

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Victims in Georgian violence need humanitarian corridors



CNS PHOTO/TONY GENTILE, REUTERS

A boy holds a Palestinian flag as Pope Benedict XVI leads the Angelus prayer at his summer residence in Castel Gandolfo, Italy, Aug. 17.

BY JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI urged the international community to establish humanitarian corridors in Georgia so that the dead can be buried, the wounded can receive medical help and refugees can return home.

The pope, speaking at a noon blessing Aug. 17, said he was continuing to follow “with attention and worry” the events in Georgia, where a cease-fire agreement was reached the day before.

A Georgian attack on the breakaway province of South Ossetia Aug. 7 followed by a Russian invasion of Georgia left an unknown number of dead, including civilians, and prompted an estimated 60,000 people to flee their homes.

The pope said the situation of the refugees, in particular women and children who lack basic necessities, requires a generous response by the international community.

“I ask for the opening, without further delay, of humanitarian corridors between the region of South Ossetia and the rest of Georgia, so that the dead who have been abandoned may receive a dignified burial, the wounded may be adequately treated, and people

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Foreign Catholics surprised to find church, Mass in Beijing

BEIJING (CNS) — Some foreign Catholics attending the Beijing Olympics said they were surprised to discover that the Catholic Church operates in mainland China and the liturgy is the same as back home.

Philippine-American Rob Walsh — the father of Olympic swimmer James Walsh, who swam for the Philippines — was one of many visitors, including state leaders, who attended Mass Aug. 10 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, reported the Asian church news agency UCA News.

Rob Walsh said his experience of Mass in Beijing is similar to what he is used to in the United States.

He was staying in Beijing for three weeks with family members and had attended two other Sunday Masses at the cathedral. Before that, he told UCA News, he had thought the Catholic Church was not allowed to function in China.

The historical cathedral, a 30-minute walk from Tiananmen Square, offers five Masses every Sunday — one in Latin, two in Chinese and two in English. Its facade recently has featured this message: “One hundred years of Olympics, dream comes true in China. Pray wholeheartedly, peace will prevail forever.”

Li Aoda, an 18-year-old Catholic volunteer at the cathedral, told UCA News she answered Walsh’s questions about the presence of the Catholic Church in China and explained that the country has no Catholic

schools. Most visitors ask about Mass times, but few inquire about the local church situation, Li added.

Walsh acknowledged feeling that the Masses might be monitored to see if anyone says anything subversive.

“Most governments are afraid of things that could threaten them. We (in the United States) also have ‘big brothers’ watching,” he said.

Matthew Valletta and Sarah Leary, young American Catholics in Beijing to study Chinese, told UCA News they found out about the cathedral through friends in Beijing.

“I am really surprised to see so many people” at Mass, Valletta said. “I thought religions are deemed superstitious” and thus “not encouraged in China.”

His Mass experience, he said, “was really beautiful because we were surrounded by people from around the world.”

Leary, in her 20s, said she was surprised that the Chinese celebrant prayed for the pope at Mass since China has no diplomatic ties with the Vatican.

Cobei Ruiter, a tourist from the Netherlands who is not Catholic, had a different sense of the situation.

“The church looks normal and I don’t see any military here,” she said. “Every country has its way of looking at religion.”

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NEW OAKLAND CATHEDRAL WILL BE DEDICATED IN SEPTEMBER



CNS PHOTO/GREG TARCZYNSKI

Seminarians pose for a group photo at the new Cathedral of Christ the Light Aug. 13 in Oakland, Calif. The cathedral, under construction since 2005, will be dedicated Sept. 25. It replaces St. Francis de Sales Cathedral, which was damaged beyond repair in the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake. The new cathedral will seat 1,350 people. Included in the complex will be a medical clinic serving uninsured residents.

Sharing faith

Summer adventures in faith

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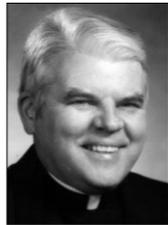
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Young drawn to apostolic life with strong emphasis on prayer



NEWS & NOTES

BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

Young people and vocation

There are signs, modest to be sure, but real nonetheless, that young people, despite all the assaults in the culture on the life of faith, are beginning to think about a vocation in the priesthood and the consecrated life. And why should we be surprised?

Here are some examples:

The Andrew Dinner. This is something we do twice a year in each of our major cities under the guidance and direction of Father Bernie Galic, our director of the Office of Vocation. It is based on the place in the Gospel of John where we read that Andrew brought his brother, Peter, to meet the Lord. So priests from our various parishes bring young men of high school age or older to a dinner. I go to every one of these dinners because it is thought, correctly, that the role of a bishop is important in the ministry of vocations. In fact, here is what one church document says about this:

"The first responsibility for the pastoral work of promoting priestly vocations lies with the bishop, who is called to be the first to exercise this responsibility even though he can and must call upon many others to cooperate with him. As the father and friend of his presbyterate, it falls primarily to the bishop to be concerned about 'giving continuity' to the priestly charism and ministry, bringing it new forces by the laying on of hands. He will be actively concerned to ensure that the vocational dimension is always present in the whole range of ordinary pastoral work, and that it is fully integrated and practically identified with it. It is his duty to foster and coordinate various initiatives on behalf of vocations."

— John Paul II, "I Will Give You Shepherds," 41

Several priests not only send in names, but actually bring the young men with them. We had such a meeting last week at Holy Family Parish, South Bend. There were 13 present, several from Saint Joseph's High School and Marian High School. There was a short presentation. Sometimes an exceptionally fine film, entitled "Fishers of Men," is shown. A seminarian and priest will make a few remarks about their own vocation stories. Indeed, the most impressive part is the reflection of the seminarians. They talk about their life before entering the seminary. How they had a very good friendship with a young woman, and how they had thought about the priesthood for many years, and sometimes had set it aside. Often it was a suggestion from a priest that caused them to think about it again.

There are a few words from Father Galic and another priest, and I am always asked to speak at the end.

At Holy Family Parish as the meeting closed, we all returned to the church for night prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

Father Galic told me later that eight had asked for an appointment with him. That doesn't mean that all eight will enter the seminary. Perhaps one or two will. But the seeds have been planted, and it is a beginning.

We will have a similar event this week in Fort Wayne. We never know how many will come, but the blessing is that many of our priests are seeking them out and accompanying them to this event. We are giving the good Lord a chance, and the Holy Spirit will do the rest. We are trying to build what Pope John Paul called "a culture of vocations."

Indeed, the most impressive part is the reflection of the seminarians. They talk about their life before entering the seminary. How they had a very good friendship with a young woman, and how they had thought about the priesthood for many years, and sometimes had set it aside. Often it was a suggestion from a priest that caused them to think about it again.

Sister Mary Joseph

This past week, I was privileged to preside at the final vows of Sister Mary Joseph, OSF. Sister is from Alabama. Her father, a deacon in the Baptist Church, was present and had marched with Martin Luther King from Selma to Montgomery. Sister, born a Catholic and of African-American heritage, worked and was active in her parish in Chicago. Her pastor was there and spoke at the end of Mass, and so was Bishop Joseph Perry, an auxiliary bishop of Chicago, and a number of priests from our diocese and elsewhere. Our seminarians were also present, as they have formed friendships with the Franciscan sisters.

Sister Mary Joseph will begin further studies at Franciscan University in Steubenville. It was a joy to meet her family, and also to know that four young women will enter this congregation in September, showing that young people are drawn to an apostolic life that includes a strong emphasis on prayer.

And Hispanic young men

Late on a Saturday afternoon, I headed north to Lake Wawasee. I had been there earlier in the week with our seminarians, at a cookout sponsored by the very devoted members of the Serra Club. I returned for a retreat sponsored by our seminarians for

young Hispanics. There were six young men there when I arrived, and there had been 10 in all, but some had to leave for work.

Two of our seminarians who have been in this diocese for many years, Gabriel Hernandez and Fernando Jimenez, helped to put the retreat together. Also present were Matt Coonan, quite fluent now in Spanish after a summer of studying in Mexico and serving in a parish, and his brother Terry known as "Tink," former star point guard on the Bishop Dwenger basketball team. I celebrated Mass in Spanish, and this was followed by a discussion where I needed the help of Gabriel to respond to the questions.

Afterwards, I enjoyed a wonderful Mexican dinner cooked by the seminarians. The young men on retreat came from urban environments in parishes in South Bend, Elkhart and Goshen. They were delighted to be beside this beautiful lake for a few days.

One told us that he was one of 16 children. We don't know if any of these retreatants will enter the seminary, but I had a sense that it was right for the bishop to be with them; and as always, I remain very proud of our seminarians.

Of the five young men scheduled to be ordained in 2008 and 2009, four are fluent in Spanish. That includes Jacob Runyon, a member of the famous Tippmann family, who spent a summer in Mexico, and this summer preached in Spanish at St. Patrick's, Ligonier, and in English at Blessed Sacrament, Albion.

So we have here some examples of young men and women opening their heart to the possibility of giving their lives to God for others. Remember, this is a responsibility of the whole church.

"There's an urgent need, especially nowadays, for a more widespread and deeply felt conviction that all the members of the church, without exception, have the grace and responsibility to look after vocations."

— John Paul II, "I Will Give You Shepherds," 41

Bishop's Appeal

I prepare now for the two dinners which begin our Annual Bishop's Appeal. It will be our 22nd. They tell me it is one of the highest in the country per capita — maybe the highest. It reflects on the good work of our priests and our lay leadership.

Such beautiful days, alas, the summer is nearly over and school has begun. Much too early, by the way. But September and October are beautiful as well, and I can still have some days remaining for breakfast on the back porch. And congratulations to you, Michael Phelps, and to your dear mother. 4,000 calories a day? Unbelievable. See you all next week.

Chicago Archdiocese to pay \$12.6 million to 16 sex abuse survivors

CHICAGO (CNS) — The Archdiocese of Chicago has agreed to pay 16 victims of clergy sex abuse more than \$12.6 million in a settlement announced Aug. 12.

In addition to financial payments, the archdiocese agreed to make public additional information and files related to the cases, including the deposition of Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago.

The settlement followed two years of mediation between the archdiocese and attorneys for the victims.

"I'm releasing the deposition voluntarily for the sake of the record and I hope to help the healing of everyone concerned in this matter," Cardinal George said at an Aug. 12 press conference to announce the settlement.

"I want to take this occasion to apologize again for the sexual abuse of minors committed by some priests," he said. "I have met and apologized to victims and their families many times over the past years. I hope I will have the chance to do so with these victims."

Attorney Jeffrey Anderson, who partnered with lawyer Marc Pearlman of the Chicago law firm of Kerns, Frost & Pearlman in representing the victims, called the settlement "a giant step" toward accountability and transparency on the part of the church.

"I call it a great beginning toward not just accountability but toward the kind of transparency that has been lacking in the clerical culture, not just in the Archdiocese of Chicago but elsewhere," he told Catholic News Service. "It isn't the end. It isn't a solution, but a beginning to a more cooperative solution to what remains a crisis."

At a separate news conference Aug. 12, Anderson was flanked by two of the victims who are part of the settlement. Bob Brancato told reporters he was raped over the course of two years by Donald Ryniecki, then principal of St. Joseph the Worker School in Wheeling, and then-Father James Steel, the pastor, who resigned in 1992.

"Now I am able to look in the mirror and realize that I have helped protect kids who have yet to be born, kids who are born and other victims who are gathering the strength to report their abuse," Brancato said.

Therese Albrecht told of reporting to the archdiocese in 2004 that she had been raped by Father Joseph Bennett when she was a child at St. John de la Salle Parish on Chicago's far South Side, then waiting two more years to see Father Bennett, then assigned to Holy Ghost Parish in South Holland, removed from ministry.

"They delayed and delayed and delayed and they left him in that church," Albrecht said. "The priests and the leadership of the church are supposed to be a reflection of Jesus, who laid down his life for his sheep. All I asked them to do was believe me."

According to Cardinal George's deposition, Father Bennett was not removed from ministry as soon as he could have been because he did not have a canon lawyer to represent him during the investigation.

Since then, procedures have changed, and priests who are accused of sexual abuse are asked to step aside from their ministry while an investigation proceeds.

The mediation process that led to the settlement involved exten-



CNS PHOTO/KAREN CALLAWAY, CATHOLIC NEW WORLD

Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago holds a press conference regarding the \$12.6 million clergy sexual abuse settlement Aug. 12 at the pastoral center in Chicago. The settlement between the Archdiocese of Chicago and 16 victims came after two years of mediation between the archdiocese and attorneys for the victims.

sive talks among Anderson, Pearlman and the archdiocese. The process included the sharing of documents and other information and the use of an arbitrator to resolve disputes.

Thomas Gibbons, an attorney and dean of the School of Continuing Studies at Northwestern University, served as mediator. Stuart Nudelman, a retired judge, was the arbitrator.

Gibbons told CNS the mediation process was designed to allow victims to be heard as well as for victims to hear apologies from church officials. "There's a lot of benefit in that," he said.

While Gibbons has been medi-

ating cases involving the archdiocese and victims for several years, he said the most recent process was the first that started after civil lawsuits were filed.

"We've had different approaches as we tried to design these mediations," he explained. "We wanted to see what works better and what works best for the victims and their comfort level. There was a concern at first they would perhaps feel awkward or feel uncomfortable being across the table from the (church) institution. But actually we've learned that having a representative of the vicar present and speaking on behalf of the cardinal

was very beneficial."

The settlement covers 14 cases of abuse involving 10 priests between 1962 and 1994. The two others relate to Father Daniel McCormack, who pleaded guilty in 2007 to charges related to the abuse of five children. He is serving a five-year prison sentence.

A statement from the archdiocese said that one of the five cases in which he pleaded guilty remains to be settled.

The incidents involving Father McCormack brought widespread criticism to the archdiocese in 2006, when it was discovered that he remained as pastor of St. Agatha Parish on Chicago's West Side even as police were investigating reports that he had abused two boys. At the time, the archdiocese reported that it had no mechanism to remove the priest despite the investigation because the victim did not make a statement to church officials.

The McCormack case led the archdiocese to revise its policy regarding the reporting of alleged clergy abuse.

The archdiocese released the names of all 11 priests involved in the settlement. The others were Fathers Robert Becker, Thomas Kelly, and Kenneth Ruge, all deceased; Joseph Bennett, who was removed from ministry in 2006; Robert Craig, who resigned in 1993; James Hagan, who resigned in 1997; Norbert Maday, who was removed from ministry in 1993 and is in prison; Robert Mayer, who resigned in 1994; and Joseph Owens, who resigned in 1970.

Contributing to this story were Michelle Martin in Chicago and Dennis Sadowski in Washington.

No 'Yahweh' in songs, prayers at Catholic Masses, Vatican rules

BY NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In the not-too-distant future, songs such as "You Are Near," "I Will Bless Yahweh" and "Rise, O Yahweh" will no longer be part of the Catholic worship experience in the United States.

At the very least, the songs will be edited to remove the word "Yahweh" — a name of God that the Vatican has ruled must not "be used or pronounced" in songs and prayers during Catholic Masses.

Bishop Arthur J. Serratelli of Paterson, N.J., chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Divine Worship, announced the new Vatican "directives on the use of 'the name of God' in the sacred liturgy" in an Aug. 8 letter to his fellow bishops.

He said the directives would not "force any changes to official liturgical texts" or to the bishops' current missal translation project but would likely have "some impact on the use of particular pieces of liturgical music in our country as well as in the composition of variable texts such as the general intercessions for the cele-

bration of the Mass and the other sacraments."

John Limb, publisher of OCP in Portland, Ore., said the most popular hymn in the OCP repertoire that would be affected was Dan Schutte's "You Are Near," which begins, "Yahweh, I know you are near."

He estimated that only "a handful" of other OCP hymns use the word "Yahweh," although a search of the OCP Web site turned up about a dozen examples of songs that included the word.

OCP is a nonprofit publisher of liturgical music and worship resources.

Limb said the company would be contacting composers to "ask them to try to come up with alternate language" for their hymns. But he said hymns for 2009 had already been printed, so the affected hymns would not include the new wording for at least another year.

Even when the new hymns are out, "it may take time for people to get used to singing something different," he added in an Aug. 11 telephone interview with Catholic News Service.

At Chicago-based GIA

Publications, another major Catholic publisher of hymnals, no major revisions will be necessary, because of the company's longtime editorial policy against use of the word "Yahweh."

Kelly Dobbs-Mickus, senior editor at GIA Publications, told CNS Aug. 11 that the policy, which dates to 1986, was based not on Vatican directives but on sensitivity to concerns among observant Jews about pronouncing the name of God. As an example, she cited Heinrich Schutz's "Thanks Be to Yahweh," which appears in a GIA hymnal under the title "Thanks Be to God."

Bishop Serratelli said the Vatican decision also would provide "an opportunity to offer catechesis for the faithful as an encouragement to show reverence for the name of God in daily life, emphasizing the power of language as an act of devotion and worship."

His letter to bishops came with a two-page letter from the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, dated June 29 and addressed to episcopal conferences around the world.

"By directive of the Holy Father, in accord with the

Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, this congregation ... deems it convenient to communicate to the bishops' conferences ... as regards the translation and the pronunciation, in a liturgical setting, of the divine name signified in the sacred Tetragrammaton," said the letter signed by Cardinal Francis Arinze and Archbishop Malcolm Ranjith, congregation prefect and secretary, respectively.

The Tetragrammaton is YHWH, the four consonants of the ancient Hebrew name for God.

"As an expression of the infinite greatness and majesty of God, it was held to be unpronounceable and hence was replaced during the reading of sacred Scripture by means of the use of an alternate name: 'Adonai,' which means 'Lord,'" the Vatican letter said. Similarly, Greek translations of the Bible used the word "Kyrios" and Latin scholars translated it to "Dominus"; both also mean Lord.

"Avoiding pronouncing the Tetragrammaton of the name of God on the part of the church has therefore its own grounds," the letter said. "Apart from a motive of a purely philological order, there is also that of remaining faithful to

the church's tradition, from the beginning, that the sacred Tetragrammaton was never pronounced in the Christian context nor translated into any of the languages into which the Bible was translated."

The two Vatican officials noted that "Liturgiam Authenticam," the congregation's 2001 document on liturgical translations, stated that "the name of almighty God expressed by the Hebrew Tetragrammaton and rendered in Latin by the word 'Dominus,' is to be rendered into any given vernacular by a word equivalent in meaning."

"Notwithstanding such a clear norm, in recent years the practice has crept in of pronouncing the God of Israel's proper name," the letter said. "The practice of vocalizing it is met with both in the reading of biblical texts taken from the Lectionary as well as in prayers and hymns, and it occurs in diverse written and spoken forms," including Yahweh, Jahweh and Yehovah.

CHINA

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Security checks apparently were stepped up at the cathedral Aug. 10 for heads of state attending Mass. They included Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines; Henri, Grand Duke of Luxembourg; and Tuiatua Tupua Tamasese Efi, Samoa's head of state.

According to the Beijing Diocese's Tianguang (Heavenly Light) Web site, Bishop Joseph Li Shan of Beijing received the state leaders after the Mass.

In China, the government requires the registration of church communities and their leaders.

Some Chinese view registration as a tool for control and prefer to exercise the faith in a semiclandestine manner.

A White House press release said U.S. President George W. Bush attended an Aug. 10 service at Kuanjie Protestant Christian Church in Beijing. Bush was quoted as saying that he and his wife "had the great joy and privilege of worshiping here in Beijing" and "it just goes to show that God is universal, and God is love."

At a press interview the next day, he said the Beijing Olympics gave him a chance to tell China's people: "Religion won't hurt you. You ought to welcome religious people." He added that he would seek a chance to tell Chinese leaders to "register the underground churches and give them a chance to flourish."

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who desire to do so may be allowed to reach their loved ones," he said.

The pope said it was important that ethnic minorities in the region be protected and their fundamental rights respected.

He expressed the hope that the cease-fire, brokered with help from the European Union, would last, and he called for new efforts to encourage "a permanent solution, through dialogue and mutual good will."

The pope made his comments at his summer villa in Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome, where he was following a reduced sum-

mer schedule. Hundreds of people filled the courtyard at the papal palace to cheer the pontiff and receive a blessing.

Meanwhile, the Vatican's diplomatic representative to Georgia, Archbishop Claudio Gugerotti, told Vatican Radio Aug. 17 that humanitarian aid was not getting through to the needy.

He said he had visited a school near the Georgian capital of Tbilisi, where he found about 1,500 people temporarily housed without toilet facilities or adequate food. Children in particular were suffering, he said.

"I hope humanitarian aid arrives. It's a question of guaranteeing the minimum for survival to these refugees," he said.

Laura Sheahen, regional information officer with the U.S. bishops' Catholic Relief Services, reported from Georgia that CRS

was working with Caritas Georgia to provide emergency aid. Caritas Georgia and CRS are affiliates of Caritas Internationalis, the international umbrella group of Catholic aid agencies.

"Caritas is already ministering to hundreds of internally displaced people in Tbilisi by providing hot meals at a soup kitchen, bringing bread and rolls to temporary shelters, and coordinating additional aid through worldwide Caritas partners," Sheahen said in the report posted on CRS' Web site.

Caritas Georgia has been working to help displaced people from the destroyed sections of Ts'khinvali, the capital of South Ossetia. Caritas has been providing food and other needed items to families who fled the Gori region and have taken shelter in safe places, such as an isolated Catholic retreat house and city shelters.

Democrats' platform wording on abortion wins both praise, criticism

BY PATRICIA ZAPOR

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A draft of the Democratic Party platform section on abortion that adds language about supporting alternatives such as adoption and reducing the number of unintended pregnancies was hailed as an important improvement by some and derided by others as "adding a good thing to an evil position."

In an Aug. 12 teleconference hosted by the evangelical organization Sojourners, Catholic and Protestant religious leaders called the changes to the platform "a real step forward" and "an excellent example of the possible" that moves the party toward a position they said abortion opponents can support.

They also said they still object to the party's unequivocal endorsement for legal abortion and the platform section's suggestion that anyone would ever "need" an abortion.

But the platform committee's consultation with abortion opponents and the effort to represent at least some of their views was described as "a historic and courageous step," by the Rev. Joel Hunter, senior pastor of Northland Church in Orlando, Fla., and former president of the Christian Coalition.

Others who did not participate in the teleconference or the drafting process, however, disagreed. They said while they appreciate the additions dealing with support for pregnant women and parents,

the rewording actually made the section worse, because it eliminated phrasing from the 2004 version of the platform that said abortion should be "rare."

The section was changed after consultation by the platform committee with religious leaders who oppose abortion, said participants in the teleconference.

The draft wording for 2008 reads:

"The Democratic Party strongly and unequivocally supports Roe v. Wade and a woman's right to choose a safe and legal abortion, regardless of ability to pay, and we oppose any and all efforts to weaken or undermine that right.

"The Democratic Party also strongly supports access to affordable family planning services and comprehensive age-appropriate sex education which empower people to make informed choices and live healthy lives. We also recognize that such health care and education help reduce the number of unintended pregnancies and thereby also reduce the need for abortions.

"The Democratic Party also strongly supports a woman's decision to have a child by ensuring access to and availability of programs for pre(natal) and post-natal health care, parenting skills, income support, and caring adoption programs."

The abortion-related section of the 2004 platform read as follows:

"Because we believe in the privacy and equality of women,

we stand proudly for a woman's right to choose, consistent with Roe v. Wade, and regardless of her ability to pay. We stand firmly against Republican efforts to undermine that right. At the same time, we strongly support family planning and adoption incentives. Abortion should be safe, legal and rare."

The Republican Party expects to release information about this year's platform after its platform committee meets Aug. 26.

One of the participants in the teleconference about the Democratic platform was Pepperdine University law professor Douglas Kmiec, a longtime Republican and former Reagan administration attorney who once wrote the government's legal briefs seeking the reversal of Roe v. Wade.

Kmiec, a Catholic and former dean of the law school at The Catholic University of America in Washington, wrote in an online column in March that he was backing Sen. Barack Obama for president despite the Illinois Democrat's support for legal abortion.

He wrote that he believes Obama is open to accommodating opposing views and "that he wants to move the nation beyond its religious and racial divides and that he wants to return the United States to that company of nations committed to human rights."

In the teleconference, Kmiec said abortion opponents like himself have "been trying to find the

elusive fifth vote on the Supreme Court (to overturn Roe) for over 30 years."

"We have not found it and even if we did find it, overturning Roe will not save a single life but instead merely return the question to the states," he said.

He said that while the platform "still falls short of the Catholic ideal ... we live in this world and we pursue the art of the possible." Kmiec said the draft of the platform reflects that there are more ways to discourage abortion than focusing solely on making it illegal.

But Deirdre McQuade, assistant director of policy and communications for the U.S. bishops' pro-life activities office, said adding good language about supporting alternatives to abortion and aiding families doesn't make up for the first part of the draft plank on abortion.

"Adding a good thing to an evil position doesn't make it less evil," she told Catholic News Service Aug. 14.

"If the Democratic Party really wants to court Catholic and other pro-life voters, it needs to speak out unequivocally on behalf of life, both born and unborn," said McQuade.

A change "away from the party's persistent, unapologetic support for the evil of abortion" would in fact be in line with "the Democratic Party's noblest principles," she said. "The party that stands in solidarity with the vulnerable, the voiceless and the oppressed should therefore seek to protect the unborn."

Serrin Foster, president of Feminists for Life of America, said she finds it encouraging to hear organizations such as the Democratic Party talk about

meeting the needs of women to help them avoid feeling abortion is an appropriate choice. But she said addressing issues beyond health care and education — as cited by the Democrats' draft — must be a part of the solution.

Support for pregnant women should involve the federal and state governments, education systems, private organizations, friends, families, employers, insurance companies and especially the fathers of the children, Foster told CNS Aug. 14 in a phone interview.

Like several participants in the teleconference, she questioned the word "need" in the draft's phrase "reduce the need for abortions."

"It's important to recognize that there is no 'need' for abortion," Foster said.

The Rev. Tony Campolo, a Baptist minister and professor emeritus of sociology at Eastern University in Pennsylvania, is a member of the Democratic Party's platform committee. He said during the teleconference that organizations including Democrats for Life of America are pushing for changes in the section, including the word "need," before it is brought to a vote during the party's convention Aug. 25-28.

Also in the teleconference, Lisa Sowle Cahill, a theology professor at Jesuit-run Boston College, noted that Pope John Paul II wrote that whatever the local abortion laws might be "there's still an obligation to work in all kinds of ways to protect the unborn."

She echoed Kmiec, saying that by supporting imperfect changes to the platform, "we're using the art of the possible."



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'40 Days for Life' campaign uses prayer, outreach to end abortion

BY GEOFFREY A. BROOKE JR

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In the Bible the number 40 is especially significant: Noah was on the ark while it rained for 40 days. Moses was on Mount Sinai for 40 days. Jesus fasted in the desert for 40 days.

For a contemporary pro-life effort, that number also has significance: A nationwide ecumenical campaign called "40 Days for Life" aims to end abortion through prayer, fasting, outreach and vigils.

From Sept. 24 to Nov. 4, there will be 173 campaigns at abortion clinics in 45 states, two Canadian provinces and Puerto Rico. During Lent this year similar campaigns were held in 59 locations across the country.

The first local campaign took place in 2004 in College Station, Texas. In 2007 the effort went nationwide, with campaigns in 89 cities in 33 states.

Several parishes and pro-life committees in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend are participating in the upcoming campaign. Fred Everett, co-director of the Office of Family Life, reported, "While it is the first time that it is being conducted here, this has been previously conducted in different cities throughout the U.S. From most reports, these campaigns have had the effect of raising consciousness in the community, of changing some hearts and of saving the lives of some unborn children."

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is not an official sponsor of the campaign. It is up to each parish to decide to what degree they wish to participate.

Contacts for the local campaigns are Karla DiFilippo in Fort Wayne at (260) 493-3748, e-mail flip51@verizon.net; or Mary Akre in South Bend at (574) 247-1293 or tmakre@aol.com.

"We are the last hope for the baby and the first offer of forgiveness for the mother," said Shawn Carney, board treasurer of the campaign.

Carney, one of the organizers of the original "40 Days for Life" in Texas, said that prayer is a component because ultimately "any injustice ends due to prayer."

"Abortion will end due to the conversion of hearts and minds," he added.



TOM UEBBING

Several of the 23 members of the 40 Days of Prayer and Fasting for Life campaign gather at an Aug. 10 committee meeting. The goal of this concentrated period of prayer is to end abortion through Divine intervention of mercy and grace. The national effort will be kicked off in South Bend by 40 Days President David Bereit on the evening of Sept. 23. The campaign of prayer and fasting runs from Sept. 24 through Nov. 2. In the photo from left are Dr. Tom Akre, and daughter Elaina, David Bathon, Mary Akre, committee chairwoman, Pam Washburn, Tony Stein, Vince Feck and Dick Dornbos. For more information see www.40daysfor-life.com.

During a "40 Days for Life" campaign, members of the community pray 24 hours a day, seven days a week outside a local abortion clinic for a total of 40 days. Participants rotate in shifts, and no one is ever alone, even at 3 a.m. Rallies also are held at the beginning and midway point of each campaign.

National organizers provide participants with a daily devotional, which includes a Scripture reading, reflection and prayer. While there is organized spoken prayer, Carney noted that 90 percent of the prayer outside the clinics is silent.

"A lot of Catholics bring their rosaries and pray the Divine Mercy chaplet," noted Carney, who is executive director of the Coalition for Life in Texas.

Catholics also pray the Liturgy of the Hours and read from psalms and Scripture. College students also have been known to hold praise and worship sessions during the campaign.

The national organizers have created a 39-minute video to promote and explain "40 Days for Life." It features participants in the 2007 campaign held in Fargo, N.D. North Dakota has only one abortion clinic.

Last year Bishop Samuel J. Aquila of Fargo not only attended the kickoff rally but also stopped by the abortion center periodically,

as his schedule permitted, to pray.

After witnessing the campaign firsthand, Bishop Aquila said he was "amazed" and "deeply moved." "It caught on fire," he said, recalling that he met people who had traveled three to four hours to pray for an hour or two.

"Prayer can raise conscious-

ness, recognizing a radical dependence on God. God bestows human dignity. It's not bestowed by other human beings; it's inherently bestowed by God," Bishop Aquila said in a telephone interview with Catholic News Service.

"Prayer brings about awareness; prayer brings about a desire for God, a deeper union with God," he added.

This year for the "40 Days" campaign, Bishop Aquila will lead a eucharistic procession from the Cathedral of St. Mary through the streets of downtown Fargo to the abortion clinic.

Having the campaign in his diocese used as the example for the video is humbling, he said.

Last year the bishop vocally supported the campaign when it was announced, asking all priests of the diocese to schedule an hour of prayer in front of Fargo's abortion clinic, but in terms of organizing the effort he let "the faithful come forward and trusted it to the Lord and the Blessed Mother."

The campaign's community outreach component involves raising awareness within the local communities. Volunteers travel door to door to inform local citizens of the fact that there is an abortion clinic in their town and provide them with information on

how to get help if they become pregnant.

Carney and David Bereit, national campaign director for "40 Days for Life," have begun to train local campaign leaders, not only about how to coordinate the prayer vigil and outreach but also on how to deal with the media.

Carney said he felt that most local media respect the campaign because "they show up expecting radicals but find a mom holding a rosary."

At the same time Carney acknowledged it receives criticism from those who disagree with its purpose. He cited one incident where eggs were thrown at those in prayer.

But "we have all the momentum" and incidents like that "are just a flash in the bucket, never consistent" and die "off quickly," Carney said.

As an illustration of the campaign's success, organizers point to women who stated they had decided against having an abortion after seeing those praying during a clinic vigil.

In Fargo, three women publicly announced they changed their minds directly as a result of the campaign.

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Presidential candidates talk about their faith at Saddleback Church

LAKE FOREST, Calif. (CNS) — The presumptive presidential nominees of the nation's two major political parties Aug. 16 tried to define themselves in religious terms on topics ranging from their personal moral failings to how to deal with climate change during a televised forum from Saddleback Church in Lake Forest. The Rev. Rick Warren, author of the best-selling "The Purpose-Driven Life," questioned Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., and Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., separately for an hour each in a nationally broadcast session held in the sanctuary of the 20,000-member evangelical church Warren founded. He posed nearly identical questions to each senator, starting with queries about whose advice they value, what their personal moral failings have been and how the nation has failed morally. With McCain offstage in a room where he couldn't hear the interview, Obama spoke first, saying he thought "America's greatest moral failure in my lifetime" has been not following Jesus' call in Matthew of "whatever you do for the least of my brothers, you do for me." McCain's answer to the same question was similar, though not framed in Scripture. "Perhaps we have not devoted ourselves to causes greater than our self-interest, although we've been the best at it (self-interest) of anybody in the world," he said.

Heaven is God, not an imaginary place, Pope Benedict says

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Heaven is not an abstract idea or an imaginary place, but heaven is God, Pope Benedict XVI said. Celebrating an early morning Mass Aug. 15, the pope said the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary "urges us to raise our gaze toward heaven, not a heaven of abstract ideas nor an imaginary heaven created in art, but the true reality of heaven which is God himself. God is heaven." During the Mass in the small parish Church of St. Thomas, located on the main square in Castel Gandolfo, the pope said that while Mary's assumption is "totally unique and extraordinary" it also assures believers that their destiny, like hers, is to be with God forever. God is "our goal, he is the dwelling place from which we came and toward which we are called," the pope told about 200 people who had crowded into the church, while hundreds of others watched on a large screen erected in the square.

Pope approves beatification of St. Therese's parents in Lisieux

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has approved the beatification of Louis and Marie Zélie Guerin Martin, the parents of St. Therese of Lisieux. The couple will be beatified Oct. 19, World Mission Sunday, during a Mass in the Basilica of St. Therese in

MCCAIN, OBAMA WAVE DURING FORUM AT CHURCH



CNS PHOTO/MARIO ANZUONI, REUTERS

U.S. Sen. John McCain of Arizona, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, and the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois, wave as moderator the Rev. Rick Warren, center, looks on at a forum on the presidency at Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif., Aug. 16. Rev. Warren is pastor of the evangelical mega-church.

Lisieux, France, the Vatican announced Aug. 19. St. Therese and St. Francis Xavier are the patron saints of the missions. The Vatican did not say who would preside at the Martins' beatification Mass. With beatification, the diocese where the candidate lived or the religious order to which the person belonged is authorized to hold public commemorations on the person's feast day. With the declaration of sainthood, public liturgical celebrations are allowed around the world. The Martins were declared venerable, one of the first steps in the sainthood process, in 1994. But despite the active encouragement of Pope John Paul II to move the cause forward, the miracle needed for their beatification was not approved by the Vatican until early July. Louis lived 1823-1894 and his wife lived 1831-1877. They had nine children, five of whom joined religious orders.

Pope urges church to help overcome racism in modern society

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI warned that racism is alive in modern society, and he urged the church to help overcome all forms of racial intolerance. He said racism today is often tied to economic and social problems. Although such problems may be real, they can never justify racial discrimination, he said Aug. 17. While the pontiff did not mention specific countries, his words had an immediate echo in Italy, where a

series of government actions against illegal immigrants have prompted strong debate inside and outside the church. The pope, addressing pilgrims at his summer residence in Castel Gandolfo outside Rome, began his remarks by quoting the prophet Isaiah about the "foreigners" who will be included in the Lord's universal house of prayer. Likewise, the pope said, the church today is made up of people of every race and culture, and part of its mission is to help forge bonds of communion between races.

Vatican Library makeover to include fireproof bunker for manuscripts

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican Library's makeover will include construction of a fireproof bunker for manuscripts and a climate-controlled room for precious papyrus fragments, the head of the library said. In addition, the library is reclaiming as a reading room the finely decorated Sistine Hall, which has been used in recent times for Vatican Museums' exhibits. Cardinal Raffaele Farina, prefect of the Vatican Library, gave a progress report on the remodeling project in an interview Aug. 15 with the Vatican newspaper *L'Osservatore Romano*. The work, which began in 2007, is expected to be completed by 2010, when the library will reopen to scholars. The project includes the restructuring of three floors of the 16th-century

library building, which houses laboratories dedicated to manuscript restoration and photo archiving. An external elevator will connect the floors. This summer employees finished the painstaking work of packaging the library's 75,000 ancient manuscripts and transferring them to protected storage areas inside the Vatican, the cardinal said.

Pope invites Lutheran theologians to discussion about Jesus

ROME (CNS) — As Pope Benedict XVI continues work on the second volume of his book about Jesus of Nazareth, he has asked two Lutheran theologians and some of his former students to discuss with him issues he will be writing about. Martin Hengel and Peter Stuhlmacher, both retired professors of New Testament studies from the Protestant theology faculty at the University of Tübingen, Germany, said they have been invited to lecture Aug. 30 at the meeting at the pope's summer residence in Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome. The Aug. 29-31 meeting is the annual gathering of the pope's former doctoral students, known as a "schülerkreis" (student circle). Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, now Pope Benedict, began the annual meetings with his former students in 1978. Hengel told Catholic News Service in Rome Aug. 12 that although he was having health problems he hoped to attend the meeting in Castel Gandolfo. He already has

sent participants an outline of his talk, which he titled "Questions About the Historical Jesus of Nazareth: Considerations After Writing a Book on Jesus." Stuhlmacher told CNS his task will be to "try to demonstrate how Jesus himself understood his passion and death."

Episcopal priests worried about their church talk to Catholic bishop

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Four priests from the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth, Texas, who said they are troubled by the "liberal" direction taken by the Episcopal Church met with the Catholic bishop of Fort Worth. The meeting raised questions about whether they intend to seek a way to join the Catholic Church. The Episcopal clergy members met with Bishop Kevin W. Vann of Fort Worth June 16 to explore how the two faith communities can better collaborate spiritually, Pat Svacina, director of communications for the Catholic diocese, confirmed to Catholic News Service Aug. 14. "The bishop listened to them as part of an ongoing dialogue he has been having with them," Svacina said. "The bishop has not taken a position on this topic at this time. Ultimately, full communion with the Catholic Church would be a decision made by the Vatican." Suzanne Gill, director of communications for the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth, confirmed that the priests visited Bishop Vann and talked "about a fuller communion." Though Fort Worth Episcopal Bishop Jack Leo Iker knew the priests were meeting with Bishop Vann and was given a copy of the document they presented to him, they were not representing their diocese, bishop or congregations, Gill said. "They represented only themselves."

Italian animal rights group urges pope to stop wearing animal fur

ROME (CNS) — Although Pope Benedict XVI does not wear fur-trimmed accessories in the summer, an Italian animal rights group launched a summertime petition drive asking the pope to stop wearing animal fur year-round. Lorenzo Croce, president of the Italian Association for the Defense of Animals and the Environment, posted his petition online July 21 and had collected more than 2,900 signatures by the morning of Aug. 14. The petition says the ermine-trimmed accessories Pope Benedict has worn — the red, fur-trimmed "camauro" cap he wore briefly in 2005 and the fur-trimmed capes he regularly wears in the winter and early spring — "have nothing to do with sacred vestments." The petition asks the pope to act "with respect for life in all its forms and to remember that animals also are creatures of God." It also says animals "have a right to live" and that they feel fear and pain "when they are killed to satisfy human greed in all its forms."

Catholic diet program featured in Prevention magazine

The Light Weigh is a Catholic, faith based diet program featured in the August 2008 issue of *Prevention* magazine currently on newsstands. *Prevention* chose The Light Weigh because it met their criteria for a safe and healthy diet program.

This year is the 10th anniversary of The Light Weigh. Light Weigh has been featured on CNN Headline News, CBS Early Show, Anderson Cooper 360, affiliates of ABC, EWTN, and over 40 secular and diocesan newspapers throughout the United States. Light Weigh has started over 3,000 groups throughout the United States, Canada, Ireland, England, Germany and Australia. The Light Weigh is recommended by physicians and pediatricians and has helped many diabetics stabilize their blood sugars. The Light Weigh has helped many people to lose any amount of weight, from 125 pounds to ten pounds. The Light Weigh program has been used by people to avoid gastric bypass surgery and also by those who have had gastric bypass surgery to lose more weight or keep their lost weight off.

The Light Weigh is based on the teachings of the Catholic faith and has been done by Catholics and Protestants alike. The Light Weigh is a 12-week DVD Bible study series, which for many, causes a transformation from within. The interior transformation from within, experienced by many, results in detachment from food and "peace with food." Learning to turn to God in times of temptation, portion control and healthy eating, along with group Bible study meetings with no weigh-ins, are some of the components of The Light Weigh diet program. The Light Weigh diet program is designed for small group use.

Suzanne Fowler is the author of The Light Weigh and has used The Light Weigh program successfully to overcome her lifetime struggle with food and lose 47 pounds, going from a size 18 to a size 6. Suzanne has kept her weight off for 10 years and is the mother of seven children.

For more information on The Light Weigh, contact Suzanne Fowler at (877) 589 3444 or at thelightweigh@aol.com

Little Flower to offer Bible study on Gospel of Matthew

SOUTH BEND — Little Flower Parish in South Bend will offer a Bible study on the Gospel of Matthew. The study will concentrate on the Gospel that celebrates Jesus Christ as the new Moses, fulfilling the Jewish messianic promises.

Sessions will be conducted by Jay Freeland on Monday evenings from 6:45-8:10 p.m. or on Tuesday mornings from 9:10-

AROUND THE DIOCESE

MISSION GROUP VISITS GUATEMALA



PROVIDED BY MARY AREND

A mission group from St. Gaspar del Bufalo Church, Rome City, recently returned from a trip to Guatemala. There they visited a Precious Blood Parish in LaLabor. In the photo, from left, are Dr. Vince Coda, Ricky Arend, Gayle Arend, Mary Arend and Precious Blood Missionary Father Bill Beuth.

10:45 a.m. The first session will begin Sept. 8-9; and the last session will be Nov. 24-25.

Childcare is available for either session, but must be prearranged. Contact Landry for arrangements at lfcoutreach@sbcglobal.net or at (574) 273-9722.

Participants should bring a Bible. For the Sept. 8-9 session, study participants should read Matthew chapters 1 and 2.

Families, couples, individuals and teenagers are welcome at all sessions.

Bishop D'Arcy to bless new St. Pius X Parish Education Center Aug. 24

GRANGER — On Sunday, Aug. 24, Bishop John M. D'Arcy will celebrate Mass at 11:30 a.m. at St. Pius X Church, Granger, and following the Mass, will bless the parish's recently completed \$9.6-million education center.

The feast of St. Pius X (1835-1914) is observed by the Catholic Church on Aug. 21. Pope Pius X perhaps is best remembered for his encouragement of the frequent reception of Communion, especially by children.

"Our concept in the construction of the education center stresses Catholic instruction as an important ministry," said Father Bill Schooler, pastor of St. Pius X Parish. "We want to have an educational program in place that can provide for our parishioners' spiritual needs from cradle to grave and to do that, we desperately required space," Father Schooler added.

Established in 1951, St. Pius X facilities originally were designed

for a parish consisting of about 1,500 families. The parish now comprises nearly 3,000 families. The new education center is expected to house 1,000 religious-education students, more than 420 Catholic school students (pre-school through grade 7), youth ministries for middle- and high-school students, young adult education, sacramental preparation classes, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults program for those preparing to join the Catholic Church, adult education classes for parishioners, weekend retreats, a music room and meeting space for the Knights of Columbus.

Elaine Holmes has been named principal of the new school, and Linda Jensen will serve as the director of religious education for the parish. The school is scheduled to open on Wednesday, Aug. 27.

"I think that the project has brought the parish together with a common goal, and it continues to strengthen the bond as the building started taking shape," Father Schooler said.

"The astounding support from parish families, both young and old, that believe Catholic education is essential from birth through the twilight years has been fantastic," said Betsy Quinn, director of stewardship and evangelization. "Without the generous support we would not have been able to see the project to its fulfillment," she added. In addition to the cost of the education center, \$1 million was spent for the land and \$800,000 was required for sewer and water facilities.

Assistance offered to companies establishing breastfeeding services for employees

PLYMOUTH — Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels signed Senate Bill 219 — Lactation Support in the Workplace July 1. During the week of Aug. 3-9, the entire planet celebrated World Breastfeeding Week, an annual initiative to protect, pro-

mote and support breastfeeding.

In honor of both recent events, Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center/Plymouth's Breastfeeding Center is offering businesses in Marshall County and the surrounding areas assistance and education in setting up breastfeeding services for their employees.

"We thought that World Breastfeeding Week could be our motivation to let Marshall County know of the new legislation and offer the Breastfeeding Center's services to then help these businesses be compliant with this new bill," said Cindy Petzke, a registered nurse of SJRMC/Plymouth's Breastfeeding Center. "We are willing to send a trained registered nurse that is certified in breastfeeding to the companies to guide them in setting up their breastfeeding services for their employees."

As well as establishing provisions for state and political subdivisions, the bill also provides that employers that employ 25 or more individuals, to the extent reasonably possible, must provide: a private location for an employee other than a toilet stall to express the employee's breast milk during any period away from the employee's assigned duties; and a refrigerator or other cold storage space, or allow the employee to provide the employee's own portable storage device, for keeping the expressed milk until the end of the employee's work day.

The bill also provides that, except in case of willful misconduct, gross negligence, or bad faith, an employer is not liable for any harm caused by or arising from: the expressing of an employee's breast milk; or the storage of expressed milk; on the employer's premises.

"We realize that like with any bill, some of the verbiage may need to be conveyed in more clear language," Petzke said. "So, we are offering this free service to area companies."

Businesses wishing to take advantage of the center's offer to help establish breastfeeding services for their employees should call the Breastfeeding Center at (574) 941-2922.

WARSAW KNIGHTS PRESENT CHECKS



PROVIDED BY THE ARCHBISHOP NOLL COUNCIL 4511

The Knights of Columbus Archbishop Noll Council 4511 presented checks to Cardinal Services for \$14,596.34 and to Special Olympics for \$3,000 from the Tootsie Roll drive that was held the first weekend in May. A total of \$17,596.34 was raised in 2008. The total money donated from the council to Cardinal Services and Special Olympics since 1986 is \$341,796.05.

Margaret Johnson forges a path for racial equality

BY LAUREN CAGGIANO

FORT WAYNE — There's no arguing that the name Margaret Johnson is synonymous with Black Catholic history in Fort Wayne.

Johnson, 80, was a founding member of the Black community at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Fort Wayne. She has seen a great deal of changes in her time, including three new churches.

A self-described "cradle Catholic," Johnson said that she has been Catholic since the day she was born. Johnson recalls many moments in her Catholic upbringing, including walking to her one-room schoolhouse and kneeling to pray the rosary.

It was in 1953 in the midst of the Civil Rights Movement when she came to Fort Wayne from Lexington, Ky., with her husband, Felix. A non-Catholic at the time, Felix later converted in 1960 and became active in the parish with his wife.

The Johnsons broke many barriers in the post-Vatican II church.

"Felix and I were the first two (Black) eucharistic ministers and that was during the reign of Father Ralph Larson and Father Ed Ruetz," she recalled.

Margaret also played an instrumental role in resurrecting the St. Mary's Mission School. She and fellow parishioners went door-to-door soliciting donations on behalf of the school's fund. The surrounding neighborhood was comprised of 300 lower income families with many needy children.

"We told them if the kids (in the neighborhood) didn't have shoes, Father Larson would reach in his pocket and give them money," she said.

Eventually, the parish received funding from Bishop Leo A. Pursley, and the school was reopened in 1964, serving the Catholic and non-Catholic children of the downtown community.

Margaret was also well-known



MARGARET JOHNSON

in the secular community of Fort Wayne in the 1960s. Working in the insurance and nursing fields in various positions, she earned an honest reputation for her assertive and thrifty approach to doing business.

"She was known all over the city," her daughter Judy recalled. "She walked so much that she earned the name 'Fast Walking Margaret' as she got rides from clients."

Margaret's son Maurice said he is proud of his mother's influence in town. "She walked across town ... and always looked good," he said. "Everyone knew her as the 'insurance lady.' She was so good that she was offered a district manager position."

Throughout her career and child-rearing years, Margaret remained active in the church. St. Mary's emerged as a "Sister Act"-like church in a time of struggle for racial equality, she said. St. Mary's was the spiritual and social center of the neighborhood. The first guitar Mass was celebrated there as well as the introduction of spirituals and folk songs, she noted.

It's not every day that someone remains active in a parish for six decades, and this is a cause for celebration. Family and friends gathered March 29 for a dinner dance in celebration of her 80th birthday at the LaSalle Bed & Breakfast on Washington Boulevard.

Still active in the parish, Margaret most recently attended the National Black Catholic Congress in Buffalo, N.Y., last summer. In her free time, she enjoys cooking, spending time with her grandchildren and making brandy wine.

Diocesan employees hit the lottery and win a class in the Holy Land

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — Three fortunate diocesan employees have won the lottery — the educational lottery, that is. Ginny Kohrman, director of the Office of Spiritual Development/Evangelization, Cindy Black, director of Office of Youth Ministry and Spiritual Formation and Joe Garcia, religion teacher at Bishop Dwenger High School, were selected from a lottery for students of the master's in theology or divinity programs through the University of Notre Dame to participate in an unusual summer course.

The course, Jerusalem, the Desert and Galilee: A Theological Study Tour through the Geography of Salvation, offered the study of Scripture as many do; but this extraordinary class held the distinction of having the students travel overseas for a two-week stay in the Holy Land.

The three eager Midwestern students, Kohrman, Black and Garcia, learned first hand what it means to be true pilgrims during a layover in Brussels on their flight to Jerusalem.

"We took a train downtown and found the cathedral. We waited for the noon Mass that was said in French," says Kohrman. The pilgrims enjoyed lunch at an outdoor café and felt blessed to catch the train back to the airport in the nick of time.

Eventually the weary globetrotters arrived in Tel Aviv in the early morning of May 30 and boarded a taxi-bus to Tantur Institute for Ecumenical Studies, located on the southern edge of Jerusalem. The campus facilities include comfortable living quarters, a large lecture hall, seminar rooms and a library known as among the largest Christian theological libraries in the Middle East with more than 70,000 books. The institute is maintained by the University of Notre Dame and has offered programs of continuing education and spiritual renewal since 1972.

The three from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend were part of a group of 22 from the United States, which was comprised mainly of master of divinity students from Notre Dame. Each of the students was assigned a roommate during their stay at the institute. Black was delighted to be paired with a 75-year-old woman from Kentucky present to study as well.

The students were given materials on the Holy Land to study, including appropriate Scripture and each morning began early with breakfast at the institute followed by a tour of a designated holy site. Notre Dame Professor



PROVIDED BY MARTY ROERS

Virgilio Elizondo guided the pilgrims through several of the sites, while a priest, a graduate student and a Jewish native led the group on alternate days to various sites, which included The Western Wall, the Temple Steps, the Church of the Nativity and many more.

Garcia was even able to swim in the Sea of Galilee, where he says, "Jesus calmed the seas and walked on the water. I can see that happening now."

At each site the students were made privy to historical information through lectures provided by the guide, who also posed questions for contemplation. Mass was celebrated at several of the sites, which all agreed enriched the experience a hundred fold.

"We celebrated Mass on the Mount of Olives," says Garcia. "We could see across Old Jerusalem to where Christ was crucified. You can visualize the events ... It gives you a new perspective."

Following the lecture and tour, the students were left to explore the site freely until noon when they returned to the institute for lunch. Afternoons offered free time to sight see or rest before dinner.

And though the group was allowed to move freely through the land, during their travels the three reported experiencing a sense of tension between the Palestinians and the Israelis. "You got a sense of the incredible friction between the religion and the politics there. It affects how the Palestinian Christians move from place to place," reports Kohrman. However they all agreed that at no time did they feel they were in danger.

The group gathered for Mass and dinner in the evening, followed by a class lecture, which

Ginny Kohrman, director of the Office of Spiritual Development/Evangelization prays in the Upper Room, the location believed to be the site of the Last Supper in Jerusalem. Kohrman, Cindy Black and Joe Garcia were selected from a lottery of students of the master's in theology or divinity programs through the University of Notre Dame to participate in an unusual summer course.

included small group reflection and large group discussion. Kohrman recalls the diversity at meals saying, "I learned from people from all over the world and religions when we ate together. It was another whole learning experience."

Black adds that there was always time following lecture when the large group gathered for fellowship to "have a cocktail and talk."

What did these pilgrims bring back from this experience? Black says she had "profound moments of intimacy with Christ and a deepened sense of our interconnectedness in the communion of saints ... and affirmation to be rooted in prayer, the Sacraments and Scripture to grow closer to Christ ..." She hopes to compile a show of her photographs to share with "anyone who wants to listen."

Kohrman agrees saying, "The class helped me realize even more fully that Jesus was a human being and walked this earth. That same Jesus is present in the Blessed Sacrament. There is a sense of Presence that stays with you as you open Scripture."

Garcia feels the course will enhance his teaching, saying, "I have a better grasp of explaining the sense of geography to the students. And I have pictures of the city that I can share." Others in his department at Bishop Dwenger have requested a presentation of his trip as well.

Summing up the opportunity to study in the Holy Land, Kohrman says, "The tours were grounded in church theology. Being on the ground that Jesus lived helped me imagine how the Scriptures happened. It's an experience you'll never forget."



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Spiritual Family of Catherine gather together for first time

DONALDSON — During the weekend of July 18-20, many members of the Spiritual Family of Catherine met at the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ (PHJC) Ministry Center. These family members included PHJC sisters, associate community members and Fiat Spiritus community members. Approximately 150 people gathered to celebrate what felt like “a big family reunion.”

Many people have followed the charism of Catherine Kasper, who lived from May 26, 1820, until Feb. 2, 1898, in Dernbach, Germany. After founding the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ Congregation on Aug. 15, 1851, along with four other women, she continued to minister to the people in their homes, caring for the sick and the children.

The goal of the dedicated women was to “spread virtue through example, instruction and prayer,” as the First Way of Life describes.

By 1868, Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ had come to the United States. This year is the 140th anniversary of the PHJC serving in the United States. At this time, there are 130 members of the American Province.

Following in Catherine Kasper's footsteps are three expressions of the Spiritual Family of Catherine bonded by baptismal commitment, faith in Jesus and a call to a ministry of love and service. These people — associate community members, Fiat Spiritus community members and PHJC sisters — spent a weekend together, celebrating the 140th anniversary of the PHJC sisters, the 25th anniversary of the associate community, and the fifth anniversary of the Fiat Spiritus community.

On March 25, 1983, the feast of the Annunciation, a group of 10 people joined the associate



PROVIDED BY THE POOR HANDMAIDS OF JESUS CHRIST

Fiat Spiritus members Loretta Peters, left, and Rosalie Durante bless people with holy water at the July 18 vow ceremony.

community. Their numbers have now grown to 159. These baptized men and women follow the mission of Jesus and the charism of Catherine Kasper in a ministry of love and service of others in their daily lives.

By June 20, 2003, two men and three women founded the Fiat Spiritus community by professing vows of poverty, chastity and obedience as members of the Fiat Spiritus community.

During the gathering on July 18, two new members, Loretta Peters and Rosalie Durante, professed vows as members of the Fiat Spiritus community.

Fiat Spiritus member Rosalie Durante stated, “The Spiritual Family of Catherine weekend was a welcoming event for me as Loretta Peters and I made our vows with the Fiat Spiritus community.”

On July 19, all members of the Spiritual Family of Catherine had faith sharing on charism and mis-

sion statements and attended a Mass, which honored the 25th anniversary of the associate community and recognition of associate anniversaries. A festive dinner followed the liturgy.

Associate candidates Jim and Marge Bickett expressed their thoughts: “The weekend was truly an awesome experience for both of us. It was an emotional experience that touched our hearts and left us with inner peace and joy.”

On Sunday, July 20, the Mass in Convent Ancilla Domini Chapel celebrated the 140th anniversary of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ and the anniversaries of religious for: 75, 70, 60, 50 and 25 years. A dinner followed the liturgy.

Returning to their homes in many different geographic areas, the family members continue to spread the charism of Catherine Kasper and live the Gospel values, bonded by friendship, prayer and support.

Holy Cross family comes together for retreat

BY SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

NOTRE DAME — The first week in July brought over 140 religious and associates from all branches of the Holy Cross family to Saint Mary's College for a retreat based on the theme: “Moreau's Vision: Going Beyond Our Brokenness to Bring Unity and Hope.” The days were filled with prayerful and joyous reflections on Moreau's vision for the members of his congregations. Participants came from across the world: Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Chile, France, Ghana, Haiti, Mexico and the United States. There were also Vietnamese sisters who came from Canada.

Each day a different Holy Cross religious gave the reflection. The fact that this was Holy Cross religious speaking to members of Holy Cross swelled the community pride felt by all. Marianite Sister Ann Lacour from New Orleans set the tone when she spoke on the importance of family, interdependence, community and unity in the spirituality of Father Moreau. She emphasized that it was his vision that his members would display these virtues to the world.

Holy Cross Sister Patricia Clossey, who serves in Mexico, shared her vocation story, which illustrated Moreau's stress on the virtue of hospitality both in and out of the community. It is the family-like quality that welcomes all people throughout the world. He wanted Holy Cross' outreach to be international and the number of countries represented at the retreat gave witness to the fulfillment of his desire.

The meaning of the cross and compassion in the lives of the members was made a reality as Holy Cross Brother Joel Giallanza from Austin, Texas, presented his beautiful meditation on the seven sorrows of Mary. Moreau wanted his community's relationship with Mary to be more than devotion; she was to be a model for living



SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

In early July, 140 religious and associates from the Holy Cross Family gathered at Saint Mary's College for a retreat exploring Father Basil Moreau's vision of unity and hope. The days were filled with prayerful and joyous reflections on Moreau's vision for the members of his congregations.

the paschal mystery. For Father Basil Moreau, she was the prime example of apostolic life, of faith and compassion.

Holy Cross Father Thomas Looney from Massachusetts addressed Moreau's qualities of zeal, passion and fidelity. These virtues flow out of gratitude, wanting to do much for God because of what God has done for us. Zeal permeated everything in Father Moreau's life — his relationship with God, his apostolic work and his leadership as founder.

The final day's input was on hope and the providence of God. Speaking in French with simultaneous translation into English, Sister Kesta Occident, the leader of the Sisters of Holy Cross (Canadian branch), gave a dynamic presentation in which she stressed Moreau's belief in Divine Providence, which fueled his hope. Sister stressed that Holy Cross religious and all Christians are called to be people of hope.

Participants left the retreat renewed in the spirituality of their founder and with a greater sense of what it means to be part of the international family of Holy Cross.

Archaeology lessons for elementary schoolteachers

BY CAROL C. BRADLEY

NOTRE DAME — “What would your garbage tell us about you?” asks Indiana State Museum education program coordinator Gail Brown.

Five elementary schoolteachers from around the region sort through piles of trash — fast food wrappers, empty yogurt cartons, dog food cans — in a classroom in the University of Notre Dame Department of Anthropology's Reyniers Laboratory.

Dog food can — can we infer a pet owner?

It's all part of Project Archaeology, a workshop cosponsored by the anthropology department and the museum.

Earlier this summer, the teachers spent three days on campus learning the fundamentals of archaeology. They participated in an archaeological dig on a property in the “Sorinsville” neighborhood south of campus, led by Deb Rotman, assistant professional spe-

cialist in anthropology. They then returned to the lab to process and analyze their finds.

The teachers also had time to try a few other activities, like throwing spears with an atlatl, an ancient tool that increases the range and velocity of a throw.

The goal of the program is to teach elementary educators how to use archaeology in the classroom. But the larger goal is to teach the public to respect, protect and conserve archaeological sites.

The way archaeology is done in real life isn't like “Indiana Jones,” Brown said. “It's not just collecting things; it's collecting data.”

Why a lesson on garbage? Archaeologists often study garbage heaps, or middens, he points out. It's a way for kids to understand how objects relate to people and their activities — 3,000-year-old objects kids wouldn't know how to interpret, Brown says.

This fall, the teachers will incorporate what they learned in the workshop into their lesson

plans. Their fourth-through seventh-grade students will use observation, inference and hypothesis to understand what garbage — or tools, or artifacts — can tell us about a culture.

In the process of learning archaeological methods, students also will be developing other skills — gridding a site requires math and measuring skills, tree-ring dating and pollen analysis offer hands-on science lessons and discussion about climate change.

“It's been a good experience,” says Cindy Young, a teacher at Prairie Vista Elementary School in Granger. “I liked the field excavation with Deb, going out and actually doing what we were talking about. And I thought it was neat how many math, science and reading connections there were with archaeology.”

Observation and inference apply to many subjects, she notes.

“I've gotten a lot of stuff I can take back to the classroom,” she says. “Lessons and real-life experience.”

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Throughout its 75-year history, Christ the King is

Digging up parish history provides a fascinating journey of faith

BY DIANE FREEBY

SOUTH BEND — As members of Christ the King Catholic Church celebrate the South Bend parish's 75th anniversary, history continues to be in the making ... literally.

Holy Cross Father Stephen Lacroix, the newest member of a three-priest team at Christ the King, is putting together a video of the parish history. That's no small task for the recently ordained priest, who has spent the summer researching dates and digging up photos to include in the DVD.

"Since I've only been at Christ the King for a year," explained Father Steve, "it has been fascinating to research the history of our parish and see how it has continued to grow in faith through all the changes of the past 75 years."

Father Steve shared some his research of how the parish came to be.

- In 1933, Bishop John F. Noll authorized the founding of Christ the King Parish and entrusted it to the Congregation of Holy Cross. The parishioners of Sacred Heart Parish began raising money a few years earlier for the purchase of the land on the corner of Dixie Highway and Healthwin Road (now State Route 933 and Darden Road, where Christ the King still stands).

- While the parish waited for the new church to be built, Masses were held in a furniture warehouse on Dixie Highway. The first solemn high Mass was said in the new church in February of 1935, and Bishop Noll dedicated the church in June of that year.

- Ground was broken for the current church building in February of 1961.

- The first Mass was celebrated in the new church in October of 1961, on the feast of Christ the King.

- Several renovations have been made to the church since then. The most recent is the update to the sanctuary in 1997.

"Our parishioners have really invested a lot in this community," reflected Father Steve. "From the construction of the original 'little white church,' to the new church building, to

the continued growth of the school ... all these things were possible because so many people gave their time and talent so generously, whether by putting on fundraisers or donating labor and service."

Holy Cross Fathers Peter Miner and Joseph Barry served as the first pastors of Christ the King in 1933 and 1934. Since then, 15 Holy Cross priests have passed the leadership torch to one another, guiding the church and school into the 21st century.

Current pastor, Holy Cross Father Neil Wack is actually a son of the parish, graduating from the grade school in 1984. He is the youngest pastor to serve at Christ the King, appointed just over a year ago by Bishop John M. D'Arcy. Father Neil says this first year has been both challenging and rewarding as he leads the parish of his boyhood.

"It's a privilege," reflected Father Neil. "How can any assignment top this? It's humbling, too, to follow in the footsteps of so many good priests."

Father Neil said he loves being so close to his family. Both his parents and five of his siblings live in South Bend. They are all, of course, Christ the King parishioners. One of his nephews graduated from the school last year.

"It's great just being around the kids and doing my small part to help. And, it's great to see my mom every day at church when I say Mass," he told *Today's Catholic*.

Holy Cross Father Ron Tripi serves as associate pastor along side Father Steve. He has been at Christ the King for seven years and extends his ministry by saying Mass regularly at nearby Healthwin, a rehabilitation center for people who have suffered serious head injuries. At Christ the King, Father Ron makes a

point of getting to know the parishioners by name. He frequently asks one woman (who is married and has six children) how her seven children are doing, giving the husband a routine good-natured ribbing.

When you look around Christ the King today, you see a combination of young families, teenagers and older folks. According to Father Ron, "it's a good place to be!"

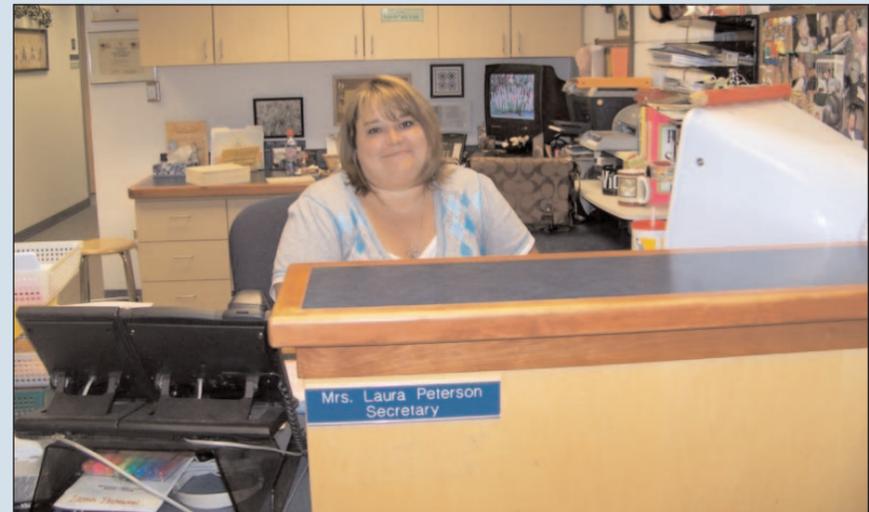
It's a privilege. How can any assignment top this? It's humbling, too, to follow in the footsteps of so many good priests."

FATHER NEIL WACK, CSC



PHOTOS BY DIANE FREEBY

Holy Cross Father Neil Wack, pastor, is shown with Christ the King Principal Steve Hoffman and associate pastors, Holy Cross Father Stephen LaCroix and Holy Cross Father Ron Tripi.



School secretary Laura Peterson prepares for another school year.



This photo shows the eighth-grade class of Christ the King School in 1955.

Fast facts about Christ the King School

- Principal: Stephen Hoffman • Located at 52473 State Road 9 north of the University of Notre Dame • (574) 272-3922 • Mission: "Your light must shine in the sight of people, so that they may give praise to your God in heaven." (Matthew 5:14-16) • Christ the King School's eighth grade class graduated in 1956 • School colors: blue and gold
- Nominated for 2008-2009 Blue Ribbon Award • Expected enrollment: 150

'a good place to be'



The old Christ the King Church is shown in this photo.



Christ the King Church as it appears today is shown in this photo.

Upcoming events at Christ the King Parish, South Bend:

- Evenings of Prayer – Sept. 14, Oct. 12 and Nov. 9 at 7 p.m. in the church.
- 75th anniversary parish picnic — Aug. 24 after the 12:15 Mass. This is also the Parish Appreciation Dinner.
- 75th anniversary dinner — Oct. 17 at 6 p.m. at The Woodward. Dinner will be catered by the LaSalle Grill.
- 75th Anniversary Closing Mass — Nov. 23, the feast of Christ the King, at 10:30 a.m. Holy Cross Father David T. Tyson, provincial, will preside. There will be a reception immediately following the Mass. No 12:15 p.m. Mass on that day.



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Preparing the church of the future

Christ the King School takes the role to make God known, loved and served

BY DIANE FREEBY

SOUTH BEND — Nearly 20 years after parishioners built the church, the first children became students at Christ the King School.

According to research done by Holy Cross Father Stephen Lacroix, the first class was a group of 27 first-graders who assembled in the fall of 1953. For three years prior to that, Christ the King had been part of the St. Mary's Campus School, along with Little Flower Parish and St. Joseph Farm Parish. A few new grades were added each year, and they met in a temporary classroom and in the church basement until the school building opened in the fall of 1955.

The faculty consisted of Sisters of the Holy Cross, as well as laywomen. Christ the King School graduated its first class of eighth-graders in 1956. Grades 1 through 8 were in place by 1958, and a kindergarten program was added in 1977. While there have been many additions and improvements since 1955, the school is still in its original location and the original location is still in use.

Most recently, a new wing was added in 2001, making room for the computer lab, library and science lab. Facilities for art and music were also added, along with a brand new front entrance.

Despite the many structural improvements over the years, current principal Steven Hoffman insists the biggest asset at Christ

the King School is the children who attend.

"We are an academic school with emphasis on spirituality," said Hoffman. "But it's the kids who make the place."

Office secretary Laura Peterson wholeheartedly agreed. "The kids who graduate still come back, still smiling. These kids are loving and caring, and that stems from a great faculty. Father Steve, Father Neil and Hoffman are at the front doors to greet the kids every morning. And Hoffman has always had an open door policy. He just always has time for the kids."

Teachers echo those sentiments about the children and their parents. Christine Nemeth is beginning her 20th year of teaching third grade at Christ the King, and she appreciates the many moms and dads who make time to volunteer in her classroom.

"The parents, the kids ... they're absolutely the best," exclaimed Nemeth. "It's a very Christian and caring environment. Supportive parents and hardworking kids, along with the support of our other teachers ... that's what keeps me here!"

Father Ron thinks the future looks very bright.

"When you look at the school," said Father Ron, "this is the church of the future. The church is in their hands and you do the best to prepare them."

Parents like Tonya Sexton agree. She and her husband, Tim, currently have three of their four children enrolled at Christ the



PROVIDED BY CHRIST THE KING SCHOOL

This photo from 1955 shows first grade students at Christ the King School in the annex building.

King. Their oldest child graduated and is now thriving at Saint Joseph's High School.

"It was hard," Tonya said, referring to the school work. "Christ the King wasn't easy. But it's a faith-based education that you can't get just anywhere. Our children are ready for high school."

Tonya herself is a 1981 graduate of Christ the King. In fact, she went to school with Father Neil Wack's brother, Bill, who is also a Holy Cross priest currently serving in Arizona. Tonya admits it is a sacrifice to put children through Catholic school, but it's the Catholic faith she experiences there that makes it worthwhile.

"We love Father Neil. The church is what brought us to Christ

the King and it's what keeps us there," said Tonya. "It's a big parish and very supportive. Even though it's big, the priests still know the families."

Christ the King, nominated for the Blue Ribbon Award this year, expects an enrollment of about 480 students for the 2008-2009 school term. Most students come from the north side of South Bend and the Granger area.

According to Father Steve, being a "CSC-run school" helps make Christ the King special. He believes the educational philosophy is best expressed by Holy Cross founder, Blessed Basil Moreau, who said, "The mind will not be cultivated at the expense of the heart. While we prepare useful

citizens for society, we shall likewise do our utmost to prepare citizens for heaven."

For a young priest like Father Steve, this tradition is inspiring.

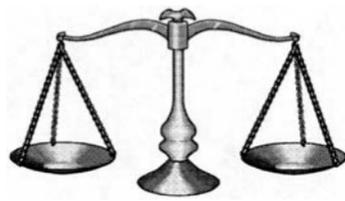
"We always strive to provide first-rate academic instruction," said Father Steve, "but we also understand that the school is the largest ministry of our parish. We try to draw our students into a deeper relationship with God and the church in the classroom as well as through regular Mass, sacramental reconciliation and eucharistic adoration.

"We believe in working closely with our school families because we all share the responsibility for making sure our children have the strong minds and hearts that they will need to face the many challenges they'll encounter."

This year, in addition to celebrating the 75th anniversary, Christ the King also celebrated the beatification of its founder, Blessed Basil Moreau. The theme for the last school year came from Father Moreau's definition of zeal, the "desire to make God known, loved and served."

"We've tried to incorporate this theme into every aspect of the life of our school," explained Father Steve, "so it can live up to our founder's vision of what a Catholic education should be. Our staff and students really took up this theme, and it's been great to have the entire school community join us in celebrating Father Moreau's beatification."

Congratulations to Christ the King Parish on its 75th Anniversary!



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Counting our summer blessings

BY GINNY KOHRMAN

Opening prayer and Scripture

O Lord, help us be mindful of you as we cherish the warmth of your glorious sun, and play in the beauty of your creation! Amen

Reading for reflection: Dn 2:20-23

Summer blessings

The praises and chants of the locust and crickets proclaim the news that autumn is soon to arrive. With the flowers losing their glory and the opportunities to seek comfort in the warm sun waning, I am a bit saddened to think of the end days of summer. But the new smells of burning wood and leaves, the cool mornings and evenings, allow me to reflect on the amazing days of summer and the many ways God has given me to experience his love through the faces and hearts of many faithful people. Without pause, it is easy to forget and move on without cherishing these days, but in the quiet of this morning, in prayer, I take time to thank God for this amazing summer. Perhaps as I recall a few of the highlights of my days, others may dwell on their summer blessings and thank God for them.

The holiest of lands

Who would have ever thought that in the summer of 2008, I would ever end up in the Holy Land! Through the love and generosity of Sister Jane Carew, and the graces and surprises of God, I was chosen to spend two weeks in Israel with a group of Notre Dame graduate students. A bit

apprehensive about taking this wonderful trip without my husband, I quickly packed my bags and passport and headed for Chicago O'Hare to begin the long flight to Tel Aviv. Tired from the many hours of work prior to my trip, the overseas flight which included a 10-hour layover in Brussels, we arrived in the Holy Land at 2:30 a.m., exhausted. Once the swelling in my ankles left, from the long flight that is, and my tired body adjusted to the heat of Jerusalem, I was ready to see and soak in every bit of this beautiful land.

Armed with bottled water, a healthy breakfast of fruits, pita and cheese, we boarded the bus for a daily tour of places like, the Old City of Jerusalem, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, Bethlehem and the Church of the Nativity, Nazareth, the Sea of Galilee and more.

All at once, the Scriptures that I had heard and read for so many years came alive, as I was able to smell, touch, hear, and see the ground and probable places where Jesus experienced life on earth, preached and loved, walked, played and worshipped. My imagination began to run wild, as I envisioned the humanity of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, all the apostles and disciples who too encountered this climate, terrain, agriculture, and cultural mix. On one of the hottest afternoons, with temperatures around 100 degrees, my roommate Rita, our friend Marty and I decided to walk the Kidron Valley or the Valley of Jahosephat, from the Mount of Olives to the City of David, back to the Old City of Jerusalem to the Western Wall. We explored the caves and tombs along the way, passing both Jewish and Muslim cemeteries, climbing up to the Golden Gate



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of Jerusalem, walking into the city of David to find the pool of Sholeom.

My heart was filled with the history of the land, knowing that the great prophets, David, Jesus and a whole host of other biblical people may have spent their afternoons on this sacred land. Once we made it up the steep climb to the Dung Gate leading into the Old City of Jerusalem and the Western Wall, I was impressed at the number of men and women who were there, praying to their God, in the language of their individual hearts. I felt humbled and inspired by their holiness as I quickly offered my prayer of thanksgiving and petition at the Western Wall. The many pictures taken during the trip, continually remind me of the moments when Jesus took on flesh for me and I once again fell in love with him, his teachings and his native holy land.

Nashville and the Dominican Sisters

You might think that the Holy Land trip was enough of a summer gift from God, but no. God continued to bless me through the kindness of our dear friend, Msgr. Owen Campion. Monsignor, a native of the Diocese of Nashville, invited my husband and me to attend the perpetual vows of 11 Nashville Dominican sisters. The southern hospitality shown through monsignor and his

wonderful Nashville friends resulted in unending storytelling and laughter.

Nashville, though not as ancient as the Holy Land, is a land filled with historical importance and character. Nashville, known as the Athens of the South, displays a full scale reconstruction of the Parthenon, in Centennial Park and upholds its zeal for the arts and education. The National Football Team is also proudly named the Tennessee Titans. The very ground of Nashville cherishes and mourns the Civil War battles of Nashville, Franklin and Stones River. Certain streets and storefronts recall the seriousness of the civil rights movements of the sixties.

But in the Nashville Cathedral of the Incarnation, we witnessed another new era of pride and faith. Eleven Dominican Sisters made their perpetual commitment to Christ, radiating a gentle peace and love that only comes from Jesus. The angelic music of the sisters, the prayers of promise declared at Mass and the fervor of these valiant women, dressed in white and black habits gave renewed hope to those of us present. In yet another land, perhaps young compared to the Holy Land, we experienced Jesus Christ, alive in the hearts of the sisters and all those who welcomed us so generously.

Small but holy parishes

August finds me once again home in the office and in collaboration with many parishioners in both South Bend and Fort Wayne who are planning parish missions or retreats. Often it is the smaller or rural parishes that seek out the help of our office to plan these days of spiritual renewal. It is always my delight to get out of the office and into the parishes to meet people of many gifts and abilities. Through the many mission planning meetings and the morning reflection sessions, I am renewed and encouraged by the faith of others. I am touched by the courageous people of the parish who worship daily, pray together and work hard to maintain the integrity of their faith community. In their eyes and in their faith sharing, I see the face of Christ and the steadfast love of their communities, regardless of budget crunches, limited staff or resources.

God has blessed my summer by placing so many faithful people before me. As I step into autumn, I am once again renewed and hope-filled, because Christ has shown himself to me, through the faces of others.

Bishops vote to revise U.S. catechism on Jewish covenant with God

BY NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops have voted to ask the Vatican to approve a small change in the U.S. Catholic Catechism for Adults to clarify church teaching on God's covenant with the Jewish people.

The proposed change — which would replace one sentence in the catechism — was discussed by the bishops in executive session at their June meeting in Orlando, Fla., but did not receive the needed two-thirds majority of all members of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops at that time.

After mail balloting, the final vote of 231-14, with one abstention, was announced Aug. 5 in a letter to bishops from Msgr. David Malloy, USCCB general secretary.

The change, which must be confirmed by the Vatican Congregation for Clergy, would remove from the catechism a sentence that reads: "Thus the

covenant that God made with the Jewish people through Moses remains eternally valid for them."

Replacing it would be this sentence: "To the Jewish people, whom God first chose to hear his word, 'belong the sonship, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship and the promises; to them belong the patriarchs, and of their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ'" (Rom 9:4-5; cf. CCC, No. 839).

"Talking points" distributed to the bishops along with Msgr. Malloy's letter said the proposed revision "is not a change in the church's teaching."

"Catholics understand that all previous covenants that God made with the Jewish people have been fulfilled in Jesus Christ through the new covenant established through his sacrificial death on the cross," the talking points say.

"The prior version of the text," they continue, "might be understood to imply that one of the former covenants imparts sal-

vation without the mediation of Christ, whom Christians believe to be the universal savior of all people."

Father James Massa, executive director of the USCCB Secretariat of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, told Catholic News Service Aug. 11 that he did not "anticipate any tensions in the relationship" between Catholics and Jews as long as the proposed change is properly understood as arising from a need to "remove ambiguity" in the catechism.

"The catechism is not the place where you work out difficult theological problems," he said. "That's what scholars are charged to do."

Father Massa said the status of the Jewish covenant has been "a very fertile area for theological investigation" in recent years, although church teaching has been clear on two related points:

- The Jewish people "are in a real relationship with God based on a covenant that has never been revoked."

- "All covenants with Israel find fulfillment in Christ, who is the savior of all."

Father Massa added that the current wording in the catechism "was not flat-out wrong" but "was ambiguous and needed to be qualified." But because the catechism is an educational tool and not a theological textbook, the bishops decided not to expand that section to provide a fuller consideration of the issue, he said.

He also stressed the Catholic teaching that it is "never permissible to impose our faith on others."

Although some Jews as individuals may choose to become Christians, "it is also the church's understanding that the full incorporation of Israel into the saving covenant of Christ may be the fruit of the end times, may not happen until the end of history," Father Massa said.

In his letter to bishops, Msgr. Malloy said that if the Congregation for Clergy grants "recognitio," or approval, to the

revised passage it will be incorporated into the next printing of the U.S. Catholic Catechism for Adults.

"The next printing will not occur until the remaining volumes from the latest printing are exhausted," he added.

Adopted by the U.S. bishops in November 2004 and later approved by the Vatican, the 664-page adult catechism is the first official catechism produced by the nation's bishops since the creation of the Baltimore Catechism, first published in 1885 and revised in 1941.

In the first two weeks after its July 31, 2006, publication, it sold more than 25,000 copies, according to USCCB Publishing.

Therese Brown, associate director for marketing, sales and service at USCCB Publishing, said about 190,000 copies of the adult catechism had been sold to date. Another printing of 50,000 copies took place in May and those copies are expected to run out around the middle of next year, she said.

EDITORIAL

Building our Catholic faith at home, school

The church teaches that it is the primary right and responsibility of parents to educate their children, not only in human education such as math, science, and such, but also in religious education. So the home is the primary place where children should learn the Catholic faith: through family prayer time, through time that parents might spend with their children reading Bible stories, through explaining the faith and teaching children our beliefs, and certainly and most importantly, through weekly participation at Sunday Mass. So, again, it is the primary responsibility of parents to make sure that the faith is passed on to their children.

Through the centuries the church has provided parents with help for this task of educating their children in the faith. Catholic schools have always held pride of place as a way in which parents accomplish this mission. Without taking away from those who work so diligently in public schools or who homeschool, we do have to mention some of the advantages of Catholic schools such as: the Catholic atmosphere of the school, the Catholic moral teachings which are continually expressed to the students, the hours of religious instruction that are provided to the students (in our Catholic schools, all students have religion class every day), and especially the availability of the sacraments to all our Catholic schoolchildren. This is just to name a few of the benefits of Catholic schools.

Nonetheless, praise should be given to those Catholics who teach in public schools and Catholic students in public schools who courageously bring their Catholic faith with them. This is a great area of evangelization, and Catholics in public schools bring with them their Catholic values, which should have a transformative effect in the public arena.

At the same time, it should be noted that the law of the church instructs us that, whenever possible, parents should strive to send their children to Catholic schools. Our diocese is blessed with excellent parish schools and excellent diocesan high schools. Even though there may be legitimate reasons why parents are unable to send their children to Catholic schools, all Catholic parents should prayerfully consider this possibility for their children.

A bold move in southern Indiana

In Vanderburgh County, Indiana, a new ordinance was passed requiring doctors who perform abortions to maintain admitting privileges with a local hospital, the first such measure in the state. This is to assure that patients who experience complications after abortion are receiving proper medical care. No doubt abortion lobbyists will see this as an attempt to restrict a woman's access to abortion, but abortionists have operated with unrestricted license causing the mutilation and even deaths of many women.

Dr. Geoff Cly, a obstetrician in Fort Wayne, testified before an Indiana state Senate Committee that he has treated two women who suffered life-threatening complications, including bleeding, infection and fever, after having incomplete abortions at the Fort Wayne clinic. One of the women ended up having a hysterectomy, the removal of her uterus.

Cly recently appeared in Vanderburgh County in support of this measure stating that if abortion providers have hospital admitting privileges, then they are subject to peer reviews that look closely at post-procedure complications and remove privileges if necessary.

If abortion supporters protest this measure, then they show their true colors, not a true concern for the health and welfare of the woman but simply a desire to perpetuate the abortion industry at all costs.

Telling our faith stories

One form of evangelization is sharing our faith journey with others.

We are inviting readers to send in their "witness" or faith journey stories to run in our Sept. 28 issue. This issue will be sent to every registered Catholic household in the diocese. In 50 words or less, please answer one of the following questions:

- I love the Catholic faith because ...
- I was drawn to the Catholic faith through ...
- I came back to the Catholic faith because

Please send your name, parish, city or town, an optional photo and your telephone number to editor@fw.diocesefwsb.org, or mail to Today's Catholic, P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne, IN 46856 before Sept. 15.

Today's Catholic editorial board consists of Ann Carey, Don Clemmer, Fred and Lisa Everett, Father Mark Gurtner, Father Michael Heintz, Tim Johnson and Vince LaBarbera.

COMMENTARY

TODAY'S CATHOLIC welcomes letters from readers. All letters must be signed and include a phone number and address for verification.

Today's Catholic reserves the right to edit for clarity and length. Address letters to: Today's Catholic • P.O. Box 11169 • Fort Wayne, IN • 46856-1169 or e-mail to: editor@fw.diocesefwsb.org

Spiritual reading groups offer many benefits

Read a good (spiritual) book lately? Even more than that, did you take the opportunity to discuss that reading with a small group of friends? The popular philosopher Mortimer Adler wrote that "Reading a book without discussing it is like drinking in a bar by yourself."

Please follow with me as I relate how I got involved in a spiritual reading group several years ago with a small group of friends. During 2003-2005, I was fortunate to secure admission to the diocese's Education For Ministry Program, a two-year, once-a-week study group that examined various facets of the Catholic faith from Scriptures, prayer, sacraments, church history, liturgy, ethics, and more under the direction of diocesan scholars and teachers.

The weekly sessions at that time were held at Fort Wayne's Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception lower level meeting room. While there was open seating at the round tables in the room, most of us followed our instincts and sat at the same table each week. After a few weeks, I developed a warm friendship with the four other "students" at my table, each from parishes different from my own: Dave and Marta Guthier (Our lady of Good Hope), Susie Quinn (Precious Blood), and Jerry Kohrman (St. Therese).

Eventually we learned about each other's lives and we became friends with the education of our faith as the basis of that friendship.

After graduation from the EdMin program we all went our separate ways, each one to his/her own parish searching out ways to implement what we had learned during the program. After a while I began to miss those friends and found that infrequent phone calls were not enough to keep us together and also felt that we needed to continue learning about our faith.

After discussing the idea of a continual learning and faith-building experience with the group we decided to get together again and share some spiritual readings that would continue the education we had begun only a few short years earlier. Susie's spouse, Mel, Jerry's wife, Ginny, and my wife, Joan, also were welcomed into the group. Virginia Hannum, another retired schoolteacher, eventually joined us a few months later giving us a total of nine members, a number we felt was about right.

Joan and I hosted the first meeting at our home at which we discussed exactly how we would continue our "studies."

Jerry came up with the name for the group: "The John Paul II Society" ("JP II" for short). We decided to meet every-other-month and to rotate the place of the meeting so everyone would have a turn as host and facilitator of the meeting. The facilitator would also select

the reading for the coming meeting they were to host.

We have been meeting for several years now and when I put together a list of the books we have read for this article, I was surprised to discover all we have digested.

The books include: O'Connor, "The Edge of Sadness"

Pope Paul VI, "Humanae Vitae" (Encyclical).

Hahn, "Letter and Spirit"

Hahn, "Hail Holy Queen"

Pope Benedict XVI, "Deus Caritas Est" (Encyclical).

Ilibagizi, "Left To Tell"

Quinn, "The Sphere of Truth" (monograph)

The Didache, "Doctrine of the Twelve Apostles"

Hendra, "Father Joe"

Augustine of Hippo, "The Confessions"

Pope Benedict XVI, "Jesus of Nazareth"

Dante, "Divine Comedy — Inferno"

Connolly, "Mr. Blue"

Some of the readings were short and fun, others were deep and had to be taken in small bites. Each of them challenged the group to read and think and then to listen and discuss what we had encountered in our visitations with the authors. While we did not always agree with the author or with each other about the reading, the discussions helped us to a deeper understanding of our faith.

Tom Carstens
Fort Wayne

Every step of the way

Most people have heard the Chinese proverb about the journey of a thousand miles beginning with the first step. You might wonder why that old philosopher Lao-tzu would bother writing down something so obvious. But then it's only obvious if you look at it concretely. Lao-tzu died 500 BC, so theoretically, Jesus could have applied the proverb to his own journey, not the estimated 25,000 miles he walked during his lifetime but the one he undertook from manger to cross.

Comboni Missionaries from Cairo recently gave an enlightening presentation in Chicago, Cincinnati and Los Angeles that brought their listeners into the world of Sudanese refugees. Countless people have had to make the desperate choice to flee their homeland and walk towards a life in Egypt where they can find relative safety and at least the bare necessities. These priests helped us to understand what's going on in Darfur, why so many people there have become refugees, and why their experience has certainly been one of a thousand — or more — miles.

The fathers gave sobering accounts concerning the harsh realities of life for refugee families uprooted by the turmoil in Darfur.



COMBONI MISSIONS

FATHER PETER CIUCIULLA

The Ugandan-born priests discussed the difficulties faced by the refugees as they arrive in neighboring Egypt, an Arab nation whose government says, in so many words, "You must be self-reliant but it's pretty much against the law to work or go to school or do any of the usual things one does to become such. And by the way, don't even think about government assistance."

What you don't have as you read this article is the slide show we watched as we listened to these priests. Mind you, the photos were not the typical poster pictures you see to stir people's hearts to give money. They were pictures of everyday life like yours and mine, only with nothing permanent, nothing.

But you know from experience that, no matter what journeys you've had in life so far, hope accompanies you 99 percent of the time. We saw that same kind of hope in the faces of the refugees. People smiling, cooking, playing,

praying, carrying on life activities — always on the trail from one place to another, always with the dream of something lasting.

So what do we do? That's the question so many people in the audience asked during the Q&A period following the presentation. Donations — yes, sharing information — yes, even going personally as a lay missionary, but these are options not available to everyone. However, there's one universal option — prayer. Through prayer, we walk every step of the way with our refugee brothers and sisters. And they know. Somehow, they know.

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

Do candidates' health care plans measure up?

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The two major presidential candidates agree on at least one thing: health care reform must be a high priority for the next administration. But when it comes to the details, much of the common ground between Republican Sen. John McCain and Democratic Sen. Barack Obama falls away.

In their 2007 document on political responsibility, "Faithful Citizenship," the U.S. bishops said any efforts to reform the health care system must respect human dignity and protect human life; meet the needs of the poor and uninsured, including pregnant women, unborn children, immigrants and other vulnerable populations; protect the conscience rights of Catholics and Catholic institutions; and provide effective, compassionate care for those with HIV and AIDS.

"All people have a right to health care regardless of where they work, where they come from or how much money they have," said Kathy Saile, director of the Office of Domestic Social Development in the bishops' Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development, in a com-

mentary on health care and "Faithful Citizenship."

"Quality health care should be accessible to every person as a part of basic respect for human life and dignity," she added.

Obama and McCain both say the health care reform plans outlined on their campaign Web sites and in speeches would reduce the number of uninsured Americans, rein in escalating costs, improve health care quality and performance, keep those with pre-existing conditions from being dropped by their health plans, and encourage some degree of state flexibility.

Obama's plan would require employers to either offer "meaningful coverage" to their workers or pay a percentage of their payroll into a new public program. Every child in the U.S. would be covered and health insurers would be required to keep young adults up to age 25 on their parents' plan through family coverage.

The centerpiece of the proposal advanced by McCain is a health care tax credit for families and individuals, paired with the removal of favorable tax treatment for employer-financed health insurance. Anyone who does not

THE WASHINGTON LETTER

NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN

use the entire tax credit amount to purchase health insurance could deposit the remaining funds into a health savings account for use in another year.

The health care debate is a very personal one for people like Robin Salerno of Wolcott, N.Y. Recently diagnosed with adrenal cancer, Salerno earns \$17,000 a year working six days a week as a cook and waitress for a local diner.

But she has no health insurance and makes too much money for Medicaid, the federal-state program, or Family Health Plus, another public health insurance program in New York state for adults under 65. Salerno might

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God speaks through his representatives



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time Mt. 16:13-20

The first section of the Book of Isaiah provides this weekend with its first reading.

In this reading, God speaks through Isaiah. With God's authority, a new master of the court is to be named. The master functioned as the king's chief representative and exercised the authority of the crown. The symbol of office was the key.

Naming the master of the palace, along with subordinate figures, were processes to enable the king better to reign. In the mind of Isaiah, and of all the prophets while the monarchy existed, the absolute duty of the king was to draw the people to God. The nation's faithfulness to God was its first priority, hence the king's duty.

As part of the apparatus of government, the master shared in this duty. The royal duty was a most solemn obligation. Accordingly, the appointment of the master was a very serious step; the authority of the master had to be acknowledged and his directions followed.

This reading is hardly the only occasion when God speaks, through human instruments, to people. Such occasions fill the

Scriptures. It is a situation reminding us of our own needs and of God's willingness to supply lovingly for our needs.

St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans provides the church's second reading. The Christian Romans lived in what then was the imposing city on earth, or the earth as it was known. Much of Rome's splendor lay in the great temples within the city dedicated to the various gods and goddesses. Even today, tourists marvel at the Pantheon, an ancient temple in Rome remarkably intact after all the years.

Paul constantly had to draw Christians away from the lure of the gaudy Roman culture and to the God of Jesus. Here, the apostle extols the majesty of his God.

In addition, Paul calls God the "counselor" of the faithful. It implies that God communicates with people, that people communicate with God, and that in the process, God guides them through life.

For its third reading this weekend, the church offers us a selection from St. Matthew's Gospel.

The setting is Caesarea Philippi, a place northeast of Capernaum, quite picturesque and pleasant. At the time of Jesus, this place was a resort. The River Jordan forms here from springs and small creeks. Even today, Israelis go there to relax. Jesus and Peter enter a dramatic exchange. Our Lord asks Peter, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" (Jesus identifies with the "Son of Man," of the Old Testament, who was God's special agent and who unfailingly was true to God.)

Peter replies that the people are confused. Some see Jesus as a prophet, as John the Baptist or as Elijah. But, for himself, Peter declares that Jesus is the "Son of the living God."

Reflection

Placing these Scriptures before us, the church makes two points. The first is that, come what may in our lives, we are not alone. God speaks to us. Such is the long history of salvation.

But it is important to hear God in this process, not simply to hear an echo of our own instincts, wishes, fears and misconceptions.

So, throughout the many years, God has spoken through representatives, such as Isaiah or Paul.

For the church, the greatest representative was Peter, the bearer of the keys. The Lord commissioned him. Peter's strong faith, spoken at Caesarea Philippi, underscored the choice.

Peter was the "master of the king's house," to use Isaiah's imagery. The role continued through the Christian era in the role of Peter's successors, the Bishops of Rome. Such continuance itself is a sign of God's love. He hardly would have provided for those in Peter's generation and then denied this care to their descendants, such as ourselves.

READINGS

Sunday: Is 22:19-23 Ps 138:1-3,6-8
Rom 11:33-36 Mt 16:13-20

Monday: 2Thes 1:1-5,11-12 Ps 96:1-5
Mt 23:13-22

Tuesday: 2Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17 Ps
96:10-13 Mt 22:23-26

Wednesday: 2Thes 3:6-10, 16-18
Ps 128:1-2, 4-5 Mt 23:27-32

Thursday: 1Cor 1:1-9 Ps 145:2-7
Mt 24:42-51

Friday: 1Cor 1:17-25 Ps 33:1-2,4-5,
10-11 Mk 6:17-29

Saturday: 1Cor 1:26-31 Ps 33:12-13,
18-21 Mt 25:14-30

CATEQUIZ'EM

By Dominic Camplisson

In August the church remembers St. (Santa) Monica. As a saint and a mother she might have had no peer, but here in California she is a pier, or at least had one named for her. In this quiz we peer into the Catholic trappings of these wooden and concrete promontories.

1. In what city is Santa Monica Pier?

- a. Santa Monica, of course b. Los Angeles (part of the port district)
c. San Pedro (Harbor jurisdiction)

2. This hyphenated northern California pier has a plaque which commemorates a visit by the Spanish explorer DeAnza. Part of its name however reminds us of the diocese of Peter, before he became Bishop of Rome

- a. D'Anza-Bodega Cove Pier
b. Antioch-Oakley Regional Shoreline Pier
c. Alexandria-Dublin Pier

3. This far northern California pier's name reminds us not of the Catholic Crusaders' emblem, but that of their Muslim foes:

- a. Crescent City Pier b. Swastika Pier c. YinYang Pier of China Town

4. Despite Cabrillo's association with San Diego, the Cabrillo Pier actually is situated in this harbor, named for the first pope:

- a. Papa Bay b. Roma Ponto Bay c. San Pedro Harbor

5. Although the Avila Beach Pier is often missed by tourists zooming by on Highway 101, it is well known locally and sits near this town and bay named for a bishop

- a. San Luis Obispo b. Juan Bischoff De Avila c. Bishop Berkeley

6. Goleta, which reportedly means small boat, is a pier in an area bordering this national forest, appropriately named for an area which was settled in part by the "fathers" of the Franciscan missions

- a. Los Monkoes b. Los Catolicos National Forest
c. Los Padres National Forest

7. Berkeley Pier has a connection to a bishop, but not a Spanish one. Bishop Berkeley was actually a Bishop in

- a. The Church of Ireland (Protestant) b. Rome
c. The Orthodox Church in America

8. Redondo Beach marks a spot formerly occupied by Tongva Indians. They were renamed Gabriellino because they were converted to Catholicism (and organized in a Mission) by the Padres of

- a. The Army of Archangel Gabriel
b. Gabriel Marcos De Francia
c. Mission San Gabriel

9. The Oceanside Pier, like the Redondo Beach Pier, is in an area directly affected by the arrival of the Franciscan Padres. In this case they were based in this mission, which still serves the Oceanside area:

- a. San Luis Obispo b. San Luis Rey (de Francia) c. San Luis del Surfo

10. San Clemente Pier, the city of San Clemente, and the San Clemente islands are all in southern California. Why this common name?

- a. It was a rule that The Spanish adopted of Clemency for the Indians
b. Spanish explorer Sebastian Vizcaino landed on St Clemente on Nov. 25, and St. Clement's feast was Nov. 23.
c. It was derived from the Spanish version of "My Darling Clementine"

11. The California pier reputed to be the longest at 4,135 feet was named for an area named for this writer of the first Gospel listed in the New Testament:

- a. San Mateo b. San Marcos c. San Lucas

12. Splendidly named Elephant Rock Pier is located on the scarily named Point Tiburon (Shark). Across the strait from this island — which should conjure up more relaxing pictures of Seraphim and Cherubim:

- a. Isla de los Diablos b. The Heavenly Host Hacienda
c. Angel Island

13. This pier is in the California version of the city which was a jumping off point for Crusaders and boasts St. Mark's Square and St. Mark's Basilica (Basilica San Marco)

- a. San Marcos Pier b. Venice Pier c. Doge Pier

14. This pier is in a city simply named after the Holy Cross

- a. Arbelo de Cristo b. Vera Cruz c. Santa Cruz

15. It is not hard to figure out which pier was in an area named by Spanish explorer Bodega on Trinity Sunday (June 9) 1775.

- a. Bodega Bay Pier b. Trinidad Pier c. Junio Domingo Pier

ANSWERS:

- 1.a, 2.b, 3.a, 4.c, 5.a, 6.c, 7.a, 8.c, 9.b, 10.b, 11.a, 12.c, 13.b, 14.c, 15.b

God does not hold us to the impossible

I live in South Bend, and I am a parish member of St. Matthew's Cathedral there. I live with my parents now — due to the fact that I'm a wheelchair user on Social Security Disability — but will have to move. The apartment complex is somewhat close to another parish; but I don't drive and the area is somewhat lacking in sidewalks and on a busy street. I have family members who can take me to church for the moment. But, once that is no longer the case, would it be a sin to miss Mass and just watch the TV Mass and have extraordinary ministers bring me Communion even though I am not technically a shut-in, if I can't find a fellow tenant who is both Catholic and able to take me to Mass at the parish they belong to? Anonymous

For sure, the obligation to attend Sunday Mass is a serious one for Catholics. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: "The Sunday Eucharist is the foundation and confirmation of

all Christian practice. For this reason the faithful are obliged to participate in the Eucharist on days of obligation, unless excused for a serious reason (for example, illness, the care of infants) or dispensed by their own pastor. Those who deliberately fail in this obligation commit a grave sin."

So, again, on the one hand, our obligation to Sunday Mass is a serious one, but on the other hand, God does not hold us to the impossible. If your physical situation makes it so that it is truly impossible for you to go to Mass, you are excused. There would be no sin here whatsoever, and your pious practice of watching the TV Mass on those occasions when it is impossible for you to go to Mass will truly be a blessed time.

THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION

Why do annulments of Protestant marriages take far less time to grant than annulments of Catholic marriages? Anonymous, Fort Wayne

Actually, this is not true. All annulments, whether the parties are Catholic or Protestant, follow the same procedures. The lengths of individual cases may vary because of the unique circumstances and requirements of each case, but this has nothing to do with the religion of the parties.

Father Mark Gurtner, pastor of Our Lady of Good Hope, Fort Wayne answered this week's questions.

Be an 'example family'

I have been blessed over the years to observe some fantastic families in action — families who are close, loving and holy. I'm sure you've seen some too.

These are the families who genuinely seem to enjoy being with one another. The older kids help take care of the younger ones. The youngsters talk and laugh comfortably with their parents and other adults as well as their own peer group. The older kids have an air of quiet confidence and peace about them. They don't seem to be affected by every new fad that blows through the community. The younger kids are polite and respectful, too. They are active (they are kids after all) but they seem to obey and esteem their parents more than other children do. How do they do it?

I'm no psychologist, but in talking and picking the brains of the parents of happy, successful, what I call "example families," certain truths become evident.

Here's what I've observed: "Example families" teach obedience at an early age. These parents know that if you want to have a respectful 18-year-old, you must start training for this in toddlerhood. Parents of "example families" expect that their children are capable, and that as young as ages 2 or 3, children can learn simple directives such as to come when called, pick up one's toys when asked and wait one's turn in speech.

Parents don't bark orders but, rather, teach obedience in love. They explain to their children that everyone has to follow certain rules — the Ten Commandments, the precepts of the church, laws and regulations in one's city, state and country. By explaining that they too are subject to obedience, they demonstrate the necessity of it in their children.

However, they are not afraid to just say 'no' when necessary. "Example families" know that teaching obedience in childhood lays the groundwork for a law-



EVERYDAY CATHOLIC

Theresa A. Thomas

abiding adulthood. They know that training obedience provides a strong foundation for other virtues to grow.

"Example families" teach the children to respect one another in speech and in action. They don't allow sarcasm, degrading comments or under-the-breath murmurs in the home. If the younger children are playing in a room and the older ones want to do something in there too, those families don't allow the older ones to kick the younger ones out, or tease, or disrespect their toys.

In the same way, little ones learn to respect the older one's and their possessions. Young children are not allowed to go through their older brother's and sister's rooms, closets or purses.

All learn not to interrupt one another, unless there is an emergency.

Parents in "example families" give their full attention when talking to their offspring. They look into their child's eyes when they are speaking or listening. "Example families" realize that creating loving boundaries and really listening to their children fosters respect and appreciation.

"Example families" eat at least one meal together daily. Dinner makes the most sense for most families, but it doesn't have to be that meal that is shared. They eat with the television off and at approximately the same time each night. The meal is not rushed and, ideally, it is home cooked. Conversations flow and the meal becomes a bonding experience.

"Example families" are positive and encouraging. They give confidence to one another with uplifting remarks. "Way to go!" "Nice job!" and "I'm proud of you" are sen-

tences frequently heard in "example families."

Parents encourage their children in spiritual, academic, social and athletic endeavors and promote good sportsmanship, hard work and determination. "Example families" are supportive during losses and challenges. They separate a failure from the person and build one another up again and again.

"Example families" pray together. They attend Mass together and pray daily together, whether it be a rosary before bedtime or a Morning Offering in the morning before each departs his own way.

Parents in "example families" set monthly confession dates, discuss spiritual thoughts and issues regularly, and provide good catechesis for their offspring. They realize they are the primary educators of their children and take seriously the responsibilities that entails.

"Example families" work together for the good of the family and reserve time for just their families. They all have chores, which benefit the running of the household.

They set aside Sunday as a day of worship and visiting. Often, they do service projects together, whether it be working on a Habitat for Humanity house or serving the poor. Children in those families learn quickly that it is truly better to give than to receive and to become enthusiastic servants of Christ for life.

Each family possesses unique spiritual and corporal gifts based on the individuals within. However, every family has the ability — and the call — to be an "example family."

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

By Patricia Kasten

Gospel for August 24, 2008

Matthew 16:13-20

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A: the commissioning of Peter. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

JESUS	PHILIPPI	BAPTIST
ELIJAH	JEREMIAH	PROPHETS
SIMON PETER	LIVING GOD	FLESH
BLOOD	REVEALED	ON THIS ROCK
BUILD	MY CHURCH	GATES
KEYS	KINGDOM	ON EARTH
BOUND	LOOSED	ORDERED

KEYS GIVEN

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

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LETTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

qualify for Healthy NY, an insurance program for small businesses and workers whose jobs don't offer insurance, but services for her cancer might not be covered for a year.

"If I wait a year, I might not be around," the 50-year-old Salerno told the *Catholic Courier*, diocesan newspaper in Rochester, N.Y.

The Catholic Health Association, whose member hospitals and other health care institutions often serve as a safety net for the poor and uninsured, has offered its own "Vision for U.S. Health Care," against which any health reform plan can be measured.

Any proposal in line with Catholic social teaching must be available and accessible to everyone; health- and prevention-oriented; sufficiently and fairly financed; transparent and consensus-driven; cost-effective; patient-centered; designed to address health needs at all stages of life; and safe, effective and high-quality, the vision document says.

"None of the reform plans as they currently stand meet our principles for reform," said Lisa Smith, senior director for government relations at the Catholic Health Association in Washington. "I'm not saying the plans can't get there, but they're not there yet."

Both the McCain and Obama plans are currently "in outline form," with "not enough details to know it will make a substantial

difference" in reducing the number of uninsured Americans from the current 47 million. "We'll just have to wait and see," she told Catholic News Service Aug. 14.

Clarke E. Cochran, co-author of "The Catholic Vote: A Guide for the Perplexed," recently published by Orbis Books, said neither Obama's nor McCain's plan fully meets the criteria set by "Faithful Citizenship" and the CHA vision document for health care reform.

The Obama proposal is more in line with the bishops' focus on the needs of the poor, uninsured and vulnerable populations and their call to strengthen Medicaid and Medicare, Cochran told CNS in an Aug. 14 telephone interview. But it is "unlikely that any Obama plan would have any protection for the unborn," he added.

Cochran, a former political science professor at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas, now works as vice president for mission integration at Covenant Health System in Lubbock. He emphasized, however, that he was not speaking as a Covenant representative.

Although both candidates "pay lip service to cost containment," Cochran said, neither addresses the underlying reasons for rising costs or has an effective plan to curb them. Both plans also are silent on health coverage for immigrants in the country illegally and on conscience protections, he added.

Contributing to this story was Amy Kotlarz in Rochester.

Sports

COUGARS NO. 4 IN NAIA FOOTBALL PRESEASON TOP 25 For the fifth time in the last five years, the University of Saint Francis will open the season in the top 5 of the NAIA Preseason Football Top 5 with a No. 4 berth heading into the Cougars' 11th season. This is the 104th consecutive NAIA rating that USF has been in the Top 25. NAIA compiles the voting from regional coaches to determine its Top 25 teams. USF opens its 11th football season on Sept. 6 against Trinity International University at noon at Bishop D'Arcy Stadium.

THE VIEW FROM BEIJING



CNS PHOTO/DYLAN MARTI NEZ, REUTERS

USAIN BOLT OF JAMAICA WINS 100-METER FINAL AT OLYMPICS

Usain Bolt of Jamaica, right, runs past Richard Thompson of Trinidad and Tobago to win the men's 100-meter final of the track competition at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing Aug. 16. Bolt set a world record of 9.69 seconds in the race.



CNS PHOTO/DYLAN MARTINEZ, REUTERS

SHAWN JOHNSON OF THE U.S. CONSOLES TEAMMATE ALICIA SACRAMONE AT OLYMPICS

Shawn Johnson of the U.S., right, consoles teammate Alicia Sacramone after the final results in the women's team gymnastics final at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing Aug. 13.

LOPEZ LOMONG AND OTHER RUNNERS COMPETE AT OLYMPICS

Lopez Lomong, left, of the U.S., Abdalaati Iguider of Morocco, Juan van Deventer of South Africa and Arturo Casado of Spain run during a heat of the men's 1,500-meter competition at the Olympics in Beijing Aug. 15. Lomong, a Catholic and former Sudanese refugee, was resettled in the U.S. in 2001 with the aid of the Catholic Church.



CNS PHOTO/HANS DERYK, REUTERS

Gator Gallop winners announced

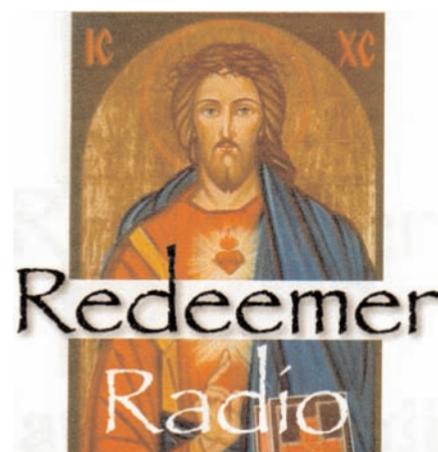
YODER — Winners of the St. Aloysius Summerfest Gator Gallop 5k run held Saturday, Aug. 9, have been announced. The winners include the following:

- Overall female open: Linda Keuneke, Kayla Sweet and Kelsey Worrel;
- Overall female masters: Teri Huffman;
- Female 14 and under: Kaitlyn Best, Maggie Rost, Valerie Stein, Sara Muncey and Anya Martell;
- Female 15-19: Adriene Troxel, Morgan Carroll and Alexis Searles;
- Female 30-39: Kelly Kelly, Elissa McGauley, Heather Drenstedt and Sarah Stein;
- Female 40-49: Ursula Storbeck, Jean Blankenship, Molly Obrian-Adams, Libby Nowak, Heather Hoffman, Stephanie Happeard, Babs Sullivan, Betty Greider, Karin-Faith Martell and Michelle Caudill;
- Female 50-59: Pamela Wolfe, Barb Goes, Sharon Eichman, Barb Meadows and Colleen Muncey;
- Female 60 and over: Julie Ware;

- Overall male open: Ron Sharp, Ricky Masters and John Schnieders ;
- Overall male masters: Jerry Williams, Jr.;
- Men 14 and under: Joshua Ware, Adam Bernhard, Justin Fuelling, Tyler Johnson, Christopher Meyer, Chris Caudill, Hugo Rost, Gabriel Stein, Timothy Stein, Nathaniel Rost, Jonathan Martell, Daniel Martell and Charles Stein;
- Men 15 to 19: Cameron Miser, Galen Harden, Matt Schall, James Wyss, Jacob Ware, Joe Baxter, Daniel Eckert and David Rodenbeck;
- Men 30 to 39: Jason House, Tom Hare, Greg Glasper, Chad Lindsey, John Drenstedt, Mark Asheley and Timothy Stein;
- Men 40 to 49: Gary Williams, Steve Chandler, Jim Christie, John Adams, Kevin Huffman, Brent Wadkins, Rick Knuth, John McGauley and Darrell Caudill;
- Men 50 to 59: Ed Reinhard, Chuck Brown, Mike Stein, Steven Greider, Gary L Bird, Tom Goes, Frederick Rost and Tim Sullivan

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Book weaves readers through the Fatima story

REVIEWED BY YORK YOUNG

There are several Catholic topics that get plenty of attention in Catholic circles yet can be confusing when the facts are not clearly explained or understood. Some of these include points of liturgy, how annulments are obtained and how to interpret the Bible.

But it is unlikely that any single topic has been discussed, debated and deconstructed more over the last 50 years than what the apparition of Our Lady of Fátima meant. And with Pope John Paul II's belief that Our Lady of Fátima directly interceded for him during his most trying hour on earth, the debate has raged even more hotly over the last 25 years.

First, a little background: The Blessed Mother allegedly appeared to three poor children in Portugal in 1917. The Catholic Church has approved the apparitions as authentically occurring, yet believing Mary has appeared in any apparitions is not a matter of faith, according to the church. If you, as an individual, don't believe in an apparition, that is OK. Therefore, that leads to one

major round of debates — between devotees of an apparition and non-devotees.

Now, throw in the three secrets that Mary is said to have imparted to the three young seers at Fátima — Jacinta, Francisco and Lucia — and the debate intensifies. The first secret was a vision of hell, which Sister Lucia, who, when she grew up, became a religious — Jacinta and Francisco, siblings, died within a few years of the apparitions — wrote about in 1941. During that vision, Our Lady talked about the importance of the consecration of Russia to her Immaculate Heart, which became a matter of debate as well later.

The second part of the secret referred to the war. Lucia wrote of Mary's words: "The war is going to end." This refers to the 1914-1918 war. "But if people do not cease offending God, a worse one will break out during the pontificate of Pius XI."

The third part of the secret is where it gets tricky, but much explanation is available in "The Last Secret of Fátima" (Doubleday, \$21.95), an extended interview with Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, who is now Secretary of State for the Holy See. Cardinal

Bertone met with Sister Lucia three times in the last years of her life — she lived to be 95 — and here reveals much of how the church views the apparitions and the secrets attending the messages the seers received so many years ago.

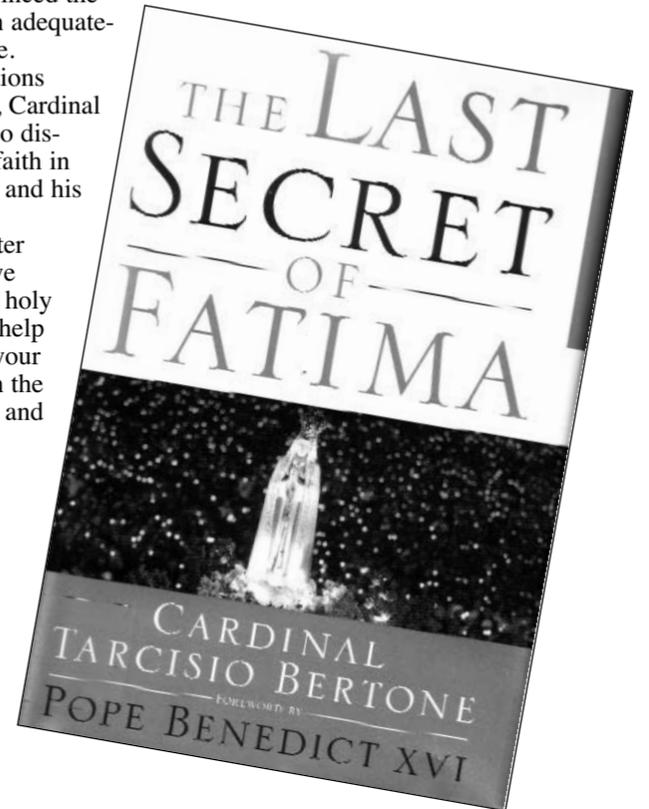
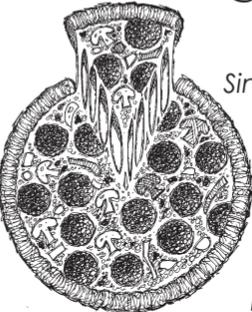
But back to the third secret: Sister Lucia wrote in 1944 about a bishop dressed in white; "we had the impressions that it was the Holy Father ... the Holy Father passed through a big city half in ruins and half trembling with halting step, afflicted with pain and sorrow, he prayed for the souls of the corpses he met on his way; having reached the top of the mountain, on his knees at the foot of the big cross he was killed by a group of soldiers who fired bullets and arrows at him."

On May 13, 1981, the anniversary of Mary's first appearance at Fátima, Pope John Paul was shot by Ali Agca in St. Peter's Square. Many now forget how serious were his wounds. He was in the hospital for months. The Polish pope looked at his recovery and survival as a gift from Our Lady of Fátima, claiming that it was her hand stayed the bullet from striking the death blow.

Today, many want to continue

to debate whether the third secret has really been revealed — others, sometimes the same people, claim that Russia was never consecrated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Pope Benedict XVI is convinced the consecration adequately took place.

If apparitions interest you, Cardinal Bertone, who displays great faith in Jesus Christ and his church, and believes Sister Lucia to have been a most holy person, can help you weave your way through the many twists and turns of this story.

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

MISC. HAPPENINGS

Support group offered for widows

FORT WAYNE — Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home will offer a new support group for women who have lost their spouses this fall. This group will support widows in any stage of grief and will meet the first and third Thursdays of each month, beginning on Sept. 4. The meetings will be from 7-8:30 p.m. in the large conference room at Hospice Home, located at 5910 Homestead Rd. Kay Cozad, certified grief specialist, will facilitate the group. For more information call (260) 435-3222.

All family rosary

Fort Wayne — The all family rosary will be recited Sunday, Aug. 31, at MacDougal Chapel from 3:30-4:30 p.m. The intention is for all families. Attending will be Father Francis Chukwuma, Cathedral of Immaculate Conception and Sister Jane Carew, director of diocesan Office of Catechesis. Everyone is welcome.

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 Visitation — Legion style," a religious play with audience participation, games for the kids, birthday cake and ice cream for all. RSVP to Connie Acierio at (260) 486-1001.

Day of Reflection

Mishawaka — A Day of Reflection will be held at St. Francis Convent (across from Marian High School) on Wednesday, Sept. 10, from 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. The theme for the day is "Meeting Mystery." Please bring your Bible. The cost is \$15 and includes lunch. Register by Friday, Sept. 5, to Sister Barbara Anne Hallman at (574) 259-5427.

John Michael Talbot in concert

South Bend — Christian musician 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.

Boy Scout classes offered

Fort Wayne — Ad Altare Dei religious emblem classes for Boy Scouts in grade 8 or higher will be offered by Troop 300 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish. Class dates will be the second and fourth Sundays from 2-4 p.m. in the Scout room at the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Education Building, beginning Sept. 12. All Boy Scouts are welcome. Cost is \$5.99 for the required book. Please call Theresa Dirig at (260) 436-3191 to register.

St. Joseph mission planned

Garrett — St. Joseph Parish will have a parish mission "Bind Us Together Lord" Sept. 14-18 at 7 p.m. each night at the church. Speakers include: Father Paul Bueter on faith; Sister Marilyn

Ellert on prayer; Marilyn Fech on service; Father Jason Frieburger on mercy and Bishop D'Arcy on the Eucharist. The morning presentation will be at 9:45 a.m. Sept. 15-18.

FUNDRAISERS

Rummage sale

Fort Wayne — St. Henry's Community Center, 3029 E. Paulding Rd., is collecting items for a rummage sale to be held Sept. 12-13. Proceeds will benefit the community center. Call Elaine Bakle at (260) 447-5121 ext. 124 to drop off your items or if your items are too big, we will pick them up.

Saints Alive! plans Texas Hold 'em tournament

Fort Wayne — The Bishop Dwenger Saints Alive! office will have a Texas Hold 'Em tournament Saturday, Sept. 13, at 2:30 p.m. at the school. Entry fee \$80 and includes ND football on a large screen TV and food and drinks. Call (260) 496-4801 or visit bishopdwenger.com to register.

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 x 3139 or e-mail sshank@bish-opluers.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

REST IN PEACE

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Decatur

Chase Michael Imel, 8 weeks, St. Mary of the Assumption

Elkhart

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Rexie S. Jernigan, 55, St. Jude

Patrick James Reynolds II, 86, St. Vincent de Paul

Arthur Harris, 76, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Kay F. Tharpe, 50, St. Vincent de Paul

Kenneth L. Minnick, 79, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel

Elaine M. Kreitzer, 58, Most Precious Blood

Sister Laura Banet, PHJC, 81, St. John the Baptist

Harry William Hofer, 82, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel

Ann V. Oxley, St. John the Baptist

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Mildred M. Lippincott, 69, St. John the Evangelist

Huntington

Sister Agnes Ganse, OLVN, 94, Victory Noll Chapel

Notre Dame

John V. Rockne, 82, Basilica of the Sacred Heart

James R. Tremel, 60, Basilica of the Sacred Heart

South Bend

Henry F. Ganus, 83, St. Adalbert

Clementine J. Matuszak, 92, St. Adalbert

Helen M. Brahle, 94, St. Anthony de Padua
Rita A. Gorski, 77, Holy Family

Margaret Jean Walsh, 88, St. Joseph

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 4:30 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.

Craft fair spaces available

Fort Wayne — St. Charles Parish has space available for its Nov. 1 craft fair of over 130 tables of hand-made items. Cost is \$40 per space. Call (260) 749-6077 for application.

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Seattle man nearing death opposes state's assisted suicide initiative

BY KEVIN BIRNBAUM

SEATTLE (CNS) — John Peyton doesn't have long to live. Earlier this summer, his doctor gave him three to six months.

The 64-year-old retired computer programmer has an unusually aggressive form of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS, commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease. In the months since last November when he first had trouble lifting a hammer over his head, he has gone from healthy and active to completely paralyzed, struggling to breathe with a ventilator.

The disease has made him totally dependent on his wife of 40 years, Patricia. She dresses him, feeds him, even shifts his body in the living room recliner where he now spends his days.

Peyton's once-strong voice is fading fast; soon it will go altogether. But while he still has it, Peyton is using it to proclaim the intrinsic value and sanctity of every human life at every stage, in every condition. He has spent his final months opposing Initiative 1000, called the Death With Dignity Act, which will be on the Nov. 4 ballot in Washington state. If passed, it would legalize physician-assisted suicide.

In recent media interviews Peyton has shared the message that every life is precious. It's a message he believes is fundamentally at odds with the November ballot measure.



CNS PHOTO/MIKE PENNEY

John Peyton and his wife, Patricia, are surrounded by family members at their home in Seattle July 19. John, 64, has become paralyzed by an unusually aggressive form of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS, commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease. He has spent time in his final months lobbying against Washington state's assisted suicide initiative. Peyton said society needs to extend true compassion to the dying.

"This Initiative 1000 is just the first step in putting into law the lie that there is such a thing as a life not worth living," he said, explaining how he fears where the provision will lead his home state if voters approve it.

Peyton is a veteran of the pro-life cause, tracing his involvement to the early 1970s when Washington state legalized abortion before Roe v. Wade made it to the U.S. Supreme Court. The issue spurred the Peytons, then living in

Ohio, to get involved with Birthright International, an organization that aids women in crisis pregnancies.

Through Birthright, the Peyton family welcomed several expectant mothers into their home. The family felt if they were going to oppose abortion, they had to do something to help. It was simply a matter of "putting your money where your mouth is," Patricia Peyton said.

When the family returned to

Washington in 1977, Peyton joined the speakers bureau of Human Life of Washington and began giving talks on pro-life issues at schools, churches and club meetings. He also served as the state pro-life chairman for the Knights of Columbus when, in 1991, Washington's first assisted-suicide ballot measure was defeated.

Being what some would consider a perfect candidate for physician-assisted suicide hasn't changed Peyton's stand on the issue. If anything, it has strengthened it.

Peyton acknowledged that he is "exceedingly fortunate" to have the loving support of his wife, his six grown daughters and their families, his friends and neighbors and his home parish, St. Paul in Seattle. But what about those suffering with terminal illnesses who are not so fortunate? Rather than tempting them to commit suicide, Peyton would rather see society extend true compassion to the dying.

"So much can be done to help people who are helpless," he told *The Catholic Northwest Progress*, Seattle's archdiocesan newspaper. "We could, as a society, be far more compassionate. We've become so accustomed to luxury.

"We've become so materialistic in some respects. We've become so selfish. ... You can't legislate compassionate care, but that's what's going to be needed," he said.

Though Initiative 1000 is pre-

sented in terms such as "compassion" and "dignity," the Peytons find such wording deceptive. "I feel that I'm helping my husband have death with dignity by keeping his dignity and helping him in any way I can," Patricia Peyton said.

The Peytons have been able to deal with John's impending death largely because of their Catholic faith, which he called "the fundamental and essential part of our lives." But it does not mean they have not had their share of tears in recent months.

"Well, I'm disappointed, there's no denying that," said Peyton, who had hoped to have many years to enjoy retirement with his wife. "But I don't feel any anger or bitterness. I don't feel cheated of anything.

"I've told people that if this is what God demands of me to improve my chances of living with him in the hereafter, mine is a pretty poor negotiating position," he said.

So, after more than 30 years of speaking about life issues, Peyton's voice is giving out. He is prepared to leave this life with trust in God's mercy, though he will leave behind much unfinished work.

"I've just about said the last pro-life thing that I'm going to be able to say," he gasped at the end of a long interview. A single tear ran down his cheek, but his eyes burned with urgency and intensity. "It's up to you guys now. Take it up. May God go with you."

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Beginning Polish Made Easy

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(no class October 22)
6:00 - 8:00 pm
Fee: \$99 + book

Advanced Beginning Polish

8 Tuesdays Sept 16 - Nov 11
(no class October 21)
6:00 - 8:00 pm
Fee: \$99 + book

Languages

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6:00 - 8:00 PM \$99 + book

Conversational Italian

8 Thursdays: Sep 11 - Oct 30
6:00 - 8:00 PM \$99 + book

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and Holistic Health

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