Local youth witness message of pope at World Youth Day

BY KAY COZAD

WARSAW — This summer’s World Youth Day in Sydney, Australia, will long be remembered as a life-changing, faith-inspiring pilgrimage for thousands of young Catholics from across the world. For 15 youth and chaperones from Sacred Heart Parish, Warsaw, it was no different.

Ida List, director of youth ministry there, led the group of 11 students and three adults on an adventure of a lifetime. Though she originally hadn’t planned to attend World Youth Day (WYD), due to expense, she issued a challenge to the parish community.

“We needed a minimum of 15 pilgrims to go and if God wanted us to attend, 15 would sign up ... and they did. So we went,” says the inspired List.

The trip was two years in the making and had the pilgrims raising funds with a car wash, garage sale and even sales from producing their own CD on praying the rosary and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

List worked with Youth in Europe, a tour company, to arrange for an extended stay of 12 days. But more than the logistics, List attended to the spiritual preparation of the students.

“We prayed a lot,” says List, who adds that she also read the monthly e-pilgrimage letters that provided information on the upcoming WYD events and the theme taken from the Book of Acts, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses.”

Eventually, the group began to meet weekly for Mass, prayer and planning.

July 11 finally arrived and the well-prepared and enthusiastic group boarded their flight to the land down under in anticipation of meeting the pope. Upon WYD, PAGE 20

Youth from Sacred Heart Parish in Warsaw pose near the Opera House in Sydney, Australia. The group, led by Ida List, director of youth ministries at Sacred Heart, gathered with thousands of other faithful youth from around the world to see Pope Benedict XVI at World Youth Day. Also attending from the diocese were Father Mark Gurtner, pastor of Our Lady of Good Hope in Fort Wayne and Deacon Jacob Runyon.

As China’s influence grows it should open itself to Gospel

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI, visiting the birthplace of an Italian missionary to China, said that as China’s economic, cultural and political influence grows “it is important that this great nation opens itself to the Gospel.”

“St. Joseph Freinademetz, who was born in the northern Italian village of Oes, showed the Chinese people of the late 19th century that it was possible to maintain their culture and remain fully Chinese while embracing the Gospel,” the pope said.

The pope and his brother, Msgr. Georg Ratzinger, went by helicopter Aug. 5 from their vacation residence at the Bressanone seminary to Oes to visit the house where St. Freinademetz was born.

Speaking to several thousand people who had gathered to see him in Oes, Pope Benedict said the saint “shows us the path of life and is also a sign for the future of the church.”

“He is a saint of great relevance: We know that China is becoming more and more important in political and economic life and also in the life of ideas,” the pope said.

The pope said St. Freinademetz demonstrated to the Chinese people of his day the fact that “the faith does not mean an alienation from any culture for any people because all cultures await Christ and are not destroyed by the Lord. In fact, they reach their maturity.”

Pope Benedict prayed that the saint would be a model for all Christians, reminding them to live their faith and to realize that only in Christ will peoples and cultures unite.

The papal trip to Oies was the first publicly announced outing of the pope’s July 26-Aug. 11 stay in the northern Italian Alps. But after spending a week behind the Bressanone seminary walls, Pope Benedict
Catholic schools: Another year

August seems too early to begin school. When I went to grammar school we would not start Labor Day week, but the week after Labor Day. I found it difficult even then. During the summer I worked in my father’s store and played baseball when I could get time. Baseball was our sport up until the end of August. And only then did we break out the footballs. Now baseball ends at the end of June. Summer was a time for work and baseball. Now school begins the middle of August. It’s almost against the law of nature, but begin we must. We keep the Catholic schools going and ever stronger at great cost, but it is worth every effort. When he was in Washington, D.C., Pope Benedict XVI made clear in the talk to the bishops the value of this sacrifice.

“No child should be denied his or her right to an education in faith, which in turn nurtures the soul of a nation.” and “The Catholic community here has, in fact, made education one of its highest priorities. This understanding has not come without great sacrifice. This sacrifice continues today.”

We labor constantly to raise funds for our schools, so that our children will have an education in faith. Catholic high schools and 40 elementary schools and almost 14,000 children. This past year, in addition to all the funds raised for tuition at parish fundraisers, $1.1 million dollars was given to parish schools. Over $800,000 of this came from the Legacy of Faith, and $300,000 came from the bishop’s appeal; but there is more. The Annual Bishop’s Appeal and other sources will give over $1 million dollars to students who otherwise could not attend our schools.

Our Sunday Visitor Institute in honor of my golden jubilee as a priest gave $1 million to each of our high schools. Beginning this year, from that fund 5 percent or $50,000, whatever is greatest, will be provided to each high school for tuition grants. It has been a long time since St. Mother Theodore Guérin and the saintly Msgr. Julian Benoit founded our schools, but our people have not been lacking in generosity.

And this year a new school

Catholic schools are closing around the country, and this year we merged some schools — Benoit Academy was joined to St. John’s in Fort Wayne. The last I heard, 45 students from Benoit will attend St. John’s. Many thanks to Father Daryl Rybicki, pastor of St. John’s, and Principal Jeanne Finn for their intense work in making this possible. St. Patrick’s, Walkerton, after extending its life for three years, was closed. Six students have enrolled at St. Michael’s, Plymouth, which is about 25 minutes distance.

An extraordinary event takes place next week on Aug. 24. I will dedicate St. Pius X Educational Center in Granger. As most of you know, even those who live in Fort Wayne, Granger, once a small Indiana town if indeed a town at all, has exploded in its population in the last 30 years. People who moved in from around the country to work in South Bend or teach at Notre Dame and live in Granger were amazed that there is no Catholic school attached to that large and growing parish. Now that anxiety is over. Under the leadership of Father Paul Schooler, assisted by Father Dan Scheidt, and more recently, Father Bob Lengerich and especially Father Bob Lengerich, a large education center is ready to open.

This is a success story. While many people deserve thanks and appreciation, the pastoral leadership of Father Schooler must receive special recognition. They raised, close to $9 million for what is more accurately an education center. It will also house religious education initiatives. It is very special indeed. This new building is small. The closing of the school after 53 years, while supported by many, also left pain in the hearts of some even though we extended it for three years after the first decision to close. It surely was the right decision, with only 38 students registered. But such things are not done without pain, and that could be sensed on the faces of some parishioners this past Sunday.

On the other hand, there was great joy to greet a new pastor who comes to us from far away in Nigeria. Already Father Pius has made a positive mark on this beloved old parish, which was founded in 1856. I have been there many times in recent years; and unavoidably, there have been several priests giving pastoral care. While this has presented difficulties, with the collaboration of our priests, and especially Father Bill Kummer, there has been a priest there every Sunday. They have never missed a Sunday celebration of the Eucharist. In fact, it was also celebrated on three weekdays. Now, they will have Mass every day and a permanent pastor.

It was with special joy that a large number of people came from St. Vincent’s, Fort Wayne. Father Pius served there for 18 months. It was wonderful to see so many coming from St. Vincent’s as well as several members of the Nigerian Catholic community from South Bend.

I was impressed with the singing and the good spirit of the people. Walkerton is special to me and close to my heart. I have tried to stay with them in the good times and in the difficult times. The bishop must go to every parish, not just to the large and populous ones, but to the small and struggling communities. I know the good people there and how much this parish means to them.

Feast of the Assumption

This feast is a moment of great promise. Because she carried in her womb the Eternal Son of God, it had been a common belief in the church that Mary not only was not subject to sin but to the effects of sin. One such effect is death, and the church in a definitive declaration, binding us in faith, declared that she was taken body and soul into heaven. This is a great promise to us also.

This Assumption, I am mindful of my dear sister, Mary. A few days after this feast I will have my 76th birthday. Her presents are always first and some-
**Pope calls for immediate end to military action in Georgia**

**BRESSANONE, Italy (CNS) —** Pope Benedict XVI appealed for an immediate end to military operations in Georgia and its breakaway province of South Ossetia.

"The violations of human rights and liberties are being carried out by both sides," Benedict told an audience of Catholics at San Giovanni Battista church in Bressanone, where he was ending a two-week vacation. Vatican spokesmen said he was following the swift-moving events in the Caucasus region, where a Georgian army operation in South Ossetia "has led to a heavy Russian retaliation that extended far into Georgian territory."

The pope condemned the "rioting, also in the name of a common Christian heritage, from further confrontations and violent retaliations that would degenerate into a wider conflict."

The pope made the remarks in the evening of the accident. Vatican sources said he was following the swift-moving events in the Caucasus region, where a Georgian army operation in South Ossetia has led to a heavy Russian retaliation that extended far into Georgian territory.

"The situation is at a peak," as he phrased it at the Vatican, "the situation is at a peak. There is no peace here." and "I also invite the international community and the countries most influential in the current situation to make every effort to sustain and promote initiatives aimed at reaching a peaceful and lasting solution, one which favours open and respectful coexistence," he said.

"There are lots of refugees seeking shelter. They have nothing. The situation is direful. We will try to meet these urgent needs."
Faith community gains respect in AIDS policymaking, say observers

BY PAUL JEFFREY

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — Faith-based organizations, which for years have been relegated to the margins of discussions on AIDS policy and planning, are finally beginning to be recognized, said participants in the XVII International AIDS Conference, which concluded Aug. 8 in Mexico City.

“This isn’t perceived as a friendly place to be a religious leader, but increasingly the faith community is being respected and taken seriously,” said Linda Hartke, coordinator of the Evangeculum Advocacy Alliance, a group that includes several U.S. Catholic groups, including the U.S. bishops’ Catholic Relief Services and the Catholic Medical Mission Board.

“Yet with respect comes new responsibility and challenges. The more engaged we are, the more other people expect of us. The challenge for us is to do more, to do it better, to learn from our experience, to build bridges to other sectors of civil society as well as governments and the private sector, because it’s only by working in partnership and in recognition that we’ll be more effective,” Hartke told Catholic News Service.

During a speech to a gathering of 600 religious leaders that preceded the conference, Craig McCaw, executive director of the International AIDS Society, applauded the churches’ response to HIV and AIDS. The Geneva-based International AIDS Society, the main sponsor of the international AIDS conference, is the world’s leading independent association of HIV and AIDS professionals.

“Faith-based organizations have been at the front line of the response to HIV since the very beginning. In the early years of the epidemic, some were the only groups willing to provide solace for the dying. When many others shunned those living with HIV and AIDS, many Christians and people from other religions reached out with compassion to those in their communities who were in need,” he said.

Nonetheless, McCaw said, “the significant proportion of HIV services that are delivered by faith-based organizations throughout the world are not reflected in their influence globally, regionally and nationally on policy setting and regulatory processes and this must change.”

He said some lingering tensions complicate making faith-based groups full participants in policymaking.

“Particularly in the area of prevention, there remains a disconnect between the moral teachings of some of the great religions regarding such topics as homosexuality, polygamy and the use of condoms and the reality of people’s day-to-day experience,” he said.

“Many members of the most marginalized and HIV-affected communities such as gay men, sex workers and drug users feel shunned by their religious leaders. Some have abandoned their religion entirely even if many of the services provided by faith-based organizations are done ... without prejudice or judgment,” McCaw said.

U.S. Msgr. Robert J. Vitillo, who serves as the special adviser at Caritas Internationalis on HIV and AIDS, agreed that the relationship between faith-based organizations and secular groups involved in AIDS work is getting better.

Caritas Internationalis is the Vatican-based umbrella organization for national Catholic charters around the world.


Yet he acknowledged that some friction remains.

“In the past few years there has been a lot more interest on part of the International AIDS Society in learning about faith-based organizations, in finding ways to partner with them. But some other groups don’t have such an open posture toward faith-based organizations and see them as an obstacle to responding to HIV,” he told CNS.

“I think they’re mistaken. They need to open up and include some of the excellent models developed by faith-based groups, especially in those parts of the world where faith-based organizations provide half or more of the health care, let alone the social services and development work.

“It’s a shame when they try to exclude faith-based organizations from the mix. There’s no one group that can respond fully to HIV and AIDS. It’s much too complex. We all need to work together on this, otherwise we’ll continue to lose the battle,” he said.

Msgr. Vitillo said the tension is unlikely to go away soon, given that the church’s positions are not likely to change.

“The Catholic Church strongly promotes value-based prevention of HIV, and its whole approach to human sexuality and human relationships is value-based. We have a strong teaching of sexual abstinence outside of marriage and mutual permanent fidelity within marriage. That’s brought some reverse discrimination against the Catholic Church from people who don’t accept or want to live by that teaching and who want the church to change its teaching. But the Catholic Church doesn’t change its teaching. It has been there long before the HIV pandemic and I believe it will be there long after. This is an important base of values for human relations,” he said.

One religious leader argued that it was the churches’ task to public- ly repent of their contribution to stigma and discrimination. Bishop Mark Hanson, the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, began his presentation to the religious leaders gathered before the main AIDS conference by washing the feet of two women living with HIV.

“I am absolutely convinced that we, as religious leaders, and we in the religious community have so

HIV Treatment

Antiretroviral drug therapy lengthens life expectancy for those with HIV by inhibiting the replication of the virus.

Antiretroviral drug therapy lengthens life expectancy for those with HIV by inhibiting the replication of the virus.

BY JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI said the church should be generous when it comes to administering the sacraments to young people, recognizing that Jesus would have done the same.

The pope made the remarks in a closed-door meeting Aug. 6 with about 400 priests and religious in the northern Italian city of Bressanone.

Although reporters were not allowed inside the city’s cathedral for the one-hour encounter, the Vatican spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, described some of the give and take in an interview with Vatican Radio.

One of six questions posed by priests touched on the pastoral care of children, Father Lombardi said. In his response, the pope spoke about the need to take a broad approach to the administration of sacraments, reflecting the merciful attitude shown by Christ.

“The pope said, ‘I used to be more strict about this, but the example of Christ led me to become more welcoming in cases in which, perhaps, there is not a mature and solid faith, but there is a glimmer, a desire of communion with the church,’” the spokesman said.

The pope concluded that in such cases one can be “broader and more generous in the administration of the sacraments,” Father Lombardi said.

The spokesman said the pope answered questions with a combination of clarity and humility, underlining at times that what he was imparting was his own best advice, not an infallible response.

Asked about environmental issues, the pope said that in recent times the church has made a greater effort to connect its teachings on redemption with the need to safeguard the gifts of creation.
**Supreme Knight reiterates call to end abortion, support marriage**

**By Dennis Sadowski**

QUEBEC CITY (CNS) - Supreme Knight Carl Anderson challenged American Catholics to overturn the "regime of Roe v. Wade" in November by withholding their votes from any candidate who supports abortion.

He made the comments during an address to the 126th annual convention of the Knights of Columbus in Quebec City.

In a wide-ranging 68-minute report that reviewed the organization's accomplishments during the last year, Anderson saved his strongest criticism for Catholic voters by saying that abortion is one of many issues that deserve attention in any election.

"It's time to put away the arguments of political spin masters that only serve to justify abortion killing," Anderson said.

"In apparent reference to Illinois Sen. Barack Obama, the presumptively Democratic nominee for president, Anderson said change in the country can only come when the practice of aborting unborn children ends.

"We have all heard a great deal this year about the need for change," he said. "But at the same time we are told one thing cannot change, namely the abortion regime of Roe v. Wade. It is time that we demand real change and real change means the end of Roe v. Wade."

"It's time to stop accommodating abortion politicians and it's time we start demanding that they accommodate us," Anderson added. "They added the 300 delegates from around the world stood up and loudly applauded.

Anderson said he was not single out candidates for any particular policy for criticism.

Later, Anderson told Catholic News Service that he decided focusing on the concept that Obama is using in his presidential campaign "to get people's attention."

"This is kind of the cornerstone for this whole election year," he said.

"Like Catholics to know what real change, fundamental change in a Christian sense would mean," he said.

At the same time, he repeated that his message was not aimed at any specific candidate.

During his speech, Anderson said voters in California, Colorado and South Dakota have the chance to limit abortion by voting for ballot initiatives Nov. 4.

Anderson also promised that the Knights would remain focused on protecting marriage as a life issue.

He cited a second set of constitutional amendments on the November ballot in Arizona, California and Florida that would define marriage as the union of a man and a woman or ban polygamy, group marriage and same-sex marriage.

Focusing on the California ballot issue, Anderson took aim at the state Supreme Court, which ruled April 15 that such same-sex couples have the right to have the state designate their civil unions as marriages, in essence legalizing same-sex marriage.

"The court’s justices took it "upon themselves to ignore the will of the people and impose a radical new interpretation of the law," the supreme knight called for Californians to let their voices be heard by voting for the constitutional amendment.

In support of marriage, Anderson unveiled a new initiative, called Fathers for Good, designed to strengthen families by supporting fathers in family settings.

Through the Web site www.FathersForGood.org, unveiled Aug. 5, the program offers fathers advice on parenting, the importance of fathers to a family, being a good role model and spirituality.

"With Fathers for Good we will add a new structure and new resources to our efforts to strengthen families and provide the tools and resources that are so needed to realize our potential as husbands and fathers," he said.

Anderson’s address also discussed the Knights' record-breaking fundraising efforts in 2007.

Worldwide Knights councils raised nearly $145 million for charity, Anderson said.

Acknowledging the efforts of the local councils in Quebec, Anderson congratulated the Knights in the French-speaking province of Canada for raising $10.1 million, the largest amount by any regional or state Knights organization, Ontario was second, with $9 million. British Columbia was pegged as the jurisdiction that gave more per capita than any other jurisdiction or state: $219.30 per member.

U.S. and Canadian dollars are roughly equivalent.

The Knights of Columbus around the world volunteered more than 66 million hours last year in pursuit of the organization’s goals.

Membership in the organization also grew to nearly 1.8 million members.

Anderson reported. The year saw nearly 22,000 men join the Knights in the membership year ending June 30. In Luzon, Philippines, more than 5,000 members of the Knights have been added to the Knights' ranks.

As the first business session opened, Bishop William E. Lori of Bridgeport, Conn., was expected to report on the Knights of Columbus, a letter from Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, secretary of state.

The cardinal said the Knights share the baptismal call to service in the church and that Pope Benedict XVI believes their work upholds some of the central teachings of Christian life.

**Contributing to this story was Carolyn Girard.**

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**Court asked to throw out resolution criticizing church adoption stand**

**By Rick DeVecheio**

SAN FRANCISCO (CNS) — A San Francisco Board of Supervisors resolution harshly critical of official Catholic teaching on adoption by same-sex couples crosses the constitutional line between church and state and should be thrown out as an attempt by an agency for the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights told a federal appeals court panel.

The resolution, adopted March 21, 2006, by an 11-0 vote of the city and county governing body, not only condemns Catholic beliefs but urges church subordinates to defy Vatican directives.

Catholic authorities say adoption is not a sacrament and that the church would not bar same-sex couples from adopting children.

But the resolution, adopted March 21, 2006, by an 11-0 vote of the city and county governing body, not only condemns Catholic beliefs but urges church subordinates to defy Vatican directives.

DeVoe speaking before the three-judge panel also aimed questions at the resolution, noting that it appears to go beyond making a point about adoption by same-sex couples. The judge also said he was bothered by the closing reference to the Inquisition, calling it "quite prejudicial."

Chabria conceded that the reference was not necessary but defended it as "an effort to say this (treatment of homosexuals) is the same thing that happened again under a different name.

Muse maintained the language is critical because it is indicative of anti-Catholic bigotry. It is permissible for a private citizen to express such views, but when a government unit condemns religious belief, it tramples on neutrality toward religion built into the U.S. Constitution under the Establishment Clause, he argued.

"There really is a double standard," Muse said in an interview with the San Francisco, the archdiocesan newspaper.

"Quite frankly, if they don’t reverse (it), then there’s absolutely no doubt there isn’t an even-handed application, and the Establishment Clause is only being used as a blunt instrument to restrict religion rather than protecting religion," he said.

He said if the court upholds the resolution the question the court should consider is whether the resolution is a modern-day attack on Catholicism, is likely to be considered a political attack on Catholicism.

"Among certain groups not only is it considered politically correct and respectable to attack the Catholic Church, but fashionable," he said. "This is the prime exhibit."
U.S. bishop says Zimbabweans need reconciliation

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS) — As soon as a political solution is found, work on reconciliation should begin immediately, said a U.S. bishop who had just concluded a visit to the troubled country. The Zimbabwean Catholic justice and peace commission is working with other nongovernmental organizations on strategies to rebuild the deeply divided country, said Bishop John H. Ricard of Pensacola-Tallahassee, Fla., in a telephone interview from Johannesburg, South Africa, Aug. 9. Bishop Ricard and a U.S. bishops’ adviser on Africa visited Zimbabwe Aug. 6-9.

Reconciliation in Zimbabwe, which is experiencing severe political and economic crises, is a “seriously concerned” of the country’s bishops, said Bishop Ricard, who is chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Subcommittee on the Pastoral Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa. Church leaders are “revisiting the way the church responded in the past” to issues of justice and “much reflection is being done,” he said.

British government permits church to exhume Cardinal Newman’s body

LONDON (CNS) — The British government has agreed to allow the exhumation of the body of a 19th-century cardinal whose cause for sainthood widely is expected to be beatified this fall. Born in London in 1801, Cardinal Newman was an exception to allow the exhumation because of a 19th-century law that forbids the transfer of bodies from graves to church tombs. But Sir Ronald Stote, for a place set aside for pilgrimage and prayer.

Priests carry the relics of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha during the church dedication at the new Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse, Wis., July 31. Relics of Blessed Kateri and Blessed Miguel Agustin Pro were enclosed in the main altar of the church. The $25 million complex, located on a scenic bluff south of La Crosse, was the idea of the former bishop of La Crosse, Archbishop Raymond L. Burke, who said he saw a need in the Holy Land. Neither religious communities nor politicians, working on their own, will be able to resolve the long-standing differences between the largely Muslim Palestinian population and the Israelis, Patriarch Twid told Catholic News Service. “We need to start again from zero with a new mentality, with a new direction,” he said in an Aug. 6 interview that followed his presentation on the dire state of Christians in the Holy Land to the 500 delegates from around the world who gathered at the Knights of Columbus 126th annual convention, held in Quebec City. “I think if the Jews and the Muslims and the Christians and our parliament, (if) we start speaking about a culture of peace, a culture of reconciliation, one day we can have peace. It’s a question of the human element more than the instrument. Change the mentality,” said the patriarch, who was installed June 22 as the spiritual leader of the Catholic Church in the Holy Land.

Churches in Spain experiment with staying open 24/7

VALENCIA, Spain (CNS) — In 2002, Carlo Ravaso trekked more than 2,000 miles from Moscow to Valencia, stopping by churches along the way to pray for the unity of Christians. But when the Italian pilgrim arrived at the churches, he encountered a recurring problem.

The doors were locked. In response, Father Miguel Angel Vives, pastor of Nativity of Our Lady of Burjassot Parish in Valencia, decided that for one year his church would never close its doors. In 2004, more than 66,000 visitors came at all hours of the day. Churches in Spain and other parts of Europe are normally closed between Masses. One reason for this is the need to prevent theft, but Father Vives said there were never fewer thefts at his church in 2004 than in previous years. This year, with Ravaso’s help, Father Vives is pushing a plan backed by the Archdiocese of Valencia to enlist 12 Catholic churches to open 24 hours a day for one month each. So far, seven churches have signed on to unlock their doors; in late July, Father Vives was still looking for five more.

As Chicago experiences violent summer, Catholic communities respond

CHICAGO (CNS) — It started in April, when headlines screamed “36 shootings, nine homicides” over the course of one weekend in Chicago. Since then, the violence has continued, with news of shootings nearly every day. The violence has touched the Catholic community, with Catholic school students and adult Catholics among the victims, and violence occurring near and sometimes even on church property. In response to the violence, parishes have sponsored anti-violence marches; offered opportunities for young people to get off the streets and into activities, such as playing basketball at a church’s gym; and helped people find employment by holding job training and mentoring programs. The church is called to respond to violence by praying, but it has to do more than that, said Nicholas Land-Mollee, director of the Chicago archdiocesan Office for Peace and Justice. The church can do much to feed people who are hungry, in addition to praying for them.

Catholic students develop solutions to combat gas crisis

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Justin Stute drives a vehicle that gets more than 2,800 miles to the gallon. The 21-year-old incoming junior at Penn State University has developed a supermileage vehicle that won the competition’s $10,000 grand prize, beating competitors from leading engineering universities such as Indiana’s Purdue University and Pennsylvania State University. The winning vehicle combined electric energy with regular gas, with a focus on efficiency.

REPORTS IN THE NEWS

Catholic philanthropies give post-Katrina aid to women religious

WASHINGTON — Catholic philanthropies have delivered a big shot of the arm to New Orleans congregations of women religious still suffering from the devastation of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. In the fall of 2006, FADICA — Foundations and Donors Interested in Catholic Activities — alerted its member foundations to urgent needs those congregations still faced a year after Katrina. Since then, donations have come up with more than $4.4 million in grants to help pay the cost of cleaning and rebuilding the sisters’ schools, convents and other facilities destroyed or severely damaged by Katrina. Catholic philanthropies have disbursed more than $100 million in gifts to religious orders total $6.3 million. Some requests cover only a fraction of the recovery costs. “They had much more damage than they could pay for,” said Francis J. Butler, president of FADICA, which is based in Washington. More information about the project is available by writing to FADICA, 1101 15th St. NW, Suite 303, Washington, DC 20005. Contributions may also be sent to that address.

Indian bishops offer prayers, concern after stampede at Hindu temple

NEW DELHI (CNS) — India’s Catholic bishops expressed condolences and concern after the deaths of 146 Hindus, including 42 children and 50 women, in a stampede at a northern Indian Hindu pilgrimage center. “It is a matter of great concern for us that similar incidents occur at places of pilgrimage and worship,” Divine Word Father Joseph, spokesman for the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of India, said in an Aug. 4 press statement. His remarks were reported by the Asian church news agency UCA News. Father Joseph said it was time that “we create better facilities and enforced discipline for the safety and security of pilgrims.” Father Joseph said the Indian Catholic bishops have expressed “their sincere condolences to the bereaved families” and offered their prayers for the speedy recovery of the wounded. In addition to those killed, more than 230 people were injured in the Aug. 3 mishap at Naina Devi Temple in Bilaspur.
Bishop Luers High School to celebrate 50th and redecoration

FORT WAYNE — The 50th anniversary Mass and redecoration ceremony for Bishop Luers High School will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 27, at 9:30 a.m. The Mass will be celebrated in the school's gymnasium by Bishop John M. D'Arcy and will be followed by a redecoration ceremony, which will take place in front of the newly-renovated entrance to the school. Reservations may be made by calling Bishop Luers High School at (260) 456-1201.

Coach Terry Cooman to be honored with dinner

FORT WAYNE — The alumni of Huntontown High School, Central Catholic High School and the University of Saint Francis will honor Terry Cooman with a testimonial dinner on Saturday, Sept. 6, at Notre Dame's Glass Gymnasium at the University of Saint Francis.

Check-in and appetizers will begin at 6 p.m. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m. The cost of the event is $25 per person and payable by Monday, Sept. 2, to University of Saint Francis, with “Cooman Dinner” in the memo. Attn.: Juanita McKeering, 2701 Spring St., Fort Wayne, IN 46806; or send reservations to Mike Freck at (260) 433-9882 or (260) 637-9236, e-mail at mikefreck45@yahoo.com.

Serrans plan Day of Recollection

SOUTH BEND — Members of the Serra Club of South Bend will gather for a Day of Recollection on Friday, Sept. 12, at St. Stanislaus Kostka, New Carlisle, where Father Paul McCarthy, pastor, and chaplain of Serra, will serve as host and moderator.

The occasion will begin with Mass at 8 a.m. Following lunch and break, the theme for the day will be “After the First Vow: The Spirit of Apos- tolism.” The cost is $15 for adults and $10 for students.

Family volunteers, receive computer supplies for Honduran orphanage

GOSHEN — Local Elkhart and Kosciusko County businesses and local individuals provided over $8,000 in used and new computer equipment as well as shipping support to aid Nuestras Pequeños Hermanos (Our Little Brothers and Sisters) in Honduras, an orphanage supporting over 300 children, about 80 of whom are orphans, just over 5 percent of those needing care.

The Catholic-run orphanage is located on a spaghetti ranch one hour northeast of Tegucigalpa, the nation’s capital. NPH strives to break the cycle of poverty by providing a loving family environment and teaching each child important life skills as well as providing an opportunity for higher education. On its ranch, NPH Honduras houses its own private schools, vocational workshops and medical clinics to better care for the children.

“The donations ... will really make the difference between being able to provide educational experiences for the children and improved administrative functions and not,” states Tom Chenier, a local Catholic Medical Missions volunteer with the program.

Tom and his wife Casilda Chenier traveled to Honduras on Aug. 3 with their two children Gabriel, 11, and Rosalin, 6, for a one-year volunteer term. Casilda, a physician’s assistant, will be working with other volunteers and paid staff in the medical clinic, serving the older children as well as walk-ins from the surrounding community. Gabriel and Rosalin will be attending the private school on the ranch.

“We are so grateful for the community support that goes into providing for these children,” said Vicky Medley, international volunteer coordinator for Friends of the Orphans. “Without it, we would not be able to have the quality of services we have, which is so vital for their development. It helps us raise these kids into mature, loving and productive members of society.”

Friends of the Orphans is dedicated to improving the lives of orphaned, abandoned and disadvantaged children through the support of the Nuestras Pequeños Hermanos (NPH) network of orphanages in Latin America and the Caribbean. More than 15,000 children have been raised in NPH homes. NPH’s mission is to provide shelter, clothing, food, health care and education in a Christian family environment based on unconditional acceptance and love, sharing and working responsibility.

Friends of the Orphans is composed of regional offices in Arizona, Florida, Illinois, Minnesota, Virginia and Washington. For more information, visit www.friendsoftheorphans.org or contact the Midwest regional office at (847) 600-1700.

Saint Mary’s named a “Best in the Midwest”

NOTRE DAME — The Princeton Review has rated Saint Mary’s College as one of the best colleges in the Midwest for the sixth year in a row. The New York City-based education services company selected the college as one of only 159 institutions to receive its “Best in the Midwest” designation on its website feature 2009 Best Colleges: Region by Region. The Princeton Review also designated 212 colleges in the Northeast, 139 in the Southeast and 120 in the West as best in those parts of the country. The 630 colleges named “regional bests” represent only about 25 percent of the nation’s 2,500 four-year colleges.

“We are very proud to be listed in the Princeton Review again this year,” said Carol Ann Mooney, president of Saint Mary’s College. “Our faculty is committed to undergraduate teaching, to contributing to our intellectual community and to our distinctive mission. Small class sizes and individual attention are hallmarks of a Saint Mary’s education.”

Saint Mary’s College has held the “Best in the Midwest” designation every year since the Princeton Review began the “Best Regional College” categorizations six years ago. “We commend all of the schools we name this year as our ‘regional bests’ primarily for their excellent academic programs,” said Robert Franek, Princeton Review’s vice president of publishing. “We selected them based on institutional data we collected from several hundred schools in each region, our visits to schools over the years, and the opinions of independent and high school-based college advisors whose recommendations we invite. We also take into account what each school’s customers — their students — report to us about their campus experiences at their schools on our 80-question student survey.”

The Princeton Review is a New York-based company known for its test preparation courses, books, and college admission and other educational services. It is not affiliated with Princeton University, and it is not a magazine.

College football luncheons begin Sept. 5

SOUTH BEND — Notre Dame football fans in the diocese will have an opportunity to attend six pre-game kickoff lunches beginning Sept. 5 and on each Friday prior to a home game. The luncheons have been a longtime tradition at Notre Dame and many fans eagerly await them.

Bob Nagle, premier radio and television sportscaster, will serve as master of ceremonies. Football coach Charlie Weiss and selected athletes will be among the speakers. Tickets are $20 each and can be purchased through the University of Notre Dame Athletic Business Office, 112 Joyce Center, Notre Dame, 46556. — EJD

Scholarship winners announced

SOUTH BEND — In keeping with more than a century of tradition of providing scholarships to Catholic school students in the area, the Santa Maria Council of the Knights of Columbus announced two winners each to Saint Joseph’s High School and one to Mishawaka Marian High School. Winners of Saint Joseph’s scholarship is Teresa Pocius, daughter of K.C., and Tony Pocius, Winner of the Marian scholarship is Daniel Snyder, son of Eric and Eva Snyder. Both families are members of St. Patrick Parish in South Bend, and both fathers are members of the Santa Maria Council.

Fred Everett, chairman of the council and Archdiocese Chancellor, said, “Santa Maria Council’s focus on Catholic schools is well known and first began when only Central Catholic and Holy Cross were grade schools. Emphasis on Catholic education has been a strength of our council’s activity program and this year we were fortunate enough to make two awards.” — EJD

Knights install officers

SOUTH BEND — In a historic event for the Knights of Columbus councils in the city of South Bend, officers for three councils were formally installed together in a colorful ceremony. The occasion took place at Saint Maria Council 553, the oldest council in the area, established Jan. 6, 1901.

District deputy Vincent Feck said it was the first time that all three councils were brought together for such a ceremony since Ave Maria Council and Archbishop John Carroll Council were brought together for a ceremony in 1964. Feck propelled the officers, who were accompanied by their wives, to be continually active in their parishes, lend assistance to their local councils and continue all to continue their solid activity in Right to Life programs, locally, statewide and nationally.

Officers of the three councils are: Santa Maria Council 553: Robert Zielinski, grand knight; Tom Marcelv, 1st vice grand knight; Frank Nebel, 2nd vice grand knight; Dr. John Toepf, financial secretary; Richard Alexander, recorder; John Stanul, warden; Brian Mastenon, treasurer; Jerry Patrick, Robert Mackan and Jerome Smith, trustees; Fred Everett, advocate; and Ronald Collins and Marion Pasierbowski, guards.

Ave Maria Council 5521: Ryan Grady, grand knight; Frank Malkewicz, deputy grand knight; Kevin Thibodeaux, chancellor; Michael Hussar, financial secretary; Celesto Lopez, recorder; Ron Baker, warden; John Reust, treasurer; David DeVliegher, deputy grand knight; James Woodworth, trustees; Lee Salinskas, advocate; Steve Balient and Tom Kajzer, guards.

Ave Maria Council 5521: Ryan Grady, grand knight; Frank Malkewicz, deputy grand knight; Kevin Thibodeaux, chancellor; Michael Hussar, financial secretary; Celesto Lopez, recorder; Ron Baker, warden; John Reust, treasurer; David DeVliegher, deputy grand knight; James Woodworth, trustees; Lee Salinskas, advocate; Steve Balient and Tom Kajzer, guards.

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Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ celebrate jubilees

DONALDSON — In 1868, Catherine Kasper, foundress of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ (PHJC), at the request of Bishop John Luers, sent eight Sisters to the Fort Wayne diocese from their foundation in Dernbach, Germany. They staffed a school and cared for the sick in Hessen Cassel, Indiana. The Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ Sisters have ministered to people in need in the United States for 140 years.

On July 20, 2008, 13 Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ jubilarians were honored during a Mass and a festive dinner at the PHJC Ministry Center in Donaldson. Sister Cyril Coesens, 75 years

**75 years**

Sister Cyril Coesens, a 75-year jubilarian, taught school for 43 years at various schools including St. Paul School, Fort Wayne. After serving the young, her ministry changed to serving the elderly as a geriatric physical therapist and a traveling companion ministering at the Catherine Kasper Home and the PHJC Ministry Center in Donaldson. Sister Cyril currently lives at the Catherine Kasper Home.

Sister Jeanette Cyr also celebrated her 75-year jubilee. She taught school for a short time before becoming an office manager and bookkeeper at various Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ schools and at Angel Guardian Orphanage in Chicago. She then ministered to the elderly as a home nurse for Catholic Charities and St. Matthias Parish in both Chicago, and Fort Wayne. Sister Jeanette retired to the Catherine Kasper Home in 2001.

After teaching for 55 years at elementary and secondary levels in Illinois and Indiana, 75-year jubilarian Sister Longinia Pobiedzinski continued ministry as sacristan at Ancilla Domini Chapel in Donaldson. She retired to the Catherine Kasper Home in 2001.

**70 years**

A 70-year jubilarian Sister Jeannette Koehler taught at various schools in Illinois and Indiana, including St. Monica, Mishawaka; St. Joseph, Mishawaka; Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne, and Ancilla College, Donaldson. She became a pastoral minister in 1977 and ministered at St. Charles Parish and St. Joseph Parish, Fort Wayne, and St. Peter, Winamac. She currently lives at Convent Ancilla Domini and is a spiritual director.

Sister Vivian Brand became a teacher in 1940. She taught in schools in Illinois until 1946 when she came to Donaldson as a teacher, assistant dean and dean of Ancilla High School. She continued as teacher and dean of Ancilla College until 1992 when she became a volunteer at the College. Sister Vivian retired to the Catherine Kasper Home in 2005.

**60 years**

A 60-year jubilarian Sister Laura Banet taught at various schools including St. Monica, Mishawaka, and St. Bavo, Mishawaka. In 1988 she started at St. Joseph Medical Center in Fort Wayne as a chaplain and has also worked at the information desk and in patient registration. She currently volunteers at the hospital as well as at the Literacy Alliance and the Senior Guild and resides at Marian Convent in Fort Wayne.

Since 1948 Sister Marjaleen Kelley has ministered as a teacher and/or organist at various schools in Illinois and Indiana including St. Vincent Villa, Fort Wayne, where she was also the principal. She is currently the sacristan and organist at St. Francis Xavier Church in Lake Station and volunteers at St. Mary Medical Center, Hobart. Sister Teresa Schleper, also a 60-year jubilarian, has ministered in dietary or as a homemaker at many places in Illinois, Minnesota and Indiana including St. Vincent Villa, St. Joseph Hospital and Dwenger Convent, all in Fort Wayne, St. Patrick’s Convent, Arcola; and Convent St. Henry Convent in Chicago.

**50 years**

As a 50-year jubilarian, Sister Carolen Wasman has ministered in education the entire time except for the six years she served the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ community as provincial councilor. Her ministries in Illinois and Indiana include St. Vincent Villa; Fort Wayne; Elkhart Basic Adult Education Center, Elkhart, and for the past eight years, Ancilla Domini College in Donaldson. Sister Carolen resides at Ancilla Domini Convent, Donaldson.

Sister Mary Battau taught at schools in Mishawaka during the first 20 years as a Poor Handmaid. Later, she was instrumental in initializing new PHJC ministries such as the communications office, MoonTree Community and parks/entirets in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Currently, she lives at Convent Ancilla Domini.

Sister Mary Joseph Shingler ministered in education for 26 years at various schools in Indiana and Illinois including St. Joseph School, Mishawaka. She has served the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ community as treasurer, provincial councilor and currently as development director. She has also shared her talents with the Adrian Dominican Sisters in Michigan.

Sister Michelle Dermody ministered in education, religious education, parish ministry, retreat and spiritual direction, in her 50 years of service to the Poor and of Jesus Christ. In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, she served at St. Monica, Mishawaka. She lives at St. Henry Convent in Chicago.

**25 years**

Sister Celine George is celebrating her 25-year jubilee. Sister Celine is from India where she ministered as a nurse. She currently is working at the Catherine Kasper Home as a certified nursing assistant while studying for her RN exam. She lives at Convent Ancilla Domini.

Today Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ continue their ministries to the poor and underserved in the United States, Germany, the Netherlands, England, India, Mexico, Brazil, Kenya and Nigeria.
Vatican II classes revisited: A journey to the heart of the church’s renewal

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — “Give us more.” Those are the convincing words of those who attended the first of the Vatican II documents sessions that enticed the diocesan Office of Catechesis to offer a second session this fall.

Meg Hanlon, who taught the first acclaimed session, will return for the next six-week series, which will be offered on Wednesdays, beginning Oct. 15 and ending Wednesday, Nov. 19. Classes will be held 7-9 p.m. at the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center in Fort Wayne.

Hanlon is the department head of theology at Bishop Luers High School and a graduate of the University of Dayton masters of theology program offered through the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Sister Jane Caew, director of the diocesan Office of Catechesis, said, “This is a dream come true. The Education for Ministry program began in 1992; and since that time, 760 people have gone through it both in Fort Wayne and South Bend. At the end of the two years, when these adults have received their certificates, the inevitable question is, ‘What else do you have to offer us?’”

The Vatican II documents sessions are for those who have already received their certificates from the Education for Ministry program. This foundation is essential for anybody desiring to pursue study of the documents of Vatican II.

“These documents are made for us to read,” Hanlon said.

“They are not meant to be read by just church scholars.

“We become recipients of the Second Vatican Council,” she said. “We’re still unpacking the documents, and they will impact the church for years to come.”

Hanlon said, because of the lack of time to fully study “Gaudium et Spes” (The Church In the Modern World), the first class of the session will resume completing this document and participants should arrive at the first class having read “Apostolicam Actuositatem” (Decree on the Apostolate of Laypeople).

Other topics studied in the series will include the following:

• “Ad Gentes Divinitus” (Decree of the Church’s Missionary Activities) Dec. 7, 1965
• “Unitatis Redintegratio” (Decree on Ecumenism) Nov. 21, 1965
• “Dignitatis Humaneae” (Declaration on Religious Liberty) Dec. 7, 1965
• “Orientalium Ecclesiarum” (Decree on the Catholic-Eastern Churches) Nov. 21, 1964

Hanlon told Today’s Catholic, “Pope John Paul II said, ‘A bishop who took part in the Second Vatican Council feels the need to acquaint himself of the debt,’ and that debt is the need for a further response. The Holy Spirit spoke to the church through the council, and implementing the Second Vatican Council is a response of faith to the word of God.”

She added, “We can’t implement the council if we don’t read the documents.”

“When you read the documents, one gets a full understanding of the pontificate of Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI and episcopate of Bishop John M. D’Arcy,” Hanlon added.

“For example,” Hanlon said, “I read ‘Christus Dominus,’ (The Decree of the Pastoral Office of the Bishops in the Church), it is easy to see how our bishop has clearly reflected and implemented it.”

Hanlon, who studied the documents in her master’s program, chose as her class assignment to study the pastoral office of the bishops of the church.

“I have never heard Bishop D’Arcy speak without proclaiming the Gospel,” she said.

“Bishop D’Arcy places a high value on the human person. He encourages the right to life through the Office of Family Life – and the Women’s Care Centers. Our diocese is a model for Catholic education and catechetical instruction.” She recognized through her studies how faithful Bishop D’Arcy has been to this document in his episcopate.

Students evaluated the first session of “Documents of the Second Vatican Council” with the following comments:

• “These are great presentations, and my faith has grown greatly by attending them. A new concept of Christianity has been given to me.”
• “The more I learn about our faith, the more I want to know.”
• “Thank you for teaching and sharing your faith with us. I am always so inspired and challenged by you. I learn so much from your classes and really use it as I direct RCIA.”
• “I would not have looked at Vatican II on my own. Now I have no fear of the document. It is easy to read.”
• “I never considered reading the Vatican II documents, probably because I thought they were written primarily for those in the religious vocation. Thank you for opening up these awesome documents to us.”
• “What an incredible privilege to have … a diocese so interested in and supportive of opportunities such as this class.”
• “I enjoyed the class and documents. (I am) doubtful that I would have explored the documents without the formality and discipline of a regular class setting.”
• “There are some other documents I would enjoy getting familiar with from Vatican II and the encyclicals of Pope Benedict and John Paul II …”

Meg Hanlon is shown in her classroom at Bishop Luers High School in Fort Wayne, where she is the department head of theology. This fall, Hanlon will return for a second series of classes on the Second Vatican Council documents offered for adults who have completed their certificates in Education for Ministry.

Children at Little Flower Parish in South Bend gathered in a tropical setting to experience their first ever Vacation Bible School. Through music, skits, movies and art activities, children from pre-school through grade 5 learned about Jesus as their friend, teacher, healer and savior. Above, TJ. Sullivan designs a salt terrarium after hearing Scripture about being the salt and light of the earth.

James Burger installed as faithful navigator

PLYMOUTH — James R. Burger of Plymouth, a past Grand Knight of Plymouth’s Father Tremmel 1975 Council of the Knights of Columbus, was formally installed as faithful navigator of the Father Julius A. Nieuwland 4th Degree Assembly 242, Knights of Columbus, at ceremonies held in South Bend’s Santa Maria 553 Knights of Columbus Council.

The Burgers are members of St. Michael Parish, Plymouth.

— EJD

Catholic Radio AM 1450 Executive Director

Fort Wayne’s own Catholic Radio Station, Redeemer Radio, seeks a talented Executive Director to lead and manage our ministry. This position is responsible for the day-7 day operations, programming, staff development, financial management, marketing, and fund development for our apostolate.

- Qualified candidates will not only share Redeemer Radio’s mission but also be resourceful and have excellent interpersonal skills. Leadership experience in the non-profit sector and familiarity with fund development is beneficial.

Prior to September 1, 2008, send resume, cover letter, and salary requirements to:

Kate Burns, Search Committee
4705 Illinois Road, Suite 104, Fort Wayne, IN 46804
or email to: jobs@redeemerradio.com
A Catholic presence on college campuses

BY MONICA EICHMAN

As students prepare to enter into or return to their studies at university and college campuses this fall, here is the information they need to become involved with campus ministry and attend Mass.

Ancilla College
Coordinator of Mission Integration: Sister Carleen Wrasman (574) 936-8898 ext. 361
Mass times on campus:
- Ancilla Dune Chapel: Sunday and Saturday — 9 a.m., Monday-Friday — 7 a.m.
- Catherine Kasper Home Chapel: Every day — 11 a.m.

Holy Cross College
Director of Campus Ministry: Amelia Ruggaber (574) 239-8315
Mass times at St. Joseph Chapel:
- Weekdays — 12:25 p.m. and 5 p.m.; Sunday — 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Saint Mary’s College
Director of Campus Ministry: Judy Fean (574) 284-5382
Mass times on campus:
- Church of Our Lady of Loretto: Sunday — 9:45 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.; Monday-Friday — 7 a.m. and 11 a.m.; Saturday — 11 a.m.
- Le Mans Chapel: Sunday — 7:15 p.m.; Wednesday — 9 p.m.
- Regina Chapel: Sunday — 9:00 p.m.

University of Notre Dame
Many Masses, including one in the extraordinary form, are available at the university. For a full listing of Masses at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, residence halls and other chapels, visit the University of Notre Dame Office of Campus Ministry online: http://campus-ministry.nd.edu/liturgy-worship/mass.

Review University
Director of Campus Ministry: Janet Patterson (260) 434-3260
Mass times at Saint Francis Chapel:
- Sunday — 7 p.m.; Monday, Wednesday, Friday — 12:05 p.m.; Tuesday, Thursday — 5:15 p.m.

IPFW
Director of Campus Ministry: Mike Gibson (260) 481-6994
Beginning Sept. 2, Mass will be offered every Tuesday at 12 p.m., noon. On Sept. 2 and 9, the Masses will be in Walb 114 and 116. Contact Mike Gibson for the location on the following weeks.

What does it mean to be...

YOUNG CATHOLIC

Darcy Davidson deals with the faith

BY DON CLEMMER

Darcy Davidson’s faith journey is not unusual, as many young adults seriously question their Catholic faith and can go for years keeping it at a distance. These stories abound in Catholic television, radio and print. But Davidson’s story is different in some fundamental ways.

Darcy Davidson, 22, has found that, even when one raises questions or has issues with one’s faith, Catholic identity never really goes away.

She has found that the church does not need to become involved with campus ministry and attend Mass.

Darcy Davidson, 22, has found that, even when one raises questions or has issues with one’s faith, Catholic identity never really goes away. She appreciates the back-

She remembers fondly her confirmation retreat, which inspired her to participate in Mass as a eucharistic minister. “I liked participating in Mass,” she says and admits to always being comforted by religious icons and objects. But by the end of high school, Davidson found herself burned out and disillusioned, thanks in part to the sex abuse scandal, which was breaking at the time.

“I wanted absolutely nothing to do with the church again, and I didn’t feel a need for it,” she recalls.

She recalls her years at Manchester College provided the backdrop for the next stage of her journey. A Brethren school, Manchester pro-

vided a framework much different from what Davidson had known. “That was positive for me because I had to find my own way back,” she says, noting that the values of the Brethren Church also had a positive impact. “I like their sense of global commitment and their sense of community. That’s what I wanted.”

It also allowed her to explore new areas of interest, such as history and feminism, which allowed her to articulate some of her con-

cerns with the faith. For instance, Davidson says of the place of the church in her life. She is encouraged by what she sees as a willingness of the church to examine why clerical sex abuse has occurred as well as a new approach to dealing with it other than “let’s quickly cover it up and pay this settle-

ment.” She also finds herself trying to sort out issues she sees in the church, like inaccessibility, human pettiness and manipulation of others, from the sacredness and holiness of God’s church.

Many issues make her wonder how people can so enthusiastically get into the church in events like World Youth Day. “I was jealous for a really long time,” she admits. “Why is it so easy for them? Why?” But she also respects that the Catholic Church makes faith something that requires serious effort and sometimes painful growth.

As for the questions left unan-
swered and the issues she still can’t accept, Davidson says she is open to discussion and knows there are plenty of voices in the church that can bring fresh discussion, noting, “I can always find something that I’m willing to, if not believe, then at least consider.”
BY JENNIFER SIMERMAN

FORT WAYNE — The latest Mass celebrated on Sundays in Fort Wayne is at St. Joseph’s Church on Brooklyn Avenue at 7:30 p.m. The late Mass offering began about five years ago when Father Timothy Wrozek decided the parish needed an outreach program to welcome new members to the church as well as a call to those who wanted to come back home to learn to love the liturgy again. In the first six months alone, the Mass offering brought 12 families back to the church.

The typical Sunday evening Massgoer will be greeted by a parishioner and asked to please sit up front. The congregation gathers closely; in fact, the back of church won’t even be lit. Even small children gather with their families up in the front instead of in the cry room.

Father Wrozek processes in, making it a point to shake hands with the congregation as he walks by. And when he arrives at the altar, he looks out among the congregation and says, “We are called to be here today, and we answer that call. We sit close together as to say: we are a community who cares about each other as communities are meant to do.”

His comment is reminiscent of the passage that says, “when two or three are gathered in my name, I am in the midst of them.”

— Mt 18:20.

Father Wrozek continues by welcoming the congregation and asking visitors to raise their hands and indicating where they were seated. Interestingly, the church is full of visitors from all over town and many from out of town. The group is a diverse one, and throughout the homily, Father keeps everyone’s full attention.

The music, under the direction of Ken Jehle, covers contemporary songs such as Mercy Me’s “I Can Only Imagine.”

At St. Joseph’s, anyone who arrives to church with an instrument by 6:30 p.m. on the evening of Mass is welcomed to join the musicians. There are Masses, Father Tim later explains, where so many people show up that they have to share microphones, and some of the musicians are non-Catholics.

After the closing prayer, parishioners disperse, but a few remain in the front holding conversations and saying hello.

After Mass, at a local coffee shop, anyone can join in for coffee, tea or even at times a game of Boggle. This has become a weekly social tradition.

At the coffee shop, Mass participants Nathan Moore and Adam Pyle — both of whom made mention that the 7:30 Mass contributed to their coming back to the church — Father Wrozek, Denise Smith and Millie Hutchings conversed on topics from traveling and foreign languages to stories from the past, and, of course, the popularity of the late night Mass.

In the first years, the late evening service consisted of small congregations whereby Father Wrozek invited the community to stand together at the altar to celebrate Mass. This created a bond and closeness. As time passed and the congregation grew, especially with visitors, everyone was welcomed and made to feel a part of this close-knit community.

Father Wrozek explains that this Mass is growing in popularity partly due to the time of day — he calls it “the Mass of last chance” — but also, he made clear that this is an outreach and not meant to be a regular Mass for parishioners. It is a welcome home to anyone who answers the call. Because of this, he has kept the nature of the service somewhat relaxed.

It is evident and very understandable that all in attendance enjoy this late service and its popularity seems to be on the continued rise. St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in Fort Wayne welcomes you. Weekend Masses are Saturday at 5 p.m.; Sunday at 9 a.m., 11:30 a.m. (Spanish) and 7:30 p.m.

The award is geared towards students who have received a solid foundation in Catholic education and intend to pursue a career in a field related to Catholic education. Among them are Wilson.

Wilson is eager to apply and, after enduring a “grueling interview process,” Wilson received the good news of her acceptance, being chosen among 20 or 30 students to receive up to $11,000 in aid.

The renewable scholarship is a multipart commitment, Wilson said. Recipients attend regular meetings to discuss program-related issues. Moreover, they pledge to devote a minimum of eight hours in community service.

Along with the service hours, annual retreats encourage program participants to collaborate about their efforts. Last, Wilson said a “hands-on” capstone service project junior or senior year complements the program.

Service often starts in the home. The youngest of three children, Wilson witnessed her mother’s unyielding service to her family.

“She’s been such an inspiration since I was little,” Wilson said about her mother. “She always took care of herself and is always looking after other people.”

Wilson, entering her 13th year of Catholic education, will pursue a degree in business management. And Wilson said those 12 years of Catholic education have laid a firm moral foundation.

“I wouldn’t be quite the same without (my Catholic education),” she said. “It has helped me set my basis and standards and know my limits.”

Like her mother, Wilson said she hopes to be an instrument of service both in and outside the home. She intends to open a childcare center following graduation and soon after start a family.

“I want to give back to kids and work in an environment where kids are treated as a blessing ... I want to teach them and take care of them.”

For more information about Marian College and the Rebuild My Church program, see www.marian.edu/rmc.
By Stephen O'Kane

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Although Catholic youths are used to doing service work, they need to find a way to connect their volunteering with their faith, according to speakers at a conference in Atlanta.

Service activities have become commonplace in the Diocese of Syracuse, N.Y., where he is a diocesan director of youth ministry.

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The athletic success of a young man resettled in the United States as a Sudanese refugee in 2001 has shined a spotlight on the Catholic agency that helped him find a new home after years of life in a Kenyan refugee camp.

Lopez Lomong was among the 3,800 “lost boys of Sudan” who were resettled in the United States in 2001 with the help of the U.S. bishops’ Migration and Refugee Services. He became a U.S. citizen in 2007, and today is an Olympian competing in the games in Beijing.

Lomong, a Catholic, qualified for the 1,500-meter run by finishing third July 6 at Olympic trials in Eugene, Ore.

On Aug. 6 Lomong’s teammates on the U.S. Olympic team chose him to carry the U.S. flag during the Aug. 8 opening ceremony.

Not only were his friends and his foster parents, Barb and Rob Rogers of Tully, N.Y., celebrating his success, but so were officials at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

MRS and Catholic dioceses across the country assisting about one-quarter of them.

Julianne Duncan, now associate director of children’s services for MRS, worked in 2000 at the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya, the camp where Lomong was living before he came to the U.S.

She was deployed there by the International Catholic Migration Commission under contract with the United Nations.

She was very involved with the case of the “lost boys,” so called because they were driven from their tribal villages and separated from their parents during the height of their country’s civil war, from 1993 to 2003.

Refugee camps became their home.

Duncan’s job was to interview the boys who were still under 18 and process their cases to determine which of them would be resettled in the U.S.

She was there alone for most of the year in 2000 and was involved in processing 800 cases.

“The majority of the children who qualified under the ‘lost boys’ initiative left home in 1987 and traveled to Ethiopia under extreme conditions,” Duncan told Catholic News Service Aug. 7.

The boys then made their way from Ethiopia to Kenya.

“They those 25 years old were 4 years old in 1987 and most unaccompanied children at that age did not survive,” she said.

Caretakers reported horror stories of the children’s arrival in Ethiopia at that time before the International Committee of the Red Cross and UNHCR brought food and other necessities, while the smallest children continued to die in very large numbers,” she said.

The UNHCR is the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

According to MRS, Lopez was 16 when he came to the U.S. in July 2001 as an unaccompanied refugee minor and remained in the MRS program until 2006, while completing his schooling.

“The Catholic bishops were very instrumental in the resettlement of the ‘lost boys,’ overall, by identifying this group of the ‘lost boys’ as a group of concern to the U.S. government and arranged with the government that they would have a group resettlement opportunity in the United States,” said Duncan.

The bishops on the migration committee and MRS staff traveled to the refugee camps in Kakuma a number of times in 1998 and 2001.

“The children would still be in this refugee camp if it had not been for the Catholic bishops,” said Duncan.

Contributing to this story was Salesian Father Anthony Lobo.
**Are you trying to live a greener life?**

**THE CUTTING EDGE**

Sister Margie Lavonis, CSC

creaturte tells us that God gave human beings dominion over all the earth. To me, that means we are responsible for taking care of earth, not just dominating her. From all we read and hear lately about global warming, I am now convinced that we must do something about it.

All around us we are being encouraged to "live green," to forsake the old and be open to being ministered to as children of the Holy Cross, that challenges the members and our employees to take climate change seriously and to try to do our part to help slow it down.

What are some practical things we can do to contribute to the solution of this terri-

ble problem facing our world? Here are some suggestions I have. I am sure many of you can think of others. Some may seem simplistic, but when many people make the effort, a lot can be done to help the cause.

The first step is to take a look in your wallets, purses and pockets for (at least) one dollar, or even a five-dollar bill, and take it to the latest recycling center near you. They are popping up in my neighborhood. As the number of foreclosures and layoffs, foreclosures and layoffs — which can over-

The ancient Gregorian chant "Ricordate me" is supposed to be "a hope song" for us. "Ricordate me" means that she is catering only to a small faction of each campus community. Instead, she will embrace the whole of life, not simply those oodles of plastic bags that you get when you go to the grocery store. Many cannot be rescued. Our sisters from Bangladesh tell us that plastic bags are for-

biden in their country because it is so small and there are very few places to discard trash. I wonder what it would be like if the United States if it were against the law to use them?

What about technology? Can you upgrade your computer instead of having to always get the newest and the best? The same goes for cell phones. Why do we always need the latest model? If the phones we use now do all the essential things we really need? Do you ever wonder what happens to all those discarded phones and computers? That goes for other appliances too. If the old ones work, why do we need the newest and the best? (Note that there are special community recycling centers for technology castoffs.)

Then there is the issue of transportation. This is a hot topic right now because of the high price of gasoline. It would still be a problem even if oil were cheap. Fuel emissions are really causing a lot of problems. Is it possible to ride a bike to some places rather than drive? Can we carpool or walk more? Can we plan our trips more carefully? Maybe it isn't another winter storm, but we're thinking of leaving on a trip when no one is in it? The same goes for the television. Do we leave it on even when no one is watching? It's a computer when it is not being used for hours?

Do we have to leave the water on when we are brushing our teeth or stay in the shower for long periods of time? Think of places like California and the Southwest where it is so dry.

Most of these suggestions might not seem like much, but they can be effective if everyone does his or her part. God gave all of us the responsibility to be stewards of the earth. He wasn’t just talking to Adam and Eve.

It would be great if each one of us could try to do even one or two of these things. Our future descendents will be grateful.

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

**Build on rock:** A firm foundation for tumultuous times

I have been stepping through the debris, at once disturbed and intrigued. I have been touring foreclosed homes.

As the number of foreclosures climbs, for-sale signs keep cropping up in my neighborhood. Tornadoes hit quiet towns. Hurricanes upended superyachts and 100-foot sailboats.

And what about the many bottles of water some of us drink each day? Why not buy a water bottle that can be used over and over again? By doing so we would not only eliminate some of the trash, but we’d also save some money. But you may say that you recycle those bottles. Even so, plastic is made with oil and recycling takes a lot of energy, the same energy that is hurting the earth’s climate.

Another simple but effective way to live green is to bring reusable bags (sold in many grocery stores) with you when you shop. I have found that the very words "take care of the earth" makes others consider those oodles of plastic bags that you get when you go to the grocery store. Many cannot be rescued. Our sisters from Bangladesh tell us that plastic bags are forbidden in their country because it is so small and there are very few places to discard trash. I wonder what it would be like if the United States if it were against the law to use them?

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**To twenty something**

BY CHRISTINA CAPECHI

FORT WAYNE — Bridge Becker has seen more than her share of college campuses lately. And this isn’t about to change. The 22 year old graduated from the University of Saint Francis, where she earned her degree in liberal studies with concentrations in communications and religious studies. This summer, she began pursuing her masters at the University of Notre Dame. This fall, she will be a regular face on three college campuses, thanks to her position as a new campus minister for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Becker replaces Franciscan Sister Jacinta Keeveck, who now resides at the University of Saint Francis, and joins Mike Gibson as a Fort Wayne-area campus minister. Where Gibson’s work takes him to Indiana-Purdue at Fort Wayne and Huntington University, Becker will be serving students at Manchester College in North Manchester, Manchester, Indiana Institute of Technology in Fort Wayne, and Trine University — formerly Triton College.

That none of these campuses are Catholic is a blessing, as Becker intentionally avoids the concept of “catholic” according to its definition, meaning “universal.” This word is for Becker will focus on personal relationships.

“I feel, as a campus minister, I am called to be Christ to another person,” she says. “And that means being open-minded, willing, honest and understanding.”

Becker believes that no faith group is an island, so being the Catholic campus minister won’t mean that she is catering only to a small fraction of each campus community. Instead, she will embrace the whole of each campus community. Instead, she will embrace the whole of each campus community. Instead, she will embrace the whole of each campus community. Instead, she will embrace the whole of each campus community. Instead, she will embrace the whole of each campus community. Instead, she will embrace the whole of each campus community. Instead, she will embrace the whole of each campus community. Instead, she will embrace the whole of each campus community. Instead, she will embrace the whole of each campus community. Instead, she will embrace the whole of each campus community. Instead, she will embrace the whole of each campus community.
**A young church**

Blessed Pope John XXIII encouraged the church to look for the signs of the times. One current sign is that the church today is in a particularly promising situation, thanks largely to young people.

By Father Steve Kempinger, CSC

August is once again upon us. Where did the summer go? I am once again surprised at how quickly time passes. The school year is upon us. It is wonderful to see the young children and maybe a few tears from both children and adults. But in the end, as Godbless. Being a Knight of the Book of Genessis, all is good.

The diocese has a special reason to celebrate the goodness of the new school year. With the opening of a new education center in Granter, St. Pius X, we as a community, join together in our commitment in Catholic education. In the United States, there are 7,400 Catholic schools with an enrollment of 2.3 million students. Our diocesan schools are part of a wonderful tapestry that reflect and nourish the young in the spirit of support and passing on our faith.

I had the privilege of attending the State Convention of the Knights of Columbus, St. Joseph Lodge 1023, in Bloomington, Indiana, who worked in China, Catholic News Service reported that the pope said, as China’s economic, cultural and political influence grows, “it is important that this great nation opens itself to the Gospel.”

Hong Kong’s Cardinal Joseph Zen Ze-kiun told Catholic News Service he hoped the Olympic Games in Beijing will help encourage progress on human rights.

But in weeks before the games, the Asian church news agency UCA News reported that church sources said, “The government has forbidden unregistered bishops and priests to administer sacraments or do pastoral work since late July, and some bishops have been put under house arrest!”

“Now, one should take advantage of this occasion to encourage the Beijing government to make progress on human rights, too — starting with the granting of greater freedom to those involved in communication — as it promised when it asked to host the Olympics,” Cardinal Zen was quoted by Catholic News Service.

After China’s crackdown in Tibet, some world leaders boycotted the opening ceremonies. President George W. Bush attended the opening ceremonies and actually made history by being the first sitting U.S. president to attend the Olympic Games overseas. But he caught the Chinese a bit off guard Aug. 7 when he criticized China, drawing a positive response not only from Pope John, but also from then-Pope Paul VI.

That sentiment is reflected in this issue, which makes young Catholics its focus. Their gifts to the church are evident in many areas. The diocese is experiencing the most prosperous and the most peaceful,” Bush said.

As Beijing, China, hosts the Olympic Games, all eyes will be on the international athletes who compete for all the world to see.

As a young American Catholic, I am always excited to see what the future holds. I am excited to see what the young people from this diocese who made the journey all the way to Sydney, Australia, to participate in World Youth Day 2008, itself an overwhelmingly encouraging sign of the interest and enthusiasm young people have for life in the church.

Turnout exceeded expectations for an event held half a world away from the homes of most of its 400,000 participants.

There is Amy Wilson of St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Fort Wayne, featured in this week’s issue for being the recipient of the Marian service scholarship. There’s Bridget Becker, the new diocese campus minister, the latest of several recent college graduates to come to work for the diocese in areas such as catechesis, youth ministry, worship and others.

Regarding the diocese’s current emphasis of experiencing success with its XLT program, sponsored by the Office of Youth Ministry.

By Father Steve Kempinger, CSC

The Chinese responded that they oppose any words or actions that make something so basic as finding and keeping a job difficult. It can also be internal, such as doubting one’s Catholic faith. It is this period of doubting that tends to make the young adult years “lost years” or “time in the wilderness,” but the church believes that it is doubt that strengthens one’s faith.

As Beijing, China, hosts the Olympic Games, all eyes will be on the international athletes who compete for all the world to see.

Taking all these factors into account, it is clearly an exciting time to be young and Catholic, and this issue takes at least a passing look at what’s going on with today’s young Catholic.

Men of faith and service

Members of the Indiana Knights of Columbus are “Men of faith and service.” The Knights of Columbus are a Catholic gentlemen’s club since 1882 that organizes its worldwide membership into local, regional and state lodges.

The Knights have been an integral part of the Catholic Church’s efforts to help foster a service spirit within the church and its parishes and schools. The Knights of Columbus celebrate their faith by living their commitment to helping others and living out the values of faith, family, charity and community.

As a young church, the Knights have a commitment to building a better world. The Knights have a long history of providing social assistance and community service as a way to live out the values of faith, family, charity and community. The Knights of Columbus have been a driving force in many communities, providing support for those in need.

The Knights of Columbus have been a strong supporter of education and have provided scholarships and grants to support Catholic schools and students. They have also been active in community service, supporting organizations that help those in need and those who are less fortunate.

The Knights of Columbus have a special connection to the Olympic Games as they are a part of the Catholic Church’s efforts to foster a spirit of service in the church and its parishes and schools. They have a long history of providing social assistance and community service as a way to live out the values of faith, family, charity and community.

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Contemplating autumn in God’s time

Douglas W. Kmiec

Into God’s presence without the pain or anxiety of death under scoring how the peace of summer need never end. Mary’s miraculous journey awaits us if we follow the example of submarine trip to the divine will. During the 20 years I was privileged to teach at Notre Dame, it always seemed to me that the statue of Our Lady atop the Golden Dome stood in ever more tranquil splendor upon this feast day. Each August 15, Jesus’ mother seemed to gently tilt her head and smile upon the near-by Indiana and Michigan country sides as they were silently and effortlessly being prepared by God’s hand for the fall harvest. The students had not yet returned.

God loves all, sin cires for his mercy

Faith and Precedent

Douglas W. Kmiec

The last days of summer are upon us. As a child, I confess I didn’t much like this August time of year. The summer that I had looked forward to during the previous school year was fast disappearing, and soon a new school year (announced by an endless number of inscrutably noticeable “back to school” sales) would intrude upon what seemed to me then the truest form of human freedom: a child’s unscheduled hours of summer leisure. The small hands of the young boy clung fast to summer vacation unprepared to concede that my early summer perspective of unlimited free time was unreal or deceptive. Even as I have grown older, I still sometimes find myself resisting the calendar turn from summer to fall. The flip of the month triggers a bittersweet admixture of memories of summer family get-togethers (always much anticipated in their weeks of planning and then seemingly gone in an instant) as well as summer projects not yet accomplished.

Now, of course, only I still see the boy in the mirror, but God who sees us both calmly our jointly-managed, anxious heart and permits us to know him as the God of all seasons. There is refreshment to be found in contemplating — even in the sticky humidity of August — the cool, freshness of the new life of Christ’s resumption on Easter. Thinking back to Easter in late summer brings to mind the happy joy of spring and the beauty of new beginnings. What’s more, recalling the months since Easter corrects the record by giving reminder of how luxuriantly land generous the summer’s passage of time has actually been. Any grievance for time lost is thereby proclaimed unworthy of attention. In between Easter and now, the church has honored Corpus Christi and helped us welcome the gifts of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Suddenly, instead of fretting over what is gone, there is an appreciation for the Spirit working in the here and now. Recollection from the calendar of the Spirit, the precious summer weeks that remain are allowed to ripen the seed of our faith.

The church calendar of late summer also brings its own special beauty in the feast of the Assumption. In mid-August, the image of human perfection in the person of Our Lady being taken into God’s presence without the pain or anxiety of death under scoring how the peace of summer need never end. Mary’s miraculous journey awaits us if we follow the example of submarine trip to the divine will. During the 20 years I was privileged to teach at Notre Dame, it always seemed to me that the statue of Our Lady atop the Golden Dome stood in ever more tranquil splendor upon this feast day. Each August 15, Jesus’ mother seemed to gently tilt her head and smile upon the near-by Indiana and Michigan country sides as they were silently and effortlessly being prepared by God’s hand for the fall harvest. The students had not yet returned.
Who was with Mary at the birth of Jesus?

We often picture the birth of Jesus in isolation with only Mary and Joseph present, along with some animals. But in the ancient world, people often lived together near families or clans. Houses and homes were often built with two stories. The people lived on the top level and the animals were on the lower level.

You can see some of these car-
avansaries or khans in Central Asia today. In one of them, the lower level was very high so that large camels can be stored there. Some authors think that, in the inn was so crowded because of the census, Mary and Joseph went to the stall or lower level with the animals for more privacy.

Father John McKenzie says that the Bible regards the birth of a child as a joyous occasion, although we have no mention of any festivity as we have for circumcision and weaning. The news of the birth was announced to the father, who presumably was not present. The newborn infant was bathed, rubbed with salt and oil.

Christian writings outside of the Bible, like the Talmud, also describe the normal ritual of giving birth to a baby. Since there were usually many people in close proximity to the expectant mother, many of the young women would help hold up the expectant mother in a private room or area and walk her around. They also could use a birthing stool on which the mother sat. Some authors say only the more wealthy had access to a birthing stool, so if St. Joseph was only a peasant, Mary might not have had one. Of course, St. Joseph was a carpenter and could have made a stool, and people then were having lots of children, so the stool could be shared by members of the extended family.

After the baby was born, the midwives cleaned it and then informed the father, in this case St. Joseph, that the baby was born.

On what shoulder did Jesus carry the cross? Pictures show both the left and the right. R.M., South Bend

Father John McKenzie says that the cross on which Jesus was crucified was either the T-shaped cross or the dagger-shaped cross. The dagger-shaped cross is suggested by the fact that the title was affixed above Jesus’ head. Since the execution of Jesus was performed by Roman soldiers, most likely the Roman manner of execution was followed. The cross carried by Jesus to the place of execution was customarily not the entire cross but only the crossbeam. Normally, the upright beam was left permanently at the place of execution and the crossbeam was attached at each particular execution. Many modern pictures show Jesus carrying the crossbeam on both shoulders at once.

Father Richard Hire, pastor of St. Martin de Porres Parish, Syracuse, answered this week’s question.

Who helped Mary with Jesus’ birth?

Was it the angels? We can’t expect St. Joseph to know what to do. R.M., South Bend

Thanks to the brave souls reading). Thanks to the brave souls who, when all our final seasons are at end, will lead the worthy to paradise.

I’m hard to imagine a less auspicious time for the reception of a papal encyclical on the morally appropriate means of family planning than the summer of 1968. Now, 40 years after it was issued, Pope Paul VI’s letter, “Humanae Vitae,” may finally be getting the hearing it deserves.

Why? Because the developed world is in demographic crisis from decades of plummeting birth rates. Because younger women have figured out a truth that eluded their mothers in the ‘60s: the sexual revolution — made possible in part by easily available contraception — is great for predatory men, and not so great for women. And because John Paul II’s “theology of the body” has set the church’s classic teaching in an engaging, humanistic framework.

The Catholic Lite Brigade will doubtless make a mass anniversary year the occasion to celebrate two generations of theological dissent: wiser souls will ponder the human wrench, age caused by the sexual revolution, especially to women, and think again. There still remains a lot of confusion about the church’s teaching on marital chastity, in part because most of the church’s ordained leadership has done a poor job of teaching it. Leadership on this front has come primarily from lay scholars and activists — the formidable “priest among the priestesses,” Richard Doerflinger of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, now a successor generation including Christopher West, Helen Alvare, Colleen Carroll Campbell, Pia de Soledad and Mary Eberhard (whose book, “Humanae Vitae” in the August-September First Things is required reading). Thanks to the brave souls in the natural family planning and new Catholic feminist movements, what Paul VI was trying to say has special nature of the marital bond; natural family planning honors, if you will, the very dignity of marriage and the sexual love and its dual nature as both love-sharing and life-giving. Technological means of family planning impede that.

No one imagines that this is easy. But then no one should imagine it impossible, either. The testimony of Catholics who faithfully live the truth about marital love and responsibility is that the rhythms of sexual love and sexual abstinence involved in natural family planning enhance relationships, open conversations, and enrich marriages humanly and spiritually.

The Catholic Church teaches that every couple has a moral responsibility to welcome a child as a joyous occasion, that the rhythms of sexual love and marital love and responsibility is shared by members of the extended family.

The Catholic Church teaches that every couple has a moral responsibility to welcome a child as a joyous occasion, and to order marital love in concert with those two responsibilities. Where the church is boldy countercultural is in teaching the morally appropriate means to regulate fertility is through biology rather than techniques. Natural family planning according to the rhythms of biology, the church proposes, honors the integrity of women and the sacred words of the secular world. So why the suasion of vitriol thrown at Paul VI and his proposal that natural family planning is the more humane and humanistic approach?

I think it has something to do with the fact that “Humanae Vitae” laid down a cultural marker: the Catholic Church was not going to cave to the spirit of the age as so many other religious bodies had done.

The Catholic Church was not going to declare that sex is just another contact sport: not because the church is prudish or repressed or misogynist, but because the church takes men and women seriously, and because the church imagines the love of Christ for the church as spousal love. It’s a pleasure to discover how many young women get this, today. Maybe men — and the theological establishment — will catch up in due course.

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The Catholic Church teaches that every couple has a moral responsibility to welcome a child as a joyous occasion, and to order marital love in concert with those two responsibilities.
FORT WAYNE — The Bishop Luers dance team is gearing up for the 2008-2009 season under the direction of second year coach Cindy Figel.

Figel limited the squad to 20 members and plans to start competing throughout the state of Indiana later in the year. She will attend a meeting in Indianapolis this coming October in hopes of joining the Indiana High School Dance Team Association (IHSDDTA), which is required to be at the competition level.

“I think it will be good for the girls and they will really enjoy it,” said Figel.

In addition to including competitions in the schedule, Figel would like to involve the squad in more community service efforts this season. She hopes to sponsor a “Luers Dance Team Gives Big” modeled after the Oprah Winfrey project. Figel would also like to organize the girls to give lessons to young girls in the community who may not be able to afford classes otherwise.

“I think it is important for the girls to give back to the community,” stressed Figel.

This fall, besides performing at the home football games, the girls will be fundraising funds to earn money for costumes and a possible convention in Chicago.

The summer months have been fun for the team. During the month of June, the squad held a three-day camp for girls in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. Over 50 young dancers attended the summer camp, which the team ran and choreographed.

During July, Figel held a practice in her back yard so the girls could prepare to perform for the first time ever in the Three Rivers Festival Parade. “We were excited to be asked to celebrate the three state championships at Bishop Luers,” explained Figel.

Figel, who has been dancing since age 3, is a Bishop Luers graduate. She has taught and competed in the Fort Wayne area her whole life and has found a good match coaching the Bishop Luers dance team.

Bishop Luers’ dance team looks toward an ambitious future

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

BISHOP LUERS HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI GOLF OUTING Bishop Luers alumni will host their annual golf outing on Saturday, Sept. 20, at Brookwood Golf Course in Fort Wayne. The golf outing will be a Florida Scramble with a 2 p.m. shotgun start. Cost is $70 per person and includes greens fees, cart, range balls, beverages and grill open all day. Hole sponsorship is $125. To reserve a four-person team, call (260) 456-1261 or visit www.bishopluers.org.

Noblesville teen with ties to diocese dives in Beijing

By Kevin Cullen

NOBLESVILLE — Some say that Olympiam David Boudia may be the most promising male platform diver since gold medalist Greg Louganis.

The 19-year-old, 5-foot-8-inch Boudia is a member of Our Lady of Grace Church in Noblesville. Parishioners held a pancake breakfast in his honor before he left for the Kaiser Permanente Diving National Championships in Pasadena, Calif. There, on July 26, he and teammate Thomas Finchum captured their sixth national title.

“It’s amazing to have so much support and so many people behind you. I feel absolutely blessed to be a part of this parish,” he told the Noblesville Daily Times at the breakfast, which raised approximately $2,000 to help pay for his family’s trip to China.

“The people in the parish have been amazing,” Boudia’s sister, Shaun, said in a phone interview with The Catholic Moment, newspaper of the Diocese of Lafayette.

“Father John (Zahn, associate pastor at Our Lady of Grace) has been following David for a while, and he came to the trials. He has been very, very supportive.”

Father Zahn, who has known Boudia for six years, described him as a mild, focused, dedicated teenager.

“He dives all over the world, but he has always been very unsung,” Father Zahn said.

Boudia’s grandparents, Mary and Sheilaugh Boudia, was born in Texas. His other sister, Shaila, 22, has graduated from college. He will enroll at Purdue University this fall.

Boudia’s grandparents, Mary and Bob Bartlett, live in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and attend St. Mary of the Angels Parish at Big Long Lake.

“I’m very proud of David for his accomplishments,” Mary Bartlett told Today’s Catholic. She commented on his humility. “He’s a good role model,” she added.

His grandparents David and Judy Boudia also live in northeastern Indiana.

He earned his spot on the Olympic team on June 22 by winning the 10-meter individual platform finals with a record-setting performance in the Olympic Trials held in Indianapolis. Teamed with Finchum, of Indianapolis, he represented the United States in the 10-meter platform synchronized diving where the duo took fifth place on Aug. 11, less than five points from a bronze medal with a score of 440.63.

Tim Johnson from Today’s Catholic contributed to this article.

LeighAnn Palmer golf outing benefits scholarships, local charities

FORT WAYNE — The 14th annual LeighAnn Palmer Foundation Golf Outing will be held Sunday, Sept. 7, at the Grey Goose Golf Course.

The Florida scramble will be a double shotgun event at 7 a.m. or 1 p.m. Cost is $70 per person. The proceeds from this event will go to scholarships and local charities. Scholarships are given to a St. Therese School girl who will attend Bishop Luers High School and a Bishop Luers senior cheerleader who will attend college. Scholarship winners this year are, from left, Lauren Oberley, Amy Swygart and Jordan Crouch. Senior Cally Shaw was not available for the photo.

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This year’s senior members of the Bishop Luers High School Lady Knights Dance Team pose for a photo during the youth camp held in June. They are, from left, Lauren Oberley, Amy Swygart and Jordan Crouch. Senior Cally Shaw was not available for the photo.

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A little more than 500,000 people in the United States die from cancer each year. Many of those were one day thriving individuals making important contributions to society and the next day were diagnosed with an illness that takes it toll on family life, financial situations and emotional attachments. Although the survival rates continued to climb, one-half million deaths a year in this country sounds astonishing.

Lessons in life provided by professor Randy Pausch

There is probably not a reader of this paper that won’t be affected by the disease at some point — if not directly, then by a good friend or family member battling it. One of my sons was discovered to have a brain tumor when he was 4 years old. A 9-year survivor so far, the turmoil such a diagnosis brings was barely fathomable prior to the illness. But in all things, God brings good. And that, ultimately, is the theme of “The Last Lecture.”

No. 1 on several best-selling book lists much of this year, “The Last Lecture” is the inspirational book of 2008. The author, Randy Pausch, was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in 2006. One of the hardest of all types of cancer — it has a 95 percent death rate — Pausch, an active, vital mid-40s guy with three young children, continued to live his life the best way he knew how — with enthusiasm and joy. He died July 25.

The genesis of “The Last Lecture” is an interesting story in and of itself. Pausch, a college professor and self-professed computer geek, decided to take advantage of a long-standing tradition among university teachers of giving a last lecture. He used his moment in the college sun to focus on the beauty of life and the gifts given him. And the gospel of life that Catholics are called to embrace is evident throughout.

As a computer professional, it’s not surprising that Pausch’s lecture was made available on the now ubiquitous YouTube Web site, which generated a lot of chatter and led to the book. “The Last Lecture” book then became an expanded edition of this remarkable man’s philosophy and approach to life. Outside of one small blip (you can skip the two-page-long chapter 57, a non-Catholic view of predestination), his advice is stirring and logical — that is, when we step away from our materialistic, go-go culture. A couple of his best tips include:

“Time must be explicitly managed, like money.” And “Ask yourself: Are you spending your time on the right things?” And my favorite: “Rethink the telephone.” He advises, “It’s better to stand when you’re on the phone. You’re more apt to speed things along.”

The crunch he felt to get in as much time with his family and children before he died led to changes in his life that will benefit his children down the road. If we could incorporate just a little bit of what he spoke of as so important, our lives would probably be happier and fuller.
WHAT’S HAPPENING carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. Send in your announcement at least two weeks prior to the event. Mail to: Today’s Catholic, PO. Box 11169, Fort Wayne 46856; or e-mail: fhogan@fw.diocesefwsb.org. Events that require an admission charge or payment to participate will receive one free listing. For additional listings of that event, please call our advertising sales staff at (260) 456-2824 to purchase space.

FUNDRAISERS
Bishop Luers alumni and friends plan golf outing
Fort Wayne — Bishop Luers will have a golf outing Saturday, Sept. 20, at Brookwood Golf Course with a 2 p.m. shotgun start. For information contact Bishop Luers at (260) 456-1261 x3139 or e-mail sshank@bishop-olpurers.org.

Spaghetti dinner supports charities
Elkhart — The Knights of Columbus Council 1043 will have a spaghetti dinner Wednesday, Sept. 3, from 5-7 p.m. Located downtown on Lexington Ave., tickets are $6 for adults, $3 for children and all proceeds go to local charities.

Fall festival planned
Fort Wayne — St. Therese will have a fall festival Saturday, Sept. 6. Children’s games will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with an auction at 1 p.m. and raffles and entertainment. Live band Pop ’N Fresh will provide evening entertainment starting at 8 p.m. Must be 21. Indiana State License# 115101.

Knights plan corn and sausage roast
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus will have a corn and sausage roast, Saturday, Aug. 23, from noon to 5 p.m. at 553 E. Washington St. Tickets are $5 at the door (corn, sausage, and all the corn you can eat). There will be a raffle for ND tickets, ND blanket, a cake walk, and a white elephant sale.

Corn and sausage roast
South Bend — St. Casimir Parish, 1308 W. Dunham St., will have a corn and sausage roast Sunday, Aug. 24, from noon to 5 p.m. Music from 1-5 p.m. provided by The Jim Deka Trio. Tickets are $1 and enter you in a cash raffle (top prize $1,000) and free sweet corn. New this year will be children’s games and a large item raffle. Tickets can be obtained at the parish office or at the gate.

Parish golf outing
South Bend — St. Augustine Parish will have an 18-hole scramble golf tournament Saturday, Aug. 23, beginning at 9 a.m. at the Sprig O Mint Golf Course. Cost per player $60 and includes cart, green fees and lunch buffet by Chef Rex Marvel. Call (574) 234-7992 to make reservations.

ND football season ticket raffle
South Bend — The St. Hedwig Holy Name Society will have a raffle for two Notre Dame football season tickets. Tickets are $1 each or six for $5 on Aug. 24. Send check to St. Hedwig Holy Name Society, 1104 B, Elliot St., South Bend, IN 46628.

MISC. HAPPENINGS
Hospice offers volunteer opportunities
South Bend — The Center for Hospice and Palliative Care needs volunteers in all eight counties of the service area. Mature individuals are invited to register for upcoming training sessions by calling the volunteer resource coordinator nearest to them: In the Elkhart area call Kathy at (574) 264-3321. In the Plymouth area call Angie at (574) 935-4511. In the South Bend area call Jackie at (574) 243-3100. Training will focus on the hospice philosophy, communication skills, spirituality, family dynamics, patient care, bereavement and much more. Following training, volunteers may assist patients and families with respite, transportation, laundry, errands, companionship or bereavement. Volunteers will serve patients in their homes, in nursing homes or may also serve in office or clerical roles. In addition, individuals with licensure/certification in massage therapy, hair styling or notary public are also needed.

Scheduling for volunteers is flexible. The next volunteer training dates are: South Bend — Sept. 2, 3, 4, 9, 10 and 11 from 6-9 p.m.; Elkhart — Sept. 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, and 25 from 5:30-8:30 p.m.; Plymouth — Sept. 10, 12 and 17 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Happy birthday Mary
Fort Wayne — A birthday party for Mary will be held on Sunday, Aug. 24, from 11:45 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the gym of Our Lady of Good Hope Church, 7215 St. Joe Rd. The Legion of Mary invites participants to pray on a 50 foot rosary, enjoy a potluck lunch, a short talk on “Home Visitations — Legion style,” a religious play with audience participation, games for the kids, birthday cake and ice cream for all. RSVP to Connie Acciero at (260) 486-1001.

Little Flower Holy Hour
Fort Wayne — Deacon Kevin Bauman will celebrate the Holy Hour at MacDougal Chapel on Tuesday, Aug. 19, at 7:15 p.m. Deacon Kevin will be ordained this fall and is currently serving at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Elkhart. Join in praying for priests and vocations.

Back to school picnic planned
Wabash — St. Bernard Parish will have a back to school picnic Sunday, Aug. 17, following the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Bring your favorite dish. Meat, drinks and table service will be provided.

John Michael Talbot in concert
South Bend — Christian music artist John Michael Talbot will be in concert on Tuesday, Sept. 9, at St. Anthony de Padua Church. Admission to the concert is $17.50. Contact Frank Held at (574) 386-6412 for tickets, information or to volunteer.

15 Day – 4 Island Tour
Departs February 26, 2009
Join other Roman Catholics on the most affordable two-week, four-island Hawaiian vacation you will ever find at the guaranteed lowest price. Your YMT Catholic chaplain is Father Joseph Codori, Parochial Vicar at St. Afanasius Roman Catholic Church in Pittsburgh, PA. “Father Joe” has traveled extensively over the years; this will be his second trip as a YMT chaplain. Mass will be celebrated some days while on tour, for those in the group who wish to participate. Your group will fly to Honolulu for five nights in Waikiki, three nights in Kona one night in Hilo, two nights on Maui, and three nights on Kauai. Sightseeing on every island includes: a Honolulu city tour with Punchbowl Crater and Pearl Harbor cruise to the Arizona Memorial, the Waialua riverboat cruise to the Fern Grotto, Iao Valley excursion & the old whaling capital of Lahaina, a Hilo orchid garden and Rainbow Falls, Black Sand Beaches, Volcanoes National Park and more. Your price, from only $1388 (per person, double occupancy) includes all taxes, baggage handling, Hawaiian owned hotels, and escorted sightseeing on every island. Add $380 for inter-island airfare. Add $1040 for roundtrip airfare from Ft. Wayne. “Your Man” Tours specializes in Hawaii and has had its own office in Honolulu since 1977. Prices are guaranteed to be the lowest because travelers buy wholesale, directly from the actual Hawaiian tour operator. $100 deposits are now due. Friends and family are welcome!

For a brochure, information, reservations, and letter from Father Joe Codori call 7 days a week:

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Royal Randwick Racecourse where the crowd was estimated at 400,000. The pope said after the vigil God "wants us to be open to the Holy Spirit who will transform their lives and help them bring a life-giving witness to the rest of the world."

Bettina Voelz, also a St. Francis parishioner and junior at Warsaw Community High School, agrees, as Laura Eberhardt says, that the encounter with the shepherd "was very easy going and just very relaxed and wonderful."

How did this experience change these pilgrims?

Chelsea Domiano, Warsaw High School junior and parishioner of Sacred Heart says, “Seeing the pope ... made me think of my own life ... and that we always have a choice, a choice to be a believer in Christ. I feel so proud of my faith.”

Desiree List is working to be more open to the Spirit and feels the pope is “counting on me to help change the world and bring nations together by just doing what is right,” an honorable goal for this faith-filled young woman.

Safely back at home these weary travelers are processing this monumental experience of international pilgrims gathering to join their shepherd in celebrating their faith and upon reflection they realize the shouldrers of an Italian pilgrim in the crowd.

BRESSANONE, Italy (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI highlighted the “authentic joy” experienced by World Youth Day participants and said it is a gift that cannot be drugged away.

BRESSANONE, Italy (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI highlighted the “authentic joy” experienced by World Youth Day participants and said it is a gift that cannot be drugged away. The pope told the young people that "an acute lack of joy" and a "degrading experience" can be the result of a "false escape" that places "false hope" in"the mirage of pleasure" rather than authentic joy.

The pope spoke from a small platform in the town square of Bressanone, where some 7,000 people had gathered to bid farewell to the 81-year-old pontiff. It was the last full day of his northern Italian vacation, and he was scheduled to spend the rest of the summer in his villa outside Rome.

Before leaving, the pope offered a reflection on vacations, saying that unless they include a spiritual element they are destined to disappoint. People who look at vacation solely as an endeavor to "find the miracle of pleasure" often end up more worn out than when they began, he said.

Pope Benedict XVI was captured in this photo taken by Anna Haldewang, one of the pilgrims who attended World Youth Day in Sydney, Australia. Haldewang was able to snap the photo as she sat on the shoulders of an Italian pilgrim in the crowd.

SOUTH HEMPSTEAD — The fleeting sight of a butterfly reminds Zach Baker, 16, and his family of a sister and daughter’s presence that was too quickly gone.

Cassie Baker, who died in September 2005, was two-days-old when her tiny body succumbed to difficulties regulating her own body temperature and oxygen levels, said Laura Baker, Zach and Cassie’s mom.

For what would have been her third year of life, the family built and dedicated a butterfly garden in her honor at the Angel of Hope Memorial Garden at Pinhook Park in South Bend, a garden designed for "just so who have suffered the loss of a child."

The butterfly garden sits just outside an enclosed patio of brick pavers engraved with the names of children and families who have been lost or who grieve those who’ve died. Zach, who’s family attends Christ the King Church in South Bend, conceived of and worked on his project for his Eagle Scout award.

“I wanted to do something important for me in a place that’s very important to me,” said Zach, who, with the help of family, completed the project the first weekend in August. "I wanted to build a garden."

The Angel of Hope Memorial Garden was designed as a place of healing for both Zach and his family over the death of Cassie.

Meeting others who feel the same sadness together is the point of the memorial garden, Zach explained. "It’s just you know that you’re not alone,” he said. “That’s very helpful.”

Other families and the Bakers who have met at the garden can be vulnerable with each other and talk about their loved ones with a level of comfort that people who haven’t lost a child or sister may not be able to relate to, Laura Baker explains.

"I think you know that you’re not alone,” he said. “That’s very helpful.”

The garden, containing day lilies, Russian sage, black-eyed Susans, phlox, peonies, Shasta daisies and more, are all flowers that attract butterflies. Zach researched the types of flowers used in butterfly gardens, but also relied on the help of Sue Polega at God’s Green Earth garden center in Niles. The butterfly garden is rimmed by a retaining wall that Zach and his helpers built before installing the garden. "The butterfly garden will be maintained now by volunteers who garden at the memorial, Zach said.

For his Eagle Scout project building the garden was a way the entire family could come together to remember Cassie and deal with the loss. Zach has three other siblings as well — Sarah Cate, 12, Ian, 7, and Nate, 1.

"I think Baker added that many people believe that the death of someone ends their relationship with them, but she said, one believes death simply changes the relationship, adding memories to it. For example, she said, for Cassie’s third year the family built a garden, which will be added to their store of memories of her. "Despite what the butterfly garden adds to their family, Zach said he hopes other families will leave the Angel of Hope Memorial Garden with a sense of hope."

“I think it of course leaves people who haven’t lost a child or sister with a sense of hope," he said. "It’s not over,” he said. "That’s the point." People will still be with us and one can live on with the rest of our lives. Because I know what it feels like to have lost someone, I know that we need hope that they will still be with us. And I hope (others) can feel that."

Zach Baker, 16, and his mom Laura Baker, of Granger, sit next to the butterfly garden Zach built at the Angel of Hope Memorial Garden at Pinhook Park in South Bend in honor of his sister Cassie who died in September 2005. Zach built the garden for his Eagle Scout project.