Food-price solutions draw world attention, scrutiny

BY MARK PATTISON

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As food prices continue to climb around the globe — 150 percent for rice alone from January to March — leaders of several countries pledged in Rome in early June to take steps to ward off what many are calling a crisis.

The steps recommended by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization included increased food production, fewer trade restrictions and increased research in agriculture. It also called for more research on biofuels.

Some have pinned the blame for soaring food prices on biofuels. The United States — which has boosted the production of biofuels, made largely from corn, to reduce dependence on foreign oil — says only 2 percent to 3 percent of the recent rise in worldwide food prices can be attributed to biofuels, which removes crops from human and animal consumption. Other countries contend that the impact of biofuels on soaring food prices is much greater.

“This is a unique time,” said Bruce White, a policy adviser on food security and hunger for Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops’ overseas relief and development agency. “It’s pretty impressive that the FAO has gotten these countries together, these heads of state, to address these issues. The recommendations some of these U.N. entities are making are quite significant.”

One FAO recommendation White noted was for each nation to use vouchers and increased food assistance programs — an initiative similar to the role federal food stamps play in nutrition assistance for poor Americans. “We really welcome this,” White told Catholic News Service June 5.

“There’s a lot of talk about how long that (form of assistance) would go on,” he added. White said it was necessary for nations to target “the ultra poor in urban areas and design-Washington (CNS) — As food prices continue to climb around the globe — 150 percent for rice alone from January to March — leaders of several countries pledged in Rome in early June to take steps to ward off what many are calling a crisis. The steps recommended by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization included increased food production, fewer trade restrictions and increased research in agriculture. It also called for more research on biofuels. Some have pinned the blame for soaring food prices on biofuels. The United States — which has boosted the production of biofuels, made largely from corn, to reduce dependence on foreign oil — says only 2 percent to 3 percent of the recent rise in worldwide food prices can be attributed to biofuels, which removes crops from human and animal consumption. Other countries contend that the impact of biofuels on soaring food prices is much greater. "This is a unique time," said Bruce White, a policy adviser on food security and hunger for Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops’ overseas relief and development agency. "It’s pretty impressive that the FAO has gotten these countries together, these heads of state, to address these issues. The recommendations some of these U.N. entities are making are quite significant."

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The annual retreat with our priests

Every priest is required to make a retreat each year. While some priests prefer a private retreat, for example, at the famous Abbey of Gethsemani, the spiritual home of the late Thomas Merton, a famous spiritual writer, most of our priests wish to come together for the annual retreat. So many of our priests live alone and take care of a parish by themselves. The sociability of being present with those who bear the burden of the day is very important.

I’ve always tried very hard to secure retreat master who not only instruct and inspire, and over the years our priests have had excellent preachers on their annual retreat. Msgr. William Cleves, spiritual director and professor at the Pontifical College Josephinum Seminary in Columbus, Ohio, where our young men study, was the retreat master. I confess to always being a bit anxious when I have not heard the retreat master speak, and that was the case here. He came recommended by the rector of the Josephinum, Msgr. Paul Langsfeld. There was no need to be concerned. We were the beneficiaries of outstanding presentations. Beginning with the very first night, we had a reflection on the meeting in the temple between the Holy Family and Anna and Simeon. We experienced rich presentations with very clear expositions of both the Old Testament and the New. I was especially struck with his grasp of the great spiritual lessons of the Old Testament.

We had a wonderful reflection on priestly celibacy as a way of love and a marvelous teaching on forgiveness as shown in the 15th chapter of Luke with a special focus on the story of the prodigal son, which the retreat master made clear is really a story about the prodigal FATHER and the focus should be on the mercy of God so far beyond what we expect.

Our retreat was held at the Oakwood Inn on the banks of the lovely Lake Wawasee. A room was set aside for a chapel with the presence of the Blessed Sacrament and a statue of Our Lady.

The most important work of a bishop is the sanctification of his priests; but the work of sanctification is on the one hand the work of grace, that is, of the Holy Trinity in the soul, and also requires the cooperation of the priests. The bishop should lead by his own example, being faithful to his own prayer and seeking to do the will of God but also by providing retreats and days of recollection of a higher caliber. The talks at this retreat fit that goal.

The presence of the priests, praying in the chapel. The large number of confessions on the night set aside for that sacrament.

The evening holy hour including exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and benediction, and the joy the priests have of being with one another in this beautiful spot was an inspiration to me. Msgr. Cleves as a priest of the diocese of Covington, Ky, and I believe he told us he is one of 10 children. He entered the seminary at the age of 16 and has a doctorate in philosophy from the famed Gregorian University in Rome. What a joy to be with him and our priests for five days.

New assignments

You will note on page 3 of this edition the assignments and changes of our priests. As stated previously, I extend my gratitude to the Missionaries of the Precious Blood for over 100 years of service in this diocese — the Most Precious Blood Parish, Fort Wayne, and the last 50-plus years at St. Gaspar Del Bufalo, Rome City. Alas, they are leaving us. Six parishes formerly cared for by religious congregations have been turned over to the diocese and this has stretched more our priestly resources. It has also required us to examine further parish mergers, and recently a committee of priests made some recommendations to me, which I must now most prayerfully consider.

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But a stroke of light

One of our great old parishes is St. Patrick’s, Fort Wayne. It was merged recently with St. Paul’s. It is multicultural with a large number of Hispanic Catholics, mostly from Mexico but some from other Latin countries along with parishioners from Vietnam and the traditional parishioners at St. Patrick’s, who regrettably are fewer in number. We have an excellent pastor, Father Chau Pham, SVD. He is a member of the Congregation of The Divine Word. I know these priests from my native diocese. I recall with affection Father Bill Kane, a missionary who went back to Africa to work somewhat late in life, a member of a great family from Beverly, Mass., where I served as a young priest. Who do I mention next? Father Chau, pastor several months ago, I asked him: “Can we find another priest so that we could turn this parish over to this missionary congregation?” He said no, and indeed he was the case. At any rate I wrote to the provincial, Father Mark Weber, SVD, an Iowa farm boy, and to my delight he liked my letter and said he would send us a priest. Not only a priest, but an experienced missioner. What I sought was a priest fluent in English and Spanish, so that three groups in this multicultural parish could be helped. And so Father Thomas Ascheman, SVD, who is also the assistant provincial of the Divine Word fathers, will join us. He visited me a few weeks ago while on a trip to St. Patrick’s where he spent the weekend. He is fluent in English and Spanish. He will be a great help and I hope that many who have left St. Patrick’s will be returning. I thank the provincial, Father Mark Weber, SVD, and the Society of The Divine Word with all my heart.

Onward to state

Remarkably, two of our high school baseball teams will play in the Indiana state championships. Bishop Luers in 2-A, and Marian High School in 3-A will carry the banner of our schools. This is exciting.

On Saturday after a delightful confirmation with Father Polycarp Fernando and the people of St. Dominic, Bremen, I hurried to South Bend and joined the Bishop Luers game in the third inning. They won 7 to 1, bringing their record to 29 and 3. If they should win, it would mean three state championships for Bishop Luers in one year. Surely this is historic. Has anyone ever done it before?

When I returned to my small and not fancy apartment a few blocks from the ball park, a phone call came from Father Mike Heinzt. He was in the baseball diamond in Plymouth and calling on his cell phone. Marian had won in extra innings in an exciting game. After a pause in midseason, they have been charging through the playoffs and have upset major teams including one with a 29-1 record. It is special indeed to have our two teams in the final.

A bilingual confirmation at St. John’s, Goshen, before a packed church on a hot June night with Father Chris Smith, Father Constantino Rocha, plus visiting priest Father Brett Hoover, CSP, who is staying at St. John’s as part of his doctoral studies. One more confirmation at St. Patrick’s, Logansport, the location at home with visits to my family and priest friends. A day on Cape Cod and an evening or two at Fenway Park. It’s not far away. I am certainly enjoying seeing Boston Celts up by two games at this time.

See you all in two weeks.
ELKHART

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

teaching school while we stay out of the way and yet still get the job done," His said.

Work will likely continue until July 2009, and the project will be phased according to Harris beginning with new classroom space so students can vacate current space and move into new space.

“The phases will be fluid and a matter of available space for the students. We don’t want to move them around more than once. So we’ll hopscotch around (different construction areas),” he said. Harris and those gathered to indulge patience with him and his workers “while we tear up your building and put it back together.”

Members of the capital committee and the steering committee along with St. Thomas students took part in the groundbreaking ceremony.

Father Sullivan blessed the ground and prayed, “God bring successful completion of the project and safety of all those working on it.”

Emma Kearns, upcoming third grader at St. Thomas, read Scripture that spoke of us being “God’s cowokers.”

After the ceremony Emma said she was most excited about the new classrooms and friend Caroline Baughman agreed.

“We’ll be coming back to bare walls and concrete,” Emma said of the new school year in the fall, but aside from new classroom space, the promise of new playground equipment coming some day appeals to Emma and her sisters.

“This building is for all God’s children, young and old alike,” Father Sullivan said.

Bishop D’Arcy has announced the following assignments of priests:

- Rev. Bernard Ramenadend, OSB, from associate pastor at St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Fort Wayne to associate pastor at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Elkhart, to pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Ligonier, and Blessed Sacrament Parish, Albion. The effective date of this assignment is Sept. 1, 2008.
- Rev. Wilson Corzo (from associate pastor at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Elkhart, to pastor of St. Patrick Parish, Fort Wayne. The effective date of this assignment is Sept. 1, 2008.
- Rev. Eloy Jimenez, associate pastor of St. Patrick Parish, Fort Wayne, to associate pastor of St. Michael Parish, Plymouth. The effective date of this assignment will be Sept. 25, 2008.
- Rev. Thomas Kodasakery, associate pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish, New Haven, to associate pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne. The effective date of this assignment will be July 1, 2008.
- Rev. Plus Illechukwu from associate pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne, to parish priest at St. Patrick Parish, Walkerton. The effective date of this assignment will be July 1, 2008.
- Rev. Thomas Kodasakery, associate pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish, New Haven, to associate pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne. The effective date of this assignment will be July 1, 2008.
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- Rev. Wilson Corzo (from associate pastor at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Elkhart, to pastor of St. Patrick Parish, Ligonier, and Blessed Sacrament Parish, Albion, will be retained in his diocese in Mexico June 30, 2008.
- Rev. Manuel Evangelista, pastor of St. Patrick Parish, Ligonier, and Blessed Sacrament Parish, Albion, will be retained in his diocese in Mexico June 30, 2008.
- Rev. Paul Chukwu in residence at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, to associate pastor of Holy Family Parish, South Bend. The effective date of this assignment is July 1, 2008.
- Deacon Drew Curry, who just this spring completed his academic and spiritual preparation, has been assigned to diocesan ministry at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Fort Wayne. The effective date of this assignment is June 17, 2008.

Boston archdiocesan e-mail initiative reaches out to local Catholics

BY CHRISTINE WILLIAMS

BRIGHTON, Mass. (CNS) — Cardinal Sean P. O’Malley of Boston has found a new way to communicate with his flock — via e-mail.

Every Saturday recipients will read special messages from the cardinal, content from his blog, archdiocesan press releases, a calendar of upcoming events and satellite providers. In the fall, the new website for the archdiocese will be launched with links to Web sites for every parish and school in Boston, said a statement about the e-mail initiative.

Cardinal O’Malley said in the statement, “As we celebrate our bicentennial year, we have been reminded how Catholics have innovated to ensure that the saving message of Jesus Christ reaches as many people as possible. We want to continue that spirit of innovation and evangelization by utilizing the many new communication tools made possible by the recent advances in technology.”

Landry said the cardinal has received feedback from Catholic school principals and pastors who have said many students in the archdiocese read the cardinal’s blog each week. The blog is an example of how young Catholics learn about the church through technology.

“More than that we’re getting the same news and we know what’s going on and we know how we can be involved in upcoming events, the closer we’ll be as one Catholic family, which is what our archdiocese is,” he added.
Pope says Scripture must be read with humility

**BY CAROL GLATZ**

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christians must read sacred Scripture with humility and the desire to gain spiritual nourishment, not “theoretical knowledge” of God’s word, Pope Benedict XVI said.

“Intellectual humility is the most important rule for whoever seeks to penetrate the supernatural reality starting with sacred writings,” he said during his June 4 general audience in St. Peter’s Square.

Delving into Scripture solely to “satisfy one’s own desires for knowledge means to give in to the temptation of pride and to expose oneself to the risk of slipping into heresy,” he said.

The pope’s remarks continued his catechesis on the life and teachings of St. Gregory the Great. The sixth-century pope and doctor of the church “was a passionate reader of the Bible,” Pope Benedict said.

He said St. Gregory believed Christians ought to glean from sacred Scripture “not so much theoretical knowledge but rather daily nourishment for their soul.”

Reading and contemplating sacred writings with humility is indispensable “for really entering deeply into the text” and reaping spiritual benefits, he said.

“The intellectual humility can one really listen (and) finally understand the voice of God,” he said.

The pope said St. Gregory’s writings also illustrated what he considered to be the ideal bishop: “a teacher and guide of his flock” and an excellent preacher who understands the needs and problems of his people and the times and challenges the local community and humanity are facing.

The bishop must be a role model for others so that “his behavior may be a reference point for everyone,” the pope said.

He said that, as pope, St. Gregory upheld “the prerogatives of the see of Rome,” but he still respected the rights and legitimate autonomy of the patriarchs of Antioch, Alexandria and Constantinople.

He said St. Gregory remained a monk at heart and was “decisively against grand titles,” stressing instead the importance of humility as the “fundamental virtue of every bishop.”

“He was intimately struck by God’s humility, that Christ became our servant, he washed us and washed dirty feet,” he said.

St. “Gregory was convinced that, above all, a bishop should imitate this humility of God and that way follow Christ,” the pope said.

Out of his love for God, St. Gregory lived his life as a servant of the servants of God even during a time that was “full of tribulation and suffering,” the pope said.

“He being a servant of servants shows us the true measure of greatness,” the pope said.

The Vatican’s text of the pope’s remarks in English is available online at: www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/audiences/2008/documents.
Quebec cardinal says he hopes congress pilgrims ready to give witness

BY BARB FAIZE
TORONTO (CNS) — Quebec Cardinal Marc Ouellet said he hopes pilgrims to the 49th International Eucharistic Congress will be prepared “to receive and to give.”

The cardinal told Catholic News Service his message to pilgrims arriving in Quebec City for the June 15-22 event was: “Open your hearts. Open your arms. Welcome you wholeheartedly. We need your openness to communicate to the people surrounding the event.”

The cardinal said many of the events at the congress would be held in public areas of Quebec, where people who choose not to attend the congress would be able to watch.

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The congress’ opening ceremony includes a performance by Gen Verde, a multi-ethnic group featuring women of 13 different nationalities, as well as a Mass at the coliseum in ExpoCite, the exhibition complex where most of the congress events and the plenary sessions will be held.

The week closes with a special Mass on the Plains of Abraham, the site of a decisive battle in 1759 between British and French troops that led to the fall of Quebec, Pope Benedict XVI, whom organizers had lobbied to attend the congress, will give the homily live from Rome via satellite.

Each day, catechesis will focus on various aspects of the Eucharist. Church leaders from Africa, South and North America, Asia and Europe will be among those leading the sessions.

Cardinal Ouellet told the journalists attending the Catholic Radio AM 1450 south Bend — With high school graduation still a few days away, some area high school seniors were already thinking about a reunion.

Thirty-six of the 48 Corpus Christi Parish students who made up the grade school class of 2004 returned for the South Bend parish’s annual Baccalaureate Mass and Breakfast.

Corpus Christi pastor Father Camillo Tirabassi beamed as he looked out at the sea of students and parents in attendance at the 8:30 a.m. Mass on a sunny first day of June. He said he was proud of the young people for honoring their parish.

“Their lives always been good,” said Father Cam, referring to the students, many of whom he has known since they were in preschool at Corpus Christi. “They’re always been at the forefront of what needed to be done, and that carried on through high school.”

In fact, two young men from Corpus Christi earned top honors at Saint Joseph’s High School. Tom Everett was named class valedictorian and John Aversa the salutatorian. Both will be attending the University of Notre Dame in the fall.

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Getting together with my Corpus classmates reminded me of the wonderful memories and great foundation the school has provided all of us,” said Saint Joseph’s High School salutatorian Maggie Kendzick. “I really appreciate all that Corpus Christi has instilled in me spiritually, academically and socially. Lessons that I learned from my teachers, preschool through eighth grade, will guide me as I head off to college. I’m proud and grateful for all that Father Cam and Corpus Christi have done for me.”

Breakfast tradition lures graduates

BY DIANE FREEBY

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During the breakfast, students introduced themselves and shared what they planned to do after high school graduation. Many are going to college, but the loudest applause came for Saint Joseph’s High School senior Kevin Healy who is entering the U.S. Marine Corps.

“Despite having any seminarians, though,” said Father Cam. “So, anyone who is undecided, maybe they’ll consider it!” Father Cam has hosted the senior Mass and breakfast for each of the 35 years he’s served as a pastor, first at Queen of Peace in Mishawaka then for the past 20 years at Corpus Christi.
Pope names Florentine cardinal to head Vatican's family council

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI named Italian Cardinal Ennio Antonelli of Florence to be the new president of the Pontifical Council for the Family. The 71-year-old cardinal filled a post made vacant by the April 19 death of Colombian Cardinal Alonso Lopez Trujillo, who had headed the council for nearly 18 years. Cardinal Antonelli said he was grateful for the position but in turn had considered the weight of his new role and the “great responsibility for the decisive importance the family has for the church and for society.” While many people consider the family to be an important ideal, the family also “is seriously threatened and in crisis,” he told Vatican Radio June 7. Surveys show the family is “highly valued by Christians as an ideal,” but it is still under attack by cultural, economic and social phenomena that “are not favorable to the family,” Antonelli said. The biggest challenges the family is facing today are its “unity, marital stability, and the birth and upbringing of or low birthrate for married couples,” he said.

Chicago parish says Father Pfleger to return June 16

CHICAGO (CNS) — Father Michael Pfleger will return to his post as pastor of St. Sabina Church in Chicago June 16, according to an announcement on the parish’s Web site. Officials of the Archdiocese of Chicago, however, confirmed or denied the parish’s announcement. “There will be no further statement or announcement from Cardinal Francis E. George’s June 3 announcement that he had asked Father Pfleger to take leave for a couple of weeks from his pastoral duties,” Susan Burritt, media relations director for the archdiocese, told Catholic News Service June 9. “No one in the archdiocese is authorized to make further comments on the matter, she added. Father Pfleger was removed temporarily from his post at St. Sabina after he made national news for a May 25 speech in which he mocked Sen. Hillary Clinton of New York, then a Democratic presidential candidate, saying he met priests from Poland, Florek told CNS PHOTO/PAULO FILGUEIRAS, COURTESY OF UNITED NATIONS

Father Miguel d’Escoto Brockmann addresses the U.N. General Assembly in New York June 4 following his election as head of the assembly the same day. Father d’Escoto, who is not permitted by the church to exercise his priestly ministry, spoke out against what he called “acts of aggression” in Iraq and Afghanistan, without mentioning the U.S. by name. News Briefs

PRIEST ELECTED AS HEAD OF U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

WASHINGTON (CNS) — With their lives still in a state of disarray, another reality has hit the children of Aima after a cyclone devastated their villages and towns. June 2 marked the beginning of the school year, but in Aima, a village in the southern Irrawaddy delta region, “all the schools have been destroyed,” said Archbishop Charles Bo of Yangon in e-mails in late May and early June. The archbishop said he believes that “the start of the school year is also an important reminder that we must prioritize the needs of children who have been affected by Cyclone Nargis.” He called on the church “to ensure that children can return to school as soon as possible.”

Children unable to return to school in Myanmar, archbishop says

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Cardinal Kasper gives upbeat report on meetings with Russian Orthodox

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican’s top ecumenist gave an upbeat report on his recent meetings with leaders of the Russian Orthodox Church, saying historic tensions have been replaced by an eagerness to cooperate. “We’re at the beginning of a new situation and a new reality, in which the confrontation of the past seems to have vanished,” Cardinal Walter Kasper told reporters after a visit to Russia at the end of May. “Everything seems to point in the direction of a possible meeting between the two patriarchs, Alexy II (of Moscow) and Patriarch Alexy II (of Moscow).” There is not a concrete agenda, but “there are many signs of reconciliation,” the cardinal said in an interview June 3 with the Vatican newspaper, L’OsservatoreRomano. Cardinal Kasper traveled to Russia at the invitation of Metropolitan Kirill of Smolensk and Kaliningrad, president of the Russian Orthodox Church’s office for ecumenical relations. The trip followed his meeting with Patriarch Alexy and visits to Orthodox centers in four major cities. Cardinal Kasper said he received a warm welcome that would have been unthinkable a few years ago.

St. Stanislaus Kostka board member reconciles with Catholic Church

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — An excommunicated member of the St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish board of directors, which fought Archbishop Raymond L. Burke over the parish’s restructuring, has reconciled with the Catholic Church. Edward Florek, 63, said he broke ranks with the board in March after concluding that Father Marek Bozek, whom the board hired as its pastor after the archbishop recalled the parish’s priests in 2004, was leading the parish away from Roman Catholicism. The six board members, including Florek, and Father Bozek were excommunicated in December 2005 after ignoring repeated requests from the archdiocese to vacate the parish property once it was decided to suppress the church. Father Bozek left his position as a priest in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, Mo., to join the St. Louis parish. A St. Stanislaus parishioner for 33 years since 1977, he said he knew some members of the Catholic Church wouldn’t agree with me, but others have expressed their support.”

Pope names Florentine cardinal to head Vatican’s family council

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Priest says he was by backing McCain at pulpit, still endorses him

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A well-known New York priest said he shouldn’t have endorsed Republican Sen. John McCain, according to a May 29 column in Arizona for president during the invocation at a May 29 Republican dinner, and later, he added that his only error was the setting in which he made the remarks. Msgr. Jim Lisante told Catholic News Service June 4 that he erred in making the endorsement and criticizing presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois during the invocation at a New York State Republican Party event, but said it wouldn’t be improper for him to do so away from the pulpit. “I freely admit I’m a supporter of John McCain, mainly because of his unwavering record on pro-life issues and, as a private citizen, I not only have the right to express my point of view, (but) the greater mistake would be to remain silent,” he said. “I knew some members of the Catholic Church wouldn’t agree with me, but others have expressed their support.”

Canon law forbids clergy from assuming “public offices which entail a participation in the exercise of civil power”, it does not prohibit clergy from endorsing candidates or political parties but an individual bishop may tell his clergy not to do so. Under Internal Revenue Service guidelines for preserving the church’s tax-exempt status, members of the clergy may make endorsements if they are speaking as individuals, but not at official functions or in official publications of the church.

St. Stanislaus Kostka board member reconciles with Catholic Church

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — An excommunicated member of the St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish board of directors, which fought Archbishop Raymond L. Burke over the parish’s restructuring, has reconciled with the Catholic Church. Edward Florek, 63, said he broke ranks with the board in March after concluding that Father Marek Bozek, whom the board hired as its pastor after the archbishop recalled the parish’s priests in 2004, was leading the parish away from Roman Catholicism. The six board members, including Florek, and Father Bozek were excommunicated in December 2005 after ignoring repeated requests from the archdiocese to vacate the parish property once it was decided to suppress the church. Father Bozek left his position as a priest in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, Mo., to join the St. Louis parish. A St. Stanislaus parishioner for 33 years since 1977, he said he knew some members of the Catholic Church wouldn’t agree with me, but others have expressed their support.”

Canon law forbids clergy from assuming “public offices which entail a participation in the exercise of civil power”, it does not prohibit clergy from endorsing candidates or political parties but an individual bishop may tell his clergy not to do so. Under Internal Revenue Service guidelines for preserving the church’s tax-exempt status, members of the clergy may make endorsements if they are speaking as individuals, but not at official functions or in official publications of the church.

Cardinal Kasper gives upbeat report on meetings with Russian Orthodox

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican’s top ecumenist gave an upbeat report on his recent meetings with leaders of the Russian Orthodox Church, saying historic tensions have been replaced by an eagerness to cooperate. “We’re at the beginning of a new situation and a new reality, in which the confrontation of the past seems to have vanished,” Cardinal Walter Kasper told reporters after a visit to Russia at the end of May. “Everything seems to point in the direction of a possible meeting between the two patriarchs, Alexy II (of Moscow) and Patriarch Alexy II (of Moscow).” There is not a concrete agenda, but “there are many signs of reconciliation,” the cardinal said in an interview June 3 with the Vatican newspaper, L’Osservatore Romano. Cardinal Kasper traveled to Russia at the invitation of Metropolitan Kirill of Smolensk and Kaliningrad, president of the Russian Orthodox Church’s office for ecumenical relations. The trip followed his meeting with Patriarch Alexy and visits to Orthodox centers in four major cities. Cardinal Kasper said he received a warm welcome that would have been unthinkable a few years ago.

Children unable to return to school in Myanmar, archbishop says

WASHINGTON (CNS) — — With their lives still in a state of disarray, another reality has hit the children of Aima after a cyclone devastated their villages and towns. June 2 marked the beginning of the school year, but in Aima, a village in the southern Irrawaddy delta region, “all the schools have been destroyed,” said Archbishop Charles Bo of Yangon in e-mails in late May and early June. The archbishop said he believes that “the start of the school year is also an important reminder that we must prioritize the needs of children who have been affected by Cyclone Nargis.” He called on the church “to ensure that children can return to school as soon as possible.”

Cardinal Gasper gives upbeat report on meetings with Russian Orthodox

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican’s top ecumenist gave an upbeat report on his recent meetings with leaders of the Russian Orthodox Church, saying historic tensions have been replaced by an eagerness to cooperate. “We’re at the beginning of a new situation and a new reality, in which the confrontation of the past seems to have vanished,” Cardinal Walter Kasper told reporters after a visit to Russia at the end of May. “Everything seems to point in the direction of a possible meeting between the two patriarchs, Alexy II (of Moscow) and Patriarch Alexy II (of Moscow).” There is not a concrete agenda, but “there are many signs of reconciliation,” the cardinal said in an interview June 3 with the Vatican newspaper, L’Osservatore Romano. Cardinal Kasper traveled to Russia at the invitation of Metropolitan Kirill of Smolensk and Kaliningrad, president of the Russian Orthodox Church’s office for ecumenical relations. The trip followed his meeting with Patriarch Alexy and visits to Orthodox centers in four major cities. Cardinal Kasper said he received a warm welcome that would have been unthinkable a few years ago.
Cathedral to host ‘Happy Birthday America!’ concert

FORT WAYNE — The Cathedral Choir is inviting the public to a one-hour concert of all patriotic music and singing at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in downtown Fort Wayne on Wednesday, June 25, beginning at 7 p.m.

In addition to the Cathedral Choir, the patriotic concert will feature a brass quartet and guest organist Paul Skevington, one of the leading choral accompanists in the Washington, D.C. area who frequently performs at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

The annual “Happy Birthday America!” musical celebration of Independence is free and open to the public. Complimentary ice cream will be served afterward. Early seating is advised.

Diocesan representatives to serve on national Serran conference panel

SOUTH BEND — Seven distinguished panelists, including a newly-ordained priest, will highlight the Serra All American National Conference, June 18-22, at Saint Mary’s College and the University of Notre Dame as they focus on the theme, “Vision of the Catholic Church in 2025: Building a Christian Culture.”

Serra, a national organization with representatives in all 50 states, is devoted to the fostering of independence free and open to the public. Complimentary ice cream will be served afterward. Early seating is advised.

A sign at Sanctuary at St. Paul’s senior living community announces the new name.

For the second year, St. John the Baptist School, Fort Wayne, participated in the Homeward Bound Walk to help the homeless. With the school’s penny war, they generated $1,426.29. Also, those participating in the walk had sponsors. The school presented the money to Vincent Village. In the photo at the appreciation presentation by Vincent Village are St. John the Baptist pastor, Father Daryl Rybicki, Principal Jane Sandoz, Bryan Austin, Chris Moeller and Barbara Jones.

Long-term care, retirement facilities finds Sanctuary in South Bend

SOUTH BEND — Starting June 5, four South Bend long-term care and retirement facilities owned by Trinity Health, based in Novi, Mich., received new names. St. Paul’s Retirement Community is now Sanctuary at St. Paul’s; Holy Cross Care and Rehabilitation Center is Sanctuary at Holy Cross; St. Joseph Tower, Sanctuary at Trinity Tower; and St. Joseph Care Center is now Sanctuary at St. Joseph’s.

St. Paul’s is a 55 and over assisted living community in Bend, which is host to the nation’s first Eden Alternative and a joint venture of Trinity Health’s mission, vision and values; and Trinity senior living communities heritage of providing outstanding care for seniors,” says Jessica Shirley, marketing coordinator for Sanctuary at St. Paul’s. “In essence, the Sanctuary model of care is built upon the foundation of the Eden Alternative plus and Trinity’s senior living communities organizational core values.”

Each of the four sites had a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate its new name as well as refreshments, tours and entertainment. During the ceremony that took place at St. Paul’s Retirement Community, Jackie Harris, president and CEO of Trinity Senior Living Communities, assured those present that “We will continue to go beyond your expectations.”

The mission of Sanctuary is to carry on the tradition of creating places of well-being that nourish the body, mind and spirit by honoring the sacredness of every person, the resident as well as the caregivers. It is about hospitality, companionship and building and preserving meaningful relationships.

“Sanctuary is also about creating communities where elders can make their own decisions, create their own routines, and abide by their own schedules,” says Shirley, “They are places that are comfortable, safe and invigorating where seniors can live their best lives.”

Trinity recognizes that the typical long-term care facility does not adequately meet the needs of today’s seniors. It is hoped that the Sanctuary approach will better address these needs and help make retirement a rich experience for many.

For more information, contact Trinity Senior Living Communities at www.TrinitySeniorSanctuary.org.
NOTRE DAME — Twenty-five Holy Cross Brothers will be celebrating their jubilees of religious profession at Sacred Heart Basilica, Notre Dame, on Saturday, June 21, at 2 p.m. A dinner will follow the Mass in the North Dining Hall for invited guests.

Holy Cross Father Steve C. Gibson, director of Holy Cross Media Ministries and longtime retreat master at Fatima Retreat House, Notre Dame, will be the celebrant and homilist for the Mass of Thanksgiving. Holy Cross Brother John Schusler, after graduating high school in Lakewood, Ohio, obtained his undergraduate and graduate degrees in industrial arts from Indiana State University. Brother is retired at Columbia Hall but during his free time his volunteer cutting hair, assisting at Schubert Villa and Duguine House and assisting at area volunteer organizations.

Our Sunday Visitor will publish special Masses for vocations during the Serro All American Conference at Notre Dame, Indiana. Pray for vocations and the perseverance of vocations.

Holy Cross Brothers celebrate Jubilees June 21

**Brother Albert Kern, CSC**

**Brother Richard Johnson, CSC**

**Brother Donald Schapker, CSC**

**Brother Jerome Meyer, CSC**

**Brother John Schusler, CSC**

Thursday, June 19, 2008 4:30 PM • Holy Mass at Christ the King Church • South Bend

Celebrant: Most Reverend John M. D’Arcy

Friday, June 20, 2008 4:30 PM • Holy Mass at Little Flower Church • South Bend

Celebrant: Most Reverend Blase Cupich, Bishop, Diocese of Rapid City, South Dakota

Saturday, June 21, 2008 8:00 AM • Holy Mass at Christ the King Church • South Bend

Celebrant: Father David T. Link, former Dean of the Law School at University of Notre Dame

Public invited. Bring your family. “A family that prays together stays together.”
St. Paul ... an example for us

THE CUTTING EDGE

SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

There is no question that St. Paul was the greatest evangelist who ever lived. He was committed to bringing the good news of the Gospel to all of God’s people, not just the Jews. His evangelization continues today through the letters he wrote to the various Christian communities of his day. If he were still alive he would probably be ranked up there with Billy Graham.

To celebrate the 2,000 years since his birth, Pope Benedict has declared a Pauline Year, which begins June 28, 2008, and concludes June 29, 2009. The celebration of this special year will focus on rediscovering the person of St. Paul and his teachings, improving efforts toward Christian unity and promoting pilgrimages to places associated with his life.

Even though the major celebrations during this year will take place in Rome at the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, it is hoped that Catholics throughout the world will take advantage of this time to delve more deeply into Paul’s teachings and meditate on his vigorous spirituality of faith, hope and charity. This year is a graced opportunity to deepen our faith and remind us of our Christian responsibility to evangelize.

As far as evangelization goes, many Catholicae were elected at that word. Often visions of TV evangelists in three-piece suits flash through our minds. Or we may think about people from other Christian churches who ask people, even other Christians, if they have been “saved” or try to convert them.

I don’t know of many Catholics who work so actively to convert others. More often we go to the opposite extreme and do not readily share our belief in Jesus. As I have said many times before, when you really love someone you usually tell others all about that person.

Maybe the real underlying reason why many of us hesitate to actively evangelize is that we are not too sure about what the church really teaches. One concrete way each of us can celebrate this special Pauline year is to reread and study the Acts of the Apostles and the letters Paul wrote to the early Christians and thus deepen our own knowledge and faith.

It is also important to remember that we don’t only evangelize by our words. There is an old saying that “actions speak louder than words.” It is amazing how being a faithful Catholic can influence another who may be searching for a church. Often catechumens and candidates in RCIA programs share how the good example of certain individuals influenced their decisions to join the Catholic Church.

There will probably never be another St. Paul but, like him, each of us by our baptism is called to share the good news of Jesus in some way or other.

May this special year motivate us to reflect on how we can evangelize better and grace us with some of the passion for Christ that St. Paul had.

Carefully named, deeply loved: Our personal call to Christ

América’s love affair with Jacob and Emily going strong

For the ninth consecutive year, they were the top pair on the Social Security Administration’s new list of most popular baby names.

Unlike the drawn-out, hyped-up announcement of America’s most popular singer and dancer, this popularity contest was reported quietly, with no fanfare.

And yet, cobbled together, baby names provide a mirror of our culture and reflect our identities in Christ.

A number of shifts occurred from 2006 to 2007: Isabella inched from No. 4 to No. 2; Addison ascended from No. 28 to No. 11 and Claire climbed from No. 86 to No. 66. Meanwhile, Britney (as in, Spears) plummeted from No. 474 to No. 564.

This seems to be an era for unusual names. Nevaeh, for example, which is heaven spelled backwards, rose to No. 31. (I’m not sure, theologically, why a parent would opt for the backwords of heaven.)

A labor and delivery nurse told me of one mom who, undecided about her daughter’s name, wrote ABCDE on the birth certificate, awaiting inspiration. The inspiration that finally got them forward: keep the name, pronouncing it “Absissy.”

Saint names are far less common today, though a few are staging comebacks. Xavier rose to No. 68, Dominic held strong at No. 85, and Lucia hit No. 311, having ranked at No. 523 just five years ago.

In Catholic tradition, choosing a new name signifies a new life in Christ. Saul’s conversion to Christianity was marked by his assumption of the name Paul. When we are confirmed, we acquire a saint name as a source of inspiration and guidance.

Women and men choose new names when they enter religious life. For example, when they enter Religious of the服务区, they are elected—pope.

Pope Benedict XVI explained his name change at his first general audience.

“Filled with sentiments of awe and thanksgiving, I wish to speak of why I chose the name Benedict,” he said. “I remember Pope Benedict XV, that courageous prophet of peace, who guided the church through turbulent times of war. In his footsteps, I place my ministry in the service of reconciliation and harmony between peoples.”

A name is an intimate sound, and it stands in refreshing contrast to the generic numbers we live by: social-security number, student ID, credit-card number, IP address, birth date, license plate.

We’re reduced to a host of labels in life: profession, education, class, relationship, marital status. These, too, stifle.

“If we are pigeonholed and labeled, we are unnamed,” wrote the late Madeleine L’Engle in her book “Walking on Water.”

A name, in contrast, moves with you, becomes you and reaches to your spirit.

“Our names are part of our whole-life,” L’Engle wrote. “To name is to love. To be named is to be loved by Jesus calls us each by name. Whether you are ranked No. 5, No. 50, or No. 500 by the Social Security Administration, when Jesus utters your name, you are The One and Only. Singled out, beloved, hairs counted, finger prints memorized. Our job is to live up to that name.

Christina, No. 175, means “follower of Christ.” I can still picture the wooden plaque that hangs in my childhood bedroom. It wasn’t quite as glamorous as the meaning of my best friend’s name, as stated on her bedroom plaque: Sarah means “princess.”

But I knew it was an important call. Just as Jesus asked his disciples, “Who do you say I am?” he also asks us, “Who do I say you are?”

Are you proud of the answer? Are you living up to the name?

Christina Capechi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn. E-mail her at christina capechi@gmail.com.

Sister Margie Lavonis, CSC, a former campus minister and vocation director, works for the Sisters of the Holy Cross communications department. mlavonis@csssisters.org.
Jubilee plans adorn small parish at southeastern tip

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

GENEVA — The tiny parish of St. Mary of the Presentation is celebrating its 125th jubilee this year, and the entire church is involved in the process.

Nancy Subler, St. Mary’s parishioner and religious education teacher, has done her part by designing a decorative throw to commemorate the historic occasion.

The throw pictures the sturdy-looking brick country church and the declaration, “Celebrating 125 Years — 1883-2008,” a picture of the most recent building, a chalice and the words “Irish Settlement.” Along with her son Erik, who supplied a photograph of the church, and daughter-in-law Kathy Subler, who is “good with designs and borders,” Nancy headed up the special project.

The popular keepsake throw has been a good seller, she says.

A general sprucing up of church property for the celebration is also underway.

 Beautification projects have been taken on by parishioners like June Seffernick, who painted the interior of the church. The parish cemetery has received attention as well, with resurfacing of the driveway, reconstruction of the entrance archway and refurbishing of the cemetery’s crucifix.

The church and grounds are getting “a new face lift,” says Nancy’s husband Gene Subler, who is overseeing the maintenance projects.

Muhlenkamp also chaired a very successful pictorial directory project late last year. Now completed and in the hands of parishioners, the church directory contains an extensive history of the parish compiled by St. Mary’s pastor, Father Joseph Perera, along with parish committee and a listing of the 54 member families.

Jubilee activities earlier this year included a four-day parish mission for spiritual renewal which was held in April and drew large crowds. Priests who assisted were Fathers David Ruppert, William Kummer, David Voors and Stephen Colchin.

Still in the planning stages is a homecoming picnic slated for July 13, which is expected to attract many former parishioners and those who grew up in the area. A chicken is in the offering along with games for the children in attendance. Also being considered is a raffle and a “fancy stand” featuring home baked goods and other handmade items with proceeds to be used for a catered meal in September. Social events are under the auspices of Nancy Subler.

Mary Agnes Muhlenkamp, who heads up faith activities associated with the jubilee, reports that copies of the Magnificat have been obtained and made available to parishioners.

And a memory journal is also being circulated among church members so that each person can add an individual account of their faith experiences by passing it on, she says.

The 125th jubilee will be officially celebrated Sunday, Sept. 14, with a special Mass and sacrament of confirmation bestowed by Bishop John J. D’Arcy. Father Perera will assist and priests from neighboring parishes will also be invited as well. A parish dinner will cap off the festivities.

Gene Subler also serves as general chairman of the jubilee committee. Others serving with him are his son Nathan, Donita Bauman, Mary Fields, Mary Agnes Muhlenkamp, Penny Wiseman, Susan Jones, Margie Buschur and Linda Linn. All are volunteers who have donated countless hours to planning the event.

“We are all working together,” says Subler, to make the occasion successful and memorable.

Irish Settlement retains heritage, moves forward

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

GENEVA — St. Mary of the Presentation, originally called the Irish Settlement, has retained its heritage while moving forward.

more than 125 years. Today, however, most of the Irish names are found on tombstones in the neatly kept cemetery adjacent to the church, while those families listed in the parish directory appear to be of German descent.

Longtime parishioner Gary Muhlenkamp, who farms and lives across the road from the small brick country church, serves as unofficial historian and raconteur.

Over the centuries the congregation has gone from predominantly Irish to German, he says.

“There are many, many (German Lutheran) converts here,” he adds.

In addition, the Berne community just northwest of the church is heavily Amish, and horse-drawn buggies dot the rural landscape.

We have a ‘nice neighborhood out here,” says Muhlenkamp. And through the church’s 125-year history and the two devastating fires that destroyed it, records show that their Amish and German Lutheran neighbors worked side by side with St. Mary’s parishioners to rebuild.

And in ensuing years they have continued to provide labor and materials for building and repair projects.

In return, he says, “It is amazing what this church does for the community.”

The Amish and Catholics share a mutual respect, says Muhlenkamp. Amish neighbors often bring St. Mary’s pastor Father Joseph Perera baked goods, and he visits their homes in return.

“They like Father,” he points out.

And at Christmastime, gifts are exchanged among all three faith communities.

St. Mary’s Church, though miles from the village of Geneva, serves as a shining beacon of faith to those who live nearby. The Angelus bells chime daily at noon and 6 p.m. as a reminder that God is present in rural Indiana. And it is said that the Amish stop their work and turn toward the church when they hear them. They often ask that we “keep those bells ringing,” says Muhlenkamp.

He and his wife Mary Agnes conduct a tour of St. Mary’s Cemetery, a silent repository of the church’s long history. They point out the Finerty, Martin and Kinney gravestones that give testimony to its earliest settlers.

Travelers come from across the country to view the marker of John Kinney, they note. Mr. Kinney was born in 1799 and died in 1801, a rare feat of longevity.


Father Perera writes in the parish directory on the occasion of the people and places of St. Mary’s.

“We have ‘a nice location out here,” says Muhlenkamp. And through the history of St. Mary of the Presentation is a record of sincere faith, genuine devotion and — personal sacrifice.

Today parishioners exemplify and carry on that long tradition. “The Amish and Catholics share a mutual respect, says Muhlenkamp. And at Christmastime, gifts are exchanged among all three faith communities.

Far from the busy streets of South Bend or Fort Wayne, in the southeastern most corner of the diocese sits the parish that I call home. It is to you, St. Mary’s of the Presentation, that I write this tribute.

As I look back to my short life, I remember my faiths of formation. It is with you that I first received the sacraments of baptism, Holy Communion and confirmation.

Some of my earliest childhood memories include being in attendance at our kindergarten, attending daily Mass with my mother. Although it was not unusual for me to fall asleep during Mass, I always enjoyed being there. I remember each day after Mass the faithful old church ladies would fuss over me and give me attention. They told me that they were praying for me and would then wish mom and me a good day. Looking back, I realize just how blessed I was to have their prayers. In the past 20 years, some of them have passed away, and it saddens me that I have never really taken the time to pray for them.

Without taking a moment to look back, I have not really looked over how members of the parish community have spiritually impacted my life. I have said that my faith was kindled in part due to your prayers. I am also thankful for the religious education I received and those who educated me while I was growing up. I still remember being taught fourth grade religious education up in our church choir loft due to our lack of meeting space. Despite the space, it was there that we young children learned about the eternal infinite God from ordinary parishioners who simply cared.

Since those choir loft days, some things have changed. The parish was able to build some much needed space, which was named Presentation Hall.

Presentation Hall would have been a great help to us during the 1980s when we used to have the large parish picnics. Every year, my sisters and I would look forward to the parish picnics. There were always so many fun games to play, and also we could not wait to find out what brave volunteer was going to sit on the seat of the dunk tank. Although I don’t think I had the accuracy to hit the target, which would cause the plunger to drop, I remember just looking on with pure enjoyment as others would do so. It was a great time because, for one day each year, it seemed like our whole community was able to get together and enjoy each other’s company.

Like any other parish, food of course played a central role in making that day so great. Twenty years later, I could not tell you what kind of food it was that we ate, but only that it was so good.

Growing up in our small parish was exceptionally fulfilling for me, probably because all of you made it easy to feel like a valued member of the community. Though we are a small parish, Christ still offers us everything — his word, his body, his forgiveness — through which we can grow closer to him. So I once more say thank you for the gift of faith in Christ, which you have bestowed upon me, and know that I will keep you all in my prayers.

Ben Muhlenkamp is a seminarian of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend currently attending Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio.
A record of faith, devotion and unselfish personal sacrifice

Southernmost parish in the diocese, St. Mary of the Presentation, celebrates 125 years

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

GENEVA — Nestled in a small stand of trees in the rolling Indiana farmland, St. Mary of the Presentation, the church known for more than a century as the “Irish Settlement” can trace its earliest roots to the mid-1800s.

It was in 1856 that a gentleman named Stephen McNally came to the area from Cincinnati to purchase acreage and begin life in the Indiana countryside. As time passed, he persuaded many of his Irish friends from the neighboring state of Ohio to join him in resettling, and the rural area east of Geneva became home to families of Finertys, Kinneys and Morans.

Since there was no Catholic parish nearby, most early members of the settlement traveled to St. Anthony Church across the state line in Mercer County, Ohio, or after 1860, just south to Holy Trinity Church in Bryant (part of the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana) for Sunday worship.

Finally, in 1879, Bishop Joseph Dwenger of the Diocese of Fort Wayne purchased land for $50 from Michael and Bridget Kinney and John and Bridget Finerty and had a modest frame church built on the site which is located eight miles east of Geneva. Sadly, the structure was lost in a fire just one year later.

But that same year Precious Blood Father Joseph Uphaus was given permission to build a new church with funds and labor donated by parishioners and their neighbors. The brick building was dedicated in 1883 and given the name St. Mary of the Presentation to honor Mary on the occasion of her presentation at the temple by her parents, Sts. Anna and Joachim.

In its early years St. Mary’s was a mission connected to Holy Trinity Church and remained under the auspices of the Precious Blood Fathers throughout most of its history.

In the early 20th century, Father Camillus A. Kloeters and parishioner Frank Spangler supervised the erection of a rectory to replace St. Mary’s convent, which was deactivated in 1918.

The new structure, a nine-room, two-story residence for the pastor, was also made possible through parishioners’ generosity. Again in 1941, fire razed the church, and, because there were only 19 families in the parish at that time, representatives of the diocese and the Precious Blood order recommended that St. Mary’s be disbanded.

The hardy band of parishioners rallied once again, however, and quickly rebuilt the church, even enlarging it to include a sanctuary and two sacristies. Less than one year from the date of the disastrous fire, midnight Mass was joyfully celebrated in the brand new church by then-pastor Father L.A. Linz.

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Father L.A. Linz.

Fortunately life has been relatively quiet and uneventful for St. Mary’s parishioners for more than six decades, leaving time for additional construction and beautification of the church and grounds.

In 1978, during Father Herman Schmitt’s tenure, a statue of the Blessed Mother and Christ Child was given to the parish by Bishop William E. McManus. It stands outside the church.

Father Edward Narcowich, who was installed as pastor in 1993, reflected on the church’s history. He remarked, “Courage is the theme for this parish,” noting that the church was rebuilt after two devastating fires by the hard work and strong faith of its members.

Further improvements over the ensuing years have included beautiful stained glass windows, a new sound system, lighting and organ.

A major improvement to parish life was achieved in 1991 with the construction and dedication of Presentation Hall, which accommodates religious instruction classes and parish social events. Again, due to the dedication of its people, debt on the facility was liquidated just three years later.

Father Joseph Bosco Perera, a native of Sri Lanka, is St. Mary’s current pastor. On the occasion of the church’s 125th jubilee he said, “The history of St. Mary of the Presentation is a record of sincere faith, genuine devotion and the unselfish personal sacrifice of the people, friends and neighbors of ‘Irish Settlement’ in the past and present.”
How to plan a ‘Father’s Day Lite’

BY GERALD KORSON

This article is a companion to the article on diocesan parishes, named for the Virgin Mary that ran in the May II issue of Today’s Catholic.

Established in Mishawaka over the parish to the other three parishes A. Moench, also played a role in fire, St. Joseph. The church was named, first Holy Guardian in the city — and the oldest in the

In southern Fort Wayne, the rural parish of St. Joseph Hessen. Casell was founded in 1851. In terms of father figures, the parish was greatly impacted by the 33-year presence of a former pastor, Msgr. Robert Contant, who served the parish from 1964 to 1997.

St. Joseph, Roaneoke, founded in 1867, relied on several fathers in its formative years, including Fathers Edward M. Faller, A. Schippert, Frederick Fuchs, James Meyer and Henry Vincent Schaeler.

St. Joseph, Bluffton, founded in 1875, got its start when Father Theodore Wilkin from Arcola made monthly trips to Bluffton before four families chipped in the money to build the first church. It would be another 45 years before the parish was under the patronage of Father Nicholas Keller.

St. Joseph, Garrett, founded in 1876 by Father John P. St. Peter and Church was and led by Father August Young. In 1929, the parish was renamed the Church of St. Joseph, Fort Wayne began in 1876 as an Italian Catholic church. It produced one notable father figure, Bishop Joseph Crowley, an auxiliary bishop of the diocese.

When St. Joseph, LaGrange, was founded in 1933, LaGrange County became the last county in the diocese to establish a parish.

After the death of the first pastor, Father Francis Clement Orth founded what is today St. Mary and Jesus. Also being under the patronage of Holy Cross Father Edward Sorin, even before its founding.

In neighboring Mishawaka, St. Joseph Parish is the oldest parish in the city and the oldest in the diocese to bear the saint’s name. The parish is still staffed by Father John F. Schaefer.

In Mishawaka, St. Joseph Parish also served as the parent parish to the other three parishes established in Mishawaka over the years.

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 Heather’s dad

BY DON KLEMMER

This article is a companion to the article on diocesan parishes, named for the Virgin Mary that ran in the May II issue of Today’s Catholic.

John’s name parish in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is named for St. Joseph. Perhaps fittingly, these churches under the patronage of the earthly father Jesus give a great deal to earthly fathers. Certainly the various priests who helped bring them into existence and shape them over the years. These faith communities have been a constant in the makeup of the diocese from even before its founding.

In Mishawaka, St. Joseph Parish is the oldest parish in the city and the oldest in the diocese to bear the saint’s name. The parish is still staffed by Father John F. Schaefer.

Heather’s dad

Heather most is to delight in the Catholic faith that, usually begin something like: “God didn’t know…” Once potty training was the big deal, now it’s spelling, phonics, sounding out words, learning numbers and counting.

One thing I’ve noticed since we adopted Heather is how quickly life has changed. Our child’s babyhood, jump in the pool; or indulge by going out to the evergreen to see the bird’s nest with baby robins or the new sprouts from seeds in her very own garden.

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I’ve got the shoe boxes to rest. Ever since our heyday as Neanderthal hunter-gatherers, families have defined ourselves largely according to what we do and how well we provide for our families. If your dad wants to repair a faucet or paint the base- ment on his special day, then let him. What is work to you may be recreation to him. We don’t go chasing down wooly mammoths with crude spears anymore, nor do we keep track of our skills by drawing pictures on cave walls, but “Lite” dads still prefer to do what dads do, even on Father’s Day.

Don’t buy him anything unless he specifically asks for it. Some children, even if they are considered a great father, I would be doing nothing more than my job. Call me modest or call me a schmuck, but I’ve discussed the question with other dads enough to know that I am not alone in this perspective.

And when she asks, “When can I eat Jesus?,” I know it won’t be long before she’s in that beautiful first Communion gown.

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NEW HAVEN — Mick Lomont is owner and manager of a large high-tech farming operation. It boasts not one but three tractors with autosteer, the new and innovative Real Time Kinesthetic (RTK), which is a global positioning unit for exact strip planting and much more. And though this steward of the land has one foot firmly grounded on God’s good earth, his humbly admits his other foot is firmly planted in his Catholic faith.

Born on a farm in Fort Wayne, Lomont says his father was a “real influence” on his career choice of farming. “I was 13 years old and loved the land. He was generous and encouraged me to farm. It’s in my blood,” he says reverently.

As his love of the land grew, so did his faith, as he attended St. Louis Academy, a Catholic elementary school his grandchildren currently attend. He and his family have belonged to lifelong active members of St. Louis-Besancon Parish. Following high school graduation, Lomont went on to earn a certificate in agriculture from Purdue University, and then earned a degree from St. Louis-Besancon Parish, including ministering the Eucharist to the ill, as a firm believer in his Catholic faith.

When the time came to venture out on his own, Lomont acquired 2,000 acres, and with one full-time assistant, he currently farms corn, soybeans and hogs on the farm for many years as well. In addition to farming and holding seats on several boards over the years, including the Agriculture Advisory Board and the East Allen County School Board, Lomont co-owned the Woodburn John Deere business for 20 years.

Through his father of six had a full schedule with his farm work and community activities, he felt his family life was blessed. “We’re blessed to have healthy kids. ... We have a good life on the farm,” he says, reporting that he was able to spend time with family during inclement weather.

The children assisted their dad on the farm as well, where they learned to be good stewards of the land. “The kids helped. They cleaned beans, helped with the hogs and the gardening,” says Lomont.

As for his children and faith, Lomont says, “It was the feast of the Immaculate Conception, and (Father Cam) explained how Jesus, who was perfect, couldn’t have been born of a woman with sin,” says Lomont. “He explained Mary’s body so she had to be pure and unequalled by sin.”

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Through the jail ministry, the volunteers hold Bible studies for the inmates as well as supply religious books and Bibles to the cells. Lomont has also assisted with the alcohol and drug abuse classes offered in the jail. “We spread the Gospel,” says Lomont. “We reap what we sow. We need to sow seeds for the spiritual harvest.”

Lomont, along with his wife, have also made many efforts at serving the Gospel with the first ever “Barnabas Award” for community service presented by the Associated Churches. Working toward the harvest not only on the farm but in the community has led Lomont to develop a program appropriately dubbed Second Chance Ministries, where he and seven others will offer counseling and job skill training services for inmates as they return to public life.

“When you see them, you are serious about turning their lives around, you help,” he says, adding that he hopes to secure job placement within parishioner-owned businesses willing to give the men a second chance at life on the outside.

As for his service endeavors, Mick Lomont says, he is blessed by each opportunity. Concerning life on the farm, he says, “The love of the new technology will keep him farming as long as he is in good health, with the hope of eventually passing it on and staying involved as manager.”

As for family, this father of six, grandfather of 17, is truly reaping what he’s sown, and says, “We’re a close family. Twenty-nine strong! We are blessed.”

Mick Lomont, a father of six, grandfather of 17, and active parishioner at St. Louis-Besancon Parish, is shown working on the farm in front of his John Deere Gator.
Help fathers bring their children to the Lord

Recall the days when Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians, 6:4, would be read at Mass. Children would look at their dad’s at the recitation of the words, “Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger,—” the word in the old days was “rage.” And children were embraced with the words that brought a return lift from brow from their dad, “Children, obey your parents (in the Lord), for this is right. ‘Honor your father and mother.’ This is the first commandment with a promise, “that it may go well with you and that you may have a long life on earth.””

This weekend children across America will honor their fathers, who have successfully threaded the second part of Paul’s message to fathers: “Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up with the training and instruction of the Lord.”

Which makes us ask, how active are dads today in training and instructing their children in the Lord? Does he help his children learn their prayers — nighttime, meals, sacramental preparation? Does he embrace Sunday Mass attendance, receive the sacraments, help with his parish community both as a volunteer and with financial support? Does he actively participate in Mass? Does he lead by Christian example at home, at the office, factory or field? And here’s a “biggie”: How does he treat his wife? Does he love his wife, as Paul says, “even as Christ loved the church?”

Perhaps these are some of the most important roles of a Catholic dad. Not only are dads — who often share the responsibility with moms — challenged to provide food, shelter, clothing and education for their family, they are also responsible for bringing that child up with the training and instruction of the Lord.

Children learn by example, to which Paul offers this advice to everyone in Ephesians 5: “Watch carefully then how you live, not as foolish persons but as wise, making the most of the opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not continue in ignorance, but try to understand what is the will of the Lord.”

Certainly these are words that apply today. These are days that call dads to pray with understanding the will of the Lord. Dads cannot prevail in ignorance about the dangers of the modern technology entering our homes via the Internet, television, video games, music, magazines, etc. Do the sights and sounds of this modern creation bring honor to God and build the vision of God’s family? Today’s dad needs to find time to read Scripture, reflect on the word, pray and spend time in prayer to hear the voice of God.

Words of wisdom

And with divorce, out-of-wedlock births prevalent, almost the norm, as well as death, it should be considered a blessing to have a dad as an active part of parenthood.

Here are some words of wisdom from a Today’s Catholic staff person, a father of four daughters and granddaughter: “To me the rewards of fatherhood never expire, from the time you cradle a baby in your arms, to the time you see them taking off the first time on a two-wheeler bike, to see them receive the sacraments — baptism, first Communion, confirmation, marriage — to presenting you with grandchildren, the thrill never stops.”

He added, “Of course, one of the things that make this possible in the framework of the church is that we have men called ‘Father,’ to provide the sacrament of marriage that puts a man and women together and follows through with the family life.”

We need good dads

LifeScript.com writer Emily Battaglia wrote a few years ago about the importance of the relationship between dads and daugh-
ters, dads and sons. She said, “The relationship between fathers and daughters is like the training ground for whom other male relationships will be like, including the one with her husband. Fathers provide examples on how to relate to the opposite sex. Fathers show their daughters that their feelings and ideas count from a male perspective, and they give their daughters admiration and praise to help grow confidence. They also say that the first man to fall in love with a woman is her dad. The importance of this relationship is immeasurable.”

And then Battaglia had this to say: “Male children need their fathers because no matter how wonderful a mother may be, it is the father who can provide his son with the reinforcement he needs for what it means to be a man. ... When sons are provided with a good example by their dad, they learn self-confidence. It is also said that males may also never feel comfortable loving another man like they love their father, which says that a father-son relationship is immeasurable.”

Deacon’s name added to those serving St. Patrick

In the June 8, 2008 issue of Today’s Catholic, I noticed an over-
sight. In the article concerning the 150th anniversary of St. Patrick’s Parish in South Bend, written by Judy Bradford, in the list of others who have served the parish before 1980, a name was omitted. Francis D. McGinnity was an ordained dea-
con who served in 1975. He was ordained a permanent deacon along with William Thomas Hamilton who is named in the article. They were both assigned to serve at St. Patrick’s, South Bend, simultane-
ously. Francis D. McGinnity served faithfully and died six weeks after his ordination. All of these above facts are listed in the archives of this newspaper for the diocese.

Mary L. McInnity South Bend

Thank you seminarians

Upon receiving our copy of the May 4 edition of Today’s Catholic our family was happy to see an article on the front page about our diocesan seminarians. We are thankful for their loving service to God through the people of his church. We are also privileged to have had the opportunity to have Deacon Andrew Curry spend some time at our parish, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, and look forward to the day of his ordination into the priesthood.

All of our sons are excellent examples of young men who have heard God’s calling in their heart and have responded to him. Our family prays that more young men and women will listen for their calling in life and continue to the ranks of those of the dedicated, consecrated religious who are so desperately needed in today’s church.

The Jacobs family Fort Wayne

A link to a piece of Madison history

I enjoyed the article on St. Michael the Archangel Church, Madison, but a bit of history was missed.

Did you know that Holy Cross Brother Anseim Calloit taught school in that church basement where he was ordained a permanent deacon in 1975? He was in the group of brothers along with Father Sorin who left France and came to America to begin Notre Dame. He was the first Holy Cross Brother in America to die — at the age of 20, he drowned in the Ohio River in 1845. His remains are in the cemetery next to the church and are so marked.

Remembering Father James O’Connor

He killed me softly with sweet words

Father James O’Connor 1916-2007

The voices of the choir became silent; there was one final subdued note from the organ, and the reverend James J. O’Connor was there — the pastor at St. John the Baptist Parish in Fort Wayne, stepped to the lectern.

Another silence hushed the congregation. When Father Jim O’Connor spoke, people listened. He had the gift. Without raising his voice and with his arms at his sides, he held the entire congre-
gation as if he was talking to each person one on one — and on this particular Sunday, he real-
ly got my attention because he began to talk about Father’s Day.

I was a young father, you see, with two very young daughters. I was pleased to know that Father O’Connor was going to direct his remarks to my new sta-
tus as a dad on Father’s Day. I sat up straight and listened carefully.

“Right away he gave us dads a salute by saying, ‘Today is a wonderful day in America — it’s Father’s Day.’”

Then he went on to describe how families would have cook-
eats and give dads golf balls, fishing tackle, books and other
gifts. “And that’s the way it should be,” he said. “American fathers should be honored because ....”

He went on to describe how an American dad was never too tired to get up in the middle of the night to quiet a fretful baby. Then he praised the unselfishness of American dads who never seemed to have given up a golf game or fishing trip to be with the family.

I felt myself slip-

ping down in the pew. My collar felt tight.

He reminded us that dads always looked for things to do around the house — getting storm windows in place while attending to any task that would make mother’s job easier and when he told how American dads always presented the correct example in behavior and speech, I thought, “This guy is ripping my flesh and numbering my homes.”

I always enjoyed father’s homilies, but on this day, I was relieved when he finished by wishing us all a Happy Father’s Day — that was the final plat-

tification.

That Father’s Day was way back in another century, and I don’t remember whether we had a crossword clue to it, but I’ll never forget how Father Jim O’Connor killed me softly with sweet words.

Juliana Falconieri

1770-1741

June 17-July 9

Juliana was the six-year-old of a wealthy couple in Florence, her home at the church of the Annunciation there. She refused to marry and was assassinated a daughter with her. Serata sickness led her to St. Alonzo, her uncle, later Pope Alexander V. She was 17 years old. She died of a fever in 1770 as she was attending to any task that would make mother’s job easier and when he told how American dads always presented the correct example in behavior and speech, I thought, “This guy is ripping my flesh and numbering my homes.”

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The church and illegal immigration

God’s love gives strength, hope

The Catholic Church does not support unlawful entry into the U.S. or any country. The church respects the right of nations to control their borders and to enact laws in the best interest of its citizens. Yet the church teaches that some rights are inherent in the human condition; these are natural rights, which extend beyond all national boundaries. All immigrants, legal and illegal, have natural rights from their inherent dignity as persons. Each is created in the image of God. — “Gaudium et Spes.”

All people should have their basic needs met in their homeland but have the right to seek basic needs abroad if they cannot be met at home. The dignity of the human person must be respected and priority must be given to family (re)unification. The church responds to immigrants not from their legal status but from the dictates of our belief and teaching. While an action or immigration status can be illegal, a person can never be illegal.

Nations may regulate borders to provide for national security, tranquility and prosperity, but the right to regulate borders is not absolute. Regulations must promote the common good, which includes not only members of the nation but also the universal human family. — Catechism of Catholic Church.

The church has a responsibility to assist the newcomer. In Scripture, God calls upon his people to care for the alien. “So, you, too, must befriend the alien, for you were once aliens yourselves in the land of Egypt.” — Dt 10: 17-19. And in chapter 25 of the Book of Exodus the journey of the Hebrew people from Egypt to the Promised Land is centered on (as well as serpents):

- Moses, not the Lord as power and with their power
- Jesus, not the people as power
- Apartheid, not the whites as power

The message of these readings supplied the second reading. Paul adds an interesting phrase to describe life without Christ. He refers to persons living without the Lord as “powerless.” Just as God loved the Hebrews, Paul reassures the Christian Romans that God loves them, and that in this love is their strength needed to live so as to reach everlasting life. Salvation is in and through the Savior, Jesus Christ. Again, some awareness of the historical context helps. The Christians of Rome were bombarded by a hostile culture. More than this, persecution threatened to overtake them and end their lives. Paul had to accomplish two objectives. He had to turn these Christians to the true purpose of life, namely, eternal life with God. Then he had to console them. Even in the face of the Roman Empire, they were not weak or helpless if they were with the Lord. This weekend’s last reading is from St. Matthew’s Gospel. In the story, Jesus is with a large crowd. The theme of divine love, already presented in the earlier readings, occurs again. Jesus had “pity” on the crowd. He loved the people. Loving the people, Jesus summoned the apostles and bestowed upon them the powers to restore life damaged by sickness and to expel evil spirits from people. The more dramatic of these two powers was the transmittal of power over the devil. Only God can rule the devil.

The Gospel carefully names the apostles. Matthew, for instance, was called the tax collector. There was no room for impostors or substitutes.

The early Christians surely appreciated the exactness of this list. These Christians wanted to know who were the authentic apostles. The genuine apostles had been united with the Lord’s special students. He had commissioned them and empowered them to continue with the task of saving the lost.

Reflection

We can relate to the Hebrews as they struggled to escape harsh slavery in Egypt and find peace and safety in the land God promised them. Life often is a called journey. It is indeed. From birth onward, we encounter different conditions. Events leave a mark upon us, for good or bad. We enter relationships. Some end with the happiest of feelings or results. Circumstances change. Always we are tempted to sin, the doorway to eternal death. Always peril awaits us.

The message of these readings is that God loves us. In this love is our strength. In this love is our hope of being forgiven. Jesus provides for us. He gave us the apostles. They are with us, with their power and with their knowledge of God, in the church.

READINGS


ANSWERS:

1. a. man b. love c. God
2. a. Egypt b. Israel c. Edom
3. a. scarlet cloth b. caviar c. (purple) silk
4. a. tsetse flies b. maggots c. caterpillars
5. a. worship b. barve statues c. eat
6. a. love b. care c. eat
7. a. love b. care c. eat
8. a. love b. care c. eat
9. a. love b. care c. eat
10. a. love b. care c. eat
11. a. love b. care c. eat
12. a. love b. care c. eat
13. a. love b. care c. eat
14. a. love b. care c. eat

CATEQUIZ’EM

By Dominic Camplisson

In preparation for June Bugs, this quiz looks at bugs and insects in the Bible.

1. What is the most commonly referenced insect in the Bible?
   a. the butterfly b. the locust c. the gnat
2. Which New Testament figure featured these in his diet?
   a. Herod b. John the Baptist c. Pilate
3. Exodus records the devastation of this country by a plague of flies:
   a. Egypt b. Israel c. Edom
4. Job 4 uses a moth to describe the frailty of:
   a. man b. love c. God
5. In Job 27 of some versions of the Bible, man’s house is described as a cocoon. The New American Bible translates this as a house made of:
   a. silk b. gossamer c. cobwebs

6. According to revelation, amongst the luxury goods, which will no longer be bought or sold, is this insect byproduct:
   a. scarlet cloth b. caviar c. (purple) silk

7. Often confused with insects, these arachnids were fair game for the disciples to walk on (as well as serpents):
   a. scorpions b. caviar c. dragonflies

8. Locusts were amongst the very few insects that Jews were allowed to:
   a. worship b. carve statues c. eat

9. The reference to worms in the Bible is usually not to earthworms but to these juvenile flies:
   a. tsetse flies b. maggots c. caterpillars

10. These were instrumental, for example, in the death of Herod as we learn in:

11. The existence of bees in the Holy Land is clearly referenced by this title:
    a. The Honey Dwellers b. The Land of Milk and Honey c. The Hive of Activity

12. Bees even featured in a riddle made famous by this strongman:
    a. Goliath b. Samson c. David

13. One of the titles of the evil one refers to insects. Which name means “lord of the flies”?
    a. buzz b. scorpions c. love

14. Exodus shows that Yahweh will send these insects to drive away the Hivites, Canaanites and Hittites:
    a. hornets b. bees c. wasps

15. During the “No Nothing” period in American history, anti-Catholic attitudes were commonly ascribed to WASPs. What does this pejorative acronym refer to?
    a. West American Scientific Person b. White Anglican-Scottish Priest c. White Anglo-Saxon Protestant
Men in grief

Much has been written about the differences between men and women in every aspect of life, from our cognitive hardwiring to traditional societal roles. There are of course exceptions to every rule. Yet understanding the role gender plays in grief can soften cultural expectations of men in grief.

Jim Krallman didn't put financial level of commitment from me that coach, who demanded a similar enth- and eighth-grade baseball competitive athletics. He was fol- necessary ingredients to succeed in March, April and May. Winter conditioning in late September and October, his players. There's summer ball in school baseball coach spends with make about 10 cents an hour. Difference, or reinforced a previous one. Either added a new, positive influ- to grieve, these men open their hearts to healing in conventional and not so conventional ways. They certainly didn't do it for the money... high school baseball coach, probably make about 10 cents an hour. Consider how much time a high school baseball coach spends with his players. There's summer ball in June and part of July, fall condi- tioning in late November and early December, open gym in January and February, and the spring baseball season in March, April and May.

Okay, maybe a nickel an hour. That doesn't pay for baseball gear or payment. Fortunately, about a half-dozen or so men who coached me along the way did get paid. But not for their hard work. They were also paid, and money was a necessary ingredient to succeed in competitive athletics. He was fol- lowed by Coach Al Lentych, my sev- enth- and eighth-grade baseball coach, who demanded a similar level of commitment from me that Lentych did.

It's a good thing for me that Jim Krallman didn't put financial gain ahead of his commitment to youth. When he spent six years coaching me in Little League and Senior League. He taught me brain chemistry and physiology indicates that men often tend to connect with their emotions more slowly and think more logically than their female counterparts. Tom Golden, author and expert on men in grief, finds that speaking with men about how they react to a loss rather than how they feel about it may be the most loving and protective way to support them in grief.

A case in point occurred recently when a young man I met at a grief seminar who admitted it took him almost three years to enjoy a photo book of his deceased daughter that he had relished since shortly after the death. “I couldn't look at her picture because it made me cry,” he said. “I just wanted to be able to hold on to the memories and keep the pain away.”

When speaking with men who have lost a loved one, I have occasion- ally found a deep tenderness that belies the traditional notion of déférence to grief. Once invited to grieve, these men open their hearts to healing in conventional and not so conventional ways.

Men in grief

The blessing of a few good men

O n a recent Sunday at church, the priest presiding over the Mass told the congregation to look around at the people in the pews. “You are surrounded by so many good people,” he said. It made me stop and think about all the people who had been such a strong influence in my life while I was growing up and participat- ing in athletics.

I didn’t have to strain to remember. After it was over, I thought about all the people who had been such a strong influence in my life while I was growing up and participat- ing in athletics.

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Men in grief

The blessing of a few good men

O n a recent Sunday at church, the priest presiding over the Mass told the congregation to look around at the people in the pews. “You are surrounded by so many good people,” he said. It made me stop and think about all the people who had been such a strong influence in my life while I was growing up and participat- ing in athletics.

I didn’t have to strain to remember. After it was over, I thought about all the people who had been such a strong influence in my life while I was growing up and participat- ing in athletics.
A father’s love for coaching

**CYO coach Herb Widner has passion for coaching, family**

**BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN**

**FORT WAYNE** — After 32 years of coaching and nearly 25 years as a father, Herb Widner has many stories to tell.

Widner grew up in a sports family. As a youngster, the St. Charles and Bishop Dwenger alum participated in basketball, football and track. Not long after that, he began his coaching career — leading many different boys and girls basketball and track teams in the diocese over the years. Widner is also the head of his household, which includes his wife, Margaret, one son and three daughters.

Widner has coached at many different schools during his extensive career including: St. Charles, St. Patrick, St. Vincent, St. Louis, St. Rose, Bishop Luers and Bishop Dwenger. The instructor said he loved coaching at St. Pat’s. “I would have stayed there forever,” he says.

Widner admits there are many more players to choose from at the larger schools, but he was just as happy at the smaller schools. “I have been very fortunate everywhere I have coached to have good players and good families,” Widner believes. He concludes, “It doesn’t really matter where you coach, as long as it’s fun.”

Widner has enjoyed following the hundreds of players he has coached over the years and watching their successes on and off the court after Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) and high school. Widner has even seen a few of his former players go on to attend the Division I and Division II levels in basketball. Widner also enjoys coaching against former players across the court on the bench who are now in coaching positions themselves, especially those on the current St. Charles staff.

This past season, Widner coached his youngest daughter, Chris, and the St. Vincent eighth-grade basketball team and helped out with the track team throwers. He also assisted with the Bishop Dwenger track program. It was his desire to return to his passion of coaching that drove Widner’s recovery a year ago when he was released from a three-month hospital stay. He battled an infection that spread throughout his body eating away bone in his shoulder and knees. Widner now sometimes uses a walker, but relies heavily on his wheelchair to get around. At some point, he will have to decide whether to risk further leg surgery.

But Widner has not always coached his own children’s teams. Wife, Margaret, explains, “Often coaches are hardest on their own kids.”

So, she felt it was okay when he coached other teams, dedicating hours and hours each season. But it made family time more of a challenge. Many nights they gathered around the dinner table late after games and sometimes he would miss watching his own kids play to coach.

Daughter Chris, who will be attending Bishop Dwenger this fall describes, “Dad always tells good stories about the ‘old days’ and has great inspirational speeches for me. He always says good things before he tells us what we did wrong. He has always been very supportive of what I do. Dad can make me smile when I’m sad.”

When asked about his future coaching plans, Widner simply said, “I’ll coach as long as it is fun. And it is still fun.”

**ICCL wraps up a year of sports**

**BY ELMER J. DANCH**

**SOUTH BEND** — Summertime is for kids. And in keeping with a time-honored tradition of the Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL), there will be no organized competition until football rolls around again next fall.

Anthony (Tony) Violi, who currently is rounding out his 11th year of a circuit says, “When we officially gather for an executive meeting, we often talk about the fact that the ICCL is glued together by Catholic men and women strictly on a voluntary basis. No one has ever been compensated even a penny for their efforts.”

 Violi has high praises for Marian High School, Mishawaka, and Saint Joseph’s High School, South Bend, for their assistance in making available their gymnasiums and football fields.

With 16 competing Catholic schools in the South Bend area, the league purposely set them up in two divisions: the John Bosco and Saint Joseph’s.

One of the major accomplishments of the season is that for the first time in many years, the two divisions were evenly matched.

The nine current varsity sports directors are Tony Violi, football; Joseph Kozinski, boys basketball; John Grissom, girls basketball; John Kryzewski, baseball; Jeff Deitchley, boys and girls soccer; James Elliott, girls softball; Barbara Kame, girls basketball; Emily Stauffacher, girls volleyball, and Mark Kopinski, girls track.

**BISHOP LUERS BASEBALL ADVANCES TO STATE** Bishop Luers High School’s No. 2-ranked baseball team, after defeating No. 6-ranked Boone Grove, 7-1, is poised for a state title this Friday or Saturday. They will play the winner of June 9 Mooresville Semistate. This could be the third state championship for Bishop Luers High School this year. They have state championships in football and basketball.

**MISAWAKA** — Marian High School’s talented-laden golfing Knights and clutch-bitting baseball team will direct their focus on two Indiana prep championship this weekend.

Coach Jim Ryder’s golf team has dominated play all season, including winning the northern Indiana conference championship, swept the Class 3-A regional championship despite some hefty weather hindrances with a 309 in the 12-team field. Adam Sumrall, the Knights’ premier player, was the medalist with a 35-77-72.

The Knights, who led by nine strokes on the opening nine, finished second stroking ahead of Chesterton, which finished with 311. Sumrall’s teammates were closest in Denny McShane carding a 78; Stephen Sexton, 79; Nick Fitzpatrick, 80; and Bryant DeMetter, 82.

Tyler Bilka of Saint Joseph’s High School qualified for the state individual competition with 78.

Coach Tim Prister’s Marian baseball team will be going to the state finals to face Crawfordsville this weekend after turning in two brilliant victories at the Class 3-A Plymouth regional.

The Knights bounced back after losing two early leads to defeat Yorktown, 7-6, in the championship round when Dan Ranschert cracked out a single to send Shawn Gerghty home with the winning run in the eighth.

Prior to that win, the Knights shell-shocked defending state champion Alexandria, 7-5. John Niespodzian was the winning pitcher in both games and cited as the real hero by Coach Prister.

The Knights’ record is 21-10 and Crawfordsville’s mark is 31-4.
Pope Benedict XVI’s April visit to the United States was well-received by Catholics and non-Catholics alike, but it has set a new course for how we Catholics approach God’s call to us?

“Civilization of Love,” a book written by Carl Anderson, the supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus, is an impressive figure, and it is clear that much of his thinking was influenced by Pope John Paul II, whom he spent time with on several occasions.

The Pontiff, with a clear understanding of what is wrong in a culture driven by materialism, relativism, and an often unwritten code that disdains God, would no doubt want to focus on the positives he brings to his book. But understanding both sides of the good/evil equation is important. Anderson, the supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus, is an author that we need — take some time, quietly reflect on what God wants us to do in any of several areas, and begin to get a mindset that steers us away from all that is corrupt in the world.

So turn off the cell phones, computer and television sets, read “A Civilization of Love,” sit back and relax — thinking and praying. You may be surprised at what pops in your mind.

The rest of us could make a commitment of some sort — though not necessarily as dramatic as a change in vocations — if we would more firmly grasp the importance of Pope Benedict’s message: There is hope in Christ. Understanding and then taking action on that opportunity is the importance of Pope Benedict’s visit to the United States — at which he spoke to a few thousand young people still trying to find their way in the world, as well as seminarians from every diocese in the United States — has reported that a large increase in applications has been seen since — has been seen since

A Civilization of Love” offers Catholic Can Do to Transform the World (HarperOne, $19.95) offers essays on things that all us in the modern day and follows with suggestions on how to better reflect on and take action to change our world for the better. Author Carl Anderson, with a clear understanding of what is wrong in a culture driven by materialism, relativism, and an often unwritten code that disdains God, would no doubt want to focus on the positives he brings to his book. But understanding both sides of the good/evil equation is important. Anderson, the supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus, is an author that we need — take some time, quietly reflect on what God wants us to do in any of several areas, and begin to get a mindset that steers us away from all that is corrupt in the world.

So turn off the cell phones, computer and television sets, read “A Civilization of Love,” sit back and relax — thinking and praying. You may be surprised at what pops in your mind.
FUNDRAISERS
Knights plan spaghetti dinner
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 851 will have a Father’s Day brunch on Sunday, June 15, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tickets are $7 for adults and $3 for children 12 and younger.

Knights plan Father’s Day brunch
South Bend — Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 451 will have a Father’s Day brunch on Sunday, June 15, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tickets are $7 for adults and $3 for children 12 and younger.

Spaghetti dinner
South Bend — The Serra Club and the Knights of Columbus Council 5570 will have a spaghetti dinner Thursday, July 10, from 4:6 p.m. at the Knights Hall, 5202 Linden at Mayflower Road. Tickets are $7.

Spirit of Chicago cruise
SOUTH BEND — St. Casimir Parish is planning a bus trip to Navy Pier with a luncheon cruise on Lake Michigan with dancing and entertainment. Cost is $92 per person and includes lunch. $10 from each ticket benefits the replacement of the school roof. Reservation deadline is July 31 to Sylvia Krol at (574) 287-9471.

St. Jude Eaglemania
Fort Wayne — Fort Wayne — St. Jude Parish will offer Eaglemania on Friday, June 13, from 5 p.m. to midnight. From 5-8:30 p.m., food, kids games and a talent show will be offered. From 9 p.m. to midnight, a beer garden and junior and senior high dance extravaganza will finish the evening.

Golf outing supports soup kitchen
Fort Wayne — Fort Wayne — Our Lady of Good Hope and the Knights of Columbus Council 12417 are sponsoring a charity golf outing to be held on Sunday, June 29, at Riverbend Golf Course. Proceeds will benefit the St. Mary’s Soup Kitchen. To learn more, register for the event or to become a sponsor, visit the Our Lady of Good Hope Web site: www.homencatholicweb.com/outlذيofgoodhope.

MISC. HAPPENINGS
Garden walk
Decatur — St. Mary of the Assumption Parish will offer a garden walk Sunday, June 29, from 12:30-5:30 p.m. Tickets are $6. Call Sis Kinte at (260) 547-4300 for ticket locations.

St. Patrick’s all-class school reunion
South Bend — All former students of St. Patrick School are invited to a reunion Sunday, June 22, beginning at 10:30 a.m. with Mass. Refreshments and snacks will be available. For more information contact Tom Righthley (Class of 1956) at (574) 233-8853.

DEVOTIONS
Women’s retreat offered at Lindenwood
Donaldson — A Catholic women’s retreat will be held at the Lindenwood Retreat Center from Wednesday morning, July 23 to Friday afternoon, July 25. Father Tom Shoemaker will be speaking on the beatitudes. Daily Mass and a reconciliation service are included. Reservations are limited. For more information call Patty at (260) 483-2285 or Cheryl at (260) 747-7006.

Fatima group announces breakfast
Fort Wayne — World Apostolate of Fatima will have the annual Mass and breakfast Saturday, June 14, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. The 9 a.m. Mass will be preceded by confession, rosary and consecration. Breakfast will follow at St. Mary Parish.

Little Flower Holy Hour
Fort Wayne — Deacon Jacob Runyon will celebrate the holy hour at MacDougall Chapel on Tuesday, June 17, at 7:15 p.m.

All family rosary
Fort Wayne — The all family rosary will be recited Sunday, June 29, at MacDougall Chapel from 3:30-4:30 p.m. The intention is for all families. Attending will be Father Thomas Shoemaker, from St. Jude Parish.

REST IN PEACE

Bishop Dwenger High School has an opening for a full-time biology teacher for the 2008-09 school year. Candidates must have a valid Indiana Teaching License with certification in secondary school biology. Qualified applicants should contact: Assistant Principal Jason Schiffli at (260) 496-4709 or e-mail jschiffli@bishopdwenger.com Application forms are available at the Diocesan Catholic School Office website: www.diocesefwsb.org/cs
We are the Knights of Columbus, 1.75 million men who support our Church by putting our faith into action.

We’d like you to join us in making Pope Benedict’s vision of building a society of life and love a reality.

Last year, Knights around the world—men just like you—rolled up their sleeves and contributed more than 68 million hours of volunteer service to charitable causes.

There’s no better way to respond to Pope Benedict’s call than to become an active member of the Knights of Columbus.

Interested? Call or visit this web address today.

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