be difficult talking with their parents about independence issues, such as continuing to live in their own home, and that their parent’s desire to remain independent makes it challenging to address such sensitive issues as health and money. The fact that many of these families are still in a parent-child rather than a peer-to-peer role makes the conversations even more difficult.

Good communication is vital to helping families know when it’s time to seek additional resources. “Oftentimes both adult children and their loved ones can benefit from outside help, such as a professional caregiver,” said Sullivan. “But the only way that will happen is if they can talk about it.”

Ph.D., national author and communication professor from the University of Arizona who is the former director of that school’s geriatric program.

Information on caregiver groups can be obtained from your local hospital, community social work and your local office on aging. Online caregiver message boards and chat groups and electronic mailing lists or discussion forums are some at-home alternatives. At the very least, subscribe to a caregiving magazine that offers practical advice and the assurance that you’re not alone in the challenges you face.

For instance, they may have to give up a career or volunteer work in order to avoid burnout:

- Accept offers of help and ask other family members to share the load. Don’t try to shield them from the reality of your situation. Give them the opportunity to pitch in and be specific about what you need.
- Keep in touch with out-of-area loved ones through phone calls (find a good long-distance savings plan), letters or e-mail.
- Get a portable phone so you don’t have to call to visit them at a disadvantage while conversing. Or get an answering machine so friends can leave them messages when you’re not available.
- Join a community support group (some offer concurrent care) to connect with other caregivers.
- The following are some ways to prevent or overcome isolation, in order to avoid burnout:
  - Take the initiative and invite friends over. Don’t wait for them to call or drop in.
  - Do not try to shield loved ones from the reality of the situation. Give them the opportunity to pitch in and be specific about what you need.
  - Keep in touch with out-of-area loved ones through phone calls (find a good long-distance savings plan), letters or e-mail.
  - Get a portable phone so you don’t have to call to visit them at a disadvantage while conversing. Or get an answering machine so friends can leave them messages when you’re not available.
  - Join a community support group (some offer concurrent care) to connect with other caregivers.
  - The following are some ways to prevent or overcome isolation, in order to avoid burnout:
Opening prayer

O Lord, there are days when I forget how much you must love me. I close my heart to that which you desire to give me. I can be so needy and ungrateful for all the blessings of each day. Lord, help me recognize your love this day in all that is good and beautiful. I love you, Lord, and by the way ... thank you for everything. Amen.

Reading: Nm 11:24-30

Commentary

As we grow spiritually, we see that the effects of original sin are deeply rooted in our human nature. We are perplexed when both good and bad thoughts about others coexist at the same time. Even as Christians, we will probably never completely rid ourselves of thoughts that barge into our minds uninvited, but we can strive to entertain more noble thoughts.

Envy births competition and the desire for domination. "Envy represents a form of sadness and therefore a refusal of charity..." — CCC, 2540.

In simpler words, envy blinds us of our ability to see how beautifully we are blessed by God, both visibly and invisibly. Envy affects our joy and reflects a personal misunderstanding of God's incredible love for each of us.

Honesty and gratitude

Dealing with envy requires an honest self-analysis. We must ask ourselves... will possession of the good fortune of others fulfill my desires? Jesus tells us that we must prepare him to everyone and everything. He asks that we renounce all that we have for his sake and that of the Gospel. Joyfully surrendering all that we have and desire and rejoicing in the merits of others glorifies God and "is obligatory for entrance into the kingdom of heaven." — CCC, 2544.

When God is number one, all other things fall into proper order, and we celebrate the success of others. These teachings of Jesus are easy to write, and even believe, but difficult to do in our culture. Perhaps the wisdom of Moses in the reading above can provide a model for those of us who struggle with envy. Moses, who was confident in his relationship with God, remained serene when Eldad and Medad began to prophesy in Moses' territory. He assured Joshua that God can speak to anyone and still be his representative. Moses did not see that Eldad and Medad's success at prophesying diminished him or the gifts God had bestowed upon him. Moses realized that their holiness elevated the Chosen People, and therefore, him as well.

Counting our blessings is another way to fight envious tempations. As Christians, we should not focus on what is missing but rather appreciate what has been given in the present moment. Our blessings may be counted in our spouse, loved ones, children and friends and in our work. God's love for us is sufficient and endless. Acknowledging God's love helps us see the good fortune of others as a sign of God's love for them and, indirectly, as a blessing to those who are in relationship with them. Love rejoices in the good things that come to other people. Love also asks us to be mindful of those who are truly poor and without basic needs.

Envy can be ugly beast, but it can also be a friendly little imp who keeps popping up to remind us of a deeper spiritual longing for “more”... which ultimately, of course, is God. Envy can also remind us of our failure to love others as God loves us.

Sloth, illness of the soul

Our lack of awareness or acknowledgment of God's love can also take us down another sinful path which, if not controlled, can lead to despair or loss of our faith. A sin that seems to be prevalent in today's society is sloth.

One might quickly define sloth as mere laziness or idleness. But, in reality, sloth is a more dangerous condition of the soul. Martin Funk in "Thoughts Matter" defines sloth as acedia or the weariness of the soul. The soul, not just the body, becomes weary of doing good or of doing anything.

Bishop Robert Morneau in "Paths to Prayer" writes, "Some of the symptoms of (acedia) are a loss of faith, a sense of futility, the loss of zest for life, an almost physical revolt against prayer, a constant state of dreariness." Acedia, according to the Catechism of the Catholic Church is "... a form of depression due to lax ascetical practice, decreasing vigilance, carelessness of the heart.

Acedia diminishes our awareness of God's goodness and love. It is a manifestation of loss of hope in God’s desire for our eternal happiness. Acedia diminishes our receptivity towards the goodness of God and others. It is a lack of zeal for God.

As I reflect I can’t help but wonder, "Has our country and perhaps even our churches become slothful? Have I lost my zeal for the divine, the holy, that which is good? Have I closed my heart to God's love for me?”

Our loving response — prayer

Faith is the theological virtue that helps us to know that God loves us. With this freely given grace, we are called to accept God's love and to respond in total love to God who is our Lord and Creator. To fight weariness of the soul, we must be diligent in our keeping our hearts close to God. Even when we do not feel like it, daily prayer in which we prase and adore God is imperative. Meditation on the Scriptures and contemplative prayer opens our hearts to the Lord and rekindles our love for God and others. Time spent in the quiet contemplation of the Blessed Sacrament is most powerful.

If our hearts become careless and our prayer time forgotten, our love for God can grow lukawarm and indifferent; we can slowly become weary and/or envious of others.

During this time of Lent, let us renew our love for God through more intense prayer and meditation on the Scriptures. Consistently attempt to place yourself before Christ present in the Blessed Sacrament. Let God know that you love him.

Remember ... prayer each day keeps the devil away!

Reflection and discussion

Are you a grateful person? Spend time reflecting and sharing on the gifts God has given you. Have you ever experienced some degree of spiritual weariness or acedia? Which of the ways listed above do you find most helpful to overcome times of spiritual carelessness or weariness?

Closing prayer

Lord, help me to see my cup of blessings as half full instead of half empty. In doing so may I be reminded of your love for me. Help me to persist in prayer even when I do not feel like praying or when you seem far away. Open my heart to your love and protect it from spiritual carelessness. Help me to see the good fortune of others as an outpouring of your love for all. Amen.

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Catholic orthodoxy is a rich, complex and beautiful thing

Orthodoxy is a multivalent term. It can refer in a more restricted or special sense to our brothers and sisters in the Eastern churches, often associated with particular national groups: the Greek Orthodox, Russian Orthodox, Armenian or Macedonian Orthodox, for example. Many of these wonderful Christian men and women live and work and pray in our diocese, and in terms of our ecumenical efforts, they have a special closeness to us as Catholics. They share with us both sacramental life and apostolic succession.

But orthodoxy is also a broader term used to refer to beliefs, teachings, or ideas that are in accord with the established teaching of the community that is the church. And it is in this sense that the term is occasionally misused.

Not infrequently one hears it said, “that individual is more orthodox” or “so-and-so is less orthodox” — the term being used rather loosely, and in fact often meaning nothing more than that the person in question happens to share the same opinions and worldview of the speaker (and so is “more orthodox”) or has a difference of opinion from the speaker (and is thus “less orthodox”). To use the term in this way, however, is to misunderstand orthodoxy.

Orthodoxy is like pregnancy: you either are or you aren’t. No one is ever “more” or “less” pregnant, and likewise, no one is “more” or “less” orthodox.

In terms of Catholic orthodoxy, there are no degrees or levels: you either are or you aren’t. If one’s teaching or belief is in accord with the established teaching of the church and within the parameters established by the magisterium for “right belief,” one cannot be considered anything but simply “orthodox,” not “more” or “less” so.

Some individuals from time to time employ the language of “more” or “less” orthodox in order to praise those who share their views or to criticize their opponents — those who may or may not share the same emphases, devotions, interests or ecclesiastical aesthetic within the0 surprisingly broad and expansive intellectual horizon that is the Catholic tradition.

Sometimes, those who invoke “tradition” have only one small slice of “the tradition” in view, a “freeze-dried moment” or mere “snapshot” of a tradition, which is more broad — and far more interesting — than they might imagine. Unless it can be demonstrated that someone holds a view or belief that is clearly at variance with the established belief of the church, he or she cannot be considered anything but simply “orthodox.”

Catholic orthodoxy is a rich, complex and beautiful thing; it is not narrow, constrained or rigid. Rather, as Chesterton came to recognize, it is a “romance” fit for an “adventurer.”

Retreating Lent

With Lent set rather early on the calendar this year, it is no shorter than the usual 40 days, but for whatever reason, Holy Week and Easter Sunday will be crested up much more quickly than in years when Lent is further back on the calendar. Could it be that, when Lent falls later, cutting more deeply into the springtime, Catholics are forced to reconcile with it more consciously? But an early Lent — it slips by so quickly, which can be discouraging to Catholics trying to integrate some new spiritual discipline into early Lent — it slips by so quickly, which can be discouraging to

Where are the Catholics? Not in TV advertising

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Once I suggested a Lenten sacrifice of going through the solemn season by not watching television.

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

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

The Catholic News Agency (CNA), will remain out of the Google-search public when a Xerox scan of the Holy Father’s writings is published by the Vatican Publishing Press. This publication will be one of the books that will be distributed to jeodotted Catholic websites and other Catholic organizations.

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We’re talking ‘green’

With the landscape covered in snow, it’s hard to think “green.”

Where are the Catholics?

CNEWA grateful for generosity, sacrifice

This is to acknowledge with thanks your check in the amount of $1,500.00, representing CNEWA’s share of the 2007 World Mission Sunday collection of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

CNEWA is deeply grateful to you and all the good people whose generosity and sacrifice have made this benefaction possible.

Following our custom of many years, we will utilize these funds on behalf of the missions and good works of the Holy Father’s Congregation for the Eastern Churches and sister Catho

Please know that you also have the gratitude of Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, Prefect of the congregation, and Cardinal Edward Egan, President of CNEWA.

Best wishes and prayers for God’s blessings always.

Gabriel Delmonaco
U.S. National Secretary
New York, N.Y.

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We’re talking ‘green’

With the landscape covered in snow, it’s hard to think “green.”

But that’s what we’re doing in our April 20 issue, and we’re talking “green” in the sense of being a good steward of the earth. Pope Benedict XVI addressed the issue. But Today’s Catholic would like to know what parishes, schools and families are doing to be good stewards of the earth. Please e-mail your responses — a few sentences should suffice — to editor@fw.diocesefwsb.org.

Agnes of Bohemia

c. 1200-1280

feast — March 6

Agnes’ parents were the king of Bohemia (now in the Czech Republic) and the sister of Hungary’s king. Their ambitions for Agnes to marry royalty were dashed by death, the machinations of other royals and Agnes’ devotion to Christ. After several engagements, Agnes was able to dedicate herself to God. She built a Franciscan friary and hospital in Prague, then a convent for the Poor Sisters of Prague, which she joined in 1236. She spent the next 44 years in prayer and service, and was canonized in 1989 on the eve of the Czech “velvet revolution.”

Saints for Today

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True love loves the human person

We’ve seen that in “Love and Responsibility,” Father Wotyla distinguishes between true love and use of another person, which can lead to the dangerous idealization of another, a characteristic of an immature and inauthentic love. Father Wotyla argues that mature love, the only love that fully satisfies the human heart, is an “interpersonal fact” that consists in the physical and emotional “self-gift in totality.” This love can encompass both vocations in the church. Just as married men and women give themselves completely to one another and their families, so priests and consecrated religious give themselves completely in a vocation in a way that expresses the love of Christ for each person.

When a gift is given, it needs to be accepted. Any gift made in love by one person to another demands an appropriate response by the receiver. The one who has experienced the pain of rejection in one form or another — be it a wilting relationship, a hurtful deep hurtlessness. The wife whose husband cheats on her, the teacher who feels neglected, the workman who yearns for recognition. In this love, true love can perhaps most easily be seen in the wonder and awe of the parents of a newborn child, a precious and unique gift from God. So many new fathers, for example, will say their lives are changed for the better because of a new baby. Everything is different, because they have recognized that more is demanded of their love, and how eager they are to embrace the challenge.

Father Wotyla writes, “Responsibility for love clearly comes down to the person, originates in it, and returns to it... The greater the sense of responsibility for the person the more true love there is.” Mature love therefore brings with it a demand, an obligation that cannot be avoided. Such an attitude of total self-gift that characterizes authentic and mature love (not the immature love that idealizes and uses) is fostered through tenderness.

According to Father Wotyla, tenderness is a very important, though often neglected, element of mature love: “Tenderness springs from an awareness of the inner state of another person and whatever feels it actively seeks to communicate his feeling of close involvement with the other person and his situation.”

A confessor speaks of God’s mercy and compassion upon the penitent sinner; a husband cares for his children when his wife is sick, the nurse takes the time to listen and respond to a patient’s complaints. Tenderness, however, is not a “sickly sentimentality”; it is love, the only love that fully satisfies and rescues the people. God will be true to the Covenant, as always.

St. Paul’s Epistle to the Romans is the source of the second reading. Paul wrote this letter to the Christians of Rome. When he wrote, in the latter part of the first century, Rome literally was the center and heart of the western world. Its population now is estimated to have been at least one million people, a number far exceeding any other community then known to exist.

It was the world capital. The emperor resided in Rome. The government and major courts were seated in Rome. It was the world’s commercial center. Also, it was the center of the pagan Roman religion.

Christians in Rome had to face challenges ranging at them from every side. They were persecuted and urged them to be even more loyal followers of Christ, amid all these challenges.

In so doing, Paul reassured the Roman Christians that earthly life passes. Only the spiritual endures. Paul urges, be strong now and earn an everlasting reward.

St. John’s Gospel tells the story of the Lord’s visit to Bethany (Bethany in the first century was a community just a few miles from Jerusalem. Now, it is a community completely enveloped by metropolitan Jerusalem.)

The Synoptic Gospels present Jesus often as the healer. Here the Lord confronts death. His friend, Lazarus, has died.

Martha, the sister of Lazarus, tells Jesus that had the Lord been present earlier, Lazarus would not have died. Seeing her faith, Jesus restores Lazarus to life.

The death of Lazarus, the faith of Martha, and the final raising of Lazarus by Jesus are the key parts of the story. Jesus controls all things, even death. He offers life.

However, humans, such as Martha, must respond by giving them themselves fully to Jesus in faith. To accept Jesus is to accept God. To be with Jesus is to be with God.

Reflection

Next Sunday, the church will celebrate Palm Sunday. Then, the church will lead us into Holy Week, commemorating the Last Supper, the death of the Lord and finally the Resurrection.

However, these events are much more than anniversaries, more than memorials. Jesus lives! He is in our lives now, if we permit it. The church calls us to allow the Lord into our lives. It invites us to participate in Holy Week with great personal commitment. Using Paul’s lesson to the Romans, it calls us to realize that all that is earthly will die. Earthly life will end. But we can live, if we truly accept Jesus. The model of faithfulness presented by Ezekiel, and Martha’s example, teach us what we must do to attain life in Christ.

Readings

Sunday: Ez 37:12-14Ps 130:1-8Rom 4:13, 16-18, 25-27

Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30Ps 33:62Jn 8:11

Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9Ps 102:2-3, 16-21Jn 8:21-30

Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-95 (Ps) Dn 35:2-6Jn 8:31-42

Thursday: Gn 17:3-9Ps 105:4-9Jn 8:51-59

Friday: Jn 10:13-15Ps 18:2-7Jn 10:31-42

Saturday: 2 Sm 7:6b-14, 16Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22 Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a

Jesus confronts death of Lazarus

Fifth Sunday of Lent

The Sunday Gospel

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Catequiz’em

By Dominic Campilioni

On Catholic calendars in March, many Fridays in Lent are marked “ab” or “A/B” to remind the faithful of the season of abstinence. This quiz takes a look at all things “ab” in the church.

1. Abstinence usually refers to refraining from this:
   a. meat and products (in the East, it also generally includes dairy)
   b. talking
   c. watching Roman games originally, now refers to American Idol

2. This unfortunate “Ab” was the first Biblical victim of murder
   a. Abalam
   b. Abel
   c. Abram

3. Not unusual for the Old Testament, Abraham was a newer version of a person’s name. What was his original name?
   a. Jacob
   b. Abimelech
   c. Abram

4. The inscription of Abacarius is an early epitaph for a bishop, which attests (by reference to his travels) to the ubiquity of this in the 2nd century
   a. the use of Gaelic as a liturgical language
   b. the Ecclerist
   c. monism and stoicism

5. This is a title used mainly of those in control of monasteries (convents) for women:
   a. Abbess
   b. Abo
   c. Ab Dominical Vobiscum

6. This aptly named churchman was an abbot and refomer, killed in a revolt against his reforms:
   a. Abbubba
   b. Abo
   c. Ab Dominical Vobiscum

7. The legend of Abgar, while likely completely unhistorical, refers to the request for assistance and conversion of a
   a. Kings of Edessa
   b. Protestant pope
   c. missionary to Kosovo

8. This “Ab” was an 11th and 12th century university lecturer and later monastic:
   a. Abbelardo
   b. Abo the Magnificent
   c. Abendigo

9. This “Ab” refers to an optional papal official whose job included correspondence and record keeping:
   a. Ab Pappus ad Papem
   b. A brief scriptorium
   c. abbreviator

10. This unusual noun, mentioned by Augustine of Hippo, practiced celibate marriage and adoption, but ultimately vanished:
   a. Abelles
   b. Abandoned Shakers
   c. Abines

11. Abjuration (no longer mentioned in canon law) formerly required of heretics or returning Catholics
   a. payment to the bishop for the expense of addressing their issues
   b. a promise to behave better in future under pain of banishment
   c. a formal sworn rejection of errors

12. The Abyssinian Church prefers to be known as the Ethiopian Church, because the former title is associated with
   a. being African
   b. colonialism
   c. the returning Jews of Falashas

13. This same church is led by a patriarch who has this title, meaning Our Father
   a. Abuna
   b. Abba Nostrum
   c. Ab Astra per ardura

14. Abolution (no longer mentioned in canon law) formerly required of heretics or returning Catholics
   a. a cleric
   b. a professed monastic
   c. a priest

15. Abraham Ecchelensis was a 17th-century Lebanese scholar from this main Catholic
   a. kings of Edessa
   b. Protestant pope
   c. missionary to Kosovo

ANSWERS:

1. a, b, c
2. b
3. c
4. c
5. a
6. c
7. a
8. b
9. b
10. b
11. b
12. a
13. b
14. a, b
15. a
The Hasmonean dynasty ruled before Jesus’ birth


dynasty from 135-36 B.C. The name “Hasmonean” is derived from Asasoneus, the father of Matthias, the first Hasmonean ruler. The seven Hasmonean rulers are descendants of Simon Maccabaeus who held the high priestly office in Jerusalem. The first Hasmonean ruler was John Hyrcanus I (115-104 B.C.), a son of Simon Maccabaeus. He is mentioned in the First Book of Maccabees. After Potremy, the governor of Jericho, died Simon and a banquet, he sent men to kill John Hyrcanus. But John was tipped off. When the men came to kill John, he had them arrested and put to death.

The New American Bible says John Hyrcanus removed the yoke of the Gentiles from Israel. This new era of independence began the Hasmonean dynasty from 167-134 B.C. The last Maccabean leader Simon achieved Jewish independence from the Seleucid king Demetrius II who exempted the Jews from the pagan Greek god Zeus. This tithe gave the Seleucids to their Jewish opponents and killing their families. On his deathbed Jannaeus advised his wife Alexandra to make peace with the Romans. Alexandra’s husband Simon (76-67 B.C.) appointed her son Hyrcanus high priest. Hyrcanus succeeded for three months. He was timid and lazy by nature. Under force he resigned his title to his brother Aristobulus II (67-63 B.C.) a civil war between the two brothers provoked the intervention of Rome. The tranquility was made peace with the Romans in 65 B.C. In 63 B.C., the Romans ended Jewish independence, but allowed the last two Hasmoneans to govern.

O n Saturday evening my 6-year-old daughter Theresa ran shrieking down the stairs. I thought someone had gotten hurt and I rushed to her at once. There were no injuries but there was elation and a dangling baby tooth on the bottom of her gum. Her first dangling baby tooth.

“It’s almost ready! It’s almost ready!” she cried excitedly. I had to agree. She had already jumped up and down and hugged her tooth, “This could be it!” Then I instinctively looked toward her father, who is the baby tooth expert, after all. Seven siblings before Theresa have provided Daddy with his own baby tooth exam. And seven children have climbed on Daddy’s lap to have their first loose teeth examined. And seven children have hugged off that same lap with one less tooth.

“Let me see,” said Daddy, Kleenex in hand, peering into Theresa’s mouth. “Ahh!”

He pulled and out the tooth. He will likely get down at eye level and give a great big smile or even let out an “Ahhhhh!”

“Mommy says I need to pay attention to what these little sages can teach us,” she said.”

Trust. Little children naturally trust their parents that their needs will be met. They don’t fret about the cost of meat or produce. They trust their parents that their needs will be met. They don’t fret about the cost of meat or produce. They trust their parents that their needs will be met. They don’t fret about the cost of meat or produce. They trust their parents that their needs will be met. They don’t fret about the cost of meat or produce. They trust their parents that their needs will be met. They don’t fret about the cost of meat or produce. They trust their parents that their needs will be met. They don’t fret about the cost of meat or produce.

Love.

Fathers, mothers and all who are responsible for the welfare of our children, come, and learn of the children. For they are the children of God, and the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. He could not pay, so his master ordered him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. The servant fell on his knees and said, ‘Master, have patience with me and I will pay you back in full.’ ‘You wicked servant,’ the master replied, ‘I didn’t tell you to be kind to the poor, or lend money at interest, or at least be a good manager with my money? Then why did you spend it in a foreign country? And when he returned, having incurred expenses in his foreign country, he handed them over to the creditor. He charged him ten thousand talents. ‘And this servant fell on his knees and said to him, “Master, have patience with me and I will pay you back in full.”’ ‘And he said to him, “You wicked servant! You knew that I am a creditor, and you did not come to me to offer me repayment on your debt? When the son of the parable which is like a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. He could not pay, so his master ordered him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. The servant fell on his knees and said, ‘Master, have patience with me and I will pay you back in full.’ ‘You wicked servant,’ the master replied, ‘I didn’t tell you to be kind to the poor, or lend money at interest, or at least be a good manager with my money? Then why did you spend it in a foreign country? And when he returned, having incurred expenses in his foreign country, he handed them over to the creditor. He charged him ten thousand talents. ‘And this servant fell on his knees and said to him, “Master, have patience with me and I will pay you back in full.”’ ‘And he said to him, “You wicked servant! You knew that I am a creditor, and you did not come to me to offer me repayment on your debt?”’ ‘And his master handed him over to the torture and divided his goods among the other creditors. ’Then those who had been欠的事情。 They are neither deceptive nor misleading. What they say is true, but if we follow their advice, we will blame us for appealing to the church’s teachings.” Yet, it is possible to be living witnesses to this love by following its example in our daily lives. We need to approach God with this same trust in all aspects of our lives, large and small.

Generosity. Little children are naturally generous. They love to gather dandelions and present fistfuls to others. He will likely get down at eye level and give a great big smile or even let out an “Ahhhhh!”

BY ELMER J. DANCH

SOUTH BEND — The schoolboy baskerst of the Fort Wayne Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) competed against their rivals the Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL) in the Annual ICCL-Fort Wayne CYO Invitational by winning three of the four games at Saint Joseph’s High School.

St. Anthony, champion of the CYO lead from start to finish to St. Anthony’s previously unbeaten ICCL titlholders, 33-26.

The the St. Vincent, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel, Mishawaka, led at the end of all four periods, 9-8, 16-15 and 20-19.

In the most spectacular game of the day and one that was decided in the last three seconds, St. Joseph of Mishawaka, who had lost only one game this season, edged St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel, 52-51.

St. Joseph, Mishawaka, led at the quarter poles — 17-7, 24-20 and 40-36 — until Wil Knape sank two free throws to put Fort Wayne in the lead with 3.8 seconds to play. Then a long inbound pass by the Mishawaka Catholic Saints quarterback, Andrew O’Lena, to runningback Coley Schultheis complet-ed a “bang-bang” lay-up as the buzzer sounded. Schultheis led the victors with 16 points and teammate Michael Whitfield added 13. James Knapke scored the nets for 19 points for the Hessen Cassel team.

St. Charles Cardinals of the CYO defeated Corpus Christi of the ICCL, 48-40, and came from behind after trailing at halftime, 21-18, to outpoint Corpus Christi in the second half very handily. Brett Lochbihler led the St. Charles Cardinals with 19 points as his teammates sank 17 of 22 free throws, eight in a row in the final period. Tate Bellegante scored 17 for the Corpus Christi Cougars.

The St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel Squires performed double duty at the 2008 South Bend ICCL-Fort Wayne CYO Invitational representing both the small school runner-up and champi-ons for the CYO. The Squires downed ICCL runner-up St. Jude in the first match-up then came back to play against champions St. Joseph, Mishawaka. After a long battle, Coley Schultheis’ shot at the buzzer dashed the Squires hopes of a dou-ble victory. The Blue League champs finished with a 22-3 record overall beating even their Gold League foes.

The Huntington Catholic Rams are the Catholic Youth Organization Blue League girls basketball champions. The team included Kelsey Godfroy, Taylor Hiers, Kayleigh Hutson, Peyton Pike, Emily Scheiber, Madelyn Scheiber, Ava Schultz, Ashley Snyder, Este Stoffel and Kaitlyn Teusch. Mike Stoffel, Bethany Stoffel and Megan Skelly served as coaches for the champs.

USF WOMEN’S SOCCER AND VERA BRADLEY PARTNER TO RAISE MONEY FOR CANCER IN SPRING FLING The third annual Women’s Soccer Spring Fling will be held on Saturday, April 5, at Bishop D’Arcy Stadium, and University of Saint Francis head coach Ken Nuber announced that the Lady Cougars will contribute money raised to The Vera Bradley Foundation for Breast Cancer. Nuber said, “This is a great opportunity for our players and the players in the rest of the field to raise money to help fight this disease that changes lives. What a great honor for our program to be able to contribute our time and talents to benefit this great organization.”

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South Bend St. Jude’s Drew Hasler and St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel’s James Knapke jump for the tip in the first game of the day at the ICCL vs. CYO 2008 Invitational held at Saint Joseph’s High School in South Bend on Sunday, March 2.

St. Louis Academy
Invites you to an Open House at St. Louis Academy, Saturday, March 8, 2008, 5:00 p.m.
If you can’t come Saturday, join us Sunday, March 9, 2008 for 10:15 a.m. Mass followed by an Open House in the school.

REGISTRATION for the 2008-2009 SCHOOL YEAR Monday, March 10th 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. and 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Saturday, March 15 12:30 to 2:00 p.m.

St. Louis Academy
15529 Lincoln Highway East • New Haven, IN 46774 www.stlouisbesancon.org

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SPORTS

Diocesan tourney pits CYO and ICCL

CYO GIRLS BLUE LEAGUE CHAMPS

PROVIDED BY HUNTINGTON CATHOLIC

Provided by Huntington Catholic
Actor Martin Sheen to receive Laetare Medal

BY MICHAEL O. GARVEY

NOTRE DAME — Actor and human rights activist Martin Sheen has been awarded Notre Dame’s Laetare Medal for 2008. He will receive the medal, the oldest and most prestigious honor given to American Catholics, dur- ing the university’s 163rd com- mencement exercises Sunday, May 18.

“Among one of our nation’s most recognizable and accomplished screen actors, Martin Sheen has achieved a level of celebrity that few Americans enjoy,” said Holy Cross College, university president. “He has used that celebrity to draw the attention of his fellow citizens to issues that cry out for redress, such as the plight of immigrant workers and homeless people, the wages of unjust war, the killing of the unborn and capital punishment. We welcome the opportunity to lift up an example for our church, our country and our students.”

A native of Dayton, Ohio, Sheen was born Aug. 3, 1940, one of 10 children of a Spanish-born father and an Irish-born mother. His legal and baptismal name is Ramon Gerardo Antonio Estevez, but he later adopted his stage name in honor of the pioneering televegasist Archbishop Fulton Sheen.

After his graduation from Chaminade High School in Dayton, Sheen claims to have intentionally failed his entrance examina- tion for the University of Dayton in order to pursue a sem- inary career of which his father disapproved. Borrowing money from a priest friend, he went to New York City, work- ing with Julian Beck’s Living Theatre and eventually landing a widely acclaimed role in the 1964 Broadway play, “The Subject Was Roses.”

Sheen won a Tony for his performance in the Broadway play, “The Subject Was Roses,” his widely acclaimed role in the 1964 film “Entertaining Angels,” From 1999 to 2006, on NBC’s wide- ly acclaimed television series “The West Wing,” he played a soulful American president who was a Notre Dame graduate.

A self-described Catholic peace activist, opponent of abortion and crusader for the Catholic social teach- ing, Sheen acknowledges his spiritual debts to St. Francis of Assisi, Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Dorothy Day, Rev. Daniel Berrigan, S.J., and the late labor leader Cesar Chavez.

He has often been arrested as a participant in nonviolent demonstra- tions against various U.S. military policies and has enthusiastically donated money, time and his celebrity to such causes as the alleviation of poverty and home- lessness, human rights for migrant workers and environmental protec- tion.

The Laetare Medal is so named because its recipient is announced each year in celebration of Laetare Sunday, the fourth Sunday in Lent on the church calendar.

“Laetare,” the Latin word for “rejoice,” is the first word in the entrance antiphon of the Mass that Sunday, which ritually antici- pates the celebra- tion of Easter. The medal bears the Latin inscrip- tion, “Magna est veritas et praevalebit.” (“Truth is mighty, and it shall prevail.”)

Established at Notre Dame in 1883, the Laetare Medal was an American counterpart of the Golden Rose, a papal honor which antedates the 11th century. The medal has been awarded annually at Notre Dame to a Catholic whose “genius has enabled the arts and sciences, illustrated the ideals of the church and enriched the heritage of humanity.”

MOVIE CAPSULES

NEW YORK (ON) — Following are capsule reviews of movies issued by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Office for Film and Broadcasting.

“Bonneville” (Sear/Arc/Drop of Water)

Touching story of a widow (Jessica Lange) who treks by car from Idaho to California with her two girlfriends (Kathy Bates and Joan Allen) to turn over her late husband’s ashes to her grown step- daughter (Christine Baranski), who demands them in return for not evicting her stepmother from her home. First-time feature director Christopher Rowley — with a sensi- tive script by Daniel D. Davis, who based the story on his grand- mother and her friend — generates a gentle and easygoing tone throughout this mature “chick film.”

The friendship of the women is beautifully drama- tized, and there’s an affecting spiritual, if not specifically Catholic, spirituality in the healthy approach to dealing with death. A few instances of crude language, light violence and brief humiliation.

The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-II adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG.

“The Other Boleyn Girl” (Columbia/Focus)

Fresh telling of the oft-drama- tized liaison of Anne Boleyn (Natalie Portman) and King Henry VIII (Eric Bana), including the monarch’s break with the Catholic Church so he could divorce his first wife, Catherine of Aragon (Ana Torrent), with an emphasis on Anne’s rival sister, Mary (Scarlett Johansson), who was the first Boleyn to win the monarch’s favor. This adaptation of Philippa Gregory’s best-seller from director Justin Chadwick keeps the story admirably intimate, and features surprisingly authentic perform- ances by its non-British leads with predictably solid supporting work from Kristen Scott-Thomas, David Morrissey and Mark Rylance. Royal bedroom intrigue with nonsensical sexual encounters include a rape, incest reference, adultery, divorce, light sexual banter and innuendo, and discreetly filmed beadings. Acceptable for older teens. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-II adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG.

“Witless Protection” (Lionsgate)

Crude and lowbrow comedy in which a headstrong rural sheriff’s deputy (Larry the Cable Guy) kidnaps an elegant heiress (Ivana Milicevic) from the custody of an FBI specialist (Yaphet Kotto) he believes to be corrupt, and drives her to Chicago to test her against her former boss (Peter Stormare), who has hired a shady security guard (Eric Bana) to bring her back. The film, as directed by Charles Robert Carner, succeeds in being funny about once every 15 minutes, making the third of two in one long, tedious mush. Crass and crude language, three uses of pro- fanity, frequent sexual and scato- logical humor, partial nude nudity, ethnic stereotyping and an obscene gesture.

The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-II adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13.

Books from the editor’s desk

The following books are cautiously recommended:

“Roses Are Red/” and “Violets Are Blue” by Father Charles Coughlin. “Roses Are Red” is a collection of writing about love and marriage and “Violets Are Blue” is a collection of writing about the first labor dispute in the United States. Servant Books has released “Saints: A Close Look,” by Father Thomas Dubay, What sets saints apart? What holiness come more naturally to them than to the rest of us? How do grov- ier people become saints? Are saints rele- vant today? What do they mean for us? Father Dubay reveals what makes the saints tick, but also how readers toward the heights of holiness of themselves. ISBN: 978-0-86716- 763-4.

“In the Name of God,” by Francis Fruehauf Murray Bodo’s release, “Mystics: 10 Who Show Us the Ways of God,” lead readers about what mysteries have expressed about God and how their insight can deepen the reader’s own experience of the divine. Father Bodo covers the experiences of Mary, Frances of Assisi, Jacinta D. Todi, Julian of Norwich, Catherine of Siena, John of the Cross, Therese of Lisieux, Gerard Manley Hopkins, Simone Weil and Robert Todi, the two main candidates being an upper-class twit (Simon Wood) and a world-class musician (James McAvoy) with a gambling problem. Director Mark Palansky’s film establishes its unlikely hero as successfully and offers some valuable observa- tions about skin-deep beauty and self-esteem. The plot lags in places and the groundwork for a convincing central relationship is not sufficiently developed. Occasional crass language and innuendo, and suicide and adultery references. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-II adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG.

“The Gospel of César Chávez: My Father in Action,” by Mario T. Garcia, looks at the father and the way it shaped the life and leadership of César Chávez, one of the most recognized Latin leaders in the United States and the first labor leader to suc- cessfully organize and unionize farm workers.

“The Pope of Malbork: Francis of Assisi and his World” is a detailed biography of St. Francis of Assisi, written by Father Michael Dubyak. The book explores how Francis’s life and teachings continue to influence the Catholic Church today. This book is highly recommended for anyone interested in the life and teachings of Francis of Assisi.

“Mother Teresa’s insight and wisdom to Catholic educators” is a collection of writings about the life and work of Mother Teresa. The book is highly recommended for anyone interested in understanding the legacy of Mother Teresa.

“The Life and Martyrdom of Sister Dorothy Stang” is a biography of Sister Dorothy Stang, who was murdered in the Amazon forest in Brazil. The book is highly recommended for anyone interested in understanding the life and work of Sister Dorothy Stang.

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FISH FRIES

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

Fish fry at PB
Fort Wayne — Most Precious Blood Parish, 1529 Barthold St., will have a fish fry Friday, March 7, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. Adults $8, children 6-12 $4 and children 5 and under $1. Carry-out available.

Fish fry at St. Matthew
South Bend — A Jonah fish fry will be held Friday, March 14, from 4-7 p.m. in the St. Matthew Catholic School cafeteria. Adults $6, seniors $5, children (7-12) $4 and children under 6 free. Carry-out available.

Fish dinner at St. Augustine
South Bend — St. Augustine Parish, 1501 W. Washington St., will have a fish dinner Friday, March 14, from 4-8 p.m. Adults $6, children $3 and children 5 and under free. Carry-out available.

OTHER FUND RAISERS

Easter bake sale time
South Bend — The Altar Rosary Society of St. Casimir Church, 1308 W. Dunham St., will have an Easter bake sale Saturday, March 15, from 3-6:30 p.m. and Sunday, March 16, from 8-11 a.m. at the school. Easter lamb cakes, pies, cookies and more.

Dinner dance and auction planned
Notre Dame — Holy Cross College will host a dinner, dance and auction night on Saturday, April 12, at Marian High School’s Bishop Crowley Activity Center. Proceeds benefit a new student center on campus. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and a Polish style dinner will be at 6 p.m. Live and silent auctions will be throughout the night. Live entertainment by “This End Up.” Tickets are $25 per person through the admissions office at Holy Cross or by calling (574) 239-8400 by April 4.

Spaghetti dinner
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus #5570, 5202 Linden Ave., will have a spaghetti dinner Thursday, March 13, 4-6 p.m. Adults $7, children ages 5 to 12 $2.50. The council is located one block east of Mayflower Road.

WARNING

Spaghetti dinner helps eighth grade Fort Wayne — The Joseph - St. Elizabeth eighth-grade class is sponsoring a spaghetti dinner to pay for the confirmation retreat and class trip on Saturday, March 15, from 3-5 p.m. at the St. Elizabeth Parish cafeteria, 10700 Aboite Center Rd. Adults $8, children kindergarten through eighth grade $5 and pre-schoolers free.

MISC. HAPPENINGS

Technicolor with “Joseph” at St. Jude
South Bend — St. Jude School’s spring musical will be “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.” The shows will take place on Friday, March 14 at 7 p.m., and Saturday, March 15 at 2 and 7 p.m. The musical will be performed at the Clay High School Auditorium. Tickets are $3 each and can be purchased following St. Jude Masses, by calling the school office at (574) 291-3820 or at the door.

Palm weaving taught
Waterloo — St. Michael the Archangel Parish will offer instruction on palm weaving led by Chip Marquardt and his family, in the parish hall on Sunday, March 9, at 11:30 a.m. Make your own special creation to bring on Palm Sunday. A light brunch will be served. For information call Sharon Garman (260) 927-1768.

St. Patrick, Lagro, celebrates feast day
Lagro — The friends of St. Patrick will sponsor a dinner and Mass for the benefit of St. Patrick Church on Saturday, March 15, beginning with dinner from 5-6:30 p.m. at the United Methodist church with a free-will offering taken at the door. Harpist Sarah Walls will provide dinner entertainment. Mass will be at 7 p.m. at the historic St. Patrick Church.

Card party and salad bar
New Carlisle — St. Stanislaus Kostka will have a card party and salad bar Sunday, March 30, from 5-6:30 p.m. All proceeds will be placed at the Catholic Cemetery Office, 426-2044, by March 14 and we will pay for the confirmation dinner, dance and class trip on Saturday, March 15.

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www.mcelhaneyhartfuneralhome.com

REST IN PEACE

Elkhart
Ernest D. Smith, 88, St. Thomas the Apostle
Fort Wayne
Grace D. Doherty, 101, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
Bernard J. Kamp, 86, St. Jude
Irene Schall, 69, St. Vincent de Paul
Leslie A. Roberts, 60, St. Charles Borromeo
Kay J. Wisniewski, 61, St. Theresa
Joanne Briggsman, 80, St. Vincent de Paul
Granger
Russell Lowell, Schooler Jr., 83, St. Pius X
LaGrange
Virginia S. Humphreys, 66, St. Joseph

Mishawaka
Ann M. Merey, 91, St. Monica
Daniel Martin Jr., 78, St. Joseph
Roanoke
Benedict David Wiona, 86, St. Joseph
South Bend
Delphine Cooper, 82, St. John the Baptist
Robert A. Langwith, 84, St. Michael
Lucille E. Michalski, 86, St. Hedwig
Brian M. Johnson Jr., 16, Holy Family
Elizabeth Hoffer, 93, St. Anthony de Padua
Ollie E. Knudson, 88, St. Adalbert

Queen of Angels announces Royal Fest
Fort Wayne — Queen of Angels Parish will host Royal Fest Friday, April 18, from 5-9 p.m. and Saturday, April 19, from 6-11 p.m. Friday is family night with a carnival theme and Saturday features a casino night for adults. Silent and oral auctions both days. Festival permit number 112676.

St. Patrick dinner served
South Bend — a corned beef and cabbage dinner will be Saturday, March 15, from noon to 4 p.m. at St. Patrick School on S. Scott St. Live Irish music and dancers along with traditional corned beef with trimmings. Admission of $5 good towards food and beverage. For information call (574) 232 5839.

March 9, 2008
TODAY’S CATHOLIC
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On a surprise visit to Austria, Fox proposed to his longtime love, and that November the couple was engaged to be married. Returning to South Bend following her Austria studies, Kreager joined Fox at IUSB to complete her education and they set their wedding date for December of 2007.

"Life was filled with the excitement of wedding planning, marriage preparation, college studies and fun until the fall of 2007. On September 25, while Fox worked on his car, the fuel filter he was changing shifted and fuel sprayed everywhere. He was somewhere between his car and the house when the crash occurred. Fox was burned over 65 percent of his body, and as he awaited medical assistance, he told his parents Doug, who was burned as he assisted his son, and Jane Szlanfucht at his side, that he could not live without his family members, friends and a priest visited and prayed.

"It’s easier to see the value of life. It’s miraculous. People were changed by the accident. As Lauren says, “Suffering is for those who want it.” Whatever happened to Fox, Fox gently adds, “Whatever happens to Fox, whatever the outcome, is going to be okay.” Joel Fox and Francine Kreager anxiously prepare for their wedding day in June. Their December wedding was postponed due to an accident that burned Fox over 65 percent of his body.

Joel Fox and Francine Kreager anxiously prepare for their wedding day in June. Their December wedding was postponed due to an accident that burned Fox over 65 percent of his body. So many visited. There was a prayer and card drive. "I can’t wait to see him. I want results," says excitedly. The couple, who Father Scheid at his side, has the fullness of their wedding vows of “for better or worse” even before they spoke to Fox. The parents find an apartment near the hospital to return to in the days and weeks in a coma found Lauren was not in control. “God would take him or not, it’s his will. It’s easier to see the value of life. It’s miraculous. People were changed by the accident. It strengthened their faith. It’s easier to see the value of life. It’s miraculous. People were changed by the accident. It strengthened their faith.

"It’s easier to see the value of life. It’s miraculous. People were changed by the accident. It strengthened their faith." JOEL FOX

For more information on the history of the parish and the 2008 celebrations, visit the parish Web site at www.sospatrickhedwig.org.