Pope opens year of St. Paul
Says apostle should serve as model

BY JOHN THAVIS

ROME (CNS) — Joined by other Christian leaders, Pope Benedict XVI opened the year of St. Paul and said the apostle’s courageous witness to the faith should serve as a model for contemporary Christians.

"Paul is not a figure of the past that we remember with veneration. He is also our teacher, an apostle and a herald of Jesus Christ for us, too," the pope said at an evening prayer service June 28 in the Rome Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls.

The liturgy had a strong ecumenical tone. Accompanied by Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople and representatives of Orthodox and Anglican churches, the pope lit the first candle from a large lamp that will burn in the basilica’s portico throughout the coming year.

Then the pontiff led a procession through the “Pauline door” into the church, which was built near the site of St. Paul’s martyrdom and holds his tomb. It was the inaugural event of a jubilee year that will run until June 29, 2009, in commemoration of the 2,000th anniversary of the apostle’s birth.

Seated near Patriarch Bartholomew, the pope said in a homily that the Pauline year should send a strong signal of Christian unity. He warmly greeted the other Christian representatives, including many who had come from areas where St. Paul evangelized — in the Holy Land, Syria, Greece, Cyprus and Asia Minor.

St. Paul understood the essential value of Christian unity because he understood the church as the “body of Christ,” the pope said. In St. Paul’s time and in every age, repairing divisions is an urgent task, he said.

Pope Benedict XVI embraces Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople during Mass marking the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul June 29 at St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican.

Apostles in Arcola
Indian cardinal, bishop visit rural parish

BY DON CLEMMER

ARCOLA — “God speaks to us in events,” said Cardinal Telesphore Toppo, archbishop of Ranchi, India, during his homily on Sunday, June 29, at St. Patrick Parish. The visit from the cardinal, one of the 115 who participated in the conclave that elected Pope Benedict XVI, as well as Jesuit Bishop Felix Toppo was certainly an event.

“Being a small parish, we are always grateful, for instance, when Bishop (John M.) D’Arcy visits,” said Ken Schaefer, president of St. Patrick’s parish council. “We never would expect — and we were absolutely humbled and very grateful — that a cardinal would find it in his busy time to come visit us.”

This was especially significant as it coincided with the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, two apostles.

“The Lord has brought two bishops here, successors of the apostles,” Cardinal Toppo said, adding lightly, “I don’t know whether Father Cyril did something or the parishioners have done something.”

What Father Cyril Fernandes, pastor of St. Patrick, did was provide a place to stay for Bishop Felix — his bishop, who visits the parish about once a year — and the cardinal for most of the last week of June.

Both Cardinal Toppo and Bishop Toppo had attended the June 15-22 International Eucharistic Congress in Quebec, and Bishop Toppo had invited the cardinal to accompany him to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. This was only the cardinal’s second visit to the United States.

And since a number of the Indian priests serving in the diocese had been Cardinal Toppo’s priests prior to the creation of new dioceses, this was an excellent opportunity to visit them.

“They have to adjust, culturally, psychologically and also socio-economically,” Cardinal Toppo told Today’s Catholic. “But I was happy to hear people are receiving...
Bishop D’Arcy remembers the life of a priest-friend

By Nancy Frazier O’Brien

WASHINGTON (CNS) — After balloting of bishops who did not vote at the spring meeting in Orlando, Fla., a two-thirds majority of the 250 members of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to reconsider liturgy translation rejected in balloting.

Washington Bishop Donald Wuerl, chair of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Divine Worship, told the bishops that the translation had come from the International Commission on Liturgy, known as ICEL, but at the Orlando meeting in June many bishops expressed frustration that recommendations they had submitted to ICEL to clarify the sentence structure or dummed down to the most common English expressions were not voted on. Meanwhile, “they are no longer common speech. But they are not,” he added.

Bishops will keep pace with the actions of other English-speaking conferences, two additional Gray Book translations will be submitted to the bishops for approval at the November meeting, the release said.

If the tests receive an affirmative vote by the body of bishops, the original timeline will be maintained, and the final text of the complete Roman Missal will be presented for approval in November 2010, it added.

You can read the full story online at www.uscb.org/publications/08/08-101.shtml.

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Making history in Indianapolis

25 men ordained permanent deacons

By Sean Gallagher

INDIANAPOLIS — History was made on June 28 at St. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis. That day, Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein ordained the first class of 25 permanent deacons in the history of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

“That two-hour service was part of the ministry of the archdiocese,” Deacon John Thompson of St. Augustine Parish in Jeffersonville told the Criteron newspaper of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis after the liturgy.

“And it was a huge part, as far as I’m concerned. I was a part of it. Wow.”

The new permanent deacons will be ministering in parishes and in the broader community in such places as jails, prisons, hospitals and nursing homes.

The deacons, witness marriages and preside over funeral services. At Mass, they will be able to proclaim the Gospel and preach but will not serve as celebrants or the Eucharist.

Deacon Thompson said in the ministry of the word, the deacons “will be a light and provide pastoral guidance. The deacons’ ministry, however, will be focused on charity. This ministry will flow from their ordination, which was marked by solemn rituals and heartfelt prayers from the friends and relatives of the new deacons who packed the cathedral.

“You felt love and the Spirit all the way through,” said Cindy Stratman, the wife of Deacon Michael Stratman. “I felt that I completely gave him to Jesus today.”

Deacon Stratman, who will minister at St. Patrick and St. Margaret Mary parishes and at Union Hospital in Terre Haute, had a large contingent of relatives in attendance.

He is the oldest of 13 siblings, and has four children and 12 grandchildren.

“I’m very proud that they’re here,” Deacon Stratman, 53, said after the liturgy. “I’m very humbled that they allowed me to give part of my life to the Lord in a different way through the church.

“I was thinking of each one of them and praying for them (during the liturgy). I hope that I can minister to them as much as the people of the church.

Deacon Stratman’s youngest sister, Amy Stratman, 31, attended the ordination. She delayed her wedding until the fall so her brother could officiate at it.

“I was so proud and so amazed that my brother could do something like that,” said Stratman, who lives in Lincoln, Neb. “He’s got to be an awesome deacon.”

Whether they are ministering to their families or the broader church, the new deacons, as ordained members of the clergy, will be special sacramental signs of Christ in the faithful.

“Dear sons and brothers, you are to be raised to the order of the deaconate,” Archbishop Buechlein said in his homily. “The Lord has set an example that just as he himself has done, you also should do.

“As deacons, that is, as ministers of Jesus Christ, who came among his disciples as one who served, do the will of God from the heart: Serve the people in love and joy as you would the Lord.”

Joy was on the mind of Father Clement Davis, pastor of St. Bartholomew Parish in Columbus, as he talked about Deacon William Jones, who will be ministering at the parish.

“Bill is a man of joy,” said Father Davis. “I would just hope that he would continue as a deacon to bring that joy to all the people that he serves. He is a real light and an uplifting factor in the lives of the people he knows and works with every day.

Sharing that joy will be important at the start of Deacon Jones ministry because he will be focused on comforting the dozens of members of St. Bartholomew Parish whose homes were severely damaged by flooding last month.

Deacon Jones injured his left arm while working as an electrician for his employer, Mariah Foods, recover from the flooding.

“The last four weeks have been an incredible experience for me,” he said. “It showed how God really does work in my life. To see everyone build back up and have everything culminate with today’s ordination, it’s amazing how God works in our lives and how we have to trust in him.”

The ordination was a culmination of five years of intense ministry for Benedictine Father Bede Cisco, who — as director of the archdiocesan office of deacon formation — led the 25 men through their discernment and formation.

“I’m delighted with the movement of the Spirit among them,” he said. “And the Spirit will continue to work through them for the service of many people.

I hope that they’ll remember that they’re always servants and bring that image of Christ the servant to every situation that they’re in.”

Becoming a sacramental image of Christ was on the mind of Deacon Donald Dearman, who will minister at St. Rita Parish and at Marion County Jail No. 1, both in Indianapolis. It was also at the heart of the ordination liturgy when Archbishop Buechlein laid his hands on Deacon Dearman.

Deacon Dearman said it was like God himself touching him. “I’m so excited,” he said. “And, in a sense, that’s what it was. He was calling down the Holy Spirit on me. I’ve been going through all this for years. But at the touch of that hand, there was a transformation. That was Jesus entering into me.”

For more photos from the ordination, log on to www.CriterionOnline.com. For profiles on the new deacons and more articles about them, log on to www.archindy.org/deacon

OSV looks at report alleging Catholic hospitals’ ethical lapses

HUNTINGTON (CNS) — A national Catholic newspaper said a report alleging that thousands of abortions, sterilizations and other procedures were performed in 23 Texas Catholic hospitals from 2000 to 2003 has prompted Catholic hospital officials in the state to scrutinize their records and stirred intense discussions among hospital officials, directors of the facilities’ patient health systems and local bishops.

The newspaper, Our Sunday Visitor in Huntington, published an investigative story about the report in its July 13 edition.

The report was made by a group of “whistle-blowers” who compiled hospital official diagnostic and procedure codes to determine if there were 9,684 instances of allegedly unequivocal “sterilization for contraceptive purposes” from 2000 to 2003.

Bishops, which Our Sunday Visitor said it contacted through an intermediary, also cited data indicating that thousands of abortions were performed at Catholic hospitals.

Group members noted, however, the data could be subject to interpretation because it could include morally acceptable procedures such as surgery to remove a baby that has died in the mother’s womb or emergency services for an abortion performed at another location.

The whistle-blowers’ report, titled “U.S. Catholic Hospitals Betray Mission,” was posted June 16 on a Web site called WikiLeaks and posted on the national Catholic newspaper’s Web site.

The report, which was mailed to Vatican and U.S. health organizations, “disheartening as it is to learn of the depths to which some of our nation’s bishops have sunk due to their moral immorality,” the whistle-blowers said.

“Disheartening as it is to learn of the depths to which some of our nation’s bishops have sunk due to their immoral actions,” the whistle-blowers said.

A sidebar story in Our Sunday Visitor, based on interviews with representatives from Texas Catholic hospitals, said they seemed confused about church teaching against sterilization.

An accompanying editorial in the newspaper’s July 13 issue pointed out that the records in the whistle-blowers’ report are at least five years old.

“It may well turn out that many of the hospitals named in the report have since done a better job of implementing the bishop’s ethical directives for health care facilities,” the editorial said.

But the editorial, signed by the newspaper’s editorial board, also noted that some of the hospital representatives are confused about church teaching on sterilization, which “suggests the problem has not yet been fully addressed.

Training in church teaching is a step in the right direction,” the editorial said, but it also called for a stronger approach, urging Catholic social ministries “to step back and re-evaluate their role in society.”

The editorial noted that as “disheartening as it is to learn of unethical practices in Catholic institutions,” the whistle-blowers’ report has “provided the country’s bishops an excellent opportunity to review their relationships with the Catholic health institutions in their dioceses, to call for corrections where necessary, and, above all, to exhort them to fidelity to their Catholic identity.”

For more information on the report, log on to www.thedailyCatholic.org.

Death of Msgr. Faber

At press time, today’s Catholic has learned of the death of Msgr. William Faber. A full article will appear in the July 27, 2008, publication.

Sean Gallagher, Criteron
NOTRE DAME — The University of Notre Dame’s annual liturgy conference June 16-18 attracted priests, diocesan personnel and parish ministers from across the country and featured nationally recognized speakers, including Father Rick Hilgartner, associate director of the U.S. Bishops’ Secretariat of Divine Worship.

Father Hilgartner presented an update on what is happening in the church liturgically and pointed to the importance of centers for liturgical formation. He stressed the need to find the most appropriate means for discerning them and proposing them to the whole church as a model and encouragement for other Christian spousals,” Pope John Paul II wrote.

The last of the decrees published in early July recognized the heroic virtues of Chiara Badano, who died of bone cancer in 1980, just three weeks before her 19th birthday. The young Italian, who was born in Savona, was a member of the Focolare movement and was known particularly for the way she encouraged and consolated the groups of young people who would come to her bedside to offer her encouragement and consolation.

The change will be set later. The miracle attributed to Blessed Damien involves the 1999 healing of Audrey Horner, a Rhode Island woman who was working in Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome.

Blessed Damien was a 19th-century Belgian missionary, a member of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. Born in 1840, he spent the last 16 years of his life caring for patients with Hansen’s disease, or leprosy, on the Hawaiian island of Molokai.

Another of the decrees approved by the pope July 3 involved a miracle attributed to the intercession of Louis and Marie Zelie Guerin Martin, the parents of St. Thérèse of Lisieux, Louis lived from 1823 to 1894 and his wife from 1833 to 1877. In 1994, the Martins were declared venerable, one of the first steps in the sainthood process. But despite the active encouragement of Pope John Paul II to move the cause forward, the miracle needed for the beatification was missing. Pope John Paul, in his letter on preparing for the third millennium, had written of the need to identify holy married couples and beatify or canonize them as examples to all Catho-lics.

“Precisely because we are convinced of the abundant fruits of holiness in the married state, we need to find the most appropriate means for discerning them and proposing them to the whole church as a model and encouragement for other Christian spousals,” Pope John Paul II wrote.

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Archbishop expresses sadness at leaving St. Louis

BY JENNIFER DRINKER

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — Archbishop Raymond L. Burke didn’t hide his sadness during a news conference June 27 in St. Louis following his appointment as prefect of the Apostolic Signature at the Vatican.

Calling the appointment “bittersweet,” the archbishop said, “I am deeply honored and also humbled by the trust which Pope Benedict XVI has placed in me. I have pledged the Holy Father to serve him with all my energies to the best of my abilities. I ask you to please pray for me, as these are obviously challenging responsibilities which I will be taking up.”

Several minutes into the meeting, he paused and his eyes became teary. His reaction was met with loud applause from archdiocesan employees who were there.

Archbishop Burke, who turned 60 June 30, is the first U.S. bishop to be named prefect of the Apostolic Signature, which is the Vatican’s highest court.

When the appointment was announced at the Vatican, Archbishop Burke ceased to be archbishop of St. Louis, where he had served for almost four-and-a-half years.

The archdiocesan college of consultors met the afternoon of June 27 and elected Bishop Robert J. Hermann to serve as archdiocesan administrator until the pontiff names a new archbishop of St. Louis. Bishop Hermann, 73, has been an auxiliary bishop of St. Louis since 2002.

As head of the Supreme Court of the Apostolic Signature, the archbishop will hear appeals of decisions issued by lower church courts. Many of the cases handled by the court are appeals to sentences of the Roman Rota dealing with marriage annulments.

Archbishop Burke said he learned of the appointment 10 days before when he received a call at his residence from Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

“There’s a sadness at the thought of leaving St. Louis, as I’ve become so deeply involved in the life of the church here,” Archbishop Burke said in an interview with the St. Louis Review, archdiocesan newspaper, after the press conference.

A native of Richland Center in southwestern Wisconsin, Archbishop Burke was ordained a priest in 1975 and has served as pastor of several parishes and diocesan offices.

The pope next pointed to St. Paul’s First Letter to the Thessalonians, in which the apostle made it clear that announcing the Gospel required courage and was never free from struggle.

The important thing for St. Paul, the pope said, was never to hide the truth in order to obtain a “superficial harmony.”

Finally, the pope cited St. Paul’s Second Letter to Timothy, in which he reflected on the fact that his years of evangelizing had brought him suffering.

Saint Paul understood that “there is no love without suffering,” and that “in a world in which the lie is powerful, truth is paid in suffering,” the pope said.

After the pope spoke, Patriarch Bartholomew also delivered a short homily, noting St. Paul’s immense influence on the history of the churches of the East.

In joining the Greek language and the Roman mentality of his time, the patriarch said, St. Paul had freed the church from any kind of restricted outlook and laid the foundations for the “catholic,” or wide-ranging, scope of its mission.

Earlier in the day, the pope and Patriarch Bartholomew met at the Vatican. In a speech, the pope said he was pleased to learn that the ecumenical patriarch, too, had arranged for a Pauline year for his Orthodox faithful.

The pope said St. Paul’s emphasis on unity applied not only to Christian churches, but also in a wider sense to a modern culture that is marked by persistent conflicts and divisions.

The contemporary man or woman is confused and in a sense “ensnared by a certain hedonistic and relativistic culture, which places in doubt the very existence of truth,” the pope said.

Christian churches need to respond together to that challenge, and St. Paul’s words and actions can help promote this kind of cooperation, he said.

At a noon blessing at the Vatican June 29, the pope noted that the Pauline year would focus on Rome, where several pilgrimage sites related to the apostle have been readied. But it also involves places in Turkey, the Holy Land, Malta and other countries where St. Paul preached, he said.

According to tradition, St. Paul was born in Tarsus — in what is today Turkey — around A.D. 8, and was beheaded in Rome around 67.

In recent years, Vatican experts examined the area beneath the main altar of the Basilica of St. Paul’s Outside the Walls for clues about the tomb of the apostle a marble sarcophagus bearing the inscription “Paul Apostle Martyr.”

Because it is buried beneath building material, the experts decided against trying to open the sarcophagus, which is only partly visible.

Archbishop Raymond L. Burke of St. Louis meets with Auxiliary Bishop Robert Joseph Herman in St. Louis in this file photo from April 16, 2007.
Traditionalists say they’ve met Vatican’s deadline for reconciliation

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The traditionalist Society of St. Pius X said it met the Vatican’s deadline to respond to a memo outlining preliminary conditions for full reconciliation with the rest of the Catholic Church. However, a statement released by the Swiss-based society July 1 implied that the traditionalist group did not accept all the conditions set out in the letter, and it appealed to Pope Benedict XVI to lift the 1988 decree of excommunication against the society’s bishops who were ordained without papal permission. The Vatican press office said July 3 that it did not plan to comment on the statement. In the July 1 statement, the Society of St. Pius X said, “The very general way to say vogue — character of the demands singularly contrasts with the urgency of the ultimatum,” adding that they appeared to be geared simply to promoting dialogue rather than resolving differences. The memorandum given June 4 to the head of the society, Bishop Bernard Fellay, by Cardinal Danilo Castellión Hoyos, the Vatican’s top man in charge of dialogue with the traditionalists.

New bishops named for Wilmington, U.S. Virgin Islands

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has named Baltimore Auxiliary Bishop W. Francis Malooly of Techny, Ill., as bishop of Wilmington, Del. He succeeds Bishop Michael A. Saltarelli, who in January turned 75, the usual retirement age for U.S. bishops. The pope also appointed Msgr. Herbert A. Bevard, 62, a Philadelphia pastor, as bishop of St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands. He succeeds Bishop George V. Murphy, who was named to head the Diocese of Youngstown, Ohio, in January 2007. Bishop Malooly’s installation is scheduled for Sept. 8 and Bishop Bevard’s installation is scheduled for Sept. 3. Bishop Malooly, the 13th auxiliary bishop to serve the Archdiocese of Baltimore, was born there Jan. 18, 1944. He studied at the now-closed St. Charles Seminary in the Baltimore suburb of Catonsville and at St. Mary’s Seminary in Baltimore. He was ordained to the priesthood in May 1970, and his episcopal ordination was March 1, 2001. Born in Baltimore Feb. 24, 1946, Bishop designate Bevard attended McDonogh School in Owings Mills, Md., graduating from high school in 1964. He joined the Catholic Church that same year. Later he entered St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Wynnewood, Pa. He was ordained a priest in 1972 for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Newly ordained Society of the Divine Word priests serve around world

TECHNY, III. (CNS) — The first assignments for the nine men ordained as priests of the Society of the Divine Word in May will take them around the globe. The nine priests — eight are of Vietnamese descent and one is from China — will serve in the order’s western and southern U.S. provinces and in Mexico, Mozambique and Paraguay. Historically, Divine Word priests have “transcended boundaries — geographically, philosophically and culturally. Globally, we work together,” said Father Mark Weber, Chicago provincial superior for the Society of the Divine Word located in Tecnhy. The men were ordained May 24 in Tecnhy by Auxiliary Bishop Dominic Carnon of New Orleans, who was ordained a priest for the Society of the Divine Word, known commonly as Divine Word missionaries and as Veritans. The Society of the Divine Word was founded in 1875 and currently has more than 6,000 members who serve the spiritual and social needs of people in 70 countries.

Vatican: Receiving Eucharist kneeling will be norm at papal liturgies

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Receiving the Eucharist on the tongue while kneeling before the pope will become the norm at papal liturgies, said the Vatican’s liturgist. While current norms allow the faithful to receive the Eucharist in the hand while standing, Pope Benedict XVI has indicated a preference for the more traditional practice, said Msgr. Guido Marini, master of papal liturgical ceremo-

monies. Kneeling and receiving Communion on the tongue highlights “the truth of the real presence of (Christ) in the Eucharist, helps the devotion of the faithful and introduces the sense of mystery more easily,” he said in a June 26 interview with the Vatican newspaper, L’Osservatore Romano. Pastoraly speaking, he said “it is urgent to highlight and recover” these aspects of the sacredness and mystery of the Eucharist in modern times. Generally at papal Masses, those receiving Communion from the pope stand and the majority choose to receive on the tongue.

Cardinal urges Vietnamese Catholics in North America to integrate

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As a cardinal who began his U.S. tour, he advised Vietnamese Catholics living in North America to integrate with the faithful in their newly adopted country, but remain close to the culture of their homeland. In the past several years, the cardinal said he has traveled to more than a dozen countries where Vietnamese Catholics now live and routinely encourages them to adapt to their local church communities while remembering Vietnam.

Pope appoints U.S. cardinal to help lead synod on Bible

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI appointed U.S. Cardinal William J. Levada as head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, as one of three appointments for the world Synod of Bishops on the Bible this fall. The pope also named as delegate presidents for the Oct. 5-26 assembly Cardinals Oswald Gracias of Mumbai, India, and Odilo Scherer of Sao Paolo, Brazil. The Synod of Bishops, which opens with the appointments June 24. Though Pope Benedict, as pontiff, is president of the synod, the three cardinals will take turns presiding over the synod’s daily sessions. The synod will bring together some 250 bishops to discuss the theme “The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church.”

Priest’s beatification is milestone for Lebanon, Haddad family

BEIRUT, Lebanon (CNS) — Tens of thousands of Lebanese witnessed the beatification ceremony of their beloved Capuchin Father Jacques Haddad in Martyrs’ Square in central Beirut, Anna Maria Chemaly, who is engaged to Blessed Haddad, whose name in Arabic is Abouna Yaacoub, arrived in Lebanon from Canada with her three children a few days before the June 22 ceremony. She said it was exciting to return to her homeland and see posters and banners of her great uncle across the country. She attended the ceremony with her 13-year-old daughter, Habiba, and about 30 other members of the Haddad family. They sat with 100 Catholic clergy, including patriarchs, bishops and priests. Cardinal Jose Saraiva Martins, prefect of the Vatican Congregation for Saints’ Causes, said “It was quite an honor to be part of this celebration,” Chemaly said. Victor Haddad, the 84-year-old Haddad and Chemaly’s uncle, presented the family tree as part of the presentation of the gifts.

Louisville archbishop says bicentennial Mass a celebration of family

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (CNS) — About 6,000 people gathered at Slugger Field downtown Louisville June 29 to celebrate the 200th birthday of the Archdiocese of Louisville, an event that was told to mark the church’s first steps into its third century. From an altar built at the ball field’s second base, Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville told the congregation they should take pride in the family nature of the Church and its history in central Kentucky. “Isn’t it a wonderful occasion to celebrate that we are a family of faith, hope and love that reflects the family of his homily. “And by the way, happy 200th birthday!” Archbishop Kurtz told the celebrant of the bicentennial Mass. Concelebrants included retired Archbishop Thomas C. Kelly of Louisville; Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, retired archbishop of Washington; and seven other bishops.

Chicago’s Polish community welcomes Polish cardinal with ‘great joy’

CHICAGO (CNS) — Polish Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz of Krakow found his way into the hearts of Polish Chicaguans during June 27-29 weekend visit. “Chicago welcomed me with great joy as one of its own,” Cardinal Dziwisz said at a banquet for Bishop Abramowicz Seminary just before his departure for Poland June 29. “I was welcomed with words, with music and, most importantly, with open hearts.” Cardinal Dziwisz, 69, is perhaps best known as the personal secretary to Pope John Paul II. He served the late pontiff for 12 years when then-Archbishop Karol Wojtyla was head of the Krakow Archdiocese, and then for all 27 years of his papacy. Pope Benedict XVI appointed then-Archbishop Dziwisz to Krakow two months after Pope John Paul died in 2005; he became a cardinal in March 2006. Cardinal Dziwisz’s visit, following a pilgrimage to the June 15-22 International Eucharistic Congress in Quebec City, under-scored the close ties that exist between the Polish people in Chicago and Poland.

NEWS BRIEFS

BISHOP PRAYS NEXT TO COFFIN OF FRASSATI

(CNS PHOTO/DANIEL MUNOZ, REUTERS)
Father George Gabert, FSSP, of the St. Mother Theodore Guérin Community, offered Mass in the extraordinary form June 25 for about 70 local Boy Scouts and their families who are attending summer camp at Camp Chief Little Turtle in Angola. Each Wednesday evening, Mass is offered by diocesan priests for the Scouts attending camp. In the coming weeks, Father Tony Steinacker chaplain of the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting, Father Tim Wrozek and Father Tom Shoemaker will offer Mass at the camp.

The 10 a.m. Mass currently is being streamed, and, during the academic year, the 11:45 a.m. Mass will be streamed live. Both also are available for download.

New York-based Faith & Values Media, which produced the Mass for Hallmark, exercised an option for the Mass. From those who prefer to bring food to the event, monetary contributions are welcomed. For more information or to offer suggestions for songs, please call Frans Holmes (at 574) 278-2900.

Saint Mary's College announces awards of distinction

NOTRE DAME — Saint Mary's College is pleased to announce the recipients of four annual awards of distinction. The following is the list of the awards and the recipients.

Spes Unica Award: Professor Claude D. Renshaw, business administration and economics.

This award recognizes a faculty member's eminent service to the college in some particular aspect of its development. Renshaw, who retired from the college in 1995, is known for exciting, challenging and encouraging his students. Because of her great faith in the students, those who may have doubted their ability to succeed are urged to persevere and excel. While generous with her own time, Porter fosters independence by persuading students to form learning communities and help each other.

St. Catherine Medal: Andrea M. Krebs 2009

Each year, Kappa Gamma Pi, the National Catholic Honor Society, awards the St. Catherine Medal to a sophomore or junior who has demonstrated high standards of personal excellence and scholarship and has contributed to the college community in the spirit of Christian leadership. This award commemorates St. Catherine of Alexandria, the patron saint of scholars and especially of women scholars. Andrea Krebs of Oronoco, Minn., who is majoring in biology, chemistry and psychology, has contributed to the college community in the spirit of Christian leadership. This award commemorates St. Catherine of Alexandria, the patron saint of scholars and especially of women scholars. Andrea Krebs of Oronoco, Minn., who is majoring in biology, chemistry and psychology, has contributed to the college community in the spirit of Christian leadership.

Lumen Christi Award is named for the Father of the Year by National Association of Pastoral Educators.

The Lumen Christi Award is named for the Father of the Year by National Association of Pastoral Educators. The award, which honors both his 28 years' leadership of the internationally renowned Master's of Pastoral Studies program and his work with undocumented immigrants, was given to the president of Notre Dame Folk Choir, has been named Pastoral Educator of the Year by the National Association of Pastoral Educators.

NOTRE DAME — Steven C. Warner, director of the University of Notre Dame Folk Choir, has been named by the National Association of Pastoral Educators as the 2008 Father of the Year. The award honors both his 28 years' leadership of the internationally renowned Master's of Pastoral Studies program and his work with undocumented immigrants.

Father of the Year by National Association of Pastoral Educators.

NOTRE DAME — Steven C. Warner, director of the University of Notre Dame Folk Choir, has been named Pastoral Educator of the Year by the National Association of Pastoral Educators. The award, which honors both his 28 years' leadership of the internationally renowned Master's of Pastoral Studies program and his work with undocumented immigrants, was given to the president of Notre Dame Folk Choir, has been named Pastoral Educator of the Year by the National Association of Pastoral Educators.

Among Warner's compositions are many songs from the folk choir's repertoire, including “Set Your Heart on the Higher Gifts,” “You Are the Father,” “I Have Been Anointed,” “Crux Fidelis” and a musical version of the Lord’s Prayer. During the past 10 years, Warner has directed many Notre Dame alumni and others call “The Notre Dame Lord’s Prayer.”

Updated amount for the homeless walk

FORT WAYNE — St. John the Evangelist Parish, raised $7,328.19 that was donated to Vincent Village in Fort Wayne as part of the Homeward Bound Walk. A photo from the appreciation presentation was featured in the June 15, 2008 issue of Today's Catholic.
Management baton passed at Cathedral Bookstore

BY KAT COZAD

FORT WAYNE — The Cathedral Bookstore recently bid a fond farewell to longtime manager Karen Magdich and welcomed Kara Slocum to the helm.

Magdich, a Fort Wayne native and St. Peter parishioner, leaves the bookstore after managing the business for 12 years and recalls joining the bookstore staff at the request of Sister Jane Carew of the Office of Catechesis, when only books and cards were sold there. Through her tenure, many unique and handcrafted items have been added to the inventory.

“There have been changes,” says Magdich. “The bookstore has grown a lot. While growing the business for the diocese, Magdich feels her faith has grown as well. “I’ve come to love the church while working for the bookstore. I got quite an education,” she says.

The bookstore began as a small media center and library in the 1980s. By 1997, Carew recalls, “the reek to reel films the lending library loaned to the parishes in the area. As the parishes began purchasing their own materials, the bookstore opened its space to more books and cards. It was housed in the Cathedral Center on Cathedral Square for many years before moving to its new location on the first floor of the Archdioces Noll Catholic Center in 2006.

Magdich enjoyed working with the Office of Catechesis to ensure that area parishes received the materials needed for their missions and programs. “We do a lot of business with the parishes. It’s our mission in a way,” she says. However, she served the walk-in traffic with as much enthusiasm. “We are servants of the people of the diocese. I try to treat everyone who comes into the store like I treat the bishop,” she says.

Retirement plans for this servant of the diocese includes traveling, enjoying the 23 acres she and husband Dick own and spending time with family. “I want time to be with the grandkids, to work in the yard, dig in the dirt... a lot!”

As for passing the baton to Kara Slocum, Magdich says, “I think she’ll fit right in and be good at this. She’ll grow the bookstore. She’ll be very pastoral with the people and bring new ideas to make it better than what it has become.”

Slocum is a native of Fort Wayne and, along with her husband Rob and their four children, is a member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish. She brings a bounty of skills and talents to the job including plenty of retail experience. She and husband Rob own and operated Heaven’s Treasures, a family-owned Catholic bookstore, for 11 years.

“We saw it as a ministry to encourage faith,” says Slocum, who believes she will bring that same inspiration to the Cathedral Bookstore.

Following a friendly call informing her of the management position opening at the Cathedral Bookstore, she felt that God was leading her there.

“Working for the diocese is awesome. It’s an honor to have been chosen for this position,” says Slocum.

The position has her ordering and stocking existing product, meeting with salespeople, overseeing advertising and meeting the needs of the Office of Catechesis concerning special events. In addition to business expertise, Slocum brings an artistic and pastoral touch to the bookstore as well.

“I have an artistic flair,” she says enthusiastically. “I think I can do neat things with the displays.” But she adds that there is not much to change.

Slocum’s favorite part of the job is being on the sales floor. “The reason is the whole reason why I got into the business. I wanted to deepen my faith and what better way than being around this product and bringing it to others.” She finds it rewarding to assist customers in finding just the right item as well as encouraging them in times of need.

Slocum is grateful to be working with staff members Ruth Chronister and Pat Dodane, who bring years of experience to the store. “They will miss Magdich, who gave so much all the time,” they are looking forward to working with Slocum, who “brings a different perspective to the store.”

New manager has hopes for the bookstore and would like to increase store hours and street traffic. “Sometimes even if a customer comes in and doesn’t buy, they may want to talk or see a verse on a picture or pick up a book. It’s a good place to spend time,” she says.

The Cathedral Bookstore, located in the Archdioces Noll Catholic Center at 915 S Clinton St., carries a variety of gifts for all sacramental occasions as well as books, cards, music CDs and more. Store hours are Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Karen Magdich invites anyone interested to special Masses at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception: Wednesday, July 16, at 8 a.m. offered for all employees of the diocese.

Karen Magdich invites anyone interested to special Masses at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception: 
• Wednesday, July 16, at 8 a.m. offered for all employees of the diocese.
• Friday, Aug. 1, at 8 a.m. offered for all patrons of the Cathedral Bookstore.

New collection of ‘Letters of St. Paul’ published

BOSTON (CNS) — To mark the special jubilee year dedicated to St. Paul, which Pope Benedict XVI formally opened June 28, Pauline Books & Media has published a new collection of the “Letters of St. Paul.”

The pocket-size, 290-page book also includes prayers related to St. Paul’s letters, a study guide and an index of topics discussed by the saint.

In a foreword, Pauline Father Jeffrey Mickler calls St. Paul “one of the most influential figures in human history” and said he has special messages for students, working men and women, sailors, athletes and communications.

“Most of all, however, people striving to be great lovers of God and neighbor will find in these letters soul-shaping wisdom and practical ways of sharing the Gospel with the world,” Father Mickler said. “Savoring these letters as a whole will embed them in our hearts and minds, expand our capacity to love, and deepen our faith.”
More than 40 children discovered Jesus’ miraculous power at Power Lab, this year’s Vacation Bible School at St. Michael Parish, Plymouth. Held June 16-20 “Power Lab” gave children a new enthusiasm for God’s word — and for Jesus while engaging them in fun, science-themed activities, games, crafts and music. In addition, there were interactive Bible adventures that drew kids into the experience. “Power Lab” concluded with a “Faith Fusion Finale,” featuring participants singing the songs they learned at VBS. In the front row are Helen Lemler, Zoe Fritz and Isaac Lemler.

Religious Freedom

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof…”

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“Empathy galvanizes good leadership, and service galvanizes empathy.”

FATHER ROBERT SPITZER

Formation of thoughtful, faith-filled executives

‘Contributive identity’ a focus of Notre Dame business ethics conference

BY ANN CAREY

NOTRE DAME — Over 200 Catholic educators gathered at the University of Notre Dame last month to discuss how business schools within Catholic universities can do a better job of educating thoughtful and faith-filled executives for the future. The June 11-13 conference was cosponsored by 18 Catholic colleges and universities across the country and focused on three areas: the nature and status of business education at Catholic universities, practical curricular models and ideas that reflect the mission and identity of business education at Catholic universities, and conditions necessary to enable business education at a Catholic university to fulfill its goal.

Father Robert Spitzer, president of Gonzaga University, spoke at the first plenary session, setting the tone for the conference. A philosopher and frequent lecturer on business ethics, Spitzer said that a Catholic university’s administration and campus ministry should join business professors in the effort to educate students in not just business, but also in culture. He identified several themes that have helped business professors successfully achieve that goal.

First is personal identity, which he said is key to making career choices in one’s life the other themes. An “ego comparative” identity is rampant in our society, he said, and it leads to a quest for status, control and cutthroat competition. This range of emotions can be so powerful “it literally undermines and drowns us” and “destroys ourselves and our families,” Father Spitzer said.

“First is a life of misery, and it is killing leaders, ethics and families, and is undermining efficacy of life,” he said.

Trying to replace this attitude with a “contributive identity,” asks “Catholic Jesuit” questions, he said, such as: How do I make an optimal, positive difference to my family, friends, organization, community, church, culture, society and stakeholders in my organization?

“Can I optimally make the world a better place with my talents, my time, my energy, the world in which we live?”

If a critical mass of people within an organization make that identity shift from “me,” to focus instead on making the world a better place, Father Spitzer said, the system will be “wide open” to make other changes in respect to faith, justice and virtue. This in turn makes individuals happier, improves workplace cultures and makes family life better, thus improving lives both individually and collectively, he continued.

The second theme is faith or spirituality. Since 70 percent of Catholic university students have faith founders, he said, business schools can encourage the students to utilize the faith they have. Students need to hear from business professors that the pursuit of virtue — particularly moral courage and humility — won’t put them at a disadvantage in the business world, but really does lead to success, Father Spitzer said.

“Some students think you have to be cruel to succeed, but we, as mature professors, can convince them these virtues are very much worth seeking and help us to be great leaders, will produce ‘esprit de corps’ and empathy,” he explained.

People of faith also tend to be ethical, he continued, and they are more likely to endure suffering and learn from failure, thus achieving a sense of peace. These people also have an expanded horizon that allows them to see the human person in his or her ultimate dignity, as someone who has a soul.

“These are skills every leader can use,” Father Spitzer said, “so encourage students to pursue the faith they have, and to seek faith if they don’t have it.”

The third theme is service and service learning. “Empathy galvanizes good leadership, and service galvanizes empathy,” he said.

If a business leader has a sense about the intrinsic worth of another person, he said, that leader can successfully carry out the hard tasks of delivering bad news or asking for sacrifices, while at the same time looking for both stakeholder groups and for members of the organization.

“When empathy results, people will trust you,” he said.

Justice, the fourth theme, is needed along with service, he said, and he encouraged business professors to introduce students to the social encyclicals of the church. Those encyclicals, he said, are totally compatible with the free market system, and if students can take with them at least one principle from each of the 10 major social encyclicals, it will shape their decision-making lives as leaders or managers.

“This will utterly transform their lives and the culture in which they live,” Father Spitzer said.

In other sessions at the conference, professors discussed what they had done in their classes to promote in their students this ethical, virtuous approach to business, and they talked about the role of Catholic business schools in helping a Catholic university fulfill its mission. The energy generated in these sessions was palpable as the professors exchanged ideas about the best approaches to making business education at their schools truly reflect Catholic values and enhance the Catholic identity of their institutions.

The conference was organized by Professor Patrick Murphy of the Notre Dame School of Business and Professor Michael Naughton of the John A. Ryan Institute for Catholic Social Thought at the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minn.
AUBURN — Immaculate Conception Parish dates back to 1872, when a handful of families met in the home of Engelbert Ashley for Mass with a traveling priest. But the focus of this year’s jubilee is the 50 years the parish has spent in its present church on its present site on East Seventh Street in Auburn. Bishop Leo Parsley blessed and dedicated the current church on Sept. 21, 1958.

Only two years after becoming pastor in 1954, Father Matthew Lange oversaw a massive fund-raising effort for a new church and school to replace the old church on Fourth Street.

“We had obviously outgrown it,” recalls parishioner Kay Dimmich, noting that the old church belonged in an earlier era and had certainly passed its prime.

The old Immaculate Conception church is a modern brick building, and it has housed the parish through an era of growth and many blessings.

“I’m very proud of our church,” says parishioner Joan Myers. She notes how she has grown spiritually, thanks to the parish. She notes the nine pastors who have served over the last 50 years. She notes the growth of the parish to around 500 families, and she expresses gratitude to the Sisters of St. Francis of Sacred Heart at Joliet, who staffed the parish school for its years of operation in the 1960s.

Just as Immaculate Conception Parish overcame the challenges of raising funds for a new church, the parish has met and overcome other challenges. For instance, the Knights of Columbus, Council 9186 Auburn, was started in 1985 by a few men in the parish. They had been told that starting a council would be impossible because this required at least 30 men to join. By 1986, 43 men had joined, and the Auburn Knights received their charter.

Another challenge has been the level of acceptance for Catholicism in DeKalb County, which the parish has done much work to improve in recent decades.

Parishioners recall outreach to area Lutherans by Father Mel Herber, pastor from 1982 to 1988, breaking the ice.

“I think Father Mel had a big heart,” notes Myers.

“He got people.”

The thaw continued with Father Tom Lalak’s continual presence and outreach to the community.

Father Babasino Fernandes, the current pastor, credits parishioners who have been visible leaders in both the parish and the community for the continued improved feeling.

The LifeTeen program at Immaculate Conception has been another positive contribution to the community, with 35-40 teens participating in the LifeTeen Mass twice a month.

“It’s always something to look forward to,” says Jamie Blessinger, a teenage parishioner.

Along with the LifeTeen program, Immaculate Conception also hosted its first XLT worship service in October of 2007, drawing nearly 150 teens.

Involvement in these programs is overseen by the parish religious education program, which is directed by Phyllis Gurtner. Along with Karen Wrona, Gurtner has headed the program for 13 years but has been a member of the parish for much longer. Her experiences at the parish are what make it special for her.

“My four children were baptized here,” she notes.

“My son said his first Mass here. I feel so blessed and humbled.”

Gurtner’s son, Father Mark Gurtner, is the only priestly vocation to come from Immaculate Conception. Ordained in 1996, Father Gurtner is currently pastor of Our Lady of Good Hope Parish, Fort Wayne.

Along with Father Gurtner, Immaculate Conception has two other religious vocations, Sister Joyce Shanabarger and Sister Christina Fuller, both to the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart at St. Francis Woods in Mokina, Ill.

While the parish is very proud of its members who have gone on to pursue vocations, it is also proud of the unique treasures that have stayed in place, namely, its works of art. These include a large mosaic of Mary over the main entrance to the church. Father Lange had envisioned this mosaic from the beginning. Inside the church, the Stations of the Cross — a remnant of the 1912 church — are painted on copper. The parish didn’t fully appreciate these works of art until the appointment of Father Hank Mascotte as pastor in 1979. Father Mascotte held a master’s degree in art from the University of Notre Dame. Not only did he explain what was so impressive about the art that was already there, he also left behind an example of his own art — the sculpture in Auburn’s Catholic Cemetery.

As the 50th anniversary of its blessing and dedication has approached, the church building has seen new decorations join its usual art. These include anniversary banners hanging near the altar and displays that detail different events of the last 50 years, from the campaign to raise funds for a new church to the vocations it produced. In May, the parish held a five-day mission in honor of its anniversary.

Along with these remembrances of the past, Immaculate Conception parishioners are also excited about the future and find themselves in the midst of a new plans for expansion, including a new rectory and parish hall.

The old Immaculate Conception Church building on Fourth Street, at left, served the parish from 1912 until the dedication of the present church in 1958.

Upcoming celebration

Immaculate Conception Parish will celebrate its 50th anniversary with a Day Picnic on Sunday, Aug. 24. Bishop John M. D’Arcy will celebrate Mass at Immaculate Conception on Sunday, Sept. 1, the rededication of the present church on Sunday, Sept. 1.

Auburn’s Catholic Cemetery is adored by Immaculate Conception pastor Father Hank Mascotte, named in honor of its anniversary.
Congratulations to Immaculate Conception Parish on the celebration of 50 YEARS of bringing the Faith to Auburn in the present church building.

Bill Johnson
Broker Associate / Auctioneer
Parishoner
Business (260) 416-5008
Home (260) 925-0612
The 21st Annual Bishop’s Appeal

Solemnity of St. Peter and Paul

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In a few weeks, we will launch our 22nd Annual Bishop’s Appeal. I recall with gratitude the priests and laity who urged us to proceed. I speak for many who have worked on it over the years. I have always seen it as a work of love and sacrifice for the church and for the work of Christ.

As in the past, I wish to make a full report on the most recent appeal. In the weeks to come, I will present in these pages the financial report of our most recent fiscal year. In our brochure for the next appeal, I have tabulated the results up to now of our Legacy of Faith Campaign. All this is an effort to continue to meet our responsibilities to be as transparent as possible about the financial situation in our diocese.

The 21st Appeal

For the sixth time, the appeal exceeded $5 million. We have not reached the $5,542,447, the second highest ever. The following numbers show the results of the past several years. The 18th appeal is not listed, since the year of appeal was folded into the Legacy of Faith. In another sense, this year may have been the highest appeal in history. Steve Elkhart, has been $100,000 over goal each year. However, this year their overage was not included, since they were working on a combined campaign for a $3 million improvement to their school.

- Total amount pledged: $5,623,163
- 17th Appeal — $5,623,163
- 19th Appeal — $5,408,502
- 20th Appeal — $5,534,676
- 21st Appeal — $5,542,447

While the appeal went down slightly, as was expected after the Legacy of Faith, it has come back stronger each year. If all pledges are kept, over $1.3 million will be returned to parishes this year.

However, there is one concern that must be faced. We have not reached the number of contributors that was attained in the 17th appeal. Thus, in the coming year, all of us must work together to increase the number of givers as well as the total amount. We have remained steadfast in the commitment that every appeal should achieve its goal is returned to the parish. When the parish is strong financially and spiritually, the diocese is strong. As the contribution improves, so does the support.

High schools

The Annual Bishop’s Appeal has significantly strengthened our Catholic high schools. From the endowment, a total of $3.5 million has been divided equally among these splendid institutions. The principal of the endowment stands at $5,545,946 as of April 1, 2008; thus ensuring the continuance of our Legacy of Faith Campaign.

Legacy of Faith: A promise kept

In the year just completed, we began to distribute some of the fruits of the Legacy of Faith to our parish schools. You will recall, it was promised at the beginning of the Legacy of Faith that we hoped to have an endowment of $20 million for our parish schools. From pledges kept, this endowment is now over $18 million. We have distributed grants of $29,000 to $828,000 to our parish schools. Every parish received a grant. In addition, $300,000 from the appeal were distributed to parishes with schools.

These “basic grants” that have come from the appeal were always intended as a “bridge” until the Legacy of Faith became available. Nevertheless, we will continue these basic grants in smaller amounts for a few years and no parish will receive a decrease in their overall amount. In fact, with the total amount that we hope to distribute over $1.2 million this year to parishes with schools. This will be the largest amount given from the diocese to Catholic elementary schools in recent history.

Thus, we have taken a significant step in sustaining our parish schools. It has been possible because of your generosity.

Please note that as in every year since the appeal began, we also will give grants totaling at least $200,000 to parishes with special needs, who have applied and been approved.

Also, as will be noted in our brochure from the upcoming campaign, $919 has already been distributed to parishes from our Legacy of Faith Campaign.

Other ministries

There is so much else. The appeal makes it possible to provide retreats for young adults at a cost they can afford. Recently, for the 15th consecutive year, I took part in such a retreat for over 150 young adults, including many Hispanic Catholics. Parish retreats and missions. Religious instruction for the formation of teachers of religion in our high schools, elementary schools and parish programs is especially funded. Our School’s Office recruits good teachers and works to strengthen the curriculum of all our classes.

Priests

The strong relationship between priests and parishioners in our diocese continues to show itself in the Annual Bishop’s Appeal. The appeal is successful because it has put the parishes first; also, because the priests make it their own. This is not a “downtown” effort, but an effort that is not included, since they were working on a combined campaign for a $3 million improvement to their school.

Most Reverend John M. D’Arcy

21st Annual Bishop’s Appeal

Percentage of goal reached

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<th>Parish</th>
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<tr>
<td>St. Patrick, Ligonier</td>
<td>229</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Michael, Waterloo</td>
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<td>St. Mary Assumption, Decatur</td>
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<td>St. Rose of Lima, Monroeville</td>
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“Their long term sustainability must be assured. Indeed, everything possible must be done, in cooperation with the wider community, to ensure that the Church, which is accessible to people of all social and economic strata, No child should be denied his or her right to an education in faith, which in turn nurtures the soul of a nation.”

Along with strong parish leadership, the Annual Bishop’s Appeal sustains our schools. It helps make it possible to assist the homeless, help those without adequate medical care, and provide clothing for children in need. As in the past, we will provide a video to be shown at all of our parishes and will continue to give full reports to our people.

I present these results with gratitude and joy, sustained always by your generosity and the grace of God.

Sincerely yours in our Lord.

John M. D’Arcy
Bishop’s Appeal.

The Christ Child Society coat distribution is one of the many services families in the Fort Wayne area. Over 65 schools and agencies participated. More than 1,800 coats were distributed last October to nearly 900 needy children.

Groups receiving grants from the Annual Bishop’s Appeal

Fort Wayne St. Vincent de Paul Society
Vincent House
Women’s Care Center
South Bend Christ Child Society
Matthew 25
South Bend St. Vincent de Paul Society
St. Augustine Soup Kitchen
Little Flower Food Pantry
Chiana House
Chapen Street Clinic
Catholic Charities
COPOSH (Homeless Center, South Bend)
Logan Center
Fort Wayne Christ Child Society
Center for Basic Learning Skills
Hannah’s House
Life Athletes

Parishes receiving grants from the Annual Bishop’s Appeal

St. Vincent de Paul, Elkhart
Precious Blood, Fort Wayne
Queen of Angels, Fort Wayne
St. Henry, Fort Wayne
Sacred Heart, Fort Wayne
Benoit Academy, Fort Wayne
St. Therese, Fort Wayne
St. Joseph, Garrett
St. Mary, Huntington
St. Patrick, Logonier
St. Monica, Mishawaka
St. Michael, Plymouth
Holy Cross, South Bend
Holy Family, South Bend
Our Lady of Hungary, South Bend
St. Adalbert, South Bend
St. Augustine, South Bend
St. John the Baptist, South Bend
St. Joseph, South Bend
St. Patrick, Walkerton

Hessen Cassel school mourns loss of beloved principal, Robert Herber

FORT WAYNE — “The Gift,” one of Max Lucado’s touching works, may be the perfect title to describe Robert Charles Herber’s time on this earth. Herber was truly a gift to all whose path he crossed. As a husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, principal, coach, neighbor and friend, Herber will forever be remembered as a gift.

Herber was just one of Herber’s suggestions on a list for his staff at St. Joseph School. Hessen Cassel had to read over the summer months. Herber, who died June 28, had been serving as their principal since 2002. During the month of June, first-grade teacher Carol Sarasien had underlined an excerpt from another of the five suggestions recommended: Norman Vincent Peale’s “The Power of Positive Thinking.” She felt the author’s description of a professor depicted Herber to a tee: “He respected their personalities and was constantly building them up.”

Sarasien continued in her own words, “Mr. Herber was like a foster-father to all of us at St. Joseph. He loved each of our kids like his own.”

The frequent visitor of Barnes and Noble left a significant impact wherever he went. Often referred to as the “Biohazard Man” because of his two hip replacements, two knee knees, a broken shoulder, Herber stood 6 feet, 4 inches and wore a size 15 shoe. It was not only his stature but his heart that was big.

Working by his side in the school office for the past three years, Tricia Anderson was most struck by the way the little children flocked to Herber. “Despite his hammer and booming voice, even the kindergartners would run to him and hug his legs when he came down the hallway,” Anderson recalls.

She also remembers his strict orders for when she started in the office. “My door is always to be open to the students.”

An emotional Anderson summarized, “I just loved working for Mr. Herber.”

Although he wore a tie to school every day, the cowboy at heart would much rather be clad in denim and boots. Herber loved horses, his dogs, golfing and travel, and his one-of-a-kind sense of humor entertained all who knew him.

He will also be remembered as a very reverent and prayerful man with a deep devotion for the rosary. He could be found at Mass on weekday mornings, overlooking his student body from the choir loft with prayer book in hand. Herber also prayed faithfully with his staff that they would bring Jesus into each school day.

With 39 years in education, as a special gift in their 15-year olds how to drive, training junior high students in a life-skills course or orchestrating his favorite principal, Robert Herber

Hessen Cassel will forever be remembered.

TODAY’S CATHOLIC ARCHIVES

More than 1,800 coats were distributed last October to nearly 900 needy families in the Fort Wayne area. Over 65 schools and agencies participated. The Christ Child Society coat distribution is one of the many services of the Fort Wayne chapter. Both the Fort Wayne and South Bend chapters of the Christ Child Society receive some funding through the Annual Bishop’s Appeal.

At the small Fort Wayne rural grade school, he continued the work he had begun countless years ago — touching lives, one by one, encouraging each and every student, no matter what their background, to be the best they could be.

When reflecting on their many years as educators together, Toni echoed the sentiments of so many who knew Herber. “He was a good friend, a real person of integrity and character. I will miss him.”

After 18 years in administration at Heritage, New Haven and Woodlan high schools, where he gave several current educators their first jobs, Herber could have easily retired. But instead he came to Hessen Cassel to give back to Catholic education. He often told many that he felt his years there were not work at all, but simply his way to fulfill his calling.

At the small Fort Wayne rural grade school, he continued the work he had begun countless years ago — touching lives, one by one, encouraging each and every student, no matter what their background, to be the best they could be.

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The search for shepherds

Like rings made by a pebble tossed in a pond, a suggestion by a parishioner to a pastor in one city has led to a special vocation devotion being adopted in other parishes in the diocese.

It was five or six years ago, when Father Gary Sigler was pastor of St. Mary Church in Huntington that a parishioner described a brief vocation rite that he had read about that involved a family receiving a chalice at Sunday Mass and then taking the chalice home where it would be displayed on the mantle or some other reserved space. Then each day for one week, the family would gather near the chalice and offer prayers for religious vocations.

On the following Sunday, a different family would receive the chalice, and the custom would continue throughout the year.

Father Sigler liked the idea and introduced it at St. Mary’s, and now through the clerical grapevine this practice has spread and is now observed at St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Fort Wayne (with a traveling crucifix), and at Queen of Angels and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parishes in Fort Wayne.

That the observance has been warmly received is attested by the fact that at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, when the chalice, which is carried in a special box, is returned, there are frequently letters, photos and comments describing what a favorable experience it was to have the vocation chalice with the family for one week. Also at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, the chalice accompanied this year’s confirmation class on a retreat and will probably be used in connection with liturgies celebrating the October ordination of Drew Curry, who is currently serving a diaconate internship there.

Obviously, a rite such as that of the vocation chalice is based on faith, hope and patience; the results are not like water from a rock. But consider how many other prayers for vocations are offered privately as parishioners observe one family receiving the vocation chalice — and also the unrevealed benefits to the family that fulfills its promise to gather daily in prayer for that one week.

In further support of such spiritual effort, consider the words of his holiness Benedict XVI, who says: “Let us be quite frank; the ability to cultivate vocations to the priesthood and the religious life is the sure sign of the health of a local church.”

Economic woes create perfect storm for church

When the economy runs into rough terrain, gas and food prices get a lot of attention, and politicians talk about how average Americans are having a hard time. And this is true.

What doesn’t get as much attention is how a poor economy creates a rough time for the church as well. For instance, when money is tight, a parish is probably less inclined to give to charitable causes and the church. When the majority of a parish adopts this mentality, collection totals drop, and the parish — itself facing the same rough economy — becomes strapped financially.

This mentality, collection totals drop, and the parish — itself facing the same rough economy — becomes strapped financially.

The reason for trying to produce these mature human embryos is to be able to destroy them before they grow too large, prior to reaching two weeks of age, in order to obtain their stem cells.

This bizarre project of creating partially damaged human embryos using cow eggs is being promoted largely because of the difficulty of getting women to agree to donate their eggs. Most women balk at the idea of handing over their own eggs voluntarily so that scientists can use them for cloning experiments. Not only is the procedure for obtaining eggs invasive, painful and dangerous for women, but they often feel a natural protectiveness towards their own eggs, their fertility, and any children they might eventually produce.

This instinct to “protect our own” is deeply rooted not only in human beings but throughout the animal kingdom, and only the most cursory ethical reflection is needed to grasp the moral problem with creating human embryos in laboratories, using an admixture of cow components, in order to scientifically cannibalize them.

We see this natural instinct to protect one’s embryonic offspring very powerfully illustrated in the case of the Emperor Penguins. It is the only mammal bold enough to remain in Antarctica throughout the entire winter, while others migrate to warmer climates.

The story of the breeding habits of Emperor Penguins has fascinated many members of human society in recent years, through the magnificent documentary film, “The March of the Penguins.” These animals find one mate for life and if the female is faithful, each female lays one softball-sized egg, which she hands over to her mate. She then strikes out on a two-month feeding foray in the waters of the ocean, leaving her partner to incubate the egg throughout the long polar winter, having only his body fat to sustain him.

Through shrieking windstorms and weeks of winter darkness, the male carefully balances the egg containing the growing embryonic penguin on the top of his feet, where there is an apron of densely-feathered flesh, which seals out the deadly cold. That egg grows on his feet for more than 60 days, and during that period, the male eats nothing and loses up to half of his own body weight. If the egg should happen to fall out of its protective hatch, it can freeze solid on the polar ice in a matter of a few short minutes. The mother normally returns around the time the chick hatches. After hatching, an emperor or chinstrap chick spends its first two months nestled within its mother’s or father’s belly pouch, where the temperature hovers at a protective 96.8 degrees Fahrenheit. Parents take turns caring for the young chick, feeding it nourished food until it eventually becomes ready to exit from its secret hatch and face the brutal elements of Antarctica.

The incredible solicitude of the Emperor Penguin for its own pre-born offspring is far from surprising. It is reflecting them in the proper order of creation, where older members of the species naturally go to great lengths to assure the safety and well-being of younger members.

Part of the progress of human civilization over the centuries has been in a similar protection for the young, where children have come to be seen as sacred trust, an end in themselves and not merely a means for the satisfaction of (or scientific) desires. Father Raymond de Souza has pointed out that “life is a gift for his own sake.”

One reason that “The March of the Penguins” was such a hit was because of the way it highlighted the idea that we do not stop to consider the cultural and legal consensus that the child does not exist as an object for the benefit of others, but that the child must be treated as a subject for its own sake.”

Today, however, we are being powerful tempted to subvert these primary intuitions and instincts by forcefully removing our young from the protective harbor of the womb via abortion, and by going even further and desecrating our own embryonic children as mere objects for scientific aggrandizement, treating them as repositories for deriving spare parts or stems.

In some society we pretend that this type of scientific research represents a genuine human interest, actually represents a regress to a time when children were considered objects to be disposed of by others. One reason that “The March of the Penguins” was such a hit was because of the way it highlighted the kind of parental love, protection and sacrifice to which each of us naturally is drawn. The destruction of humankind through embryonic stem cell research — as much as some might wish to cloak it in terms of techniques such as “biotechnology” — is a regression to the barbarism of former ages.

The remarkable extent to which many members of the animal kingdom seek to protect their own embryonic offspring should give us pause as a society to reflect on basic questions and help us regain our moral equilibrium lest we continue to rush headlong into transgressing our own nature and our most sacred obligations toward our young.

By Father Tad Pacholczyk

Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey

1779-1857

Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey organized her farm family in daily silence and prayer. During the Revolution, she rescued people, warned priests and taught children the catechism. A private vow of virginity in 1790 led her to try religious life unselfishly. She set up a school for poor children, and in 1807 she and other women began the Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny. Her own extensive work in French colonies was cut short by illness. Despite controversy, the order flourished and Anne Marie is highly regarded for her treatment of blacks in the 19th century.
A look at immigration law

Perceived myth: Today’s immigrants are different than those of 100 years ago.

Known fact: The percentage of the U.S. population that is foreign-born now stands at 11.5 percent; in the early 20th century it was approximately 15 percent. Similar to accusations about today’s immigrants, those of 100 years ago initially often settled in mono-ethnic neighborhoods, spoke their native languages, and built up newspapers and businesses that catered to their fellow emigrants. They also experienced the same types of discrimination that today’s immigrants face. Antipathy from the American culture was at a similar rate. If we view history objectively, we remember that every new wave of immigrants has been met with suspicion and doubt and yet, ultimately, every past wave of immigrants has been vindicated and saluted. — Source: Census Data

Has immigration law changed over the years? Current immigration law has helped to create the present crisis. The policy of the present law permits too few persons to enter to work or to be united with family members. The immigration system is broken and today’s unrealistic low visa limits help drive illegal immigration. The national economy requires more immigrant workers than are allowed to enter. The problem with not permitting access to work or to immigrate legally is that individuals are forced to stay once they make the treacherous trip here. Legal channels need to be widened to meet needs of today’s realities.

Moreover, lines often have long waits, sometimes up to 15 to 20 years to be reunited. For persons who desire permanent residency, the time between application and admittance is unreasonable — in many countries such as Mexico and those in Central America the wait is five to 10 years. Even an individual married to a U.S. citizen with children must wait years for their status to be clarified. Family reunification must be given greater priority. It is asserted that the new immigrants do not want to learn English or become Americans. But experience has shown that within 10 years of arrival, more than 75 percent of immigrants speak English well; moreover, current demand for English classes at the adult level far exceeds supply. The

IMMIGRATION: 
MYTHS AND FACTS

BY THE INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

children or second generation all speak English. Greater than 33 percent of immigrants are naturalized citizens, and given increased immigration, this figure will rise as more legal permanent residents become eligible for naturalization in coming years.

In the past, the number of individuals permitted to enter was more realistic to meet the needs of

MYTHS, PAGE 16

To correspond with materials distrib- uted at parishes in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, the Indiana Catholic Conference is offering this series of information pieces concerning perceived myth vs. known facts on immi- gration. For information visit the Indiana Catholic Conference Web site at www.indianacin.org.

1. This act by Henry VIII added a religious dimension to the often troubling relations between the Irish and the English: a. his acceptance of the title of Defender of the Faith b. his break with Rome c. his alliance with the Scots

2. But this openly Protestant monarch (Henry’s daughter) had even clearer ambitions to extend English rule in Ireland: a. Mary b. Lady Jane Grey c. Elizabeth

3. This act by the pope freed the Irish of any allegiance they had felt to the English crown: a. Elizabeth was named the Great Satan. b. The pope issued a Fatwa against her. c. The pope excommunicated her.

4. The Irish Catholics traditionally solicited assistance against England from two of these Catholic powers: a. Holland and Denmark b. Scotland and Wales c. France and Spain

5. A British policy of replacing Catholics with Protestant settlers in Ireland resulted in waves of settlements often referred to as a. the Book of Invocations b. Babylonia c. Plantations of Ireland

6. However, this was never completed and had most of its affect in this area, still large- ly Protestant: a. Munster in southern Ireland b. Ulster in northern Ireland c. Connaght in western Ireland

7. But things really got bad for Catholics when this man, having had English King Charles I executed, turned his attention to Ireland: a. Sir Francis Drake b. Sir Walter Raleigh c. Oliver Cromwell

8. This marked the beginning of the imposition of anti-Catholic laws such as: a. Catholics could not hold public office or have weapons or a horse worth more than five pounds. b. Catholics could not speak Irish. c. Catholics could not leave their native county.

9. Travelers to Ireland often notice a lack of older Catholic churches. One reason is that during Penal Times, Catholic churches were: a. dismantled and buried to hide them from the British b. simply handed over to the Protestant Church of Ireland c. destroyed by mobs

10. A few decades later, the English again turned on their own king, this time exiling King James II because he was a. Catholic b. culturally French c. a secret Mason

11. His final defeat in Ireland was in 1690 at this battle, named after the historic river at which it took place: a. the Battle of the Liffey b. the Battle of the Shannon c. the Battle of the Boyne

12. Although this tells us in memory, ironically a. it is now dried up and full of peat moss b. its whereabouts are unknown c. it is in the independent, mostly Catholic, Republic of Ireland

13. Penal Times did not see an end to Catholicism; indeed some inventive customs and artifacts arose. One was the use of Mass Rocks. These were: a. pop rock pads, designed to make noise to warn of oncoming troops b. big rocks where deprived of churches, Catholics could attend open air Masses c. types of hip-hop but in Gaelic

14. Penal rosaries were developed. These differ from regular rosaries in a. being a one-decade ring of beads, easily concealed in the hand by prayer eyes b. being sharp and ready to be used as nun-chucks c. having clear beads, which could not be seen, only felt

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

Union with God is true freedom

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time Mt 13:1-9

T he third and last section of the Book of Isaiah is the source of the first reading for this weekend.

This reading was composed when pious Jews easily could have become disillusioned and uncertain in their devotion to God. For decades, Jews exiled in Babylon, the capital and center of the once powerful Babylonian Empire, longed to leave the pagan environment of the great city, coincidentally in present-day Iraq and return to their own homeland.

At last, as Middle Eastern political fortunes changed, these Jews were allowed to go back to their ancestors’ homes. However, upon returning, they found no “land flowing with milk and honey.” Life was hard. Difficulties were many. For so long they had dreamt of harrying from Babylon to the security and peace of the Jewish land. Yet, they found destitution and misery. God had spared them, but not let them rest. Certainly many were angry with God. Most probably the author of this third section of Isaiah was one of several, or even many, prophets who reminded them that God’s work must be

Reflection

A saint once said that Christians should pray as if salvation depended solely upon God, and live as if salvation depended solely upon their own virtue.

The first step to being redeemed is to be humble enough to admit the need for God. The second step is to be humble enough to live according to God’s word, not by our own instincts or hunches.

We are all farmers. Circumstances play against us.

READINGS


Monday: Is 11:10-17 Ps 50:8-9, 16b- 17, 21, 23 Mt 10:34-11:1

Tuesday: Is 7:1-9 Ps 48:2-8 Mt 11:20-24

Wednesday: Is 105:7-13b, 16b Ps 94:5-10, 14-15, 17a-25

Thursday: Is 26:6-7, 12, 16-19 Ps 102:13-14, 15-21 Mt 11:28-30

Friday: Is 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8 Ps 8 38:10-12, 16 Mt 12:1-8

Saturday: Mt 2:1-5 Ps 10:1-4, 7-8, 14 Mt 12:14-21

CATEQUIZ’EM

By Dominc Campion

July 12 is celebrated in the north of Ireland as marking a victory over Catholicism. This shift in Catholic fortunes was marked in the Irish Catholic mind as the “Penal Times.” This quiz looks at that era in Ireland.

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2. But this openly Protestant monarch (Henry’s daughter) had even clearer ambitions to extend English rule in Ireland: a. Mary b. Lady Jane Grey c. Elizabeth

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

July 13, 2008 15
Excommunication is not punishment, but prompt conversion

So often I hear from friends and acquaintances, “so and so” — often Catholic politicians who vote for abortion rights — should be excommunicated, or we read in today’s Catholic something about deacons being excommunicated. Just what is excommunication? How is it applied? How is it taken away? Anonymous.

An excommunication is a penalty imposed by the church upon a person in order to bring about their conversion and submission to rightful church authority. If one is excommunicated, then several things are forbidden to them. First, they are forbidden to have any participation in celebrating the sacrifice of the Eucharist or any other ceremonies of worship whatsoever. This means that a priest, deacon or bishop who is excommunicated cannot celebrate any of the Catholic rites, and an excommunicated person cannot serve in any ministerial roles, such as lector, extraordinary minister of holy Communion or godparent.

Second, excommunicated persons are forbidden to celebrate the sacraments or sacramentals and to receive the sacraments. This part is self-explanatory. They cannot receive Communion, go to confession, receive a blessing, or receive the anointing of the sick, etc.

Third, excommunicated persons are forbidden to exercise any ecclesiastical offices, ministries, or functions whatsoever or to place acts of governance. This applies mostly to clerics (deacons, priests and bishops) who could not exercise offices in the church they might hold if they are excommunicated. For example, if a pastor should become excommunicated, he is then forbidden to exercise his office as pastor.

Excommunications can happen in various ways. However, there are two basic kinds: “Latae sententiae” and “ferendae sententiae.” “Latae sententiae” excommunications happen automatically by the very act of doing something. For example, a person who in some way would abuse the holy Eucharist would incur a “latae sententiae” excommunication. It would happen by the very act of doing it. However, it must also be considered that the excommunication, violation of a church law that has excommunication attached would have to be gravely imputable to the person by reason of malice or negligence. In other words, similar to the commission of a mortal sin, a person has to know that they are violating the law to which excommunication is attached and then choose to do it freely anyway.

So one can imagine, for example, a case of abortion committed by a 17-year-old Catholic girl who is virtually being forced to have the abortion by her family. Abortion has the penalty of excommunication attached to it, but chances are this 17-year-old girl did not actually incur it because she was probably not acting freely anyway. She may not have known that the penalty of excommunication was attached to this action.

The other kind of excommunication, “ferendae sententiae,” is an excommunication which is imposed for various violations of church law by a church authority, for example, the bishop of a diocese, a church court or the Holy See. This kind of excommunication is only imposed after a process of investigation that an actual violation occurred and after warnings to the person to repent. An example of a violation which could involve the imposition of a “ferendae sententiae” excommunication would be some promotion of women’s ordination to the Catholic priesthood.

There are many different ways in which excommunications can be lifted, and it varies according to what law was violated, which incurred the excommunication, and who may have imposed it. Generally speaking, diocesan bishops are the ones who have the power to lift excommunications. However, some excommunications are specifically reserved to the Holy See, which means that only the offices of the pope can lift them.

For example, the excommunication for abortion can be lifted by the diocesan bishop (in our diocese, Bishop John M. Dew has delegated this power to all the priests of the diocese), but the excommunication for abusing the holy Eucharist can only be lifted by the Holy See. It is also helpful to know that if a person is in danger of death, any priest can lift any excommunication.

For a list of those violations of church law which involve excommunication, one can look to canons 1364-1399 in the Code of Canon Law.

The church is very cautious in imposing an excommunication and does so only for the most serious of crimes. The purpose of excommunication is not the punishment of the individual but always to prompt their conversion.

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

Being an original

I took my youngest children to the pool the other day. I was wearing the bathing suit I had purchased new last year, and I was also wearing my newer, cute, matching beach cover-up. The suit is brown (“the new black”), I was told by the salesgirl at Kohls during my last visit there, and which I thought looked good on top. The bottom is a cute, coordinating, brown skirt, with a white and brown crosssiss tie. Last year, we all got matching sundresses. I even had large, brown sunglasses, brown and white sandals, and a matching beach bag. I was set.

We had just arrived in the parking lot when I spotted the pool watching kids were still in black (so posh!), I was decked out in orange, and one of the pool ladies was also wearing my newer, cute, matching beach cover-up in the new cool color. I don’t want to try to be different. In fact, we need to try to be the same. We need to try to be the same in front of us, the joy of the Lord is our strength. We become like I was eager to ask. I wonder if I have the checkbook to stop at Kohls on the way home? These mismatch might be a nice color, too.

At the root of this full-blow vanity attack was this realization: I wanted to be different. In fact, we all to some degree want to be unique. We all want to carve out a place in this world, which is just our own. We don’t want to wear the same outfit as someone else or sport the same haircut. What else could explain a woman wearing the same outfit as someone else? I don’t want to try to be different. In fact, I want to be the same, and that’s good enough.

So, one can imagine, for example, a case of abortion committed by a 17-year-old Catholic girl who is virtually being forced to have the abortion by her family. Abortion has the penalty of excommunication attached to it, but chances are this 17-year-old girl did not actually incur it because she was probably not acting freely anyway. She may not have known that the penalty of excommunication was attached to this action.

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

The fact is, like a snowflake, we are all different. We are all unique. We are all created with different weaknesses. Romans 12:4-5 tells us that we, though many, are one body in Christ. Each one has a role to play, each one is unique and is needed. Romans 12:3-8 tells us that we, though many, are one body in Christ. Each one has a role to play, each one is unique and is needed.

In our world of the 21st century, we are all different. We are all unique. We are all created with different weaknesses. Romans 12:4-5 tells us that we, though many, are one body in Christ. Each one has a role to play, each one is unique and is needed.
FORT WAYNE — For the past 11 years, an outstanding program in our community has been in place at McMillen Park’s Lifetime Sports Academy (LSA) offering group lessons in golf, tennis and swimming. Not only does LSA boast a reputation of talented coaches and highly-trained instructors, but better yet, the program is absolutely free of charge.

Dates for the safe and fun youth instruction for 2008 will be running from June 9 through July 25. Founding director, Tom Hogan, reports that the sports program registered over 1,200 children ages 8-18 from all over Fort Wayne and the surrounding communities in just the first two and half weeks.

LSA, which operates from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. during the seven weeks, also has a pavilion program, which organizes games such as chess, bumper pool, table tennis, arts and crafts. In addition, area youth can participate in various special activities like driving range sessions, soccer, volleyball, softball, kickball and a junior lifeguard course when they are not in the group lessons. Open swimming for the whole family takes place on Friday mornings and those enrolled in the LSA are also able to partake in a summer lunch program provided daily by Fort Wayne Community Schools, again completely free of charge.

Nicole Platter of New Haven, who just learned of LSA from a friend this summer, said her daughter Emily, who will be a fifth grader at St. Louis Academy this fall, really enjoys the popular program. Platter, whose husband is currently deployed to Iraq, added, “It’s a great way to be involved at no cost.”

Also participating for their first time, the Frecker family from Yoder is spending many of their morning hours at LSA this summer. Mom, Jodie, remembers hearing about LSA last summer and thinking it sounded “too good to be true.” Her first concern was the supervision, but she made clear. Frecker has even received a free golf lesson herself so that she can experience the new sport her 12-year-old son, Dominic, is learning.

“LSA really is unbelievable,” she concluded.

Through a funding partnership with the City of Fort Wayne, Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation and many private donors, LSA has continued to benefit our community with healthy activities since its grand opening in 1997.

Hogan explains, “Our vision has not changed, but our staff has doubled (since inception).” In addition to the program itself, there are other perks at LSA. Participants have the opportunity to qualify for a free tennis racket after they successfully attend seven tennis lessons. They can also earn free golf clubs through instruction and testing. Participants have tallied more than 700 sets of golf clubs and 900 tennis rackets in the past 10 years.

Director of Marketing Sarah Nietcher explains, “Swimming, tennis and golf are great lifetime sports, which are important once we get out of school and don’t have teams to play with. Also, it’s a great training ground for many high school and college teams who are now receiving many of the kids who were active LSA participants.”

LSA is also a great avenue for parents looking to help their child fund college. A scholarship program, named in honor of the legendary Tom Jehl, who was very generous to both the establishment of LSA and to the University of Saint Francis (USF) is available to college students attending USF.

One of this year’s recipients, Robert Gallmeyer, a 2008 Bishop Dwenger graduate, has spent his summers at LSA since around the fourth grade. The only child of Mike and Teresa Gallmeyer, Robert is now employed by LSA as a golf instructor. Because of his participation in LSA over the years, being actively involved in volunteering and maintaining above a 2.7 grade point average at Bishop Dwenger, Gallmeyer was awarded the full-tuition scholarship.

Planning to major in sociology, Gallmeyer describes, “I really enjoy working with the youth and hope to make it a career path.” It is not too late to walk-on to the 2008 program. No preregistration is required for any of the programs at LSA, and children are encouraged to come as often as they like and stay as long as they wish at any point during the seven weeks. For more information call (260) 427-6000 or visit www.fortwayneparks.org/programs.
Discerning your path with God’s positioning system

TWENTY SOMETHING
BY CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

I

t was the cold Chinese food that did it. I finally broke down.

Two weeks ago, I picked up some Chinese takeout on my way to a meeting with a few colleagues. Somehow, the 10-mile drive from city to suburb took me on an hour-long expedition that ended with cold food and a sour temperament. As I nibbled on microwaved lo mein, I vowed to finally purchase the Global Positioning System (GPS) I had long been considering. Some drivers keep their cool when they’re lost, I just got bashed and frazzled, my chest constricting with every mile amiss. So GPS has earned its keep, quickly calibrating. No need to waste precious time and pricey gas going any farther in the wrong direction — I can immediately right myself.

We are able to discern when we pray and reflect, examining a decision on the pages of a journal or on a walk with a friend. Just as I plug in my GPS, we can better navigate life decisions when we stay plugged in to our power source. With God as our fixed point in our lives, we stay plugged in to our power source. St. Francis prays for “the more fully we love God, the more our love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value.”

Grant me faith “with wisdom,” St. Francis prays. Grant me love “in knowledge,” St. Paul submits. They are closely intertwined, one wrapped inside the other. St. Augustine puts it even more simply, saying, “Love and (then) do what you will.” If you truly love God, he suggests, then by doing what he will, you’ll be doing God’s will.

The more fully we love God, the more naturally we discern his will — head and heart operating in harmony, leading us in the right direction.

Christina Capemchi is freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn. E-mail her at christina@capemchi.com.

Catholics asked to pray for WYD; Vatican announces indulgences

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI asked Catholics around the world to pray for the young people who will gather with him in Sydney, Australia, for the celebration of World Youth Day.

To encourage the prayers of all, the Vatican announced July 5 that the pope had authorized a special indulgence for anyone who, “with a contrite spirit,” raises a “prayer to God, the Holy Spirit, so that young people are drawn to charity and given the strength to proclaim the Gospel with their life,” a Vatican decree said.

Pope Benedict spoke about his July 12-21 trip to Australia when he met visitors at his summer villa south of Rome for the July 6 recitation of the Angelus. World Youth Day runs July 15-21 in Sydney.

“I invite the entire church to feel like participants in this new stage of the great youth pilgrimage throughout the world begun in 1985 by the servant of God John Paul II,” who convoked the first World Youth Day, the pope said. Focusing on prayers for a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Catholic youth around the world, the Sydney celebration can be “a renewed Pentecost,” the pope said.

The pope asked everyone to join him in praying that the Spirit would fill the hearts of young Catholics with “interior light, love for God and their brothers and sisters, (and with) courageous initiatives” to bring Jesus to every land and every sphere of life.

The July 5 decree about indulgences connected to World Youth Day included the offer of a plenary, or full, indulgence to all the young people who will gather with the pope in Sydney.

An indulgence is a remission of the temporal punishment a person is due for sins that have been forgiven. The conditions necessary for receiving a plenary indulgence include having recently gone to confession, receiving the Eucharist and offering prayers for the intentions of the pope.

The decree was signed by U.S. Cardinal J. Francis Stafford, head of the Vatican office that deals with indulgences, said a partial indulgence also is available to all Catholics who are contrite for their sins and offer their prayers with the pope for young Catholics.

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July 13, 2008

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**What’s Happening?**

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

**MISC. HAPPENINGS**

An Overview of the Life of St. Paul
South Bend — Holy Cross and St. Stanislaus Parishes will have Father Thomas F. O’Connor, OP, to speak Tuesday, July 15, from 7:30-9 p.m. in the St. Joseph Center Courtyard (building next to school where parish offices are located). In case of inclement weather, the talk will be moved to Holy Cross Church.

Prison ministry volunteers needed
Ossian — Christmas Behrendt Birs, an ecumenical prison min-
istry funder (the fund is open by May 1, 2008) has funding available to parishes. With 5,500 inmates in groups of 150 each at two-hour rotations on Aug. 2-3. Two hundred to 300 volunteers are need-
ed. Volunteers can help one or both days. Musicians and corpo-
rate sponsors are needed as well. For more information, contact Mark Michuda at (260) 760-1705.

 Feast of St. Henry offers celebration
Fort Wayne — St. Henry Parish will celebrate the patron saint’s feast day on Sunday, July 13, with a Bavarian style meal from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the parish center.

Victory Noll to host ice cream social for cancer survivors
Huntington — At an ice cream social for cancer survivors will be held Sunday, July 13, from 2-4 p.m. and will feature a program with a guest speaker from the American Cancer Society. There will be a question-and-answer session and handout materials. Admission is free. Reservations are appreciated but not required to Susan Wilhelm at (260) 356-6028, ext. 128.

Little Flower holy hour
Fort Wayne — Father Bernard Galic will celebrate the holy hour at MacDugal Chapel on Tuesday, July 15, at 7:15 p.m. Father Galic is pastor of Holy Family Parish in South Bend and also vocation director for the dio-
cese.

Women’s retreat 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. For information call Patty at (260) 483-2285 or Cheryl at (260) 747-7006.

**Biology Teacher**

**Fort Wayne, Indiana**

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/cso

**Quiet day of reflection offered**

Donaldson — Lindenwood Retreat Center will offer a day of reflection and will focus on Writing Ways: Exploring Writing as a Threshold to Spirit, with facilitator Judith Diliz. The program will be Monday, July 21, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The fee is $25 and includes lunch. Register by July 14 to (574) 935-1763.

**FUNDRAISERS**

Knights plan spaghetti dinner
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a spaghetti dinner on Friday, July 18, from 5 to 7 p.m. Adults $7, children (5-12) $3. Dinner includes spaghetti, salad, garlic toast and coffee. Carry-out available.

Hidden treasures rummage sale
Bristol — St. Mary of the Annunciation Parish, 411 W. Vistula St., will have a rummage sale Friday and Saturday, July 11 and 12, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Ribs and chicken for sale
Fort Wayne — St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel Parish will offer Port-a-Pit chicken and ribs Saturday, July 19 from 3-6 p.m. at the church. One half chicken $5, one half slab ribs $6. Drive-through only.

Rib and chicken dinner offered
Garrett — St. Joseph Parish will offer a rib and chicken dinner at the school gym from 4-7 p.m. Adults $7.50 and children $4.50. Meal tickets also offered in a raffle for a 19-inch flat screen TV.

St. Adalbert offers fun fair
South Bend — St. Adalbert Parish, 2420 Huron St., will have a fun fair on Saturday, July 26, from 1-9 p.m. Polka Mass at 5 p.m. Food, games, bingo and entertainment.

St. Jude announces parish festival
South Bend — St. Jude Parish will have a festival Friday, July 18, from 5:30-11:30 p.m. and on Saturday, July 19, 12:30-11:30 p.m. Food, casino games, bingo, live music, kids’ games and amusement rides. For more information, call the parish office at (574) 291-0570.

Queen of Angels garage sale
Fort Wayne — Queen of Angels Parish will have a garage sale Friday, July 18, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, July 19, from 8 a.m. to noon in the activities center, 1600 W. State Blvd. Handicap accessible.

Our Lady of Hungary parish festival
South Bend — Our Lady of Hungary Parish, 829 W. Calvert, is planning a bus trip to Navy Pier with a luncheon cruise on Lake Michigan with dancing and entertainment. Cost is $90 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.

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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 $90 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.

**TODAY’S CATHOLIC**

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them.”

This was evident at St. Patrick Parish, where Father Fernandes is a beloved figure, overseeing growth in the number of parishioners, as well as the construction of a new parish hall.

“These are events, and God speaks to us in events,” the cardinal said in his homily. “And God speaks only the word of love. For me, it is an experience of love to be here, among you, my dear sisters and brothers.”

The Sunday Mass at Arcola was even more of an event, as it included the cardinal baptizing a young parishioner, Sophia Marie Galtucci, and coincided very closely with the 30th anniversary of the cardinal’s being named a bishop. The cardinal said that, since he served as a teacher before being made a bishop, never serving as a parish priest, the visit was special to allow him to meet and pray with people on the parish level.

Cardinal Toppo also shared with the parishioners some of his experiences in the 2005 conclave, which he called “a deep spiritual experience,” as well as his encounters with Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta. He displayed a laminated prayer card on which she wrote for him. “Be only all for Jesus. Love only Jesus. Keep only Jesus. God bless you, Mother Teresa,” he said the message is for everyone.

Prior to arriving in Arcola, Cardinal Toppo had been one of several cardinals at the 49th International Eucharistic Congress in Quebec to give a report on the status of church life in his country. He spoke of how the church in India is enriched by the presence of several rites and Eastern traditions.

Cardinal Toppo told Today’s Catholic that the diversity of rites makes Catholicism in India more visible and allows it to evangelize the culture.

“Asia is a mosaic of people, where two-thirds of the population of the world live,” he said. He also said that it is true that Asia is the newest frontier in the church.

“If Jesus came to save the world, the people, and at the moment, two-thirds of the population is in Asia,” he noted. “So therefore, if Christianity means anything for humanity, it has to focus on Asia.”

The church in Asia is strong, he said, in spite of poverty and other social evils. He added that, given the increased secularization and decreased vocations in the West, he feels it is appropriate that priests from Asia are now serving in the Western countries that first evangelized Asia.

“Now it is our turn, in a way, to share our faith,” he said.

St. Patrick Parish, Arcola, is definitely pleased Cardinal Toppo shared his faith with them, and Ken Schaefer said they feel abundantly blessed.

“You never know what comes out of those visits,” he noted, “whether we’re going to see some vocations, which we are praying for, and we pray for his safety from now on.”

Cardinal Telesphore Toppo holds up a prayer card autographed by Mother Teresa of Calcutta during a reception in his honor at St. Patrick Parish, Arcola. Sitting by the cardinal are Father Cyril Fernandes, left, pastor of St. Patrick, and Jesuit Bishop Felix Toppo, right.

Today’s Catholic

BOOK OF THE MONTH CLUB

This month’s featured selection:

C.S. Lewis’s “The Great Divorce”

Literary, spiritual and intellectual great C.S. Lewis, who is responsible for the epic Chronicles of Narnia series, here presents a short allegorical tale depicting hell as a sprawling and desolate city and heaven as a dazzlingly beautiful outdoors scene. The story follows the narrator — presumably Lewis himself — as he joins some of the other inhabitants of hell on a bus ride to heaven, where they are greeted by the glorified forms of people they knew on Earth.

What follows is an eye-opening and sometimes unsettling account of how, as beings with free will, human beings adopt mindsets, fall into traps and make all sorts of excuses that keep them from embracing God’s love and salvation. This involves people who suffer lust, possessiveness and, as Benedict XVI would call it, the dictatorship of relativism.

Lewis relates the story in a conversational narrative style that drips with British charm and makes every character not only realistic, but engaging.

The reader is the monitor that Lewis meets in heaven, convey some weighty truths — for instance, that nothing is good or bad, but that only God is good. And anything that is oriented toward God becomes good, and anything turned away from God becomes corrupt and empty. Lewis applies this truth to the scope of an entire human life, asserting that someone who has embraced God will see even their worst experiences as time of rich blessing because of the meaning God brings. His depiction of hell then is of a state of mind, quite literally, being trapped in one’s own mind and delusions, unable to connect with God and heaven, the ultimate reality, the only reality.

Lewis was Anglican, not Catholic, and the book, taken at face value, does not match the teachings of Catholicism or, as Lewis himself points out, any belief system. But he is not trying to teach dogma. He is using creative storytelling to convey deep realities about the nature of God, Jesus, heaven, hell, salvation and free will. Lewis paints a picture of how human beings can ultimately choose to be part of something true and eternal or collapse forever into themselves.

About the author

C.S. Lewis is one of the most influential Christian writers of the 20th century. He served on the faculties of Oxford and Cambridge Universities and wrote over 30 books in the areas including fantasy, children’s literature and popular theology. Some of his other works include “The Chronicles of Narnia,” “Mere Christianity,” “The Screwtape Letters” and “A Grief Observed.”

Visit www.diocesesefsb.org/blog for discussion on this book.

Questions for discussion

Why are so many aspects of heaven painful and destructive to the ghosts?

What qualities do the different ghosts exhibit that keep them from ultimately embracing God and salvation? In what ways do I exhibit these qualities?

What is the great divorce referenced in the title?