SYRACUSE — Over 350 teens from 31 parishes across the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend gathered Sunday and rapped, prayed, read Scripture, asked questions and received answers, worshiped and celebrated Mass with Bishop John M. D’Arcy as part of this year’s Faithfest.

“Can I Get a Witness? Celebrating the Year of St. Paul” was the theme for a day of faith formation for teens held at Wawasee Middle School in Syracuse.

The teens were pumped up with some rap, rock and humor by Popple before guest speaker Adam Kronk of South Bend helped relate the teachings of St. Paul to the teen’s lives.

After reading about Paul’s conversion, Kronk said, “We shouldn’t expect instantaneous conversion into a perfect Christian. It’s a process, not a magical ‘bam’-one-second thing.” he said.

Kronk, who along with his wife works at the South Bend Center for the Homeless, reminded teens that Jesus hung out with the outcasts of society — sinners and lepers.

“You know there are people ... that because of their reputation, we don’t want to go near them. Be open to how God may use you in anybody’s life. Don’t let that (reputation) be an obstacle for God’s purpose for you,” Kronk said.

“Paul said in his letters to early Christians basically in picking me, Christ can use anybody. In high school you might feel like you don’t fit in, you might wonder if you’re worthy — the answer to that is ‘no, but nobody is,’” he said.

Kronk told the teens a story about a young man who came to live at the shelter at age 18 after being sexually abused at home when he was younger and spending most of his life in foster care. He created a “God’s Eye” in an art therapy class and explained to Kronk that the three colors he chose represent the bluest ocean, the greenest fields and the gold of God’ crown.

“In my life I will always remember that Witness of St. Paul inspires teen at Faithfest

Women share a day of grace

Johnnette Benkovic shares message of faith

BY KAY COZAD

WINONA LAKE

Women from across the Midwest gathered in Rodeheaver Auditorium on Grace College campus in hopes of inspiration. Johnnette Benkovic, author, speaker and founder-president of Living His Abundant Life Ministries, and the inspired Catholic apostolate, Women of Grace, a Catholic women’s Bible study, drew over 350 women, representing 73 parishes, to Winona Lake near Warsaw on Saturday, Sept. 27, for “A Day of Grace,” a full-day conference sponsored by the diocesan Office of Spiritual Development.

The conference offered four inspirational talks, including one given by Holy Cross Father Edmund Sylvia, advisor and chaplain of Living His Abundant Life Ministries. Each session began with song and prayer led by Ginny Kohrman, director of the Office of Spiritual Development.

The buzz of exuberant voices gave way to rousing applause with a standing ovation as Benkovic, who humbly yet fervently visited with those in the audience preceding the talks and throughout the day, took the stage for the first session titled “Women of Grace: Called and Gifted.” Following the recitation of the Hail Mary, Benkovic spoke of straying from the faith in her young adulthood and finding her way back in a mighty fashion. She shared how verses from St. Paul’s letter to the Ephesians continues to resonate in her life and answers the question “Who am I?”

“I am the most-high daughter of God. Each of us was chosen to have life by God himself,” said Benkovic confidently. She challenged the women present to be filled with the love of God so “when people see us they see God radiated in and through us.”

Women share a day of grace

Johnnette Benkovic shares message of faith

BY DENISE FEDOROW

SYRACUSE — Over 350 teens from 31 parishes across the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend gathered Sunday and rapped, prayed, read Scripture, asked questions and received answers, worshiped and celebrated Mass with Bishop John M. D’Arcy as part of this year’s Faithfest.

“Can I Get a Witness? Celebrating the Year of St. Paul” was the theme for a day of faith formation for teens held at Wawasee Middle School in Syracuse.

The teens were pumped up with some rap, rock and humor by Popple before guest speaker Adam Kronk of South Bend helped relate the teachings of St. Paul to the teen’s lives.

After reading about Paul’s conversion, Kronk said, “We shouldn’t expect instantaneous conversion into a perfect Christian. It’s a process, not a magical ‘bam’-one-second thing.” he said.

Kronk, who along with his wife works at the South Bend Center for the Homeless, reminded teens that Jesus hung out with the outcasts of society — sinners and lepers.

“You know there are people ... that because of their reputation, we don’t want to go near them. Be open to how God may use you in anybody’s life. Don’t let that (reputation) be an obstacle for God’s purpose for you,” Kronk said.

“Paul said in his letters to early Christians basically in picking me, Christ can use anybody. In high school you might feel like you don’t fit in, you might wonder if you’re worthy — the answer to that is ‘no, but nobody is,’” he said.

Kronk told the teens a story about a young man who came to live at the shelter at age 18 after being sexually abused at home when he was younger and spending most of his life in foster care. He created a “God’s Eye” in an art therapy class and explained to Kronk that the three colors he chose represent the bluest ocean, the greenest fields and the gold of God’ crown.

“In my life I will always remember that
World’s bishops will look at the word of God at October synod

The word of God in the life and mission of the church

This is the focus of the International Synod of Bishops, which begins its work this week in Rome. This meeting, which will bring the church closer from all over the world, is a fruit of the teaching of the Second Vatican Council on Collegiality. At the First Vatican Council, in response to the pastoral and political tensions of the time, the focus was on the successor of Peter and his authority over the church. The Second Vatican Council completed this teaching with its focus on the bishop in his diocese as his successor of the apostles and on the relationship of the bishops with one another and with the bishop of Rome, the successor of Peter and never without him.

The experience of the council brought forth these meetings of bishops, which I believe were first held every two years and now every three years. They were a reflection on a particular important pastoral concern in the church. At the first synod in 1971, they discussed two topics. One was the ministerial priesthood and the other was the church’s commitment to peace and justice.

Following that, key pastoral areas were discussed. For example: the family; the ministry of catechists; formation of priests both in the seminary and after ordination; the laity; religious life; the Eucharist; in the life and mission of the church. What developed was the bishops brought together at the end of the session a number of propositions which came about from their intense discussions. These propositions were then presented to the Holy Father for an exhortation, or an encyclical, which followed the synod.

Thus, the still learning about the proper understanding of the communion between bishops and the pope, saw this method of propositions, followed by a statement by the successor of Peter, as a way to strengthen the church on these various topics.

Please pray for the synod meeting in Rome from Oct. 5-26, 2008, that it may bring about good results, and that we as bishops may see that it is implemented in our dioceses so that our people grow not only in understanding of the word of God, but in believing it, what it really is — Jesus Christ speaking to our hearts.

Bishop John M. D’Arcy
Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

An encouraging weekend

Two events took place this past weekend, which are most encouraging to a bishop.

On Saturday, under the direction of the Spiritual Development Office and the leadership of Ginny Kohnman, there was a seminar entitled “A Day of Grace for Women.” Three-hundred-and-forty women attended this event held at Grace College at Winona Lake in the center of our diocese. The featured speakers were Johanne Benkovic and Father Ed Sylvia, CSC.

Much of the talks were rooted in the teaching of Pope John Paul II, as found in “Mulieris Dignatatem,” (“Dignity of Woman”). We are celebrating the 20th anniversary of that document. I am grateful to the Spiritual Development Office for this excellent event and to Grace College for their outstanding hospitality.

And then our young people

The next day, our Office of Youth Ministry presented Youth Fest at the Wawasee Middle School. I drove down Route 6 from South Bend, around a detour, and arrived in time for the question-and-answer event. There were 350 present, including the wonderful adults who work with the young people in our parishes. After the question-and-answer period, I heard confessions, along with several other priests, enjoyed lunch and then celebrated Mass and preached to this wonderful group.

A special part of this event was the presence of our seminarians, who traveled from the Josephinum Seminary in Columbus, Ohio. Also present were sisters from various communities: The Mishawaka Franciscans, some Dominican Sisters from Michigan and a Felician Sister from Holy Family, South Bend. The seminarians led some of the breakout sessions and also spoke to the entire group. I was especially impressed by these words from Tink Coonan, “We are all called to share the cross of Christ.” He spoke of it relative to his own call to consider the priesthood. I think our high school students were most impressed by the sisters and seminarians who were present. After Mass, we had exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and some time for silent prayer. I am convinced that through prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, including exposition of the Eucharist, the Holy Spirit is calling many, especially the young, to a closer relationship with Christ.

South, then, to fort wayne

Grateful to God for these few days and for the privilege of being bishop in this diocese at a time when the Holy Spirit is calling all of us to spiritual renewal. When a parish in a diocese becomes more ecumenic and more open to the Holy Spirit, vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life will follow. They do not grow in isolation; they grow only in a church, which is truly holy.

See you all next week.
Don't forget human aspect of bailout

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Church leaders urged members of Congress and the Bush administration to keep the human and ethical dimensions of the economic crisis in mind as they craft a financial bailout package for Wall Street.

“This crisis involves far more than just economic or technical matters, but has enormous human impact and clear ethical dimensions which should be at the center of debate and decisions on how to proceed forward,” said Bishop William F. Murphy of Rockville Centre, N.Y., in a Sept. 25 letter to Treasury Secretary HenryPaulson and key House and Senate leaders.

Bishop Murphy, who chairs the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, also stressed responsibility, accountability, awareness of the advantages and limitations of the market, subsidiarity, solidarity and the common good in the search for just and effective responses to the economic crisis.

The House of Representatives rejected a $700 billion compromise bailout package Sept. 29.

The economic crisis and proposed bailout also drew comment on Capitol Hill.

Specifically, Father Snyder said, the plan should extend unemployment insurance; increase Food Stamp benefits; increase Medicaid and social services assistance; and increase home energy assistance.

“While we fully appreciate the potential dangers for our nation’s economic stability if we fail to act to secure our financial system, we also understand that the road to long-term recovery must include assisting poor and low-income families who are suffering from the direct effects of this economic crisis in the form of rising utility, energy, food and housing costs,” said the president of the Alexandria, Va.-based network of Catholic charitable agencies and institutions.

“We ask that you keep those families in mind and champion their needs as you move to develop a truly comprehensive economic recovery package,” Father Snyder added.

Father Seamus Finn, who has represented his community, the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, at the Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility for many years, said any financial bailout must not “impose additional burdens on the marginalized,” he wrote. “(The market) can only function in an ethical and judicial framework where the vulnerable are protected and the natural arrogance of the powerful is curbed.”

“Responsible traders do not just gambol with the future of a big multinational firm — they eventually affect the lives of people all over the world,” added Archbishop Martin, who served in the 1990s as secretary of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace at the Vatican.

The Franciscan Action Network also urged its members to contact their members of Congress about the financial-bailout package, asking them to “reflect on our culture’s tendency toward excess and immediacy.”

“These root causes, along with the fate of persons on the margins, may escape the notice of legislators in a hurry,” the network said in an “emergency action alert” e-mailed to its members.

“Therefore it is our responsibility to share the wealth of our Franciscan perspective with them.”

The alert did not list specific recommendations for the economic-bailout package.

Bishop D’Arcy addresses ‘Faithful Citizenship’

The general election of 2008 intrudes on us each day. It will not be easy as the weeks go on, to find the truth among various issues confronting our nation. It is important to also reflect on the responsibility of the church.

Our pulpits are sacred places; they are for the word of God, and not for political debate. Both the president and the pope have had to avoid this. We must all avoid this partisan ship if we are to guard the nature of our mission.

Yet, neither can the church be unwilling to stand for and with those who live with no voice and no conscience. We call on the church not to be unwilling to stand with the unborn child, the homeless, those suffering from war, and yes, even for the person on death row.

The church must never shrink from her role to help form the consciences of our people, and must always seek to uphold the natural law, that law written in the heart of the human person.

Pope Benedict XVI, in his first encyclical “Deus Caritas Est,” has outlined clearly the role of the church as we live through the intense weeks ahead.

“The church cannot and must not take upon herself the political battle to bring about the just society possible. She cannot and must not replace the state. Yet at the same time she cannot and must not remain on the sidelines in the fight for justice. She has to play her part through rational argument and she has to reawaken the spiritual energy without which justice, which always demands sacrifice, cannot prevail and prosper. A just society must be the achievement of the politicians — not of the church. Yet the promotion of justice through efforts to bring about openness of mind and will to the demands of the common good is something which concerns the church deeply.

We have seen that the formation of just structures is not directly the duty of the church, but belong to the world of politics, the sphere of the autonomous use of reason. The church has an indirect duty, in that she is called to contribute to the promotion of reason and to the development of social and political life through work which just structures are neither established nor prove effective in the long run. The direct duty to work for a just ordering of society, on the other hand, is proper to the faithful. As citizens of the state, they are called to take part in public life in a personal capacity. So they cannot relinquish their participation in the many different economic, social, legislative, administrative and cultural areas, which are intended to promote organically and institutionally the common good. The responsible church, therefore, is to help its members, to bring light to the national discussion, to purify reason, to help our people focus on the dignity of the human person and to encourage the parish participation of the laity in public life.

The church wishes to help form consciences in political life and to stimulate greater insight into the authentic requirements of justice as well as greater readiness to act accordingly, even when the right course can be consistent with situations of personal interest.” — Pope Benedict XVI, “Deus Caritas Est.”

With this in mind, I am sending to each parish a copy of a document prepared by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops entitled, “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship.” It is a reflection on the many issues which face our nation in these troubled times. I am also including a summary, one-page document that is suitable for parish-wide distribution. This summary can be duplicated as long as the USCCB is notified.

In this document, the bishops make clear the importance and complexity of forming one’s conscience in order to serve the truth.

The document warns us that “two temptations in public life can distort the church’s defense of human life and dignity. The first is a moral equivalence that makes no ethical distinction between different kinds of issues involving the protection of human life and dignity. The second is a temptation to use the destruction of innocent human life from the moment of conception until natural death is always wrong and is not just one issue among many. It must always be opposed.

“The second is the misuse of these necessary moral distinctions as a way of dismissing or ignoring other serious threats to human life and dignity. Racism and other unjust discrimination, the use of the death penalty, resorting to unjust war, the use of torture, war crimes, the failure to respond to those who are suffering from hunger or a lack of health care, or an unjust immigration policy are all serious moral issues that challenge our conscience and require us to act. These are not optional concerns which can be dismissed. Catholics are urged to seriously consider church teaching on these issues.”

You will be approached to give out voters guides. I urge the parish not to give out such guides. We may, in some cases, agree with them, but often they violate the principles found in “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship.” That document makes clear the complexity of this situation, and need for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and for the leadership of the Catholic Church. Other guides may be helpful to some people, but what they lack is the all-embracing guide to Catholic teaching and the proper formation of a Catholic conscience.

Each person should feel free to pray with their parish or people, or if you prefer, to copy a portion of it. I certainly urge you also to foster prayer, simple and nonpartisan, at the appropriate time in the liturgy, such as the Prayer of the Faithful, asking God to send the Holy Spirit on our community in this important time.

Sincerely yours in our Lord,

Most Reverend John M. D’Arcy

FORT WAYNE — Deacon Fred J. Larson, who served the diocese for 25 years in the permanent diaconate, died Tuesday, Sept. 23, at Woodview Health Care in Fort Wayne. He was 92.

Born in Allen County in 1915, Larson was the son of the late Harry and Cecelia Larson and a member of the first graduating class of St. Jude School in 1930. After graduating from high school in 1934, he worked odd jobs until entering the service. He was a World War II U.S. Army veteran and a member of American Legion Post 330.

Larson and his wife, Bernice, raised 10 children while he worked at Zollner Corp. The family attended St. John the Baptist Parish, New Haven.

After retiring from Zollner Corp. in 1980, Larson felt a need to be with people and also a call to service. He entered the diocesan program for the permanent diaconate and, after three years of study and formation, was ordained along with 22 other men on June 11, 1983, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne.

One of his deaconate assignments was at St. Henry Parish in Fort Wayne, where he assisted with liturgies and wrote and presented a monthly homily. Larson also served at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and St. Jude Parish, Fort Wayne.

Deacon Fred Larson

“Especially visiting the sick, it didn’t matter to him if they were Catholic or not. If he just felt that they needed someone, dad was there for them to talk to. And in that way, he was fearless.”

Lawrence also experienced her father’s ministry first hand. “He baptized my daughter,” she said, adding that he also performed funerals for relatives. “Growing up, the faith was always a big part of his life,” she recalled of her father. Father Shoemaker also recalls Deacon Larson as a man of prayer.

“He helped at Mass nearly every day, he spent many hours in the adoration chapel, he took part in several prayer groups in the parish, and he helped at nearly every funeral at St. Jude,” says Father Shoemaker.

“I have no regrets,” Larson told Today’s Catholic in 2005. “My faith is my life.”

Larson survived by his children, Stephen (Cindy) Larson and Joan (Jim) Lawrence, both of Fort Wayne; Paul (Mary-deceased) Larson of New Haven, Patricia (Jerry) Towbridge of Leo, Rita (Donald) Chislaghi of Fort Wayne; Ohio, David (Betty) Larson of Arecibo, P.R.; brother, John (Leila) Larson of Helena, Mont.; sisters-in-law, Monica Larson of Tipton, Ind., and Eleanor Ehinger of New Haven; brother-in-law, Philip (Mary Ann) Schnelker of Fort Wayne; 24 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Bernice, in 2002; three brothers, including a former priest of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend; and three sisters, Mass of Christian Burial was Saturday, Sept. 27, at St. Jude Catholic Church, Fort Wayne.

Deacon Larson's legacy

“Deacon Larson was a hard worker, humble, a man of service,” recalls Deacon Fred Larson as a man of prayer.

“He helped at Mass nearly every day, he spent many hours in the adoration chapel, he took part in several prayer groups in the parish, and he helped at nearly every funeral at St. Jude,” says Father Shoemaker.

“I have no regrets,” Larson told Today’s Catholic in 2005. “My faith is my life.”

Cardinal urges Congress to reject proposed Freedom of Choice Act

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Declaring that “we can’t reduce abortions by promoting abortion,” the chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities has urged members of Congress to reject the proposed Freedom of Choice Act.

In a Sept. 19 letter, Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia said the legislation “would counteract any and all sincere efforts by government to reduce abortions in our country,” force all Americans to subsidize abortion with their tax dollars and overturned “modest restrictions and regulations on the abortion industry” in all 50 states.

“No one who sponsors or supports legislation like FOCA can credibly claim to be part of a good faith discussion on how to reduce abortions,” he added.

The Freedom of Choice Act was introduced in both the House and Senate April 19, 2007, the day after the Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act in Gonzales v. Carhart. It states that “every woman has the fundamental right to choose to bear a child, to terminate a pregnancy prior to fetal viability, or to terminate a pregnancy after fetal viability when necessary to protect the life or health of the woman.”

Although no action has been taken in either house since then, “the Catholic bishops of the United States are gravely concerned about any possible consideration” of the legislation in the final weeks of the 110th Congress, Cardinal Rigali said.

“If abortion groups and some of the bill’s congressional sponsors have said they want this legislation enacted soon,” he added.

Justin Rigali said that recently “the national debate on abortion has taken a turn that may be productive” as members of both political parties “have sought to reach a consensus on ways to reduce abortions in our society.”

He expressed support for legislation such as the Pregnant Women Support Act, which would provide practical support to help pregnant women carry their pregnancies to term, and said “there is one thing absolutely everyone should be able to agree on: We can’t reduce abortions by promoting abortion.”

He added that Congress “would be laws promoting the conscience rights of health care providers or institutions; laws prohibiting partial-birth abortion; laws requiring abortions to be performed by a physician; and quite possibly laws preventing the implantation of an existing cloned embryo for purposes of becoming the child,” the analysis said.

Cardinal Rigali said that recently “the national debate on abortion has taken a turn that may be productive” as members of both political parties “have sought to reach a consensus on ways to reduce abortions in our society.”

He expressed support for legislation such as the Pregnant Women Support Act, which would provide practical support to help pregnant women carry their pregnancies to term, and said “there is one thing absolutely everyone should be able to agree on: We can’t reduce abortions by promoting abortion.”

He added that Congress “would be laws promoting the conscience rights of health care providers or institutions; laws prohibiting partial-birth abortion; laws requiring abortions to be performed by a physician; and quite possibly laws preventing the implantation of an existing cloned embryo for purposes of becoming the child,” the analysis said.

Cardinal Rigali said that recently “the national debate on abortion has taken a turn that may be productive” as members of both political parties “have sought to reach a consensus on ways to reduce abortions in our society.”

He expressed support for legislation such as the Pregnant Women Support Act, which would provide practical support to help pregnant women carry their pregnancies to term, and said “there is one thing absolutely everyone should be able to agree on: We can’t reduce abortions by promoting abortion.”

He added that Congress “would be laws promoting the conscience rights of health care providers or institutions; laws prohibiting partial-birth abortion; laws requiring abortions to be performed by a physician; and quite possibly laws preventing the implantation of an existing cloned embryo for purposes of becoming the child,” the analysis said.
National kickoff for 40 Days for Life held in South Bend

BY TOM UEBBING

SOUTH BEND — David Bereit, national director of the 40 Days for Life Campaign, launched the national effort with a kickoff rally from South Bend on Sept. 24.

The event included prayer, fasting, a 24/7 vigil at the abortion clinic and a community educational outreach with the goal of ending abortion.

Bereit chose South Bend out of the 179 cities that have signed up because South Bend was the first to do so and because he was impressed with the area’s strong pro-life commitment from previous visits.

Sean Scott began the event with inspirational songs. Holy Cross Father Neil Ryan, pastor of Little Flower, South Bend, where the event was held, welcomed the turnout of about 250 that filled the parish hall and led an opening prayer that emphasized a change of heart and that “love conquers all.”

David Bathon shared how, when his mother was pregnant with him, his father discovered she had cancer. She refused his request and immediately went to a clinic where she had cancer. She refused his recommendation of an abortion and immediate cancer treatment, thus saving her son but losing her own life.

“And Father Neil said in his prayer ‘love conquers all, it truly does,’” Bathon said. “We are trying to change hearts and minds through our own lives and sacrifices, our prayers, our fasting. And it is love that will conquer all.”

Bathon said that those praying at abortion clinics are comforting those being murdered there, and they also pray for their mothers and fathers as well.

Mary Akre, the South Bend area campaign director and mother of seven, shared how she saw the hand of God in the local 40 Days effort. New volunteers for the organizing committee kept showing up every week. Through providential connections the 40 Days campaign got a booth at the Pulse Christian Music Festival. An unemployed pro-lifer arrived in town, ended up manning the booth and garnered 250 signups for 40 Days.

Akre addressed the mindset of skeptics who think that prayer is ineffective and that action is what is needed. She countered that prayer is not an abstraction but an action. “Prayer does change people’s hearts. We know God acts on prayers.”

Evangelical Penny Moore offered prayer and read Scriptures calling for repentance, prayer and fasting. Penny is involved in a prison ministry for women and the inmates she ministers to will be joining the campaign from the prison in their daily prayers.

Dr. Charlie Rice, professor emeritus at the University Notre Dame Law School, critiqued the false foundations of the pro-abortion movement — secularism, relativism and individualism. He said that taking control over the beginning of life has led to taking control over the end of life.

Although politics is important, the answer lies in the re-conversion of the American people. Abortion will be conquered not by reason, but by grace.

David Bereit traced the movement’s biblical inspiration, inception, rapid growth, successes and the many hard sacrifices made along the way. He compared the 40 Days movement to the civil rights movement and the cool reception Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., received from President Lyndon B. Johnson when he asked him to support a civil rights voting act. Johnson turned him down, but King turned around and “started something” at Selma that resulted in the legislation being passed a short three months later. In the same way the 40 Days campaign is “starting something.” Bereit cited 514 confirmed babies saved, five abortion workers quit and two clinics closed.

Father Bob Lengerich of St. Pius X, Granger, led the participants in a prayer similar to the Prayer of the Faithful and offered a special prayer for the commission of missionaries. Many participants drove to the nearby abortion facility and began the vigil in the dim light of a street lamp. Their reverent prayer “Oh my Jesus, forgive us our sins...” permeated the darkness.

In Fort Wayne, Bereit spoke at a kickoff rally at Concordia Lutheran High School on Sept. 21 to launch the 40 Days for Life campaign there. Nearly 300 people attended the rally.

Robert Gregory, organizer of St. Vincent de Paul Parish pro-life activities, reported that on day one of the prayer vigil from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the abortion facility in Fort Wayne, “We saw a full day of constant prayer from various groups and people... In Fort Wayne, we have seen at least two cars drive in and out of the lot of the clinic... so we may have seen two women change their minds.”

Gregory said the campaign also captured attention from local television news.

“I encourage you to take the time to visit the vigil site any time you can come,” Gregory added. “We need you there praying. Please bring your children if needed. Come at lunch. Come after work, before work, whenever, but please come.”

The Fort Wayne Women’s Health Clinic is located at 2210 Inwood Dr.

A Mid-Event Way is planned for 5-7:15 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 5, at Catholic Cemetery in Fort Wayne.

Tired of Cleaning Your Gutters?

LEAFPROOF™
is an amazing gutter cover that catches rain but no leaves!

Receive $100.00 OFFa whole house LEAFPROOF™ systemExpires 10/01/08

(260) 424-1001 Cloverleaf Enterprise, Inc.
or (260) 424-1293 House Doctors
Paul & Cindy O’Shaughnessey
St. Charles Parish, Fort Wayne
Partnerships needed to sustain Catholic schools, says archbishop

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The church, businesses and government must work together to finance and keep open Catholic schools, Washington Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl said Sept. 20 to religion writers gathered in Washington from across the country.

“Catholic schools are facing enormous challenges, but I see this as a time to mark the turning point for Catholic education, especially in poor urban areas and rural areas,” the archbishop said.

His address to about 250 journalists attending the Religion Newswriters Association convention came one week after the release of his pastoral letter on strengthening and supporting Catholic education. The pastoral letter, “Catholic Education: Looking toward the Future with Confidence,” stressed that Catholic schools’ academic excellence, accessibility and affordability is the responsibility of all Catholics. The archbishop told the religion writers that most of the public is “aware of the contributions” Catholic schools make and are “very, very aware of the struggle of the church in maintaining these schools.” He said challenges to keep schools open stem from population shifts and rising costs.

What would Jesus do? Scholars look at morality in the Bible

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Even when it comes to morality, Catholics are not biblical literalists, although they view the Bible as an important source of moral guidance, said top Catholic scholars.

The question of what the Bible says the Bible itself said, so when looking for moral guidance, said top Catholic scholars, the Bible would be the starting point, although they view the Bible as an important source of moral guidance in Catholic teaching. However, it is not a set of moral precepts that a Christian cannot follow on just one point. In their pastoral document, “The Bible and Morality,” the scholars on the Pontifical Biblical Commission said biblical morality is not so much a list of do’s and don’ts as it is a set of principles meant to help Christians in the process of growth contribute to establishing God’s kingdom on earth. The English translation of the document walked off the Vatican printing press Sept. 24, less than two weeks before the opening of the world Synod of Bishops on the Bible. In the 235-page booklet, the biblical scholars presented two main criteria for judging attitudes or potential actions: What is the Bible, and is it possible for the Bible to be read as having a moral meaning? If the Bible is not read as having a moral meaning, it is not a moral meaning, the scholars said.

U.S. Cardinal William J. Levada, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in Rome and former archbishop of San Francisco, blessed the interior walls of the Porziuncola Chapel at the National Shrine of St. Francis of Assisi in San Francisco during its dedication Sept. 27. The chapel was built on a scale of 78 percent of the original Porziuncola church near Assisi, Italy.

Ray Flynn goes home after hospitalization

BRIGHTON, Mass. (CNS) — Former Massachusetts Attorney General and state Rep. Brian P. Wallace of Dedham discharged. “I spoke to him this morning and was in the room with him yesterday. The prognosis is great and he looks great.”

Wallace, who worked as an aide to Flynn from 1970 to 1993, said doctors isolated the cause of the collapse and are treating it. “It was a combination of things. He was run-down and exhausted, plus they just opened up his ear to remove a cancer and that was part of it.”

Media reports said Flynn, 69, was about 35 minutes into his talk at Bad Abbots Pub in Quincy when he passed out, remaining unconscious for about five minutes.

Congressmen outline proposal to ban sex-selection abortions in U.S.

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Despite evidence that sex-selection abortions may be occurring in the United States, U.S. law affords “less protection from sex-based feticide” than India or China do, according to proposed legislation that is to be introduced soon in the House of Representatives.

Republican Reps. Trent Franks of Arizona and Jeff Fortenberry of Nebraska discussed the Prenatal Nondiscrimination Act at a Sept. 23 press conference on Capitol Hill. The proposed bill would “prohibit discrimination against the unborn on the basis of sex or race.” Franks said, “Today we put forth a principle that all Americans of good will can warmly embrace — that no child should be marked to die based on their sex or their race. And we put it forth in the backdrop of over 100 million little girls having been aborted simply because they were little girls instead of little boys.”

He added, “It is also put forward in the backdrop of the mind-numbing reality that today in America half of all African-American children are being aborted before they are born.”

Tribal Indians burn cardinal’s effigy to protest Bible translation

RANCHI, India (CNS) — A group of tribal people in India has burned effigies of Ranchi Cardinal Telesphore Toppo, holding him responsible for a Protestant Bible they say insults their indigenous religion. On Sept. 22 protesting shouted slogans against the prelate, the first Asian tribal cardinal, reported the Asian church news agency UCA News. They blamed him for the publication of the “anti-traditional Bible” and burned effigies of the Catholic leader in front of the bishop’s house in Ranchi, The Bible Society of India, a Protestant organization, published the Bible translation into the Oraon tribe’s Kurukh dialect in 2000. Manoj Lakra, a journalist, told UCA News the protesters hold Cardinal Toppo, an ethnic Oraon, responsible for the Protestant translation because they do not understand denominational differences and consider the cardinal head of all tribal Christians in the state. The Catholic Church is by far the largest Christian group in the region and is popular for its education and health services.

Vatican releases norms for institutes teaching religious studies

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican’s Congregation for Catholic Education released new norms for institutes teaching religious studies in an effort to guarantee the consistent quality of instruction and ease the recognition of degrees coming from the world’s different ecclesial establishments. The 20-page instruction, approved by Pope Benedict XVI in June, is titled “Reform of the Higher Institutes of Religious Sciences” and was released by the Vatican Sept. 25. These specialized institutes were established after the Second Vatican Council to offer lay Catholics and consecrated religious in-depth instruction in theology and sacred studies. Particularly in Europe and especially in Catholic countries like Italy and Spain, the institutes primarily served as a means to prepare educators to teach religion in primary and secondary schools, both public and private. However, through the so-called Bologna Process, European countries have been trying to guarantee that the kind of education received in one European Union nation is comparable to and compatible with education received in other EU countries.

Social Catholic agencies mobilize in Hurricane Ike relief efforts

HOUSTON (CNS) — In the aftermath of Hurricane Ike, Texas Catholic social agencies have swiftly mobilized to offer assistance to those affected by the storm, which hit the region Sept. 12. Staff members and volunteers from Catholic Charities have visited coastal communities such as Texas City, Dickinson and Galveston, as well as Houston, to provide assistance to those in need. By coordinating relief efforts, Catholic Charities USA has opened a warehouse specifically for the purpose of delivery of goods to distribution sites. “We are focusing on Galveston County, and the needs of far-reaching communities who have limited access to government sponsored PODs (point of distribution),” said Jim Landry, Catholic Charities Houston vice president of program services.

Catholic Charities planned to continue its efforts in the field into the foreseeable future, as long as supplies lasted and the needs remained.

Mixed reviews: Implementation of Tridentine ruling frustrates some

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A year after Pope Benedict XVI opened the way to wider use of the Tridentine Mass, implementation of the papal directive is drawing mixed reviews from its target audience, Catholic traditionalists remain grateful for the pope’s document and say it has given them a community of like-minded fellow church members, as well as greater practical access to the old rite. But some — backed by a Vatican official — have complained that bishops and pastors continue to place obstacles in the way of groups seeking the Tridentine liturgy. On a long-term issue, traditionalists are pleased at new efforts to instruct priests in celebrating Mass in the older rite. Meanwhile, those who envisioned Tridentine Masses popping up in every parish have somewhat frustrated. “We’re only looking at one calendar year, and we know that in the church these things take time. But the trouble with the Tridentine Mass is the problem is the bishops. Because you have bishops who aren’t on board,” said John Paul Horgan, an American Catholic who lives in Rome. Sonnen and about 150 others attended a conference in Rome in mid-September on the theme: “Summorum Pontificum: One Year After.”
Full-day kindergarten comes to Sacred Heart Catholic School

WARSAW — The beginning of the 2008-09 school year marked the beginning of full-day kindergarten programming for Sacred Heart School in Warsaw. Responding to a request from par- ents to look at full-day kindergarten, teachers and administra- tors launched the option of full or half-day kindergarten for the class of 2021.

“Full-day kindergarten enhances the learning environ- ment for the students by actually allowing us more time to explore the standards-based kindergarten requirements at a deeper level. For instance, we have more time to do the ‘hands-on’ activities that were difficult to fit into a half-day pro- gram,” expressed kindergarten teacher Monica Smith. “Our stu- dents participate in gym, music, library, computers, art, Mass, fam- ily group activities, lunch and recess, just like all the other stu- dents.”

“Sacred Heart has high expecta- tions and student accomplish- ments as evidenced by our test scores,” Principal Mary Ann Irwin commented. “Full-day kindergarten allows us to give a good foundation of skills in reading, writing, math, social studies, sci- ence and religion, without stu- dents or teachers feeling over- stressed. We give them the ‘luxury’ of time to enjoy and explore the concepts.

So far, they love their class pet gerbils, Peanut Butter and Jelly, and learn to care for them. With the assistance of involved and supportive parents, students take lots of field trips to explore the world in which we live and learn more in depth the subjects studied in class.

Thirty new mobile laptop com- puters are wheeled into the class- room or set in the library, and even these youngest students wield the “mouse” and navigate programs without fear. The class of 2021 is already preparing for jobs that haven’t even been invented, yet.

Smaller sums up Sacred Heart kinder- garten as “a structured, aca- demic environment where all students are encouraged to learn and explore, if it means fun and positive way.

All children are a ‘gift’ to their families, to our school, and to our community, and it is our job to find how to ‘open’ their treasures so they can reach their academic, social, and emotional poten- tial.

“The school and parish build- ing program will allow some expansion of programs such as preschool and kindergarten for the 2009-2010 school year,” Irwin stated. “I love to visit the kinder- garten room and see the bright and smiling faces there. It really is true... Everything you need to know is learned in kindergarten.”

Ancilla College holds 10th annual United Way Pledge Drive

DONALDSON — John Gough is not afraid to think outside the box when it comes to getting his point across to students.

So rather than dressing up in a costume from “American Graffiti” and jumping into Lake Galbraith in late September, he’s certainly willing to go the extra mile to make it happen.

“We’ve been doing this for 10 years,” said Gough, assistant pro- fessor of business at Ancilla College. “I started this my sec- ond year at the college. As a school, we had never historically raised much for United Way, and we thought we needed to change that.

“All of the presidents here at the college have been big propo- nents of United Way. It’s part of the mission of Ancilla College to serve the underserved.”

Along with Sharon Blubaugh, Ancilla College registrar, Gough’s antics have helped raise awareness and greater funding for those in need through the annual United Way Pledge Drive at Ancilla College.

The two certainly don’t hold back when it comes to make the events enjoyable. From Gough’s sumersault into the lake with Todd Zeltzinger, execu- tive director of Institutional Advancement, to the full costumes he and Blubaugh wear, to the annual Radio Flyer race that will be held in the near future on a date to be determined, students have been more involved than ever in the pledge drive.

Gough also stated that if the goals of the pledge drive are met, Jennifer Maddox, executive direc- tor of United Way in Marshall County, will participate in the stu- dent events and will wear a curb waitress outfit complete with roller skates.

“It’s important to get students involved in the community,” said Blubaugh. “United Way is an organization that helps everyone in the community. We do this to create student participation and awareness of United Way, and we hope this will continue to be annu- al event.”

Mother Teresa’s doctor to speak at Little Flower

SOUTH BEND — Dr. Paul A. Wright, M.D., will share his per- sonal experiences with Mother Teresa from his book “Mother Teresa’s Prescription: Finding Happiness and Peace in Service,” on Tuesday, Oct. 7 at Little Flower Church, 34191 Ironwood Rd., South Bend. Mass will be at 11:30 a.m. following by a lunch, presen- tation and book signing from 12- 1:30 p.m. Donations are welcome.

Dr. Wright first met Mother Teresa in 1992 at the Beato Juan Diego shelter, a homeless shelter run by the Missionaries of Charity. He began caring Mother Teresa in 1994. Dr. Wright received the Catholic bishops’ 2003 Voice of Hope Award, which is given to an individual who reveals excellence, creativity and leadership in charity and justice. In 2004 he received the Thomas A. Dooley Award from the Notre Dame Alumni Association. This award is bestowed upon an alumni who has shown exceptional service and care for humanity. Wright is a car- diologist and graduate of the University of Notre Dame. He lives in Brookfield, Ohio, with his wife and daughter. This is his first book.

Register for the event by con- tacting Georgette Griffee, R.N., by Sunday, Oct. 5 at (574) 843-3435.

Father Pfister to offer class on Book of Revelation

DECATUR — The diocesan Office of Catechesis is sponsoring a three-week session on the Book of Revelation to be held on Thursdays, Oct. 23 and 30 and Nov. 6, at St. Mary of the Assumption, Decatur, from 7-9 p.m. each evening. The sessions will be facilitated by Father John Pfister, pastor of St. Mary, Huntington.

The Book of Revelation is quite different from how many tel- evision evangelists present it and how popular authors present it — it is not a book of fear, but a book of hope for the faithful Christian. Father Pfister will offer histori- cal context and an understanding of the apocalyptic style of writing in the first session, and he will encour- age participants not to miss the first session.

Participants should bring their Bibles.
Catholic authors’ series opens with the wit of Evelyn Waugh

BY ANN CAREY

NOTRE DAME — Writing satire, which is humor or sarcasm that critiques society, can be “dangerous moral ground to occupy,” said Jesuit Father Paul Mankowski, because satire causes pain for its target and fosters ridicule.

Speaking at the University of Notre Dame Sept. 23, Father Mankowski was the first lecturer in a series that focuses on prominent figures in Catholic literature. The title of the series this year, which is sponsored annually by Notre Dame’s Center for Ethics and Culture, is “Wit’s Way to Wisdom: Four Catholic Satirists.”

British Catholic author Evelyn Waugh was the subject of Father Mankowski’s lecture. The Jesuit priest is a native of South Bend who grew up in St. Pius X Parish, so he combined a family visit with his Notre Dame appearance.

Two days after the lecture, he returned to Rome, where he is a scholar of Scripture and Hebrew literature. Father Mankowski said that, from an early age, Waugh had a “freakish-maturity of English prose” and “was incapable of writing a boring sentence.” Even in his casual and mundane writing of letters and diaries, Waugh displayed “remarkable, flawless craftsmanship.” And in writing dialogue in his books, he had a “genius for conveying spoken English,” Father Mankowski said.

Waugh was attracted to Catholicism not by any aesthetic appeal to church music or architecture or ritual; he already had that with the Anglican Church, Father Mankowski said. Rather, Waugh found the appeal of Catholicism to be the church’s “universal claim to authority that required submission of mind and spirit.”

Waugh couldn’t have been a good satirist if he were not a Catholic, the priest said, because Waugh realized that the Christian satirist must place himself under the same criteria as his targets, and he must use satire to instruct, not just to ridicule. Shame can cleanse and cause some people to reform, Father Mankowski said, and when satire is true, it helps people to see truth, and this is a positive contribution toward moral advancement.

Students asked Father Mankowski what they should read first of Waugh’s works to acquaint themselves with the author. He recommended that to amuse themselves, they read “The Loved One” or “Decline and Fall.” To learn to write well, he said one could read any of Waugh’s letters or diaries.

The priest said that “Brideshead Revisited” was one of his favorite Waugh books, and Waugh thought it was his best work, but later in life Waugh considered “Helena” to be his best work.

The second speaker in the series, Notre Dame Professor Ralph McInerny, was to speak Sept. 30 on Baron Corvo. On Oct. 7, Father Marvin O’Connell, longtime Notre Dame history professor, will speak on G.K. Chesterton. Joseph Pearce of Ave Maria College will talk about Oscar Wilde on Oct. 14, and Holy Cross Father Charles Gordon, a theology professor at Portland University, also will speak on Evelyn Waugh on Oct. 28.

The lectures all take place at 8 p.m. in DeBartolo Hall, Room 155, and are free and open to the public.

“Waugh couldn’t have been a good satirist if he were not a Catholic.”

JESUIT FATHER PAUL MANKOWSKI

BAIL PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLAR ANNOUNCED

A $5,000 need-based academic scholarship was awarded to Bishop Luers High School senior, Alicia Lopez. Lopez possesses outstanding moral character and strives to perform to the highest level of her God-given talents. In the photo Mary Keefer presents Alicia with a plaque recognizing her as a recipient of the Phillip & Katherine Bail Personal Achievement Scholarship.

Aquila’s (260)489-2524 • www.DonHalls.com
Gracie
Continued from Page 1

The gift of the feminine gender is no mistake cautioned Benkovic. “The capacity in our own being to bear another human being is a gift,” she said. For those who cannot physically bear children, Benkovic calls them to spiritual maternity saying, “Every woman is called to be a mother and is always a spiritual mother too.”

Benkovic opened the second session titled “Women’s Influence: His Power and Effect” with prayer and spoke passionately of the army of holy women God is calling to transform humanity at this time in our place: “Each of us has a job to do. Women impregnated with the spirit of the Gospel can do so much to save humanity,” she proposed.

Following a box lunch catered by Grace College and a visit to the book and DVD sales table, where the vivacious Benkovic met participants and autographed books, the conference reconvened with song and prayer to open Father Ed Sylvia’s session titled “Male and Female: He Made Them.” There must be collaboration between men and women who embrace my Catholic identity in the spirit of Jesus Christ.

St. Mary of the Assumption Parish and St. Joseph School in Decatur celebrated the official groundbreaking for their new gymnasium on Sept. 6. The gym will be built across the street from their school building where their playground used to be. They raised over $3 million by running a dual Building on Our Heritage campaign along with the Legacy of Faith campaign that the diocese ran. The gymnasium is the first part of the construction phase. After the gym is completed they will begin work on the parish hall and gathering space that will be attached to the current rectory and church.

Provena
Sacred Heart Home

Our experienced and professional staff is dedicated to providing the highest quality of nursing care.

- Daily Mass
- Medicare Certified
- Secured Neighborhoods for Alzheimer Care
- Physical, Occupational, & Speech Therapies
- One and Two Bedroom Assisted Living Apartments
- Independent Living Patio Homes
- For Information: Call: (260) 897-2841

515 N. Main Street, Avilla, Indiana 46710

Provena Health, a Catholic health system, builds communities of healing and hope by compassionately responding to human need in the spirit of Jesus Christ.

Visit us at www.provena.org/sacredheart
Postmortem on the abuse crisis

Canon lawyer, Red Mass brunch speaker, urges vigilance, accountability

I n 1962, Father Joseph Ratzinger (now Pope Benedict XVI) wrote, “What the church needs today ... are not adulterators to extol the status quo, but men ... who face every misunderstanding and attack as they bear witness ... who, in a word, love the church more than ease and the unruffled course of their personal destiny.” The legal community of Fort Wayne will likely find such a man in Nicholas P. Cafardi, the speaker at the Oct. 5 Red Mass brunch at the Grand Wayne Center, as he addresses the topic, “Christian Lawyering: What To Do When The Church Fails.”

Cafardi is an original member of the National Review Board, the all-lay board created by the U.S. bishops to oversee their compliance with the policies for protecting children from sexual abuse by priests put in place at their June 2002 meeting in Dallas. So he has seen up close what happens when the church and its leaders fail. He has studied it. He has also spoken out strongly whenever necessary.


One of the few lay people in the U.S. to have a canon law degree, in his case a doctorate, Cafardi serves on the faculty of the Duquesne University School of Law, and he brings a deep legal understanding to why the issue was not addressed. Cafardi first looks to every version of the Code of Canon Law, the law of the church, dating back to the end of the first century.

“All of those collections of church law make it very clear that the sexual abuse of minors is a crime,” he notes. “The problem is that we failed to follow our own law and treat it as a crime.”

Treating it as a crime means not only the involvement of civil authorities, but also of mechanisms within the church.

“The church has a very good legal system,” Cafardi explains. “Every diocese has its own courts. We have international courts at the Holy See in Rome. We have an extensive legal system that’s been around for a very long time.”

But instead of prosecuting abusive priests according to the church’s own law, the U.S. bishops more or less collectively ignored the issue until it ruptured publicly in early 2002.

As to why the bishops failed to act sooner, Cafardi cites a couple of reasons. One was that some bishops were overly conscious of their own prerogative in their own dioceses.

“Nobody could tell them what to do in their own diocese,” he explains. “In their own diocese, they were the ultimate authority.”

While the authority of the bishop is true, Cafardi notes, he says this became a problem when such a bishop either refused to address the problem or put an abusive priest back in ministry.

As a group, the bishops’ discussions on the issue were in executive session, meaning a complete record does not exist, but, putting the pieces together, Cafardi says, “It appears that every time the bishops discussed this, they more or less said, ‘All we can do as a group is advise each other because the national caucus does not have the authority to legislate for the entire country.’”

While this is also true, Cafardi cites the example of the bishops of Canada who, despite the same restrictions, were able to agree on guidelines they would follow, asking the laity to hold them accountable as they did so.

Accountability to the laity, Cafardi notes, is a big key to ensuring the abuse crisis will not reemerge in the future.

Cafardi maintains that it’s up to the laity to hold the bishops to the promises of the Dallas charter, especially since the Dallas norms have to be renewed periodically, meaning the bishops could decide the problem is resolved and that the no longer need them.

“I think that would be a very serious mistake,” Cafardi says.

He says it is a sad part of the nature of pedophiles to seek jobs where they are alone with children in positions of authority.

“That’s why people like this become school-teachers. That’s why they become Scoutmasters. It’s why they become chor directors. It’s why they become Catholic priests,” he says. “It requires constant vigilance.”
WASHINGTON (CNS) — Representatives from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services in a telephone press conference Sept. 23 called on the major parties’ presidential candidates to lay out their foreign policy strategies in relation to the world’s poor and overseas assistance.

The campaigns of Democratic Sen. Barack Obama and Republican Sen. John McCain have failed to adequately address the global food crisis, the increasing role of the U.S. Defense Department in humanitarian work, the refocusing of U.S. foreign assistance, and how the government should help the poor adapt to climate change, said Bill O’Keefe, senior director for the advocacy department of the Baltimore-based CRS.

The Obama and McCain campaigns also have failed to sufficiently articulate if their foreign policy programs would promote religious equality, strengthen international law, support a safe haven for foreign refugees, or actively pursue a comprehensive resolution between the Israelis and Palestinians, said Stephen Colecchi, director of the Office of International Justice and Peace for the USCCB.

“This topic is timely considering that this Friday night (Sept. 26) the candidates will be debating foreign policy,” O’Keefe said. “These are critical issues that are crying out for attention.”

Both campaigns are currently focused on the domestic economic crisis and the Bush administration’s proposed bailout of U.S. financial institutions, which could cost taxpayers $700 billion or more if it’s approved by Congress.

With approximately $38 billion currently being spent on foreign aid — which includes costs for foreign embassies and diplomatic missions — both men argued that money spent to address global poverty is a minimal expense in the federal budget compared to the proposed bailout of U.S. financial institutions.

“There is no doubt the next administration and Congress has tough financial problems they will have to deal with,” O’Keefe said. “But there is a missed opportunity by the candidates to demonstrate their own leadership (on these matters) and to prove to the voters they can think comprehensively and broadly about comprehensive issues. The person who can demonstrate they can do that is more likely to win the election.”

If the U.S. government would invest in a solution to poverty in foreign countries, those nations would become better trade partners, Colecchi said.

Nations with fewer poverty issues also tend to be more peaceful countries and more peace in the world would reduce “the amount that we have to spend on defense,” he said.

The USCCB and CRS representatives used the Sept. 23 press conference as a way of reaching out to the candidates to urge them to address these issues in their campaigns.

The USCCB also has submitted its “Faithful Citizenship” statement — which address these and other moral issues — to both campaigns and has sought a meeting with each candidate to discuss the topics face to face, Colecchi said.

O’Keefe also urged Catholics to bring up these issues with the candidates at campaign events and write letters to editors as a way of gaining support for moral concerns.

Ultimately, Catholics have the power to vote for the candidate they believe has best addressed these moral issues of conscience, he said.

Colecchi said the U.S. Catholic bishops are calling for a new style of politics that focuses “more on the pursuit of the common good than on the demands of narrow special interests.”
WASHINGTON (CNS) — Ask Catholic teenagers if they’ve read a recent document by the U.S. bishops and you might get a blank look.

But ask if they’ve heard of the bishops’ statement “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility,” either through a podcast, a video quiz on YouTube or its page on the social networking site Facebook, and you might get a nod of recognition.

That’s what the U.S. bishops are hoping anyway.

“Faithful Citizenship,” the document that urges Catholic voters to form their consciences around a variety of social concerns based on Catholic social teaching, is not something new. The bishops initially published the document in 1975 and produced a new version of it about every four years to coincide with the national elections.

For starters, its Web site, www.faithfulcitizenship.org, has resources for youths and those who work with them. The site is “tech savvy,” according to Jill Rauh, youth and young adult coordinator for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development.

“I think if the church is going to be effective at communicating the message of ‘Faithful Citizenship’ and all its messages, it needs to do so in ways that are appealing to young people,” Rauh said.

She said getting youths to go beyond just reading the text or hearing about it is key to the new push behind the “Faithful Citizenship” quizzes, an iPod content on the site and video clips. The hope is that young people will support the document’s message but talk about it, reflect on it and apply it to their lives.

The Web site suggests some formats for talking about “Faithful Citizenship,” such as one called “Coffee Discussion,” which includes a series of questions about social issues and Catholic teaching that friends could informally talk about over coffee.

And youth ministers and religious educators are not limited to just making handouts of the document.

Instead they are given ideas for skits, murals, open-microphone nights and prayer services based on “Faithful Citizenship.”

Rauh told Catholic News Service the outreach to younger people is a recognition that they have “an important role to play in living out faith as leaders in the Catholic community. They are both the future and the present in our church.”

And even if these Catholic youths are not old enough to vote, she said, they “still have a responsibility to be faithful citizens” — to be active in their communities and to challenge their leaders.

Across the country, youth and diocesan leaders have taken a variety of approaches in getting out the word on “Faithful Citizenship.”

Becky VanPool, parish outreach and program development director for Catholic Charities of Oklahoma City, Okla., worked with the diocesan young adult ministry program to host a “Faithful Citizenship” barbecue Sept. 28. VanPool said she was convinced the format to discuss faith and political issues would be “much more valuable than a presentation,” although a small presentation was planned to give an overview of Catholic social teaching.

Students at Melbourne Central Catholic High School in Melbourne, Fla., have been taking a close look at where the church stands on a variety of political issues in preparation for a congressional candidate forum they planned to host Sept. 22.

The students created the questions based on the “Faithful Citizenship” document and were to moderate the discussion.

Deborah Stafford Shearer, director of the Office of Advocacy and Justice for the Diocese of Orlando, Fla., who helped organize the forum, said this was the first time an event like this was being coordinated by students; usually it is done on the parish level.

But she saw it as an important “educational moment” for the students who have been preparing for the forum in religion and civics classes. The students formulated questions on abortion, marriage, health care, the economy and the environment.

To do so, Stafford Shearer said they had to learn “a lot about where the church stands on issues and also the diversity of issues” it addresses, something that is often a surprise to adults, she said.

That’s why she hoped the event would “get a big parent turnout,” so the lessons on active Catholic citizenship would reach an even broader audience.

Bishops’ document on election goes high tech in podcast, video format

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.”

The invitations are the first in recent memory to seek meetings prior to an election. They were sent prior to USCCB responses earlier in September to two Democrats who support legalized abortion. Sen. Joseph Biden of Delaware, the vice presidential candidate, and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California made remarks on national television stating their positions on abortion, prompting the bishops to clarify Catholic teaching.

Neither presidential candidate has replied to the requests, Mercy Sister Mary Ann Walsh, USCCB director of media relations, told the newspaper.

A time for prayer and reflection on the meaning of responsible leadership and justice.

Hall & Gooden LLP

200 EAST MAIN STREET • SUITE 1000 • FORT WANEY

426-1300

*Parishioners in this diocese

The Red Mass • OCTOBER 5, 2008 RED MASS

Bishops invite candidates 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.”

The invitations are the first in recent memory to seek meetings prior to an election. They were sent prior to USCCB responses earlier in September to two Democrats who support legalized abortion. Sen. Joseph Biden of Delaware, the vice presidential candidate, and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California made remarks on national television stating their positions on abortion, prompting the bishops to clarify Catholic teaching.

Neither presidential candidate has replied to the requests, Mercy Sister Mary Ann Walsh, USCCB director of media relations, told the newspaper.

Bishop Murphy said. Affairs and communications. 

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.”

The invitations are the first in recent memory to seek meetings prior to an election. They were sent prior to USCCB responses earlier in September to two Democrats who support legalized abortion. Sen. Joseph Biden of Delaware, the vice presidential candidate, and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California made remarks on national television stating their positions on abortion, prompting the bishops to clarify Catholic teaching.

Neither presidential candidate has replied to the requests, Mercy Sister Mary Ann Walsh, USCCB director of media relations, told the newspaper. Bishops’ document on election goes high tech in podcast, video format

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Ask Catholic teenagers if they’ve read a recent document by the U.S. bishops and you might get a blank look.

But ask if they’ve heard of the bishops’ statement “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility,” either through a podcast, a video quiz on YouTube or its page on the social networking site Facebook, and you might get a nod of recognition.

That’s what the U.S. bishops are hoping anyway.

“Faithful Citizenship,” the document that urges Catholic voters to form their consciences around a variety of social concerns based on Catholic social teaching, is not something new. The bishops initially published the document in 1975 and produced a new version of it about every four years to coincide with the national elections.

For starters, its Web site, www.faithfulcitizenship.org, has resources for youths and those who work with them.

The site is “tech savvy,” according to Jill Rauh, youth and young adult coordinator for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development.

“I think if the church is going to be effective at communicating the message of ‘Faithful Citizenship’ and all its messages, it needs to do so in ways that are appealing to young people,” Rauh said.

She said getting youths to go beyond just reading the text or hearing about it is key to the new push behind the “Faithful Citizenship” quizzes, an iPod content on the site and video clips. The hope is that young people will support the document’s message but talk about it, reflect on it and apply it to their lives.

The Web site suggests some formats for talking about “Faithful Citizenship,” such as one called “Coffee Discussion,” which includes a series of questions about social issues and Catholic teaching that friends could informally talk about over coffee.

And youth ministers and religious educators are not limited to just making handouts of the document.

Instead they are given ideas for skits, murals, open-microphone nights and prayer services based on “Faithful Citizenship.”

Rauh told Catholic News Service the outreach to younger people is a recognition that they have “an important role to play in living out faith as leaders in the Catholic community. They are both the future and the present in our church.”

And even if these Catholic youths are not old enough to vote, she said, they “still have a responsibility to be faithful citizens” — to be active in their communities and to challenge their leaders.

Across the country, youth and diocesan leaders have taken a variety of approaches in getting out the word on “Faithful Citizenship.”

Becky VanPool, parish outreach and program development director for Catholic Charities of Oklahoma City, Okla., worked with the diocesan young adult ministry program to host a “Faithful Citizenship” barbecue Sept. 28.

VanPool said she was convinced the format to discuss faith and political issues would be “much more valuable than a presentation,” although a small presentation was planned to give an overview of Catholic social teaching.

Students at Melbourne Central Catholic High School in Melbourne, Fla., have been taking a close look at where the church stands on a variety of political issues in preparation for a congressional candidate forum they planned to host Sept. 22.

The students created the questions based on the “Faithful Citizenship” document and were to moderate the discussion.

Deborah Stafford Shearer, director of the Office of Advocacy and Justice for the Diocese of Orlando, Fla., who helped organize the forum, said this was the first time an event like this was being coordinated by students; usually it is done on the parish level.

But she saw it as an important “educational moment” for the students who have been preparing for the forum in religion and civics classes. The students formulated questions on abortion, marriage, health care, the economy and the environment.

To do so, Stafford Shearer said they had to learn “a lot about where the church stands on issues and also the diversity of issues” it addresses, something that is often a surprise to adults, she said.

That’s why she hoped the event would “get a big parent turnout,” so the lessons on active Catholic citizenship would reach an even broader audience.
**Thomas More: interview with Gerard Wegemer**

**Today's Catholic:** How did this mindset affect More’s interactions with King Henry?

**Professor Wegemer:** More was a person of the law willing to die for the law, and Henry was set on breaking the law, going around the law — the strongest laws of England, the Magna Carta and his own coronation oath. More, in a very effective and powerful way, without causing a war, but clearly setting forth the principle, appealed to the conscience of the whole country and repeatedly to Henry, until Henry eventually had More eliminated because he was too effective.

**Today’s Catholic:** After More’s death, did the opposition to Henry just dry up?

**Professor Wegemer:** It took several generations, but eventually the principles More set forth took hold, the ones that strengthened parliament and strengthened the rule of law and diminished the power that was accumulated in the hands of an arbitrary monarch.

So More is an example of how the professional himself has an important role in the life of the law.

He clearly shows that justice requires just people and people dedicated toward thinking about the good of the country, and not one particular case or one particular issue.

**Today’s Catholic:** Would it be possible for public servants today to emulate him in their own professions?

**Professor Wegemer:** More is one of the first persons to use the word “integrity” in the sense of moral excellence and true consistency of word and thought. That seems one of the greatest requirements of professionals in politics today, that their word and their action can be trusted. That’s why More was so admired and effective both as lawyer and judge in London or a negotiator internationally. He was chosen by his colleagues because they trusted him. And Henry knew that people trusted More, and that’s why he had to eliminate him.

**Today’s Catholic:** Can you sum up why More is such an important role model for public servants?

**Professor Wegemer:** He shows the personal virtues one must have, and there are a range of virtues: diplomacy, shrewdness and great courage. Probably his longest lasting effect will be in teaching people, but also in his writings, how to bear up under very difficult circumstances.

At his trial, for instance, once he was condemned by 15 colleagues and former friends, he says to them. “Though you now are agents of my condemnation, I hope we will all merrily one day be together in heaven.” To have that level of good will to people who have just destroyed your life and your family is extraordinary. ... He has his eyes on eternity, but also on the future of England, and he’s trying to teach by his actions and his deeds. ... He’s full of edifying surprises: On the scaffold he jokes with his jailer. ... This is part of the phenomenal integrity of man. ... To the very last moment of his life, he is working to live faith in charity and lift up the people around him and give them hope.

**Today’s Catholic:** Which works works of More would you most recommend for public servants?

**Professor Wegemer:** The two classics he wrote in the tower: “The Sadness of Christ,” which is his last reflections at the end of a very diverse and full life, and it’s the last book he wrote, which has a lot to say about friendship and leadership. Then his “Dialogue of Comfort against Tribulation,” also written in the tower, ... in his great contribution on the nature of suffering, how one acquires the courage to put up with suffering.
OCTOBER 5, 2008

Cardinal Rigali on the Freedom of Choice Act

O n Sept. 19, Cardinal Justin Rigali, the Archbishop of Philadelphia and the Chairman of the U.S. Bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities, issued a letter to all members of Congress voicing his strong opposition to the Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA) that may be considered in this or the next Congress. In his letter, the cardinal noted that not only would this legislation create a “fundamental right” to abortion throughout all nine months of pregnancy for virtually any reason, but it would also invalidate a number of state and federal pro-life laws and, for the first time, make abortion an entitlement that must be supported and promoted with state and federal tax dollars.

According to an analysis of the legislation by the U.S. Bishops’ Associate General Counsel, Michael Moses, FOCA is a radical measure that would almost certainly invalidate a broad range of state laws, including:

- Informed consent laws like the one in Indiana that requires that a woman receive an abortion offerer information about fetal development, the risks of abortion, alternatives to it, and the opportunity to see the ultrasound of the child and hear her heartbeat;
- Laws like the one that pro-life Hoosiers struggled for years to see enforced that require a 15-hour waiting period in order for a woman to weigh that information before having the procedure performed;
- Parental notification or consent laws like the one in our state that require that a minor have a parent’s consent unless a court allows her to make the decision by herself;
- Laws like the one in Indiana that outlaw a particular abortion procedure, such as partial birth abortion;
- Abortion clinic regulations, even those designed to make abortions safer for women, like the recently passed law in Indiana that regulates abortion clinics so that they must meet the same minimal requirements as do other surgical centers;
- Laws that promote childbirth over abortion and which refuse to fund abortion except to save the life of the mother;
- Laws like the one in Indiana that requires that abortions only be performed by a licensed physician or one that would require that anti-abortionists have local hospital privileges in order to better assure their competence as physicians;
- Laws like the one in our state that require that abortion providers maintain certain records with respect to performed abortions; and, perhaps most disturbingly,
- Laws like those in Indiana that protect the conscience rights of doctors, nurses and hospitals from performing or cooperating with the performance of abortions.

Such a sweeping, universal and devastating strike at hundreds of pro-life laws across the country — many of which have been successful in reducing the number of abortions — would undeniably lead to a sharp increase in the numbers of those killed. In fact, according to a statistical analysis by Dr. Michael New of the Heritage Foundation, parental involvement laws, informed consent laws and funding restrictions alone save an estimated 125,000 unborn children per year in the United States.

Ominously, among the 20 Democratic and independent senators who have already signed on as sponsors of this radical measure, three of the most prominent are Senators Barack Boxer, Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama (see list at www.aul.org/FOCA). In fact, last year, Sen. Obama pledged at a Planned Parenthood event that “the first time that I’d do as president is sign the Freedom of Choice Act. That’s the first thing that I’d do.”

In closing his letter, Cardinal Rigali made this blunt assessment: “We can’t reduce abortions by promoting abortion. We cannot reduce abortions by violating the very laws that have been shown to reduce abortions by helping to insist that every program supporting women in childbirth and child care must also support abortion. No one who sponsors or supports legislation like FOCA can credibly claim to be part of a good-faith discussion on abortion.”

Headline Bistro:

Because Catholics need to know

Speaking of staying tuned, back in August, the Knights of Columbus launched a new Web site and e-mail news service called Headline Bistro. Dedicated to bringing readers the daily headlines that Catholics need to know. The idea is to present national and international news stories “from the perspective of Catholics who want to know what is happening in the church, nation and world around them.” It’s well done and worth checking out.

Today’s Catholic editorial board consists of Ann Carey, Don Clemmer, Fred and Lisa Everett, Father Mark Gurtner, Father Michael Heinzt, Tim Johnson and Vince LaBarbera.
Being in Christ

Before his conversion and renaming, Paul was known as Saul. He was told to go on a journey to Damascus when a light from the sky suddenly flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?”

What do you suppose went through his mind? He had been persecuting disciples that belonged to a new sect growing up in Jerusalem. They believed incredible things about a carpenter from Nazareth, and Saul was doing his part to stop it. Three chapters earlier in the Book of Acts, he had stood by at the execution of one of their number, named Stephen. Did he wonder if it was Stephen’s voice he heard now questioning him from the sky?

Saul was also traveling north with letters to present to the synagogues in Damascus. These gave him permission to bring back in chains anyone he found who belonged “to the Way.” Did he wonder if he was persecuting me?

In due course, the landowner had planted a vineyard by surrounding it with a hedge, and then God went on a desert for three years to search the Scripture to figure it out. When he finally did, his understanding set the terms for what has since been known as the mystical body. The church is not just a group of like-minded persons

We bring chaos upon ourselves

The Year of St. Paul

The Epistle to the Philippians provides the second reading this weekend.

Philippi was an important military post in the Roman Empire, located in modern Greece. As such, it was a thoroughly pagan community. Because of their worship of the god of Israel, Jesus as the son of God, and because of their devotion to the Gospel values of love, sacrifice and life in God, pagans looked upon Christians with disdain, at best, as threats at most.

Before long, this disdain for Christians in the empire erupted into outright persecution. Understandably this Epistle had to encourage and reassure Philippi’s Christians. It admonished them that the goodness of God always to be faithful to God, always to be holy, and indeed never to fear opposition or even persecution.

St. Matthew’s Gospel is the source of the third reading. As has been the case on other weekends, the selection for this weekend is a parable. Again, the story is about a discussion between Jesus and priests and elders. Voicing the parable, Jesus refers to a “landowner,” who of course is God.

The landowner has planted a vineyard. (Remember the first reading? Vineyards often were used in the Old Testament to describe the nation of Israel.) The vineyard belongs to God. Those who occupy the vineyard merely are tenants. God protected this vineyard by surrounding it with a hedge, and then God went on a journey, leaving tenants to tend the vineyard.

In due course, the landowner sends his servants to the tenants to collect the yield. However, the tenants have turned against God. The tenants kill these servants. God sent more servants. They too were killed. Finally, the Son of God was sent, also to be killed. Finally, God drives the tenants from the vineyard.

Reflection

The church has called us to discipleship during these weeks. It restates this call in these readings. Ultimately, today’s lesson is not about doom and destruction, although both Isaiah and Matthew feature unholiness and death. Rather, the message is of salvation and hope.

By disobeying, or ignoring, God, we bring chaos upon ourselves. God does not hurl thunderbolts of anger and revenge at us. Instead, we create our own eternal situation. We choose to sin. We choose to be with God, or to be without God. Salvation is not forced upon us. We choose our plight of death and hopelessness. All is not necessarily lost. The wonder, and great opportunity, in all this is that God accepts us back if we repent. God is merciful. By forgiving us, God returns us to the vineyard, there to find life and goodness forever.

READINGS

Monday: Gal 6:12Ps 111:1b-2,7-9, 10Lk 1025-37
Tuesday: Gal 1:13-24 Ps 139:1b-3, 13-15 Lk 1038-42
Wednesday: Gal 2:1-2,7-14 Ps 117:1bc, 2 Lk 11:1-4
Thursday: Gal 3:1-5 Ps 169:75-76, 115-15
Friday: Gal 3:14 Ps 111:1b-6Lk 11:15-26
Saturday: Gal 3:22-29 Ps 105:2-7 Lk 11:27-28
All Christians are called by Jesus to poverty of heart

How does the church view maintaining personal wealth and financial planning if Jesus teaches to give your goods away to your neighbor as your self? TC, Fort Wayne

The call of Jesus to be poor extends to every one of his followers. However, how that poverty is lived out is unique to each follower according to the specific vocation of each. Some are called by Jesus literally to give up everything thing they possess. Among these especially would be religious brothers and priests. Religious make a vow of poverty by which they renounce the right to own anything. Now this does not mean that they must live in abject poverty. Rather, all their resources belong to the entire community and from the community they need to live and to fulfill their vocation.

Diocesan priests do not make a vow of poverty. (Many people, I think, do not know this.) Diocesan priests are able to own material goods for themselves. However, diocesan priests are asked to live “in the spirit of poverty” which means that they are to avoid the illusion of life and are to live simply. Lay people, too, of course, are able to own their own material goods and should discern God’s will for their use. We especially cite the principles of stewardship by which we recognize that everything that we have is a gift from God, and we should return to God a portion of what he has given us to thanksgiving for the work of the church and the helping of the poor and needy. However, the primary use of their material goods should be in the fulfilling of their vocation, especially the ministry. The mother and father who must obtain the goods necessary to take care of themselves and their children.

In general, however, all acts morally in his pursuits and seeks to attain material goods in order to benefit others, his own vocation and the work of the church. In fact, it would be wrong, for example, for the father of a family to try to act like a monk by not owning any material goods. His children would not have food to live on. This would be a great injustice and, indeed, against God’s will. In addition, someone who seeks to be successful in business more than likely contributes to the ability of others to maintain jobs which then in turn benefits their own families.

Again, Jesus calls all of us to poverty of spirit for a person to seek to be successful in business and financial matters as long as that person

THAT’S A GOOD QUESTION

Christians are called by Jesus to poverty of heart. As Jesus would say, “Blessed are the poor in spirit.” One can be literally poor, but not poor in spirit, that is, a literally poor person could be truly poor in spirit, expressing the will for their use and using them in poverty of heart for the good of others. It is not against the Christian spirit for a person to seek to be successful in business and financial matters as long as that person

CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

Diocesan priests do not make a vow of poverty. (Many people, I think, do not know this.) Diocesan priests are able to own material goods for themselves. However, diocesan priests are asked to live “in the spirit of poverty” which means that they are to avoid the illusion of life and are to live simply. Lay people, too, of course, are able to own their own material goods and should discern God’s will for their use. We especially cite the principles of stewardship by which we recognize that everything that we have is a gift from God, and we should return to God a portion of what he has given us to thanksgiving for the work of the church and the helping of the poor and needy. However, the primary use of their material goods should be in the fulfilling of their vocation, especially the ministry. The mother and father who must obtain the goods necessary to take care of themselves and their children.

In general, however, all acts morally in his pursuits and seeks to attain material goods in order to benefit others, his own vocation and the work of the church. In fact, it would be wrong, for example, for the father of a family to try to act like a monk by not owning any material goods. His children would not have food to live on. This would be a great injustice and, indeed, against God’s will. In addition, someone who seeks to be successful in business more than likely contributes to the ability of others to maintain jobs which then in turn benefits their own families.

Again, Jesus calls all of us to poverty of spirit for a person to seek to be successful in business and financial matters as long as that person

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

Marriage, civility, persecution

In Spain, today, Juan can walk into a civil registry office, present a letter from his physician stating that a change of gender is required for his mental health and, without further surgery, be issued a new national identity card declaring that Juan is now Juana. In San Francisco (a European enclave currently attached to the California coast), the city council and county board have formally decreed that the Catholic Church’s teaching on the moral character of homosexuality as “insulting to all San Franciscans” is a senior fellow of the Catholic Center in Washington, D.C. 

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading, Cycle A, from Matthew about the ungrateful and murderous tenants. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

GEORGE WEIGEL

low-citizens?

• Should federal funds be used to support elementary and secondary schools programs and textbooks that teach that “marriage” is mean’s “two homos” (or daddies)?

Question for Sen. Barack Obama

You have said that you would press for “hate crime” laws and a “fully inclusive” Employment Non-Discrimination Act. Under such laws, would Catholic schools be prosecuted for not hiring poor teachers with relevant qualifications, or would orthodox Catholic teachers be prosecuted for teaching what the Catholic Church teaches about the moral character of homosexual acts? If not, why not?

Question for Sen. John McCain

Given your experience in the military, would you favor a policy of neutrality towards sexual orientation, explicit or otherwise, in the armed forces of the United States?

October 5, 2008

By Patricia Kasten

Matthew 21:33-46

VINEYARD TENANTS

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

© 2008 Tri-C-A Publications www.tri-c-a-publications.com

PAUL

Continued from Page 15

who get together for mutual support on Sundays. They are the body of Christ, and Christ is their head. They are in him, and he is in them.

We enter this body in baptism. By baptism, we are grafted into the mystical body of Christ, and he bestows all life through his Church. The church is a living body, and like all life, it must receive regular exercise and nourishment. It is fed in the Eucharist; wounds are healed in anointing and penance; it is communally structured in orders and marriage. The head instituted the different sacraments in order to meet all the vital needs of life divine in his mystical body. Mersch said that after the Damascus Road, Paul could not look into the eyes of a Christian without seeing Christ. If only this were still true — that when any one looks into the eyes of a Christian they meet there the gaze of Christ.
**Sports**

**St. Anthony-St. Joseph cruises to first place**

**BY ELMER J. DANCH**

SOUTH BEND — The St. Anthony-St. Joseph football combination has continued to flex its offensive power in the Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL), and the Panthers remain as one of the two unbeaten teams in the circuit.

Behind the accurate passing of Frank Karczewski who fired two touchdown strikes, the Panthers racked up their third straight win in the ICCL with a 21-0 victory over the Holy Family Trojans.

Karczewski tossed a 20-yard touchdown aerial to Matt Pinter the lone score for the Trojans on a 55-yard run.

Denton Gillis closed out the scoring for the Panthers in the fourth period with a 10-yard burst scoring for the Panthers in the third period.

Dillon Carey added, “The game felt closer than the score indicated. PB/QA did a good job all day.”

The Raider offense was once again led by its running back Adam McCarthy who scored three touchdowns in the victory. Dillon Carey and call center, Jake Britton, added one a piece for the Raiders who improved to 5-1. On the other side of the ball, Andrew Kimm added the

**Week 6 CYO games played at USF**

**BY MICHALLE CASTLEMAN**

FORT WAYNE — Gridiron games for “Week 6” of Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) football play were held at the University of Saint Francis on Sunday, Sept. 28. Redeemer Radio highlighted the “ironmen” from St. John Newredeemer Radio highlighted the “ironmen” from St. John New.

The Mishawaka Catholic Saints nipped Corpus Christi Cougars, 13-6, on the strength of Joe Molnar’s 15-yard touchdown pass to Will Whitten and Michael Voor’s 15-yard touchdown dash in the fourth period.

The Cougars’ score came on a 35-yard touchdown aerial of Garrett Lukens to Noah Sheer in the third period.

St. Anthony-St. Joseph Panthers rolled over Holy Family Trojans, 24-7, behind the scoring of Chris Lippert who raced for touchdowns on scammers of 40, 65 and 35 yards, Andrew Kimm added the fourth 35-yard touchdown for the Panthers on a 55-yard run.

Nicholas Williams picked up the lone score for the Trojans on a burst to complete a 35-yard drive.

St. Matthew and the Granger Catholic Titans played to a scoreless tie.

**Cardegals compile cross country accolades**

**BY MICHALLE CASTLEMAN**

FORT WAYNE — At the midpoint of 2008 Catholic Youth League

(CYO) cross country action, Coach Dan Kaiserman reports that the Cardegles from St. Jude and St. Charles boys have compiled a 25-7 record, while the girls are at a 20-10 mark.

Earlier in the week, the Royal Reds got their first “W” of the season by defeating St. Jude in week four’s rain out, makeup game. St. Jude led at the half, 8-6, scoring on a quarterback sneak by Gus Schrader, but the Royal Reds went on to win, 20-8. St. Jude also did double duty this week, but fell to St. Charles 28-0 in Sunday’s matchup.

Mixing things up just before the last week of regular season play, the JAT team handed the only undefeated team in the league, the St. John Fort Wayne/Hessen Crusaders a 32-8. The Panthers lone touchdown strike, the Panthers remain as one of the two unbeaten teams in the circuit

“Hats off to the JAT team. They played with a great level of toughness and effort and executed very well.”

In the final game of the day, St. Vincent lost to a tough Holy Cross team 32-8. The Panthers lone touchdown came on a 15-yard pass play from Nick German to Ryan Burman, who even Colligan converting on the PAT kick.

Holy Cross is now 5-1 along with the Raiders and Eagles.
New book details corporate strategies that promote peace

NOTRE DAME — A new book edited by the director of the University of Notre Dame’s Center for Ethics and Religious Values in Business outlines how some of the nation’s top companies have implemented corporate strategies that foster peace.

“Peace Through Commerce: Responsible Corporate Citizenship and the Ideals of the United Nations Global Compact,” edited by Holy Cross Father Oliver F. Williams, contains case studies documenting the efforts of businesses that include IIM, Bristol-Myers-Squibb, General Electric, Nestle and Ford.

The book, published by Notre Dame Press, includes essays by major business leaders and scholars who discuss the issues presented by the U.N. Global Compact, a forum in which multinational businesses work to promote human rights, prevent violent conflict and contribute to peace.

Launched in 2000 with more than 5,000 businesses participating, the compact is the world’s largest voluntary corporate citizenship organization.

Father Williams, who also is an associate professor of management at Notre Dame, is the editor or author of 14 books as well as case studies that uses technology and personal information to blackmail them into obedience, while an FBI agent (Billy Bob Thornton) and an Air Force investigator (Rosario Dawson) try to track them down. Though its solution is hardly original, director D.J. Caruso’s sleek puzzle provides sufficient diversion along the way. Moderate action violence, brief sexual humor, one use of the F-word, much crude language and some uses of profanity; possibly acceptable for older teens. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

“Eagle Eye” (DreamWorks)

Well-executed action yarn about two strangers, a gifted undercoverer (Shia LaBeouf) and a divorced mother (Michelle Monaghan), who are thrown together when they become the unwilling agents of an anonymous, seemingly all-powerful entity that uses technology and personal information to blackmail...
**WHAT’S HAPPENING?**

**MISC. HAPPENINGS**

**Public square rosary crusade**

Diocesan wide — A public square rosary crusade will be held at the following parishes:
- Saturday, Oct. 11, at noon.
  - Sacred Heart, Warsaw on the northwest side of the Courthouse Square: Queen of Angels, Fort Wayne; St. Mary of the Assumption, Avilla and St. Charles, Fort Wayne.

**A Call to Conscience**

**responsible Catholic voting forum**

Notre Dame — Sacred Heart Parish will host a Catholic voting forum from 9 a.m. to 4 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.

**Miracle of Fatima remembered**

New Haven — A Mass, procession and rosary will be held Monday, Oct. 13 at St. John the Baptist Parish beginning at 11:15 a.m. in honor of the 91st anniversary of the miracle of the sun at Fatima.

**St. Therese School 50th anniversary**

Fort Wayne — St. Therese School will have an all-school reunion weekend Oct. 10-12. All alumni, families and friends are invited. Friday: fish fry at 5 p.m. and reception at 9 p.m. after BLES football game. Saturday: 3 p.m. open house, 5 p.m. Mass, 6 p.m. dinner. Sunday: 9 a.m. pancake breakfast and open house. Visit www.attheteresefw.org/school.

**Little Flower Holy Hour**

Fort Wayne — Father Jason Frechette will celebrate the holy hour at MacDoughal Chapel, Tuesday, Oct. 7 at 7:15 p.m.

**St. Vincent Thrift Store plans 99 cent sale**

Fort Wayne — St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store, 1601 E. Calhoun St., will have a 99 cent sale Monday, Oct. 13 through Saturday, Oct. 18. Store hours are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Fall play presented at BD**

Fort Wayne — The Bishop Dwenger Social Justice Club will be presenting “George Fort Wayne — Bishop Dwenger are $5. All performances will be present "George Fort Wayne — Bishop Dwenger Social Justice Club will be sponsoring a paper and can drive benefit for a Bolivian orphanage and Habitat for Humanity. Paper and aluminum cans will be accepted from 9 a.m. to noon Oct. 18, in the southeastern parking lot of the school. Students will be available to help. Call Melissa Wheeler at (260) 495-4600 for information.

**Breakfast brunch**

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

**Spaghetti dinner**

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 553 will have a spaghetti dinner Saturday, Oct. 12, from 5-7 p.m. at the 553 E. Hill St. council hall. Tickets are $6 for adults, $3 children 14-6 and children under 6 free. Cash bar available.

**Fish fry announced**

Warsaw — The Knights of Columbus Council #451 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, applesauce and beverage included.

**FUNDRAISERS**

**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.

**Fish fry**

Fort Wayne — Bishop Dwenger Social Justice Club will be sponsoring a paper and can drive benefit for a Bolivian orphanage and Habitat for Humanity. Paper and aluminum cans will be accepted from 9 a.m. to noon Oct. 18, in the southeastern parking lot of the school. Students will be available to help. Call Melissa Wheeler at (260) 496-4600 for information.

**Pancake Breakfast**

Warsaw — The Knights of Columbus Council #451 will sponsor a pancake breakfast on Saturday, Oct. 11, at the Knights Hall on Bell Drive from 7-10:30 a.m. Tickets are $5 prior to the breakfast and $6 at the door.

**Tenderloin Fry**

Warsaw — The Knights of Columbus Council #451 will host a tenderloin fry on Friday, Oct. 17, from 4:30-7 p.m. at the Knights Hall on Bell Drive. Tickets are $6, which includes tenderloin, fries, coleslaw and drink.

**Spaghetti dinner**

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 553 will have a spaghetti dinner Saturday, Oct. 12, from 5-7 p.m. at the 553 E. Hill St. council hall. Tickets are $6 for adults, $3 for children 14-6 and children under 6 free. Cash bar available.

**Paper and can drive benefit Habitat for Humanity and an orphanage**

Fort Wayne — Bishop Dwenger Social Justice Club will be sponsoring a paper and can drive benefit for a Bolivian orphanage and Habitat for Humanity. Paper and aluminum cans will be accepted from 9 a.m. to noon Oct. 18, in the southeastern parking lot of the school. Students will be available to help. Call Melissa Wheeler at (260) 496-4600 for information.

**WHAT'S HAPPENING?**

**REST IN PEACE**

**Hospice Care May Prolong Life**

Report shows patients live an average of 29 days longer

A STUDY PUBLISHED in the March 2007 issue of the Journal of Pain and Symptom Management reports that hospice care may prolong the lives of some terminally ill patients.

Among the patient populations studied, the mean survival was 29 days longer for hospice patients than for non-hospice patients. “In other words, patients who chose hospice care lived an average of one month longer than similar patients who did not choose hospice care,” said Mark Schomogyi, M.D., Visiting Nurse & Hospice Home’s medical director.

**National study**

Researchers selected 4,493 terminally ill patients with either congestive heart failure (CHF) or cancer of the breast, colon, lung, pancreas or prostate. They then analyzed the difference in survival periods between those who received hospice care and those who did not.

Longer lengths of survival were found in four of the six disease categories studied.

**What’s Happening?**

Carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. Send in your announcements at least two weeks prior to the event. Mail to: Today’s Catholic, PO. Box 11169, Fort Wayne 46856; or e-mail: fhogan@fwdiocese@vnhh.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.

**ADVERTISEMENT**

**Visit Visiting Nurse & Hospice Home**

Since 1900

www.VNHH.org

260-435-3222

800-288-4111

5910 Homestead Road • Fort Wayne, In 46814
moment. He, in his own brokenness, was bringing to God and that helped me to know, someday in my brokenness, I can point some-one to God,” he said.

Kronk finished his speech by explaining 1 Cor. 12-13: spiritual gifts and the meaning of love, and he told the teens, “Live your life as a gift to someone else. Whatever you’re doing, it’s important to do it as a gift.”

Megan Oberhausen, who along with Cindy Black organized the event, said, “We are so blessed in this diocese to have wonderful people with gifts of speaking and knowledge of the faith.” Teens had a wide selection of workshop sessions from which to choose.

Kaylyn Taylor of St. Joseph Parish, Mishawaka, attended the Speaking the Truth session because, “I thought it would be cool to come and learn deeper knowledge of the faith and understanding what we actually stand for.” And when asked if she feels she has to defend the faith, she replied, “I go to public school, and sometimes it’s a battle.”

Taylor said she came with her youth group and said she was excited about the year of St. Paul and wanted to experience it with others in the diocese.

The leader of the Speaking the Truth session, Joe Garcia, told the teens, “When trying to defend your faith, focus on holiness and base it on love.”

“When some-one challenges you on faith, that’s how you grow and can be a better witness,” Garcia said.

In the He Became Poor session led by Melissa Wheeler, teens were asked to imagine seven things being taken away from their family one by one so they’d be living like more than 1 billion people in developing countries live. Those seven things include clothing, energy, water, house, food, health care and lastly, hope.

“What does Jesus call us to do? He calls us to be the person to help the outcast, to help the poor because they are not here anymore,” Wheeler said.

Ask the Bishop

The morning portion of the program concluded with the popular Ask the Bishop session.

Cindy Black, director of the Office of Youth Ministry and Formation, explained, “Each year at Faithfest, Ask the Bishop workshops fill up quickly and go over on time because the bishop is so good about answering young people’s questions, and he knows you’re challenged a lot.”

Teens lined up with questions including Hannah Oberhausen of Our Lady of Good Hope in Fort Wayne who asked why women can’t be priests.

Bishop D’Arcy said it was a question of the church’s fidelity to Christ, and women have important roles in the church. “It does not mean men are closer to Christ,” he said, “it’s a lot of women — sisters and lay people who are closer to God than me.”

The bishop also answered why we confess sins to priests. “Men and women need the sacraments. When you’re alienated from a person you need an embrace, a phone call, you need that sign that you’re forgiven. When you go to confession you hear the words ‘You are forgiven.’”

Marissa Johnson of St. Robert Parish in North Manchester asked what we need to look for in a presidential candidate. Bishop D’Arcy said he sent a letter to priests in the parishes. “The Catholic Church does not tell you who to vote for; I myself find it very hard.”

Issues like abortion, racism, an unjust war, torture of prisoners and disregard for the poor all count, and voters have to prayerfully consider these things.

“This election for Catholics is very difficult,” he said. Other questions posed regarded stigmatism and helping friends deal with a crisis of program included reconciliation, adoration, music by Frankie and the Holy Rollers, Mega Sessions, Mass with the bishop and XLT.

Today’s Catholic

BOOK OF THE MONTH CLUB

This month’s featured selection: “Journals and Letters of Mother Theodore Guerin”

O f the coast of Brittany, where the Atlantic casts a brooding mist on the rocky shores of France, a girl was born in 1798, whose destiny was in America, and whose work would build from nothing, a religious community with international boundaries and a blueprint for Catholic education in America.

She was Anne-Therese Guerin, the eldest of four children. Two brothers died in childhood, and her sister lived to old age.

When Anne-Therese was 14 years old, her father, a captain in the French navy, was robbed and murdered on a journey home.

The tragedy so devastated her mother, that Anne-Therese was forced to assume care of the home, her 8-year-old sister and her mother.

At the age of 25, she entered the Sisters of Providence of Ruelle-sur-Louir and was given the name Sister St. Theodore.

Meanwhile and far away in Vincennes, Ind., a need for Catholic missionaries in the New World resulted in a request to France for assistance.

Although she did not volunteer for the mission, Sister St. Theodore was chosen to lead five other sisters to a new home in America where she would be the superior of the motherhouse and superior general of any other houses established from it.

It is from this point in her life that Mother Theodore had difficulties so daunting, but faith and focus on Providence so unwavering that the results were eventual prosperity for the Sisters of Providence in America, and a more highly distilled consequence, sainthood for Mother Theodore.

Consider that the little band of six, none of whom could speak English, embarked on a small sailing ship, the Theodore.

The tragedy so devastated her mother, that Anne-Therese was forced to assume care of the home, her 8-year-old sister and her mother.

At the age of 25, she entered the Sisters of Providence of Ruelle-sur-Louir and was given the name Sister St. Theodore.

Meanwhile and far away in Vincennes, Ind., a need for Catholic missionaries in the New World resulted in a request to France for assistance.

Although she did not volunteer for the mission, Sister St. Theodore was chosen to lead five other sisters to a new home in America where she would be the superior of the motherhouse and superior general of any other houses established from it.

It is from this point in her life that Mother Theodore had difficulties so daunting, but faith and focus on Providence so unwavering that the results were eventual prosperity for the Sisters of Providence in America, and a more highly distilled consequence, sainthood for Mother Theodore.

Consider that the little band of six, none of whom could speak English, embarked on a small sailing ship, the Theodore.