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This complimentary issue is given to all registered Catholics in the diocese

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Real presence in Eucharist draws us

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

ALBANO, Italy (CNS) — The real presence of Christ in the Eucharist has a dynamism that draws people in and makes them more like Christ, Pope Benedict XVI said.

At a Sept. 21 Mass in Albano, a small town in the hills south of Rome, Pope Benedict consecrated the new altar in the town's cathedral.

The pope told those gathered for the morning Mass that they should be filled with joy knowing that "each day the sacrifice of Christ" will be offered on the new altar.

"On this altar, he will continue to sacrifice himself in the sacrament of the Eucharist for our salvation and that of the whole world," he said.

"In the eucharistic mystery, renewed on every altar, Jesus makes himself truly present," the pope said.

His presence has power, he added.

"It draws us in to make us his own, to make us similar to him; it attracts us with the strength of his love, leading us out of ourselves in order to unite us to him, making us one with him," the pope said.

Through baptism, religious education and preaching, Christians are shaped and molded into the living stones that make up the church, he said, but the result is complete "only when they are joined together by love."

"Therefore, the love of Christ, the love that will never end, is the spiritual energy that unites those who participate in the same sacrifice and are nourished by the one bread broken for the salvation of the world," the pope said.

Pope Benedict told the people of Albano that they must be in communion with one another in order to be in communion with the Lord. They must approach the altar ready to forgive one another and to ask God's forgiveness.



CNS PHOTO/DARIO PIGNATELLI, REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI blesses parishioners as he visits a cathedral in Albano, Italy, outside Rome, Sept. 21.

HERE'S THE CHURCH, HERE'S THE STEEPLE



MARK WEBER

Three sections of a new steeple for St. Peter Church in Fort Wayne remind onlookers of a rocket launch. Tecton Corporation, Fort Wayne, plans the installation for mid-October.

Telling our faith story

Today's Catholic invited readers to express what they treasure about the Catholic faith

We posed the statements:

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

Have you ever been "put on the spot" and asked what you love about the faith or asked, "Why are you Catholic?" The following is a sampling of witness stories:

• "I was drawn to the Catholic faith through the inner peace, which I feel each and every time I attend Mass. It is at Mass when I am most happy. I praise God for all he is and thank God for all he's given me. I am truly blessed." — Karyle Green, St. Joseph Parish, Mishawaka

• "I came back to the Catholic faith because I thought about what direction I wanted my life to take and it was time to stop running from responsibility because of mistakes/failures in the past. I have learned to open my mind and heart to God knowing he would lead me in the right direction." — Shirley Zuroff, St. Bavo Parish, Mishawaka

• "I came back to the Catholic faith

because I found the Catholic television station EWTN. I started watching the Mass and then other programs. The information I've received from EWTN has helped me continue my Catholic faith journey." — Carol Buchanan, St. Michael Parish, Plymouth

• "I love the Catholic faith because my faith is the anchor that I rely on, the truth that I believe in, the foundation that guides my heart and the hope that strengthens my soul. I am so grateful to God for giving me a Catholic mother." — Sharon Hullinger, Wolcottville, St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Avilla

• "I love the Catholic faith because the beauty of being able to receive the body and blood of Christ in Mass and to be able to do it every day. My Lord died on the cross for all of us in order for us to achieve the right to enter heaven and to be with all of the heavenly bodies. We must love one another and to be able to say 'thank you' for all that has been given to us and to say 'yes' for all that is to come." — Carol Bogol, Holy Cross, South Bend and Queen of Peace, Mishawaka.

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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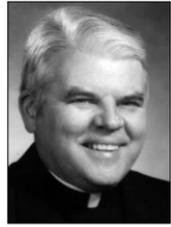
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Bishop celebrates anniversary in Auburn, closes mission in Garrett



NEWS & NOTES

BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

Two priests from far away

This past week I went to two parishes, north of Fort Wayne, that are being well-cared for by two priests from far away places. On Sunday, it was the 50th anniversary of the church of the Immaculate Conception in Auburn. The pastor currently is Father Babasino Fernandes from India, where religious persecution against Catholics has recently reached an intense level. We had a full church for this beautiful Mass. The parish was built in 1872, and for awhile there was a school cared for by the Franciscan Sisters of Mokena, Ill. Among those present was Father Ray Balzer, now retired, who concelebrated from a wheelchair within the sanctuary. Father Ray told me some of his best years were in Auburn. Among the things, which he took on, was the creation of a small eucharistic chapel for adoration. That is difficult to do in a large suburban parish, and yet he was able to establish a program of eucharistic adoration. It begins at 5 a.m. Monday morning, and goes five days a week from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Father Mark Gurtner, a native son, was there with his wonderful sisters and their families, and his mother Phyllis, who has been a catechist in Auburn these many years.

Forty-five young people in this small-town parish attended the youth ministry program on the first Sunday night under Phyllis' direction.

I told them that it is time now for another priestly vocation from this parish. I am sure because of the eucharistic adoration, and the prayers of many, this will come about.

Afterwards, I blessed a new rectory. So many of our parishes now have set aside for their pastor a rectory as a place to live; with a separate building for administration and pastoral offices.

The former rectory is being made into classrooms for religious education and offices for meeting parishioners.

A huge tent afterwards, with a very nice dinner for 300. I met the mayor of the town, Norm Yoder; also met Sen. Dennis Kruse, a pro-life state senator, who has lived in the area for many years and has been in public life for a long time.

And also to Garrett

Previously in the week I closed the parish mission in St. Joseph, Garrett. This surely is one of the most beautiful churches in our diocese; and recently during the pastorate of Father Thom Lombardi it was beautifully restored under Thomas Gordon

Smith, an architect at Notre Dame. How wonderful, also, to see the efforts and care for the poor. There is St. Martin Center, which twice a week serves as a soup kitchen preparing lunches for the poor in the area. There is also a clothing center for people who need clothes. Finally, a few miles away, is St. Martin's Clinic, a free clinic for those with no health insurance.

We are blessed with a fine school at St. Joseph, Garrett, and this is not easy financially for such a small country parish.

How grateful I am to Father Andrew Nazareth; who, like Father Babasino, is from far away India. Many people in both parishes told me how grateful they are for the fine pastoral leadership of these two priests.

A Mass with our deacon candidates

On the day before the trip to Auburn, I drove west to Donaldson, Ind., where I celebrated Mass for our candidates in the permanent diaconate. This is the first class of the diaconate in my time as bishop, and the first in over 25 years. Eleven men come every two weeks for classes with the director, Mary Szymczak, caring for all the details.

How grateful I am to Father Andrew Nazareth;
who, like Father Babasino, is from far away India.
Many people in both parishes
told me how grateful they are for the fine
pastoral leadership of these two priests.

The courses begin Friday evening and go to late Saturday. Our course this year is by Father Michael Heintz, Ph.D., on the Fathers of the Church, which is his area of expertise. The second is on theological ethics or moral theology, and is given by Andrew Oross. Andy is the chair of the theology department at Saint Joseph's High School, South Bend, and highly regarded by the many young people who have taken his courses over the years. He previously taught at Bishop Dwenger High School. He told me how different it was to teach the adults compared to his day-to-day teaching at Saint Joseph's High School. I celebrated Mass with these candidates and their wives and had supper with them.

I am preparing now to join our priests for a three-day seminar on preaching. It will be given by professors from the University of Notre Dame. It will be held at the Potawatomi Inn and Conference Center, north of Fort Wayne. I expect it will be a relaxing few days with a chance to pray together.

The responsibility of preaching is a sacred one, and it is not easy to face the same congregation week after week. However, I have been reading the Epistle to the Corinthians, and any preacher should be encouraged by St. Paul's view of himself as

a preacher. He makes it clear that he did not come among the Corinthians with a great rhetoric or preaching style. And there was a reason for this. He did not want their conversion to depend on his human eloquence, but on the power of God "so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its meaning." — 1 Cor 1:17. And in another place, Paul explains that he came in weakness "so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom, but on the power of God." — 1 Cor 2:5. At the same time, we hope these days will open our hearts so, like Paul, we are resolved to "preach Christ and him crucified."

Some words from Father Tom Streit, CSC

One of the best things about the life and work of a bishop, is you meet so many extraordinary people. I suppose you do not know Father Tom Streit, CSC. Father Tom is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame, and a scientist, a biologist. He was a good friend of the late Bishop Joseph Crowley, whom he as a seminarian, served as a master of ceremonies at confirmation.

But to say he is a scientist is insufficient. He has worked in developing a vaccine to prevent some terrible diseases, which are centered in Haiti. That country is the poorest in our hemisphere and one of the poorest in the world. Father Tom's vaccine is fighting the terrible disease of Elephantitis, through which people's limbs are exploding. He has developed another vaccine, which prevents a terrible disease of worms in the body of the people of Haiti. In addition to teaching at Notre Dame, he is back and forth to see that these preventatives are properly used. It is an extraordinary story, and it shows that people who work hard and study away from the lime

light, often do more to help humanity than many others who are in the headlines each day.

But that is only part of the story. You all know, of course, about Bill Gates. His wife, Melissa, is head of the Gates Foundation. In recent years, according to the opinion of many, because of the influence of Melissa, they have turned away from birth prevention to education and to healing and medicine for the poor throughout the world. Tom told me, and I recently verified this with him, that Melissa Gates who was educated by Catholic sisters, said to him recently, "Tom, wherever you go and find the poor, whether in Africa or Haiti, or any place in the world, you also find the Catholic Church."

Some bracing words shared with me by Father Thomas Streit, CSC, a hero in his own right in the sacristy of Moreau Seminary at Notre Dame, after a recent ordination.

I am ready for the baseball playoffs. See you all next week.

Shocks to economy raise concern about housing, energy, food prices

BY MARK PATTISON

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The financial shocks that have staggered the U.S. economy in September have raised worries about the prices of housing, energy and food as well as retirement income, said a spokesman for a Catholic-run investment services firm.

Those shocks include federal takeovers of mortgage-loan giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac as well as insurance giant American International Group, or AIG; the bankruptcy of financial services firm Lehman Bros.; a sharp rise in the number of jobless in the country; and a steep decline in the value of the stock market.

"The American public are investors in the stock market through 401(k) programs," said Frank Haines, chief investment officer for Christian Brothers Investment Services, which directs a \$4 billion portfolio for the Christian Brothers and other religious orders.

"They're concerned ..., number one, their housing values are falling, not rising. They're concerned about energy prices, food prices," he said. "They read in the press — our 24-hour headlines thrive on crisis, and that exacerbates situations in some sense. They're worried that their stocks are falling. They're worried that, in their mature years, will they be able to retire?"

"For clients who might be closer to 60 (than) they are to 30, we put out a comment piece for our distribution system to remind our clients what's going on," said Chat Horning, chief investment officer for Mennonite Mutual Aid in Goshen, Ind., a fraternal organization analogous to the Knights of Columbus which has a portfolio worth nearly \$1.9 billion.

"During the calm times it's best to think about their investment objectives. What's their tolerance for risk? Now's the time to check that again. It only changes if something fundamental has changed," he said.

"The phone calls we've received in the past week mainly have been new account holders rolling over their money," said Sam Saladino, portfolio manager for the Epiphany Faith and Values 100 Fund in Fort Worth, Texas, during a Sept. 17 telephone interview with Catholic



CNS PHOTO/CHIP EAST, REUTERS

People walk by the Merrill Lynch building in New York Sept. 15. Financial markets worldwide were hit with a double blow Sept. 15 as Lehman Brothers, a U.S. investment bank predating the Civil War, filed for bankruptcy protection, while Merrill Lynch was taken over by Bank of America.

News Service.

Epiphany was created less than two years ago and manages about \$2 million in assets, all from individual investors. Saladino said the average account was \$20,000.

Epiphany excludes investments in several kinds of companies, including firms with Occupational Safety and Health Administration fines levied against it and firms that contribute to Planned Parenthood. "Our fund's still down, about 8 percent for the year, and the S&P (Standard & Poors) is about 18" percent down, Saladino said.

The now-bankrupt Lehman Bros. "is a screen-out company from the start, so we never had them" in an investment program, Saladino said. "They have X's in several categories" that keep them out of Epiphany's portfolio, he added, citing a discrimination suit lodged against the company as well as questionable business practices.

Sister Amata Miller, an Immaculate Heart of Mary sister who is an economics professor and director of the Myser Initiative on Catholic Identity at the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul, Minn., told CNS in a Sept. 17 telephone interview from St. Paul that while people tend to forget that the economy has both boom and bust cycles, they also likely have forgotten that "we have had 20-some years of lack of regulation of these entities" that are now stretched nearly to

the breaking point.

She counts herself among those who are "arguing for another stimulus package, which would really reach people who need extra financing."

"People have said since the beginning that instead of sending checks out to everybody," she said, "we need to have a set of programs that would have funded an increase in food stamps, in unemployment compensation, in benefits for the people who could use those monies or have needed them since they've been suffering from the downtown, and that will stimulate renewed spending in the economy."

Just as critical as a market turnaround, Sister Amata said, is a "turnaround of the mindset."

"As people lose confidence in the economy it becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy," she added. "Something has to happen to turn people's confidence level around. One of the things that can turn it around is an effective stimulus package so they can spend it on the things they need."

Haines, of Christian Brothers Investment Services, suggested that individuals already in the market should stick with it.

"If you bail out now and go to cash, you just lock in the losses that occurred, and get out of the potential for an upside," he said. "Every individual should have a long-term (financial planning) policy in mind, and stick with it."

Frank Rauscher, senior principal at Aquinas Associates in Dallas, concurred. "Don't panic. Look out for yourself, because those financial institutions aren't going to look out for you. If you've got an ARM (adjustable-rate mortgage), refinance. But don't panic."

He had a recommendation for those with ARMs, whose interest rates are likely to spike: "Don't wait until they send a letter out to you, giving you three, four months to hunt (for refinancing options). Start now."

"We have had 20-some years of lack of regulation of these entities" that are now stretched nearly to the breaking point."

SISTER AMATA MILLER

Pakistani bishop condemns bomb blast at Marriott hotel

BY ANTO AKKARA

BANGALORE, India (CNS) — A Pakistani church official condemned the bomb blast that claimed at least 53 lives and left about 270 injured at one of the premier hotels in Islamabad.

"We are stunned by this. We join the nation in deploring and mourning this despicable act," said Bishop Anthony Lobo of Islamabad-Rawalpindi, secretary-general of the Pakistan Catholic Bishops' Conference.

In a telephone interview with Catholic News Service Sept. 22 from his office in Rawalpindi, Bishop Lobo said that with the suicide attack "the terrorists have shown that they can do whatever they want ... whenever they want."

"All the churches in Pakistan held special prayers for the blasts victims," added Bishop Lobo.

A truck carrying explosives was detonated Sept. 20 at a Marriott hotel in Islamabad after it was stopped by security guards at the gates. The hotel is situated less than a mile from Parliament and the president's house.

Dozens of international dignitaries were at the hotel at the time of the explosion. The Czech ambassador to Pakistan was killed, and several other diplomats were among the injured.

The explosion came hours after President Asif Ali Zardari, in an address to Parliament, said, "We must root out terror-

ism and extremism, wherever and whenever they rear their ugly heads."

Bishop Lobo said people "are really scared of suicide bombers, but they have to live with it (the situation)."

Terrorist attacks killed more than 2,000 people in Pakistan last year.

Bishop Lobo noted that media reports said the hotel was targeted due to the presence of Americans as well as scores of international diplomats in the wake of the recent incursion of U.S. forces into Pakistan from Afghanistan in pursuit of Taliban targets. The Associated Press reported Sept. 22 that top Pakistani leaders were to eat dinner at the hotel the evening of the blast, but plans were changed at the last minute.

Asked whether the attack posed threats to the new democratic government, Bishop Lobo said, "The new government has to go through tough times after taking over from long years of military dictatorship."

However, he added that Pakistan has been "a victim of terrorism" for years now with the "Christian community also being affected severely."

In retaliation for Western nations' assault on the Taliban regime in Afghanistan following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States, Muslim fundamentalists targeted Christians in neighboring Pakistan. Islamic militants shot dead more than three dozen Christians in five deadly attacks on church congregations.



CNS PHOTO/FAISAL MAHMOOD, REUTERS

People look at pictures of bomb blast victims Sept. 21 at a local hospital the day after a suicide bomb blast in front of the Marriott hotel in Islamabad, Pakistan. The suicide truck bomb attack that killed at least 53 people Sept. 20 bore the hallmarks of an al-Qaida operation, Pakistani intelligence officials said.

Teaching our children to pray

It all begins with mom and dad

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — “The greatest teachers of prayer are parents modeling their own commitment to prayer in the home,” says Sister Jane Carew, director of the diocesan Office of Catechesis.

As a child, Sister Jane says she remembers seeing her father kneeling at the bedside in prayer every morning. And her mother, who was taught by the sisters, had a strong faith, and on Saturday evenings, the family would get out their Sunday missals, join at the table and prepare to receive the Blessed Sacrament in the morning.

Ginny Kohrman, director of the Office of Spiritual Development and Evangelization, has a special interest in teaching children to pray through “lectio divina,” a way of prayer she learned over two years from Dominican Sister Marlene Halpin.

“Lectio divina is a way of reading the Scriptures and then praying through the Scriptures and also coming into conversation with the Lord in our minds, in our interior, and being quiet and listening to what the Lord says to us,” Kohrman says.

She recommends a variation of traditional Catholic night prayers — the Hail Mary, Angel of God, Our Father, Apostles Creed, Act of Contrition — with the lectio divina-type prayers.

“It doesn’t replace those other prayers of our tradition,” Kohrman says. “It’s another way of praying. And it’s ancient.”

Kohrman adds, “And Pope Benedict has asked that this be rekindled in our church. The read-

ing of Scriptures and the contemplation is very much what Pope Benedict is asking for.”

“It does not replace Mass and the sacraments,” she advises. “It’s a way to enhance all that, all the other kinds of prayers, and to develop a personal relationship with Jesus that carries us through (life) no matter what.”

The benefit for teaching lectio divina, (see sidebar) is “children learn very early on — in any kind of a situation — in their hearts, that they can immediately go to Jesus and talk to him,” Kohrman says. “And that I think is key, and that is a part of what’s missing in our church today — that we don’t have that relationship. We have a lot of externals, but it’s also important to have that relationship.”

Both Sister Jane and Kohrman encourage families to have Catholic books and children’s Bibles (with age-appropriate content) for their children and to read those books, share Bible stories. And Sister Jane adds, have books about saints, encourage special devotions to special patron saints, celebrate their feast days. Sister Jane particularly likes the book, “Catholic Traditions in the Home and Classroom,” by Ann Ball and published by Our Sunday Visitor.

Sister Jane’s parents had a strong devotion to the rosary and Our Lady of Perpetual Help, “and those things just stay with you,” she says. She mentions that Our Lady of Guadalupe is the patroness of all the Americas and now crosses all cultures in the U.S.

But Sister Jane adds that Catholic identity can be reinforced through a daily routine of morning and evening prayer with our chil-

dren, prayer before and after meals; having religious images such as crucifixes in our homes; blessing Advent wreathes, Christmas trees, the Nativity scene; taking part in Lenten activities; teaching children how to make the sign of the cross, to genuflect reverently, etc.

“Catholic homes should also have some religious images,” Sister Jane adds. “There should be a crucifix in the home.”

All this builds on weekly Sunday attendance to Mass and nourishes Catholic identity in the home.

“We can’t expect other people to (teach our children to pray),” Sister Jane says. “The schools are meant to reinforce it.”

Sister Jane adds, “What is most confusing to children is attending Catholic school or parish religious education but not finding what they hear in their class in their home. In these situations, some children have called their parents to conversion and a renewal of faith.”

The Office of Catechesis offers assistance for parents and teachers. Visit the diocesan Web site, www.diocesefwsb.org, and listed under the diocesan departments click to the Office of Catechesis. The Teacher Communications link offers guidelines for teachers and parents from preschool through grade 8, as well as Catholic vocabulary words.

Kohrman notes that studies reveal, “children do have an ability to know there is a God.” By age 3 or 4, “we can start developing a child’s relationship with God in a very profound way.”

Learning ‘lectio divina’: Helping children to pray

There are four steps in praying Scripture with children, and Ginny Kohrman, director of the Office of Spiritual Development and Evangelization offers some preparation tips:

• **Select the book or Bible story**

“Children love to be read to; and they love to hear a good story,” Kohrman says. “With lectio divina, you can use Scripture, but there’s also the possibility of using stories that somehow reflect a teaching of Jesus or a moral teaching.”

Kohrman advises that parents read through the story first and look at the footnotes in the Bible, pray the Scripture and pray the story themselves.

• **Set the tone**

Set aside a quiet place for prayer, away from the play space — the television, radio are turned off. Have the book ready that will be read, maybe have a statue of Jesus, Mary or a crucifix so the children know that it’s a special time of prayer.

Have the children settle down in a simple, neurologically based, practice where they take four or five deep breaths in and out.

“The children come to love this practice because they realize this is the beginning of their prayer,” Kohrman says. “This goes back to very ancient ways of prayer where they talk about posturing, breathing ... it’s been in our tradition forever.

“I usually ask the children to pray to the Holy Spirit by saying, ‘Come, Holy Spirit, come’ a few times — asking the Holy Spirit to be with us, to fill in the blanks in those places where maybe we get distracted or we don’t know exactly what to say to the Lord in our prayer.”

Lectio: read, look

“I usually read the story with a lot of emotion, let them look at the pictures,” Kohrman says. “I like to use the Bible stories or books that include pictures,” for the appropriate age level. For older children, Kohrman says she may read straight from the Scriptures. Up to second or third grade children, she may opt for a Bible story or book.

Meditatio: think about the story

The second step is listening.

“That’s where we think about the story,” Kohrman says. “Our minds become active in it, we use our imagination, we put ourselves in the story. At that point I will ask questions to help them remember the story, to pick out certain parts that will help them think of the story a bit more in their prayer time.”

There is some conversation, some questions and answers with direction like “what is Jesus trying to tell us in this parable? What is this story telling us about how to act, how to live a Christian life?”

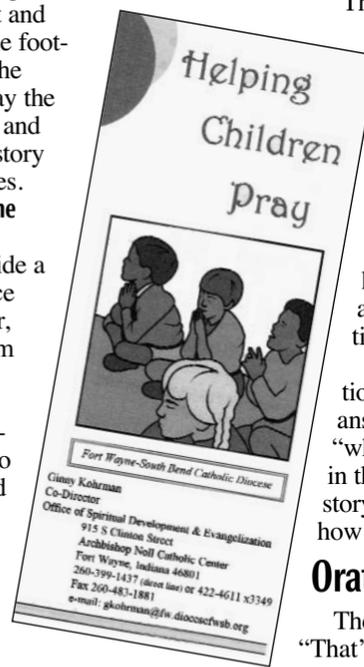
Oration: pray about it

Then comes the oration: “That’s where the children become very quiet. Sometimes if they are small children,” she says, “I’ll have them lay on their tummies or close their eyes ... and they start to go more interior where they actually will take the message of the story and talk to the Lord about it. I’ll have two or three questions pointing them to conversation with Jesus. ... But it’s very quiet within them when they talk to the Lord.”

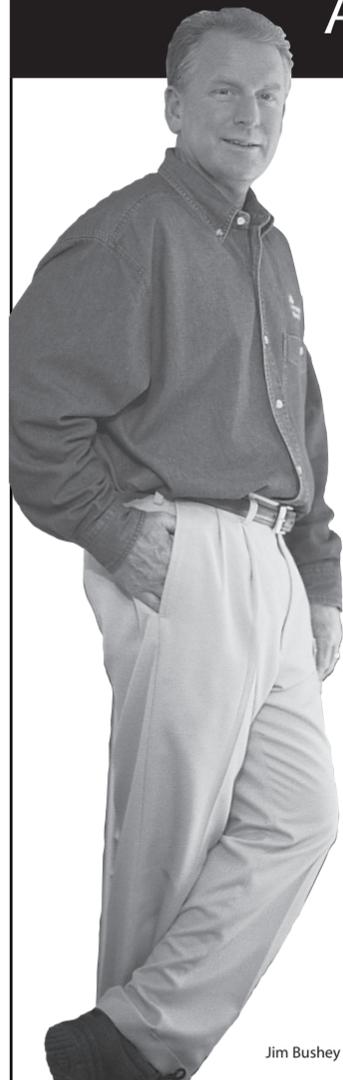
Contemplatio: being still in God’s presence

Then we have a time of contemplation and “they are just very quiet,” Kohrman says. “That’s where I usually like to say, ‘Just tell Jesus, tell the Lord, how much you love him. ... Listen to what God is saying to you.’”

That’s the important part, Kohrman says, “that we are learning to be silent. That we aren’t just talking and telling God what we want, but listening to what the Lord has to say.”



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Vatican evolution congress to exclude creationism, intelligent design

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Speakers invited to attend a Vatican-sponsored congress on the evolution debate will not include proponents of creationism and intelligent design, organizers said.

The Pontifical Council for Culture, Rome's Pontifical Gregorian University and the University of Notre Dame in Indiana are organizing an international conference in Rome March 3-7 as one of a series of events marking the 150th anniversary of the publication of Charles Darwin's "The Origin of Species."

Jesuit Father Marc Leclerc, a philosophy professor at the Gregorian, told Catholic News Service that organizers "wanted to create a conference that was strictly scientific" and that discussed rational philosophy and theology along with scientific discoveries.

He said arguments "that cannot be critically defined as being science, or philosophy or theology did not seem feasible to include in a dialogue at this level and, therefore, for this reason we did not think to invite" supporters of creationism and intelligent design.

Father Leclerc was one of several organizers speaking at a Sept. 16 Vatican press conference about the congress, part of the culture council's "Science, Technology and the Ontological Quest," or STOQ project.

Archbishop Gianfranco Ravasi, president of the Pontifical Council for Culture, said the other extreme of the evolution debate — proponents of an overly scientific conception of evolution and natural selection — also were not invited.

He reiterated that evolutionary theory "is not incompatible with the teachings of the Catholic Church or the Bible's message."

Auletta said Popes Pius XII,

John Paul II and Benedict XVI have expressed "a fundamental interest" in the theory of biological evolution. However, the pontiffs' hopes that Catholics would gain greater understanding of the issues has not yet materialized, he said.

Phillip Sloan, a professor at Notre Dame, told the press conference the evolution debate, "especially in the United States, has been taking place without a strong Catholic presence ... and the discourse has suffered accordingly."

While there has been Catholic commentary on the compatibility of faith and evolutionary theories, there is no definitive written source to which people can refer to learn the church's position, he said.

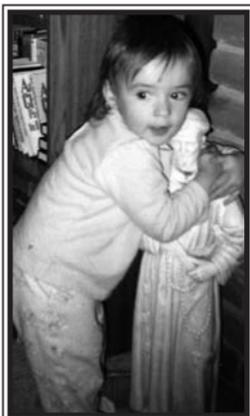
Sloan said he hoped the March conference and other initiatives planned by Notre Dame and the Vatican would foster the development of "informed Catholic thought" on the subject.

PRIESTS HONOR JUBILARIAN



DON CLEMMER

Father Barry England, right, celebrated his 40 years of priesthood with a Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and a luncheon at the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center in Fort Wayne Sept. 16. Father England is joined, at left, by Father Ed Ruetz, retired, and Father Paul Bueter, pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Warsaw.



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Pope encourages new bishops to imitate St. Paul's courage

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI encouraged recently ordained bishops to imitate St. Paul's missionary courage, whether in situations of religious indifference or anti-Christian persecution. The pope made the remarks in two meetings with about 120 international bishops at his summer residence in Castel Gandolfo. The bishops, appointed over the last year, were in Rome for symposiums that covered various aspects of a bishop's ministry. Speaking Sept. 20 to a group of bishops from missionary countries, the pope said that in the year dedicated to St. Paul the prelates could look to the saint for inspiration in trying times. "The winds of de-Christianization, religious indifference, secularization and relativism are striking your societies with increasing violence," the pope said. In these kinds of circumstances, the bishops, like St. Paul, might wonder whether the instrument of preaching is strong enough to win conversion, he said. The pope encouraged them to imitate St. Paul's persistence. St. Paul confronted personal mistreatment and many dangers and never ran from them, knowing that this was part of his role as a Christian, he said.

Israeli rabbi calls Vatican invitation to address synod sign of hope

JERUSALEM (CNS) — The Vatican invitation to participate in the upcoming world Synod of Bishops on the Bible is a "signal of hope," said Israeli Rabbi Shear-Yashuv Cohen, who will lead a one-day discussion on the Jewish interpretation of the Scriptures. Rabbi Cohen, co-chairman of the Israeli-Vatican dialogue commission and chief rabbi of Haifa, is the first non-Christian ever invited to address the world Synod of Bishops. He will speak the second day of the Oct. 5-26 synod at the Vatican. "(The invitation) brings with it a message of love, coexistence and peace for generations," Rabbi Cohen told Catholic News Service in an interview in his Jerusalem office in late September. "We see in (the) invitation a kind of declaration that (the church) intends to continue with the policy and doctrine established by Pope John XXIII and Pope John Paul II, and we appreciate very deeply this declaration."

Vietnamese government starts building on former nunciature grounds

HANOI, Vietnam (CNS) — Government authorities have started a construction project for a park and library at the former apostolic nunciature, a building Catholics have been trying to get returned. Local church sources told the Asian church news agency UCA News that beginning early the morning of Sept. 19 hundreds of local police, mobile units and plainclothes security officials erected iron barriers

NEWS BRIEFS

WOMAN CELEBRATES AFRICAN NATIONAL PRAYER DAY



CNS PHOTO/LESLIE E. KOSSOFF

A member of the St. Cecilia African Gospel Choir sings and dances at the end of a Mass in celebration of African National Prayer Day at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington Sept. 20. The Mass was part of a Sept. 19-21 gathering that attracted participants from around the country.

blocking off the street from the former nunciature. Two trucks and a crane were taken into the compound, they said, and workers toppled the iron fence in front of the building in the morning and moved some furniture out of it. State-run media reported that district government authorities announced their construction plan at the nunciature Sept. 18, saying they would develop a flower garden on the 1,370-square-yard compound. The nunciature building will be repaired and renovated for use as a library, the report said. Authorities confiscated the building in 1959, after which the Vatican's delegate to Vietnam shifted to Saigon, now Ho Chi Minh City, in what was then South Vietnam.

Vatican official says Catholic families lead by example

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Italian Cardinal Ennio Antonelli said his first priority as president of the Pontifical Council for the Family is to help faithful Catholic couples and their children proclaim by their example the church's teaching on marriage and family life. "The first priority is to build up Christian families," said the cardinal, who was named president of the council in June. Cardinal Antonelli said he does not think the church and its leaders speak only about problems and attacks on the family, but the media seems to pay attention only when the church expresses its concerns. "We must care for normal families first so that they become a sign for others," he said. "Without

examples, how can we persuade others?" The cardinal met Sept. 18 with reporters, partly to introduce himself as the new council president and partly to present plans for the Jan. 14-18 theological and pastoral congress on family life and the World Meeting of Families in Mexico City.

Bishops invite McCain, Obama to meet before election

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has extended invitations to Republican Sen. John McCain and Democratic Sen. Barack Obama to meet before the Nov. 4 election and discuss their views on a variety of election issues. Invitations to the major presidential candidates were sent in August, *The Wall Street Journal* reported Sept. 17. Bishop William F. Murphy of Rockville Centre, N.Y., chairman of the bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, told the newspaper that five bishops who lead various policy committees want to discuss the candidates' views on social policies such as abortion, education, immigration, international affairs and communications. Any meetings, should they occur, will be private and off the record, Bishop Murphy said. "This isn't born of any concern or worry or problem," Bishop Murphy told the newspaper. "We think it would be helpful for us to have that time and we think it would be helpful for the candidates to hear from the teachers of the Catholic Church ... as to what our concerns are."

USCCB strongly supports draft HHS regulations protecting conscience

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Proposed regulations protecting the conscience rights of individuals and health care institutions are especially needed in light of the "growing hostility on the part of some professional organizations and advocacy groups" to those rights, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops said in public comments to the Department of Health and Human Services. The comments came in a six-page letter Sept. 12 to Brenda Destro in the HHS Office of Public Health and Service from Anthony R. Picarello, USCCB general counsel, and Michael F. Moses, associate general counsel. Expressing "strong support for the proposed rule," the USCCB letter noted that an earlier leaked version of the HHS proposal had prompted "negative public reaction ... by pro-abortion groups and some editorial writers." It said, "The adverse reaction demonstrates, at best, a deplorable lack of understanding about the federal legislative rights of conscience on which the proposed regulations are based, at worst outright hostility to those statutory rights."

Cardinal: Some not satisfied even after Tridentine Mass decree

ROME (CNS) — Rather than being grateful, some people have reacted to Pope Benedict XVI's wider permission for the celebration of the Tridentine Mass with

further demands, said Cardinal Dario Castrillon Hoyos. The cardinal, president of the Pontifical Commission "Ecclesia Dei," spoke Sept. 16 at a conference marking the first anniversary of "Summorum Pontificum," the document by which Pope Benedict expanded access to the Tridentine rite, the Mass rite used before the Second Vatican Council. Cardinal Castrillon, whose commission works with communities using the old rite, said his office continues to receive letters requesting the Tridentine rite be used not just at one Mass a week but at every Mass, and that such Masses be available not just at one church in a town but at every church. He said he even got a letter demanding that Rome's Basilica of St. Mary Major be dedicated exclusively to the celebration of the Tridentine-rite Mass. Such people, he said, are "insatiable, incredible."

Nun who was pioneer in area of health care financial systems dies

NOTRE DAME, Ind. (CNS) — Holy Cross Sister M. Gerald Hartney, who was a pioneer in the development of health care financial management systems in the United States, died at age 98 Sept. 10 at St. Mary's Convent in Notre Dame. Sister Gerald employed her financial acuity and keen stewardship as a participant in developing the principles of the early Medicare legislation and was a sought-after financial management consultant to U.S. health care institutions, as well as religious congregations and Catholic bishops and dioceses in the U.S. and Africa. Born Maura Josephine Hartney in Limerick, Ireland, in 1910, Sister Gerald's lifelong finance ministry began in 1932 as an accountant at Holy Cross Sanatorium in Deming, N.M. Her nearly 70 years of leadership included serving as an organizing member of the present-day Healthcare Financial Management Association and as a national consultant and lecturer for both the Catholic Hospital Association, which is now the Catholic Health Association, and Stewardship Services Inc.

Cross shows true love does not exist without suffering, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — God's love poured out on humanity through the cross of Jesus offers healing and salvation to all people, Pope Benedict XVI said. At his Sept. 17 weekly general audience, the pope reflected on his Sept. 12-15 trip to France, which he said had brought him many blessings. "By a happy coincidence," he said, Sept. 14 when he visited the Marian sanctuaries at Lourdes was the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, "the sign of hope par excellence because it is the testimony of maximum love." Pope Benedict told a packed Vatican audience hall: "The cross reminds us that true love does not exist without suffering; there is no gift of life without pain. Many learn that truth in Lourdes, which is a school of faith and hope because it also is a school of charity and of service to one's brothers and sisters."

Feast of St. Francis and blessing of the pets at the USF

FORT WAYNE — This year's Oct. 4 homecoming at the University of Saint Francis will be even more meaningful because the feast of the university's patron — St. Francis of Assisi — falls on homecoming day. In addition to the football game, tailgating and the homecoming court, several religious/Franciscan events cosponsored by campus ministry and the Center for Franciscan Spirit and Life have been scheduled:

- **Transitus**, a traditional Franciscan prayer service commemorating St. Francis' passing into heaven, will be held on Thursday, Oct. 2, at 7 p.m. in the Saint Francis Chapel at the west end of Trinity Hall.

- In honor of the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, Mass will take place in the Saint Francis Chapel on Saturday, Oct. 4, at 9 a.m. University chaplain Father John Stecher will be the celebrant, and liturgical music will be provided by members of USF Music Ministry and the Sisters of Saint Francis.

- For those mindful of their Sunday Mass obligation, a vigil Mass for the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time will be offered after the football game on Saturday, Oct. 4, at 4 p.m. in the Saint Francis Chapel.

- A Blessing of Pets will take place on Saturday, Oct. 4, at approximately 5 p.m. in front of the Bass Mansion near the St. Francis statue. Pets of all shapes, sizes and species are welcome.

All events are open to the public without charge. University alumni and Secular Franciscans are especially welcome.

Annual Fort Wayne Red Mass to be held Oct. 5

FORT WAYNE — The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend will hold its annual Red Mass in Fort Wayne on Sunday, Oct. 5, at 9:30 a.m. in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

Invoking a 13th-century European tradition, Bishop John M. D'Arcy will preside at this traditional liturgy and has invited those who strive for the cause of justice to the Fort Wayne area — lawyers, judges and civil government officials — asking God's blessing and guidance on all those who serve the law.

Following the Red Mass, Nicholas P. Cafardi, dean emeritus and professor of law at the Duquesne University School of Law, will address members of the local legal community and interested individuals at a brunch in the Anthony Wayne Ballroom of the Grand Wayne Center. The title of his address is "Christian Lawyering: What to Do When the Church Fails."

The Mass and/or brunch are open to the public. However, a donation of \$15 per person is suggested for the brunch. Reservations can be made by calling (260) 422-4611 before

AROUND THE DIOCESE

SRI LANKAN ARCHBISHOP GOMIS PAYS A VISIT



DON CLEMMER

Archbishop Oswald Gomis of Colombo, Sri Lanka, receives a copy of the history of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend from Bishop John M. D'Arcy at the Fort Wayne chancery Sept. 15. Archbishop Gomis, a friend of Bishop D'Arcy and bishop to several Sri Lankan priests serving in the diocese, came at the personal invitation of Bishop D'Arcy and visited the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne, as well as Bremen and other towns in the diocese during his Sept. 10-17 stay.

Sept. 30.

St. Matthew Parish to offer class on life issues

SOUTH BEND — St. Matthew Cathedral Parish will offer presentations and discussion on abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment and war and peace, what the church teaches and what it means to be pro-life today.

In "Evangelium Vitae," Pope John Paul II said, "To kill a human being, in whom the image of God is present, is a particularly serious sin. Only God is the master of life."

Sessions will be held Monday evenings in October from 7-8:15 p.m. in the St. Matthew Cathedral School south cafeteria, and feature the following speakers:

- Oct. 6 — Jacque Werling on abortion
- Oct. 13 — Dr. Charles Rice on euthanasia
- Oct. 20 — Holy Cross Father Tom McNally on capital punishment
- Oct. 27 — Dr. Michael Baxter on war and peace

Childcare will be available for those who make reservations by calling (574) 231-9824.

Contact Rick Becker for additional information at (574) 257-3377.

Lecture on 'Catholics and Politics' at the USF

FORT WAYNE — The Department of Theology and Philosophy at the University of Saint Francis will sponsor Assistant Professor Dr. Adam DeVille's lecture, "Catholics and Politics," on Thursday, Oct. 23, at 7:30 p.m. in the North Campus Auditorium.

Among the questions Dr. DeVille will discuss are "How should you as a Catholic vote in November?" "What issues should you consider before you cast your ballot?" "What has the church to say to guide you in your choice?" Light refreshments will follow this free public lecture.

Rapping Franciscan to perform

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis will host a free concert by Father Stan Fortuna on Tuesday, Sept. 30, at the North Campus Gymnasium at 8 p.m.

Internationally known for his music as well as his preaching, Father Stan serves in the South Bronx area and travels extensively performing at conferences, retreats and prayer festivals.

The concert is sponsored by USF campus ministry and the diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Diocesan National Merit Scholarship semifinalists announced

Officials of National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) announced the names of approximately 16,000 Semifinalists in the 54th annual National Merit Scholarship Program.

Saint Joseph's High School, South Bend, has the following National Merit semifinalists in the class of 2009: Arnav Dutt, Michael Furdyna, Brian Huang, Renula Mitra and Jeffrey Wei.

Marian High School, Mishawaka, has two National Merit semifinalists in the class of 2009: Stefan Sokolowski and Michael Urda.

Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne, has the following National Merit semifinalists in the class of 2009: Gregory Barry, Kathryn Curtis, Olivia Lee and Cody Newport. Commended students include: Andrew Blackburn, Joseph Colone, Nikolaus Kleber, Rebecca Kleber, Andrew Moeller, Christopher Peden and Ashley Reed.

Bishop Luers High School, Fort Wayne, has commended students in the class of 2009: Kara Baumgartner, Lauren Hellinger and Robert Slocum.

These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the

competition for some 8,200 Merit Scholarships, worth more than \$35 million, that will be offered next spring.

Arcola parish to hold mission Oct. 5-8

ARCOLA — St. Patrick Parish, Arcola, will host a parish mission, "Many Journeys, One Spirit, One Family," Oct. 5-8. The evening sessions will begin at 7 p.m. Morning sessions with Ginny Kohrman, director of the Office of Spiritual Development and Evangelization, will be at 8 a.m., Oct. 6-8.

The mission speakers and topics include the following:

- Sunday, Oct. 5, Lisa Marino, the vocation of marriage;
- Monday, Oct. 6, Lisa Everett, communication and intimacy in the family;
- Tuesday, Oct. 7, Father Bruce Piechocki, reconciliation within the family. Confession will follow the mission;
- Wednesday, Oct. 8, Bishop John M. D'Arcy, Christian family: The church of the home.

Refreshments will be provided after each evening session. Transportation is also available.

For information, call the parish office at (260) 625-4151.

St. Patrick Parish is located at 12305 Arcola Rd., Fort Wayne, Ind. 46818.

Memorial service remembers aborted

FORT WAYNE — The 16th annual memorial service commemorating the deaths of approximately 700 babies killed this year in Fort Wayne by abortion will be held on Sunday, Oct. 5, at 2 p.m. at the Catholic Cemetery located at 3500 Lake Ave., Fort Wayne.

The service remembers the children killed in Fort Wayne at the Women's Health Organization between Sept. 1, 2007 and Aug. 31, 2008.

This non-denominational service gives all a chance to pause and reflect on the tragedies caused by the sin of abortion in the United States.

Old Testament themes class offered

FORT WAYNE — The diocesan Office of Catechesis is sponsoring a three-week session, Old Testament Themes, presented by Joe Garcia. Meetings will be held on Thursday evenings from 7-9 p.m. at the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center, Fort Wayne, on Oct. 16, 23 and 30.

This study of the Old Testament will highlight some of the essential elements for Christians to know. The themes of journey and salvation can be discovered throughout the Old Testament and this study of Scripture will augment the participant's own journey toward the salvation offered by Christ.

Registration is required. Interested participants can register online at www.diocesefwsb.org/OC under Adult Faith Formation or contact Janice Martin at (260) 399-1411 or by e-mail at jmartin@fw.diocesefwsb.org.

Two dads trying to make a difference

Lunch Shuttle offers convenient nutritious meals for students

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — A couple of years ago two young fathers, volunteers in their children's school cafeteria, began an interesting debate on whether there was a healthier alternative to what they had both witnessed as less than gratifying meals for the students. After further discussion and brainstorming their approach to the challenge of healthier school lunches — and much prodding from their wives — Johnathan Brouwer and Mike Teders made a commitment to offer fresh, nutritious meals to be delivered to students each day.

Initially the entrepreneurs recognized the need for in-depth research to get the program off the ground and soon learned that most lunch foods were brought in the day before they were served, and minimally seasoned to meet the needs of all students. Much of the food was processed and high in fat and preservatives.

As their research continued, the two dads discovered that bland foods and lack of choice in current lunch programs contributed to the over 40 percent of food waste found in school cafeterias across the nation. Additionally, with the

enormous quantities of lunches the government-lunch program supplied each day, whole grains, and fresh fruits and vegetables were not always affordable.

"And with the trend toward childhood obesity and diabetes ... it was time for a change," says Teders.

So after months of researching other healthy alternative lunch companies nationwide and working tirelessly with an area nutritionist, Brouwer and Teders created the maiden menu for what they hope will be a healthy alternative to the current school lunches. And Lunch Shuttle, Inc. was born.

Parents and students choose from a list of six entrees, including peanut butter and jelly, pita wrap or the Lunch Shuttle signature sandwich — turkey, cheese and lettuce on a whole wheat bagel bun. Choice of two of the 12 sides offered, including fresh grapes, baby carrots or pretzels completes the meal. Beverages are not included.

"These are good calories," says Teders, "that will give kids more energy. They'll learn more and won't go home hungry."

A two-week pilot study for Lunch Shuttle service began in December of last year at St. John the Baptist School, Fort Wayne. Brown bag lunches made fresh daily were evaluated by 14 students, four teachers and the principal, at no cost.

Principal Jane Sandor says of the lunches, "They were well bal-

anced and nutritious. The service was excellent and prompt. Good quality ... and more food than I could eat." Several of the students said the same thing, she adds.

One student in the test group, reports Brouwer, took the remainder of her lunch home rather than throwing it away. "That," he says, "is when we knew we were on to something."

Parents will sign up for a Lunch Shuttle account to order lunches for any day of the week — all online. All credit card payments for the \$3.69 lunches will be electronic and the duo hopes to inspire some parents to assist with morning assembly of the lunches in order to offset their child's order cost. The company will work with parents when delays, illnesses or closings occur.

It is important to note that "we are not replacing the Fort Wayne Community Schools' lunches. We are working with parents who want a choice," says Brouwer.

Brouwer and Teders are setting up shop on South Wayne Avenue where daily market runs will stock the assembly line staffed by the two dads, their wives and children, who will assemble the chosen items for each lunch ordered. Labels with date, student's name and school will be affixed to the appropriate brown bag to be delivered by Brouwer and Teders to the schools each day.

The venturesome pair plans to offer the Lunch Shuttle to private and parochial schools in the Allen



PROVIDED BY JOHNATHAN BROUWER

Mike Teders, left, and Johnathan Brouwer are two dads trying to make a difference by offering a healthy alternative for lunch at school. Lunch Shuttle, Inc will offer daily-made fresh brown bag lunches for students who, with their parents, can order online.

County area with the hope of it growing to serve surrounding areas.

"We're passionate about this," says Teders, adding, "It started with our own kids and grew from there. It's not only to serve parents but to help children start healthy lifestyles."

Their Web site is currently under construction and they hope to be in full production and delivering nutritious lunches by early next year.

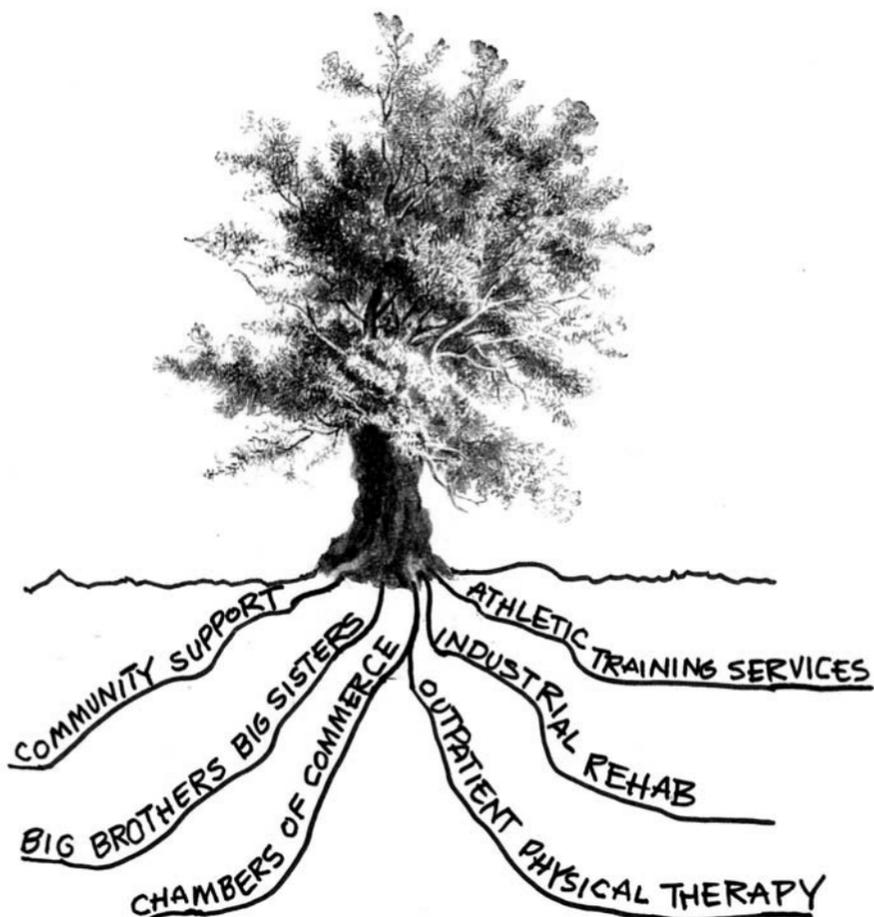
Both Brouwer and Teders and their families are active members of St. John the Baptist Parish and say, "Faith is what drives us. We try to live our own lives in the

Catholic faith. We want this to benefit everyone."

They hope to design a rebate program that will benefit each school they serve.

Brouwer, small business owner, and Teders, national sales manager for a manufacturing company, both agree they will not quit their day jobs for now, but hope that this innovative business will take them into the future saying, "This is life changing for us. We're very excited."

For more information on the Lunch Shuttle service visit www.lunchshuttle.com.



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Sisters of St. Francis recognized with Spirit of Hope Award

BY DIANE FREEBY

SOUTH BEND — A love of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, humble service and some really cool Easter baskets ... those are just a few of the reasons the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration received the Spirit of Hope Award at Hope Ministries 55th Annual Community Luncheon.

The sisters, who have served residents of South Bend's Hope Ministries (formerly Hope Rescue Mission) for 21 years, faithfully provide meals to 125 men, women and children each month.

"When we serve the poor we draw close to the Lord," explained Sister Clare Reville, accepting the award on behalf of the Sisters from Mishawaka. "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted, and those who are

crushed in spirit he saves. In Christ, Hope Ministries lifts up the brokenhearted and crushed in spirit, restores their dignity and sets them on a new path. It is a privilege to share in this ministry."

Hope resident LaTasha Parker presented the award. She and her two small children needed a place to stay and have been living at Hope Ministries for six months. Parker, who also now sings in the choir at Hope, says it was the Easter baskets lovingly prepared and donated by the Sisters of St. Francis that really touched

her heart.

"It really surprised me. I wasn't expecting it, and it made me feel welcome," said Parker.

Sarah Greenawalt has worked at Hope Ministries for about two years, and says she is grateful for all the sisters do. In addition to serving meals and personalizing those Easter baskets, the

Sisters of St. Francis participate in the Ash Wednesday prayer services, distributing ashes and assisting in any other way they are needed.

"The sisters are humble servants for Hope, and very much available," said Greenawalt. "They are examples of Christ, not asking for anything in return but always available to others."

To hear Sister Clare tell it, she and her fellow sisters are the ones who truly receive when they visit Hope Ministries.

"Going down there monthly helps keep us in touch with the poor and is always an opportunity to meet Christ. The residents and people of 'Hope' teach us much about graciousness and gratitude and courage in the face of adversity."

Sister Clare continued, "It is always humbling to be there serving and casually ask one of the residents 'How are you?' and hear them say, 'I am blessed.' Wow! It sure gives me pause to think that they can thank the Lord for the blessings in their life and truly see themselves as blessed. How could one leave and not also feel deeply blessed for the many things I may take for granted."

"When we serve the poor we draw close to the Lord."

SISTER CLARE REVILLE

St. Vincent de Paul's Legacy Dinner

BY JUDY BRADFORD

SOUTH BEND — Arthur Houle, a parishioner at St. Anthony de Padua Catholic Church for many years, has been named winner of the Ozanam Award by the St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Joseph County.

Houle has been an active volunteer, or "Vincentian," visiting the poor and needy in the community since 1995. He has also given many hours of his time to the agency's annual Christmas Basket program, and has donated material goods to the society's Thrift Store on Ardmore Trail. He has also served as a St. Vincent de Paul conference president.

The award was presented to Houle during the society's first annual Legacy Dinner, held recently at the Hilton Garden Inn on Saint Mary's College campus.

In receiving his award, Houle said he is "only a symbol of hundreds of (St. Vincent de Paul) members who regularly serve the poor every day."

The Ozanam Award is given every year to someone who has contributed uniquely to the mission of the society, thereby enhancing the community and supporting families.

Some 400 people attended the dinner, which is the society's major fundraiser of the year. Income from the dinner and silent auction far exceeded



ARTHUR HOULE

expectations, and will help fund the society's assistance programs, including its upcoming Christmas Basket program.

Another speaker at the dinner was Tammy Kyeyune, 44, a former client of St. Vincent's who is now working on a degree in criminal justice.

Kyeyune, who came to St. Vincent's for help while raising several children, told the story of how the society helped her when she was most in need.

"Poverty had chased me, relentlessly," Kyeyune told the dinner crowd. "But nothing touches a woman's heart, as when you help her children.

"St. Vincent de Paul volun-



TAMMY KYEYUNE

teers brought us Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets," she added, "and I was struck by their kindness. There are many places that help, but no places like St. Vincent de Paul."

"Their actions carried seeds," she continued. "You never know where a seed is being planted, and the people who came to my home planted seeds in me that I am grateful for, and will now spread to others."

The Legacy Dinner also featured Mike Collins, former anchor of WSBT-TV and WNDU-TV, and Bob Lux, longtime local radio personality and currently a senior marketing consultant with WSBT Radio Group.

Back Pain?

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Catholic Culture series offered at Notre Dame

NOTRE DAME — The University of Notre Dame's Center for Ethics and Culture is offering a lecture series on prominent figures in Catholic literature. The lectures, which began Sept. 23, take place at 8 p.m. in DeBartolo Hall, Room 155 and are free and open to the public.

This year's series focuses on four Catholic authors who wrote satire-humor or sarcasm to critique society. The first lecture Sept. 23 on Evelyn Waugh was presented by Jesuit Father Paul Mankowski, a native of South Bend, who now is a scholar of Scripture and Hebrew at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome. Evelyn Waugh was a novelist who wrote "Brideshead Revisited," "Decline and Fall," and "The Loved One," as well as several other well-known titles.

The Sept. 30 lecture will be given by Notre Dame Professor Ralph McInerney, a well-known prolific author himself. McInerney, a philosophy professor, will speak on Baron Corvo, best known for "Hadrian VII," a fantasy autobiography of an Englishman who is elected Pope.

On Oct. 7, Father Marvin O'Connell will speak on Hilaire Belloc, a defender of the faith who was closely associated with another Catholic literary giant, G.K. Chesterton. Father O'Connell was a professor of history at Notre Dame for over 30 years and specializes in the history of the Catholic Church and British history. He recently wrote an authoritative biography of Holy Cross Father Edward Sorin, Notre Dame founder.

Professor Joseph Pearce of Ave Maria College in Naples, Fla., will speak Oct. 14 on playwright, novelist and poet Oscar Wilde. Wilde is perhaps best known for his satires on Victorian society, "The Picture of Dorian Gray" and "The Importance of Being Earnest." Pearce is the author of biographies on Wilde, Belloc, Chesterton, J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis.

The concluding lecture in the series will be on Oct. 28, given by Holy Cross Father Charles Gordon, a theology professor at Portland University. An alumnus of Notre Dame, Father Gordon also will speak on Evelyn Waugh. Father Gordon specializes in systematic theology and the theology in literature. — AC

Literacy expert to hold ISTEP workshop at the University of Saint Francis

FORT WAYNE — Kristina Smekens, a nationally recognized expert in literacy, will present a workshop entitled "Targeting the Test Writing Genre-ISTEP Focus" at the University of Saint Francis on Monday, Oct. 13, from 4:15-5:30 p.m. in the Doermer Center, room 156A/B.

Advance registration is \$10 and \$12 at the door. Please send checks payable to: University of Saint Francis, Department of Education, 2701 Spring Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46808, Attn: Nancy Hankee.

For information, contact Nancy Hankee at (260) 399-7700 ext. 8405.

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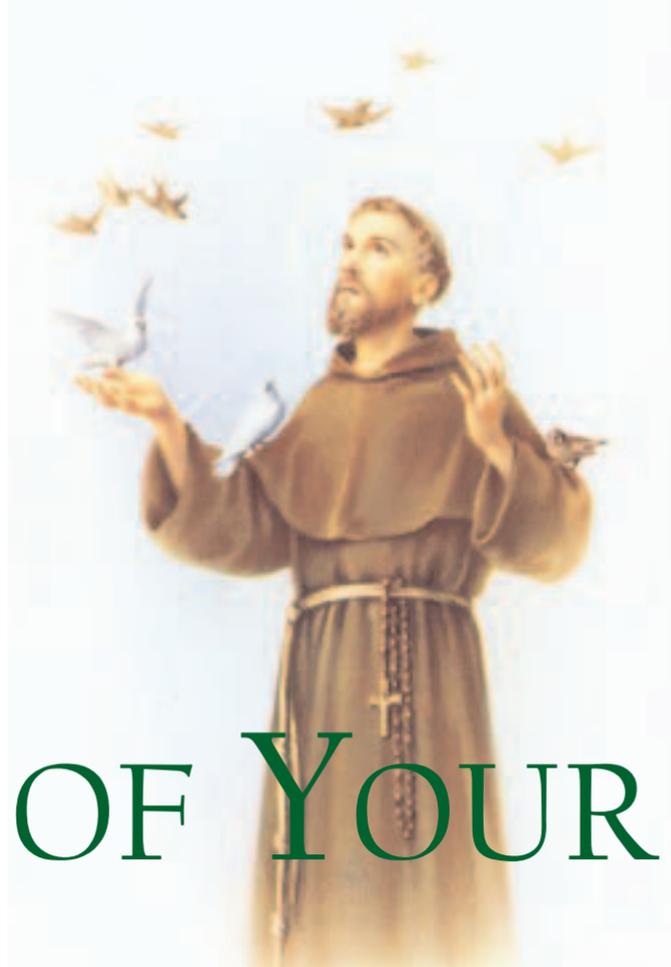
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MAKE ME A CHANNEL



OF YOUR PEACE

God's instrument of peace

BY SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

For many months now those who attend the 11 a.m. Mass at the Church of Loretto at Saint Mary's Convent have prayed the Prayer of St. Francis at the close of each day's intercessions.

The need for peace in the world is often on the minds of many Americans. Almost daily for over five years now we've heard news of the deaths of our troops and the Iraqi people, and Iraq is not the only country where many live with violence and war. In light of this reality, it is easy to feel helpless and even depressed. We ask ourselves what we could possibly do to bring peace to the world?

Most of us probably won't have direct influence on settling the wars that rage throughout the world, but there are ways we can bring peace to our own environments. A good guide to follow is the prayer attributed to St. Francis. Lord, make me an instrument of peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love. How can we sow love and dispel hatred? Most of us probably do not really hate many, if any, people, but there are those we might certainly dislike. It might be individuals or groups of people. As a start we can pray for these people and ask the Lord to give us eyes to see their goodness as God does. This is important because all human beings are capable of hatred; just look at the genocide that took place in Rwanda and that which is happening in Darfur and other places

in the world.

Where there is injury, pardon. Most conflicts, large or small, usually begin because of hurt and/or the refusal to forgive. Who are the people who have hurt us or we have hurt? Who do we need to forgive and from whom do we need to ask for forgiveness. Those who hold grudges can never be completely at peace. It is amazing but sometimes people cannot even remember why they have something against another. They cannot even remember what the person did to them but they sure aren't reconciled.

Where there is doubt, faith. One way to help someone overcome his or her doubts is to share our own faith in the unconditional love of God with that person. Our faith in the goodness and love of God can lift up others whose faith is weak.

Where there is despair, hope. Christians are called to be people of hope. I read something recently that said it well: "Whatever the headlines, Easter announces that evil has been ultimately overcome by good." God continues to love every person and thing that he made and he certainly will not destroy what he created. This message of God's love can only bring hope.

Where there is darkness, light. Christians must not let them-

selves be weighed down by negativity. We must light up the darkness by trying to be positive. We can overcome negativity by looking for the good in all persons and situations.

Where there is sadness, joy. We can perform small acts of kindness to lighten the sadness of others. Too often we shy away from those who are sad because we don't know what to say. Sometimes we don't have to say anything.

O Divine Master grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console. Think about what our

world would be like if we were sensitive to those who are hurting and not always focused on our own personal problems.

To be understood, as to understand. We cannot always understand others but we certainly can listen

to them.

To be loved, as to love. When we forget ourselves and reach out in love to others, it usually comes back to us a hundredfold.

For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and in dying that we are born to eternal life.

If each of us could do all or any of these things we could begin to transform our little corner of the world and bring it peace. Pick one and start today.

We ask ourselves what we could possibly do to bring peace to the world?

Cats and dogs chase stress

BY MARK WEBER



RONNIE PHILBIN, RN, CNS

It is the dogs and cats that establish familiar routines with their owners; affectionate bonding that goes both ways; most owners talk

to their pets.

A dog can benefit the owner's cardiovascular health. At the end of the day, a dog is ready for exercise or play and gets its companion out of the house. This is particularly beneficial for those who live alone, since it provides exercise plus the opportunity for social contact and mood improvement.

Ronnie Philbin, a clinical nurse specialist with the Fawver Wellness Clinic in Fort Wayne specializing in mental health, says, "People who own pets have better mental health."

To some of her patients she suggests that they acquire a pet. She also describes the benefits of pets visiting nursing homes and how residents there become alert and interested in the presence of a pet.

Spending time with a pet can lower blood pressure and release chemicals in the brain called endorphins, that elevate the mood. So, based on the combined advantage that comes from walking a dog and the calming effect of talking to a dog, pet ownership is good for a person from head to toe.

Since the day Noah sent a dove on a mission, man has had a mutually beneficial relationship with animals. He has depended on them for food, worn their hides for warmth, and made music with their skin and bones. He has used animals as beasts of burden, as well as transportation and has trained dogs to herd and hunt. In today's world, dogs find criminals and lost kids ... they also sniff out bombs and drugs and aid the blind and handicapped.

These are the working animals that earn our respect and admiration. And then there are pets — they earn our love.

Topping the list in pet popularity are cats and dogs. A National Institutes of Health (NIH) survey revealed that more than half of U.S. households have a companion animal. Pets are more common in households with children, yet there are more pets than children in American households. There are more than 51 million dogs, 56 million cats, 45 million birds, 75 million small mammals and reptiles and uncounted millions of aquarium fish.

As far as benefits from the animal to the owner are concerned, birds, snakes and fish can establish a sense of discipline required by care and feeding and a measure of interest in observing behavior and growth, but unless one speaks literally, there is no such thing as curling up with a snake while watching TV.

Visiting dogs connect with residents, patients

BY DEB WAGNER

FORT WAYNE — Some pets have a ministry all of their own.

Visiting dogs can be found in hospitals, nursing homes and retirement centers. Those who visit the hospitals not only need to be certified as a therapy dog, but the team of dog and handler needs to meet the volunteer requirements of that particular hospital.

The therapeutic-use visiting pets and the use of dogs in animal-assisted activities has been known for many years. In nursing facilities and hospitals, the pet might break the monotony by providing something for people to look forward to or the dog might help a patient or resident remember a more pleasant time in their past when they were free from pain and restrictions.

Dori Meighan, a St. Charles Borromeo parishioner, takes only one of her two golden retrievers at a time to Canterbury Nursing Home on the first Saturday of the month or to Parkview Hospital every other Thursday. With the nursing home visit, relationships are built with repeat visits; whereas, the visits to the hospi-

tals are often just for one time with the patient.

Meighan and her dogs, Bailey, age 10 and Kula, 5, are members of Three Rivers Visiting Dogs, Inc. Club. Club liability insurance requires that there only be one dog per handler and those visitations are made in teams of two handlers each with one dog. The handlers wear a special vest and the dogs sport a scarf with the club's logo as well as a special leash and collar. They always ask if the resident or patient would like to see the dog.

Meighan sees this as a "very gratifying and worthwhile ministry" through which she shares the three tenants of the club's existence, which are to bring about love, happiness and compassion. It was St. Francis of Assisi who said that in giving we receive and it is so with these pets.

Meighan says it is such a "special experience" to be with these people as she told the story of a hospitalized man who told her that for the 30 seconds he was petting the dog, he forgot how much pain he was in.

Saint Anne Home and Retirement Community has been the recipient of many four-



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY LAURIE FOX

Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sister Gabriel Skupien plays the harmonica for Anna, owned by Brenda Mann, at a visit to the sisters at Victory Noll.

legged, furry friends over the years. Laurie Fox, a St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parishioner and former Saint Anne's activity assistant, joins six other dog/handler teams on the Alzheimer's unit every other Wednesday evening.

Fox would concur with Meighan regarding the importance of the dogs. Fox says seeing the difference her dog, Shelby, made was truly a gift from God.

She says, "After all, dog spelled backwards is God. Dogs can do much more than people can do for patients. A dog can make a patient smile, a typically non-responsive patient reach out to grab the dog's fur."

Fox also takes Shelby with two other teams to Victory Noll in Huntington once a month to make the retired sisters who have donated their entire life to serving others smile.

Gloria Kohrman from Therapy Dogs, Inc. has been bringing Phil, her soft-coated Wheaten terrier to Saint Anne's for the past year and a half. She says that Phil's demeanor is calm when he enters the floor for visitation yet he loves to kiss on the cheek.

One patient "lights up like a Christmas tree" according to Kohrman when she receives her kiss from Phil even though she does not communicate verbally. For Kohrman the visits are "tremendously rewarding because it hurts my heart that people are confined there, but maybe I have brought them some joy."

Pam White who takes her 4-year-old female Sheltie named Lacie to Saint Anne's says the dog often calms the hospital staff down as well as the patient during stressful moments. Lacie's visit is often a "good excuse," says White, "to get patients out of

their rooms. Petting the dog is sometimes the most exercise the patients get."

Kay Anderson who once conducted pet assisted therapy under the supervision of a licensed counselor and is currently the director of placement services and a therapy evaluator for Therapy Dogs, Inc., agrees that these dogs give unconditional love and often reaches those who seem to be unreachable. They provide a surrogate relationship for those who are isolated, ease social interactions and provide an outward focus for those who are depressed.



Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sister Paline Wapiennik gives dogs Anna, Baxter, Shelby and Willy a treat after their visit to Victory Noll.

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Religious with pets reflect on St. Francis' legacy

BY DEB WAGNER

MISHAWAKA — Why would we write an article on a convent pet or a priest's cats and print it when the feast of St. Francis of Assisi is upon us? Your response might be as quick as that eager student with arm shooting up from the socket like a cannonball and waving about in the air, "Because St. Francis of Assisi liked animals." That was an easy question to answer perhaps, but is it complete?

St. Francis of Assisi believed that every creature reflected God's goodness and beauty and was therefore deserving of deep love and respect. Since everything that is created should be respected, then every creature large and small, should be viewed as holy and a gift from God, their Creator. Objects such as animals are not to be seen as objects for use but living creatures that are to be revered and respected. Sheep reminded St. Francis of Assisi of Jesus, the good shepherd, according to Sister Agnes Marie Regan, a Sister of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration.

Sister Agnes Marie, along with four other caretakers, make sure their Husky/Shepherd mix named Balto has every need met.

Balto came to the convent about six years ago from the local pet refugee center. Sister Agnes Marie remembers fondly that there was a paper on a table in the convent in Mishawaka dividing up the responsibilities of caring for the dog. "I was very con-

fused by this and just kept saying, 'But, we do not have a dog.'" It turns out that a fellow sister had something else in mind.

Balto is a very high-spirited dog that is full of energy.

What can we learn from this creature who is the manifestation of God's love and beauty? Here are a few thoughts to ponder. Just as we teach a dog to "sit," we need to sit and appreciate God's presence in the world. We also need to "stay" and pray in God's presence. Jesus said, "come" as in "Come to me you who are heavily burdened and I will give you rest." Is not an animal's master a source of comfort for the animal, just as God is a source of comfort for mankind? We also need to come to God in silence and reflection, according to Sister Agnes Marie.

On the lighter side of the subject, the nearly 70 Franciscan Sisters at the Perpetual Adoration motherhouse refer to Balto as their Franciscan Homeland Security because all 100 pounds of Balto loves everyone who comes to visit the grounds.

"Balto thinks people are cool," according to Sister Agnes

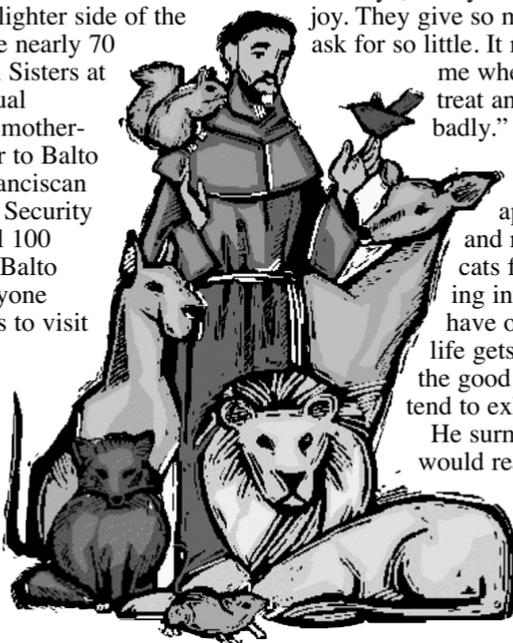
Marie, who adds that he is quite the intelligent dog. Balto brings his empty bowl to the sisters while they enjoy conversation in the living room. Maybe he is trying to indicate that he is not fed enough. Then there was the time that he sent the sisters at the motherhouse on a wild goose chase. Each sister was hollering his name frantically and feared that he had wandered out of sight on their large property in Mishawaka only to find him sitting directly behind them just looking at each of them.

Father Phil Widmann, pastor of St. Peter and St. Mary parishes in Fort Wayne, had bulldogs prior to 1991 when he began his acquisition of Persian cats named Otamae, Kelly and Hildy. Hildy is the newest addition.

He says, "They've been such a joy. They give so much and ask for so little. It really burns me when people treat animals badly."

Father Widmann appreciates and respects his cats for the calming influence they have on him when life gets hectic and the good mood they tend to exhibit.

He surmises, "I would really feel lost without them. They are truly a Godsend for me."



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'Stone-for-stone' Porziuncola reproduction erected in San Francisco

BY DAN MORRIS-YOUNG

SAN FRANCISCO (CNS) — A rock-for-rock, stone-for-stone, fresco-for-fresco replica of St. Francis of Assisi's tiny Porziuncola church near Assisi, Italy, now graces a building adjoining the National Shrine of St. Francis of Assisi in San Francisco.

A Sept. 27 dedication of the structure will cap a nearly 15-month construction effort that has pulled together the efforts of a team of international artists, stone masons, metalsmiths, muralists, tile experts and others — including students earning their master's degree of fine arts at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco.

U.S. Cardinal William J. Levada, prefect of the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and former archbishop of San Francisco, was scheduled to preside and Archbishop George H. Niederauer of San Francisco to be principal celebrant at the morning dedication rite.

Housed within what was formerly the gymnasium of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, the Porziuncola Chapel will be designated an archdiocesan shrine in its own right. Built on a scale of 78 percent of the original to accommodate available space, the structure features duplications of a 14th-century fresco, of original doors and windows, and of other details of its Italian forerunner.

The original Porziuncola was restored in the 13th century by St. Francis and his followers, and today draws thousands of pilgrims annually. It is contained in a nave of the Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli near Assisi.

A featured aspect of the Porziuncola in San Francisco is



CNS PHOTO/DAN MORRIS-YOUNG, CATHOLIC SAN FRANCISCO

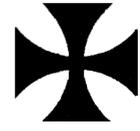
A replica of the famed Porziuncola church of St. Francis of Assisi, Italy, is seen at San Francisco's National Shrine of St. Francis of Assisi Sept. 11. U.S. Cardinal William J. Levada, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in Rome and former archbishop of San Francisco, will dedicate the replica Sept. 27.

the encased display of a stone used more than eight centuries ago in the repair of the original Porziuncola, perhaps by St. Francis himself.

The 72 Franciscan friars of the Assisi community met in 2006 and agreed to donate the relic to the San Francisco shrine. Members of that community delivered the rock in late April of this year and representatives will be present for the dedication Mass.

The Porziuncola Chapel's frescos, doors and marble floors were created by artisans in Assisi and in Citta del Castello, in Umbria, Italy, according to a Renaissance Project fact sheet.

An original mural in the style of medieval artist Giotto di Bondone adorns the entrance to the building which houses the Porziuncola Chapel.



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EDITORIAL

Blessing of pets could be more than 'warm fuzzy' moment

As autumn arrives, people in various places may notice something odd: a procession of animals — everything from dogs and cats to hamsters and even horses — being led to churches or school grounds for a special ceremony called the blessing of pets. This custom is conducted in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi's love for all creatures.

St. Francis, whose feast day is next Saturday, Oct. 4, loved the larks flying about his hilltop town. He and his early brothers, staying in a small hovel, allowed themselves to be displaced by a donkey.

St. Francis wrote a "Canticle of the Creatures," an ode to God's living things. "All praise to you, Oh Lord, for all these brother and sister creatures." And there was testimony in the cause for St. Clare of Assisi's canonization that referred to her little cat.

That today's pet ownership currently is at its highest level, with 63 percent of all U.S. households owning a pet, which equates to more than 69 million households, attests to the continuing affection we have for our furry, feathered or finned friends. According to a recent 375-page survey tracking hundreds of pet-ownership trends, Americans own approximately 73 million dogs, 90 million cats, 139 million freshwater fish, 9 million saltwater fish, 16 million birds, 18 million small animals and 11 million reptiles.

For single householders, a pet can be a true companion. Many people arrive home from work to find a furry friend overjoyed at their return. Many a senior has a lap filled with a purring fellow creature. The bond between person and pet is like no other relationship, because the communication between fellow creatures is at its most basic. Eye-to-eye, a man and his dog, or a woman and her cat, are two creatures of love.

No wonder people enjoy the opportunity to take their animal companions to church for a special blessing. Church is the place where the bond of creation is celebrated. Noah's Ark never was like this.

But what about the hundreds and even thousands of abused and abandoned animals left on the doorsteps of shelters and emergency animal care facilities — perhaps as many as 40 or 50 a day in larger cities? These animals not only do not receive an annual blessing, they often lack love and care as well as suffer from neglect, cruelty, absence of food, water, shelter and medical treatment, or need to be rescued from a life-threatening situation. Most, of course, also need to be spayed or neutered.

The awareness of the plight of so many neglected pets and displaced animals throughout the country could be included in the annual pet blessing ceremonies at churches and schools. Perhaps the week or day of the blessing children could bring canned food for kittens and adult cats, puppies and adult dogs; small animal feeds for guinea pigs, hamsters, parakeets, rabbits and ferrets; leashes, collars, cat toys, non-carpeted cat furniture, sturdy dog toys and rawhide chew chips; bedding consisting of blankets, washable bath rugs and towels; or simple needs such as paper towels, copy/computer paper and blank note cards with envelopes. Parents might want to consider a monetary gift for their local animal shelter or pet rescue center and even volunteering for a few hours a week.

Guided by the humane ethic and livability interests within neighborhoods, the mission of most animal control shelters is to ensure public health and safety as well as prevent pet overpopulation, animal neglect and animal cruelty through education, rescue and law enforcement. The annual blessing of pets, perhaps with local animal shelter personnel present, would be a good time to focus on helping children develop a greater sense of responsibility and respect toward others by emphasizing the obligations and commitments associated with pet ownership and animal care. And in addition to reinforcing the need for proper pet care, it would be a good time to foster the idea of adopting a future pet from an animal shelter or rescue group.

Some people criticize the amount and cost of care given to pets. People are more important, they say. Care for poor people instead of poodles. And certainly our needy fellow humans should not be neglected. However, many believe every creature is important. The love we give to a pet, and receive from a pet — as well as the care and concern we have for homeless and neglected animals — can draw us more deeply into the larger circle of life, into the wonder of our common relationship to our Creator.

Kevin E. Mackin, OFM, a Franciscan of the Holy Name Province, contributed to this editorial.

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

Politics in the pulpit: New election wrinkles in the age of YouTube

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In the first election cycle since YouTube became an Internet phenomenon, a pastor might find that his Sunday sermon is no longer simply a conversation with his flock. The words can travel around the world in a flash.

If those words have a message favoring one candidate over another, it could prompt a complaint to the Internal Revenue Service and threaten the church's tax-exempt status. But one Scottsdale, Ariz.-based organization sees that as a violation of the free speech rights of religious leaders and plans a nationwide challenge Sept. 28, a day that has been dubbed Pulpit Freedom Sunday.

The Alliance Defense Fund says at least three dozen religious leaders in 20 states have agreed to evaluate the candidates in light of Scripture in their homilies that day and make a specific recommendation on which candidate to support. If the IRS acts on a complaint against them, they have pledged to file suit against the IRS, with the hopes of bringing the case to the Supreme Court.

Although the Alliance Defense Fund is not naming those who plan to participate, it's not a cause that is likely to attract a lot of Catholic clergy, said Deirdre Dessingue, associate general counsel for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and author of "Politics and the Pulpit: A Guide to the Internal Revenue Code Restrictions on the Political Activity of Religious Organizations."

That's because Catholic priests operate under the jurisdiction of their bishops or religious superiors, she said, and because of the "closed-pulpit tradition" of the Catholic Church, which does not allow for guest homilists who are not priests, except in limited circumstances. It would be against that tradition for a Catholic priest to invite a candidate into the pulpit, as many Protestant and non-denominational Christian pastors have done in recent years.

But candidates will continue to seek out church congregations to address, because "candidates want to go where the people are — and on Sundays, that's at church," Dessingue said.

The candidates don't always understand that going to churches during a campaign "is not like going to Wal-Mart or the local diner," she added.

To help both candidates and churches avoid problems, the IRS' Tax-Exempt and Government Entities Division

THE WASHINGTON LETTER

BY NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN



sent a letter earlier this year to the major political parties and some minor ones, outlining what is and isn't allowed for tax-exempt organizations, including churches.

"Organizations may encourage people to participate in the electoral process by sponsoring debates or forums to educate voters, distributing voter guides or conducting voter registration or get-out-the vote drive," said Steven T. Miller, division commissioner, in the letter. "If the debate or forum, voter guide, or voter registration or get-out-the vote drive shows a preference for or against a certain candidate or party, however, it becomes a prohibited activity."

In recent years Americans United for Separation of Church and State has taken up the job of keeping the IRS informed about violations of the ban on political activity by tax-exempt organizations. Its 50 complaints to the IRS dating back to 2002 have included three Catholic dioceses — Providence, R.I., in 2007; Colorado Springs, Colo., in 2004; and Santa Fe, N.M., in 2002 — but no individual Catholic churches or clergy.

The complaints focused on an open letter written by Bishop Thomas J. Tobin of Providence to Rudy Giuliani, then a Republican presidential candidate; a pastoral letter by Bishop Michael J. Sheridan of Colorado Springs that said Catholic politicians who support abortion, fetal stem-cell research or euthanasia "place themselves outside full communion with the church and so jeopardize their salvation"; and a flier distributed in parishes of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe that urged rejection of a Democratic gubernatorial candidate because of his views on abortion.

The IRS is prohibited by law from revealing whether it has acted on any specific complaints. Miller said in his letter that less than half of the allegations of political campaign activity received by the IRS since 2004 have resulted in an investigation, and the IRS recommended revocation of tax-exempt status only

in "a few egregious cases."

The Alliance Defense Fund contends that pastors have not only a right but a religious responsibility to guide their congregation members in all facets of their lives — including their political choices.

"Many Americans' attitudes and actions toward slavery, child labor, civil rights and even the American Revolution itself started in the pews of our nation's churches," said Alan Sears, Alliance Defense Fund president, CEO and general counsel, in a Sept. 9 article on the organization's Web site.

"As pastors preached and taught biblical principles related to those issues and evaluated the politicians who promoted or decried them, their parishioners could decide their own stance in light of Scripture," he added. "Starting in 1954, that most basic right was ripped away from our pulpits."

That's when Congress, at the encouragement of then-Sen. Lyndon Johnson of Texas, passed an amendment to the U.S. tax code that said nonprofit, tax-exempt organizations could not "participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distributing of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office."

The so-called Johnson amendment has been on the books ever since, and the U.S. Supreme Court has never ruled on its constitutionality.

But not all members of the clergy want to see the tax code changed. A group of Protestant and Jewish leaders in Ohio has asked the IRS to sanction the Alliance Defense Fund — and possibly remove the organization's tax exemption — for urging other organizations to violate the law and risk their own tax-exempt status.

"As religious leaders we have grave concerns about the ethical implications of soliciting and organizing churches to violate core principles of our society," they said.

All dogs go to heaven

You may remember the animated film "All Dogs Go to Heaven," in which a dog battles to keep a relationship with his "little girl" after his death. That was a perplexing question my young daughters posed following the death of our precious Yellow Labrador Chloe — "Do all dogs go to heaven?"

Grief is always difficult work, even when it involves a pet. That's not to say that, for some, losing a pet is comparable to losing a loved one who shared our lives, but many animal lovers do experience a real sense of loss when their pet dies.

Domestic animals, whether canine, feline or those with wings, can provide their owners with unconditional love that they may not find anywhere else. I recall following my husband's death, late at night Chloe would sit by my side as I wept sad, exhausted and sometimes frustrated tears. She would position her chin just so on my knee so as to glance sideways at me occasionally through my torrents. Her presence brought me comfort so many times when the rest of the world slept silently unaware through the night.

When her battle with lymphoma came to an end, I wept again, in gratitude, for Chloe's courageous heart and constant love and devotion to me and my daughters. My children did the same. As author Ann Rice once penned, "It was not grief for her, but for the absence of her forever ..."

There are those who hold the perception that pets are "just animals" after all. Therefore grief holds no place in the aftermath of an animal's demise. But those who have experienced the joy of loving a pet know they are much more than "just animals." Remember, in the beginning God created animals to companion man in Eden and they continue to provide love and loyalty for time eternal.

Recognition and expression of the feelings that accompany the loss of a pet is a natural response and can be honored in many ways. But some, who lose a favorite pet, especially when it involves children, rush to replace the animal with another. I believe there is great benefit to grieving the loss both personally and as a family. Loss is one of life's great lessons and pet loss can be a sacred teaching moment for children.

HOPE IN THE MOURNING

KAY COZAD

In my experience, though the loss of a pet holds a different intensity than losing a loved one, the process seems to follow the same universal path of grief. Sadness follows the loss, many times accompanied by thoughts of regret or guilt.

I wondered for weeks whether the treatment I had agreed to for Chloe before her death was satisfactory. I questioned whether I could have done more. My feelings, though troubling, were natural and resolved over time as I was able to identify and process them with family and friends.

And there are those animal lovers who, some think, go overboard with ceremony following

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No one is beyond God's love



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time Mt 21:28-32

The Book of Ezekiel provides this weekend's first reading. Pivotal in Jewish history was the time spent by Hebrew captives, and by their descendants, in Babylon, the capital of the then powerful Babylonian Empire. This empire had overtaken the Promised Land militarily, in the process forever ending the two Hebrew independent kingdoms. Many survivors were taken to Babylon.

Occurring in the 6th century B.C., it is called the Exile. For the Hebrew people, the Exile was a heartbreaking time. They were so far from their homeland. The Exile seemed as if it would last forever. Indeed, it lasted for four generations. Quite likely many Jews fell away from the traditional religion of their ancestors.

These people were like people in any other time. Religion seemed for many to have failed. God had failed them.

During this time, Ezekiel wrote. He had to respond to the fury and despair of the people. The prophet turns the tables. He confronts the people with their own sinfulness. Where is their devotion to God? How faithful have they been in being God's people? No one realistically could have argued that

there had been no sin. Who deserted whom?

The Epistle to the Philippians is the source of the second reading.

Many early Christians were Jews, at least by birth. Many of these Jews had been pious in their religious practice, well versed in Judaism. Many other early Christians were from pagan backgrounds. In many Christian communities, persons of both these traditions lived side by side.

Quite likely, such was the case in Philippi. Jewish symbols and references appear in the Epistle. However, the city in no sense was Jewish. It was thoroughly pagan, an important military base in the Roman Empire. It was situated in what now is Greece. Considering that Christians were in the minority, the Epistle had to reinforce their commitment to the Lord and challenge them to withstand paganism.

This Epistle magnificently and eloquently proclaims Christ, the Lord, as the savior. This weekend's reading is an example. Scholars think that this passage in fact was an ancient hymn, sung by early Christians when they met for worship.

St. Matthew's Gospel furnishes the third reading. It recalls an encounter between Jesus and priests and elders. While religion was a favorite topic for everyone at the time, priests and persons learned in Judaism would have been especially intrigued by what Jesus said.

God is the father in the parable. The vineyard represents the people of Israel, God's own, God's chosen, borrowing a well-known image from the prophets. Scholars suggest several possibilities regarding the sons, but one suggestion is that the first son represents Israel, the other son represents gentiles and sinners.

The second son, not the heir, is

true to God. Gentiles and sinners, represented by the second son, can hope for salvation. No one is beyond God's love. Every sinner can repent.

Reflection

The readings this weekend very much are in the stream of readings heard during the weekends of late summer and now early fall. The church is calling us to discipleship.

We all hear this call realizing that we are sinners. Our sin shames us, convincing us that we are strangers in God's kingdom.

We feel overwhelmed, locked by our weakness in a state of sin and estrangement from God.

However, we can repent. We first must recognize that our voluntary sinfulness has crippled us, maybe set us on a course toward ruin.

Then, humbly we can turn to God. We must ask forgiveness. God will help us.

If we are as contrite as the second son in Matthew's story, as wholehearted in our love for Jesus as is in the hymn in Philippians, then God will forgive us and welcome us to everlasting life.

READINGS

Sunday: Ez 18:25-28 Ps 125:4-9 Phl 2:1-11 Mt 21:28-32

Monday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 Ps 138:1-5 Jn 1:47-51

Tuesday: Jb 3:1-3, 11-17, 20-23 Ps 88:2-8 Lk 9:51-56

Wednesday: Jb 9:1-12, 14-16 Ps 88:10-15 Lk 9:57-62

Thursday: Jb 19:21-27 Ps 27:7-9c, 13-14 Mt 18:1-5, 10

Friday: Jb 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5 Ps 139:1-3, 7-10 13-14b Lk 10:13-16

Saturday: Jb 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17 Ps 119:66, 71, 75, 91, 125, 130 Lk 10:17-24

CATEQUIZ'EM

By Dominic Camplison

The church remembers St. Jerome on Sept. 30. His name, however, resonates in the West not so much as the name of a saint, but of the Apache warrior Geronimo. This quiz looks at names derived from Scripture or religion used in other contexts.

1. Why was "Geronimo" so called?

- a. He was an Apache educated in the St. Jerome School in Albuquerque.
- b. He was an Apache warrior who was so fierce that his Mexican opponents cried to St. Jerome for help.
- c. His name was Goyahkla, transliterated by Mexican soldier as Jerome.

2. A Judas Goat is named after the famous betrayer of Jesus. Why, what does it do?

- a. It tricks other goats into attacking each other.
- b. It leads other goats, sheep or cattle to slaughter.
- c. It makes the livestock circle endlessly, keeping them in place.

3. The concept of the "Good Sam" assistance for RV'ers is derived from this biblical story:

- a. King Samuel who was regarded as a very helpful ruler to those in distress.
- b. Samarkand, the legendary home of the mythical "Prester John"
- c. The good Samaritan who aided a distressed traveler.

4. Although the origin is unknown, this originally European nursery rhyme features two apostles' names:

- a. Two little dicky birds
- b. Jack and Jill
- c. Good King Wenceslaus

5. St. Vitas Dance was a name often used for this motor function disorder:

- a. gout
- b. typhoid
- c. chorea

6. St. Anthony's Fire was another colorful name for a disease which was, even in the Middle Ages known to be caused by an intake of this fungus:

- a. Ergot
- b. Toadstool
- c. Magic mushroom

7. This is an electrical phenomenon sometimes seen on sailing ship masts at sea:

- a. St. Cruz'z wind
- b. Santa Maria's hail
- c. St. Elmo's fire

8. In an unflattering derivation, St. Audrey's name became the basis for this adjective:

- a. audacious
- b. ornery
- c. tawdry

9. In the '60s and '70s this term was given to counterculture people who nevertheless professed a strong Christianity:

- a. Christadelphians
- b. Jesus Freaks
- c. Holy Hippies

10. A word of English origin, not used in polite speech, "bloody" is sometimes attribute to this Queen due to her execution of heretics:

- a. Mary (daughter of Henry VIII)
- b. Mary Queen of Scots
- c. Mary of Aragon

11. The same staunchly Catholic monarch is also allegedly the Mary of this British nursery rhyme:

- a. Mary may I
- b. Mary, Mary quite contrary
- c. Maria Madonna

12. Santa Ana, another dearly Catholic name has, by a circuitous route via Mexico, become synonymous with

- a. an international animal fair held in Guadalajara every May 12th.
- b. a type of feral horse found in the west of Baja California.
- c. a weather phenomena in Southern California famous for exacerbating wild fires.

13. The dramatically named "Jesus Bolt" or "Jesus Nut" was in Vietnam found specifically on:

- a. helicopters
- b. the doors of prisons for POW's
- c. the pagodas of Vietnamese churches, in the hopes of warding off Viet Cong attacks

14. Sts. Crispin and Crispian were patrons of cobblers, tanners and leather workers. But they are most famous for being included in the speech made before the Battles of Agincourt, by this King in a Shakespeare play:

- a. Julius Caesar
- b. Richard III
- c. Henry V

15. Perhaps a forerunner to the groundhog, in popular lore if it rained on St. Swithin's Day (15th July) it would

- a. flood all year
- b. rain for 40 more days
- c. herald a drought in August

ANSWERS:

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

Mortal, 'grave sin' and venial sin clarified

What is a brute soul? Will animals, our pets, join us in heaven? Anonymous, Fort Wayne

"Brute soul" or "animal soul" is a term used to describe the principle of life in non-rational animals, Fido or Fifi or Fluffy, for example. Aristotle, for example, considered all living things are ensouled (including animals and plants), and for him the "soul" is equivalent to the life or animating principle in each, though he held that there are different kinds or qualities of such souls.

Catholic theology holds that human beings have a subsistent soul, one whose existence perdures after death (and in separation from the body). We are not, however, souls trapped in bodies, whose ultimate destiny is to be disembodied souls. Our personhood, according to Thomas Aquinas, is rooted in our having souls and bodies together, but the

soul as a separable substance lives on even after the death of the body.

We profess each Sunday that we believe in the resurrection of the body and life everlasting, by which we are proclaiming the hope that those who now live in Christ will share in his victory over death (that separation of soul and body which is not part of God's intention or original plan, so to speak) and our bodies and souls will be reunited after the pattern of his resurrection.

Plants and animals, however, do not have the same kind of soul as humans. While the bonds people forge with their pets are often deep, the church has never held that dogs or cats experience the kind of beatific vision we hope for (their souls are not capable of, or fitted for, such activity) — that's our goal or the end for which we are created by God and drawn by grace.

However, the church also

THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION

holds that at the eschaton, when Christ returns in glory and establishes his kingdom in its fullness (and heaven and earth are, as it were, "wed"), creation will be renewed, purified and glorified. There is no reason to think that animals won't have some part in all this. How that is to be worked out, however, I certainly cannot venture to guess, but it must be remembered that the kingdom is about the glorification in Christ of all creation, not its destruction.

Please clarify, what is the difference between "mortal" or "grave" sin? What is a venial sin? Anonymous

"Grave" (from the Latin for "serious" or "weighty") is roughly synonymous with "mortal" (from the Latin for "deadly"). The language is found in fifth chapter of the First Letter of John, and describes the kind of sin that is most destructive of the soul. "Venial" sin (from the Latin for "pardon") while certainly still a moral offense, is less serious and ultimately not destructive of the soul's relation to God.

There is a tendency among some people to want to downplay the distinction between "mortal" and "venial," but in fact the distinction is important and helpful in taking stock of our lives before God. To reduce or collapse the distinction would leave us at quite a loss. There is, for example, definitely a distinction between the minor indiscretion

often called a "white" lie ("yes, dear, that dress you're wearing is just lovely") and calumny against a coworker that damages their name and reputation; while both are ultimately sinful, the former is certainly less so than the latter. The process of making distinctions in terms of the weight or seriousness ("gravity") of our sins is an important element in moral reflection and discernment.

The church teaches that mortal sins are forgiven through the worthy reception of the sacrament of penance (confession) and that venial sins, which can also certainly be confessed (but one is not bound to do so), may also be forgiven through acts of charity or by worthy reception of holy Communion.

Father Michael Heintz, rector of St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend answered this week's questions.

Different buildings, but same Mass

I collect Catholic churches.

Not miniature replicas. I attend Mass at Catholic churches throughout the United States.

My job takes me on the road fairly infrequently compared to a lot of businessmen and women. But when fall rolls around, I travel to places such as East Lansing and Ann Arbor, Mich., West Lafayette, Ind., Seattle, Boston, Baltimore, Los Angeles, Palo Alto, Calif., Pittsburgh and State College, Pa.

The challenge is to find a Catholic church in rather unfamiliar territory, following directions that could be a bit clearer, but eventually lead me to another Catholic church. In some instances, I travel to places where there is a paucity of Catholic churches, such as Salt Lake City, Utah. But one can always be found.

Most hotels where I stay will provide you with a list of churches, Catholic and otherwise, and sometimes there are several from which to choose, such as in New Orleans or Boston.

I've been to dozens of Catholic churches throughout the country: Sacred Heart in Salt Lake City, St. Martha's in East Lansing, St. Patrick's in Colorado Springs, St. Thomas More in Tallahassee, American Martyrs in Los Angeles, St. Stephen's in Boston, St. Anne's in Seattle, Our Lady of Sorrows in Phoenix, St. Lawrence in West Lafayette and St. Patrick's in New Orleans.

Some are old, some are new. Some have creaky pews with kneelers that are too close to one another, so your feet hit the kneeler in the pew behind you. Some are recently built with the latest and most ornate amenities.

Some are filled with kids and crying babies; some are filled with people in their 80s. Some have old organs that could use a bit of fine-tuning; some feature guitar music and flutes.

It doesn't really matter to me (although I prefer the older ones). I take great pleasure in the differences because I know the differences are merely varying nuances within the Mass, differences that do not change the familiarity and consistency of the Mass.

I am fascinated by the varying architecture of the churches. Some are attached to Catholic grade schools; some are small churches on side streets; some are massive in the middle of large, metropolitan areas. I try to observe and absorb the statues within the church, and I am particularly fascinated by how different the altars are from one church to the next.

If I go to the same city more than once, which happens quite often, I try to attend a different church from the one I went to previously, just so I can observe the varied architecture.

But regardless what Catholic church I am in, I know there will be the opening prayer or hymn, the penitential rite, the Kyrie and Gloria, followed by the Liturgy of the Word and homily.

New or old, traditional or modern, there will always be the profession of faith, the presentation of the gifts, the eucharistic prayer and the Lord's Prayer. There will be the sign of peace, the breaking of the bread, Communion, the closing prayer and the final blessing.

No matter where I am or who I am attending Mass with, I will always recite, along with the rest of the congregation, my two



FROM THE SIDELINES

BY TIM PRISTER

favorite prayers within the Mass: the Nicene Creed and Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.

I take great comfort in knowing that no matter where I am, whether it's Knoxville, Tenn., or Durham, N.C., Jacksonville, Fla., or Lincoln, Neb., the Mass is the same Mass as the one I attend at St. Matthew's Cathedral in South Bend.

The priest may be recently ordained or one who has been celebrating the Mass since before I was born. He may have a New Jersey accent or an Irish brogue. It is still the same Mass, the touchstone for all Catholics.

I usually return home from my trips on Sunday, so my flight schedule doesn't always allow me to attend Mass at that location. But I try to book my flights later in the day so I have time to finish my work early in the morning and then attend Mass in that city. If that's not possible, then I simply attend a Sunday night Mass in South Bend.

No two Catholic churches are alike, and yet, they are all the same. As a Catholic, I take that with a source of pride. From east to west, north to south, the Mass that we celebrate has a very familiar ring to it.

I know that I am at home, where I need to be, even if it is hundreds or even thousands of miles away.

Tim Prister is a 1978 graduate of Marian High School and a 1982 graduate from the University of Notre Dame.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

By Patricia Kasten

Gospel for September 28, 2008

Matthew 21:28-32

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A: the story of two sons and obedience. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

A MAN	TWO SONS	FIRST
SON	WORK	VINEYARD
TODAY	WILL NOT	CHANGED
MIND	DID NOT GO	THE TWO
JESUS SAID	TAX	COLLECTORS
PROSTITUTES	KINGDOM OF GOD	JOHN
CAME TO YOU	BELIEVE	YOU SAW

CHANGED MINDS

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

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HOPE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

the death of their pet. But ceremony can be a helpful tool in working toward healing.

Frannie, a single woman who lived alone with her Tabby cat Bruce, was heartbroken when, after 16 years of companionship, he died.

"I have a rich full life, with friends and family. But Bruce was my at-home companion. He has been witness to my good times and my bad," says Frannie, whose grief is very real. To honor her beloved cat, and what he meant to her, Frannie sprinkled his cremains

over her rose garden where she would remember his friendship in the rose blooms yet to come — a beautiful memorial for a cat that brought her great joy.

So for those of us, who do love animals, be encouraged to love them with all your heart. After all, they are God's gift to us. Their presence can bring joy, companionship and unconditional love into our lives. And when their time comes to an end, know that grieving their loss is a natural part of the journey of life.

Do all dogs go to heaven? I don't know — but I sure hope so.

Kay Cozad is a certified grief educator and writer for *Today's Catholic* newspaper.

Sports

LUERSFIELD RECOGNITION All Luersfield workers, past and present will have their 15 minutes of fame Oct. 17 at half-time at the Bishop Luers vs. Bishop Dwenger football game. Everyone who has diligently and tirelessly worked on the football field over the past 50 years will be recognized for their Luers Spirit and their dedication to making Luersfield one of the premier "pigskin pastures" in the state of Indiana. For additional information, contact Joni Kuhn at the Bishop Luers athletic office, (260) 456-1261 Ext. 3020.

CYO Raiders are on a roll

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — Weather conditions for "Week 5" of Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) football action were much improved from a week ago with bright sunshine and dry conditions on Bishop Luers Field, Sunday Sept. 21.

The CYO game of the week featured St. Jude against the Knights from JAT (St. Joseph-Elizabeth/Aloysius/Therese). The Knights came out on top 40-0, making their overall record now 3-2.

After that, Holy Cross downed Precious Blood/Queen of Angels by a score of 32-6, giving them four straight wins.

Next up, the small (in numbers, not size), but mighty Raiders from St. John, New Haven improved to 4-1 this week with another shutout win over St. Vincent 28-0.

"Westin Painter, Jeffrey Heaton and Jesse Perez continued to control the line on both sides of the ball making holes on offense and stuffing up the defense," reported Coach Dan Carey. Panther Coach Cory Kitchen gave credit to the Raider coaching staff and was impressed

at their sound play with just 13 players, "(The Raiders) controlled the line of scrimmage and hit us harder than anyone we have played all year."

The unyielding Raider defense has allowed just a single touchdown in five games.

"They are certainly a force to be reckoned with," concluded Carey.

The offensive attack was once again led by Adam McCarthy who scored a touchdown and was 2-4 on PATs while a big interception by Jared Laurent allowed a quarterback sneak for Jake Britton. Dillon Carey added a third touchdown for New Haven.

Finally, the St. John Fort Wayne/Hessen Cassel Eagles kept their unbeaten status with a 32-8 victory over the St. Charles Cardinals. Thomas Starks fired three touchdown passes for the Eagles first hooking up with David Shank while another went to Channing Williams. Rounding out the scoring, the sure-handed Matt Williamson received one pass from Starks and another from Sam Stroncsek. Stroncsek had a perfect day kicking going 4-4.

Mishawaka Saints thunder through ICCL victories

BY ELMER J. DANCH

SOUTH BEND — The Mishawaka Catholic Saints thundered to their second football victory in the Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL) airtight defensive game that simply overpowered the St. Matthew Blazers, 20-0.

The Saints' Tyler Nixon broke loose on runs of 35 and 15 yards for early touchdowns, and Vince Ravotto added another score on a 29-yard slant to provide the Mishawakans an extensive lead.

"Our defense rose to the occasion when St. Matthew threatened in the second half, and a couple of interceptions also helped us," said Coach Tony Violi, whose team is the defending ICCL champion.

In the other varsity skirmish, St. Anthony-St. Joseph conquered

Holy Cross-Christ the King by a 26-6 margin.

The victors were paced by Frankie Karczewski, who opened the scoring with a 1-yard touchdown blast and followed it up a few minutes later with a 30-yard touchdown aerial to Tommy Favorite.

The Panthers also converted two interceptions into touchdowns, one by Matthew Pinter who scampered 55 yards for the tally and the other by Andrew Incandela, who raced 45 yards for a touchdown. Phillip Brier booted a two-point conversion for the winners.

Matt Moserez picked up the Crusaders' lone touchdown on an 8-yard burst in the last period.

At the junior varsity level, Mishawaka Catholic beat St. Matthew, 27-0, in a game that saw the Saints' Jacob Whitfield run

back the opening kickoff for a touchdown and later added a 13-yard touchdown slant.

Joe Molnar fired two touchdown passes, one to Dylan Konwinski for 22 yards and the other to Will Whitten for 27 yards.

In a nailbiter, St. Anthony-St. Joseph edged Holy Cross-Christ the King, 19-18.

Chris Lippert paced the victors with two scores on runs of 20 and 25 yards, and Oliver Page added the third score on a dash of 30 yards. It was Lippert's one-point conversion that sealed the decision.

Peter Rymysza scored twice for the Crusaders on dashes of 15 and 4 yards and Brendan Chappell added the third score for the Crusaders. All their conversion attempts failed.

CYO volleyball settles into the season

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — With the first few games under their belts, Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) volleyball teams are settling in to the 2008 season. First-year varsity coach at St. Joseph Hessen Cassel, Doug Schaadt, feels his Lady Squires have faced some of the tougher teams in the league right off the bat and is okay with a 1-2 start.

"We are stressing fundamentals and having fun," said Schaadt, who lists nine on his combined team roster.

"The girls are working hard on passing and serving this season and all get along well together," Schaadt summarized.

The assistant coach for Hessen Cassel is Elmer Tobe.

School athletic director and CYO board member Ava Meyer

encouraged first-year head coach, Karen Castleman, to keep a Twins varsity team together any way she could. With every seventh- and eighth-grade girl playing between the two schools (St. Louis Academy and St. Joseph School-St. Rose Parish), Castleman had just five to work with, so she decided to bring several younger girls up to the varsity level to field a team. The ladies have launched an 0-2 record with losses to St. Mary-St. Joseph, Decatur, and St. Aloysius, but a positive Castleman explains, "We are young and all learning together. We hope to gain valuable experience for future years." Tina Voors and Jenna Scott are assisting with the Twins program for 2008.

The Lady Raiders from St. John New Haven have eight players returning who have played together since the fifth grade and three newcomers to the program

for a total of 11 eighth graders on the team list.

Coaches Kim Yagodenski, Fred Yagodenski and Greg Vorst have their lineup running a 5-1 offense, which is new for the Raiders.

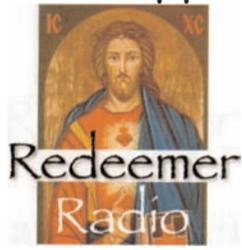
"We are really working hard to improve our passing," said Kim Yagodenski.

"We had a lot of fun as a team going to the Bishop Luers vs. Bishop Dwenger match and watching play at the next level," she added.

With a loss to Decatur in two games and going three with Hessen Cassel, but coming up short, the team hopes to "keep doing what we know how to do and come up with some wins this season."

E-mail your scores to mmcastleman@aol.com.

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Handwritten holiness: 42 cent thanks

Even when my status is marked "busy," my friends strike up Gmail chat. The proverbial red circle somehow loses its street cred in cyberspace.

Minimizing the screen doesn't free me. My account beeps with each new comment, flashing "Erin says ..." at the bottom of the monitor. Invariably, I follow the ellipses.

The swiftness of electronic communication can be a nuisance, binding us to a ping-pong match that strong-arms our better intentions.

That's why I appreciated the advice in "The Last Lecture," the bestseller by Randy Pausch. The 47-year-old father of three recently lost a brave battle to pancreatic cancer.

"Showing gratitude is one of the simplest yet most powerful things humans can do for each other," Randy wrote. "And despite my love of efficiency, I think that thank-you notes are best done the old-fashioned way, with pen and paper. You never know what magic might happen after it arrives in someone's mailbox."

I decided Randy's counsel warranted a little shopping, so I headed to a nearby paper store to replenish my thank-you card stock. As I entered, I inhaled slowly, taking in a glorious sight.

Who knew there are so many ways to say thanks? With a salsa dancer spinning below the word "gracias." With a ladybug perched on a red ribbon. With a demure Chinese girl handing out

red and orange hydrangeas.

I found myself running my fingers over the deckle edges, delighting in the tactile experience — smooth and coarse, silver foil and wire accents.

The cards inspired a spark of wonder, reminding me of Pope John Paul II's letter to artists, who are "captivated by the hidden power of sounds and words, colors and shapes." Faced with artistic marvels, he wrote, "wonder is the only appropriate attitude."

I dropped \$46 in wonder. And I set to writing my thanks, taking a page from St. Paul's letters. In his handwritten Epistles, he called for gratitude again and again.

"Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up," he told the Thessalonians. "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks."

Many centuries later, G.K. Chesterton, the jolly freethinker, echoed St. Paul. "I would maintain that thanks are the highest form of thought," he said, "and that gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder."

I selected a card with glittery ice-cream cones and began writing to a friend who'd sent a care package. I described each element she had tucked inside, turning it over in my hand and mind.

Then I jotted a few thoughts on life in general, more whimsical than newsy. I was riding the looping l's and arcing a's.

Writing by hand slowed my



TWENTY
SOMETHING
BY CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

mind and broadened my view. I didn't write about the day's happenings or the calendar's demands, but my feelings, how my life was coalescing with long-term goals and deeply-held values. Stroke by stroke, line by line, it felt honest.

As I signed and sealed the card, my heart throbbed with wellness. Slipping it in the mailbox, I marveled at the process that would carry my thoughts to her door step. Unlike e-mail, it wouldn't arrive instantaneously. That time lag excited me. I knew she wouldn't click delete after reading it.

I'm joining in the back-to-school spirit of sharpened pencils and blank notebooks, assigning myself one thank-you note a week. A thanks for something, anything. Weekly.

As we pinch pennies this year, the U.S. Postal Service is experiencing a drop in volume. But personally, I can't imagine a better use of 42 cents.

Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn. E-mail her at christina@readchristina.com.

'The cross, our only hope'



THE
CUTTING
EDGE

SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

As a Sister of the Holy Cross, the feast of the Triumph of the Holy Cross (Sept. 14), which we celebrated recently, is a wonderful occasion to reflect on the place of the cross in my life and the lives of all Christians.

The founder of our congregation, Blessed Basil Moreau, often used the phrase, "Crux ave, spes unica," which is translated, "The cross, our only hope." When I was a young sister just starting out on my journey in religious life, I did not quite understand the full impact of those words.

Since those early days of my life I have come to appreciate what Father Moreau was trying to say. Whether we like it or not, the cross is part of our lives.

It is our belief in the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus that makes the cross our only hope. He showed us how love conquers hate even to the point of asking his father to forgive those who caused his death.

If we take some time to pray and reflect, we can probably see little, or not so little, "resurrections" in our lives or in those of others. Some examples might be a broken engagement that led to

YA!

YOUNG ADULT PERSPECTIVES

the finding of a wonderful spouse or a serious illness that made a person value and appreciate more deeply the important people in his or her life. There are also tragedies like 9/11 or Katrina that bring people closer together.

As Christians we are called to witness to a sometimes, despairing world that, despite all of the problems and suffering around us, we believe that God can and will bring good out of it.

One word of caution is that we cannot just sit back and let God do all the work. Each of us must do our part to bring the gift of hope to our little corner of the world. Sharing our own faith and experiences of resurrection can do much to bring the hope so needed today.

Sister Margie Lavonis, CSC, works for the Sisters of the Holy Cross communications department. mlavonis@cscsisters.org.

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

Night of Divine Love

Fort Wayne — Sacred Heart Church, 4643 Gaywood Dr., will host a Night of Divine Love, an all-night vigil before the Blessed Sacrament. The vigil begins on Oct. 3, with the 5:30 p.m. first Friday Mass and will close with the Oct. 4 first Saturday 8 a.m. Mass. There will be opportunity for confession, formal and private prayer. Security will be assigned from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. Call (260) 744-2519 for information.

Public square rosary crusade planned

Fort Wayne — A public square rosary will be held Saturday, Oct. 11, at noon at St. Charles Church parking lot, 4916 Trier Rd. Bring your own chair or blanket.

Public square rosary crusade planned

Avilla — A public square rosary will be held Saturday, Oct. 11, at noon at St. Mary of the Assumption Church.

Paper dolls decorate local businesses

South Bend — Nearly 4,000 underprivileged children in St. Joseph County will have free, new, warm coats, shoes and school clothes thanks to the Christ Child Society's Clothe a Child Campaign. Red, yellow, green and blue dolls will decorate the walls of local Martin's Supermarkets, Mutual Bank (formerly MFB) and Notre Dame Credit Union. Each doll represents \$1 donated by customers. The money collected will purchase children's clothing.

A Call to Conscience:

responsible Catholic voting forum
South Bend — Sacred Heart Parish will host a Catholic voting forum Thursday, Oct. 9, at 7 p.m. at the parish center located off Douglas Rd. A panel discussion moderated by Robert Schmuhl will include Notre Dame Professors J. Matthew Ashley, Father Daniel Groody,

Vincent Rougeau and James Sullivan. Issues addressed will be the environment, immigration, respect for life and the economy.

St. Aloysius barbecue chicken dinner

Yoder — St. Aloysius Church will host a drive-through barbecue chicken dinner, Sunday, Sept. 28, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dinner includes half a chicken, coleslaw, baked beans and dinner roll. Cost is \$7.50 for the dinner or \$5.50 for the half-chicken. Pick up at the north parking lot. St. Aloysius is located just south of the I-469, exit 6, on Bluffton Road.

Knights plan fish fry

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on Friday, Oct. 3, 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.

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Sister M. Margery Mitternacht, CSC, 86, Our Lady of Loretto

Cecil B. Mast, 81, Sacred Heart Basilica

Margaret Boggs, 83, Sacred Heart Basilica

Plymouth

Mary J. Hammes, 86, St. Michael

Rome City

Bertie A. Scherer, 87, St. Gaspar del Bufalo

South Bend

Chester Zakrocki, 85, St. Adalbert

Francisco S. Hernandez, 64, St. Adalbert

Joseph J. Adamek, 84, Little Flower

Scott T. Smith, 74, St. Anthony de Padua

Harry J. Mrozinski, 91, Corpus Christi

August VanParis, 82, St. Jude

Haunted Castle opens Oct. 3

Fort Wayne — The St. Vincent Scout sponsored Haunted Castle and Black Forest, 8965 Auburn Rd., will open Friday, Oct. 3. Visit www.hauntedcastle.com for information and times.

Fish fry announced

Warsaw — The Knights of Columbus Council #4511 will have a fish fry on Friday, Oct. 3, 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, coleslaw, apple-sauce and beverage included.

Breakfast brunch

Fort Wayne — St. Peter's Church, 500 E. DeWald St., will have a breakfast brunch in their Pavilion on Sunday, Oct. 12, from 8-11 a.m. Adult tickets are \$5, children 12-16 are \$3 and children 11 and under are free.

Family rosary recited

Fort Wayne — The all family rosary will be recited on Sunday, September 28, at MacDougal Chapel from 3:30 -4:30 p.m. Attending will be Father Adam Schmitt from St. Joseph Parish and Sister Jacinta Krecek, OSF from University of St. Francis.

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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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Bishops issue ritual book for 'quinceanera' celebrations

WASHINGTON (CNS) — "Quinceanera," the coming-of-age celebration for girls turning 15 years old, has long been a tradition in Latino families in the United States and a number of Spanish-speaking countries as a rite of passage from childhood to adolescence.

The custom expresses thanksgiving to God for the gift of life and asks for a blessing for the years ahead.

On Sept. 19 the U.S. bishops published the bilingual "Order of the Blessing on the Fifteenth Birthday," designed to help U.S. communities celebrate this ritual within and outside Mass, according to an announcement on its release.

In a statement Jesuit Father Allan Deck, executive director of the USCCB's Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church, emphasized the importance of developing a ritual that "helps Latino Catholics celebrate their cultural heritage and build new bridges to other Catholics in their communities."

The Vatican-approved text was originally developed by the Mexican American Cultural Center in San Antonio in 1999. The bishops' publishing office acquired the rights to the text in 2007. In partnership with the Secretariat of Divine Worship, the office produced the final text.

Father Deck cited an April

2007 joint survey by the Pew Hispanic Project and the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life that reported about one-third of all Catholics in the United States are Hispanic, and predicted that percentage will steadily increase, making "quinceaneras" more mainstream.

The priest said that the "quinceanera" ritual was "one of many resources U.S. Hispanics can use to preserve both Catholic and cultural identity."

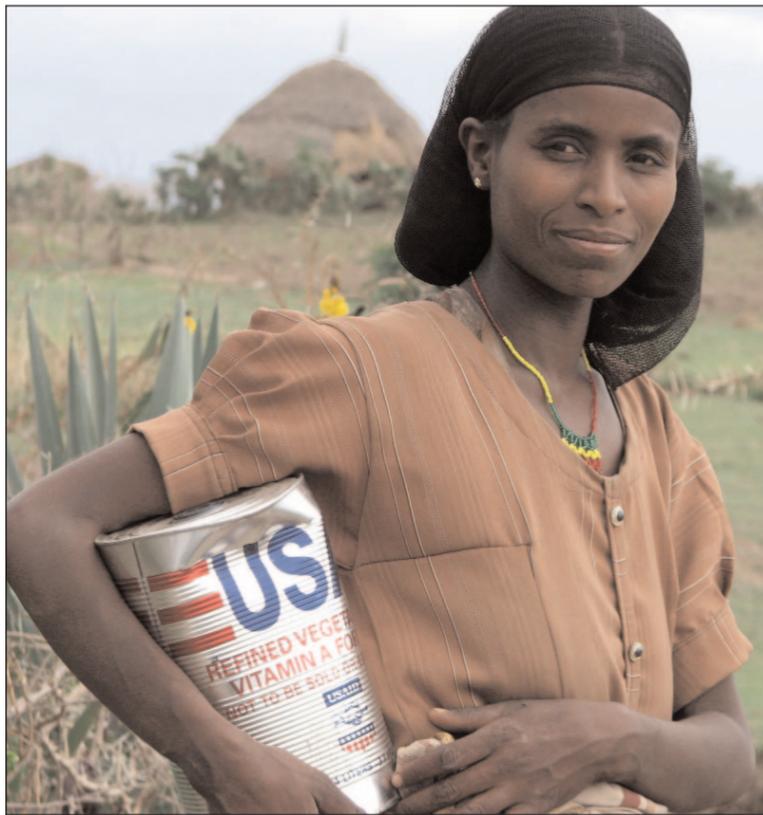
Msgr. Anthony Sherman, executive director of the USCCB Secretariat of Divine Worship, said the "quinceanera" ritual can aid young Catholics to "learn more about the importance of upholding one's baptismal commitment in a spirit of thanksgiving."

While it is a service for teenage girls, the gathering of clergy, family and the girls' sponsors allows others to get involved and make the same thankful commitment themselves, said the announcement on the new publication.

Sponsors for the ceremony are typically the girl's baptismal godparents. They give religious articles such as Bibles, rosary beads and medals to the girl during the celebration.

The "quinceanera" ritual book may be ordered online at www.usccbpublishing.org.

ETHIOPIAN WOMAN HOLDS FOOD DONATED BY U.S.



CNS PHOTO/DEBBIE DEVOE, CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

A woman holds a food staple donated by the U.S. government at an unidentified location in Ethiopia May 23, 2008. Food donated by the U.S. government and purchased with private Catholic Relief Services (CRS) funds is helping Ethiopians survive an extended drought. CRS and USAID also are working to move 165 tons of corn-soy blend from Djibouti, which is being distributed this month to pregnant women, nursing mothers and the elderly.



CNS PHOTO/DAVID MAUNG

Denisse Rincon stands near a statue of Mary during her "quinceanera" at St. Jude Church in San Diego Sept. 6. A ritual that predates the arrival of Europeans in the New World, the "quinceanera" is a popular celebration among Hispanics that takes place when a girl is 15 to mark her passage from childhood to adolescence.

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