

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Bishop D'Arcy blesses St. Pius X Education Center

Educational center shows
'tremendous expression
of people's faith'

BY JOE KOZINSKI

GRANGER — A story is being written by St. Pius X Parish, not a tale of countless meetings, continuous stewardship or even the strategic placing of bricks on mortar that make up the new education center.

When Bishop John M. D'Arcy blessed the building Sunday, Aug. 24, he was writing the introduction to a novel that will be chronicled in crayon, pencil, pen and the wonders that education will blossom into for decades yet to be imagined.

"A Catholic education is important to restoring the soul of a nation," explained Bishop D'Arcy. "Here is a place where the young will learn about their Catholic faith and the old will grow in faith and spread Jesus Christ's word."

"The words of Christ will echo through these walls," Bishop D'Arcy said. "St. Pius Parish has provided a place to teach Jesus' words for not only their current parishioners but for children that have yet to be born."

"Pope Benedict XVI states that no child should be denied an education in faith," continued Bishop D'Arcy. "Something very wonderful has been done here, it's only the beginning."

St. Pius pastor, Father Bill Schooler, has been involved since the first thoughts, the first meetings, the first fundraising drive, the first turn of a shovel of dirt and will see the first students walk the hallways.

"Everybody around here is very excited and also very scared," said Father Schooler. "The education center enables us to serve the needs of our growing

ST. PIUS, PAGE 20



JOE KOZINSKI

The St. Pius X Education Center was dedicated and blessed on Sunday, Aug. 24. Bishop John M. D'Arcy is shown at the dedication ceremony while Carol Flory, assistant director of music and liturgy, leads a hymn of praise.

DINNER LAUNCHES ANNUAL BISHOP'S APPEAL



TIM JOHNSON

Steve and Rita King of St. Peter Parish in Fort Wayne look over the Annual Bishop's Appeal materials. The appeal was launched with the annual dinner Aug. 19 at the Grand Wayne Center in Fort Wayne.

Tough economy calls for renewed solidarity for Labor Day

BY NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Invoking the spirit of the late labor priest Msgr. George Higgins, the chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development said Americans must "move beyond hand-wringing and negative assessments" of tough economic times to a renewed commitment to Catholic principles of subsidiarity and global solidarity.

In a statement released Aug. 18 for Labor Day, observed Sept. 1 this year, Bishop William F. Murphy of Rockville Centre, N.Y., praised Msgr. Higgins for his "extraordinary ability to measure the large economic issues by their impact on the average working man and woman."

Msgr. Higgins, who died in 2002, wrote the annual Labor Day statement on behalf of

the U.S. bishops for many decades.

"Monsignor would have been harsh in his judgment about the greed and irresponsibility that led to the mortgage foreclosure crisis," Bishop Murphy wrote. "He would have had some caustic comments on the price of gas for the working person and its impact on family life."

"He would have kept a keen eye on the cost of living and its effect on family budgets, on the real value of current wages to buy necessities" he continued, "and on the challenges to our economy to diversify without losing sight of its traditional strengths and opportunities."

But ultimately Msgr. Higgins would have reasserted "his faith in a nation and a people whose creative energies and productive

LABOR, PAGE 4



50 years of success

Bishop Luers celebrates
academics, athletics, arts

PAGES 10-12

Novena leading up to election

Catholics encouraged to pray

PAGE 3

Celebrating diversity

St. John staff, families
attend workshop

PAGE 5

Holy Cross ordinations

Bishop D'Arcy to ordain
three to diaconate

PAGE 7

Gridiron fever

ICCL and CYO football previews

PAGE 18



Think Green
Recycle this paper

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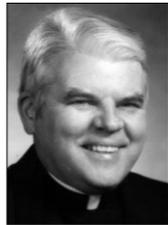
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We all have a responsibility to teach the faith in all its beauty



NEWS & NOTES

BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

"Ora Et Labora"

With these two words, which as you know mean prayer and work, I greeted Father Bernard Ramenaden, OSB, in the parking lot of the church of St. Gaspar Del Bufalo, at Rome City, Indiana. The Missionaries of the Most Precious Blood, a congregation which has been devoted to evangelization and pastoral care in this diocese for over 100 years in two of our parishes, has left because of their own lack of priest personnel and the need to regroup. Father Ramenaden is a Benedictine priest, the brother of Father Ronald Ramenaden, pastor of St. Robert Bellarmine Church, North Manchester. He has served for several years as an associate pastor at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Fort Wayne. We are blessed to have his presence, and hope he can stay awhile. He serves here with the approval of his Benedictine superiors. "Ora Et Labora" — "prayer and work," were and remain basic to the Benedictine way of life.

The people in Rome City, which celebrated its 50th anniversary this year, told me that Father Bernard has been a blessing for them. Also, a large number of parishioners from Elizabeth Ann Seton, where he was highly regarded, came to join us.

It was a joy to celebrate this Mass and officially install him as pastor in this lovely rural parish. It was my second visit there this year; as I had attended, also, for their jubilee Mass.

Alas, I noted that Bishop's Island, which is in Rome City, has been sold. Purchased by Bishop Alerding, an early bishop here, it was the summer residence and office of Archbishop Noll. I do not think I could ever spend a summer on an island with people bringing out the mail every day. That was a different time. The office of bishop, in light of the Second Vatican Council, and in the International Synod of the year 2000, has undergone a basic reform. That council was a renewal of the episcopal office, and called the bishop to be closer to Christ in prayer, and closer, also, to the people. May it be so.

A historic moment

Those are the words that came to my mind this past Sunday as I blessed the new education center at St. Pius X. It will be known as St. Pius X School, and rightly so. But the vision of the parish, strengthened by the pastor, sees it as an education center, a place of learning for all. In my homily, I made clear that the Catholic Church has always treasured learning. St. Augustine: "I believe so I understand, and I understand so I may believe." Some have said that we had a whole generation that was not properly instructed, and there is truth to this.

Now, however, we have the great docu-

ments of Pope John Paul, II. The Catechism of the Catholic Church, Catechesi Tradendae, along with the new adult catechism available in Spanish and English, and a directory to give guidance. All of these give us the instruments to teach our people the faith. A great catechetical renewal has begun and gives all of us a responsibility to teach the faith in all its beauty.

Assaults from the culture

As always, faith is challenged; one could even say under assault. More and more, the culture holds that marriage is no longer between one man and one woman, that children can be adopted into same-sex marriages. The church is attacked for its position in defense of life, including its opposition to attacks on life, and its refusal to support embryonic stem-cell research.

All of these positions are based on truth. The truth revealed by God in the Scriptures is the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and protected and preserved by church teaching.

Explaining it and teaching it is not easy. It requires research and careful listening, and the answers should not be superficial. More and more, young people are open to these answers; but they must be well presented.

In my homily, I made clear that the Catholic Church has always treasured learning. St. Augustine: "I believe so I understand, and I understand so I may believe." Some have said that we had a whole generation that was not properly instructed, and there is truth to this.

It is a great tragedy that I have seen in pastoral life, that you can have young people growing in their area of study and research; such as, literature or science or business or art, and yet they have not been exposed to the richness of the Catholic tradition. The church's part in learning — and her position concerning the relationship between faith and reason is most beautifully expressed in the words of Pope John Paul, II:

"Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth; and God has placed in the human heart a desire to know the truth — in a word, to know himself — so that, by knowing and loving God, men and women may also come to the fullness of truth about themselves."

— Pope John Paul II, "Fides Et Ratio"

Catholic identity

So it was a pleasure to walk through the school before the official blessing with Father Bill Schooler. Above everything else, I was struck by the Catholic identity. Each classroom is named after a saint, and there is a small, but beautiful symbol of each saint on the door. I noticed St. Mary Magdalene, St. Thomas More and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. I was told that there will be a statue of St. Pius X, the patron of the parish, and there will be a picture of

him walking to school carrying his shoes over his shoulders to protect the leather in his soles. (It reminded me of my dear mother, who told me she would walk over the hills to her parish church for Sunday Mass carrying her shoes, and then put them on before going into Mass. My ancestors knew poverty.)

We had Mass under a huge tent on a beautiful Sunday morning, with about 1,400 attending.

We should not underestimate the importance of this school. Many people arriving in Granger over the years from around the country wondered why we did not have a school in the growing suburb. Now we have it, and it will be a blessing and historic day at St. Pius X Parish, Granger. It took a tremendous effort by pastor and flock, and it represents a great blessing on our diocese.

A Guatemalan community

I received an invitation a few days ahead for a meeting of the Guatemalan community. It came from my good friend, Maribel Palma. There are a large number of Guatemalans in the Fort Wayne area. I did not fully understand the purpose of the meeting, but I had an instinct that it was important. We think of a large number of Mexican Catholics in our two major cities in many of the smaller parishes, but they are present also from other Latin countries. In Fort Wayne, the Guatemalan community, mostly all Catholic, attend St. Joseph Parish, where they receive excellent pastoral care from Father Tim Wrozek.

Some are documented, many are not. It is our obligation to give them pastoral care. Indeed, it is a privilege. My good friend, Professor Max Montesino, of IPFW, was there. There was discussion of the problems that many of them had experienced in a relationship to local authorities. I was quite impressed with the sincerity of the public officials and the desire of Mayor Tom Henry and Sheriff Ken Fries to treat everyone with dignity and respect while also upholding the law of the land, as they must do.

I also learned a great deal about the sufferings of these good people, and I was rewarded with a Guatemalan meal of steak, rice and beans for lunch, which I took with me to my home.

As I write, I look forward to the dedication of some new properties at Bishop Luers High School and the celebration of their 50th anniversary. I will also ordain three deacons to the Congregation of Holy Cross and receive officially into candidacy, 11 men preparing for the permanent diaconate of our diocese. Red Sox are hanging tough, despite injuries to the pitching staff. We should not be too greedy after winning twice in four years. But how about those Cubs? Surely this is the year for the North Siders. After all, anyone can have a bad century.

Congratulations to Father Bob Traub — it is his 95th birthday. He is now our senior priest and going strong.

See you all next week.

Bishop expects 200,000 pilgrims to attend papal Mass at Lourdes

LOURDES, France (CNS) — At least 200,000 pilgrims are expected to attend the Mass celebrated by Pope Benedict XVI during his September visit to the Sanctuaries of Our Lady of Lourdes, said the local bishop.

Bishop Jacques Perrier of Tarbes and Lourdes said: "We will be outside the holiday period, so there'll probably be fewer pilgrims from the central Paris area. We are expecting 200,000 people for the main Mass, but one is always in for surprises when popes come to France."

He added that each day of the papal visit Sept. 13-15 will be different — "at first international, then for young people, and then for the sick."

The bishop told France's *Le Monde* daily Aug. 17 that the visit would be "totally different" from the 2004 pilgrimage to Lourdes by Pope John Paul II, who was "already very sick." Public access to Lourdes would be less restricted for those wishing to see the pontiff, he said.

"This visit will help rediscover the original intuition of Lourdes: closeness to the excluded and solidarity within the Christian family," he said.

Pope Benedict will visit Lourdes as part of a four-day pilgrimage to France, beginning Sept. 12. The trip will include the Sept. 14 Mass in Lourdes as well

as meetings with non-Catholic religious leaders and French culture representatives in Paris.

Besides praying at the Marian grotto where St. Bernadette Soubirous saw an apparition of Mary while gathering firewood 150 years ago, the pope will follow the path commemorating St. Bernadette's life.

Writing in the Aug. 19 French edition of the Vatican newspaper *L'Osservatore Romano*, Bishop Perrier said the French public had viewed the pope at his 2005 election as "a rigid man, inflexible theoretician and stranger to the affairs of this world, lost in his principles."

But he added that French citizens had discovered the pope "a bit better" during his visit to the United States, and noted his "courage and sensitivity" in confronting recent church scandals.

"We have observed a change of tone in media commentaries. He (the pope) has surprised them, and we could also surprise him by turning out in large numbers to show him we love him and are at one with him in the church," said the bishop.

Lourdes is expected to attract 8 million pilgrims during the jubilee year, which began Dec. 8, 2007, on the feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and runs until Dec. 8 this year.

Catholics encouraged to pray novena in weeks leading up to election

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops are encouraging Catholics to pray a novena for life, justice and peace before the November election.

An Aug. 19 news release said the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has made available for download from the Internet a podcast of a "Novena for Faithful Citizenship" at www.faithfulcitizenship.org/resources/podcasts. It will be available until the Nov. 4 election.

The special novena is part of "the bishops' campaign to help Catholics develop well-formed consciences for addressing political and social questions," said Joan Rosenhauer, associate director of the USCCB's Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development.

The bishops adopted the document "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility" in November 2007.

The "Novena for Faithful Citizenship" runs for nine days and can be used consecutively, one day each week, for nine days prior to the election, or "in any way that works best," said Rosenhauer.

"Novena" comes from the Latin word "novem," meaning nine, and the prayer form first appeared in the Middle Ages in France and Spain. A novena is usually held prior to a special feast or for a special intention.

Examples of where recent novenas were announced to the

Devotional Novena

- + Prayer repeated in public or private for nine successive days.
- + Held prior to a special feast or for a special intention.
- + Comes from the Latin word *novem*, meaning nine.
- + First appeared in the Middle Ages in France and Spain.

RECENT PUBLIC NOVENAS	Intention	Held before	Called by
Church in China	Life	Beijing Olympics	Diocese of Hong Kong
All the sick	Life, justice, peace	Feast of the Visitation	U.S. Bishops
Life, justice, peace	U.S. election	World Day of the Sick	Indianapolis Archdiocese
			U.S. Bishops



CNS GRAPHIC/EMILY THOMPSON

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has asked U.S. Catholics to pray a novena for life, justice and peace prior to the November election. Here's a brief description of a devotional novena.

public and their intentions include: the Diocese of Hong Kong, prior to the Beijing Olympics, for the Catholic Church in China; the bishops in the United States, for life, leading up to the feast of the Visitation; and the Indianapolis Archdiocese, for all the sick, after Indianapolis Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein was diagnosed with cancer at the beginning of the year.

The USCCB Web site suggests ways Catholics can pray the "Novena for Faithful Citizenship":

- Start Sept. 2 and pray for nine consecutive Tuesdays, up until the

general election.

- Start the novena any day of the week, whenever people gather, and pray that day every week.

- Begin praying the novena Oct. 26, nine days before the election, and continue each day.

- Create any combination "and feel free to pray the novena more than once."

Helen Osman, USCCB communications secretary, expressed hope the novena could help "Catholics enter into prayerful reflection as they prepare to vote."

Bishops say Pelosi misrepresented abortion teaching in TV interview

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The chairmen of the U.S. bishops' pro-life and doctrine committees criticized House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, saying she "misrepresented the history and nature of the authentic teaching of the Catholic Church on abortion" in a nationally televised interview Aug. 24.

Pelosi, D-Calif., who is Catholic, said in an appearance that day on NBC's "Meet the Press" that church leaders for centuries had not been able to agree on when life begins.

An Aug. 25 statement by Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia and Bishop William E. Lori of Bridgeport, Conn., said the church since the first century "has affirmed the moral evil of every abortion."

"The teaching has not changed and remains unchangeable," the statement said. "Direct abortion, that is to say, abortion willed either as an end or a means, is gravely contrary to the moral law."

Cardinal Rigali heads the Committee on Pro-Life Activities of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, while Bishop Lori chairs the USCCB Committee on Doctrine.

The statement recalled how in the Middle Ages "uninformed and inadequate theories" about the development of a child in a mother's womb led some theologians to suggest that human life capable of receiving an immortal soul may

not exist until a few weeks into pregnancy.

"While in canon law these theories led to a distinction in penalties between very early and later abortions, the church's moral teaching never justified or permitted abortion at any stage of development," the church leaders said.

However, they added, scientists discovered more than 150 years ago that a new human life begins with the union of sperm and egg, making such a biological theory obsolete.

"In keeping with this modern understanding, the church teaches that from the time of conception (fertilization), each member of the human species must be given the full respect due to a human person, beginning with the respect for the fundamental right to life," Cardinal Rigali and Bishop Lori concluded.

The USCCB response came after Pelosi told interviewer Tom Brokaw "we don't know" when life begins.

"The point is, is that it shouldn't have an impact on the woman's right to choose," she said.

Citing the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Roe v. Wade*, Pelosi said specific considerations must be undertaken during each trimester of a child's development before an abortion can be performed.

"This isn't about abortion on demand. It's about careful, careful consideration of all factors ... that a



CNS PHOTO/MIKE SEGAR, REUTERS

U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California calls the 2008 Democratic National Convention to order in Denver Aug. 25. The chairmen of the U.S. bishops' pro-life and doctrine committees criticized House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, saying she "misrepresented the history and nature of the authentic teaching of the Catholic Church on abortion" in a nationally televised interview on NBC's "Meet the Press" Aug. 24.

woman has to make with her doctor and her God," she told Brokaw. "And so I don't think anybody can tell you when life begins, human life begins. As I say, the Catholic

Church for centuries has been discussing this."

She also said her goal is to make abortion safe and rare while reducing the number of abortions

nationwide.

Other bishops weighed in after Pelosi's interview, reiterating the church's long-standing teaching on abortion.

Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl of Washington said that while he respected the right of public officials to address public policy issues "the interpretation of Catholic faith has rightfully been entrusted to the Catholic bishops."

Quoting from the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the archbishop noted that the church has maintained its teaching on the "moral evil of every procured abortion" since the first century. "From the beginning, the Catholic Church has respected the dignity of all human life from the first moment of conception to natural death," he said.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput and Auxiliary Bishop James D. Conley of Denver, where the Democratic National Convention is taking place Aug. 25-28, called Pelosi a "gifted public servant" but questioned her knowledge of Catholic teaching.

"Ardent, practicing Catholics will quickly learn from the historical record that from apostolic times the Christian tradition overwhelmingly held that abortion was grievously evil," the Denver bishops said. "In the absence of modern medical knowledge, some of the early fathers held that abortion

Biden on Obama ticket: a Catholic with mixed record on church issues

BY PATRICIA ZAPOR

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Delaware Sen. Joe Biden, announced Aug. 23 as Sen. Barack Obama's choice as his running mate for the White House, puts on the Democratic ticket a Catholic who supports legal abortion but on other issues has been an ally for the church's public policy interests.

Biden, 65, has come in for his share of conflicts with some in the church over his legislative support for keeping abortion legal. The National Right to Life Committee gives him a rating of 0 for his positions on select issues, including federal abortion funding and stem-cell research as well as some relating to lobbying by groups like the National Right to Life Committee.

But he's no darling of the "pro-choice" view, either, earning a score of 36 percent once from NARAL Pro-Choice America for his votes on their select issues. Obama has a score of 100 percent from NARAL.

Biden has also talked frankly about the importance of his faith in his life, maintains close ties with his Catholic high school and isn't hesitant to show off elements of his Catholic education in the Senate.

Biden was born in Scranton, Pa., to Joseph Biden and Catherine Finnegan Biden, both of Irish-Catholic background. When young Joe was 10, the family moved to Delaware, where his father was a car salesman.

He attended Archmere Academy, a Catholic prep school in Claymont, Del., but only after his mother told him he couldn't go

into the seminary, as he wanted, until after he had some experience dating girls, his mother told a reporter in 2007.

He has maintained ties with Archmere, which sought to name a new student center building for him in 2006. The plan was scrapped after Wilmington Bishop Michael A. Saltarelli opposed it, citing Biden's votes on abortion.

The bishop cited a 2004 statement by the U.S. bishops about Catholics in political life that says Catholic institutions "should not honor those who act in defiance of our fundamental moral principles."

In a 2007 interview with the *Christian Science Monitor*, when he was a candidate for president himself, Biden said he grew up in the church at a time of great changes both in structure and in attitudes after the Second Vatican Council.

"I was raised at a time when the Catholic Church was fertile with new ideas and open discussion about some of the basic social teaching of the Catholic Church," Biden told the *Monitor*. "Questioning was not criticized; it was encouraged."

The newspaper quoted Biden's recollection of a question to his ninth-grade theology class.

"How many of you questioned the doctrine of transubstantiation?" the teacher asked, referring to the teaching that the bread and wine change into the body and blood of Christ during Mass. No hands were raised. Finally, Biden raised his. "Well, we have one bright man, at least," the teacher said.

Biden told the newspaper that the teacher didn't say criticizing the church was good. "He led me to see that if you cannot defend your faith to reason, then you have



U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois listens to his vice presidential running mate Sen. Joe Biden of Delaware speak at a campaign event at the Old State Capitol in Springfield, Ill., Aug. 23. The Democratic National Convention opened Aug. 25 in Denver.

CNS PHOTO/KAMIL KRZACZYNSKI, REUTERS

a problem," it quoted him as saying.

During the 1991 confirmation hearings for Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, Biden, then chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, was the one who engaged Thomas in sometimes lengthy discussions about natural law and its application to civil law. The church's teachings about issues such as the right to life of all human beings are based on natural law, the philosophy that individuals have certain basic human rights that are based on universal moral principles or on "a higher

law" which is not limited by the letter of the law.

On issues including immigration, minimum wage, providing health care for all children and reinstating the assault weapons ban, his positions have been close to those of the church's lobbying efforts. Biden voted to authorize the invasion of Iraq in 2002, but later became a critic of the war.

Chris Korzen, executive director of Catholics United, a nonpartisan organization that promotes the church's social justice message in the political arena, called Biden's selection a positive development.

He said Biden's commitment to his Catholicism "has inspired his advocacy on issues such as genocide, universal health care, education, worker's rights and violence against women."

Korzen's statement said he's optimistic that Biden might "help move our nation beyond the divisive, acrimonious and unproductive debate" that has come to surround the issue of abortion. He noted that Biden has said he accepts the church's teaching that human life begins at conception and said Biden has a history of seeking practical ways of addressing abortion in ways that a broad spectrum of people can support.

Alexia Kelley, director of Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good, said Biden's "Catholic and working class roots have been a source of solidarity for him with hard-working American families who are suffering the most from the current economic crisis."

Phil Lawler, editor of the Catholic World News Web site, said on a blog post the morning of the announcement that an Obama-Biden ticket might be helpful to the pro-life movement. "Any public discussion of (whether life begins at conception) can only help the pro-life cause, because the scientific facts are hard to deny," Lawler wrote.

He said Biden's choice also ensures a fresh debate on whether Catholic politicians who support legal abortion should be denied Communion. "On that issue, too, the discussion can only be helpful," Lawler wrote, because of the "powerful witness" of bishops who would refuse the Eucharist to such politicians.

LABOR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

capacities should and would move us to a healthier economic situation," the bishop said.

The nation's dual commitment to economic freedom and economic justice "cannot mean freedom for me and justice for me alone," Bishop Murphy said. "It must extend to all those who are affected by our actions and by society's goals. That means everybody in today's globalized world."

The bishop said 2008 offers a special opportunity as Americans "choose a new president, as well as one-third of the Senate, all the members of the House of Representatives, and myriad state and local officials."

"Msgr. Higgins would urge you to look beyond the slogans and the promises," Bishop Murphy said. "He would have a few choice words for those he deemed unworthy or neglectful of the rights of workers and the role of unions. But he would always insist on some basic principles that we all must follow."

Among those would be a call — reiterated in the bishops' political responsibility statement, "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship" — for "the formation

of a correct conscience based on the truth about the human person and human society," he added.

"An informed conscience examines the candidates and the issues from the perspective of human life and dignity, the true good of every human person, the true good of society, the common good of us all in our nation and in this world," he said.

Calling human life "the supreme good in this world," Bishop Murphy said, "Faithful Citizenship" emphasizes both "the fundamental duty to oppose what is intrinsically evil (i.e., the destruction of unborn life) and the obligation to pursue the common good (i.e., defending the rights of workers and pursuing greater economic justice)."

The Labor Day statement also stressed the Catholic commitment to "alleviating the pain of poverty at every level: internationally, nationally and especially locally through the endeavors of priests, religious and laity in parishes."

"Things may be tough for an awful lot of us today," Bishop Murphy said. "But no matter how difficult it might be for you or me, I believe each of us can name someone we know who is carrying a greater burden. I can hear Msgr. Higgins telling us, 'Don't forget the other guy,' especially the person with less. That person has hopes and dreams too."



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St. John the Baptist School offers diversity training

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — St. John the Baptist School was the site for a unique and timely workshop on cultural diversity in teaching on Aug. 18 and 19. The workshop, "Celebrating Diversity: Transforming Communities," was presented to interested school and parish faculty and staff, including parents who head several of the St. John School organizations, as well as guests from Bishop Luers High School and area campus ministers.

Jane Sandor, principal of St. John School, was pleased to have recruited Sister Toby Lardie of the Congregation of Humility of Mary in Cleveland, Ohio. Sister Toby had a hand in the development of the cultural diversity program while working at the Catholic Institute for Multicultural Pastoral Training and Language Studies within the Mexican American Cultural Center (MACC) in San Antonio, Texas, in the late 1990s.

Her extensive background experience includes catechesis work, leadership development and teacher training in El Salvador, Mexico and the United States and workshop presentations in India, Guam, Belgium, Peru, Mexico, Canada and across the U.S. She currently resides with her community in Ohio



PROVIDED BY ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST SCHOOL

St. John the Baptist Principal Jane Sandor, seated second from right at the table welcomed Sister Toby Lardie at an interactive workshop for staff and guests Aug. 18. Sister Toby, who is co-author of the workshop, presented various ways to raise awareness of diversity in the day and a half presentation of "Celebrating Diversity: Transforming Communities." The timely workshop came on the heels of the merger between St. John and Benoit Academy.

where she works part-time in vocations in the Community Ministry Center. She is also adjunct professor at the MACC.

According to Sister Toby, the workshop is based on the works of Chinese-American author Eric Law, an Episcopal priest who has written extensively on the spiritu-

ality of cultural diversity.

"The program helps us explore our own culture so we can be more effective across cultures," says Sister Toby, who believes being open to other world views is beneficial to all. The interactive workshop offered a Powerpoint presentation, information folder, personal reflection time and group activities and sharing.

The participants of the workshop began the full-day session on Monday with the theme of "Many Faces in God's House," where they "looked at their own

attitudes, prejudices and stereotypes." This, says Sister Toby, was the call to conversion. One activity asked those present to recognize personal values and attitudes passed down from generation to generation in an attempt to raise awareness of how a person becomes who he is.

St. John kindergarten teacher Deb Gildea says, "The activity brought to my eyes our own life experience, all the things that go into making us who we are."

She adds, "Sister Toby provided interesting ways to think of diversity. It's not just a race issue. There are areas I had not thought of before."

The second half of the day, during what Sister Toby calls a call to communication, had the participants investigating their style of communication and how dialog affects relationships.

"As Americans, we are direct in communication. Other cultures may be indirect," says Sister Toby. She explained using the example of asking a student to raise his hand in class. In many cultures, she says, raising a hand is disrespectful. However, raising the awareness of differences in cultures may help teachers be more inclusive, she adds, saying, "I tell them, 'Be more aware of the kids in class to interact more effectively. There are gifts in every culture.'"

The following day offered a morning session as a call to solidarity for the teachers and others to examine the implications of communication style and the challenges they present.

"You don't have to study everything about other cultures to understand them. You get to

know yourself better to move in and out of other cultures. When you learn differences, then you do things differently," says Sister Toby.

Currently St. John the Baptist School educates over 300 students, 30 of which are new students from the merger with Msgr. Julian Benoit Academy and some from other area schools. And according to Principal Sandor, minority students at the school have doubled since the beginning of last school year.

"We have 20 percent or more now. There are Hispanic, black, biracial and Asian," she says.

Interestingly, Sandor began seeking tools and programs on diversity well before the merger between the two schools was announced.

"After serving as administrator here last year, I began to have a sense that the demographics were changing. I started looking for tools for the staff last year," she says.

The staff and other participants were receptive to the diversity workshop and felt it was useful information for the upcoming school year.

"It was time well spent," remarked Gildea, adding, "One group came up with 'If we deny the differences, we deny the gift.' I found that very meaningful."

Additionally, Principal Sandor continues to appreciate the tools presented at the workshop to address diversity challenges in St. John School this year and in the future saying, "The workshop instilled in me that our differences are our strengths. And that gives us great hope."

PELOSI

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

was homicide; others that it was tantamount to homicide; and various scholars theorized about when and how the unborn child might be animated or 'ensouled.'

"But none diminished the unique evil of abortion as an attack on life itself and the early church closely associated abortion with infanticide. In short, from the beginning, the believing Christian

community held that abortion was always gravely wrong."

The bishops called the "right to choose" an alibi that contradicts Christian and Catholic belief.

"The duty of the church and other religious communities is moral witness. The duty of the state and its officials is to serve the common good, which is always rooted in moral truth. A proper understanding of the 'separation of church and state' does not imply a separation of faith from political life. But, of course, it's always important to know what our faith actually teaches," they concluded.

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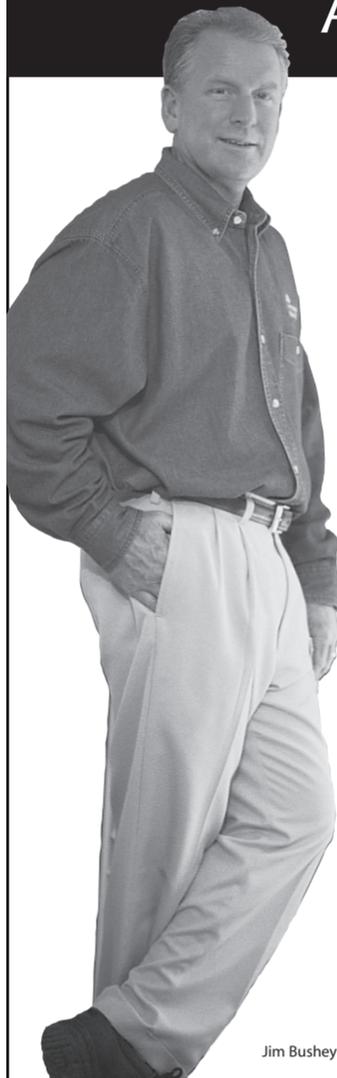
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USCCB welcomes conscience protections for health care workers

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The rights of doctors, nurses and other medical personnel who do not want to be involved in abortion and sterilization procedures for religious or moral reasons would get a boost under new rules proposed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Announced Aug. 21, the regulations are designed to increase awareness of three laws already on the books, the first dating to 1973, regarding conscience protection for health care workers. Hospitals and other health care institutions that receive federal funds would be covered by the regulations as well. "The proposed regulations are absolutely essential," said Deirdre McQuade, assistant director for policy and communications in the Office of Pro-Life Activities of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. "These regulations are implementing long-standing laws on the books. They're not expanding those laws, they're not changing them, they're not introducing new material except to raise awareness about their existence."

Pope names Congolese bishop as special secretary of synod on Bible

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI named Archbishop Laurent Monsengwo Pasinya of Kinshasa, Congo, as the special secretary of the October Synod of Bishops on the Bible. Archbishop Monsengwo, a longtime biblicist and one of Africa's most experienced churchmen, will assist in the preparation of two reports during the synod and the preparation of its final recommendations. He replaces Bishop Wilhelm Egger of Bolzano-Bressanone, Italy, who died of a heart attack in mid-August. Bishop Egger was named special secretary in January and had been working over the summer to prepare for the Oct. 5-26 assembly. Archbishop Nikola Eterovic, secretary-general of the Synod of Bishops, told Vatican Radio Aug. 23 that the pope's appointment of Archbishop Monsengwo was a sign of the importance of Africa for the church.

Pope condemns Cold War attitudes of nationalism, suspicion

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Exaggerated nationalism that unleashes bloodshed and Cold War attitudes of suspicion must be a thing of the past, Pope Benedict XVI said. Saying he was "deeply worried" about international tensions, without mentioning any specific situation, the pope said it was obvious there was "the risk of a deterioration of that climate of trust and collaboration that should characterize relations." Pope Benedict spoke about the world political scene after praying the Angelus Aug. 24 at the papal summer villa in Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome. The week before he spoke, the Vatican newspaper gave regular front-page coverage to ongoing ten-

NEWS BRIEFS

BALTIMORE ARCHBISHOP TESTIFIES ON DEATH PENALTY



CNS PHOTO/KATHLEEN LANGE, CATHOLIC REVIEW

Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien of Baltimore testifies at a hearing on capital punishment in Annapolis, Md., Aug. 19. The archbishop quoted from Pope John Paul II's 1995 encyclical, "The Gospel of Life," which calls for the defense of life from conception to natural death.

sions between Georgia and Russia over control of the South Ossetia and Abkhazia regions in Georgia. The early August fighting in Georgia led to new tensions between Russia and the European Union and between Russia and the United States.

Catholics decry court ruling requiring doctor to inseminate lesbian

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A California Supreme Court decision upholding the rights of a lesbian to be artificially inseminated despite the religious objections of her physician violates the physician's rights of religious freedom and freedom of speech, according to officials of the California Catholic Conference. "No one has the right to demand a nonemergency medical procedure from someone who finds that procedure morally unacceptable — or religiously objectionable," said Auxiliary Bishop Thomas J. Curry of Los Angeles following the court's Aug. 18 ruling in North Coast Women's Care Medical Group v. Guadalupe T. Benitez. "This case did not involve a life-and-death situation but only a possible inconvenience — one which required the patient to 'walk across the office,'" added Bishop Curry, who chairs the conference's Religious Liberty Committee. In the case, Benitez and her partner, Joanne Clark, met with Dr. Christine Brody at North Coast Women's Care Medical Group in August 1999 in Vista, Calif., to discuss Benitez's desire to become pregnant. Brody told Benitez her religious beliefs would preclude her

from performing a procedure called intrauterine insemination, but others in her medical practice could perform it. Brody said her objections were based on the fact that Benitez was unmarried; Benitez and Clark contend that it was because they were lesbians.

Bishop apologizes, announces \$10 million settlement in 47 cases

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (CNS) — Apologizing for "the fully unacceptable behavior that prompted these lawsuits," Bishop Robert W. Finn of Kansas City-St. Joseph announced a \$10 million settlement with 47 victims of sexual abuse by 12 clergy and former clergy, including retired Bishop Joseph H. Hart of Cheyenne, Wyo. Bishop Finn also pledged to ask the Vatican to laicize the abusers, even though "the statute of limitations prevents man's law from moving forward with any criminal proceedings here." At an Aug. 20 news conference, he said, "With compassion for the victims of this behavior and with sadness over any failure by the diocese to serve as a proper steward of safety and security for our young people and our parishioners, I am here ... to demonstrate institutional accountability for these sad events." Although Bishop Finn did not name the 12 clergymen involved in the settlement, attorneys for the victims said the group included Bishop Hart, who retired in 2001 as head of the Diocese of Cheyenne. A priest of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Bishop Hart was accused of three instances of abuse dating to the late 1960s

and early 1970s. When the first Kansas City allegation surfaced in 2002, Bishop Hart "categorically and completely" denied any improper conduct.

Priest consoles families of victims of plane crash in Madrid

MADRID, Spain (CNS) — Father Angel Garcia Rodriguez arrived at Madrid's Barajas Airport to see off a fellow priest when he heard that a plane had crashed at a nearby terminal just minutes earlier. Without hesitating, he headed to a room where family members and friends of the plane's passengers already were waiting anxiously for news about their loved ones. "I went just to be close to those suffering, and I asked God to give them strength," Father Garcia told Catholic News Service Aug. 21, the day after the crash. "I said, 'My God, my God.' I was there to take their hands, let them take mine, to pray, to show kindness." At least 153 of the 172 people onboard the Spanair plane were killed when the aircraft crashed while taking off en route to Las Palmas in the Canary Islands.

Catholic officials pray for peaceful transition in Pakistan

KARACHI, Pakistan (CNS) — Catholic leaders have praised Gen. Pervez Musharraf, Pakistan's recently resigned president, for supporting religious minorities and expressed hope for positive change. Father Pascal Robert, spokesman

for the Karachi Archdiocese, told the Asian church news agency UCA News that the Catholic Church is praying for a peaceful transition to full democracy. "We express solidarity with political leaders and hope they will continue their struggle for democracy and protection of human rights," he said. Only "secular and humanistic attitudes" can help develop Pakistan, he said. More than 95 percent of Pakistan's 160 million people are Muslims, while Christians account for less than 1 percent of the population. Before resigning Aug. 18, Musharraf was Pakistan's uncontested ruler since he dismissed the democratically elected government in a bloodless military coup in 1999.

Authorities detain unregistered Chinese Catholic bishop

HONG KONG (CNS) — A Chinese Catholic bishop not registered with the government was taken away from his residence by Chinese public security officers and government officials. A Catholic source told the Asian church news agency UCA News that Bishop Julius Jia Zhiguo of Zhengding, 73, was resting and talking with some Catholics in his room in the Christ the King Cathedral compound when the officers took him away Aug. 24, the closing day of the Olympics in Beijing. The Diocese of Zhengding is in Hebei province, which surrounds much of Beijing. The source said the incident occurred after the prelate celebrated Mass at the cathedral in Wuqiu, a village near Shijiazhuang, the provincial capital, about 170 miles southwest of Beijing. The officers, from the Shijiazhuang area, told Catholics at the scene that the authorities have arranged "a summer tour for the bishop" and that "he will not be back soon," the source added. The Chinese government requires the registration of bishops and church communities, but Bishop Jia has not registered with the government.

At ceremony honoring his brother, pope adds his own praise

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI said he is living his old age with serenity thanks to the example and companionship of his older brother, Msgr. Georg Ratzinger. "From the beginning of my life, my brother was always not just a companion, but also a trustworthy guide," the 81-year-old pope said Aug. 21 as his 84-year-old brother was proclaimed an honorary citizen of Castel Gandolfo. "We have arrived at the last stage of our lives, old age," the pope said. "The days left to live progressively decrease, but in this stage as well my brother helps me to accept with serenity, humility and courage the weight of each day. I thank him." Pope Benedict said. At a brief evening ceremony in the courtyard of the papal summer villa in the town south of Rome, Mayor Maurizio Colacchi said Msgr. Ratzinger's presence in Castel Gandolfo "alongside your beloved brother during the summer season fills us with tenderness and, at the same time, pride."

Bishop D'Arcy to ordain Holy Cross deacons

NOTRE DAME — Vincent A. Kuna, CSC, Charles F. McCoy, CSC, and Aaron J. Michka, CSC, will make their final profession of vows in the Congregation of Holy Cross at a celebration of the Eucharist on Saturday, Aug. 30, at 2 p.m. in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on the campus of the University of Notre Dame. The following day, Sunday, Aug. 31, they will be ordained to the order of deacon at 10:30 a.m. in the Moreau Seminary Chapel at Notre Dame by Bishop John M. D'Arcy.

Vincent A. Kuna attended Naperville North High School in Naperville, Ill., and received a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Notre Dame in May 1999. After graduation, Vincent was employed as an account consultant for MetLife prior to entering Moreau Seminary. In the fall of 2002, he entered Moreau Seminary as a candidate and received a master of divinity degree from the University of Notre Dame in May 2008. He has been assigned to Sacred Heart Parish in Colorado Springs, Colo., where he will serve as deacon until his ordination to the priesthood in April 2009.

Charles F. McCoy is from Deerfield, Ill., where he attended Deerfield High School. He received a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Baylor University in May 1995 and a doctorate in mathematics from the University of Notre Dame in May 2000. In the fall of 2002, he entered Moreau Seminary as a candidate and received a master of divinity degree from the University of Notre Dame in May 2008. He will serve as deacon at Christ the King Parish, South Bend, until his ordination to the priesthood in April 2009.

Aaron J. Michka is from Cypress, Texas, where he attended Cy-Fair High School. He entered the Old College Program as an undergraduate student at the University of Notre Dame in the fall of 2000. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in philosophy from the University of Notre Dame in 2004 as well as a master of divinity degree in May 2008. He will serve as deacon at Nuestra Madre Santisima de la Luz Parish and direct the candidate program in Monterrey, Mexico, prior to his ordination to the priesthood in April 2009.

Seminar in heritage music of the church

WINAMAC — Bernadette Shonka of Winamac is coordinating and seeking interest in a seminar that will provide an overview of the history of church music. Continued weekly discussion and learning will depend on group interest. Topics can include the history of chant, both vernacular and Latin; how to read square note notation; ancient notation; schools of philosophy of chanting; old and new hymns with translation of those in Latin. What is happening today in the study; and

AROUND THE DIOCESE

FIRST DAY FOR MERGED SCHOOL



TESS STEFFEN

St. John the Baptist School, Fort Wayne, welcomed 30 students from Benoit Academy, representing 21 families, and students from three other area schools. The enrollment for 2008-2009 is 330 students including the new preschool program. Daryus Hilliard, a second grade student, is welcomed to school with his grandmother Laura Washington.

learning/re-learning of music used in the last 100 years in liturgy of the hours and the Mass. For further information, contact Bernadette Shonka, (574) 772-3341 or bshonka3240@msn.com.

Father Richard Hart to preside at combined parish retreat

FORT WAYNE— St. Peter and St. Mary parishes in Fort Wayne will unite for a parish mission slated Sept. 14-18. The theme will be "Sharing the Good News" and feature preacher and storyteller Capuchin Franciscan Father Richard Hart.

Morning Masses at 9 a.m. will be celebrated at St. Peter on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, Sept. 15-17. Refreshments will follow Mass.

Evening services at 6:30 p.m. will be held at St. Mary Church on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, Sept. 14-16. Refreshments will follow the service.

Reconciliation will be held at St. Peter Church on Wednesday, Sept. 17, at 6:30 p.m.

The closing Mass will be celebrated at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 18 at St. Mary. A reception will follow.

Topics include the following:

- Sunday, Sept. 14, "What is the Treasure We Share?";
- Monday, Sept. 15, "Too Good A Secret to be Kept";
- Tuesday, Sept. 16, "Do You Love Me?";

- Wednesday, Sept. 17, "Are We a Forgiving Community?";
- Thursday, Sept. 18, "A Work That Cannot Fail."

Knights sponsor Chicago conference on abortion's effects on fathers

CHICAGO — The Knights of Columbus and the Archdiocese of Chicago's Office for Evangelization are cosponsoring a national conference to focus on the effects of abortion on men whose children have been aborted in Chicago on Sept. 8-9.

Featuring an international panel of speakers and participants, the "Reclaiming Fatherhood" conference will be held at the Marriott Hotel in Oak Brook, Ill.

The Milwaukee-based National Office of Post-Abortion Reconciliation, headed by Vicki Thorn, is organizing the conference, which seeks to bring to light what Thorn describes as the "invisible" issue in our society and even in the church: the profound effect that abortion has on fathers whose children are aborted.

"As an organization of lay men that has a strong history and commitment to life, we think it is very important to highlight the issues faced by those fathers whose children are aborted," said Supreme Knight Carl Anderson. "There are three victims of every abortion, the child and both of his or her parents, and it is our hope that this

conference will be the beginning of a ministry within the church to these fathers, who grieve the death of their unborn child in isolation and silence."

Thorn has been working nationally and internationally — primarily with women — who have had abortions since 1984 through the Office of Post-Abortion Reconciliation and Project Rachel, the Catholic Church's post-abortion healing ministry.

Experts including several therapists — as well as several fathers who have lost children to abortion — will cover topics including men's healing process after abortion; abortion's effects on men's spirituality; fatherhood and abortion; and why men who have been involved in abortion come for help.

Anderson and Thorn believe the "Reclaiming Fatherhood" conference could help men deal with the trauma of post-abortion reality the way Project Rachel — the Catholic post-abortion healing ministry Thorn founded — has helped women who have undergone abortions deal with their emotional and spiritual scars.

For registration and additional information, visit the Web site at <http://menandabortion.info/>.

State scholars' program provides college tuition

SOUTH BEND — The Twenty-first Century Scholars Program is

Indiana's post secondary tuition scholarship program. The scholars' program, which began in 1990 as Indiana's way of raising the educational aspirations/opportunities of low to moderate income families, aims to ensure that all Indiana families can afford a post secondary education for their children. To be eligible a student must:

- be a resident of Indiana as an applicant and award recipient;
- be in the sixth, seventh or eighth grade at a school accredited or seeking accreditation through the Indiana Department of Education;
- meet income requirements or be a foster child.

For the application to be considered, the student must agree to the following pledge:

- I agree to graduate from an Indiana high school;
- I will achieve a cumulative high school grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale;
- I will not use illegal drugs or alcohol, or commit a crime;
- I will apply for admission to an eligible Indiana college, trade, vocational or proprietary school as a high school senior;
- I will apply on time for state and federal student financial aid.

Scholars, who fulfill their pledge and are admitted to a post secondary school, are guaranteed the cost of four years of college tuition at any public college in Indiana. If the student attends a private college, the scholarship awarded will be comparable to tuition at a public school. Parents/guardians have the option of completing the paper application or online at www.scholars.in.gov.

See the school's guidance counselor for an application or call the Twentyfirst Century Scholars office in South Bend at (574) 239-2380 or Fort Wayne at (260) 481-4175.

Sister Rusbasan professes perpetual vows

Sister Gayle Lynn Rusbasan professed her perpetual vows as a Franciscan Sister of the Sacred Heart on Aug. 2 at a 4:30 p.m. Mass at the community's Queen of Angels Chapel in Frankfort, Ill.



Sister Gayle Lynn Rusbasan

Father John Stecher, chaplain at University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne, was the main celebrant for Mass. Sister is originally from Merrillville. Her parents William and Carol Rusbasan live in Merrillville. Sister's home parish is St. Andrew the Apostle in Merrillville. She received her bachelor's degree in theology and philosophy from St. Joseph's College, Rensselaer, and her master's degree in English from Indiana State University in Terre Haute.

She currently works as a campus minister at the University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne. She lives in Wabash and is a member of St. Bernard Parish.

The Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart minister in several places throughout Indiana, Illinois, California and Brazil, South America.

Victory Noll welcomes new leadership team

HUNTINGTON — The new leadership team of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters began its term Aug. 6 following installation ceremonies at Archbishop Noll Memorial Chapel at Victory Noll.

Election of the new team was held in March at Victory Noll during general chapter proceedings, which occur every four years. The term of the new leadership team will run through 2012.

Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters is an American missionary congrega-

tion founded in 1922 to serve the poor and oppressed in a personal, non-institutional way.

Here are the new team members:

- Sister Beatrice Haines has been elected president. She is a native of Goshen and is in her second tenure with the leadership team, having served as vice president from 1992-2000. She was also a member of the council from 1977-84.

She holds a bachelor's degree in social service from the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne, and a master's

degree in Christian Community Development from Regis University in Denver.

"A major focus of Victory Noll Sisters and Associates for the next four years and beyond is our corporate commitment on behalf of the immigrants of our country, which we made at our chapter in March," says Sister Beatrice. "We are women dedicated to building a world where the cry for justice and peace is heard and responded to. I am energized by exploring new possibilities for our life and mission today, in collaboration with others."

- Sister Lucille Martinez has been elected vice president. She has been a member of the leadership team since 2004 and also served a term from 1980-88. She is a native of Chimayo, N.M., and earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne and a master's degree in religious studies from Incarnate Word University in San Antonio, Texas.

"There are two focused areas that have been set by the chapter delegates in Visioning Community and Visioning Ministry. With this two-pronged focus, I hope we can move forward to continue probing the questions faced by religious women in the United States as we make concerted efforts to redefine who we are as women religious in this moment of history and what we are called to be and do according to the new needs in our world and society," says Sister Lucille. "This is a new moment of grace, a new opportunity to renew and deepen our commitment to this particular lifestyle. The focus on Visioning Ministry is an opportunity to develop ways that we can do ministry with and among the immigrant community. It's an outward focus, one that resonates with our Vision Statement:



PROVIDED BY THE OUR LADY OF VICTORY MISSIONARY SISTERS

The new leadership team for Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters in Huntington includes, from left, Sister Elizabeth Anderson, Sister Lucille Martinez, Sister Clarita Trujillo and Sister Beatrice Haines.

"Respond to the needs of the emerging church and stand in solidarity with the poor and oppressed."

- Sister Elizabeth Anderson has been elected general secretary. A native of Queens, N.Y., Sister Elizabeth has her bachelor's degree in sociology from Mercy College in Dobbs Ferry, N.Y., and a master's degree in pastoral ministry from Emmanuel College in Boston.

She has also been involved ecumenically on boards and task forces to promote justice for immigrants and Hispanic people living in oppressive conditions.

"I am grateful for this opportunity to work together co-responsibly with all our sisters, to promote justice and peace in our lives, in the church and in the world," says Sister Elizabeth. "We are in this together for the long haul. I am proud of our sisters and the impact we are making as we strive to accomplish our chapter mandates for community and ministry."

- Sister Clarita Trujillo has been elected general treasurer.

She is a native of El Rito, N.M., holding a bachelor's degree in sociology from Loyola-Marymount University in Los Angeles, and a master's degree in guidance and counseling from New Mexico Highlands University. She has also studied at the Instituto Pastoral Latino-Americano in Quito, Ecuador; Instituto Teologico de Estudios Superiores in Mexico; and clinical pastoral education at Presbyterian Hospital in Albuquerque, N.M.

"I will endeavor to participate in developing Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters' commitment that we made at chapter in March," says Sister Clarita. "The Immigration Ministry and Community Life Vision need to be implemented. Both call for co-responsible action on the part of each member. Other aspects of social justice will also be attended to. I pray that we continue to live and work co-responsibly for the good of the congregation and the people of God throughout the world."

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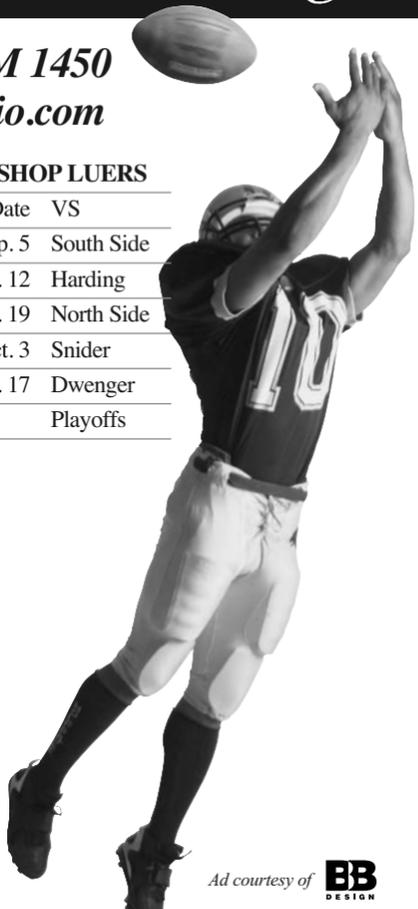
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Hospice can help earlier

A COMMENT often heard from families of deceased hospice patients is that they wish their loved-one had received hospice care sooner.

A study done by the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization and Brown Medical School, states, "Although many experts recommend a hospice stay of at least three months to provide adequate services, the average length of stay is less than 60 days."¹

The study also notes that "short hospice stays are not desirable due to their impact on the dying persons' and the caregivers' quality of life and the quality of end-of-life care."

Mark Schomogyi, M.D., Visiting Nurse & Hospice Home's medical director, states, "This reiterates our belief that end-of-life care works optimally when there is time for all the components to function properly. We have the ability to assist the

patients, their families and their caregivers, but our efforts can have more impact and we can be of even greater assistance when we have time to help all those involved."

1. "Timing of Referral to Hospice..." Journal of Pain and Symptom Management; Med Care 2000;38:528-41.



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Saint Mary's College ranks as top national liberal arts college

NOTRE DAME — For the second year in a row, *U.S. News & World Report* magazine ranks Saint Mary's College as one of the nation's "Best Liberal Arts Colleges." Saint Mary's comes in at 104 out of 248 schools on the list in the magazine's "2009 America's Best Colleges" issue, which hit newsstands on Monday, Aug. 25. In addition to its national ranking, the college saw an increase in its overall score as well as most composite scores.

College President Carol Mooney set a goal early in her presidency, which began in June 2004, to move Saint Mary's into the national liberal arts rankings. A national standing for a second consecutive year indicates Saint Mary's is on course to meet a key goal in the college's strategic plan, which is to provide "Educational Excellence Equal to that of the Best Colleges in the Country."

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY CUTS RIBBON AT NEW SOUTH BEND LOCATION



ANN CAREY

A ribbon-cutting ceremony and reception on Aug. 20 celebrated the recent move of the Christ Child Society clothing center from its former location on Thomas Street to its larger new home in the St. Patrick Parish Center on Scott Street. Cutting the ribbon, from left, are: South Bend Mayor Steve Luecke; 2nd District Congressman Joe Donnelly; St. Patrick pastor Father Leonard Chrobot; Christ Child President Sue Uhran; Mary Liddell, a Christ Child past president who coordinated the move; and Margorie Bycraft, who oversees ordering and stocking the clothing. In the background is Marco Mariana, executive director of Downtown South Bend, Inc., who welcomed the Christ Child Society to downtown South Bend.

KNIGHTS RECOGNIZED FOR MEMBERSHIP QUOTA



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Bishop Luers High School 50 years later

Through the years and changes,
Luers spirit remains constant

BY DON CLEMMER

FORT WAYNE — As it celebrates the school's 50th anniversary, the Bishop Luers community doesn't have to look far to find change and accomplishment. Renovations have given the school a major facelift, and the school excels in both academics and athletics, the latter taking state championships in football, boys basketball and baseball last school year.

But a milestone like 50 years makes it clear that, while GPAs, state championships and individual students, faculty and administrators come and go, the spirit of Bishop Luers High School remains. People who have stayed close to Luers for much of its history attest to this. Eileen Brodmerkel, who graduated from Luers in the 1960s, taught there after graduating college in the 70s and returned to the faculty as an English and journalism teacher in the 1990s, compares it to a family.

"It is a real sense of community," she says. "I still feel just like I did when I went here."

That spirit has thrived through numerous transitions since the school opened in the fall of 1958.

Msgr. J. William Lester, who was superintendent of diocesan Catholic schools for about the first decade of Luers existence recalls the excitement of the early years.

"It was a new school, a fresh school," he says. "It was growth and getting everything started, just like planting soil the first time — everything springs up new."

Msgr. Lester had been the one who researched baptismal records and demographic trends in Fort Wayne, which led to the decision to build new high schools. He also played a role in getting the Franciscans in Cincinnati to staff the new school. It was this faculty of almost entirely priests and sisters that greeted lay teacher and coach John Sorg when he came to Luers 46 years ago. Sorg missed the first graduating class of Bishop Luers only because he himself was finishing college at the time.

"So I've been here for every graduating class thereafter," he says.

Sorg recalls that the Franciscans first operated the school in the model of their schools back in Cincinnati, which divided students by gender and kept them in separate wings of the school.

"It was really kind of Bishop Luers boys academy and Bishop Luers girls academy," he notes.

Eileen Brodmerkel, who attended Luers during the separate boys and girls years, recalls that the student uniforms included navy skirts, white blouses and navy cardigans but that, four years later, when she returned to teach, the school had no dress code at all.

"There was no easing into it," she muses. The school has since returned to a more relaxed uniform of red, black and white polo shirts.

Also developing in the early years of the school was its athletic program. Msgr. Lester, who still attends Luers games, recalls that it was the first principal of Bishop Luers, Franciscan Father Edmund Moore, who invited John Gaughan to come serve the school as a coach.

"He started winning football championships," Msgr. Lester says of Gaughan.

Gaughan, who now serves the diocese as assistant director of high schools, recalls that the athletic program too was shaped by the school's values and spirit, noting, "Every student-athlete was challenged to become what he was capable of becoming in an atmosphere permeated with the gospel spirit of justice and love."

In 1972, Central Catholic High School in Fort Wayne closed, and among the many students who came to finish at Bishop Luers was Matt Lindsay, now athletic director and football coach.

That year, he and the rest of the Luers football

team won the SAC, with a 10-0 record. He notes, "I cannot imagine a better transition," he recalls, "as my senior year was certainly one of the best years of my life."

The addition of the Central Catholic students also brought the growth at Bishop Luers to unprecedented levels.

"Every classroom was used, and we were packed," recalls John Sorg. The school would eventually build an addition on its west side to accommodate this growth.

Also in the early 1970s, Franciscan Father Fred Link, then a music teacher, started the Bishop Luers Swing Choir. The school's annual Swing Choir Invitational has become a major tradition for the school. Father Link became principal of Bishop Luers in 1978.

"I dearly missed the close contact with students, especially those in the music department. However, I was privileged to get to know the great faculty and staff much better and to create a wonderful administrative team," recalls Father Link, who most recently has served as provincial minister of the Franciscans in Cincinnati. "One of my goals as principal was to emphasize the Franciscan charism at Luers, which showed itself in the wonderful community spirit — Luers spirit! The students, faculty and staff really caught this spirit. Luers spirit is still a hallmark and shining light."

By the 1980s, the populations of both the South side of Fort Wayne and the Franciscans were dwindling. Even though the Franciscans have been gone from Bishop Luers for roughly half its history, Eileen Brodmerkel notes, "It still has the atmosphere and the spirit of a Franciscan school."

This means the spirit has been carried on by an almost entirely lay faculty, staff and administration. Brodmerkel cites the example of a former faculty veteran, Klem Lebamoff.

"When I was a first-year teacher," she recalls, "he was the one that helped me through my mistakes and then went on to become one of my absolutely best friends, one of the most kind, gentle people I ever knew."

For another faculty veteran, history teacher John Main, the spirit of the school is not something that can be taught or planned.

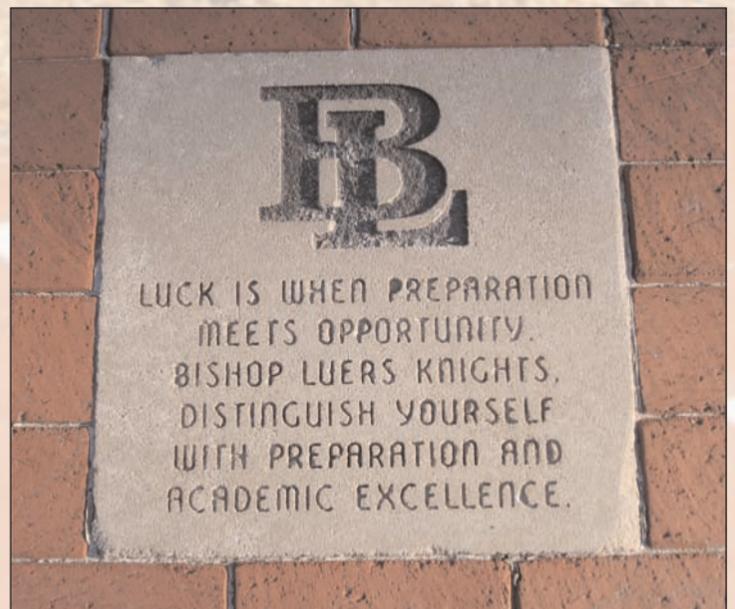
"It's just there," he says, noting that he has seen new teacher after new teacher get swept up by it over the years. "You can't be here for any length of time and not be drawn into that."

The Luers spirit also thrives, says Eileen Brodmerkel, thanks to the leadership of principal Mary Keefer, whom she calls a role model and "the most hands-on principal I have ever worked with in terms of being available and being at activities that involve the students."

"Our primary goal is the kids," says John Main, noting that Luers strives to "help each individual student become a part of the whole, but maintain themselves as an individual too." He says this has been confirmed for him every year at commencement when the valedictorian speaks in terms of "we," what "we the class" can go out and do for the world.

While Luers continues to send its graduates out into the world, Eileen Brodmerkel notes that the Luers community can also draw a person in more and more deeply.

"My own kids went here, so that was an added depth to my experience," she says. "I knew all of their friends and got to know all of their coaches. And I think there are a lot of us here who have that experience. We're picking Luers because it's the best."





A contrast in the old and new facade can be seen in the top undated archive photo and the recent shot of the school's front exterior, left. To the right, Bishop Leo Pursley blesses the school 50 years ago. Then-Father (later Auxiliary Bishop) Joseph Crowley, to the right in the photo, assists at the blessing.



The following events are slated for Bishop Luers High School 50th anniversary celebration:

- Aug. 27 — Anniversary Mass and rededication
 - Sept. 20 — Alumni golf outing, 2 p.m. at Brookwood Golf Course
 - Oct. 10 — Homecoming, Mass, tailgate party, open house 4:30-7 p.m.
 - Nov. 16 — Open house
 - Jan. 25 — Carnival, all Luers families are invited
 - February — Bingo Knight
 - April 24 — Luers Knight with a silent and live auctions and gourmet dinner
- For additional information, visit the Web site, www.bishopluers.org or call (260) 456-1261.



Winning three state athletic titles — in football, boys' basketball and baseball — in the 2007-2008 school year was a first-time feat for any high school. The banners proudly hang in the Bishop Luers gymnasium where a 50th anniversary Mass celebration took place Aug. 27 with Bishop John M. D'Arcy as the celebrant.



Bishop Luers High School

“You are the light of the world. Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.”
-Matthew 5:14-16

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Energy efficiency and curb appeal mark renovation

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — Walking in Bishop Luers High School is a breath of fresh air these days — literally. As the new heating and air conditioning system is up and operating, so too are the cosmetic and other energy-efficient advances to the 50-year-old building.

Principal Mary Keefer commended the school maintenance staff for keeping the school clean and very well maintained through the years, but, “at some point — and the 50-year birthday is that point — you have to upgrade, you have to do some things that needed to be done.”

Those “things that needed to be done” resulted in a \$3 million capital campaign to renovate the building. Embarked on by the school just three years ago, to date \$3.1 million has been pledged over a five-year period. But more funds

are needed to complete the back, north section of the building.

Keefer, principal since 1995, told *Today's Catholic*, “It’s the 21st century, and we needed a new boiler. The boiler that was (installed) was the original boiler (from 1958) ... so it had run its course.

“It has been replaced by some smaller, more efficient units,” Keefer said. The school replaced the heating and all the ductwork in all the halls and classrooms.

Another improvement is the facade and windows in the school.

“We changed all of our windows, which were the single pane, easily breakable, caulk-around-the-edges-coming-loose windows,” Keefer described. The school reduced the number of windows by 40 or 50 percent and then installed new efficient windows upstairs and downstairs, “every place but the inner corridor of the courtyard,” Keefer said, because the school is still studying possibil-



TIM JOHNSON

A new facade and entrance doors add to the curbside appeal of Bishop Luers High School. The renovation was a part of the \$3 million campaign that upgraded the lighting, heating, added air conditioning and included energy-efficient windows.

ities for the courtyard area that would be part of the next phase.

There is a new facade on the building “just to give it some curb appeal and make it a little more current in appearance,” Keefer said. On the north side of the building, however, near the cafeteria and bandroom, more facade work is needed, which Keefer expects to be completed this year. Another \$150,000 in funds is needed to complete the north facade.

Energy-efficient lighting has been added to the hallways and corridors. The gymnasium, too, has new lighting and air conditioning.

And the school added an elevator as part of the renovation. “We do have currently a student in a

wheelchair, and on any given day, five to 10 kids on crutches,”

Keefer said. “We use (the elevator) for grandparents’ day.” And it is utilized to transport heavy equipment and items to the second floor.

“(The elevator has) come in really handy, but especially now it enables us to meet the needs of a student who might be permanently in a wheelchair,” she said.

Keefer said of architects Hoch Associates and contractor Shawnee Construction, “It was such a joy; it was flawless to work with those two companies, and they were wonderful.”

She called architect Jim Hoch their biggest cheerleader. “It is because of him and his work that this project is nearing completion,” Keefer noted.

Of the two firms, she added, “We met every week ... and there was nothing that I asked of the architect or the builders that didn’t happen. It was just seamless and flawless — doing that work while you had 600 kids running around this building. And they worked second (shift) when they had to; they moved dates. They just accommodated us in every way.” They even worked around back-to-school nights and other evening events.

So what’s next?

“Our next goal is to get ourselves a second gym,” Keefer said. “We do not have a timeframe. We do not have plans down for securing the funds, but the brainwork is moving.”

Keefer said she has seen three or four different blueprints and three-dimensional plans. The school has not been able to narrow down the location of the new gymnasium. Some options include: tearing down the friary and putting in the gym there, but that incurs an expensive tear-down cost; adding to the current gym; or building a standalone structure.

“We’ve talked about putting something inside the courtyard. I don’t know if it would be a gym or a performing arts center,” she said.

And part of the phase 2 project would involve serving students with learning disabilities. She sees that as a priority for parents desiring a Catholic education for their children, including high school.

Kathy Skelly is the Bishop Luers High School development director. Contact her by calling the school at (260) 456-1261 Ext. 3142 or via e-mail kskelly@bishoplueers.org.

*“Teachers affect eternity;
one can never tell
where their influence stops.”*

-Lord Pembroke

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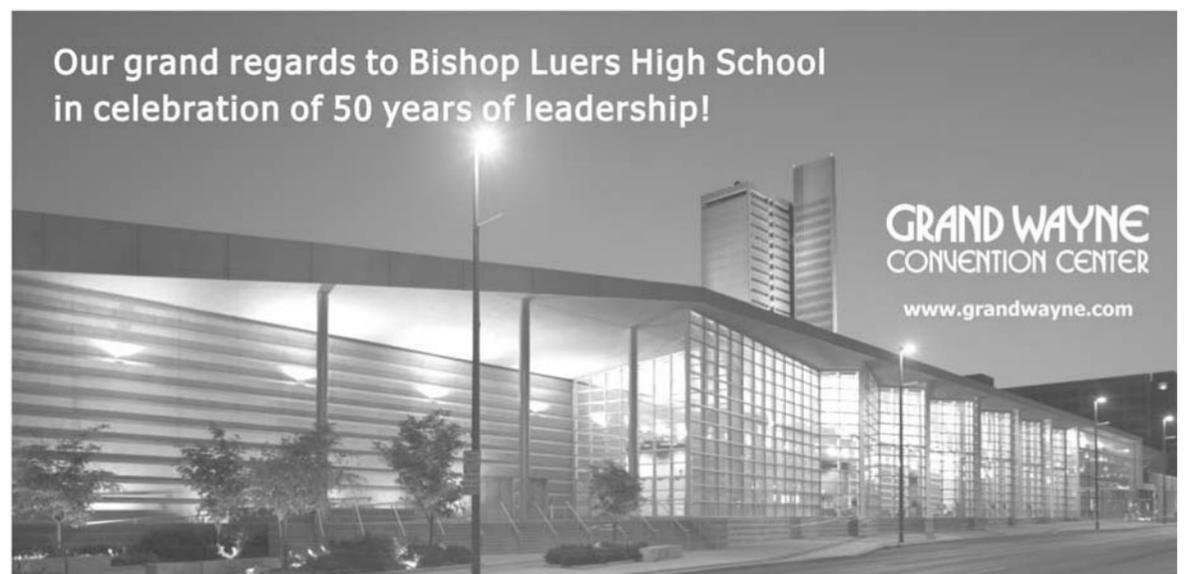
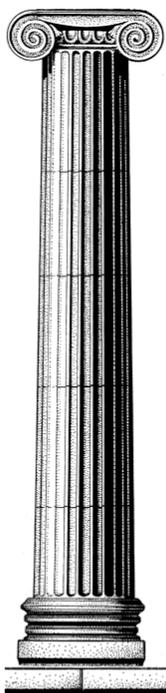
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Sour grapes or morning sunrise?

What's my attitude toward maturing?

BY SISTER ANGELITA FENKER

Anti-aging! This term sells! However: there's no such thing as physical anti-aging except death; who'd want that? But! There is an anti-aging power within us: it's our spirit, residing in our soul; neither ages.

Our spirit grows in wisdom and grace throughout our lifetime. This truth allows us to accept each age as a sunrise of opportunities, instead of rejecting it as if it were sour grapes. Our spirit governs our attitude toward getting older; it guides us to generate positive, healthy choices, which develop, enrich and expand our mind, body and itself — our spirit — which also must be fed as does our body and mind. The choices we make about how to handle this truth is personal. Whichever attitude we choose — sour grapes or morning sunrise — it will happen.

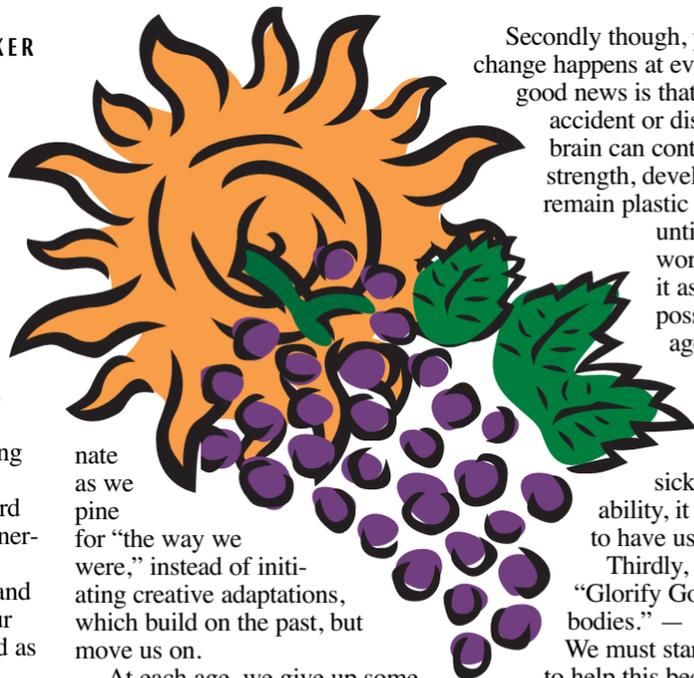
God said to Jeremiah: "See, I am giving you a choice between life and death." God urges him to choose life and goes on to promise: "I know well the plans I have in mind for you ... plans for your welfare, not for woe, plans to give you a future full of hope." — Jer. 21:8-29,11.

God tells us the same. As we believe this, we form our attitude; which, in turn, exerts a powerful influence over us and affects all other choices as we strive for ongoing optimal wellness of mind, body and spirit.

Jokes and greeting cards poke fun at people over 30; these have their place and help us not to get overly serious about our maturing years. However, many adults, from 30-150, dwell over much on wrinkles, tummy-tucks, stretch marks, hair loss or graying and on "organ recitals" — how parts of their bodies don't work as they did.

We often dwell on perceived "inferior" mental functioning as we mistakenly compare ourselves to "how we were," or to younger persons, instead of retraining our thoughts toward untapped possibilities.

The tendency is to center attention on the can't-dos, instead of the can-dos of opportunities. We stag-



nate as we pine for "the way we were," instead of initiating creative adaptations, which build on the past, but move us on.

At each age, we give up some things. Each stage requires loss of the previous one in order to move on to further maturing. At one time we had an excitement about these losses because we didn't dwell on them. Instead, we anticipated fresh possibilities for a new time. Birthdays held a thrill. How can we recapture this delight?

Firstly, we need to reject culture's image of maturing as unattractive and somehow ugly. We've bought into society's commercialism of purchasing products to stay young by covering up "embarrassing signs of aging." We've been brainwashed into this negativism by money-makers who want to keep us needy and locked in denial of the maturing process. This way, their profits escalate. From their putdowns, we create our own negative self-image, accept this fallacy and encourage our dependant minors to do the same, instead of realizing that we are the dwelling place of Christ's Spirit alive in us.

Aging begins at conception and lasts a lifetime. Physical change is integral to growth. The terms old and elderly in our culture connote decline. However, the term maturing adult(s), indicating that life is a process, is positive. The use of older adult, as opposed to younger adult is not an implied putdown of either. One wonders: how, at some magic age, do people become elderly? What qualifies one for this? Labels only stereotype and suffocate individuals and uniqueness.

Secondly though, physical change happens at every age, the good news is that — barring accident or disease — our brain can continue to gain strength, develop and remain plastic and pliable until we die if we work at keeping it as healthy as possible at each age. The other good news is that, though we may have a sickness or disability, it doesn't have to have us.

Thirdly, St Paul says: "Glorify God in your bodies." — 1 Cor. 6:20. We must start early in life to help this become a reality. Our spiritual view of maturing and our choices start as soon as we can be taught to see goodness and love all around us — though not perfect. Our learned focus on optimal wellness of mind, body and spirit begins when we're first teachable and depends on life-long maintenance, supported by prayer and God's grace. The attitude, choices and goals we create are our witness to being a temple of the Spirit.

Our spiritual view of maturing and our choices start as soon as we can be taught to see goodness and love all around us — though not perfect. Our learned focus on optimal wellness of mind, body and spirit begins when we're first teachable and depends on life-long maintenance, supported by prayer and God's grace. The attitude, choices and goals we create are our witness to being a temple of the Spirit.

Reflection

- What is my attitude as I continue my maturing process? Toward my next decade?
- How can I glorify God in my body now via healthy choices for optimal wellness?

Sister Angelita Fenker has been involved in education at all levels for over 60 years. Her doctorate is in spirituality with a focus on holistic family spirituality. She holds many postdoctoral certificates in the area of spirituality for maturing adults and gives seminars and retreats throughout the U.S. and Canada on these and other topics. Her book "Grace-filled Transitions Unto Transformation" was published in December 2004.

Take a break and do it often

Make regular respite from caregiving a priority

BY LISA M. PETSCHÉ

If you are providing care to a chronically ill family member, you may be aware of the importance of taking a break from caregiving duties and have arrangements in place that allow for this. If not, though, this article is for you.

Although caregiving can be very rewarding, it can also be quite stressful over time, owing to the physical toll of hands-on helping and the emotional strain of dealing with the illness of a loved one. That's why it's important for caregivers to have respite on a regular basis.

Health care professionals encourage caregivers to take breaks in order to attend to things on their to-do list they've been putting off, but especially to take care of their personal needs and maintain their individuality. This break time can involve a wide variety of activities, from performing necessary household tasks, to running errands, to engaging in self-care (sleeping, exercising, getting a haircut, attending a support group), to enjoying some recreation and leisure time.

Benefits

When practiced regularly, respite helps keep the stresses of caregiving manageable, preventing burnout.

The benefits of respite extend to care recipients as well: they receive a fresh approach to care and perhaps more individualized attention from the alternate caregiver. If respite takes place in the community, it provides a stimulating change of environment and a chance to socialize as well as participate in new or previously enjoyed activities.

In addition, regular breaks can serve to reduce any tension that might exist between caregiver and care recipient because of constant togetherness and perhaps also personality differences.

Care options

In-home respite may be provided by a personal support worker employed by a government-sponsored program or hired by the caregiver through a home health care agency; an individual with or without formal training, hired under a private arrangement (most often located through word of mouth or newspaper classified advertising); a trained volunteer (for example, from the Alzheimer's Association); or a rel-

ative or friend.

Community-based respite options include caregiver support groups that offer concurrent care; adult day care centers that provide social and recreational programming and often include a midday meal; and residential care facilities that have a short-stay program.

Selection factors

Some caregivers are fortunate to have friends or relatives nearby who are able and willing to provide respite. Others, however, may not have anyone local who is in a position to help, and must rely on formal help instead.

The following are factors to consider when choosing a respite service:

- Type of assistance needed — companionship, supervision, housekeeping, personal care, or medical monitoring and intervention.
- Special medical or behavioral needs, communication challenges, or eccentricities of your relative.
- Time involved — length and frequency of desired breaks.
- Setting — consider transportation issues as well as your relative's energy level, personality, and any preferences he or she might have.
- Cost, including whether a subsidy is available.

If you decide to seek private in-home help, arrange to meet with a potential helper in your home after performing a telephone screening. Prepare a list of questions in advance, to help you determine his/her qualifications and suitability, and provide a comprehensive description of your relative's needs and your own expectations. Pay close attention to how the candidate interacts with your relative. Ask for and check references (both educational and employment-related), and do a police check before hiring someone.

If you wish to pursue care in an adult day center or residential care facility, take some tours and talk with staff and clients. Involve your relative in this process as well, if feasible. Otherwise, bring along a family member or friend for a second opinion.

Lisa M. Petsché is a medical worker and a freelance writer specializing in health and adult care issues.

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Cutting corners

Pinched by the economy, older adults put themselves at risk

BY SALLY STALNAKER

FORT WAYNE — Evidence is mounting that older adults are cutting everyday expenses to keep up with the economic downturn. Local senior-care experts warn families to be on alert to make sure seniors aren't cutting too deeply. Warning signs include skipping medications, pulling the plug on air conditioning and canceling social outings.

In a report released in May by AARP titled "The Economic Slowdown's Impact on Middle-Aged and Older Americans," 59 percent of seniors 65 and older surveyed said they'd found it more difficult to pay for essential items such as food, gas and medicine. Nearly half (47 percent) said they found it more difficult to pay for utilities such as heating, cooling or phone service. Forty-six percent have reduced the number of times they eat out and 45 percent cut back spending on entertainment.

"Cuts of essential items such as food and medication should be of immediate concern to seniors' families," said Jim Sullivan owner of the Home Instead Senior Care office serving Allen County.

"Other reductions in spending can lead to less obvious issues. One of the biggest problems that we see is senior isolation, which has been magnified during this troubled time in our economy with the high price of gas," he added.

"When seniors' families live a distance from their loved ones, or when Boomer children are busy trying to make ends meet themselves, an older adult can get in trouble very quickly. That's why it's so important that someone look out for the well-being of seniors to ensure they are safe in their homes and eating properly, taking their medications and able to maintain their appointments and social life," he said.

Falling interest rates, fixed incomes and seniors' fears of past hardships can influence how they react to the current economic slowdown, according to Sheryl Garrett, CFP, author of "Personal

Finance Workbook For Dummies" and several other books on financial planning. "Some seniors may be running short on money but, for others, there's always that fear of running out because they lived through the Depression. They know how ugly it can get."

It's important also for seniors to guard against fraud and too-good-to-be-true offers, Garrett advises. "Seniors want to get the best that they can from their investments without falling for scams or overselling tactics," she said. Older adults also should beware of CDs and fixed annuities that can promise higher interest rates, but force seniors to lock in their money for longer time periods or otherwise put their investments at risk, Garrett noted. Always get a second opinion, Garrett advised.

Seniors at all income levels may be facing choices they haven't had to make in the past, Home Instead Senior Care's Sullivan said. "They should know where to go for help before they put themselves or their health at risk. Area Agencies on Aging, for instance, offer both food and gas assistance, so seniors should contact their local offices if they can't make ends meet. And companies such as Home Instead Senior Care can provide transportation assistance and help around the home, and serve as a second set of eyes for seniors' families."

Families also can play an important role monitoring seniors who have decided to scale back because of the economy, said Sullivan. "Even seemingly innocent decisions, like cutting back a little on groceries or air conditioning, can have a damaging impact."

Ten cost-cutting warning signs

The following, from Home Instead Senior Care and the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, are ways that a downturn in the economy could impact seniors. If you're a family caregiver, ask yourself the following questions. If you're an older adult experiencing difficulties because of the economy, contact your local Area Agency on Aging or Home Instead Senior Care office. Or, if you have a financial issue, contact the Garrett Planning Network.

- Is your senior's home too

warm in the summer and too cold in the winter?

- Is the lawn not getting mowed nor is the sidewalk getting cleaned in inclement weather?
- Is your loved one complaining about not being able to afford medications?
- Are home repairs not getting made?
- Is there a shortage of food in the house?
- Is your senior skipping doctor's appointments?
- Is your older adult staying home more and becoming isolated?
- Is your senior cutting out entertainment?
- Does your loved one eat out less?
- Did your senior cancel a vacation?

For more information visit www.n4a.org or for more information about the Garrett Planning Network, visit www.garrettplanningnetwork.com. For more about Home Instead Senior Care, visit www.homeinstead.com.

Ten ways seniors can stretch their dollars

The following, from Home Instead Senior Care and various senior and financial experts, are 10 ways that seniors can stretch their dollars:

- Seek the services of an objective financial planner. Sheryl Garrett, CFP, founder of the Garrett Planning Network, said it's important for seniors to seek the advice of an objective fiduciary. The Garrett Planning Network features experts throughout the country who offer their advice on a fee-only basis. (www.garrettplanningnetwork.com)
- Get a second opinion on investments and financial purchases. If you're approached about changing your investments or making a purchase, make sure you get another opinion.
- Contact your local Area Agency on Aging if you're having trouble paying for food and gas. For more information or an office near you, log on to National Association of Area Agencies on Aging at www.n4a.org.
- Get back to gardening. The economic downturn is generating a resurgence in gardening, and the over-55 crowd traditionally has been among the most avid garden-

ers. The national seed and plant company Burpee has experienced unprecedented 40 percent growth this year, double its normal rate, according to George Ball, chief executive officer. With food costs up as much as 25 percent in places, gardening provides a 1 to 10 savings ratio, according to Ball. "In other words, for every \$100 you spend on garden plants, you'll get \$1,000 in produce. While \$100 in groceries may last for only a couple of weeks, a senior can eat for six months on the produce from \$100 in plants," Ball said.

- Avoid convenience foods, which are more expensive. Watch for sales on fresh or canned fruits, vegetables and meats, which will be less expensive than convenience foods and better for you.
- Look for deals on generic medications. Contact your pharmacist about ways to save money on your medications.
- Walk when you can. If the gas prices are cutting into your social



life, organize a walking club or walk with friends.

- Carpool when you can't walk. There's economy in numbers. If you can't afford to drive somewhere solo or in pairs, contact others you know going in the same direction or the same place and share costs.
- Keep drapes drawn during the heat of the day, and minimize opening and closing doors in the cold of the winter. Close off parts of the house you're not using to cut down on utility costs.
- Financial planner Sheryl Garrett says that the ability of seniors to live at home helps cut costs as well. If you or a loved one needs assistance around the house, contact Home Instead Senior Care or visit the company's Web site at www.homeinstead.com.

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EDITORIAL

Ongoing assault on conscience rights

In today's "anything goes" society, many people put no moral constraints on their own behavior, for they feel there are no immutable moral standards. "Freedom to choose" is their slogan, and they seem willing to go to any lengths to protect this so-called "freedom."

However, when it comes to the freedom of other people to choose a course of action, these same freedom lovers don't assign the same rights.

Earlier this month, the California Supreme Court ruled against two California doctors who had refused to artificially inseminate a same-sex couple several years ago. The two Christian doctors have a policy of providing in vitro fertilization only to married heterosexual couples.

One of the doctors referred the woman to another doctor who did not object to performing the procedure, and the woman, Guadalupe Benitez, subsequently gave birth to three children. Nevertheless, she sued both Christian doctors under California's civil rights laws, claiming they had violated the state's anti-discrimination laws that protect gays and lesbians. She was supported by the American Civil Liberties Union and several homosexual rights groups.

After years of legal maneuvering, this month the state high court ruled that the doctors may not use religious freedom or free speech as their defense when the case finally goes to trial. State law, the court said, "imposes on business establishments certain antidiscrimination obligations."

The Christian Medical Association CEO, siding with the doctors, argued that the case is about discrimination all right: "discrimination against healthcare professionals on the basis of their sincerely held ethical standards." Dr. David Stevens continued: "Taking away the First Amendment rights of healthcare professionals puts at risk the rights of every working American."

This California case follows closely on the heels of an effort within the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists to require doctors to refer patients to abortion providers if the doctors will not do the abortion themselves. The penalty for refusing to make the referral would be loss of ACOG certification.

The Bush administration was so alarmed by this effort that on Aug. 21, it proposed new regulations enforcing existing law by providing penalties for health facilities that receive federal funds if they discriminate against pro-life doctors. The regulations would prevent firing or not hiring medical personnel who refuse to be involved with abortions, and they would prevent loss of professional certification for exercise of one's conscience rights.

MoveOn and Planned Parenthood are among the abortion advocacy groups who have submitted petitions to the government opposing the new regulations, falsely claiming that the regulations would prohibit contraception. A public comment period of 30 days will be allowed before the regulation could be put into effect.

Given this ongoing assault on conscience rights, it is crucial that all religions that adhere to traditional Judeo-Christian moral values resist these efforts just as strongly as those who are pushing their agenda. We must stand up for our freedom to act on our own beliefs.

How about across-the-state regulation?

Abortion has become a front-page topic again nationally, mainly because the two candidates in the presidential race hold such polar-opposite positions on the right to life of the unborn.

The topic also is making the news in Indiana because abortion-rights proponents continue to oppose any effort to try to regulate the largely unregulated abortion industry. In mid-August, the Vanderburgh County Commissioners voted to require any doctor performing an abortion in the county to have admitting privileges at a hospital in Vanderburgh County or an adjacent county.

Regardless of one's position on the abortion issue, this regulation makes good medical sense, because an abortion can cause a medical crisis that requires immediate expert care in a hospital. As an Indiana Right to Life statement supporting the ordinance pointed out: "Hospital admitting privileges ensure better care for patients who might experience problems following surgical procedures."

Predictably, Planned Parenthood disagreed. The *Evansville Courier Press* reported that Betty Cockrum, president and chief executive of Planned Parenthood of Indiana charged that the ordinance "does nothing to improve health care in our state," but rather "further restricts a woman's ability to make decisions about her own future."

Planned Parenthood and other promoters of abortion try to make the case that they are only interested in protecting women, but it's hard to buy that argument when they protest a simple law designed to protect the health of women who are undergoing a surgical procedure. We would like to see this reasonable regulation put in place across Indiana, despite Planned Parenthood's protestations.

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

Sex and little pills: Viagra and birth control

A prominent politician was recently pressed by reporters to comment on the "unfair situation" of health insurers reimbursing for Viagra but not for birth control. The politician declined to reply, and the ensuing firestorm led to accusations of gender bias (and even misogyny) on his part. Other commentators took the argument and ran with it: Why should men be able to get drugs so they can have sex, but women cannot be given the same access to needed drugs so they can have sex safely and without the risk of becoming pregnant? Do men somehow have more of a right to sex than women, as implied by the unequal coverage of these drugs?

Behind these questions are some misguided views about sex, pregnancy and morality, as well as

some basic confusion over the respective actions of these two drugs. Viagra and birth control should not be used to make a strained analogy between men and women — these powerful drugs serve two different purposes, and each one has its own unique ethical considerations. Viagra, at a minimum,

treats an actual dysfunction, while birth control does not. In fact, one might say that Viagra fixes a broken system, while birth control breaks a perfectly working system.

Whenever the pill is used as birth control (its major use in America today), rather than as a treatment for irregular cycles or bleeding, it tosses a wrench into a healthy, properly-functioning biological system, and enables a married couple to act against their own natural fruitfulness. A grave moral violation occurs whenever we turn marital sexuality into a radically lifeless transaction through the use of contraception.

In our society, pregnancy and fertility are too often seen as if they were some kind of health anomaly. Fertility, clearly, is not a disease at all, and does not need to be treated as if it were a pathological state. Pregnancy is the normal, healthy physiological process by which human beings enter the world, and every person's life-journey includes a good stretch in the womb. In our society, however, the over-brimming desire for sex, and especially for sex separated

from its consequences, has pushed millions to act against the proper order of their own marriages by diverting to birth control.

Meanwhile, in the case of erectile dysfunction, a normal biological process may have become impaired due to age or injury, and through the use of Viagra, this impairment can sometimes be remedied. Viagra does not aim to disrupt normal function, but rather to restore it. Within marriage, the medical use of Viagra for such restorative functions does not generally raise moral problems.

Some might still argue that it is natural and normal for a male to lose erectile function by a certain age. Should we assume that a male is entitled to keep having sex beyond the age of erectile impotence, when we wouldn't try to

force a woman to remain fertile beyond the age of menopause? If a man is too old to continue doing what "nature" used to allow him to do, the argument goes, then it would seem to be improper for him to utilize Viagra, and he should simply accept his limitations with grace. But this parallelism between

men and women is not a compelling one, as women have a rather strict and well-defined natural age limit on their fertility, while men do not, with many remaining quite capable of fathering children even when they are elderly, often without any assistance from drugs like Viagra. The use of these drugs, then, even by older married men, should not be construed as "against nature."

Viagra has other uses, though, which do raise significant moral concerns. Studies have shown evidence of Viagra use among men who have sex with men, sometimes for the purpose of overcoming the erection-inhibiting effects of alcohol or street drugs such as ecstasy and crystal methamphetamine. Even in the absence of erectile dysfunction, Viagra is coming to be seen by some as a lifestyle, recreational or even a "party" drug. Serious moral objections exist, of course, to virtually any use of this drug for erectile purposes outside of marriage.

Coming full circle, then, we can ask whether insurance reimbursement for Viagra, but not birth con-



MAKING
SENSE OF
BIOETHICS

BY FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK

control, makes sense. It is worth mentioning that, in fact, most insurance companies do not yet cover Viagra for erectile dysfunction, notwithstanding the opening question directed to the politician. The use of Viagra does seem to involve a lifestyle choice more than a health issue per se, so perhaps health insurance should not be expected to cover it. Although Viagra fixes a broken system, it is not, strictly speaking, an essential system for physical health or personal survival.

The question about birth control coverage is even more clear. Considering that birth control pertains to a lifestyle choice and disrupts a healthy bodily system (and even carries significant health risks like blood clots, strokes, and heart disease), health insurance coverage ought not reasonably be expected.

It is also worth mentioning that male birth control (the condom) — which is really the more obvious analog to female birth control — is also not typically covered by health insurance. However, it is clear that various medical uses for birth control pills (to address gynecological problems like irregular cycles or bleeding) and certain medical uses for Viagra (like treating pulmonary hypertension) would constitute legitimate health treatments where insurance coverage could reasonably be expected. Each little pill, in sum, is unique in its properties and uses, with significant ethical distinctions between them as well.

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, Mass., and serves as the director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncbcenter.org

John Paul I: The pope who connected

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Thirty years ago Aug. 26, a conclave of 111 cardinals elected Italian Cardinal Albino Luciani as Pope John Paul I, the “smiling pope” who served only 34 days before dying of a heart attack.

It was one of the briefest pontificates, but it left a lasting impression. Many inside and outside the Vatican felt that a man of extraordinary humility and goodness had passed their way — like a meteor that lights up the sky and quickly disappears, as one cardinal put it.

Only five cardinals who voted in that conclave are still alive. Among them is Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger — now Pope Benedict XVI — who at the time was one of the youngest cardinal-electors.

Along with the rest of the College of Cardinals, he watched as Pope John Paul immediately introduced a new style of papacy, more simple and less formal than many at the Vatican were used to.

His first speech to the world, delivered from the balcony of St. Peter’s Basilica, was personal and direct, like a heart-to-heart talk.

He asked Catholics to “have mercy on the poor new pope who

never really expected to rise to this post.” He joked about having to pick up the Vatican’s thick year-book, the *Annuario Pontificio*, to study how the Roman Curia worked.

The new pope made no secret of the fact that he sometimes felt a bit intimidated by the church structure he was supposed to be running. On the other hand, in his public events he made connections with everyday Catholics, adopting a storytelling form of preaching and bringing a parish atmosphere to the Vatican.

He explained the concept of free will with a metaphor about prudent car maintenance. He spoke sympathetically about those who can’t bring themselves to believe in God. He once jokingly compared marriage to a gilded bird cage: “Those on the outside are dying to get in, while those on the inside are dying to get out.”

In one of his most quoted remarks, he said God “is a father, but even more, a mother” in the way he loves humanity. He backed up his statement by quoting the Old Testament prophet Isaiah: “Could a mother forget her child? But even if that were to happen,

THE VATICAN LETTER

JOHN THAVIS

God will never forget his people.”

Most church commentators have looked back on this abbreviated pontificate as a time of grace and joy. Other analysts, however, have characterized Pope John Paul as out of his depth, and as a man who was overwhelmed by the burdens of his new position.

How does Pope Benedict see it? “Personally, I am totally convinced that he was a saint, because of his great goodness, simplicity, humanity and courage,” then-Cardinal Ratzinger said in an interview with the magazine *30 Giorni* in 2003.

Cardinal Ratzinger said he felt very happy after their two-day

LETTER, PAGE 17

Followers of Gospel endure much



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

22nd Sunday in ordinary time Mt. 16:21-27

The Book of Jeremiah provides this weekend’s first reading. Since Jeremiah was the son of a priest, Hilkiah, he almost certainly was of a priestly family. He was active as a prophet for two generations. Outspoken, he easily provoked opposition and created controversy. Angry listeners at times not only resisted him, but they even threatened to kill him.

His criticism of the ways in which lived most people of his time caused many to say that he was no friend of the nation nor was he loyal to his own ethnic background.

Undaunted, he ignored all these criticisms, but only in the process of reinforcing, and repeating, his denunciations of all that occurring around him. He said that he had no choice other than to condemn sin since God had called him to the role of prophet.

Yet, even in this conviction, he did not fail personally to say that the divine call had overwhelmed him and had created all the misery that he experienced in the face of abuse and rebuttal. Nevertheless, albeit his complaints to the Almighty, he never renounced his calling.

As other prophets, he saw human misery as ultimately the

result of human sin.

Thus, he warned people that their disloyalty to God would reap for them the whirlwind.

Jeremiah is regarded as one of the major prophets. It is no wonder. The Book of Jeremiah is long in length. But the prophet’s eloquence, drawn from his deep faith, makes it outstanding.

Paul’s Epistle to the Romans supplies the second reading. In this reading, Paul pleaded with his readers, the Christian Romans, to offer “their bodies as a living sacrifice holy and acceptable to God.” The language was very relevant indeed for the Roman Christians. The culture around them seethed with hedonism and gross sexual license. To be true to the Gospel, Christians had to exercise virtuous restraint.

Looming ahead in not too much time was actual persecution. Being a Christian soon became a capital crime, as Paul’s own martyrdom would show. Christians would have to pay for their faith by surrendering their own bodies for torture and execution.

For its last reading, the church this weekend presents a passage from St. Matthew’s Gospel. It is a continuation of the reading from Matthew last week.

In this story, the apostles remain with the Lord at Caesarea Philippi, the place that now is something of a resort, at the beginning of the Jordan River north of the Sea of Galilee. Last weekend, the reading recalled Peter’s fervent proclamation that he believed that Jesus was the “Son of the living God.” It was a glorious proclamation, and it promised in the end glory and triumph. Attached to this promise was the thought of victory over evil and oppressive forces, and vindication after suffering.

However, despite the final attainment of glory, Jesus warned and indeed insisted that true fol-

lowers of the Gospel must themselves endure much. They would have to carry their crosses in the footprints of Christ the crucified.

Reflection

Many centuries have passed since the time when Jeremiah wrote, and almost 20 centuries have come and gone since the preaching of Jesus. However, while times have changed, little basically in human experience fundamentally has changed, since nothing in human nature has changed.

Therefore, these Scriptures, while composed so long ago, have a relevance and an immediacy for us.

Sin still lures humans into confusion and heartache and indeed even into a state of eternal death. Sin leads to further sin. Our sin disorders our lives. Human sin deforms our entire world.

Christians must live amid this distortion and chronic sin.

In the end, it is not a gloomy or terrifying thought. God does not forsake us. With the help and guidance of Jesus the savior, we can bring hope and peace into our hearts and into the world.

READINGS

Sunday: Jer 20:7-9 Ps 63:2-6, 8-9 Rom 12:1-2 Mt 16:21-27

Monday: 1 Cor 2:1-5 Ps 119:97-102 Lk 4:16-30

Tuesday: 1 Cor 2:10b-16 Ps 145:8-14 Lk 4:31-37

Wednesday: 1 Cor 3:1-9 Ps 33:12-15, 20-21 Lk 4:38-44

Thursday: 1 Cor 3:18-23 Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 Lk 5:1-11

Friday: 1 Cor 4:1-5 Ps 37:3-6, 27-28, 39-40 Lk 5:33-39

Saturday: 1 Cor 4:6b-15 Ps 145:17-21 Lk 6:1-5

CATEQUIZ'EM

By Dominic Campion

In August the church remembers St. Pius X. Although a Pope of the 20th century, he seems a world away from some more recent popes. This quiz looks at his life and pontificate.

- One thing that sets Pius X apart from his successors is that he has been**
a. canonized b. criticized c. reburied in the catacombs
- He had the distinction of being the first pope**
a. to travel outside Italy
b. to have a type of food (pie) named after him
c. to be elected in the 20th century.
- Unlike many other bishops to be elected to the See of Peter, Pius X had a great deal of this:**
a. intelligence b. education c. pastoral experience
- He was also different in that he had these, and was comfortable talking about it:**
a. jowls, as result of too much rich food as a bishop
b. humble origins — born amongst the common Italian people
c. former wives, having been widowed twice before he became a priest
- As a young priest Pius X was admired for his work during an epidemic of this, which swept North Italy in the 1870s:**
a. Ipdomania b. Rabies c. Cholera
- Soon after he was named cardinal, he got into difficulties with the Italian government. Why?**
a. The new Italian state claimed to have inherited appointment authority (from Austria) to name the patriarch of Venice.
b. He rejected the separation of church and state and said he was the boss of the prime minister.
c. The new Nationalist government soundly rejected any papal role in naming prelates.
- Secular authorities even interfered in the conclave of 1903, with Austro-Hungary claiming a veto. This election resulted in**
a. a null vote, so there was no pope for four years
b. the election of Pius X
c. the declaration of war by the Swiss Guards on the Austrian Army
- This turned out to be, however, the last time a secular government**
a. was able to influence a papal election by using a veto
b. was host to an enclave; thereafter they were moved from Salzburg to the Sistine Chapel
c. the last time non-churchmen were allowed to cast votes in the election as lay cardinals
- Leaving aside political concerns, on the sacramental level Pius X advocated frequent**
a. reception of Communion
b. pilgrimage to Rome
c. repetition of the Jesus Prayer of the Eastern Church
- This led to an unofficial title given to Pius by some of his supporters and admirers:**
a. The Proper Pope b. The Pilgrimator
c. Pope of the Blessed Sacrament
- He did however maintain a distinction between Western and Eastern Catholic (Eastern Catholic and Orthodox) norms in resisting a move to this:**
a. infant baptism b. infant communion c. infant ordination
- Pius was Marian in outlook, writing in an encyclical that all**
a. are children of Mary
b. Catholics must say the rosary daily or be considered Protestant
c. Marian prayers are okay unless condemned by a bishop
- He was also a champion of this ancient Catholic liturgical and monastic music**
a. Rastafarian hymnody
b. Gregorian chant
c. polyphonic bagpipe and drum music
- A big issue which even resulted in dergy having to take an oath to oppose it, was this -ism, seen as a threat to the essence of the faith itself:**
a. communism b. fascism c. modernism
- Pius published one of these in 1908, a short version, with fewer than 50 pages, and still popular in many places today**
a. a detective novel featuring Deacon Dan
b. a catechism
c. an exploration of ways to get around church rules

ANSWERS:

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

A word on elder care and grief

With the surge of technological advancements especially in the field of medicine the American population has seen their life expectancy rise from 47 in 1900 to approximately 77 this year. This means we are living 60 percent longer than our grandparents did just 100 years ago and implies a much greater need for care for the elderly, many of whom suffer the infirmities that accompany aging.

As we care for our elderly loved ones we offer our hearts as we listen to worn out stories, assume the parenting role to assure safety and perhaps even absorb, without reprisal, outbursts of frustration from our loved ones who find themselves changed or limited in end of life situations. Many caregivers experience dimensions of grief well before the death loss that may surprise them.

As a member of the baby boomer generation, Katie moved across five states to return home to care for her elderly mother as she entered the final stages of dementia. Her mother died after six long years of care at the age of 89. Katie admits to fatigue, sadness, anger and so many other emotions during that time. However, in the months following the funeral, Katie was not a little surprised to find her grief over her mother's loss more intense than anticipated.

"I watched my mom deteriorate over time and grieved the loss of who she had been those last six years. I thought that was enough," she says. "I thought I would be over it, but that's not the case. I miss her so much."

She learned first hand that care giving grieving does not necessarily soften the pain of loss following the death.

HOPE IN THE MOURNING

KAY COZAD

Her mother's death was a bittersweet event, as she had prayed, not without guilt, for her release from the ravages of the disease. She felt a strange relief after her mother's passing that brought a new kind of guilt. And of course she missed her.

Caring for an elderly parent or relative during a lengthy illness can create a complicated grief for adult children that is very real. Addressing those issues is para-

mount for the health of the caregiver.

Fatigue is a debilitating issue with respite as its answer. Find a person or group who will be willing to step in on a regular basis to care for your loved one while you take a break from care giving. Health care facilities, churches and family members offer trustworthy resources for respite. Taking care of yourself ensures your continued ability to care for your loved one.

As with grief following death loss, expression of emotions is essential. Katie found the parent-child role reversal difficult to adjust to. She was able to maintain a healthy attitude by discussing her sense of loss of safety and self identity with a trusted family member. Finding a safe person or group to talk with about the rigors of care giving can be a life saver. When others

are unavailable, many have found journaling to be a helpful way to express their grief issues.

I have learned over the years that grief comes in many forms and from many types of losses. The act of caring for our elderly loved ones may bring loss, but is a great gift not only to them but to us. Katie admits that caring for her dying mother was a difficult but very positive life changing experience. And as she begins to understand her care giving grief, and develop a new self identity, she is able to work through the grief she is now experiencing at her mother's passing.

Kay Cozad is a certified grief educator and writer for *Today's Catholic* newspaper. She is also the author of "Prayer Book for Widows," Our Sunday Visitor, 2004.

Campaign 2008: Jaw, jaw, war, war

Winston Churchill, master of eloquent bellicosity, is also remembered for saying that "jaw, jaw" is better than "war, war." As a general matter, who could disagree? If conflicts can be settled by the arts of politics and diplomacy, they should be. But are there situations when "jaw, jaw" makes things more dangerous than the plausible threat of "war, war"? Can the soft power of "jaw, jaw" change minds bent on wickedness, absent the mind-concentrating possibility of the use of hard power?

The classic cautionary tale here involves Neville Chamberlain and Adolf Hitler. Prime Minister Chamberlain's "jaw, jaw" with Hitler at the 1938 Munich conference wrote a death sentence for independent Czechoslovakia; when Chamberlain returned to London to proclaim "peace with honor" to the cheering throng, Sir Orme Sargent, a senior Foreign Office official, observed acidly, "You might think that we had won a major victory instead of betraying a minor country." That betrayal — which was rooted in Chamberlain's vane conviction that he could talk Hitler into reason and moderation — helped unleash the dogs of war, on very unfavorable terms for the defenders of civilization.

The Kennedy-Khrushchev summit of 1961 was another example of "jaw, jaw" making things worse. By Kennedy's own (off-the-record) testimony, the Soviet dictator ran roughshod over him. Coming shortly after the Bay of Pigs fiasco in Cuba, the Vienna summit left Kennedy worried that Khrushchev judged him a weakling — a premonition that proved warranted a year later when the Soviet Union began installing nuclear-armed ballistic missiles in Cuba, dramatically escalating the Cold War. The net result of a failed "jaw, jaw" between JFK and "Mr. K"? The Cuban Missile Crisis, and a world teetering on the brink of "one minute to midnight" (as

Michael Dobbs' new book on the drama of October 1962 puts it.)

"Jaw, jaw" was unavailing in the 1990s as Yugoslavia came apart at the seams; "jaw, jaw" has arguably made matters worse with North Korea (now a nuclear power), Zimbabwe, Sudan and Burma. On the other hand, "jaw, jaw" prevented a bloody little war between Argentina and Chile in the late 1970s; "jaw, jaw" broke the political-military log-jam between Egypt and Israel and led to the first Arab-Israeli peace treaty; and "jaw, jaw" may just have taken hold in the embryonic political institutions of Iraq, making something approaching responsible and responsive government possible there.

In the presidential campaign, the question of whether "jaw, jaw" is always better than "war, war" will likely focus on Iran. For six years, the world has known about Iran's secret nuclear programs. American and European diplomacy has failed to get Iran to come clean on what it's really up. The U.N. has proven less-than-useless; the organization's chief nuclear inspector, Mohamed El Baradei, is usually dismissive of western security concerns about Iran's nuclear program. Last December's U.S. National Intelligence Estimate, which claimed that Iran had stopped pursuing the weaponization of nuclear technology shortly after Saddam Hussein fell, is of cold comfort when you realize that building the bomb itself is relatively easy; what the Iranians have been concentrating on in recent years is hard part — creating sufficient quantities of weapons-grade plutonium.

Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad calls Israel a "stinking corpse" and pledges to wipe it off the map; he's made similar threats against the U.S. and Great Britain. Ahmadinejad's political fevers, and those of the mullahs who hold ultimate authority in Iran, involve apocalyptic speculations: as they



GEORGE WEIGEL

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

understand Shi'a eschatology, vaporizing Jerusalem will hasten the messianic age. Is Ahmadinejad a man to whom one can talk reason? Are the mullahs?

If the Iranian nuclear program is not halted, the next president of the United States will almost certainly face the prospect of a nuclear-capable Iran that can wreak havoc in the Middle East, transfer nuclear weapons to terrorists, or, in its more subtle moments, conduct nuclear blackmail. How is "jaw, jaw" to prevent this, if Iran's leaders imagine the West to be feckless?

That is a question of the gravest moral and strategic import. It must be discussed seriously in the weeks ahead.

George Weigel is a senior fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.

LETTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

conclave elected Cardinal Luciani. He said it seemed that "to have as pastor of the universal church a man of such goodness and luminous faith was (a) guarantee that everything was going well."

Indeed, even as the possible beatification of Pope John Paul II has attracted much of the church's attention in recent years, Pope John Paul I's sainthood cause

slowly has been working through the system.

The vice postulator of the cause, Msgr. Giorgio Lise, told Catholic News Service that the diocesan phase of the documentation recently has been given formal acceptance by the Congregation for Saints' Causes.

Meanwhile, the local approval of a miracle attributed to the intercession of Pope John Paul I is expected to be completed in September.

The death of Pope John Paul Sept. 28, 1978, was a shock for the church and for the cardinals who

elected him.

Cardinal Ratzinger, in the 2003 interview, said it came as a real blow. At first, he said, it left him feeling rather depressed, "as if providence would say 'no' to our choice."

He later came to see, however, that this brief pontificate "was not an error" but instead had a real meaning in the history of the church.

"It was not only the testimony of his goodness and joyous faith. His unexpected death also opened the doors to an unexpected choice: that of a pope who was not Italian," he said.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

By Patricia Kasten

Gospel for August 31, 2008

Matthew 16:21-27

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A: a lesson on God's thoughts versus human's. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

MUST GO	THE ELDERS	CHIEF PRIESTS
BE KILLED	THIRD	BE RAISED
PETER	GOD FORBID	LORD
BEHIND ME	DENY	TAKE UP
CROSS	LOSE IT	FIND IT
PROFIT	GAIN	WHOLE WORLD
ANGELS	GLORY	REPAY

AS GOD THINKS

C R O S S T A K E U P M
 L H T T H I R D E D W U
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Sports

CELTIC FESTIVAL AND HIGHLAND GAMES SET FOR AUG. 30 The 2008 Celtic Festival and Highland Games, which originated in 2000 at St. Patrick Church, South Bend, will be held Saturday, Aug. 30, beginning at 11 a.m. at the St. Joseph County 4-H Fairgrounds. Events include Scottish athletics, clan booths, Irish/Scottish dancing, tug-of-war, sheep dog demonstrations, Clydesdale horses, pipe bands, food and drink, entertainment stage and children's games. Costs are \$5 adults; children 12 and under are \$2, under 2 are free.

CYO football promises action and talent this fall

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) football may have some new faces on the sidelines, but all indicators show that the season should prove nothing short of an action-packed, talent-stacked display for 2008.

After three-years as head coach of the mighty Panthers from St. Vincent, Andy Lebamoff, handed over the reigns and a 2007 title to a new head honcho, Cory Kitchen. The Panthers finished last season with a 6-1 record then found a way to snap the 42-game win-streak of Jim Carroll's St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne, Eagles etching their name into the CYO record books with a 20-14 tournament championship win over the Eagles last October.

Kitchen hails from the Butler area, but he and his wife have been members at St. Vincent for the past 13 years and have two daughters. No stranger to the game of football, the high school standout went on to play Division 3 at Anderson College and has

been assisting his brother the past several years with the Eastside High School program. When his brother took a principal position and stepped down as head coach, Kitchen was afraid he would lose the opportunity to get his "football fix" each fall. That was until Andy Lebamoff talked him into filling the position at St. Vincent. "I am new to CYO, but looking forward to an exciting season," said Kitchen, who hopes to continue the winning tradition with the Panthers.

Also new to head coaching spots this year are Mike Deiser (St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth/St. Aloysius/St. Therese), Pat Henline (St. Jude) and Jeff Weddle (Queen of Angels/Precious Blood). Coach Weddle hopes to "surprise a lot of people this season" in his first start with the Royal Reds. Familiar program leaders returning include: Carroll, Dan Carey (St. John the Baptist, New Haven), Mike Herald (St. Charles) and Bruce Kilpatrick (Holy Cross).

To see your fall sports here, e-mail mmcastleman@aol.com.

ICCL football to hit the gridiron

BY ELMER J. DANCH

SOUTH BEND — When the varsity and junior varsity teams of the Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL) trot out on Mishawaka Marian's gridiron Sunday, it will mark the 64th anniversary of a league that was launched in 1945 on the sandlots of South Bend.

"Dedicated volunteers, coaches and parish athletic enthusiasts have been the glue that has kept this league together," said Anthony Violi, who has served as president for 11 years, and 25 years as a football coach and director.

"It never ceases to amaze me how strong this volunteer glue has been throughout the decades as well as the tremendous interest of Catholic grade schools," he added.

Consolidations of many schools have been the order of the day and this year is no exception. There will be five varsity teams and seven junior varsity teams competing for championship.

Here is the lineup for the current season:

- Holy Family Trojans include Holy Family and St. John the Baptist players. Also this season Corpus Christi players will be playing with the Holy Family varsity. Jeff Booher is the varsity coach who is in his 20th year. Ray

Garza is the junior varsity coach.

- Holy Cross Crusaders are consolidated with Christ the King. John Krzyzewski, now in his 15th year, is the varsity coach. Tim Celmer is the junior varsity coach.

- Corpus Christi Cougars are a consolidation of St. Adalbert and Corpus Christi. Mike Moskwinski is the varsity coach. Unfortunately Corpus Christi will not be able to field a varsity team this season. Todd Lukens is the junior varsity coach.

- St. Matthew Blazers are a consolidation of St. Matthew, St. Jude and Our Lady of Hungary. Mike Ernst, now in his fifth year, is varsity coach. Bruce Klimek is the junior varsity coach.

- St. Anthony Panthers are a consolidation of St. Anthony and St. Joseph, South Bend. Kevin Sandor, now in his third year, is the varsity coach. Nick Dalton is the junior varsity coach.

- Mishawaka Catholic Saints are a consolidation of St. Monica, St. Joseph of Mishawaka, St. Bavo and St. Thomas, Elkhart. Tony Violi, now in his 25th year, is the varsity coach. John Mauro is the junior varsity coach.

- The Granger Catholic Titans will field a junior varsity team only with Carey Rogers as head coach.

Diocesan high schools meet for annual Luers cross country invitational

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — Around the year 2000, the Bishop Luers Cross Country Invitational was born. Former coach Tracy Edgerton texted now assistant Jason Draper on Saturday at Foster Park explaining the history of his vision, "We (at BLHS) wanted to lead by example and start more athletic events and fellowship between the four diocesan high schools (Bishop Luers, Bishop Dwenger, South Bend Saint Joe and Mishawaka Marian)."

And, with the exception of last year when all of the diocese was attending the 2007 Sesquicentennial Jubilee Eucharistic Congress at Notre Dame, the event has done just that ever since.

Over the years, other Catholic High Schools from the Lafayette and Indianapolis area have also participated, as well as other area parochial schools. This year's field totaled seven teams adding Canterbury, Concordia and Blackhawk Christian.

Unlike many of the rest of the meets these athletes will participate in the rest of the 2008 schedule, this first one was special in that it opened with prayer and ended with a carry-in potluck for all runners and their families.

The invitational highlighted impressive racing by two young freshman individuals. Darby Mountford, Saint Joseph's High School's up-and-coming star, paced the girl's competition clocking a 20:01.6 to take the top spot in the blazing heat.

"I prepared for this season by lots of summer training and playing basketball (my favorite sport)," beamed Mountford. Her team finished 1, 6, 9, 13 and 17th, totaling 46 team points, but it was just short of holding off



PHOTOS BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

Darby Mountford of Saint Joseph's High School in South Bend paced the girl's competition clocking a 20:01.6 to take the top spot in the blazing heat.



Andrew Eckrich, a freshman at Bishop Dwenger High School, made his high school debut leading the pack, clocking a 17:19.8.

the Lady Cadets from Concordia who won the invitational with 44 points.

In the boy's race, the Bishop Dwenger Saints dominated the 5K course at Foster Park with a 1-2-3 finish and all five scorers in the top 10 for a 19-point team win.

Former CYO standout, Andrew Eckrich, made his high school debut leading the pack, clocking a 17:19.8. Teammates Luke Momper, Andy Brennan, Patrick Brunner and Phil Schroeder rounded out the scoring for the Saints. Senior teammate, Dane Okleshen, who finished 13th for the Saints, said of the young Eckrich, "He's a beast!"

In his fifth season as head coach of the Bishop Dwenger program, a pleased Eric Ade, who hopes to build on last season's semi-state appearance reported, "It was an exciting start."

The Saints ran in the state cross country meet in 2005 and 2006.

Winding up as the second place team was Saint Joseph's tallying 30 points. They were led by Michael Zientara's fourth-place effort. The junior varsity races followed the varsity events Saturday on the redesigned Foster course. Nearly 240 runners competed in all.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

MISC. HAPPENINGS

Lisa Everett to speak

South Bend — Humanae Vitae 40 Years Later: A Detailed Look at a Prophetic Document will be presented by Lisa Everett on Wednesday, Sept. 10, at 7:30 p.m. in the Peterson room of Corpus Christi Parish. Sponsored by the Diocesan Office of Family Life.

Little Flower Holy Hour

Fort Wayne — Father Glenn Kohrman will celebrate the Holy Hour at MacDougal Chapel on Tuesday, Sept. 2, at 7:15 p.m. Father Glenn is pastor of St. Mary of the Lake Parish in Culver. Join in prayer for priests and vocations.

FaithFest 2008 - Can I Get a Witness?

Syracuse — All high school students are invited to celebrate the Catholic faith and the Year of St. Paul at the diocesan high school youth rally on Sept. 28, at Wawasee Middle School. Music, workshops and the chance to meet teens from all across the diocese. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and the day ends at 6 p.m. The cost is \$20. Teens can

register with their parish youth minister or with the Office of Youth Ministry. Visit www.diocesefwsb.org/YOUTH or call (260) 422-4611 for information.

First Saturday devotions

Fort Wayne — First Saturday devotions will be held Sept. 6 at the following locations: in Fort Wayne, St. Joseph, Brooklyn, 7:15 am; St. Charles, 8 a.m.; Sacred Heart, 7:30 a.m.; in New Haven, St. John, 6:55 a.m.; St. Louis, Besancon, 8:10 a.m.; in Arcola, St. Patrick, 7:15 a.m.; in Garrett, St. Joseph 9 a.m. Call (260) 749-9396 to add your listing.

FUND RAISERS

Parish festival

Fort Wayne — St. John the Baptist Parish, 4500 Fairfield Ave. will have a parish festival Friday, Sept. 12, from noon to 11 p.m. with adult games and silent auction for adults only. Saturday, Sept. 13, is family day with children's games, food, bingo, raffles, talent show, beer tent and adult games. Music by Fawn Liebowitz.

Fish fry

Warsaw — The Knights of Columbus Council 4511 will have a fish fry on Friday, Sept. 5, from 4:30-7 p.m. at the Knights Hall on Bell Drive. The cost is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children ages 6-12. Fish, baked beans, green beans, cole slaw and beverage are included.

Knights plan fish fry

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on Friday, Sept. 5, from 5 to 7 p.m. Adults \$7.50, children (5-12) \$3. Chicken strips for \$7.50 and shrimp for \$8.50 will be available.

Luncheon card party

South Bend — The Saint Anne Society will have a luncheon card party Sunday, Sept. 14, at 1 p.m. at the Our Lady of Hungary School Auditorium, 735 W. Calvert St. Donation of \$5 at the door and bring your own cards.

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John H. Wernet, 94, St. Charles Borromeo

Notre Dame

Ruth E. Willemin, 87, Sacred Heart Basilica

Sister M. Leonelle Moe, CSC, 93, Our Lady of Loretto

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TV MASS GUIDE FOR SEPTEMBER

DATE	FEAST	FORT WAYNE CHANNEL 33 - WISE 10:30 A.M.	SOUTH BEND CHANNEL 16 - WNDU 10:30 A.M.	"Catholic Comment" airs Sundays at 7:05 a.m. on WOWO 1190 AM in Fort Wayne and at 7:30 a.m. on WSBT 960 AM in South Bend Redeemer Radio WLYV 1450 AM offers the Rosary: 5:30 a.m. and 11 p.m. Stations of the Cross: 5:30 a.m. Sat. and Sun.
Sept. 7	23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	Father John Pfister St. Mary Huntington	Father John Delaney St. Jude South Bend	
Sept. 14	The Exaltation of the Cross	Father John Stecher University of Saint Francis Fort Wayne	Father John DeRiso, CSC St. Joseph South Bend	
Sept. 21	25th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Father Dave Voors St. Mary, Decatur (Will air at 6:30 a.m.)	Father Glenn Kohrman St. Mary, Culver (Will air at 6 a.m.)	
Sept. 28	26th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Father Tony Steinacker St. Charles Fort Wayne	Father Derrick Sneyd St. Anthony South Bend	

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Sept. 1 2008



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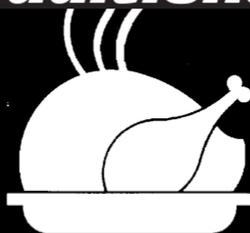
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ST. PIUS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

parish better."

"I look at this blessing and I see the tremendous expression of people's faith," continued Father Schooler. "The process of building the education center was just the beginning, now the work of educating starts."

The St. Pius Education Center is not only a blessing for the parish but it will mean many things to the entire diocese.

"I remember when the planning committee visited Christ the King, and I was excited about the project then," commented Father Steve Kempinger, superintendent of Catholic Schools. "This is a dream come true, what a wonderful gift to the diocese."

"The building is a symbol of the body of Christ, when a new school opens, it strengthens all of our schools," exclaimed Father Kempinger. "The education center has much to offer all of us."

The project took an extraordinary effort of many different stewards with varying talents and the result was bringing a parish together as one.

"I have always found a strong sense of stewardship at St. Pius," Bishop D'Arcy said. "This project took outstanding leadership from Father Schooler, he has a knack of getting people together and inspiring them."

"Father Schooler is an excellent priest that draws people into ministries," Bishop D'Arcy said. "Learning and prayer are the heart of the church and this project embodies that philosophy."

"Our hope is that many vocations will come out of this parish with the guidance that the education center brings," continued Bishop D'Arcy. "With a different saint's name on every classroom door and the state-of-the-art equipment installed, this center is very Catholic and very high tech."

The building is only the beginning, a beginning that will have future generations learn,



JOE KOZINSKI

Bishop John M. D'Arcy blesses the new St. Pius X Education Center on Sunday, Aug. 24. "The words of Christ will echo through these walls," Bishop D'Arcy said. "St. Pius Parish has provided a place to teach Jesus' words for not only their current parishioners but for children that have yet to be born."

teach and spread the Gospel through actions and words. The lives that the education center will touch through Christ will be countless and everlasting.

As Bishop D'Arcy and Father Schooler shared a somber moment away from the crowds,

away from the fanfare, one little action summed up the seven years of planning and the 107 that are still to come. Bishop D'Arcy draped his arm over the humbled Father Schooler's shoulder and simply said, "Good job, Bill."

ANDREW DINNER INVITES MEN TO SEE AND LISTEN



DON CLEMMER

Father Bernie Galic, director of vocations for the diocese, speaks to young men at the Fort Wayne Andrew Dinner at the Archbishop Noll Center Aug. 21. Seminarians Ryan Briscoe and Ben Muhlenkamp also spoke at the event, which is designed to allow young men to better understand the priesthood.

Knights of Columbus loan program propels projects in the diocese

BY ANN CAREY

GRANGER — The program is more than 100 years old, but its recent introduction to the diocese means a lot of wonderful new things will be happening here for Catholic education and catechesis.

That "old" program, called ChurchLoan, is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, and it provides loans to dioceses, parishes, schools, hospitals, seminaries and religious orders for capital improvement projects. The loans are an investment vehicle supporting the Knights of Columbus insurance policy holders. But perhaps more importantly, the program enables the Knights to help the worldwide Catholic community.

Since its inception in 1896, the ChurchLoan program has approved more than \$500 million in loans in the U.S. and Canada. The average size loan is \$1.8 million, with about \$20 million being loaned out per year, according to David Nowak of the K of C ChurchLoan office in New Haven, Conn.

Until recently, the ChurchLoan program had never been used in this diocese, but K of C member Bob Baloun, a member of St. Pius X Parish in Granger, thought it would be perfect for giving his parish's new \$10 million education center an early start. Diocesan policy requires an entity seeking a diocesan loan to collect 75 percent of the money needed before starting the project.

Baloun, who works as an insurance representative for several area K of C councils, told St. Pius pastor, Father Bill Schooler, about the program. Father Schooler was very interested in this approach for helping to build the center, which is designed to provide for parishioners' spiritual needs "from cradle to grave." So, he and Baloun approached the diocese with the idea.

The K of C requires a diocese

to guarantee a ChurchLoan, which is secured by the actual property for which the loan is made. Father Robert Schulte, vicar general of the diocese, told *Today's Catholic* that there were so many projects going on at one time in the diocese, it would have been impossible to loan out for all the projects at once. Thus, the K of C program looked very attractive, so the diocese agreed to go forward with it, and St. Pius obtained a \$4.5 million loan to combine with funds already collected to reach the 75 percent goal.

Fundraising for the St. Pius project continues, for the loan must, of course, be repaid, but the ChurchLoan enabled the project to get started a few years ahead of schedule, and last week the parish opened a grade school for the first time in parish history. The building also will provide space for 1,000 religious education students, as well as space for youth ministries, young adult education, sacramental preparation, RCIA, adult education, senior group, retreats and music. The Father Baden Council of the K of C, to which Baloun belongs, also will be able to meet in the new building.

"We wouldn't have been able to do it without the Knights' loan, and we're very grateful," Father Schooler told *Today's Catholic*.

That introduction to the ChurchLoan program has paved the way for three other ChurchLoans approved for our diocese: Bishop Dwenger High School, which added eight classrooms and a fine arts wing; Bishop Luers High School, a renovation that includes new windows and heating and air conditioning systems; and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, for an education center.

"I'm very proud that Knights of Columbus money is going to work here in our own diocese," Baloun observed. And certainly the diocese is happy to have discovered the K of C ChurchLoan program.



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