

TODAY'S CATHOLIC



CNS PHOTO/CROSIERS

The risen Christ is portrayed in a window at St. Mary Cathedral in Killarney, Ireland. Easter, the feast of the Resurrection, is March 23 in the Latin rite this year.

Sainthood cause for Knights founder takes step forward

BY JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The sainthood cause of the founder of the Knights of Columbus has taken a major step forward.

On March 15 Pope Benedict XVI approved a decree of "heroic virtues" for Father Michael McGivney, a U.S. priest who, after establishing the Knights of Columbus, worked as a pastor until his death at age 38.

Father McGivney can be beatified if a miracle is attributed to his intercession. Canonization — a declaration of sainthood — requires an additional miracle.

Supporters of Father McGivney's cause are hoping he will be the first U.S.-born priest to be canonized.

Father McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus at St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Conn., in 1882. The fraternal order for Catholic men has become the largest lay

Catholic organization in the world with more than 1.7 million members, sponsoring a wide range of educational, charitable and religious activities.

In the United States, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson said, "The strength of the Knights of Columbus today is a testament to his timeless vision, his holiness and his ideals."

Last August, the Vatican secretary of state, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, spoke warmly of Father McGivney when he celebrated Mass at the opening of the Knights of Columbus' 125th annual national convention in Nashville.

The cardinal said at that time that he would take a personal interest in the sainthood cause.

The Archdiocese of Hartford formally opened Father McGivney's cause in December 1997. The archdiocesan phase of

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Easter Message

BY BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

In a beautiful reflection on Easter written many years ago, the priest, Joseph Ratzinger, who is now Pope Benedict XVI, recalls that in the Baroque period of the church the liturgy included something called the "risus paschalis," the Easter laughter. "The Easter homily had to contain a story which made people laugh, so that the church resounded with a joyful laughter. That may be a somewhat superficial form of Christian joy, but is there not something very beautiful and appropriate about laughter becoming a liturgical symbol and is it not a tonic when we still hear, in the play of cherub and ornament in baroque churches, that laughter which testified to the freedom of the redeemed?"

In his writings as a theologian and as a spiritual guide and in his encyclicals, Pope Benedict looks into the heart of a troubled and depressed world, including, painfully, some of the followers of Christ, and seeks the source of joy. He finds it in the freedom, which comes to those who contemplate the pierced side of Christ and accept the love which prompted the wounds — the love which makes us free.

Indeed the pope finds the very path we should follow in the freedom, which comes from contemplating the pierced side of Christ.

When Jesus speaks in his parables of the shepherd who goes after the lost sheep, of the woman who looks for the lost coin, of the father who goes to meet and embrace his prodigal son, these are no mere words: they constitute an explanation of his very being and activity. His death on the cross is the culmination of that turning of God against himself in which he gives himself in order to raise man up and save him. This is love in its most radical form. By contemplating the pierced side of Christ (cf. 19:37), we can understand the starting-point of this encyclical letter: "God is love" (1 Jn 4:8). It is there that this truth can be contemplated. It is from there that our definition of love must begin. In this contemplation the Christian discovers the path along which his life and love must move.

— "Deus Caritas Est," 12.

We cannot see into heaven. Faith tells us, however, that Jesus Christ, who is a man like us as well as the Son of God, is there and the wounds of love are present in him. They are a promise to us. In contemplating them and in contemplating the love, which made them possible, we are given the path of our life. It is a path of trust and love. Our sins have been forgiven, although we retain our freedom and must continually turn from them. Heaven has been won, but by one like us and at great cost. A promise has been given, "This day you will be with me in paradise." All that remains for us to experience the laughter that comes from being close to God is to accept it with our whole heart and root out, to the extent possible, in this life the fear and anxiety, the stubbornness and unbelief, which comes from sin and which yields to love. With the realization that this cleansing will only be perfect in heaven, let us embrace it more and more every day by accepting his love shown by the wounds, and believing in it and sharing it with others in return. We accept the invitation to walk with him through life — to do his will and to make him known.

A blessed Easter to you all.



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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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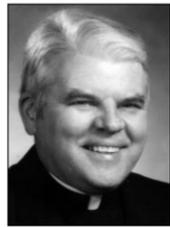
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Christ's wounds, which are with him in heaven, are his wounds of love for us



NEWS & NOTES

BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

The Easter season

Now it opens out before us, the most joyful season of the year. At daily Mass, we hear the resurrection accounts taken from the Gospels and also the Acts of the Apostles, which are sometimes referred to as the Acts of the Holy Spirit. Pope Benedict XVI, in his messages and in his writings as Joseph Ratzinger, a theologian, makes much of what he calls Christological Spirituality. He also tells us that we should look upon the pierced Christ, and this is where our spirituality and life begins. For these wounds, which are with him in heaven, are the wounds of love for us.

The various resurrection accounts show how Christ strengthened the apostles and through them the whole church, forever. The word of God, which Professor Cavadini recently told us priests, is only fully itself when it is proclaimed, brings Christ into our hearts. Remember, it was proclaimed before it was written. This is why attendance at the Eucharist is so critical. We are hearing the account of Jesus Christ, wounded and crucified and risen. Also in the sacrament of the Eucharist, we meet him and are transformed.

The newly baptized

What a blessing it is now that most people who become Catholics are received at Easter time. I think of all those receiving the sacrament of baptism throughout the diocese, and I will have the privilege of baptizing several at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. This is a great sign of the vitality of a parish when new people join at Easter. In addition, we have the candidates, those who are already baptized and who have received the sacrament of penance for the first time, and made their profession of faith. It is a blessed time.

As I write this, I am planning my 23rd Holy Week among you as your bishop — chrisma Mass on Monday in South Bend and Tuesday in Fort Wayne. The holy Eucharist at St. Matthew Cathedral on Holy Thursday night followed by assisting with confessions. Back late Thursday night to celebrate the Good Friday service at the cathedral in Fort Wayne, followed by helping with confessions. The vigil on Holy Saturday night at the cathedral in Fort Wayne. Sunday morning the television Mass and then Mass at the cathedral.

I give thanks to God that I have the health to do this. It is all a gift of which I am most unworthy.

A splendid day

I was off early on the first morning that gave the hint of springtime, bound for Huntington, which is a historic town in this diocese. It was there that Archbishop Noll, while a parish priest at St. Mary, began publication of *Our Sunday Visitor*. My mission was to visit the Victory Noll Sisters and celebrate their Founder's Day Mass. This is an extraordinary community and a great chapter in the history of our diocese. A Chicago priest, Father John Sigstein, who came to the priesthood a little later than usual in those times, was aware of the need for catechetical instruction, especially in the Southwest and among the Spanish speaking. So he founded the group, which is presently known as the Victory Noll Sisters. They were quite properly called missionary catechists. Many of them worked in the Southwest:

New Mexico, Texas and Arizona. They also have worked in Bolivia and Peru and other Latin American countries. They worked and still work in this diocese and also in the great Archdiocese of Chicago.

Many of them, as I have written before, had never met a sister. They learned about the congregation from Archbishop Noll explaining it in *Our Sunday Visitor*. They came from all over the country. At their peak, there were over 500 and their training took place at Victory Noll in Huntington.

My visit was shortly after their chapter and a new election. They are a vigorous community with extraordinary and devoted women. Like so many religious congregations, new members are all too rare. It was my privilege to visit the retired sisters and ask their prayers for our diocese and especially that more young men would come of good quality and would offer themselves for the priesthood among us and also to pray for their own congregation.

St. Patrick's Day at Notre Dame

Father Peter Rocca, CSC, had obtained proper permission to celebrate the memorial of St. Patrick on Thursday, March 13. So I drove from Huntington west through the rolling hillside of Route 5 and then Route 30 to the basilica. What a joy, an emotional moment for me, to celebrate this Mass. The Notre Dame Folk Choir sang under the direction of Steve Warner with the Irish drum and magnificent hymns. I could not celebrate such a Mass without thinking of my dear parents. I shared some quotes from the "Confessions of St. Patrick" concerning his life and his intense prayer while herding sheep as a slave boy on the mountains

of Ireland. The church was well filled with many students, and I tried to share with them that God called Patrick even though he had been taken as a slave to Ireland. He called him while in prayer on the lonely hillside tending sheep. Indeed that is almost always how he calls us to follow him when we really give our souls over to personal prayer. And here we were 1,600 years later talking about this saint, reading from his confessions and trying to learn from him. People who live in communion with Christ, leave something after them that will never be forgotten.

Also, a joy to see so many Notre Dame students lined up before Mass, praying and going to confession, in this case to Father Paul Doyle, CSC, assistant rector of the basilica.

A nice Italian supper

After Mass, a supper followed at the Papa Vino's Restaurant with our Liturgical Commission. It was strictly a social time.

The next day a Mass at St. Patrick Parish, South Bend, with Father Leonard Chrobot and Father John Klimczyk. In addition to the regular liturgy, it was my privilege, along with the two priests, to give the sacrament of the sick to a large group of parishioners.

Off then for a meeting at our beautiful new church of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Warsaw, Indiana. Warsaw is always halfway home.

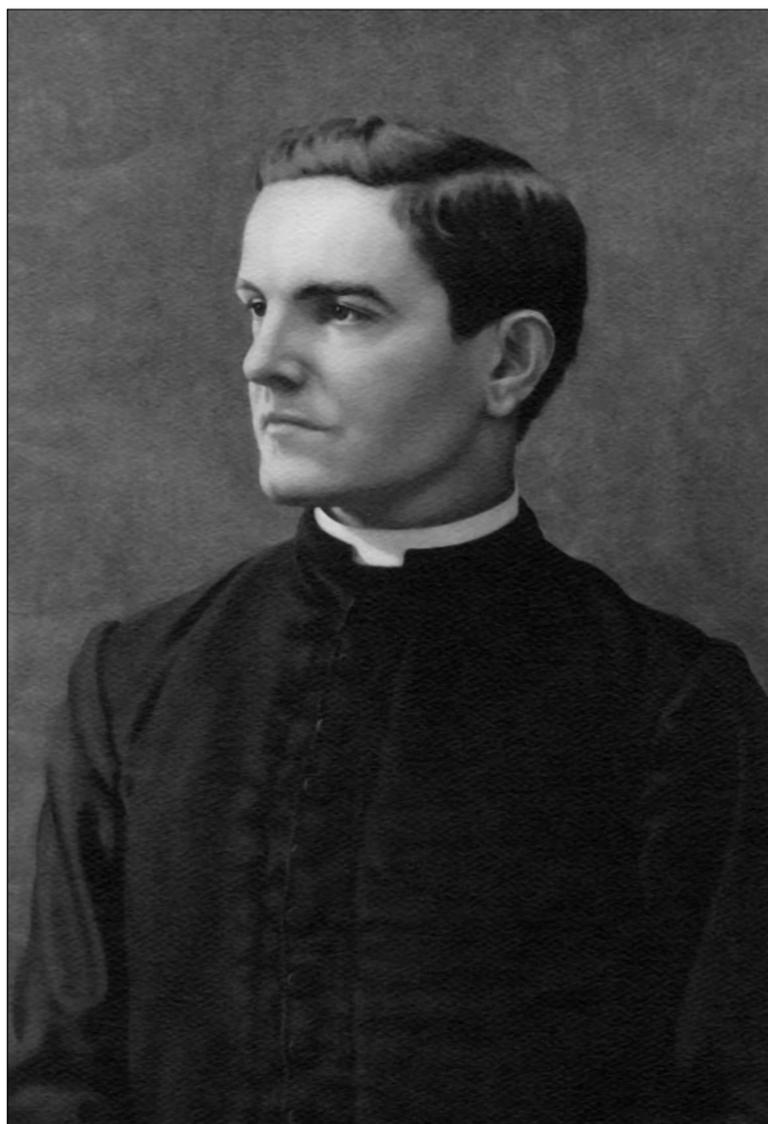
A coming event

On the Saturday after Easter, it will be my great joy to ordain to the sacred priesthood two members of the Congregation of Holy Cross: Steven A. Lacroix and Andrew M. Gawrych. An ordination is an extraordinary privilege for a bishop. I always try to prepare myself by prayer. I have a deep sense of unworthiness. These men most likely will be celebrating Mass, preaching and hearing confessions long after I am gone to God.

It also makes one think of Holy Cross. They have been here over 160 years, staffing our parishes, preaching and caring for souls. Yet they are an international missionary community, and this is a special year for them because of the beatification of their founder.

Why are the Red Sox going to Japan to start the baseball season?

Strange indeed. I have not been asked to accompany them. Just as well. See you all next week.



CNS PHOTO/COURTESY OF KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Father Michael J. McGivney, founder of the Knights of Columbus, is depicted in an image from the Knights. Father McGivney's cause for sainthood took a step forward March 15. With a decree approved by Pope Benedict XVI, Father McGivney was given the title "venerable." Father McGivney founded the fraternal order for Catholic men in 1882 in New Haven, Conn. It has since become the largest lay Catholic organization in the world with more than 1.7 millions members.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the investigation into the priest's life and holiness concluded in 2000; since then the Vatican Congregation for Saints' Causes has continued the investigation.

The congregation has examined an alleged miracle connected to Father McGivney, but no details have been released.

Father McGivney was born Aug. 12, 1852, the eldest of 13 children born to

Patrick and Mary Lynch McGivney in Waterbury, Conn. Emigrating from separate towns in Ireland's County Cavan, the couple met and married in the United States. Only seven of their children lived past childhood.

Young Michael attended school in Waterbury's working-class neighborhood, but left school at 13 to work in the spoon-making department of a brass factory.

At 16 he left the factory to begin seminary studies, traveling with his pastor to Quebec, where he registered at the French-run College of St. Hyacinthe. He also studied at Our Lady of Angels Seminary, attached to Niagara

University in Niagara Falls, N.Y., and at the Jesuit-run St. Mary's College in Montreal.

He went home to Waterbury when his father died in 1873 and stayed there for a time out of concern for his family and because he lacked funds. At the request of Hartford's bishop, he enrolled in St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, where he completed his priestly studies.

In 1877 he was ordained in Baltimore by Archbishop James Gibbons for the then-Diocese of Hartford. A few days after his ordination, he said his first Mass in the presence of his widowed mother at Immaculate Conception Church in Waterbury.

Father McGivney served as an assistant pastor at St. Mary's Parish in New Haven, 1877-1884. He founded the Knights of Columbus

with a small group of Catholic laymen, in order to strengthen religious faith and to help families overwhelmed by the illness or death of their breadwinner.

In 1884 he was named pastor of St. Thomas Church in Thomaston, a factory town about 10 miles from Waterbury. He fell ill during an influenza epidemic and died Aug. 14, 1890, probably from complications of pneumonia and tuberculosis.

He fell ill during an influenza epidemic and died Aug. 14, 1890.

Pope calls death of Iraqi archbishop 'act of inhuman violence'

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI called the kidnapping and death of an Iraqi archbishop "an act of inhuman violence that offends the dignity of the human being."

Chaldean Catholic Archbishop Paulos Faraj Rahho of Mosul, 65, was kidnapped Feb. 29 in an attack that left his driver and two bodyguards dead. The pope had made several public appeals for his release.

Catholic leaders in Iraq said March 13 that they had recovered the archbishop's body after the kidnappers told them where they had buried him.

Police were unclear if Archbishop Rahho had been killed. He had no bullet wounds, his body showed signs of decomposition and he appeared to have been dead a week, reported the British news agency Reuters.

Archbishop Rahho's funeral and burial were March 14 outside Mosul, a northern Iraqi city considered to be a stronghold of al-Qaida, according to The Associated Press. Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki blamed al-Qaida for the archbishop's death.

The Vatican announced March 14 that Pope Benedict would celebrate a memorial Mass for the archbishop March 17 in the Redemptoris Mater Chapel of the Apostolic Palace.

In a March 13 telegram to Cardinal Emmanuel-Karim Delly of Baghdad, patriarch of the Chaldean Catholic Church, Pope Benedict said that after being informed of "the tragic death" of the archbishop, whom he called a "zealous pastor," he wanted to let Chaldean Catholics and all Christians in Iraq know that he is close to them.

The pope also said he was praying that the Lord would show "his mercy so that this tragic event would serve to construct a future of peace in the martyred land of Iraq."

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, said Pope Benedict was informed immediately of the recovery of Archbishop Rahho's body.

"We all had continued to hope and pray for his liberation," Father Lombardi said.

"Unfortunately, the most absurd



CNS PHOTO/L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO VIA REUTERS

Chaldean Archbishop Paulos Faraj Rahho of Mosul, Iraq, left, is accompanied by Cardinal Emmanuel-Karim Delly of Baghdad as he greets Pope Benedict XVI at the Vatican in an undated photo released March 13. Archbishop Rahho, who was kidnapped last month, was found dead March 13.

and unjustified violence continues to weigh on the Iraqi people and particularly on the small Christian community, to whom the pope and all of us are particularly close in prayer and in solidarity at this moment of great pain."

Father Lombardi said the Vatican hoped "this tragic event" would lead to a greater commitment by all, particularly the international community, to work for peace in Iraq.

Chaldean Auxiliary Bishop Shlemon Warduni of Baghdad told the Italian Catholic agency SIR that the kidnappers had informed church leaders March 12 "that Archbishop Rahho was very ill," then a few hours later they phoned again to say he had died.

"This morning (March 13) they telephoned to tell us they had buried him," Bishop Warduni said.

The church sent several young men to an area just outside Mosul where the kidnappers had said the grave was located, and the body was recovered.

"We do not yet know if he died of causes tied to his precarious health or if he was killed," Bishop Warduni said, referring to the archbishop's heart condition, for which he needed medication daily. "The kidnappers told us only that he was dead."

Chaldean Bishop Rabban al Qas of Arbil told the agency

AsiaNews, "It is a heavy cross for our church ahead of Easter."

Archbishop Rahho was kidnapped after leading the Way of the Cross service at the Church of the Holy Spirit in Mosul. He was in his car with his driver and two bodyguards when the kidnappers attacked. The three people who were traveling with him were killed.

The kidnappers' demands reportedly included a \$1 million ransom.

While mediators were in contact with the kidnappers early on, police and military intelligence officers were unable to find them.

On March 4 al-Maliki ordered Iraqi forces to maximize their attempts at releasing the archbishop, but the commander of U.S. forces in northern Iraq said at the time that he was not confident the archbishop would be found alive.

Maj. Gen. Mark P. Hertling said March 5 that Archbishop Rahho "could easily be killed and that would be really unfortunate," reported Reuters.

As soon as the news of the archbishop's kidnapping reached the Vatican, Pope Benedict began appealing for prayers for his release and pleading for an end of the violence in Iraq.

So many Iraqis "continue to suffer from blind and absurd violence, which is certainly against God's will," the pope said in his March 9 appeal.

FEAST DAY BLESSING FOR HOLY CROSS BROTHERS



BROTHER CHARLES MCBRIDE, CSC

The Brothers of Holy Cross are blessed by those attending the Mass for the feast of St. Joseph held on Friday, March 14, at Sacred Heart Basilica, Notre Dame. Because the feast day falls in Holy Week this year, it was transferred. St. Joseph is the patron of the Brothers of Holy Cross, Notre Dame.

Vatican's official program for papal trip to U.S. shares more details

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Published just a month before Pope Benedict XVI's scheduled arrival in the United States, the Vatican's official program for the April 15-20 papal trip to Washington and New York was all that had been promised and a tiny bit more.

In addition to the previously announced meetings, Pope Benedict will hold a brief meeting April 16 with representatives of Catholic charitable foundations.

The papal itinerary, published March 17 by the Vatican, also includes a lunch April 16 and a dinner April 18 with the U.S. cardinals, the officers of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and members of the papal entourage.

In addition, the Vatican said the pope and his entourage would have a luncheon April 19 with Cardinal Edward M. Egan of New York and the New York auxiliary bishops at Cardinal Egan's residence.

The Vatican itinerary also contained some indications of how people who did not get tickets to either the April 17 Mass at Nationals Park in Washington or the April 20 Mass in New York's Yankee Stadium could see the pope.

In Washington April 16 the pope is planning to go by popemobile from the White House to the apostolic nunciature on Massachusetts Avenue. The same evening, he will switch from a car to the popemobile on his way from the nunciature to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

After meeting representatives of Catholic universities and diocesan education offices April 17 at The Catholic University of America, he will use the popemobile to cover the short distance to the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center.

In New York, the pope is scheduled to use the popemobile only once, April 19, to go from Cardinal Egan's residence to the residence of the Vatican's permanent observer to the United Nations.

Here is the program as published by the Vatican.

Tuesday, April 15 (Rome, Washington)

- Noon (6 a.m. EDT). Departure from Rome's Leonardo da Vinci Airport for Washington.
- 4 p.m. Arrival at Andrews Air Force Base. Private welcome by

President George W. Bush and Laura Bush.

- 4:14 p.m. Transfer by car to the apostolic nunciature in Washington.

Wednesday, April 16

- Morning Mass in private in the chapel of the nunciature (no time given).
- 10:10 a.m. Transfer by car to the White House.
- 10:30 a.m. Welcoming ceremony on the South Lawn of the White House. Speech by pope, followed by a courtesy visit with the president in the Oval Office.
- Noon. Transfer by popemobile to the nunciature.
- 1 p.m. Lunch with the U.S. cardinals, officers of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the papal entourage at the nunciature.
- 4:45 p.m. Greeting representatives of Catholic charitable foundations at the nunciature.

• 5 p.m. Transfer by car and then by popemobile to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

- 5:45 p.m. Celebration of vespers and meeting with the bishops of the United States in the basilica. Speech by pope.

- 7:30 p.m. Transfer by car to the nunciature.

Thursday, April 17

- 9 a.m. Transfer by car from the nunciature to Nationals Park.
- 10 a.m. Mass in Nationals Park. Homily by pope.
- 12:15 p.m. Transfer by car to the nunciature.
- 4:40 p.m. Transfer by car to The Catholic University of America.

• 5 p.m. Meeting with representatives of Catholic universities at The Catholic University of America. Speech by pope.

- 6:15 p.m. Transfer by popemobile to the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center.

• 6:30 p.m. Meeting with representatives of other religions in the rotunda of the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center.

- 7:30 p.m. Transfer by car to the nunciature.

Friday, April 18 (Washington, New York)

- Morning Mass in private in the chapel of the nunciature.
- 7:50 a.m. Farewell to those at the nunciature.

• 8 a.m. Transfer by car to Andrews Air Force Base.

- 8:45 a.m. Departure by air to New York.

• 9:45 a.m. Arrival at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport.

- 10 a.m. Transfer by helicopter

to Manhattan.

- 10:30 a.m. Arrival at the Wall Street heliport and transfer by car to the United Nations headquarters.

• 10:45 a.m. Visit to the United Nations. Speech by the pope to the U.N. General Assembly followed by greetings to the staff and personnel.

- 1:45 p.m. Transfer by car to the residence of the Vatican's permanent observer to the United Nations.

• 5:45 p.m. Transfer by car to St. Joseph's Church in New York.

• 6 p.m. Ecumenical meeting in St. Joseph's Church. Speech by pope.

- 7:15 p.m. Transfer by car to permanent observer's residence.

• 7:30 p.m. Dinner with the U.S. cardinals, the officers of the U.S. bishops' conference and members of the papal entourage.

Saturday, April 19

- 8:45 a.m. Transfer by car to St. Patrick's Cathedral.

• 9:15 a.m. Mass with priests, men and women religious in St. Patrick's Cathedral. Homily by pope.

- 11:30 a.m. Transfer on foot to the residence of the archbishop of New York.

• Noon. Lunch with Cardinal Edward M. Egan of New York, the auxiliary bishops of the archdiocese and the papal entourage.

- 1:15 p.m. Transfer by popemobile to the residence of the permanent observer.

• 4 p.m. Transfer by car to St. Joseph Seminary in Yonkers.

• 4:30 p.m. Meeting with young people and with seminarians at St. Joseph Seminary. Speech by pope.

- 6:30 p.m. Transfer by car to the permanent observer's residence.

Sunday, April 20 (New York, Rome)

- 9:10 a.m. Transfer by car to ground zero.

• 9:30 a.m. Visit to ground zero. Prayer by pope.

- 10 a.m. Transfer by car to the permanent observer's residence.

• 1:50 p.m. Transfer by car to Yankee Stadium.

- 2:30 p.m. Mass in Yankee Stadium. Homily by pope.

• 4:45 p.m. Transfer by car to the permanent observer's residence.

- 7 p.m. Transfer by car to the Wall Street heliport.

• 7:20 p.m. Arrival at the Wall Street heliport.

- 7:30 p.m. Transfer by helicopter to John F. Kennedy International Airport.

• 8 p.m. Arrival at airport for farewell ceremony. Speech by pope.

- 8:30 p.m. Depart for Rome.

'Recognize that there is a higher power, and you're not it'

At Notre Dame conference, brother-doctor advocates spirituality of healthcare

BY ANN CAREY

NOTRE DAME — Are health care professionals merely technicians who read test results and prescribe appropriate medications? Some physicians may conduct themselves that way, but it certainly isn't the ideal that Franciscan Brother and Doctor Daniel P. Sulmasy advocates.

"If we are to be true healers, then I think we have to rediscover what it means for healthcare to be a spiritual practice," he told an audience of health care professionals and students preparing for those professions.

Dr. Sulmasy is a medical doctor and has a doctorate in philosophy. He has written four books on bioethics and holds the Sisters of Charity Chair in Ethics at St. Vincent's Hospital-Manhattan. He

also is a professor of medicine and director of the Bioethics Institute of New York Medical College.

His March 14 lecture was the centerpiece of a weekend conference on medical ethics that has been convened annually at the University of Notre Dame since 1985. The conference was established by Notre Dame alumnus Dr.

Philip Clarke to enable health care professionals to discuss and analyze case studies that pose ethical dilemmas in various areas of clinical practice and is hosted by Notre Dame's Center for Ethics and Culture and the Notre Dame Alumni Association.

Dr. Sulmasy explained that spirituality is defined as the characteristics and qualities of one's relationship with transcendence. Most people call that transcendence "God," he said, while some have no name for it, and some people even reject the concept. But in the end, he continued, even an atheist has a spirituality because the atheist must search for meaning in his rejection of a transcendent source.

"If we are committed to healing our patients as whole persons" he said, "then I think we have to understand not only what disease and injury do to their bodies, but what disease and injury do to them as embodied spiritual persons grappling with transcendent questions."

Not much has been written about the spiritual lives of healers, and too few people in the health-care professions talk about this, Dr. Sulmasy noted. But, "If we are to heal our patients as whole persons, then we, ourselves must be

the kinds of individuals who seriously engage the transcendent questions," he said.

"The transcendent healing presence of the divine is not only to be found in those occasional, explicitly religious conversations some of us might have on rare occasions with a few patients, but in all those countless moments in the office or in the hospital in which we communicate meaning and value to our patients and truly relate to them as whole persons," he said.

A member of the audience, which included Notre Dame students, faculty, staff and guests, asked how sensitivity to this aspect of patient care can be taught to medical students. Dr. Sulmasy replied that part of the answer lies in family upbringing, but medical professionals also can learn in various ways, such as engaging in discussion groups like

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DOCTOR DANIEL P. SULMASY

the one at his hospital that frames the topic in the light of Catholic tradition.

A physician participating in the conference then asked how to pray for and with patients. Dr. Sulmasy said it can be done in a number of ways. One doctor he knows takes 10 seconds before he sees each patient to remind himself

that he is serving someone who is created by God and made in the image of God. He said he, himself, prays at the end of the day to remember the experience of where God was present during the day. Other doctors do journaling, he said, and for others the practice is spontaneous and becomes part of the rhythm of one's life.

Dr. Sulmasy also encouraged the professionals to be alert to the patient and his surroundings. The doctor might note a rosary or prayer book on the patient's table, he said, and then follow the lead of the patient in any discussion.

Another physician asked how doctors can avoid "drowning in a sea of human need." Dr. Sulmasy said doctors often fall into the trap of thinking that medicine is all about them and that they are capable of doing it all.

"Recognize that in the end, I'm not there alone," he said. In what he called "AA spirituality," Dr. Sulmasy said one has to "Recognize that there is a higher power, and you're not it."

He added that it's also important to recognize that the process is sometimes even more important than the outcome: A physician does what he can, and then lets God do the rest.

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Jesus' power was the power of love, pope says on Palm Sunday

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The power Jesus demonstrated was the power of love, which heals and reconciles, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"He did not come as one who destroys; he did not come with the revolutionary's sword. He came with the gift of healing," the pope said March 16 as he celebrated Mass on Palm Sunday in St. Peter's Square.

Along with the pope, more than 350 young people and more than 200 cardinals, bishops and priests processed through the square carrying palm and olive branches as they marked Jesus' entry into Jerusalem before his arrest, passion and death.

The young people chosen for the procession to represent their peers around the world were a special part of the liturgy, which also marked the diocesan celebration of World Youth Day.

Pope Benedict noted how the Gospel tells of the young people of Jerusalem waving palm branches and exclaiming "Hosanna" as Jesus entered the city.

Reciting the Angelus at the end of Mass, Pope Benedict told the young people he hoped to see thousands of them in Sydney, Australia, for the July 15-20 international World Youth Day celebration, and he prayed that it would be "a time of deep and lasting spiritual renewal."

The pope's homily at the Palm Sunday Mass focused on the Gospel story of Jesus throwing the animal sellers and the money-changers out of the Temple in Jerusalem.

The animals were sold for Temple sacrifices and people needed to change money to make donations to the Temple, he said, but "all of this could have taken place elsewhere," outside the Temple, which should have been a place of prayer.

The space occupied by the sellers and money-changers, the pope said, was supposed to be the



CNS PHOTO/MAURIZIO BRAMBATTI, REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI holds a woven palm frond while celebrating a Palm Sunday Mass in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican March 16. In his homily, the pope called on Catholics to examine whether worldly desires have weakened their faith.

atrium where the pagans, who could not enter the Temple, could still go "to associate themselves with the prayer to the one God."

"The God of Israel, the God of all people, was waiting for their prayers as well," he said.

Pope Benedict said the story should lead Catholics today to ask: "Is our faith pure and open enough" so that people who are searching for God will ask to join Catholics?

The story also calls on Christians to ask themselves if they are aware that "greed is idolatry" and if it is seen in their lives, the pope said.

"Do we perhaps let idols enter into our faith in various ways?"

Are we always open to letting the Lord purify us, allowing him to throw out of us and of the church all that is contrary to him?" he asked.

The pope said it is important to know that in the Gospel of St. Matthew the story of Jesus purifying the Temple is followed by stories of Jesus healing the sick.

In healing the sick, Jesus reaches out to those whose lives have been reduced by illness or infirmity and who often are pushed to the margins of society, the pope said.

"Jesus shows God as the one who loves and demonstrates his power as the power of love," he said.

ST. ADALBERT'S ANNUAL VIA CRUCIS



PROVIDED BY ST. ADALBERT CHURCH

Following the 1 p.m. Mass, St. Adalbert Parish hosted its annual Via Crucis. The procession traveled through streets on the west side of South Bend to the hill in LaSalle Park, which was used for the crucifixion. Approximately 400 people participated, along with police escort. With arrival in LaSalle Park, Jesus hangs between the two thieves.

Bishop anoints St. Patrick's, Serrans

SOUTH BEND — Parishioners of St. Patrick Church, along with members of the Serra Club of South Bend, had a special visit from Bishop John M. D'Arcy on Friday, March 14. The sacrament of anointing of the sick by Bishop John M. D'Arcy and Father Leonard Chrobot, pastor of St. Patrick and St. Hedwig Parishes was given during the 12:15 Mass.

Afterward, members of the Serra Club welcomed Father Paul McCarthy, Serra chaplain at an installation ceremony conducted by Serra president, Deacon Ron Moser, and district governor Dick Dornbos. — EJD

'Daffodil Days' blooms at Saint Mary's

NOTRE DAME — As the first blossom of spring, the daffodil is a sign of hope that the long winter is over. To the American Cancer Society the flower is symbol of hope that cancer may one day not be a life-threatening disease. Every year, the organization holds Daffodil Days, where bunches of the yellow buds are sold and proceeds benefit programs for cancer research, education and patient services.

On Tuesday, March 25, the Student Center lobby at Saint Mary's College will offer thousands of daffodils waiting for students, faculty, and staff pick them up between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

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Cardinal says pope to interact with as many New Yorkers as possible

NEW YORK (CNS) — Although security will be tight and tickets limited by the size of the venues that will host Pope Benedict XVI, careful arrangements have been made to allow him to interact with as many New Yorkers as possible during the visit, said Cardinal Edward M. Egan of New York. The cardinal made the comments in a recent hourlong interview with *Catholic New York*, the archdiocesan newspaper, at his residence. The pope will be in Washington April 15-17 and in New York April 18-20. One of those "close-up" opportunities with him will be at St. Patrick's Cathedral, where people will be on the steps awaiting his arrival April 19. Cardinal Egan, New York Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and cathedral rector Msgr. Robert T. Ritchie will greet the pontiff's car and walk with him up the steps to the main bronze doors, where he likely will turn to wave and offer a blessing to the crowds gathered on nearby streets before entering the cathedral.

Upcoming book links parishioners' politics with their priests' views

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A small study to be reported in an upcoming book on the political influence of parish priests found huge differences in the types of political messages being emphasized from one parish to another, which may come as no surprise to anyone. But whichever subjects their priests address, said author Gregory Smith, a fellow at the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, people clearly are being influenced in their political thinking by what they hear from the pulpit and read in their parish bulletins. Smith spoke March 14 to a group of editors of U.S. and Canadian Catholic publications and staff members of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops at USCCB headquarters in Washington. For his upcoming book, "Politics in the Parish: The Political Influence of Catholic Priests," Smith conducted detailed case studies at nine parishes in adjacent dioceses in Maryland, Virginia and Washington, and analyzed data from the Notre Dame Study of Parish Life, which was conducted in the mid-1980s. The book, published by Georgetown University Press, is set for an April 15 release.

West Bank procession participants desire freedom of worship, movement

BETHANY, West Bank (CNS) — The small Palm Sunday procession wound up the hill in this Palestinian village, making its way to where residents of Bethany once could cross the street into the Palestinian village of Bethpage. Boutros Abu Shanab, 54, a Christian from Jerusalem, was reading from the Gospel of Mark

NEWS BRIEFS

LATIN PATRIARCH WALKS IN PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION



CNS PHOTO/DEBBIE HILL

Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah of Jerusalem walks in the Palm Sunday procession on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem March 16. He said the Holy Land needs leaders who are ready to "offer their lives" for peace rather than those who "issue orders to kill."

in Arabic when the group reached the top of the hill and stood in front of the Israeli checkpoint at the gate of the Israeli separation barrier, or wall. The checkpoint is meant to allow Palestinians with permits through the wall. In practice, said local residents, no one is allowed through the gate. The Passionists' monastery is cut off from Bethany by the wall, but the Comboni Sisters' convent straddles the border and has an entrance in Bethany. A border policeman could be seen on the Passionists' property. "This is a procession of faith, and it will have a resolution of peace," said Abu Shanab.

Rabbi says Vatican official to issue statement on Good Friday prayer

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Jewish leaders have been assured that the Vatican secretary of state will issue a statement in March saying that the pope's revised prayer for Good Friday for the Tridentine rite is not a call for Catholics to try to convert Jews. Rabbi David Rosen, chairman of the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations, said March 13 the statement would "allow the vast majority of Jews involved in dialogues with Catholics to re-engage as before." Representatives of the Chief Rabbinate of Israel had been scheduled to be in Rome March 9-12 for their regularly scheduled dialogue with the Vatican. However, the rabbis asked for a clarification from the Vatican about the prayer and postponed

their trip. Pope Benedict XVI's revision of the Good Friday prayer applies only to the liturgy celebrated according to the 1962 Roman Missal, or Tridentine rite. The new prayer removed 1962 language referring to the "blindness" of the Jews, but it prays that Jews will recognize Jesus, the savior, and that "all Israel may be saved."

First Catholic church building in Qatar is sign of hope, says pastor

ROME (CNS) — The March 14 inauguration of the first Catholic church built in predominantly Muslim Qatar "is a sign of great hope for the church" in the region, said the new church's pastor. Capuchin Father Tomasito Veneracion, the new parish priest of Our Lady of the Rosary Church, told Aid to the Church in Need that the construction and opening of the new church was a "historic event." Aid to the Church in Need, a Catholic organization funding religious projects worldwide, including the construction of the church in Qatar, published the Philippine priest's remarks in a March 12 press release. For decades, Christians in Qatar had to practice their faith in cramped garages, private homes and, most recently, in foreign schools and prefabricated halls. In April 2003 the government of this tiny Persian Gulf nation overwhelmingly approved a new constitution that guaranteed freedom of expression, religion, assembly and association. That meant local mission parishes went from being underground, but tolerated, to legally recognized.

Chiara Lubich, founder of Focolare movement, dies

ROME (CNS) — Chiara Lubich, the 88-year-old founder and perpetually smiling symbol of the Focolare movement, died early March 14 after what Pope Benedict XVI said was "a long and fruitful life" marked by her love for Jesus. Lubich died in her room near the Focolare headquarters in Rocca di Papa, south of Rome. In a telegram, Pope Benedict offered his condolences to her family, members of the Focolare movement and all those "who appreciated her constant commitment for communion in the church, for ecumenical dialogue and for brotherhood among all peoples." The pope also expressed his thanks to God "for the witness of her life spent in listening to the needs of contemporary people in full fidelity to the church and to the pope." Pope Benedict asked that all those who admired "the marvels that God worked through her" would follow in her footsteps, keeping her vision alive.

Pope's next encyclical to cover globalization, digital divide

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI's upcoming encyclical is titled "Charity in Truth" and covers a wide range of issues related to globalization and social justice, said an Italian report. The text is still under revision and has yet to be translated, according to church sources. A leading Vatican official said he doesn't expect the encyclical to be

published before summer. The Italian news agency ANSA reported March 12 that the encyclical, whose Latin title is "Caritas in Veritate," is divided into four chapters. The lengthy text begins with a reflection on the 1967 encyclical, "Populorum Progressio" ("The Progress of Peoples"), and the social changes that have occurred since then, it said. Among the topics examined by the pope are the relationship of economic and social development with human dignity, and the gap between the rich and poor, it said. It said the text touches on issues of war and peace, international cooperation and economic globalization, environmental and energy issues, the "digital divide" and disarmament.

Vatican statement on baptisms not meant to cause panic, priest says

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A week after the Vatican announced that baptisms are invalid if they were not administered with the words "in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," the pastor at Christ the King Parish in Haddonfield, N.J., said he had not been inundated with questions from his parishioners. "Not too many people know about it," Father Joe Wallace told Catholic News Service March 7. But he was sure that as word spread about the Feb. 29 statement from the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, not only would Catholics have questions, but so would people from other faiths. Father Wallace, who is also director of ecumenical and interreligious affairs for the Diocese of Camden, N.J., said the Vatican statement is hardly promoting a new idea and he also said it was not meant to cause panic among those who wonder if their baptisms were performed with the right words. Instead, he said the Vatican statement was meant to clarify what the church has always believed and ensure that future baptisms use language that is clear and "unambiguously Trinitarian" revealing the three persons of the Trinity.

Knights of Malta elect Englishman as new grand master

ROME (CNS) — In a secret and swift election, the Knights of Malta elected an Englishman as their 79th grand master. Matthew Festing, who had been the Knights' grand prior of England, was chosen March 11 to replace Andrew W.N. Bertie, who died in February. Festing, 59, will head the world's oldest chivalric order, founded in the 11th century. He is only the second Englishman to hold the post of grand master; Bertie was the first. The organization was established to care for pilgrims during the Crusades. It lives on today as a lay Catholic religious order and a worldwide humanitarian network. Festing, an expert in art and history, joined the Knights in 1977 and is a descendent of Blessed Adrian Fortescue, a Knight of Malta who was martyred in the 16th century.

Edith Stein Project to be hosted March 28-29

SOUTH BEND — Radical feminist jargon has dominated much of the dialogue surrounding societal treatment of women in the 21st century. Feminist movements often accuse men of purposely sabotaging women from achieving their full potential. A reexamination of cultural attitudes and perceptions regarding the female person is necessary to concurrently promote the dignity of every human being and emphasize the unique and differential natures of men and women.

The Third Annual Edith Stein Project, to be hosted at the University of Notre Dame on March 28-29 is a conference for students, women and men to participate in the task of building a coherent philosophical foundation for a "new feminism."

Edith Stein, the patron saint of the conference, was a German philosopher who died a martyr within the gas chambers of Auschwitz. Her philosophical writings address the distinct role women play in society, the undeniable, nurturing female character and the vocation to motherhood.

The conference utilizes the riches of the Catholic tradition to obtain a deeper understanding of the male and female person, while living in a world scarred and tainted by many attitudes of violence, rejection of innocent forms of life, and the defacement of the human person.

Guest speakers include author Dawn Eden discussing sexual objectification in society and the importance of living chastely, Dr. Phil Mango uncovering the link between psychology and gender, and Dr. Grove's explanation of the science behind the Vatican's conception of sexuality in a presentation entitled "Sex in the Vatican City."

For information, visit the Web site www.nd.edu/~idnd/edithstein.

St. Jude School, South Bend, takes new approach to spring fundraiser

SOUTH BEND — St. Jude Catholic School has decided to take a new approach in its annual spring fundraiser to be held on the evening of Saturday, March 29, from 6-11:30 p.m. The St. Jude Home and School Association (HASA) will hold its first-ever Spring Celebration, an event that encompasses, dinner, comedy, music and a silent auction.

The headline performance will include the comedy of Craig Tornquist, a local comedian who has appeared on the "Tonight Show." Music will be provided by some of St. Jude's own talent. "Our church musician Brian Garland will perform during the meal," says school principal Steve Donndelinger. "Most people agree that he is one of the most talented pianists in this area. His improvisations and accompaniments are

AROUND THE DIOCESE

ST. JOSEPH-ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON SCHOOL TRAVELS BACK IN TIME FOR PIONEER DAYS



PROVIDED BY ST. JOSEPH-ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON SCHOOL

The fourth graders of St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School traveled back in time to Indiana's Pioneer Days on March 12. Stephanie Boss's and Brittany Jones's fourth graders were dressed in period dress, and tried out activities that children would have experienced in Pioneer times. Pioneer Day started with a visit to a one-room school house that dates back to the late 1800s. The students visited pioneer craft stations from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. They tried their hands at making talking sticks, wampum necklaces, and tin punch lanterns. They also stenciled, cross-stitched, dipped candles and played indoor pioneer games. The students, teachers and parent volunteers ended the day with some old-fashioned square dancing in the St. Elizabeth Seton gym, from about 12:30 to 2 p.m.

both inventive and expressive."

Donndelinger's jazz combo is scheduled to perform later that evening. The group, led by local trumpet artist Pat Heiden, will include piano, drums, horns, sax and possibly a vocalist. Donndelinger will play trombone with the group.

High ticket items are scheduled to be auctioned, raffled and given away. Top auction pieces will include high ticket items such as a flat screen TV, an embroidering machine and a microwave oven. A raffle will be conducted for the winner to receive tuition credit in the amount of \$400, courtesy of St. Jude HASA.

"We have a little bit of everything," says April Adamson, auction coordinator, "Almost all the south side restaurants have contributed gift certificates or meal vouchers. We have retail stores, pet stores, grocery stores, book stores, auto services, athletic apparel, athletic camps for children, fitness memberships, golf packages, beauty services, and so many other wonderful products and services for people to bid on. Some people will walk away very pleased with what they have paid for some very nice prizes."

The auction will even include a

family meal prepared and served by St. Jude pastor Father John Delaney. "I don't know a person who hasn't enjoyed one of Father John's meals," adds Donndelinger. "For him cooking is not just a hobby, it's an art."

Any member of the community is invited to participate in this event, but they should move quickly. Only 250 tickets will be sold. These may be purchased for the price of \$20 a piece. Ticket purchases can be arranged by calling the school at (574) 291-3820.

Intercessory prayer talk scheduled at Holy Cross College

SOUTH BEND — For those who would like to deepen their interior life, a talk on the charism of intercession will be given March 28 at Holy College in South Bend by Sister Mary Christina and Sister Therese Marie of the Intercessors of the Lamb Community located in Omaha, Neb.

The Intercessors of the Lamb are a mixed community of laity, consecrated brothers, sisters and priests who have been called to the discipleship by the Holy Spirit and formed in the Heart of Mary.

Their purpose is to continue the redemptive mission of the Lamb of God through his powerful "burden-bearing" ministry of intercession.

Companion Prayer Groups have formed in over 46 states in the U.S., including some in the South Bend area, and have spread throughout the globe.

The talk, from 7:30-9:30 p.m., will be given at the Driscoll Hall Auditorium at Holy Cross College.

For parking, please use the entrance of Holy Cross College (on Indiana SR 933) and park in the commuter lot before the gatehouse. Follow the main entrance sidewalk to the Driscoll Hall Auditorium.

For information, contact Dave Torma at (574) 291-3381 or djtfisherofmen@msn.com.

University of Saint Francis to perform musical 'Pump Boys and Dinettes' March 28 to 30

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis will perform the musical revue "Pump Boys and Dinettes" on March 28-29 at 8 p.m. and March 30 at 2 p.m. in the

North Campus auditorium (2702 Spring Street). Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$8. Doors will open 30 minutes before show time for general seating.

Originally performed and written by John Foley, Mark Hardwick, Debra Monk, Cass Morgan, John Schimmel and Jim Wann, Pump Boys takes place at a diner and gas station somewhere along Highway 57 between Frog Level and Smyrna. The show features music that is fast paced, rock and roll, and country and blues with just a touch of Jimmy Buffet.

After each performance, one audience member will receive a grand prize of a photograph with the entire cast. According to director Brad Beauchamp, "The cast will take you along for a fast paced, rip roarin' good time."

For more information, please call (260) 399-7700 ext. 8001. The School of Creative Arts (SOCA) is an accredited school by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD).

Queen of Peace begins third phase of development plan

MISHAWAKA — Physical and spiritual development is enhanced for the students at Queen of Peace School in phase three of their five phase development plan. Awaiting the spring thaw is a new playground, the groundbreaking ceremony of "Our Lady's Garden" and a new computer lab showcasing the latest technology.

A welcomed addition to the school's landscape will be a custom-designed play structure by Playworld. A multi-dimensional system designed specifically for the children of the parish and school ages 3 -12 that features slides, swings and rockblock walls.

The Queen of Peace Gardens or "Our Lady's Garden" is a collaboration of both school and parish. The design includes a naturalistic display of flowers and vegetables in a walk-through setting. The Rosary Walk, the outside perimeter, will be lined with perennials and vegetable beds. In the center of the gardens will be a dwarf apple tree, reminiscent of the Garden of Eden, and a well, reminiscent of baptism. There will be 10 stops along the Rosary Walk and seating areas throughout. A wildflower meadow, children's garden and a grotto featuring a statue of the Blessed Mary will also be featured.

The Queen of Peace students will soon use a new computer lab that has been coming to completion since the reconfiguration began over the summer of 2007. New wiring, countertops and now new equipment with the purchase of 25 530S Dell Inspiron computers have been added. The lab also features a 1:1 student to computer ratio for all.

Major property tax relief plan offers mixed blessing

INDIANAPOLIS — Hoosier lawmakers reached a property tax relief agreement March 14, which delivers a mixed blessing of property tax relief to homeowners, help for seniors, and tax credits for lower income families, but opponents question the plan's impact on local governments and schools.

While property tax and immigration reform were among the top priorities of the Indiana Catholic Conference, the ICC followed these issues with an eye on how the proposals might hurt lower income or immigrant families and children, and how these reforms would affect the common good of all Hoosier families.

The property tax relief plan contained in the conference committee report on HB 1001 received bipartisan support and passed the House 82-7, and the Senate 41-6.

Rep. Jeff Espich (R-Uniondale) one of the chief negotiators of the proposal called the bill "a solution to one of the toughest issues we've ever dealt with in the General Assembly." Espich said the bill gives tax relief and tools for local communities to deal with the tax caps. Espich called the plan "tax-

payer friendly" and "community friendly." House Minority Leader Brian Bosma (R-Indianapolis) called the plan, "The strongest property tax relief measure in two generations."

Rep. Russell Stillwell (D-Boonville) summed-up the proposal this way, "There is pain and there is gain for Hoosiers across the state," then asked, "Is there more pain or more gain?" Rep. David Orentlicher (D-Indianapolis) raised concerns about the impact to his local school district which would be losing money due to lower enrollments. Rep. Vernon Smith (D-Gary) praised many aspects of the proposal but said, "It lacks equity." And said he has a "great concern" for the \$10 million cut to the Gary schools. Rep. Dennis Avery (D-Evansville) said the plan was "not fair" and he would be voting "no."

Rep. William Crawford (D-Indianapolis), chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee and also chief negotiator of the plan outlined the many pluses of the bill, and said, "We don't have perfection, but we do have property tax reform."

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE



BRIGID CURTIS AYER

The three provisions the ICC supported to help low income families included; increasing the state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC); increasing the renter's deduction, and helping the elderly on fixed incomes, were added to the final property tax relief plan.

Rep. John Day (D-Indianapolis), a long time advocate for raising the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), said, "The beauty of the EITC is it rewards working people." Day said, "President Reagan called the Earned Income Tax Credit the best, antipoverty, pro-family program he'd ever seen, and I agree."

The state EITC will increase from the current 6 percent to 9 percent.

Seniors on fixed, lower incomes also benefit. Homeowners age 65 or older with an income of \$30,000 for an individual or \$40,000 for a couple with a home at an assessed value of \$160,000 or less will have a more stringent property tax cap. In addition to the 1 percent cap on their home's assessed value their property taxes would not increase more than 2 percent per year.

Glenn Tebbe, Indiana Catholic Conference executive director, who serves as official spokesman on public policy matters for the Indiana bishops, said, "In the areas of property taxes relief and immigration reform, we tried to accomplish a 'do no harm' policy. We wanted to make sure lower income families were not forgotten in the equation of providing property tax relief to homeowners and that some of their needs would be addressed," said Tebbe. "On immigration reform, we did not want the state to enact an immigration policy which would harm those of the immigrant community, legal or illegal."

The property tax relief plan contained in the conference committee report of HB 1001 has been sent to the governor, who is expected to sign the bill into law.

Major components of property tax relief plan

The bill gives homeowners an average cut in property taxes of close to 30 percent this year. It includes caps on property taxes at 1.5 percent of a home's assessed valuation in 2009, and in 2010 and beyond, it caps property tax at 1 percent of a home's assessed valuation. It eliminates many of the state's township assessors, calls for public referendums on capital spending projects, and places controls on local government spending. It adds \$120 million to help schools offset the property tax caps. The plan increases the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) from 6 to 9 percent for lower to moderate income families, and makes the EITC permanent. It increases the renter's deduction from the current \$2,500 to \$3,000, and places additional caps for senior citizen homeowners on fixed incomes.

To provide property tax relief, the bill increases the state sales tax from 6 to 7 percent effective on April 1. Local Option Income Taxes (LOIT) are expected to be

increased to make up for the shortfall caused by the property tax caps. The plan shifts costs of child welfare, juvenile incarceration, health care for the indigent; police and fire pensions, and some school costs from local governments to the state.

Immigration reform: Bill to punish those who hire undocumented fails

A proposal to penalize employers who knowingly hire undocumented immigrants failed when a compromise between House and Senate versions of the proposal could not be reconciled.

Some of the concerns of the bill included the possibility of racial profiling; the detrimental effects on Indiana's economy, and harm to immigrant families and children both legal and illegal.

During the 2008 session of the Indiana General Assembly, the Indiana Catholic Conference testified in opposition to the proposal.

Glenn Tebbe, ICC executive director said, "The Catholic Church does not support illegal immigration, and respects the right of nations to control its borders." However Tebbe explained to lawmakers that the church is concerned about the effects the proposal would have on employers, immigrant families and children.

"Putting hundreds of people out of work will only add to the social concerns in the community," said Tebbe. "Presently those working are caring for their family needs and contributing to the common good." Tebbe noted that similar laws enacted in Arizona and Oklahoma are having "detrimental effects" on the economy and on the families of immigrants both legal and illegal.

In addition to the ICC, members of the Hispanic community, the Indiana Chamber of Commerce and the Indiana Manufacturers Association opposed the bill.

The bill would have punished businesses that knowingly hire undocumented workers by suspending their business license or revoking it after three violations.

The immigration reform proposal died when two of the conferees, Sen. Thomas K. Weatherwax (R-Logansport) and Rep. Scott Pelath (D-Michigan City), failed to sign off on the final conference committee agreement.

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Local relationship story offers food for the soul

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — “We spent the entire evening absorbed in each others’ company, oblivious to those around us. We held hands and talked. ... Then Joe got on his knees and ...” If you want to know the rest of this heartwarming story you’ll have to pick up the latest edition of “Chicken Soup for the Soul,” and read the final narrative.

The issue titled “Love Stories — Stories of First Dates, Soul Mates, and Everlasting Love” offers 270 pages of charming romance stories, but none as sweet as the

account written by St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Fort Wayne, parishioner Sandy Bishop.

Bishop was born in Anderson, third of seven children. She recalls her close-knit family spending time together doing “simple things” like picnics and playing games. Though her career path led her to nursing, she has always had an interest in drawing and

writing, including the creation of a cartoon booklet with magazine cut-outs for each month of the year. Her mother says she has a “wild imagination.”

Fast forward to the late ‘70s when Bishop was a shy nursing student at Purdue University and her roommate convinced her to join a square dancing class. As God’s providence would have it, her future husband Joe, an engineering student there, was a beginning square dancer in the class as well. When he asked her to dance she recalls, “I felt comfortable dancing with him.”

As Joe walked her home, Bishop realized he was an “old

fashioned” man and accepted his offer to attend a Valentine’s Day dance. “We didn’t dance much,” she recalls. “We spent the night talking and got to know each other.”

Though she enjoyed his company as they began to spend time

together having picnics, attending plays and square dancing with the group, she had reservations about dating a non-Catholic. Joe came

from a deeply faithful Baptist family.

After a year of dating, Joe proposed marriage, but Bishop needed more time to discern the religious differences between them. Joe began to attend Mass regularly with Bishop and told her how appealing the family values held by the Catholic Church were to him.

By June of 1978 the young couple was married in the church and began their new life after graduation, in Fort Wayne. Eventually, Joe opened an engineering business, and Bishop worked as a nurse.

St. Therese became their church home where they both became involved in the choir there.

“Joe loves to sing,” says Bishop with a smile. “It was like family there.” The Bishop family grew to include two daughters and two sons, who were raised in the Catholic Church.

After 10 years there, the growing family moved to the southwest area of the city and joined St. Elizabeth Parish and has been involved there for 23 years.

Nursing kept Bishop busy until her first son was born, when she chose to become a stay-at-home mom. During that time she and her husband weathered joys and trials together.

“There’s been a lot of growth.



KAY COZAD

Sandy Bishop of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Fort Wayne holds “Chicken Soup for the Soul: Love Stories” of which she is a contributor.

Our prayer life grew stronger as we went through different trials,” she says. “It’s neat to pray together as a couple, to reach out in a moment of crisis.”

And Bishop continued to write. She took a writing course last spring and joined a writer’s group at a local bookstore, where she says, “I had an insane desire to write. I sit and get totally lost

in the story. It’s intriguing.”

It was there that she was encouraged to send her love story in to “Chicken Soup for the Soul.”

Because of her deep and loving relationship with her husband of 30 years, Bishop says, “I didn’t send it in to have it published. I just wanted someone to read it and have hope for their relationship.”

She adds humbly, “I sent it with a prayer, so the idea would get out to enjoy spending time with your spouse.”

Following a rigorous editing and judging process, Bishop received confirmation that her story had been chosen for publication via e-mail.

“It felt strange,” she says. When a copy of the book arrived in the mail, Bishop says, “When I opened it, a flood hit me. I started crying. It was joyful and strange ... to see it in print ... I’ve never experienced this feeling before.”

To celebrate the publication of her story the couple enjoyed a romantic dinner at the same restaurant the love story took place many years ago.

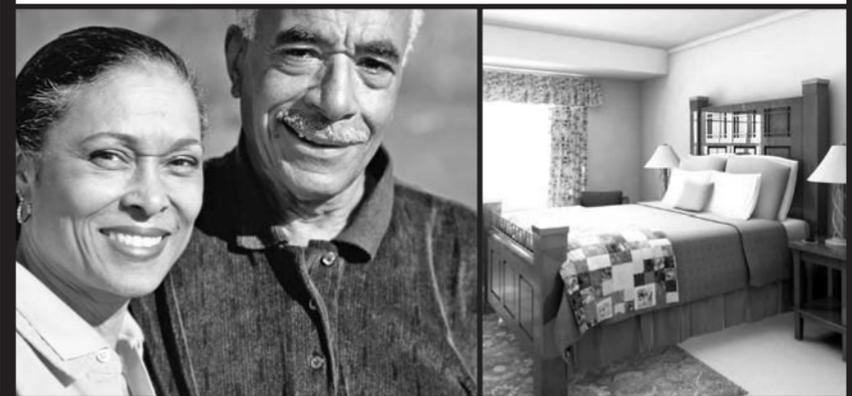
Bishop’s advice to married couples, “Respect is big. Allow each other to be human and work as a team. Let each other be who you are and appreciate that.” Good advice from a newly published writer and faith-filled wife.

“It’s neat to pray together as a couple, to reach out in a moment of crisis.”

SANDY BISHOP



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An Amazing Year



Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center

Dear Neighbor,

In 2007, Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center strived to truly live through our mission – to heal body, mind and spirit, improve the health of our communities and steward the resources entrusted to us.

At Saint Joseph, we structure everything around our PEGS – People, Excellence, Growth and Stewardship. The following recap of 2007 uses this structure.

In addition, read four of what we like to call, "Mission Moments." Everyday, we witness inspiring patients with unbelievable stories, and are continually reminded of how fortunate we are for the opportunity to serve our community. As important as all the events, initiatives and awards of the last year are, our greatest achievement will always be providing you with an excellent patient care experience and standing by our mission.

We hope that the New Year brings many joys and blessings to you and your loved ones. Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center will continue to be here. For 2008. For Life.

Nancy R. Hellyer, CEO & President
Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center



People The husband of one of our long-term patients died unexpectedly while she was hospitalized with us. The patient told us that she wanted nothing more than to go to her husband's funeral. We collaborated with her physician for permission and an ambulance company to provide round-trip transportation. Then our Associates started to pitch in.

One went shopping to bring the patient clothes to wear, and another did her hair. Still another Associate volunteered to use her day off to accompany our patient to the funeral. In the end, our patient was able to be at the funeral and the lunch following the service for a total of four hours. She returned to the hospital glowing in the support she received from family and friends at the funeral and forever grateful to the staff who made it possible.

SJRMC honors and thanks the EMS community during National Emergency Medical Services Week.

Business group from Japan visits and tours SJRMC for healthcare study.

First EMS Conference sponsored by SJRMC a success and scheduled to be an annual event.

SJRMC receives 731 hits from the local media outlets, including newspaper, television and radio stories.

New Dress Code successfully implemented, enabling patients, visitors and our staff to more easily distinguish the different roles of our Associates.



Reunion Halloween Party held for graduates of SJRMC's Neo-natal Intensive Care Unit and their families.

River Park Family Medicine physicians Dr. John Powell and Dr. Brian Moloney celebrate 25 years of practicing together with an open house.

SJRMC Plymouth Campus receives the President's Award for their float in the Marshall County Blueberry Parade.



More than 300 physicians and guests attend the 2007 Medical Staff Recognition and Holiday Celebration, during which SJRMC honored physicians for years of medical service.



Dr. Juan Garcia receives SJRMC's first Brother Basil Moreau Award for his service to the community and commitment to healing.



Excellence I shared the elevator with a man who has been with us for 3 weeks on the Inpatient Rehabilitation Unit. I asked him how he was doing, and he said "Wonderful," because of the great people who cared for him on Rehab. He singled out one of our Associates who had inspired him. He talked about the rest of the staff and said they must really love what they do, because it shows. We walked all the way to the front lobby together, with him pushing his wheelchair. He said his entire experience in our hospital was life altering for him. He wants to stay in touch and come back to visit - and he might even dance a two-step with the staff when he returns.



Organization continues to prepare and train for Genesis, the information technology initiative that will go live on April 25, 2008 and transform the way SJRMC delivers care.

SJRMC receives national recognition and is awarded the Department of Health and Human Services Medal of Honor for Organ Donation.

As part of the Michiana Safety Coalition, SJRMC standardizes patient wristbands to increase patient safety.



SJRMC named one of the nation's top performance improvements leader hospitals by Thomson Healthcare.

Journey to Nursing Magnet Status continues, as SJRMC strives to be a center for excellence in nursing.

Part of Magnet, a Nursing Practice Council is established to make decisions related to evidence-based nursing practice, standards and procedures.

HealthGrades recognizes SJRMC in the Top 5% in the nation for Spine Surgery in 2008.

Using the code STEMI, SJRMC maintains door-to-balloon angioplasty times for heart attack patients that are significantly better than the national average.

HealthGrades identifies SJRMC as the only hospital in the South Bend region ranked in the Top 5% in the nation for Joint Replacement and Orthopedic Surgery for the fifth year in a row (2004-2008).

SJRMC Plymouth Campus works with neighboring rural hospitals to implement a new patient transfer system to increase patient safety and physician efficiency.

Saint Joseph VNA Home Care honored by the Indiana Quality Improvement Organization with the Home Health Quality Improvement Awards of Merit and Quality Achievement Award.

River Park Family Medicine nominated Favorite Physician Office by Michiana residents.

SJRMC sponsors a Neonatal Nursing conference with surrounding healthcare professionals at the University of Notre Dame.

SJRMC enhances safety procedures in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) by completely eliminating the element of human error in regards to administering the drug heparin to babies in the NICU.

The Keystone ICU Project and the hard work of our nursing staff leads to increased excellence in patient care.





Center 2007 Year In Review

For more information and to watch the progress of your new facility via a live web cam, go to www.mynewhospital.org.

Your New Hospital

On schedule and on budget to open in Fall 2009!

The \$355 million facility offers 254 large private inpatient rooms and a full range of healthcare services. Here, find the latest technology and a personalized approach to patient care, all conveniently located near the intersection of Main and Douglas streets in Mishawaka.



In 2007, we hope you watched your new facility rise, from the ground up to the completion of the steel structure.

In October, hundreds of SJRMC Associates, Physicians and construction workers had the opportunity to sign their names on the final steel beam that was placed on top of the new facility. A Topping Out ceremony was held with our Associates, Physicians, partners in construction and members of the community.

Currently, the steel skeleton is being encased, which will be followed by interior work, staff orientation and preparations for the big move!

Supporting Our Community

At Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center, we work everyday to have a direct and positive impact on our community.

As a nonprofit, mission-driven healthcare system, SJRMC budgets millions of dollars each year to address specific community health needs. Our Community Benefit Ministry includes health services, medical education, operation of our clinics, subsidized care, health fairs, community building activities and research.

In 2007, we supported the following organizations and initiatives in the Michiana area. We are proud to be a trusted partner for life and to provide more than just quality healthcare to those we serve.

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| Adult Day Services – Plymouth | Holy Cross College | Real Services |
| Aids Ministries & Aids Assist | Hope Rescue Mission | Reins of Life |
| Ancilla College | Center for Hospice & Palliative Care, Inc. | RiverBend Cancer Services – Jazz on the Terrace |
| Alzheimer's Services of Northern Indiana | Indiana University South Bend | Robinson Community Learning Center |
| American Cancer Society | Indiana University School of Medicine Junior League | Ryan's Place |
| American Red Cross | La Casa de Amistad | Saint Mary's College |
| BABE Luncheon | Life Treatment Center | Silver Mile – Penn Harris Madison School Corporation |
| Big Brothers & Big Sisters | Logan | South Bend Symphony |
| Boys and Girls Club | Madison Center – Salmon Chase | South Bend Community School Corporation |
| Casie Center | Make A Difference Michiana | St. Margaret's House |
| Catholic Charities | March of Dimes of St. Joseph & Marshall County | St. Joseph County Right to Life |
| Center for Peace and Nonviolence | Marian High School | Saint Joseph's High School |
| Center for the Homeless | Martin Luther King Celebration | St. Joseph County Metronet |
| Chiara Home | Minority Health Coalition | St. Vincent DePaul |
| Christ Child Society | Montessori Academy – Center for the Homeless Fall Frolic | Suicide Prevention Council |
| Christmas in April - Plymouth & South Bend | National Kidney Foundation | Summerfest |
| Clay High School Canned Food Drive | National MS Society | United Health Services |
| Community Foundation of St. Joseph County | Northern Indiana Center for History | United Religious Community |
| Corizon y Manos Latino Festival | Northern Indiana Food Bank | United Way of St. Joseph & Marshall County |
| Culver Kiwanis | Northeast Neighborhood Redevelopment Organization | University of Notre Dame Alumni Association |
| Domestic Violence Coalition – Plymouth | O'Hana's House | University of Notre Dame |
| Family & Children's Center | Project Future | Urban League |
| Family Justice Center | Plymouth Fire Department | Women's Care Center |
| Forever Learning Institute | Plymouth High School | YMCA of Michiana |
| Hannah's House | Ray Works Foundation | YWCA |

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Growth One of our patients was in the hospital with wide spread cancer – at his side was his girlfriend, always devoted to his care and comfort. Our patient mentioned to an Associate that his one regret was that he would never be able to marry his girlfriend before he died. After hearing this, our Associates immediately went into action. The City Clerk's office was contacted and they graciously agreed to waive the 3-day waiting period that typically occurs after applying for a marriage license, due to the condition of the groom. Associates found flowers and make a bouquet, one Associate volunteered to sing The Lord's Prayer, a cake was ordered and a Chaplain was found to perform the service. Although tired and weak, the groom and his bride had the most amazing smiles on their faces as they were officially married. Four days later, our patient passed away, with his family and his wife by his side.



Stewardship In February of 2007, the Mission in Motion committee unveiled the Power of One program, which has touched thousands of lives. Through the generosity of our Associates, more than 17,000 items of basic necessity, from soap and shampoo to gloves and socks, were collected and distributed to those in need in our community. The reaction was overwhelming. One woman burst into tears when an Associate handed out a free toothbrush and toothpaste. She told us she ran out four days ago and couldn't afford to buy more right now. A 12-year-old girl was elated to receive hair ribbons. A mother cried and thanked God when she was given shampoo for her children. This program was so successful that it will continue on in 2008, and indefinitely, at SJRMC.



Saint Joseph Lung Cancer Center debuts to offer patients a more integrated, multi-disciplinary approach to battling cancer.



Facility for the SJRMC at Elm Road in Mishawaka nears completion and is scheduled to open in February 2008.

Saint Joseph Wound Healing Center opens satellite location in South Bend.

Riley Hospital for Children at Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center

Relationship grows between Riley Hospital for Children and Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center.

The Saint Joseph Pediatric Specialty Clinics introduces the Pediatric Neurology Clinic to its range of services, enabling patients and families to receive advanced care locally.



SJRMC partners with WUBS 89.7 FM to produce a series of radio shows to target the African-American community.

Sleep Lab moves from Bourbon to the Plymouth Campus and doubles capacity.

SJRMC Call Center, (866) 757-6248, sees a dramatic increase in usage.

Saint Joseph Physician Network welcomes the addition of a new occupational health physician, new pediatrician and two new family practitioners.

SJRMC Medical Staff Portal launches to give physicians easy access to the online resources they need, all in one location.

Saint Joseph sponsors SportsFest at Bethel College and staffs the medical tent.

Wireless Internet access become available at SJRMC for patients, visitors and business partners.

Our Lady of Peace Hospital celebrates its 7th year of providing specialty long-term acute care.

Ostomy Support Group debuts in Plymouth to offer patients resources and knowledge.

Saint Joseph VNA Home Care opens office in Marshall County to increase convenience and access for patients and home care providers.

Discussions continue with the Northeast Neighborhood Redevelopment Organization to develop plans for our move to the Edison Lakes Campus in Mishawaka and the approximate 30 acres that constitute the South Bend Campus.

SJRMC announces a new partnership with the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, the recognized clinical leader in rehabilitation patient care nationwide.

Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago
SAINT JOSEPH Regional Medical Center



Annual House Raffle raises \$224,000 for the Healthy Family Center and Women's Care Center.

898 free cervical cancer screenings completed during the annual Pap-A-Thon.

The Secret Sisters Society Lunch & Style Show raises \$121,000 for free mammograms for underserved women in our community.

During the Building Our Future campaign, SJRMC Associates and Physicians surpass a fundraising goal of \$1 million for the new hospital!



SJRMC sponsors nearly 30 health screening and information booths at the 2007 Michiana Women's Show at the University of Notre Dame.

SJRMC creates Community information DVDs, about the In God's Arms Program and our mission.

A week of events and health fairs highlight Cover the Uninsured Week.

First full year of In God's Arms program is a success, as SJRMC held four memorial services for families who experienced miscarriages less than 20 weeks gestation, regardless of their religious beliefs or association with SJRMC.

Health fairs, free screenings, fundraisers and food drives for our communities – too many to list!

SJRMC Associates make, deliver and serve hot meals to the Hope Rescue Mission.

Give Kids A Smile Day at Sister Maura Brannick Health Center helps local children receive dental care at no cost.

More than 100 families receive Thanksgiving dinners thanks to donations from SJRMC Associates and Physicians.

More than 100 of our local families and patients were able to celebrate Christmas thanks to SJRMC Associates who adopted a family or individual.





Above, Roman soldiers march to arrest Jesus Christ. Below, Roman soldiers watch over Jesus as he carries his cross during a re-enactment of the Passion of Christ. St. Joseph Catholic Church, in the background, is hosting this traditional dramatization.



Passion re-enactment set for Good Friday

LaGRANGE — Over 50 members of the Hispanic Catholic communities from LaGrange and Steuben counties will present a re-enactment of the Passion of Jesus Christ, a custom also referred to as “The Living Way of the Cross.” The re-enactment will be held on Good Friday, March 21, starting at 11 a.m., rain or shine, on the grounds of St. Joseph Catholic Church in LaGrange, located at the corner of U.S. 20 and CR 100 E.

The event is free to all. People of all faiths are invited and encouraged to attend this amazing dramatization of the Passion.

This is the third year in a row

for the Living Way of the Cross to be presented at St. Joseph Church, featuring a large cast portraying the events of the Passion, beginning with Jesus’ arrest and following through to the crucifixion. Dramatizations of the Passion of Christ have been a longstanding tradition in Latin America and the Philippines.

Parking is very limited at the church itself, as some areas of the parking lot will be occupied by the dramatization. Those attending are encouraged to carpool or park a short distance away at Parkside Elementary parking lot, just to the west of the church.

Finding faith again in the holy season

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — The Lenten season arrived earlier than usual this year but continues to offer the traditional 40 days of opportunities for deepening the commitment to living the Catholic faith. That journey takes the faithful through an examination of heart, almsgiving and fasting, and it has never been sweeter for one Fort Wayne woman.

Claire, whose name has been changed to ensure privacy, returned to the church during Lent last year after being away for many years, thanks to the efforts of her neighboring church, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, who participated in the Wells of Hope program.

This program was offered to all parishes in the diocese to facilitate during the Lenten season of the 150th anniversary jubilee year as a way of reaching out to fallen-away Catholics. It is an original program created by the diocesan Office of Spiritual Development and Evangelization and trains couples from each parish to make calls to persons identified by loved ones as fallen-away, with an invitation to investigate and renew their faith.

Ginny Kohrman, director of the Office of Spiritual Development and co-author of the program reports that 42 parishes attended the training in the fall of 2006 and have ministered to many Catholics seeking communion with the church. The process, she says, is ongoing and focuses on relationship.

Considering the myriad of reasons for leaving the church, Claire’s story is not uncommon.

Born the oldest of six children to parents who were faithful to their Catholic faith, Claire, like her siblings attended Catholic elementary and high school, and recalls enjoying regular Mass attendance while growing up.

She feels she had exceptional religious education training during her school years but says after entering a Catholic college, she found her Mass attendance faltering as she pursued the demanding academic and social opportunities available.

“As college went on I became less and less involved,” she says. However, following graduation, she moved to Houston and became involved in the church there after being encouraged by

new Catholic friends.

Two and a half years later when her father became ill, Claire moved back to the area, but did not return to church. Life continued routinely for the next few years as she pursued the new work and social life she was creating back in Fort Wayne.

She met her husband, Tom, a non-practicing Methodist, and after dating for some time, they became engaged. The couple participated in marriage preparation classes and was married in the Catholic Church. “I wanted to be married in the church because it made our marriage valid for the church,” says Claire, adding that she and Tom did not participate in church activities after they were married.

A family member eventually inspired Claire to begin attending special services, such as on Ash Wednesday, and she invited Tom to attend as well. As her desire to revisit her Catholic roots deepened, she received a call from a Wells of Hope program couple, who invited her to join them at an informational meeting the church was offering to those interested in returning to their faith.

The Wells of Hope couple, trained with a team of four others and armed with a workbook and informational pamphlets, made cold calls to the 10 of 40 names given to the parish for outreach. Claire was one of a few who responded positively. The program, the couple says, is proactive as it reaches out to the community. “We planted seeds and in a year or two maybe faith will blossom. For Claire, she took the first step, and we extended our hand to help her across the bridge,” they said.

The couple attended the four scheduled meetings, all during Lent, where they learned more about the faith. Tom was supportive of Claire’s decision to return to the church.

Agreeing that Tom would need background on the Mass, the attending priest, Father Dave Ruppert, now pastor at St. Therese Parish, Fort Wayne, designed a booklet with Mass prayers. He also offered the couple an instructional Mass to assist Tom with his understanding of the service.

“The interesting thing that’s happened in the course of this,” says Tom “is I can say that I’ve come to see the personal value in this. I am returning to a sense of spirit in my life ... separate from supporting Claire.”

The couple has found that returning to the church and living a Christian lifestyle, in both intention and action, has affected their lives “in a big way.” Attending Mass on a regular basis was difficult at first, but now has become a welcomed weekly routine.

“I truly enjoy it now,” says Claire, with Tom adding, “Going to church is not separate from life — it has to mesh with life.” The couple reports that they are taking their 4-year-old niece with them in hopes of assisting in her faith formation as well.

Claire has enjoyed receiving the sacraments, including the Eucharist, the anointing of the sick and reconciliation and says, “They make me think more about being a better person, in a more regular way.”

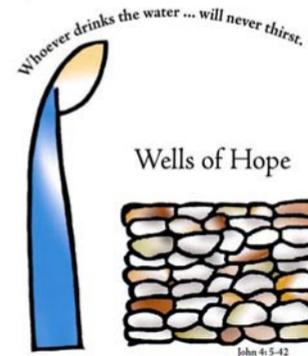
Last year Claire was diagnosed with a health abnormality that required invasive surgery. She says her renewed faith provided the foundation of hope she needed to survive the ordeal. “When things like illness happen, I feel now like things will work out okay,” she says.

When asked what advice she would give anyone who might be interested in renewing their faith, Claire says, “Church has always been a comfort to me. Consider giving it a try to give you the comfort I’ve felt.”

And Tom adds, “It’s an individual decision. But consider it to rediscover the benefits that association with church can personally provide you. If you support a loved one — it also benefits you in ways you never considered.”

The couple has attended many church-related events since returning, including the newcomers breakfast, fish fries, Natural Family Planning classes, Stations of the Cross and more. They continue to become more involved in their church community.

After a year of faith investigation, Tom says he’s pleased Claire returned to the church. “It was a very important part of life that she was missing. It’s made us talk more about our marriage and things to work on.” And with a peaceful smile, Claire adds, “I’m very glad I came back. I feel better because I’m making the effort and I know God wants that.”



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For more information about the Wells of Hope Program contact Ginny Kohrman in Fort Wayne at (260) 422-4611 and Sister Mary Brooks, CSC, in South Bend at (574) 234-0687 or contact your local parish.

Divine Mercy inspiration brings healing, strong faith

BY DIANE FREEBY

SOUTH BEND — When Connie Besario, a wife and mother of two young children, was diagnosed with stage-two breast cancer in May of 2006, she didn't have to search for a special way to pray. Her lifelong devotion to the Divine Mercy was more than enough.

"It is that radiance that attracts me," says Connie, referring to the streams of light that pour forth from the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the now well-known Divine Mercy painting. "I feel like it's penetrating my heart. I feel the radiance coming from his heart, penetrating my heart. I always have peace when I come to Him."

Connie grew up in the Philippines, where people traditionally stop whatever they are doing at 3 p.m. in the afternoon, the hour of Divine Mercy, to pray the chaplet.

After Connie received the devastating cancer diagnosis, she wept.

"I cried, then I stopped," she remembers. "I knew the Lord would take care of me."

Connie underwent surgery, and continued her work as a physical therapist in between rounds of chemotherapy and radiation treatments. She frequently felt sick, but was sustained by her faith and her family. She was determined to stay strong for her girls, Jennie and Maria. Connie's husband, Jerry, was her rock.

"He was very good. I feel like the queen of the house," says Connie, who works full-time while Jerry takes care of the home front. "He fixed me healthy food and cared for the children."

Connie says during that time, she was thankful to God for every

day she was given. Dealing with cancer was tough, but she says she always knew just where to turn.

"Sometimes I feel down," explains Connie, "but every time I just come to him and I'm revived. It's the same with the Blessed Sacrament. I am just called to go there."

That's just what Connie did, and often. Throughout her recovery from the surgery, and during the following weeks and months of treatment,

Connie frequently went before the Lord. She took advantage of the nearly-perpetual adoration at the Corpus Christi Parish chapel, and could often be seen kneeling before the image of the Divine Mercy after receiving holy Communion at Mass.

"Every time I look at the cross, I feel his love endures forever. He is so merciful."

Connie faced more difficulty when she lost her job almost a year after being diagnosed with cancer. She struggled with the emotional and practical realities.

"I cried, 'Lord, my health and now my job. What is happening to me?'"

While Connie's dismissal came without warning, just before her patients were to present her with an "Employee of the Month" award, she resisted the urge to fight back legally and instead chose to move forward. Connie considered the sacrifice and accepted that cross.

"I did not run away from the Lord," says Connie. "I look at what he suffered on the cross, and my problems are much less."

Meantime, Connie was praying about how she would tell her girls their mother had breast cancer.

Jenny, then a third-grader at Corpus Christi School, and Maria, a preschooler, knew about the surgery and following treatments. They just didn't know it was for cancer.

The girls eventually did find out when they overheard a conversation between Connie and another woman involved in raising money

for cancer research. As Connie wondered how her girls would react, the youngest quickly put it into perspective.

"Jesus already healed mommy," Maria proudly told the

woman, "and mommy is going to have beautiful hair just like me!"

Connie's prayers were answered in her young daughter's faith. Her prayers for employment were also answered, as she found a new job a month later.

Her older daughter, Jennie, is currently working on a book for the Young Authors Conference. It is entitled, "A Mother That Survived Breast Cancer," and dedicated "to my dear mother, and to God, who healed my mother."

Connie is quick to count her many blessings. She appears strong and healthy as she prepares to head off to work, giving all credit to a God who is merciful.

"If you come to him, he will take care of you," she insists. "Only he can give you the peace and strength. I encourage people to always ask for his mercy and grace."

**"If you come to him,
he will take care of you."**

CONNIE BESARIO



DIANE FREEBY

Connie Besario stands by the image of the Divine Mercy at Corpus Christi. Divine Mercy Sunday is Sunday, March 30. A novena begins at many parishes on Good Friday.

Easter to Pentecost:

Resources for enrichment

BY DR. DAN MCNAMARA

With Easter Sunday the church year moves on into a new season. If you have not been able to devote the time and attention you wanted to the season of Lent, perhaps you will welcome this new opportunity to do so during the 50 days between Easter Sunday and Pentecost. Things are a bit different here. We are asked to change our perspective now but to continue to move forward. Change yet continuity; a mirror of both life in general and of individual lives as well. The resources that follow may be of help to you as we move into this new liturgical season.

Hans Christoffersen, "These Fifty Days Of Easter." Liguori Publications. This small booklet may help you better understand how the church itself shares in Christ's messianic mission and "paschal mystery." Maybe think about all this in this way: In Lent the focus was on the role of Christ himself. In the Easter-Pentecost season, however, the focus is shift-

ed (maybe better, expanded) to the role of his church. If you're looking for a starting point for understanding why Christ's church becomes the new focus, this booklet will help. 24 pages, \$1. (www.liguori.org)

Raymond E. Brown, "A Risen Christ in Eastertime: Essays On The Gospel Narratives Of The Resurrection," and **"A Once And Coming Spirit At Pentecost: Essays On The Liturgical Readings Between Easter And Pentecost."** The Liturgical Press. A lot of readers are looking for resources that will help them to better understand the biblical readings they will be hearing at Mass during this season. The first of these two books seeks to shed some light on the question of how each Gospel's treatment of Christ's Resurrection fits into the total plan of that individual Gospel. Basically, these will be the Gospel readings we will hear in the first two weeks of the Easter-Pentecost season. Father Brown's second book focuses on the Book of Acts and John's Gospel, which will be proclaimed on weekdays and Sundays throughout the rest of this

new season. Brown emphasizes that each day's first reading (from Acts) recounts the external life of the Christian community after the Spirit has come whereas that same day's Gospel reading (John) speaks about the internal life of the individual Christian and the promise of a Spirit yet-to-come. 95 pages, \$7. www.litpress.com

Gwen Costello, "Mystagogia Is For Everyone: Daily Gospel Reflections And Prayers For The 50 Days Of Easter." TwentyThird Publications. Mystagogia is a Greek term used to refer to the period of instruction for new Christians which extends from Easter to Pentecost. This book focuses on a part of each day's Gospel reading in a way that moves us towards a single point for reflection for that day. If you have found this approach rewarding during Lent, Costello's book will help you continue your journey. If this approach will be new for you, this will be a good place for you to start. The "one-page-per-day" format is inviting even for the busiest of us. 54 pages \$5. www.twentythirdpublications.com

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EDITORIAL

A traditional Easter blessing

Easter is the solemnity of solemnities, the greatest feast on the liturgical calendar. The paschal celebration peaked during the Easter Vigil, and now we bask in the glory of the resurrected Lord for the 50-day season of Easter, which culminates in the celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.

The Easter celebration is permeated by a sense of newness of the new life begun by Christ in the Resurrection: nature has been renewed with the season of spring beginning on March 20 in the northern hemisphere; fire and water have been renewed at the Easter Vigil; Christian hearts have been renewed through the sacrament of reconciliation and, for those entering the church, through the sacraments of initiation. Even the traditional coloring and hiding of Easter eggs serve as a symbol of finding new life.

Here's an interesting bit of trivia concerning the early arrival of Easter: This year is the earliest Easter any of us ever will see. Only those age 95 or above have seen Easter this early. And none of us ever will see it a day earlier. The next time Easter will fall on March 23 will be the year 2228 — 220 years from now. The last time it was this early was 1913. The next time it will be a day earlier will be 2285 — 277 years from now. The last time it was on March 22 was 1818. So, no one alive today ever will see Easter any earlier than this year.

Blessing of the home

In some Christian communities, it is customary for families to hold a traditional blessing of eggs along with a blessing of the family table and Easter foods, and the home on Easter Sunday. According to "Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers," the blessing of the home that follows can take place during the Easter season.

All who live in the house should be present, perhaps along with relatives, friends and neighbors. The leader may be a parish minister, the head of the household or other family member who blesses the festive meal with Easter water brought from the Easter Vigil or holy water.

After all make the sign of the cross, the leader begins: "God fills our hearts and homes with peace. Blessed be the name of the Lord." All respond: "Now and for ever."

The leader may use these or similar words to introduce the blessing: "Christ, risen from the dead, is our hope, joy and comfort. May all who enter this home find Christ's light and love."

Then a Scripture passage from the family's Bible is read, such as Luke 24:28-32 or John 20:19-21. The leader concludes: "The Gospel of the Lord." All respond: "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."

Intercessions may be recited while going from room to room or around the outside of the house sprinkling with holy water. A separate prayer may be said at the front door, such as:

"O God, make the door of this house wide enough to receive all who need human love and fellowship, narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride and strife. Make its threshold smooth enough to be no stumbling-block to children, or to straying feet, but rugged and strong enough to turn back the tempter's power. God, make the door of this house the gateway to your eternal kingdom. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen."

The procession and intercessions can conclude with the Lord's Prayer. Then the leader speaks the prayer of blessing:

"Lord, we rejoice in the victory of your Son over death: by rising from the tomb to new life he gives us new hope and promise. Bless all the members of this household and surround them with your protection, that they may find comfort and peace in Jesus Christ, the paschal Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen."

All make the sign of the cross as the leader says: "May Christ Jesus dwell with us, keep us from all harm, and make us one in mind and heart, now and for ever. Amen."

The blessing can conclude with a song, such as "Christ, the Lord, is Risen Today," or other "Alleluia" hymn tune. Absent from the liturgy throughout the Lenten season, the "Alleluia" returns as the Easter season's shout of victory over death. This prayer word has its source in the Hebrew "Hallelujah," meaning, "Praise Yahweh."

Annual traditions such as the blessing of the home afford a precious occasion to recollect God's constant presence among Christian families. Also, it is an opportunity to invite the family to live according to the Gospel, and to exhort parents and children to preserve and promote the mystery of being a domestic church.

Today's Catholic editorial board consists of Bishop John M. D'Arcy, Ann Carey, Don Clemmer, Father Mark Gurtner, Father Michael Heintz, Tim Johnson and Vince LaBarbera.

COMMENTARY

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 11169 • Fort Wayne, IN • 46856-1169 or e-mail to: editor@fw.diocesefwsb.org

TV programs bombard children with adult themes

Generally I don't watch sitcoms. However, from time to time, I tune in to a sitcom while a commercial is on the station I am watching. I was appalled at the content of these programs which were on during what I thought was "family viewing time".

The themes of "New Adventures of Old Christine" (8:30 p.m.) and "Two and a Half Men" (7:30 and 9 p.m.) and "Family Guy" (9 p.m.)

were centered around sex. "Two and a Half Men" has a young man of 12 or 13 years (in the household) whose uncle is completely amoral; his days seemingly spent trying to coerce ladies into his bed without any "strings" attached. The "activities" of his uncle supposedly go "way over the head" of this innocent young man?

A new reality show "Moment of Truth," 8 p.m., asks adult questions about sex, married infidelity, and other items of such a personal nature thereby exposing the person's innermost shortcomings. The person earns money if he or she tells the truth no matter what the consequences may be to the mar-

riage or family relations.

Children are probably watching these programs during these hours. Is it any wonder why our children are exploring their sexuality at such a young age. There are surely less controversial topics to explore on these programs. Children are being bombarded with images and thoughts way too mature for them to handle. Parents please watch what your children are watching. It may surprise you. A PG-13 rating on some of these programs assumes that parents are checking content. Are you?

M. A. Byanski
Fort Wayne

We have a choice

A friend of mine in Chad, Africa recently wrote, "A column of rebels, coming from the Darfur area 500 miles away, reached N'Djamena Saturday morning, Feb. 2. First we heard them coming, then we saw them in the streets of the capital city." These words refer, of course, to rebels who attacked Chad's capital, accusing President Idriss Deby of corruption and embezzlement.

That letter also contained news of Youssouf, a young man I'd met in Chad when I was missioned there. Youssouf had thought at one time about becoming a Comboni Missionary. He even entered the formation house to begin seminary studies but discovered that God was calling him somewhere else, and he eventually moved from Moissala to N'Djamena. My friend met him on Jan. 31 as he was bicycling home for lunch. They greeted each other, exchanged a couple of jokes, and after a good laugh, went their ways.

Later the same day the soldiers marched into the city, my friend answered a knock at his door to find Youssouf's two brothers who handed him a note announcing that Youssouf had been killed earlier in the day. A burst of gunfire from a fleeing car broke off his young life.

Just like that, he was gone. The rebels killed and wounded at will and were the cause of thousands being displaced. Can there be any reason to justify this? I don't think so. War is never a solution to any kind of problem. A young life broken off is never a solution to a problem. Never will a burst of gunfire build peace, trust and welfare. Never, never, never...

I believe that talking to each other is the way to smooth our differences, to understand each other and to build a world where the last word said is not death but life, life for everybody and life in abundance.



COMBONI MISSIONS

FATHER PETER CIUCIULLA

Look at our own daily experiences. How many conflicts we face everyday within our own families, with friends, with coworkers. Conflict is natural, that's true. It's part of our daily lives as individuals, as communities, as countries. What makes the difference between war and peaceful resolution is not the absence of conflict, but the way we handle it.

Case in point: I remember a friend of mine who was the director of the Christian community in Koyo, a village of Moissala parish in Chad. He was having difficulty deciding how to handle a betrayal by his best friend. The Christian community called me and asked me to talk to him because everyone was suffering with this man in his struggle.

When I went to see him, I followed the custom in Chad of meeting him in the presence of the whole community. I listened with compassion because he was suffering deeply from another person's evil actions towards him. It was painful for me to watch him struggle and try to sort out whether he should take revenge on his friend or not.

My words to him were of understanding. I shared my feelings with him, but at the same time, I called him to freedom, the freedom that only forgiveness can give. While we spoke, other voices came from the group, urging my friend to take revenge on his enemy.

We met several times, me encouraging him to go the way of peace and freedom for himself through forgiveness, others encouraging revenge through violence. It's the same thing that happens to all of us, almost on a

daily basis — in our families, at school, in the workplace, even in church communities. We all go through this internal struggle, and it's not easy.

Resolving a problem without revenge, without retaliation, brings peace both to us and to those who cause our struggle. We help to preserve life rather than snuff it out as in the case of young Youssouf. I speak, not just of physical life, but also of mental, emotional, social and developmental life. We can kill a whole person or a part of a person when we attack.

Let's try to keep a clear vision of my friend in Chad who, though he knew he could fight, maybe even kill the one who betrayed him, chose not to. And as a result, to this day he is free to look at his best friend and to tell him, "I forgive you for the evil you did to me."

If only all those who decide to settle conflict with war could go pay a visit to my friend in Koyo...

Happy Easter!

Father Peter Ciuciulla, M.C.C.J., is mission director of the North American Province of the Comboni Missionaries, a worldwide religious institute founded by St. Daniel Comboni to carry the Gospel to "the world's poorest and most abandoned people."

U.S. ambassador expects pope's April visit to be thought-provoking

ROME (CNS) — The new U.S. ambassador to the Vatican said she expects Pope Benedict XVI's upcoming visit to the United States to be a thought-provoking event for Catholics, non-Catholics and international representatives.

Americans who listen carefully will discover in the pope a "world-class intellectual who can speak in terms that are simple and clear and readily accessible," Mary Ann Glendon said in an interview with Catholic News Service March 14.

The pope can be expected to touch on some particular social issues, but his deeper message will be about conscience-forming and the values that underpin life in the church and in society, she said.

Glendon spoke in her office at the U.S. Embassy to the Holy See, which overlooks the imperial ruins of the Palatine Hill and an ancient Roman racetrack.

The ambassador took up her post in late February and hit the ground running. In addition to helping plan for the papal visit, she is already preparing a series of four major human rights conferences and considering an embassy-sponsored program to help fund

and train Catholic health care workers.

Right now, the pope's April 15-20 visit to Washington and New York looms as the biggest event on the embassy's radar.

Glendon said the pope is going to the United States primarily as a pastor who "wants to speak to the deepest concerns of his flock." She noted that the United States has one of the world's largest Catholic populations — a fact that's often overlooked.

She said the wide variety of events along the papal itinerary, from a meeting with Catholic educators in Washington to a stop at ground zero in Manhattan, will allow him to "share in the joys and sorrows, grief and anxieties" of the faithful.

But the pope has always reached out to people of other faiths and people of no faith, so his visit will no doubt have a resonance that goes beyond the Catholic Church, she said.

Glendon, a Harvard University professor for many years, said she's been amazed at the pope's smooth transition from scholar to universal pastor. On a wide range

THE VATICAN LETTER

JOHN THAVIS

of faith and values issues, he is able to tailor his remarks to different audiences and make a connection, she said.

"Let me be quite clear. I think the kinds of things he says require close attention," she said.

"He does not dumb down, and I think that's his particular gift, that he is able to communicate very profound and complex ideas in accessible language," she said.

Those who make the effort and listen carefully while he's in the United States will be rewarded, she added.

Glendon will be at the White House April 16 when President George W. Bush meets the pope

LETTER, PAGE 16

Jesus triumphs over death



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Easter Sunday Jn 20:1-9

Rejoicing and exclaiming its great faith and hope for humanity, the church today celebrates Easter, the feast of the Resurrection of the Lord.

The church's first celebration of the Lord's victory over earthly death occur in the marvelous liturgy of Holy Saturday, the Easter Vigil, when most parishes receive new members into the church. In this vigil liturgy, the symbols of fire, light and water magnificently reveal the mystery and the promise of the Resurrection.

The readings cited here are read in the Mass on Easter itself. The first reading is from the Acts of the Apostles. (Indeed readings from Acts will occur again and again during the Easter season.)

Acts is very interesting, giving us insight into the life of the first Christians. Gathered in Jerusalem, around the apostles, with Mary among them, they lived in charity, prayer and faith. Their lives are examples to us. Their reverence for the apostles, and obvious submission to the apostles, teach us even as we live in the structure of the church today.

Readings from Acts also tell us that we are not separated from the miracle of Jesus in the world. The

apostles link us with the Lord. Led by Peter, they preached in the name of Christ. They cured the sick in the Lord's name. They guided the people toward God, just as Jesus had guided people toward God.

Today's reading recalls Peter's preaching. (Notice that Peter speaks for all the apostles.)

Scholars call this sermon "kerygmatic," from the Greek word for message, kerygma. This reading, and the others, is crisp but profound in giving the fundamental points of the Gospel. Jesus, God's messenger, also was the Savior, crucified on Calvary. He is the source of eternal life.

Paul's Epistle to the Colossians provides the second reading. This reading emphasizes that Christians, by baptism and by their faith, possess new life. They live because they are bonded with the living Christ. As Christ is in heaven, so the thoughts of Christians must be on heaven.

For its last reading, for its excited proclamation of the Resurrection, the church presents to us a passage from John's Gospel. It is an account of the first Easter morning. Mary of Magdala went to the tomb, but she found it empty. So she rushed to inform Peter. (Again, in this book of the New Testament quite separate from Acts, the importance of Peter is revealed.) Reaching Peter, she anxiously said that the Lord's body had been taken away.

"The disciple whom Jesus loved," traditionally thought to have been the Apostle John even though the Gospel never identifies him as such, and Peter hurried to the tomb. The disciple arrived first, but he waited for Peter, another indication of Peter's status.

Peter entered the tomb, saw that

it was empty, but evidently did not realize that Jesus had risen. The disciple, however, realized what had occurred. Implied is this disciple's absolute love. It gives him perception.

Reflection

These readings have critical lessons for all people. The first is that Jesus is Lord. He triumphed over death, the most universal of human experiences aside from birth itself, and for all living things the end of earthly life.

His earthly life has not ended, however. It endures. He lives. He lives in and through the church.

Easter wonderfully reassures to us. Because of the church, the Lord touches us. We hear Jesus. We meet Jesus. We share in the Lord's everlasting life.

All this is because the apostles formed the church, first given the strength and life of the Holy Spirit by Jesus. They guided it in their times on earth, and they provided for successors to guide it and nourish it after they died.

READINGS

Sunday: Acts 10:34a,37-43 Ps 118:1-2,16-17,22-23 Col 3:1-4 Jn 20:1-9

Monday: Acts 2:14,22-33 Ps 16:1-2a,5,7-11 Mt 28:8-15

Tuesday: Acts 2:36-41 Ps 33:4-5,18-20,22 Jn 20:11-18

Wednesday: Acts 3:1-10 Ps 105:1-4,6-9 Lk 24:13-35

Thursday: Acts 3:11-26 Ps 8:2ab,5-9 Lk 24:35-48

Friday: Acts 4:1-12 Ps 118:1-2,4,22-27a Jn 21:1-14

Saturday: Acts 4:13-21 Ps 118:1,14-15,16-21 Mk 16:9-15

CATEQUIZ'EM

By Dominic Camplisson

One might think that the message of Easter would serve to nullify disagreements among Christians, but from early times the actual timing of Easter caused controversy. This quiz looks at this time-consuming topic.

1. The first Easter coincided with this Jewish festival:

- a. Purim b. Chanukah c. Passover (Pesach)

2. How do we know?

- a. It is clear in all the Gospels and unvarying in tradition.
b. Monks figured it out by working backwards and computing the dates.
c. It is not provable, but logical and theologically convenient.

3. The two alternatives for when to observe the Passion (later called Easter) are on

- a. Option 1: The day proclaimed by the high priest, or option 2: The second Tuesday of the year
b. Option 1: On a fixed day, the 14th day of the Jewish month of Nisan, or option 2: the following Sunday
c. Option 1: on the same day every year, or option 2: The emperor's birthday.

4. The custom of following the Jewish practice is known as

- a. Judapaschism b. Chronomatism c. Quartodecimanism

5. This (question 4) practice was most common in Asia Minor. It claimed to have been approved by this evangelist:

- a. John b. Mark c. Basil

6. And it was supported by great church leaders, notably this martyr who tried to persuade the pope (unsuccessfully) to follow suit:

- a. Judas Iscariot b. Polycarp c. Ratzinguis

7. Later, Pope Victor adopted a harder line and took this drastic action against Polycrates, bishop of Ephesus, for following the Jewish custom:

- a. He excommunicated him.
b. He had him burned as a heretic.
c. He had him sent into exile.

8. Not surprisingly this went over like a lead balloon and in fact some in Asia Minor formed their own church as a result. They subsequently

- a. vanished from history by the 5th century
b. became the proto-ancestors of the Orthodox, this controversy fueling anti-Roman sentiment
c. retained a separate existence, then chose mass conversion to Islam over reconciliation with Rome

9. For those groups that observed Easter on Sunday, two rather complex formulas were followed, each favored by a different patriarchy. These were the

- a. Jerusalemite and Antiochene
b. Roman and Jerusalemite
c. Antiochene and Alexandrian

10. The Alexandrian practice was selected at this great council which also promulgated the creed:

- a. Constantinople b. Ephesus c. Nicaea

11. Predictably this, as with most church decisions, did not please everyone. Some became schismatic, with the appropriate name of

- a. Anti-Niceistes b. Protopaschites c. Antechromatonupia

12. Even for those in nominal agreement, variations and errors in calendars made the Easter date wander a bit. These missionaries brought a different way of calculating the date of Easter to northern pagan Britain, than the Roman missionaries arriving from the south:

- a. Irish monks
b. the Varangians of Constantinople
c. the Saxons, Angels, Jutes and other Germanic tribes

13. While these differences gradually vanished, the adoption of the Gregorian calendar of 1582 lead to

- a. a new division, with Christians using varying dates for Easter
b. a standardization which thenceforth held throughout the Christian world
c. The recognition of the pope's authority (even for Protestants) to set the date of Easter

14. The current status is that Easter in the Eastern Orthodox Church

- a. is always earlier than the Western (Catholic)
b. is always later than the Western (Catholic)
c. is sometimes on the same day, but often later than the Western (Catholic)

ANSWER:

- 1.c, 2.a, 3.b, 4.c, 5.a, 6.b, 7.a, 8.a, 9.c, 10.b, 11.b, 12.a, 13.a, 14.c

The church exercises moral principle regarding positive duties

I have a related question to the one in this week's (Feb. 24, 2008) Today's Catholic about Sunday Mass times. How much are they allowed to vary; exactly? Not to "tell tales out of school"; but my mother says that, in one of the local nursing homes or retirement communities here in South Bend, they actually have the Sunday Mass on Wednesday. Is that okay? Anonymous

Even if the priest uses the prayers in the Sacramentary and the readings in the Lectionary for a particular Sunday, the Mass is only the Sunday Mass if it is celebrated on Sunday (or in anticipation on Saturday evening — sometime after 4 p.m. on Saturday afternoon). It is not within any priest's power (or bishop, for that matter), to effect such a change. However, the church exercises an ancient moral principle regarding positive duties: they admit of excuse due to impossibility. That is, if one is in a nursing home or hospitalized or is homebound, he or she is not obligated to attend Mass on Sunday unless it were possible for them to do so. Put another way, the obligation is binding on those who are capable of fulfilling it. Fortunately, in our diocese, we offer a televised Mass (celebrated live) each Sunday morning carried in both Fort Wayne and South Bend, to accommodate those who cannot get to church.

Does the church believe that people are possessed by Satan? Or has science taken over and the "possession" now considered a psychological disorder? Are there still exorcisms? Anonymous

The church still maintains that demonic possession is a real possibility, and there are documented accounts of genuine demonic possession. However, these are admittedly rare. In fact, all other natural explanations (including medical, psychiatric, and psychological causes) must be exhausted before the church will even entertain the possibility of opening an investigation into the genuineness of a claim of possession. Those who are overly fixated on the demonic may in fact be "obsessed" but not "possessed" by the demonic (the former is likely a psychological or psychiatric disorder and as such requires medical and therapeutic, rather than merely sacramental, care). An exorcism may be performed only after an exhaustive investigation and only with the permission of the local bishop, who would appoint a venerable, holy and experienced priest as exorcist. To my knowledge, an exorcism under these circumstances has never been performed in our diocese.

THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION

Is giving the sign of peace optional in the liturgy? Some parishes don't do it. What if I don't necessarily want to shake someone's hand, say if they have been sneezing through Mass? Anonymous

It is not optional in the Roman rite as currently celebrated (unless, of course, the Mass is said without a congregation). The rubric in the Missal reads simply: "Then all, according to local custom, offer a sign of peace and charity to one another" (my translation). There has been much debate about removing or relocating the sign of peace, as some see it as a disruption to the liturgical action. We know that at Rome in Justin Martyr's time (c. A.D. 155), a "kiss" ("philema") or sign of peace was exchanged following the common prayers (what we call the Prayer of the Faithful) at least at the Easter liturgy and probably each Sunday. Some have advocated a relocation of the sign to that

moment in the liturgy, arguing that such was its original place. Certainly, if one is ill, one should be considerate and simply gesture with the hand, a nod, and a smile, indicating that one shares "peace" but does not want to share his or her germs.

Why isn't the second part of the Our Father, "For the kingdom, the power, the glory are yours ..." not included in the common Catholic recitation of the prayer, for example the rosary? Anonymous

The doxological phrase that customarily concludes the Lord's Prayer in Protestant usage is found in some early Christian documents (e.g., the Didache, a catechetical work dating from around A.D. 110) and in a certain number of

manuscripts, but not the earliest and most valuable witnesses to the text of Matthew 6:13 (the Gospel text from which our version of the prayer comes); it is likely that the doxology is a later addition (not a bad thing, just not original to the prayer as found in the Gospel according Matthew). It is found in Catholic worship, following what is called the embolism between the Lord's Prayer and the sign of peace: "Deliver us, Lord, from every evil and grant us peace in our day. ... For the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory are yours now and forever."

Father Michael Heintz, rector of St. Matthew Cathedral, answered this week's questions.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

By Patricia Kasten

Gospel for March 23, 2008

John 20:1-9

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for Easter Sunday: John's version of the first Easter morning and the disciples' reactions. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

THE FIRST DAY	WEEK	MARY
CAME TO	THE TOMB	THE STONE
SO SHE RAN	SIMON PETER	DISCIPLE
JESUS	LOVED	TAKEN
THE LORD	BENT DOWN	NOT GO IN
CLOTH	HEAD	BELIEVED
UNDERSTAND	SCRIPTURE	RISE

CONFUSION

B E N T D O W N A N A S
E J S M A N O T G O I N
L E W C A K J O L M D A
I S O G R R E E O T I R
E U T K P I Y N V H S E
V S E D E S P O E E C H
E B M O T E H T D L I S
D E A D T G W S U O P O
O I C E S D A E H R L S
F G R C L O T H D D E W
T H E F I R S T D A Y X
P U N D E R S T A N D B

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Celebrating the paschal mystery

Easter is much more than new clothes, bunnies and baskets of candy. On Easter we celebrate the Resurrection, the most important feast day of the church. At Easter we renew our faith and welcome new members into the church. It is the climax of the triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil) and is so important that we celebrate it for seven weeks of the church year.

Easter is the fulfillment of the paschal mystery — the suffering, death and rising of Jesus. This mystery is not a one-time historical event. As members of the body of Christ, we live this mystery throughout our lives.

We enter the paschal mystery at baptism. The one who baptizes reminds the recipient or his or her parents that he or she is baptized into the death and resurrection of Jesus. This means that all baptized Christians share in his death and rising, not only when we physically die, but throughout our lives.

The paschal mystery assures us that the "pain and dyings" we experience during our lives ultimately lead to resurrection. It is our Christian belief that God can and does bring good out of evil and suffering. Jesus is the greatest example of this. God did not leave Jesus in his pain. God raised him from the dead. Death had no power over him.

Throughout our lives, we, too, are called to share in the paschal mystery. Most of the time it is only in retrospect that we see this mystery at work in us. If we reflect on certain experiences of our lives or the lives of others we can see those times when good came out

of suffering.

There are many examples of this cycle of death and rising. I think back on a young student friend of mine at the University of Michigan who was hurt and nearly devastated over the unfaithfulness of her fiancé. The world rose and set on him. She didn't know how she would ever be able to live without him. Later on, when she got a "real" job, she met and fell in love with another young man who was everything a woman could ask for in a relationship. They are now happily married. As she reflects back on her life she always says that if her first relationship had not failed she would never have met Jeff.

Other people have experienced the pain of being laid off or fired from jobs they really liked only to find one more fulfilling. I know someone who gave his heart and soul to a company for many years. He earned a lot of money for his wife and children, but never had much quality time with them. The owners sold the company and the new owners gave him his walking papers. He was crushed and went into a deep depression. Later he decided to go back to school, got his teaching license, and is now a very happy elementary school teacher. It was something he always wanted to do but did not go that route because of the poor pay.

I have also known people whose suffering has made them more compassionate toward others. There are also people who, as a result of the death of loved ones, have taken up causes to create a better world. One example is the mother whose son died because of



THE CUTTING EDGE

SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

drunk driving. She started the organization, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, which does a tremendous amount of good and has saved many lives.

Our own founder, Father Basil Moreau, was misunderstood and suffered greatly at the hands of bishops and even his own community members when he was trying to establish his religious congregation of Holy Cross. From his suffering came four religious congregations whose members serve around the world. Last year he was beatified in Le Mans, France, where Holy Cross began. Hundreds of members of the Holy Cross Family were there to rejoice.

When we really reflect on life, all of us can think of situations where good came out of suffering. Even though we may not see God's design when we are in the midst of suffering, our own or others, let us remember that God never leaves us in our pain. Like Jesus, God will raise us up.

Sister Margie Lavonis, CSC, a former campus minister and vocation director, works for the Sisters of the Holy Cross communications department.

LETTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

for the second time. The ambassador described the encounter as a continued conversation between two global leaders who share a "close correspondence of interests."

She said the White House has identified three important topics on the pope-president agenda: peace in the Middle East, advancing interreligious dialogue and promoting human rights, especially religious freedom.

All three goals fall under what the White House calls the "common commitment to the impor-

tance of faith and reason," which has been a hallmark theme of Pope Benedict's pontificate.

Glendon said she wouldn't be surprised if the two leaders also discuss another common interest: finding creative new ways of partnership between public and private agencies in the fight against poverty, hunger and disease.

The ambassador said she didn't know if Iraq would be addressed in the talks. Reiterating a position taken by other U.S. ambassadors to the Vatican, she said that despite "initial differences" between the United States and the Vatican on Iraq "the Holy See is now fully supportive of U.S. efforts to rebuild the country and to establish peace in the region."

Sports

LUERS BASKETBALL TAKES A SHOT FOR A STATE TITLE The Bishop Luers High School boys basketball team will vie for a Class 2-A state title on Saturday, March 22, at 12:30 p.m. as they play Winchester at Conseco Fieldhouse in Indianapolis. The Knights beat Westview, 83-70, on March 15 to take the Class 2A Warsaw Semistate championship. This is the school's first time to vie for a state title in basketball. The game will air live on Redeemer Radio — Catholic Radio 1450 AM.

Cheerleaders 'go, fight, win'

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — Nearly 20 years ago, a Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) cheerleading competition was started and the tradition continued yet another year at the 2008 Bishop Dwenger Grade School Competition held at Bishop Dwenger High School on March 12. Showcasing squads' abilities and hard work, the entire cheer season, the competition is open to any team in the diocese from grades 4 through 8.

Several CYO teams participated in this year's high-flying event. Head Bishop Dwenger cheer coach and English teacher Amy Gonzagowski coordinated the competition, lined up the judges, mats and trophies. She also handled the registration and helped to make each of the 16 teams feel comfortable.

Gonzagowski explains, "It is a great chance for the girls to exhibit their talent and skills. It lets them compete much like the teams they cheer for."

Judges this year included University of Saint Francis Coach Nicole Henline, Coach Theresa Sistrunk from Norwell High School, Ossian, and Vicki Kuker, who retired as head coach at



Winning members from Queen of Angels were Brittany Cuney, Alyssa Ehinger, Lauren Gillett, Katie Houser, Rose Lawrence, Adriana Musco, Tia Neuhaus, Lindsey Noye, Hannah Till, Olivia Myers, Natalie Roberts and Laura Weldon.

Bishop Dwenger after 35 years.

In this fast-growing sport, the young athletes are judged on creativity, perfection of skills, stunts, pyramids, tumbling, jumps, voices and facial expressions during the competition's open format.

Cheerleading is very demanding at both the physical and emotional levels. Gonzagowski details, "The girls are expected to look like they are having the time of their lives even if they are sick or hurt." She said a young lady from St.

John, New Haven, lived out the ideal example of this at the 2008 show by giving a perfect performance despite becoming ill moments before her team's turn. "She told me, 'I'm ready to go. I will compete.' The tough, little cheerleader showed a lot of guts," she said.

Three fourth-grade teams competed this year and received participation awards. They represented Precious Blood, St. Charles and St. Vincent. Former Bishop Dwenger and Purdue University cheerleader

Jeremy Elder served as one of the coaches for the Queen of Angels squad. Both he and Coach Mary Harkenrider are Queen of Angel alumni. Their girls finished in first place in the medium varsity division.

"One cool thing about our team is that the girls are very well-rounded. Many of them are also active in their own sports, the school play, choir and Student Council. Their main focus at the competition was not winning, but representing Queen of Angels well," summarized Elder.

The grand champion selected by the judges as the overall best performance of the evening was the Cardinals squad from St. Charles varsity. The list of complete results is as follows:

• **Fifth-grade division** — No. 1 St. Vincent; No. 2 St. Charles; No. 3 St. Jude.

• **Sixth-grade division** — No. 1 St. Vincent; No. 2 St. Charles; No. 3 St. Jude.

• **Small Varsity** — No. 1 Precious Blood.

• **Medium Varsity** — No. 1 Queen of Angels; No. 2 St. John, New Haven.

• **Large Varsity** — No. 1, St. Charles; No. 2, St. Vincent; No. 3 St. Joseph/St. Elizabeth; No. 4 St. John, Fort Wayne.

Girls basketball crowns champions

SOUTH BEND — The girls basketball season in the Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL) wound up with the crowning of both division and post-season tournament champions, and at the same time, the girls enjoyed their best season to date in both competition and attendance.

In the A Division, Corpus Christi won the title with a 37-24 victory over the St. Monica-St. Jude combination, leading from start to finish.

The B Division tournament title went to St. Joseph of Mishawaka, who edged Christ the King, 29-26, in a nailbiting finish.

At the end of the regular season, Holy Family, Corpus Christi and St. Matthew finished in a three-way tie for first place in the John Bosco East.

St. Monica-St. Jude and Christ the King finished in a deadlock for first place.

St. Joseph Gold of South Bend won the Martin De Porres East, and St. Joseph of Mishawaka won the title. — EJD



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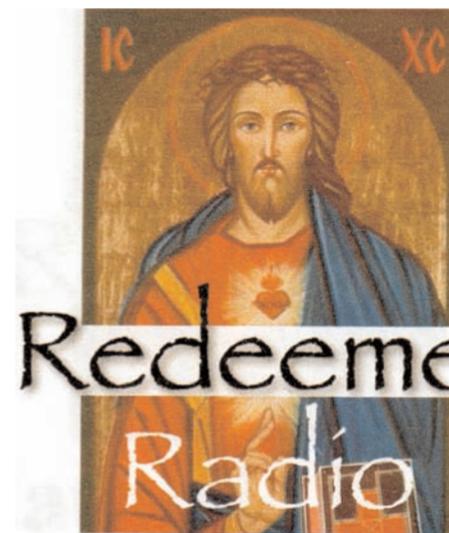
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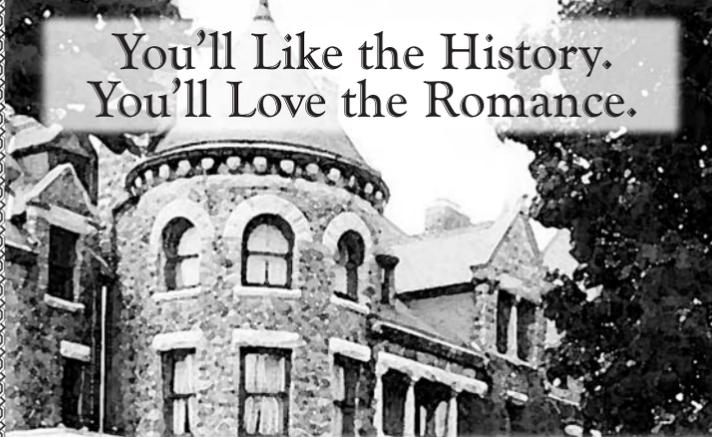
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Dr. Seuss' 'Horton Hears a Who' promotes values

BY JOHN MULDERIG

NEW YORK (CNS) — "A person's a person, no matter how small!" So runs the motto of the title character in "Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears a Who" (20th Century Fox), an enchanting computer-generated animated adaptation of Theodore Geisel's classic 1954 children's book.

The story is a familiar one: Enjoying his jungle bath one day, the warmhearted elephant (voice of Jim Carrey) hears faint noises coming from a speck of dust. What he's discovered, thanks to his outsized ears, is the existence of Who-ville, a microscopic but fully developed community which he gladly undertakes to protect.

Working with the tiny town's slightly eccentric mayor (Steve Carell) Horton comes up with a plan to transport Who-ville to the safety of a far-off mountain peak. Even as he sets out on what will prove a perilous journey, Horton faces the mounting opposition of his closed-minded fellow animals, led by the naysaying busybody Kangaroo (Carol Burnett).

When Horton refuses to yield to her demands and hand the precious particle over, Kangaroo — who insists that "if you can't see something, it doesn't exist" — turns for help to a wicked but rather dim eagle named Vlad (Will Arnett). Things look dark when Vlad gets Who-ville in his talons, but Horton is determined to come to the rescue because, to quote another article of his creed: "An elephant's faithful 100 percent!"

The film, co-directed by Jimmy Hayward and Steve Martino, promotes excellent values, such as compassion, self-sacrifice, persistence and teamwork. (Seuss' story has even been read by pro-life activists as upholding the dignity of the unborn, a not unreasonable interpretation.)

The script, performances and animation all match the high quality of the movie's source material. From the moment, early on, when Horton manipulates his rubbery ears into a snug bathing cap, grown-ups as well as youngsters will know they're in for a 90-minute treat. For those with very long memories, there's even a Henry Kissinger shuttle-diplomacy gag!



CNS PHOTO/20TH CENTURY FOX
 An elephant named Horton, voiced by Jim Carrey, is seen in the animated film "Horton Hears a Who."

Under the Same Moon dramatizes real ordeal

BY JOHN MULDERIG

NEW YORK (CNS) — A plucky 9-year-old boy faces the dangers of undocumented immigration in "Under the Same Moon" ("La Misma Luna") (Fox Searchlight/Weinstein), a film that movingly dramatizes the real-life ordeal of millions of children left behind by their migrant parents.

Young Carlos Reyes (Adrian Alonso), nicknamed Carlitos, lives in northern Mexico with his grandmother and temporary guardian, Benita (Angelina Pelaez). After four years of separation, he longs for his mother, Rosario (Kate del Castillo), a maid working without papers in Los Angeles.

When Carlitos awakens one morning to discover that Benita has died in her sleep, he is determined to join his mother. So he pays American siblings Martha (America Ferrera) and David (Jesse Garcia) to smuggle him across the border under the back

seat of their car. They make it across, but the plan misfires, leaving Carlitos alone, broke and still far from his mother.

After a narrow escape from a drug addict intent on selling him into prostitution, Carlitos finds shelter in an informal hostel for Mexican workers. There he meets Enrique (Eugenio Derbez), a tough, go-it-alone farm laborer with whom he forms an unlikely friendship.

Director Patricia Riggen's touching but unsentimental debut features luminous performances from its three leads, with Rosario emotionally torn, Carlitos persistent but tempted to despair and initially cold Enrique undergoing a remarkable transformation. A scene in which Carlitos, at a moment of great danger, quietly but fervently recites the Our Father has special resonance.

In Spanish. Subtitles. The film contains occasional crude, crass and profane language and a sexual reference, though it's probably acceptable for older teens. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

DEVOTIONS

First Saturday devotions

Saturday, April 5, devotions will be held at the following locations: St. Joseph, Fort Wayne, 7:15 a.m.; St. Rose, Monroeville, 8:10 a.m.; St. John, New Haven, 6:55 a.m.; St. Charles, Fort Wayne, 8 a.m.; Sacred Heart, Fort Wayne, 7:30 a.m.; St. Patrick, Arcola, 7:15 a.m. Call (260) 749-9396 to have your listing added.

MISC. HAPPENINGS

Day of reflection

Mishawaka — A day of reflection will be offered at St. Francis Convent on Wednesday, March 26, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The theme for the day is "If Grain Could Talk." Please bring your Bible. The cost is \$15 and includes lunch. Please register by Friday, March 21, to Sister Barbara Anne Hallman at (574) 259-5427.

Singles conference announced

Chicago — A National Catholic Singles Conference will be held April 25-27, in Chicago, Ill. Social events and dynamic national speakers on the single life will be featured. Register at www.NationalCatholicSingles.com or call (815) 828-5094.

Garage sale offers great deals

Fort Wayne — The St. Vincent de Paul HASA will have a garage sale Friday, April 4, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Saturday,

April 5, a \$3 bag sale from 8 a.m. to noon at the parish hall.

Rummage sale

New Haven — A rummage sale will be Friday, April 18, from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Saturday, April 19, from 9 a.m. to noon at St. Louis Besancon Parish hall, 15529 Lincoln Hwy East. Bag sale on Saturday for \$2.

Wine tasting event planned

Fort Wayne — St. Joseph Hessen Cassel Parish will host a wine tasting event Saturday, April 19, from 7:30-10:30 p.m. in the Msgr. Contant Center, 11521 S. U.S. Hwy 27. Tickets are \$25 per person or \$45 per couple. Advance ticket sales only by calling (260) 639-3259.

Soup and salad luncheon

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus #553 ladies soup and salad luncheon will be Monday, March 31, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at 553 E. Washington St. Tickets are \$5 per person and includes beverage. Carry-outs available.

Card party and salad bar

New Carlisle — St. Stanislaus Kostka will have a card party and salad bar Sunday, March 30, at 11:30 a.m. Tickets are \$5 each in advance by calling Louise at (574) 654-3364 or Nancy at (574) 289-2986. All proceeds will purchase church linens, candles, etc.

SCHOOL REGISTRATIONS

Round-up time

Fort Wayne — St. Therese Catholic School's preschool and kindergarten round-up will be Wednesday, April 16, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. All students of ages 3-5 by Sept. 1 are invited to attend. Call (260) 747-2343 for details.

Registration announced

Monroeville — St. Joseph School is now accepting registrations for the 2008-09 school year. Call (260) 623-3447 for information.

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Rudolph B. Miller, 87, Christ the King

Thelma V. Kuruzar, 86, St. Matthew Cathedral

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A priest's adventure in Mongolia

BY FATHER TOM SHOEMAKER

Father Tom Shoemaker, pastor of St. Jude Parish, Fort Wayne, traveled to Mongolia, Nov. 15-25, 2007, as part of a larger trip that also included Japan, China and Tibet. During his time in Mongolia, Father Shoemaker gained perspective into another religion, a vastly different culture and the art of falconry.

I love nothing better than a good adventure.

After inheriting some money this year — and tithing on that inheritance, of course — I contacted an old seminary friend who is now a priest in Minnesota. We began plans for a travel adventure. We spent a lot of time with an atlas and tour books, proposing various ideas for our destination.

Before becoming a priest, my friend studied birds. It is an interest he still nurtures. Today, he watches and studies birds, and he raises many kinds of birds in his rectory and in the rectory yard. He also is licensed in falconry — he captures hawks, trains them and uses them for hunting.

In our reading, we found an area in the mountains of western Mongolia where nomadic people capture eagles, train them for falconry and then hunt on horseback with the trained eagle. A tour company offered to match travelers with an eagle hunter, providing transportation and an interpreter. This looked like a perfect fit. We chose some dates and signed up.

Our adventure included a week living in a one-room hut with a nomadic Muslem family. We

joined the family in some pretty primitive conditions. They live without plumbing, depending on a very unfriendly camel for their water supply. The camel was able to carry heavy canisters on his back from the nearest creek, about an hour away. Their camel didn't like to work, and he made it clear that he didn't like me. The hut was heated by a fire in an oven, fueled by animal dung; I learned a new skill as fuel collector. Our one modern convenience was a light bulb, powered by a solar panel.

The family raised goats, sheep, horses and naks—a cross between a cow and a

yak. These people's livelihood and their diet depend on these animals. They live primarily on cheese products, mutton and horse meat. Our final going-away feast included a boiled goat head. We sat around a common platter with the whole head in front of us, digging out choice portions with hunting knives and eating off of those knives.

The patriarch of the family, Teekay, has a female golden eagle, which he uses for hunting. The bird spends most of her time sitting on a perch with a hood over her head. Unable to see, she will not fly away. Teekay captured the eagle several years ago, removing her from her nest while family members suspended him on a rope over a cliff. He trained the eagle for hunting and treats her with great respect, feeding her

by hand and bringing her indoors when the weather is bad. He keeps his eagles for seven years and then releases them, allowing them 10 or 15 years of life in the wild.

In the mornings, we went by horseback to hunt. Mongolian horses are small, shaggy horses, which are very good at climbing steep slopes in loose rock. After riding through the mountains for an hour or two, the eagle hunter would dismount, sit on a cliff and remove the hood from the eagle, allowing her to scan the terrain for anything moving. It was a majestic sight to see the eagle

soar when it spotted a fox and chase the running animal. Even more impressive was the sight of this large bird flying back to land on the arm of the eagle hunter.

The bird's reward was a bit of raw meat.

The trip showed me some of the awesome beauty of God's creation. It was also a good reminder for me that we don't really need all of the luxuries and comforts we have in life, and that there are many people in the world living without such comforts. Finally, it was a lesson in enjoying diversity. We stayed with a family who lives on the opposite side of the globe, has a very different religion, a very different lifestyle, very different educations and gifts. And yet we could laugh together, sing together, learn from one another and together enjoy the beauties of God's creation.

"Finally, it was a lesson in enjoying diversity."

FATHER TOM SHOEMAKER



PROVIDED BY FATHER TOM SHOEMAKER

Father Tom with the golden eagle owned by Teekay, head of the family he lived with for a week in western Mongolia. The adventurous vacation included living in a one-room hut with the nomadic Muslem family and hunting with the eagle.

Divine Mercy devotions found across diocese

BY DIANE FREEBY

Mercy Sunday is celebrated at many parishes throughout the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. The novena, which consists of praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet, begins on Good Friday and concludes the Sunday after Easter (March 30).

At Corpus Christi Parish in South Bend, like at many parishes throughout the diocese (also see advertisements throughout this week's newspaper), parishioners are invited to the chapel at 3 p.m., just after Good Friday services conclude in the main church. The novena will again be prayed in the chapel Saturday at 3 p.m., Easter Sunday at 7 p.m., the following Monday through Friday at 7 p.m., and again Saturday at 3 p.m. Readers are encouraged to check with their local parishes for times.

"We would love for everyone to come pray the chaplet with us," said area organizer Debby Blum. "But don't be discouraged if you can't make it every day. The novena can be prayed anywhere."

For Blum, spreading devotion to the Divine Mercy really began 11 years ago as her father lay dying.

"I prayed the Divine Mercy chaplet over my dad," recalled Blum. "I told him I was praying for Jesus and Mary to be with him. He looked at me and said, 'It's okay, they're here!' It was such a consolation for all of us to know Jesus was there when my dad passed away, and that the Blessed Mother ... to whom my dad, a non-Catholic, never had a devotion ... was there for him."

Holy Family Church on South Bend's west side will be the site for Mercy Sunday Mass. Five priests will be on hand for con-

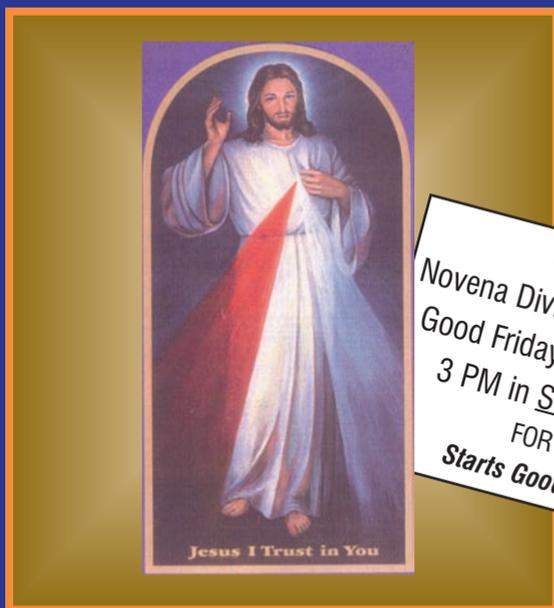
fessions, which begin at 1:30 p.m. and continue up until the 3 p.m. Mass. From 2 to 2:30 p.m. there will be eucharistic adoration. At 2:30, the Divine Mercy chaplet will begin, with a meditation led by Dr. Linda and Jim Ciesielski of St. Adalbert Parish. "We're really excited this year to have the Catholic youth participate in Mercy Sunday," said Blum. "The group from Holy Family, St. John the Baptist and Corpus Christi will be involved as altar servers and by bringing up the image of mercy."

Mass will be celebrated by Holy Cross Father Paul Doyle from Notre Dame. He will be joined by six other priests from area parishes, including Holy Family Pastor Father Bernard Galic. Father Galic has encouraged devotion to Divine Mercy in his parish since the feast was introduced.

"This is a feast that every Christian can identify with. Unlike some feasts that attract some folks to one devotion, others to another, Mercy Day calls all of us. This is because all of us are sinners. All of us are in need of God's mercy," said Father Galic.

He explained the significance of Mercy Sunday coming the week after Easter, reminding us of the "inestimable value each of us has in God's eyes, that he would save us from our sins at the price of his Son's death on the cross. And it is a reminder to us at the same time of the glorious eternity awaiting all who accept his mercy and forgiveness, because he is the firstborn from the dead. Where he has gone we are to follow, thanks to his mercy."

According to organizers, most parishes of the diocese are participating in the Divine Mercy novena, and there should be details available at the churches.



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