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.”

“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...
We all have 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 his 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.

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 is 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 in 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 injury 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.

BISHOP JOHN M. D’ARCY

“Ora Et Labora”

With these two words, which as you know mean prayer and work, I greeted Father Bernard Ramaden, OSH, 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 one hundred years in our two parishes, has left because of their own lack of priest personnel and the need to regroup. Father Ramaden is a Benedictine priest, the brother of Father Ronald Ramaden, 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 will 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.

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 other words, to know himself — so that by knowing and loving God, man 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 Schoeller. 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 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 past and present, and it represents a great blessing on our diocese.

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WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops are encouraging Catholics to pray a novena for life, justice and peace prior to the November election. Here’s a brief description of a devotional novena.

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**Devotional Novena**

1. Prayer repeated in public or private for nine successive days.
2. Held prior to a special feast or for a special intention.
3. Comes from the Latin word “novem,” meaning nine.
4. First appeared in the Middle Ages in France and Spain.

**Recent Public Novenas**

- **Church in China**
- **Life**
- **Beijing Olympics**
- **Front of the Visitation**
- **World Day of the Poor**
- **U.S. election**

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 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, for the Beijing Olympics, for the Indianapolis Archdiocese Daniel M. Barchi, was diagnosed with cancer at the beginning of the year.

The USCCB Web site suggests ways Catholics can pray the Immaculate Conception, “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 the 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.”

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**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 “Today” and “Meet the Press” that Catholic leaders for centuries have 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 has not been able to agree on when life begins. Pelosi, D-Calif., who is Catholic, said in an appearance that day on NBC’s “Meet the Press” that Catholic leaders for centuries have not been able to agree on when life begins.

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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 NARAL.

Obama has a score of 100 percent from NARAL.

Biden was born in Scranton, Pa., to Joseph Biden and Catherine Finnegan, 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(2,5),(994,988)

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 openness 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 change both in structure and in attitudes after the Second Vatican Council.

“When 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 teacher: “How many of you questioned the doctrine of transubstantiation?”

“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 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. Christopher 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 too long surrounded 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.

Alexis 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 in 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 be helpful,” Lawler wrote, because of the “powerful witness” of bishops who would refuse the Eucharist to such politicians.

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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 visitors 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 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 spirituality 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 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. 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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USCCB welcomes conscience protections for health care workers

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The rights of doctors, nurses and other medical professionals 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 long-time bishop 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 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 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 that the world needs a radical change of attitude. “A radical change is needed of that climate of mistrust and collaboration that should characterize relations,” the pope said. The pope 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 tensions 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 religious objections from 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. Gaualupede 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 intratruine 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.

Baltimore archbishop testifies on death penalty


Bishops on the Bible. Archbishop Robertoa C. Bischof of Austria, secretary of synod on October, testifies at a hearing on the Bible Aug. 24, the closing day of the synod. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

Bishops on the Bible. Archbishop Robertoa C. Bischof of Austria, secretary of synod on October, testifies at a hearing on the Bible Aug. 24, the closing day of the synod. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)
NAZARETH — 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 solemn 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 deacons 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 Central 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 Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Bloomington and Sacred Heart Parish in Columbus.

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.

WINamac — Berenadette Shonka of Winamac is coordinat- ing and seeking interest in a semi- nary 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 learning/re-learning of music used in the last 100 years in liturgy of the hours and the Mass. For further information, contact Berenadette Shonka, (574) 772-3341 or boshanka3240@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 “Reclaiming Fatherhood” conference and 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 during the Murrfoot 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 pro-choice effect that abortion has on fathers whose children are abort- ed.

“As an organization of lay men that has a strong history and com- mitment to life, we think it is very important to highlight the issues faced by those fathers whose chil- dren 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 ther- apists — as well as several fathers who have lost children to abortion — will cover topics including men’s healing process after abor- tion; abortion’s effects on men’s spirituality; fatherhood and abor- tion; and why men who have been involved in abortion come for help.

Anderson and Thorn believe the “Reclaiming Fatherhood” con- ference 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 under- gone 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 version of the federal Post-Secondary Education Opportunity Scholarship Program, aims to ensure that all Indiana fam- ilies can afford a post secondary education for their children. To be eligible a student must reside in 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 consid- ered, 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 second- ary 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 award will be comparable to tuition at a public school. Parents/guardians have the option of completing the paper application or online at www.scholar- ists.com.

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 p.m. Mass at the community’s Queen of Angels Chapel in Frankfort, Ill. 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 mas- ter’s degree in English from Indiana State University in Terre Haute.

Sister is currently working as a campus minister at the University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne. She and her twin, Sister Michelle, is a member of St. Bernard Parish. The Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart minister in several places including: Indiana, Illinois, California and Brazil, South America.
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 congregation 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 Visiting Community 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 to 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 Visiting 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 resonate with our Vision Statement:

• Sister Clarita Trujillo has been elected president. 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 corporate 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.”

Victory Noll welcomes new leadership team

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.”

The study also notes that “short hospice stays are not desirable due to their impact on the dying persons and their 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.”


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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. 18. 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.”
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.
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 offers 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 from 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 will I went here.”

That spirit has thrived through numerous transitions since the school opened in the fall of 1958. Msgr. J. William Moore, 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 says that 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 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 an English and journalism teacher in the 1990s.

“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.”
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

Congratulations to Bishop Luers’s Staff and Alumni
May your light shine for another 50 years.

The CPA’s and Staff of Leonard J. Andorfer & Co.

Mark Andorfer, Class of ’81, Parent of Luers Grads ’08, ’10
C. Philip Andorfer, Parent of Luers Grads ’76, ’77, ’79, ’81, ’86
Linda Wellman, Parent of Luers Grads of ’02, ’06, ’09, ’11

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.

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.

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.

Congratulations Bishop Luers
ON YOUR 50th ANNIVERSARY
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Cheers to Bishop Luers High School
from three graduates who now work at TODAY’S CATHOLIC
Tess (Weber) Steffen ’79
Tim Johnson ’84
Don Clemmer ’01
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 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 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 possibilities 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 cafetoria 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 Associates and contractor Shawnee “It was such a joy; it 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 Priory 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@bishopluers.org.
Aging begins at conception and dwells over much on wrinkles, tummy-tucks, stretch marks, losses because we didn’t dwell on 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 hair cut, or attending a support group), to enjoy 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 their alternate caregiver. If respite takes place in the community, it provides a stimulating change 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, help to maintain a sense of 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 relative or friend.

Community-based respite options include caregiver support groups that offer concurrent care; adult day care centers that provide social and recreation settings; community transportation 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 direct care. Others, how, 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.

• 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.

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 certifications 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 Into Transformation” was published in December 2004.

Sister Angelita Fenker was impressed with our concern and commitment to our community.
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.

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 over-selling tactics,” he 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 to get help before they put themselves or their health at risk. Area Agencies on Aging, for instance, offer 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 various senior and financial experts, are 10 ways that seniors can stretch their dollars:

• 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, instead of buying 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.

The Garrett Planning Network featured experts throughout the country serving Allen County.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE GARRETT PLANNING NETWORK

The Garrett Planning Network featured experts throughout the country serving Allen County.

For more information visit www.na4.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:

• Is your senior’s home too warm in the summer and too cold in the winter?
• Is the lawn not getting mowed or 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 or an office serving the Michiana area, contact the Garrett Planning Network at 574-232-4040 or call us for more information.

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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 principles. Freedom to the left is the freedom to define what is their right and the freedom to choose the people they wish 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 that 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 physicians because of the 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.”

The Bush administration was so alarmed by this effort that on Aug. 21, it proposed new regulations enforcing existing law by providing for 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.

Moving 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 new 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 the 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: “Hospitals 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’s promotion of abortion try to make the case that they are the 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. These are women who, as a general rule, are in good health and well placed across Indiana, despite Planned Parenthood’s protestations.

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**COMMENTARY**

**BETTER TAD PACHOLCZYK**

**MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS**

**TODAY'S CATHOLIC**

**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 principles. Freedom to the left is the freedom to define what is their right and the freedom to choose the people they wish 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. 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.

Moving 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 new 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 the 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: “Hospitals 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’s promotion of abortion try to make the case that they are the 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. These are women who, as a general rule, are in good health and well placed across Indiana, despite Planned Parenthood’s protestations.

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**COMMENTARY**

Sex and little pills: Viagra and birth control

A prominent politician was recently pressed by reporters to comment on reports that health insurers reimbursing for Viagra but not for birth control. The politician declined to reply, and the ensuing firestorm of press releases by both sides of the gender bias (and even misogyny) on his part. Other commentators took their cue from the usual liberal and feminist line that women should be able to get drugs so they can have sex, but men cannot—because of the reproductive rights of women. Needless to say, many of the people making this argument have never been a part of the reproductive rights movement, nor have they been involved in the debate on the morality of contraception.

Behind these arguments are some misguided views about sex, pregnancy, and morality, as well as some basic confusion about the respective actions of these two drugs. Viagra and birth control should be looked at as two different systems. For example, Viagra treats a medical condition, and each one has its own unique ethical considerations. At a minimum, a person with erectile dysfunction should be able to obtain a prescription for Viagra, and this would be a perfectly legitimatemedical practice.

When 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 adopting artificial contraception.

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 normal and normal for a male to lose erectile function by a certain age. Should we assume that a male is entitled to force a woman 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 moral argument. A mere parallelism between two different things is not a compelling argument, and especially not when the rights and responsibilities of the two differ so greatly.

Viagra has other uses, though, beyond restoring the sex life of an elderly couple. Viagra has other uses, though, beyond restoring the sex life of an elderly couple. Viagra has other uses, though, beyond restoring the sex life of an elderly couple...
John Paul I: The pope who connected calling.

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.

1. One thing that sets Pius X apart from his successors is that he has been a. canonized  
   b. criticized  
   c. reburied in the catacombs

2. 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

3. Unlike many other bishops to be elected to the See of Peter, Pius X had a great deal of influence a. intelligence  
   b. education  
   c. pastoral experience

4. 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

5. As a young priest Pius X was admired for his work during an epidemic of this, which swept North Italy in the 1870s: a. iPodmania  
   b. Rabies  
   c. Cholera

6. 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 Napoleon) to name the patriarch of Venice.  
   b. He objected to 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.

7. Secular authorities even interfered in the conclave of 1903, with Austria-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

8. 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. 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

9. 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

10. This led to an unofficial title given to Pius by some of his supporters and admirers: a. The Proper Pope  
    b. The Pilgrim  
    c. Pope of the Blessed Sacrament

11. 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

12. 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

13. 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

14. A big issue which even resulted in clergy having to take an oath to oppose it, was this: a. the election of Pius X  
    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

15. 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. canonized  
    b. criticized  
    c. reburied in the catacombs

2. a. to travel outside Italy  
    b. to have a type of food (pie) named after him  
    c. to be elected in the 20th century

3. a. intelligence  
    b. education  
    c. pastoral experience

4. a. jowls, as result of too much rich food as a bishop  
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5. a. a null vote, so there was no pope for four years  
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12. a. are children of Mary  
    b. Catholics must say the rosary daily or be considered Protestant  
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ANSWERS:
A word on elder care and grief

With the surge of technological advancements in the field of medicine the American population has seen their life expectancy rise from 47 in 1900 to approximately 77 this year. 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 with understanding and assume the parenting role to assure safety and perhaps even absorb, without reproof, 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 from school 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 the 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 grief does not necessarily soften the pain of losing the death.

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 we assume the power of “jaw, jaw” changes minds bent on wickedness, or are we merely entertaining the possibility of the use of hard power?

A 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. Chamberlain returned to London to proclaim “peace with honor” to the chagrin of Sir Orme Sargent, a senior Foreign Office official, observed acidly, “You might think that we had won a major point in the West by 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 provides another example of “jaw, jaw” making things worse. By Kennedy’s own (off-the-record) testimony, the Soviet-American nuclear war threat was laid 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.

On the morning of the Vienna summit left Kennedy with the surprise of the day: Suddenly the Soviet dictator ran roughshod over our “jaw, jaw” with Hitler at the 1938 Munich conference.

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**SPORTS**

**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 went on to play Division I football, the high school daughters. No stranger to the 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 Hemline (St. Jude) and Jeff Weddle (Queen of Apostles).

**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, they’ll be hitting 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 Boocher 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 Celmor is the junior varsity coach.
- **Corpus Christi Cougars** are a combination of St. Adalbert and Corpus Christi. Mike Moskwnski is the varsity coach
- **St. Matthew Blaizers** are a consolidation of St. Matthew, St. Jude and Our Lady of Hungary. Mike Ernst, now in his fifth year, is varsity coach. Bruce Klimk is the junior varsity coach.
- **St. Anthony Panthers** are a consolidation of St. Anthony and St. Joseph, South Bend. Kevin Sandoz, now in his third year, is the varsity coach. John Mauro is the junior varsity coach.
- **Mishawaka Catholic Saints** are a consolidation of St. Monica, St. Joseph of Mishawaka, St. Bavo and St. Thomas. Elkhart’s 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.

**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.

**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 St. 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.

“I prepared for this season by running a lot of miles, and also practicing in the blazing heat,” said 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.

The Lady Cadets from Concordia 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.

“Darby Mountain of Saint Joseph’s High School in South Bend paced the girl’s competition clocking a 20:16.6 to take the top spot in the blazing heat,” said Kitchen, who hopes to continue the winning tradition with the Panthers.

**18 AUGUST 31, 2008**

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & LITURGY**

Christ the King Parish in South Bend, Indiana, a dynamic community of 1200 families and 500 school students, is looking for a Director of Music & Liturgy. This person will be a member of our Pastoral Team and will be responsible for liturgies in the parish and school.

The successful applicant will be a skilled musician who is proficient in keyboard and has experience planning liturgies and leading choirs. They will be an organized professional who is familiar with the liturgy of the Catholic Church. A full job description is available upon request. If you think you would be a good fit for our Pastoral Team, submit your resume with references by September 22, 2008 to: Search Committee Christ the King Catholic Church 52473 State Route 933 South Bend, IN 46637 574-272-3113 ext. 316 Email: FrSteve@christthekingonline.org
**MISC. HAPPENINGS**

**Little Flower Holy Hour**
Fort Wayne — Father Glenn Kohrman will celebrate the Holy Hour at MacDouglall 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?
Mary of the Lake Parish in 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.

**20th Anniversary of the Exaltation of the Cross**
Saint Mary of the Assumption 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.

**FaithDay Ambassadors for FaithFest 2008**
FaithFest 2008 in South Bend on Sept. 28, at Wawasee Middle School. Music, youth rally on Sept. 28, 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 at the Office of Youth Ministry. Visit www.dio-cese-fwsb.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 a.m.; 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 Arcol, 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 Knights of Columbus and the St. 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. Culver St. Donation of $5 at the door and bring your own cards.

**WHAT’S HAPPENING?**

**Whose 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: ftnow@fws.diocecesewsb.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.

**TV MASS GUIDE FOR SEPTEMBER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>FEAST</th>
<th>FORT WAYNE CHANNEL 33 - WISE 10:30 A.M.</th>
<th>SOUTH BEND CHANNEL 16 - WNDU 10:30 A.M.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 7</td>
<td>23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time</td>
<td>Father John Pfister St. Mary Huntingdon</td>
<td>Father Delaney St. Jude South Bend</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 14</td>
<td>The Exhaltation of the Cross</td>
<td>Father John Stecher University of Saint Francis Fort Wayne</td>
<td>Father DeRiso St. Joseph South Bend</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 21</td>
<td>25th Sunday in Ordinary Time</td>
<td>Father Dave Voors St. Mary, Decatur</td>
<td>Father Glenn Kohrman St. Mary, Culver</td>
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<td>(Will air at 6:30 a.m.)</td>
<td>(Will air at 6:30 a.m.)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 28</td>
<td>26th Sunday in Ordinary Time</td>
<td>Father Tony Steinacker St. Charles</td>
<td>Father Derrick Sneyd St. Anthony South Bend</td>
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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. “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 included new windows and heating and air conditioning systems; and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, for an education center.

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