A prayer for lawyers, the church

BY DON CLEMMER

FORT WAYNE — “This is a prayer for you,” Bishop John M. D’Arcy said as he opened the Oct. 5 Red Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. He was addressing the various lawyers, judges and elected and appointed public officials present at the annual event. He also said that the Red Mass is a reminder that all law comes through Jesus Christ.

In his homily, the bishop pointed out the image in the readings of workers in a vineyard and cited examples of saints who did great work for the church, the Lord’s vineyard, after reflecting on the cross of Christ, including St. Francis, St. Thomas More and Blessed Teresa of Calcutta.

Bishop D’Arcy asked the lawyers and public officials at the Mass how much time they spend with God. He noted that St. Thomas More, as a result of his disciplined and devoted prayer life, made Christ present to those around him and that this was the vocation of all workers in the vineyard of the Lord.

The speaker at the brunch at the Grand Wayne Center, following the Red Mass, was one such worker. Nicholas Cafardi, dean emeritus of the Duquesne University School of Law, serves on the National Review Board, which monitors the U.S. bishops’ compliance with the 2002 Dallas “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People” against clergy sexual abuse. Cafardi has also done legal work on behalf of the church for decades.

Cafardi shared that he always like being on the side of the “guys in white hats” when he worked for the church. This changed in 1988, when a sexual abuse case was brought against the Diocese of Pittsburgh, whom he represented. His client was suddenly wearing “a very dark hat” he told those attending the brunch.

As he moved the story of his research and his disciplined and devoted prayer life, made Christ present to those around him and that this was the vocation of all workers in the vineyard of the Lord.

Bishop John M. D’Arcy thanks Nicholas Cafardi, left, for speaking at the Red Mass brunch on Oct. 5. Cafardi had, in his talk, praised Bishop John M. D’Arcy as one of very few leaders in the U.S. church who understood the issue of clergy sexual abuse from the very beginning.

Scripture essential to church’s evangelizing mission

BY JOHN THAVIS

ROME (CNS) — At a Mass to open the world Synod of Bishops on the Bible, Pope Benedict XVI said knowledge of Scripture was essential to the church’s evangelizing mission in an increasingly godless society.

“It is indispensable that the church know and live that which she proclaims, so that her preaching is credible, despite the weaknesses and poverty of her members,” the pope said Oct. 5 at the Roman Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls.

“The only word of God can profoundly change the heart of man,” he said. The need for such conversion is great in today’s confused society, in which human beings sometimes proclaim themselves “the only masters of creation,” he said.

Following the papal liturgy, the pope kicked off a marathon reading of Scripture on Italian television. The next day, at the first Vatican assembly of the three-week synod, about 300 synodal participants listened to a report outlining the main themes of discussion. Key topics included the need to strengthen religious formation and remedy “the ignorance of the Scriptures,” the improvement of preaching based on Scripture, and greater guidance on biblical interpretation — perhaps through a new papal encyclical.

The pope convoked the 12th general assembly of the Synod of Bishops on the theme “The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church.” He was to preside over most of its twice-daily sessions and accept its conclusions as the basis for a likely papal document on the topic.

He celebrated the opening Mass in the basilica dedicated to St. Paul in part because the church is marking the 2,000th anniversary of the saint’s birth, and in part to highlight the connection between Scripture and evangelization.

The pope, dressed in gold and green vestments, processed into the basilica with bishops from around the world. Also in atten-
Bishop joins priests for sessions on preaching homilies

BISHOP JOHN M. D’ARCY

A seminar on preaching

For many years, I have joined our priests for a three-day session on continuing education. We have gone over many pastoral areas, including one led by Carolyn Woz and her staff at the Notre Dame School of Business, where we received help on the many skills that a pastor needs now in the area of management, budgeting, interviewing, etc.

This year, our Council of Priests suggested a topic, which is central to parish life and to the vocation of the priest. The subject was preaching. More particularly, how can the preacher, while remaining faithful to the Scriptures, which have just been read in church, also present the doctrine of the church and make the homily truly instructive. This was substantially the same seminar given to 50 American Catholic bishops last winter. All our teachers were from the excellent theology department at Notre Dame. As priests, we have an extraordinary opportunity. As I mentioned recently, the Liturgical Renewal of the Second Vatican Council has opened up the Scriptures for our people, so that in the course of a three-year cycle they hear so much from the Old Testament, from the Pauline Epistles and from the Gospels. But a homily, which is linked to Scripture, does not mean that the teaching of the church on such matters as sacraments, the nature of the church, the last things, and the saints, should be set aside. Scriptures and doctrine are internally linked.

So we had a wonderful talk from Professor Cavadar, chair of the department of theology, Notre Dame, on using the Catechism of the Catholic Church for preaching. He chose especially to concentrate on a teaching found in church fathers, in the catechism, and the Second Vatican Council, about the church being born from the side of Christ. He also helped us to see the way the catechism uses Scripture — not as text to prove a point, but interwoven with the doctrinal teachings.

Other teachings

As you know, priests now give homilies at daily Mass. I often celebrate daily Mass at noontime at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne. The Mass honors St. Thomas More, that extraordinary lawyer from the 16th century who we had talk about the lawyer of the millennium, and you all know about that great play of Robert Bolt, "A Man for All Seasons." In Fort Wayne, we have a speaker, and this week it was Dean Nicholas Cafardi. I have known Nick for many years, he is both a canon lawyer and a civil lawyer. I found him an excellent advisor on canonical and legal questions.

He had recently written a book called "Before Dallas." It shows clearly the painful things the church has gone through in the recent crisis; which as I said before will, I hope, be a purification. Dean Cafardi touched on some of the mistakes that had been made by bishops during this period. He also shared with us, in painful fashion, how the papacy was lived around the time of St. Thomas More. We did not have hopes at that time, like we have today; and the church was in serious difficulty. Scandal in the highest places. Yet, he said, Thomas More believed that the church is the body of Christ. Although every bishop in England, except John Fisher, also canonized with Thomas More, took the false oath that the king of England was the ultimate religious authority in that land, and although many in the courts of England did as well, Thomas More did not. The loss of his life did not bother him. His anxiety was whether or not he would be strong enough to leave his beautiful wife and children, and especially his daughter, Meg, who was the child of his heart. He was able to see through the weakness and sins of the church, to what it really was, the body of Christ and the spouse of the Savior; and that is where his faith remained. Dean Cafardi took us step-by-step through these two different moments of crisis and scandal in the church, and helped us to see what is central and important.

I will be at the Sacred Heart Basilica at Notre Dame this Sunday with lawyers from the South Bend area, and students from Notre Dame Law School. This is a diocese where the bishop does most things twice.

Two weekends with lawyers

A wonderful few days to reflect on this great privilege. I found it very humbling in the sense that these excellent teachers opened up to preach the word of God in ways that will be more enriching to our people. I left wanting to be a better preacher.

As always, the real heroes for me were our priests. I think there were 65 priests present, and there is no doubt that their whole hearts were in it. I also found it a nice place to walk and to pray.

As always, we prepared a little chapel with the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, and we said morning and evening prayer, and celebrated the Eucharist each day.

At any rate, we had an excellent presentation on how priests preach the lives of the saints from Sister Ann Astell, who is also a member of the theology department at Notre Dame and an expert on saints in the Middle Ages, especially people like St. Catherine of Siena and St. Teresa of Avila. She also had talks on giving homilies to the Catholics who come to us from Mexico and other lands to the south, and on the link between doctrine and spirituality. A wonderful few days to reflect on this great privilege. I found it very humbling in the sense that these excellent teachers opened up to preach the word of God in ways that will be more enriching to our people. I left wanting to be a better preacher.

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Important events coming up

A rally at North Manchester Oct. 18, for all those receiving confirmation this spring. This will be led by our Office of Youth Ministry. I will be there to help with confessions and preaching. And then Oct. 25, we have the ordination to the priesthood at Notre Dame. As I said before will, I hope, be a purification. Dean Cafardi took us step-by-step through these two different moments of crisis and scandal in the church, and helped us to see what is central and important.

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The baseball playoffs

A sweep of the mighty Los Angeles Angels on the road. Who could have expected it. However, I must make a confession. For the two late games on the West Coast, one while I was with our priests in Pokagon, and the other back home in Fort Wayne, I stayed up for the complete game. It was much too late, but I could not break away. On Friday night, the phone rang after 1 a.m., when the Red Sox had pulled it out late. Of course, it was my sister, Anne; a Sister of St. Joseph in Boston. If anything, she is a more ardent fan than I am. Does this mean we will be facing the Dodgers and Manny Ramirez in the World Series? That would be something. We trail two games to one at this writing. Mycondolencesand sympathy to my many friends who follow the Cubs. It will come. Do not lose hope. See you all next week.
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In a New Testament parable

In the image of the vineyard in the
day’s liturgical readings. The
prophet Isaiah described the divine
project of salvation as a vineyard
that was planted and cared for
with love, but which brought forth
only “wild grapes.”

In a New Testament parable
related by St. Matthew, Christ
describes a struggle over a vine-
yard to illustrate unjust behavior
and the rejection of God, the pope
said.

These images remain relevant
today, he said, especially for
Christians who have been given
the gift of the Gospel.

“If we look at history, we are
forced to notice the frequent cold-
ness and rebellion of incoherent
Christians. Because of this, God,
while never shirking in his prom-
ise of salvation, often had to turn
toward punishment," he said.

The pope noted that some
flourishing early Christian com-
munities have disappeared, and
asked: “Could this same thing not
happen in our day and age?”

“Today, nations once rich in
faith and vocations are losing their
own identity, under the harmful
and destructive influence of a cer-
tain modern culture. There are
those who, having decided that
‘God is dead,’ declare themselves
‘god,’” he said.

The pope, turning to a domi-
nant theme of the synod, asked
whether people who remove
God from their lives can truly be
happy, and really can build a just
and peaceful world.

“If it is not more likely — as
demonstrated by news headlines
every day — that the arbitrary
rule of power, selfish interests, injustice
and exploitation, and violence in
all its forms, will extend its grip?"
he said.

The pope then returned to
Scripture, pointing out that the bib-
lical passages promise that God
does not abandon his vineyard,”
and that “if in some areas faith
weakened to the point of vanishing,
there will always be other peoples
ready to embrace it.”

He said the message from
Scripture is ultimately a positive
one: “the certainty that evil and
death will not have the last word,
but it will be the one who wins in
the end! Always!”

At his noon blessing at the
Vatican the same day, the pope
asked Catholics around the world
how to render more effec-
tive the proclamation of the
Gospel in our own time” and to
underline the need to “place the
word of God at the center of our
life.”

Like St. Paul, who evangelized
with enthusiasm and urgency, the
curch today senses new opportu-
nities for spreading the Gospel, he
said. But it also recognizes that in
some parts of the world, Christians
have fallen away from the practice
of faith, he said.

The pope’s homily centered on
the synod’s first week was to
do business Oct. 6, with the reading in
Latin of a lengthy pre-discussion
report. Prepared and presented by
Cardinal Marc Ouellet of Quebec,
the synod’s recording secretary, it
synthesized the main themes that
have emerged during months of
preliminary consultations.

Cardinal Ouellet told reporters
afterward that the synod would
come up with concrete suggestions
for helping Catholics learn to read
the Bible, to pray with it and to
share its message with the world.

The synod’s first week was to
be dedicated largely to individual
speeches from Synod delegations,
with time allowed for questions
from invited guests. In an extraordinary
move, one of the first speakers
was a Jewish scholar, Rabbi Shear-
Yashuv Cohen, the chief rabbi
of Haifa, Israel, who was to talk
about the role of Scripture in
Jewish life.

In order to increase the oppor-
tunity for open discussion in the
synod hall, each of the 253 synod
fathers will have a maximum of
five minutes to address the assem-
bly. At the last synod in 2005
the limit was six minutes and before
that it was eight minutes.

The participants include the
253 voting members of the synod,
made up of cardinals, patriarchs,
bishops and a dozen priests
who head religious orders; 12 “fraternal
delelegates” representing other
Christian churches; and 35 invited
observers and experts.

The Vatican said the synod’s
253 voting members included
bishops from Hong Kong and
Macau, but none from mainland
China, because Chinese authorities
would not allow them to attend.

Bishops listen to Pope Benedict XVI during the opening meeting of the Synod of the Bishops at the Vatican
OCTOBER 12, 2008
TODAY’S CATHOLIC 3

Pope explains history,
importance of synods

BY JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — At
the beginning of the world Synod
of Bishops on the Bible, Pope
Benedict XVI explained why
he thinks such meetings are im-
portant.

He did it in typical Benedict
style — reviewing a bit of church
history and explaining the roots
of the Greek word “synodos” to
 pilgrims gathered in St. Peter’s
Square.

The basic role of the synod
of Bishops, held every three years
or so, is to advise the pope and
solidify church communion, the
pope said Oct. 5.

He recalled that the synod was
established as a regular institu-
tion by Pope Paul VI in 1965,
during the final phase of the
Second Vatican Council.

Pope Benedict listed four
main functions of the assemblies:
• To promote closer union and
cooperation between the pope
and the bishops of the world.
• To furnish direct and accu-
arate information about the
church’s situation and problems.
• To encourage harmony
between doctrine and pastoral
action.
• To deal with themes of great
importance and timeliness.

Over the years, some bishops
have called for decision-making
powers for the synod. The pope
made no reference to a possible
change in its strictly consultative
role.

He said the Greek roots of the
word “synod” — “syn” meaning
“together” and “odos” meaning
“road” — suggest the idea of
traveling together, which he said
was the church’s experience
through history.

“The synodal dimension is an
essential component of the
church. It consists in the coming
together of every population and
culture to become one in Christ
and to walk together behind
him,” he said.

Pope Benedict, who presided
over a Synod of Bishops on the
Eucharist in 2005, has modified
some of the synod’s rules. He has
shortened the length of the
assemblies to three weeks and
reduced the maximum length of
individual speeches from eight
minutes to five minutes.

At this time, he has cre-
ated more opportunity for open
discussion at the end of the daily
sessions in the synod hall.

Cardinal Marc Ouellet of Quebec speaks at a press confer-
ence during the Synod of Bishops on the Bible at
the Vatican Oct. 6. The Bible is not just “a book of ideas,” he
said. “When one opens the book, one opens one’s heart
and it is God who speaks” and engages in a dialogue with
the person who reads and contemplates what is written,
he added.
WASHINGTON (CNS) — In the weeks leading up to the elections, several U.S. bishops have been writing pastoral letters, columns in diocesan newspapers, letters to the editor and blog entries urging Catholics to look closely at where candidates stand on life issues.

“The right to life is the right through which all others flow. To the extent candidates reject this fundamental right by supporting an effective evil, such as legal abortion, euthanasia or embryonic stem-cell research, Catholics should consider them less acceptable,” a statement released Oct. 2 by the New York bishops.

The statement, “Our Cherished Right, Our Solemn Duty,” signed by New York Cardinal Edward E. Egan and the state’s other Catholic bishops, said it is “the rare candidate who will agree with the church on every issue.” But they also noted, citing the U.S. bishops’ 2007 document, “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship,” that “not every issue is of equal moral gravity.”

“The inalienable right to life of every human person outweighs other concerns where Catholics may use prudential judgment, such as how best to meet the needs of the poor or to increase access to health care for all,” the statement said. “This is because the direct and intentional destruction of innocent human life is the right to life issue that should never be ignored.”

In a pastoral letter read at all Masses in the Diocese of Scranton, Pa., during the weekend of Oct. 4-5, Bishop Joseph F. Martinez stressed that a candidate’s views on abortion outweighed all other issues.

“Being right on taxes, education, health care, immigration and the economy, the Catholic faithful have no fear that the candidate is somehow wrong on the abortion issue,” the bishop said. “It is not a good idea, however, to approach the abortion issue with the same confidence.”

The bishops urged Catholics to pray for guidance before voting and to familiarize themselves with church teachings “that affect political choices.”

“Voting is not among the most important duties that one can undertake. But it is a matter of conscience,” the archbishop said. “Voting is not a dilemma for the bishops.”

A Sept. 17 article in the newspaper said a politician “who opposes abortion should not go unchallenged if he or she adopts positions that undermine human dignity in other ways.”

Two New York bishops wrote to The New York Times disputing a Sept. 17 article in the newspaper’s “running debate” among Catholics about how to cast their vote in light of church teaching on abortion. The letter, signed by Brooklyn Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio and Bishop William E. Murphy of Rockville Centre, who chairs the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, said how to vote is “not a dilemma for the bishops.”

The bishops emphasized that Catholic need to “look at the whole teaching of the church on justice and peace, serving the poor and advancing the common good — beginning with a fundamental priority on protecting innocent human life from direct attack as in abortion.”
Economic crisis shows why life shouldn’t be built on money

BY JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The current global financial crisis illustrates why it is a mistake to build a life on passing realities like money and success, Pope Benedict XVI said.

“We see this today in the collapse of the great banks. This money disappears, it’s nothing. And all these things we thought were real and were counting on are in fact realities of a second order,” he said Oct. 6, the day European stock markets plummeted following news of government bailouts for two more mortgage and banking companies.

“We need to change our idea of realism. The realist is someone who demonstrates in the word of God, in this reality that appears so weak, the foundation of everything,” he said.

The pope made the impromptu remarks at the opening session of the world Synod of Bishops on the Bible. He said the morning’s Scripture readings had brought to mind Christ’s parable of the two houses, one built on sand and one built on rock.

“The sand is built only things we can see and touch: success, career, money. Apparently they are real, but one day they pass,” he said. He said the banking crises demonstrated how quickly they can disappear.

“Whoever builds his life on these things — on material things, on success, on appearance — is building on sand,” he said.

“The real realist is someone who builds his life on the things that remain, recognizing God’s place in his own life,” he said. He cited Francis E. George, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, who made the pope’s reference to the banking crisis underline an obvious contrast between eternal truths and the realities that occupy a great part of people’s lives.

“There we have institutions — financial and political — upon which people relied as if they were ultimate,” the cardinal told Catholic News Service.

“There is nothing ultimate except God and the word of God, which is, as (the pope) said, more real than all the material dimensions we could use so preoccupies us,” he said. Archbishop Claudio Maria Celli, president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, said at a press conference that the pope clearly was offering a spiritual reflection, not an evaluation of financial problems.

“The pope’s main theme was not the current economic situation, but the value and importance of the word of God in the human journey, he explained,” the archbishop said.

He said that although economic issues are important in the world Synod of Bishops on the Bible, “the importance of the word of God, of Scripture is clear. “The ‘Cliff Notes’ version: Feed the hungry, or go to hell. The Gospel uses language to jostle people out of their spiritual apathy. For the nonpoor the good news is “there is a way out of your preoccupation,” he said. “There is a way out of hell. What must I do to share in everlasting life? Sell all that you have and give it to the poor? It’s a challenge, he said, to become a “seamless garment of care” for the poor. But, Catholics know, “We don’t go to Easter without Good Friday,” he added.

The return on selfless giving is palpable, Jezreel said in closing. “We do this work because it brings abundant life to the world and me.”

Jezreel’s resolve was tested three years ago when he was diagnosed, at age 48, with advanced stage 3 colon cancer. He was given a 25 percent chance of survival.

But, Jezreel related, “If I’m going to die soon, what are the things I haven’t done that I’d like to do?” he told the Vincentians. “I thought about going to Acapulco, Mexico, and buying a new truck, among other self-indulgent things.”

“And then, I thought, ‘Nah, I don’t think so,’” he said. “I just keep doing what I do, because what else will I do? Can you imagine another purpose for your life that would fill you up?”

To be authentic Christians must be committed to the poor, speaker says

BY MARNIE MCALLISTER

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (CNS) — People cannot be authentic Christians without a firm commitment to serving the poor, Jack Jezeel told a gathering of about 500 members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Sept. 25.

Jezeel, a local Catholic who developed and directs the national JustFaith Ministries, was a keynote speaker at the society’s 2008 national meeting in Louisville Sept. 23-27. The gathering also marked the society’s 175th anniversary worldwide and the 155th anniversary of its establishment in Louisville.

The meeting included small-group sessions and workshops, a retreat and the first Friends of the Poor Walk, which was held in Louisville and more than 100 other cities and towns in the United States Sept. 27.

In his speech Jezeel acknowledged that he was “speaking to the church. With that in mind, he said, his talk was intended as both an affirmation of Vincentians’ work and a challenge to continue in service to the poor.

“Our faith is integrally linked to the care and love we give to our brothers and sisters who suffer the sin of poverty,” said Jezeel. “We can’t be authentic Christians with an attitude of commitment to our brothers and sisters who are poor and vulnerable.”

The Vincentians of Catholic Bishops wrote in its 1993 document, “Communities of Salt and Light: Reflections on the Social Mission of the Parish,” that “parish communities are to be measured by their commitment to the poorest of the poor within their community and beyond,” said Jezeel.

Before the Second Vatican Council, Jezeel said, the work of the church was to be carried out by clergy.

“The work worked, especially in this immigrant country,” Jezeel said. “But it had a weakness. Everyone else was ministered to. It created a passive role” for the laity.

Vatican II changed the model, asserting that everyone calls all members of the church to active ministry. And that ministry should happen everywhere — not just at church, Jezeel said.

“This is where he sees the American church stumbling at times. Some churches — what he calls “Vatican one and a half” parishes — excel at ministering within the parish, while serving beyond the boundaries of the church community remains a challenge for dioceses around the United States, he said.

“At the end of Mass, ‘having broken bread, having shared a cup, there is but one thing to be done,’” Jezeel said. “Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.”

“As we walk toward the exit doors, what we go to is a family, a neighborhood, a world of politics, a world of poverty where people are starving to death three-quarters of whom are children,” he said. “When we realize the full dream of Vatican II, we will see more activity outside of parish boundaries.

“This is what our young people are hoping for,” he continued. “My fear is that in a church that has somewhat emptied, especially in Europe, if Vatican II isn’t fully lived, we will see an implosion in the American Catholic Church.”

Jezeel congratulated members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul for expanding their service beyond the parish and using their gifts to minister to the poorest of the poor.

God reserves a special preference for the poorest and most vulnerable, and so too must his followers, Jezeel noted.

People can choose between two paths: a “spiritual coma” that’s focused on “me, my and mine” or a spiritual journey that’s focused on “me, my and others,” Jezeel said.

“People can choose between two paths — a ‘spiritual coma’ that’s focused on ‘me, my and mine’ or a spiritual journey that leads to God. God’s path calls people to expand their circle of love to take in all people, he said.

“Relationship with God is expressed in relationship with our brothers and sisters who are most broken, neglected, abandoned and forgotten. Period,” he said, noting that Scripture is clear. “The ‘Cliff Notes’ version: Feed the hungry or go to hell. The Gospel uses language to jostle people out of their spiritual apathy.”

For the nonpoor the good news is “there is a way out of your preoccupation,” he said. “There is a way out of hell. What must I do to share in everlasting life? Sell all that you have and give it to the poor? It’s a challenge, he said, to become a “seamless garment of care” for the poor. But, Catholics know, “We don’t go to Easter without Good Friday,” he added.

The return on selfless giving is palpable, Jezeel said in closing. “We do this work because it brings abundant life to the world and me.”

Jezeel’s resolve was tested three years ago when he was diagnosed, at age 48, with advanced stage 3 colon cancer. He was given a 25 percent chance of survival.

But, Jezreel noted, “If I’m going to die soon, what are the things I haven’t done that I’d like to do?” he told the Vincentians. “I thought about going to Acapulco, Mexico, and buying a new truck, among other self-indulgent things.”

“And then, I thought, ‘Nah, I don’t think so,’” he said. “I just keep doing what I do, because what else will I do? Can you imagine another purpose for your life that would fill you up?”
Number of parishes in Lansing Diocese will be trimmed under new plan

LANSING, Mich. (CNS) — A three-year process to determine how the Diocese of Lansing will look in the future has resulted in a plan to trim the number of parishes from 97 to 80. Unveiling the plan at a recent press conference, Bishop Earl A. Boyea said it does not mean the closing of 17 churches, but it does call for the merging of several. “If everything were to be implemented, say, within four or five years, then what we would anticipate is a reduction from the current 97 parishes to 80,” Bishop Boyea said. “Now that’s not going to mean there would be 80 churches. A lot of those parishes would have two churches.” The plan was set in motion in August when the diocese closed three Flint parishes. It calls for closing three more churches — Sacred Heart Chapel in Jackson, Transfiguration in Ypsilanti and St. Leo in Flint. A source in the diocesan offices, however, indicated another Flint parish, All Saints, would close when and if its pastor retires. If that happens, Flint would go from 13 parishes to eight.

Wall Street slide shouldn’t affect retired religious, nun says

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The slide in Wall Street stocks triggered by the federal takeover of mortgage banks and finance houses in September should not pose a problem for religious orders, including those with large numbers or percentages of retired members, according to the head of the National Religious Retirement Office. “Most of the religious communities in this country have been through long periods of time,” he said. “So depending on how long this market upheaval lasts, they can ride it out.” said Precious Blood Sister Janice Bader, the office’s director for the past year. But, she added, “if they’re in a position where they have to draw down funds while the market is down, that’s going to be an impact.” That’s just fine with Sister Janice, she said. “Most of the communities have positioned their portfolios so that the money they’re going to be withdrawing for current use is in short-term investments, which are not going to be impacted as severely as long-term funds.” The office is jointly sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, the Conference of Major Superiors of Men and the Council of Major Superiors of Religious.

Bishop welcomes faithful home to new Cathedral of Christ the Light

OAKLAND, Calif. (CNS) — “This is our Father’s house. This is our house. Welcome home.” With these words, punctuated by enthusiastic applause, Oakland Bishop Allen H. Vigneron welcomed more than 2,000 invited guests to the Sept. 25 dedication of the Cathedral of Christ the Light. Bishop Vigneron spoke of the new cathedral’s importance to the life of the Oakland Diocese which has been without a cathedral since the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake irreparably damaged St. Francis de Sales Cathedral. The new cathedral, said Bishop Vigneron during his homily, is the mother church for the whole Catholic community of the East Bay and “a most visible sign, a very public sacrament as it were, of the many ways we confess our belief in Christ the light of the nations.” Speaking to the 1,350 people seated in the cathedral and the 600-plus gathered in the plaza outside, the bishop said, “The Diocese of Oakland has built this cathedral to testify to this truth, which is for us life itself — that Jesus Christ is the light for all peoples, for all ages, and that he is found in our midst.”

Protest of Iranian president called effort to fight ‘appeasement’

NEW YORK (CNS) — A New York rally against a U.N. address by Iran’s president and a dinner held for him by a number of religious organizations was aimed at fighting the “appeasement of evil,” one participant said. President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad — best known for his oft-stated desire to “wipe Israel off the map” and his denial the Holocaust actually occurred — used U.N. speech to rail against “Zionist murderers” and “bullying powers” such as the United States. While he was in New York he met Sept. 25 with representatives of the American Friends Service Committee, the Mennonite Central Committee, the Quakers’ U.N. Office, Religions for Peace and the U.N. liaison office of the World Council of Churches. The gathering was protested by a loose coalition of almost 60 groups including Iranian dissidents, Christians, Jewish organizations and American political groups, including Women United, Christian Solidarity and the Jewish Action Alliance. “Dozens of leaders and organizations representing diverse faiths, ethnicities and political affiliations spoke out in a united voice today against appeasement of evil,” said rally organizer Beth Gilinsky of Women United at Jewish Action Alliance.

Pope thanks Knights of Columbus for defending life, moral truths

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI expressed gratitude to the Knights of Columbus for defending moral truths and the right to life and for their dedication to charitable works. The pope made the remarks during a private audience Oct. 3 with Carl Anderson, supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus, and members of the fraternal association’s administrative council. Pope Benedict said he hoped the Knights would “discover new ways to serve as leaven of the Gospel in the world and a force for the renewal of the church.”

NCYC general assembly gets lesson about toxins in consumer goods

SALT LAKE CITY (CNS) — More than 600 women attending the 2008 general assembly of the National Catholic Young Women’s Conference got a chemistry lesson at this year’s annual gathering, learning about the dangers of toxins and how to avoid them. The lesson came during a workshop led by Pat Smuck, an expert in child development at Chicago Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women. Her presentation was part of the NCYC’s eight-year-old “ImaginOn” program. A motivational speaker, Smuck spoke to more than 2,000 young women and men gathered in Salt Lake City, taking time to speak with those who showed up early for the first Mass on Galveston Island since it was struck by Hurricane Ike Sept. 13. They all shared similar stories. Some had lost everything. Some had only lost their utilities and were still waiting. Some were born on the island. Some weren’t. Regardless, they all shared in the hope that the historic island would recover as it has after previous storms, and they all shared the same faith — that Jesus Christ in the Eucharist would lift their spirits during these challenging times.

Hope, faith in abundance at first Mass on Galveston Island since Ike

GALVESTON, Texas (CNS) — An hour prior to Mass, Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston was walking around the grounds of St. Patrick Church, taking time to speak with those who showed up early for the first Mass on Galveston Island since it was struck by Hurricane Ike Sept. 13. They all shared similar stories. Some had lost everything. Some had only lost their utilities and were still waiting. Some were born on the island. Some weren’t. Regardless, they all shared in the hope that the historic island would recover as it has after previous storms, and they all shared the same faith — that Jesus Christ in the Eucharist would lift their spirits during these challenging times.

TODAY’S CATHOLIC

October 12, 2008

CARDINAL BLESSES ALTAR DURING DEDICATION

Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia blesses the altar during the dedication of a chapel honoring Our Lady of Pompei at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington Oct. 4. The cardinal called the newest addition to the basilica another chapter in the story of Mary’s love.
GRANGER — The Office of Catholic Catechesis for Adults will lead the first evening session on the “United States Catholic Catechism for Adults” (USCCA) on Wednesday evenings, Nov. 5, 12 and 19, from 7-9 p.m. at St. Patrick Church, Granger. Shawn Sullivan is the instructor.

The three sessions will explore the U.S. catechism from its history and purpose and its relationship to the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The contents of the USCCA will be examined including excerpts on the saints and other holy people, as well as their faith the experience of the United States. Doctrines of the church will be covered, especially as they apply to the culture of the United States. Registration is required. Interested participants can register online at www.uscatholiccatechism.org/OC under Adult Faith Formation, call Janice Martin at (260) 399-1411 or e-mail her at jmartin@fw.diocese-fwsb.org.

Participants should have the “United States Catholic Catechism of Adults.” It may be purchased at Catholic Bookstore, with a 25 percent discount plus tax, by contacting Kamali at 260-422-4611 ext. 3356 or through e-mail at kslcocum@fw.diocese-fwsb.org.

To prepare for the sessions, the following readings are suggested from the USCCA: “Introduction” through page 162 for the first class; pages 163-388 for the second session; and pages 339-501 for the third. Pope Benedict XVI’s two encyclicals — “Deus Caritas Est” (“God is Love”), and “Spe Salvi” (“Saved by Hope”) — along with the apostolic exhortation, “Sacramentum Caritatis” (“Sacrament of Charity”) will be addressed throughout the presentation of the USCCA.

Saint Mary’s College hosts its first African American alumnae homecoming
NOTRE DAME — Saint Mary’s College will host its first African American Alumnae Homecoming Oct. 10-11. The event, which is expected to also attract current students, includes a keynote address by Juanita Boozer Bay, class of 1952, a retired civil servant and the first known African-American to have graduated from the college.

“We welcome Juanita and our other alumnae back home to Saint Mary’s,” said Sister Mary K. Devine, the college’s president. “This weekend offers opportunities to learn about Juanita’s experience at the college back in the 1950s and to reflect on the progress Saint Mary’s has made since then to become more diverse.

“We know that we need the assistance of our alumnae in order to maintain the high standards that have been set.”

The university will provide bus transportation, housing and meals for the participants. For more information visit www.saintmary.edu or call the alumni office at (574) 288-7101.

Student body that reflects the ethnic diversity of the region
BENTON HARBOR — Sister Kampwerth is the director of mission for the Sisters of St. Joseph in Tipton, Ohio, served as co-director of John XXIII Retreat Center and served in Hartford City as an instructor.

Sister Kampwerth did the landscaping for his Eagle Scout project.

Mark Wheeler did the landscaping for his Eagle Scout project.

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis and the Heartland Chamber Chorale (HCC) have announced a partnership to benefit both organizations.

Through the terms of the agreement, the Heartland Chamber Chorale, an independent vocal ensemble, will be in residence on the campus of the University of Saint Francis. HCC will conduct workshop performances with the University Singers and provide professional assistance to the university choir and residence halls as well as the chorale’s music library. The chorale will offer internship opportunities for students with music education or music performance majors.

Francis, especially how he was represented in art. The author of four books on St. Francis as well as many articles, Dr. Cook is a distinguished teaching professor at the State University of New York at Geneseo. The presentation is lecture is presented by iConnect and the Center for Franciscan Spirit and Life. For more information contact Dr. Mill Smith at (260) 399-7700 ext. 8105.
Couple’s Bible, crucifix meaningful first gifts to newlyweds

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — The long-awaited wedding day has finally arrived and the sacramental marriage rite is a joy to witness. Anticipation of the upcoming reception brings thoughts of renewed friendships, culinary delights and mountains of gifts. But at Queen of Angels Parish in Fort Wayne the newlywed couple receives their first gift even before they leave the altar — a couple’s Bible and crucifix from their parish family.

What began over two years ago as a small heartfelt project has grown into a parish ministry that seems to delight not only the newlyweds but the congregation as well. Father Gary Sigler, pastor of Queen of Angels Parish, says the gift presentation is a surprise for the couples, who are very appreciative.

“I present the Bible and crucifix to the couple before they process out; telling them their parish family has a gift for them. It is their first gift as a married couple,” he says.

The idea was the inspiration of Norb Sauter, parishioner of Queen of Angels, who had been the photographer in a fund-raising venture in 2006 involving the sale of unique Christmas cards there. Following a friendly discussion on how to use the proceeds of the card sales, the idea of the newlywed’s gift was developed.

The purpose of presenting the gift as the finale to the wedding ceremony is twofold, says Sauter. “Not only do we want to get the newlywed couple started on the right foot, but some Protestants in the congregation think Catholics don’t use Bibles. Then they see the Catholic couple getting a Bible right away,” he says. That, he believes, is a form of catch-22 that is as important for the non-Catholics as it is for the couple.

The couples, he says, “are astounded” when they are gifted with the Bible and crucifix, and adds, “Some from the congregation come up afterwards and say how great that is. They’ve never seen it before, especially a gift from the parish family.”

The gifts offered over the past two years to each couple married at the parish, exhausted the card sales fund and Sauter subsidized the gift project for a while on his own to keep the ministry alive. Recently, after being reinstated as a returning member of the Knights of Columbus, he took the cause to his council.

“I felt like St. Paul,” recalls Sauter. “They jumped on it and said that was just the thing they would like to be involved in.” The soft cover couple’s Bible and walnut crucifix with pewter corpus and golden halo are purchased at the Cathedral Bookstore located in the Archdiocese of Fort Wayne.

Father Sigler says the Bible is not a coffee table version but is meant to be used regularly.

“I tell them it’s to be used to pray together and read together, to make it part of their personal devotions,” he says.

Currently the Knights of Columbus, a combined group of devout men from Queen of Angels and Most Precious Blood (PB) parishes, are providing the Bibles and crucifixes for the newly married couples. And much to Sauter’s delight, Most Precious Blood Parish has adopted the project as well.

“Not only do we want to get the gifts to their couples for two months and they have been received well,” he says. “I put them in a decorated bag and present them to the couple at the rehearsal. I tell them Knights of Columbus provided the gift presented by their parish,” he says, adding that following marriage preparation meetings, the gift reinforces the belief that Jesus is in the midst of the marriage. “The Bible and crucifix can be used as a reminder of their marriage vows — that they’re not alone,” she says.

Father Sigler feels it is special to get a gift from a parish. The Bible and crucifix represent the life of faith for the newlywed couple. “And you can’t get more Catholic than that,” says the priest, who is grateful that what began as a single parish project has been enthusiastically funded by the Knights of Columbus and now has the potential to be adopted by many other parishes in the diocese.
Bishop D’Arcy Catholic Education Jubilee Fund awards tuition assistance

BY ELISA SMITH

Twenty-four Catholic elementary students in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend are being awarded tuition assistance of $300 each for school year 2008-2009 from The Bishop D’Arcy Catholic Education Jubilee Fund. Twelve students are from Fort Wayne area elementary schools and twelve are from South Bend area schools.

The Bishop D’Arcy Catholic Education Jubilee Fund is a restricted endowment fund within the Catholic Community Foundation of Northeast Indiana. It was established by Bishop John M. D’Arcy with gifts from the St. Pius X Catholic Church, South Bend, in memory of his late sister Mary Caprio and from other special donations. The purpose of the fund is to grant tuition assistance to Catholic students in Catholic elementary schools in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Schools that have a student recipient for school year 2008-2009 are as follows:

- **Fort Wayne area:**
  - Huntington Catholic Holy Family
  - Most Precious Blood, Fort Wayne
  - Queen of Angels, Fort Wayne
  - St. Charles Borromeo, Fort Wayne
  - St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Fort Wayne
  - St. Joseph, Fort Wayne
  - St. Joseph, Garrett
  - St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel
  - St. Jude, Fort Wayne
  - St. Louis, New Haven
  - St. Mary of the Assumption, Avilla
  - St. Rose of Lima, Monroeville

- **South Bend area:**
  - Christ the King, South Bend
  - Holy Family, South Bend
  - Our Lady of Hungary, South Bend
  - Queen of Peace, Mishawaka
  - St. Adalbert, South Bend
  - St. Anthony de Padua, South Bend
  - St. Bavo, Mishawaka
  - St. John the Baptist, South Bend
  - St. Jude, South Bend
  - St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend
  - St. Monica, Mishawaka
  - St. Thomas the Apostle, Elkhart

Bishop D’Arcy said, “One of the greatest needs in our diocese and a great responsibility as well is to gather funds so we can give assistance to those who otherwise cannot attend our schools as Pope Benedict XVI said in his recent visit—‘No child should be denied his or her right to an education in faith, which in turn nourishes the soul of a nation.’” The fund will make distributions each year based on an annual payout of 6 percent of the value of the fund at June 30. Recipients will be awarded financial assistance based on need by a committee appointed by Bishop D’Arcy that consists of Daniel Fitzpatrick, James Fitzpatrick, John Gaughan, Joseph Ryan and Elisa Smith.

Bishop Barron celebrated 50 years as a priest on Feb. 2, 2007. He contributed gifts that he received from the anniversary of his priesthood to create the Bishop D’Arcy Catholic Education Jubilee Fund. In addition, when his sister, Mary Caprio, died in September 2007, Bishop D’Arcy requested that memorials be given to this fund. Moreover, a special gift from a family foundation was contributed to the Bishop D’Arcy Catholic Education Jubilee Fund in May 2008, which has brought the total value of the fund to over $120,000.

The committee sent letters and tuition assistance application forms in April 2008 to principals and pastors of all Catholic elementary schools in the diocese, inviting them to recommend one student from the school who qualified for tuition assistance based on financial need. Also, the committee requested a written essay, not more than 100 words, from each student who applied, titled “Why Catholic Education Is Important to Me.” For each student who is granted an award, it will be for one time and nonrenewable.

If you would like to make a current gift of cash or stock or a planned gift such as a will bequest to the Bishop D’Arcy Catholic Education Jubilee Fund, please contact Elisa Smith, director of Planned Giving, at (260) 422-4611 or esmith@fw.diocese-fwb.org.

WordOnFire priest to begin production on TV documentary about Catholicism

CHICAGO — Publishing books, podcasting his sermons and posting on various YouTube channels, Father Barron was well on his way to becoming a YouTube sensation. However, his next journey would take him to new depths.

Father Barron is currently filming the pilot for a documentary series on Catholicism for WordOnFire.org, a website that has been providing the Roman Catholic faith’s teachings and indications of hope through his latest in high-definition technology and new-media savvy. With such a background in reaching the masses through written and recorded sermons, it’s no surprise that Barron was chosen to bring the Catholicism story to the masses through television.

“Putting the theology, architecture, music and all the riches of the Catholic tradition to tell a visually stunning and inspiring story. It may be one of the most ambitious productions ever to promote the Catholic faith to the world,” Barron said.

“Catholicism” could well become one of the most significant efforts ever to advance what Pope John Paul II called “The New Evangelization,” said George Weigel, biographer of Pope John Paul II and distinguished fellow of Washington’s Ethics and Public Policy Center. “Truth, goodness, beauty — they’re all here, in a stimulating and compelling exploration of the spiritual, moral, and intellectual riches of the Catholic world. This is the Catholic story told from inside, with knowledge, sympathy and passion, rooted in friendship with Jesus Christ.”

“In looking at the modern challenges and opportunities facing the church, I felt an urgency to come up with a creative and constructive response to remind people of the richness and good news that Catholic tradition brings people,” said Father Barron. “What I didn’t realize at first is how far our travels would take us. We’ll log more miles than St. Paul on his apostolic mission, I hope without the shipwreck.”

A portion of the first episode is available online at www.WordOnFire.org. Titled “Amaezed and Afraied — The Revelation of God Become Man,” it follows Father Barron through the hush region of ancient Caesarea Phillipi, to the shores of the Sea of Galilee, to the holy city of Jerusalem and to the eternal city of Rome, Father Barron illuminates and explains the Catholic faith’s conviction that Jesus of Nazareth is the promised Messiah and the revelation of God become man.

While the project will take more than a year to complete, its supporters can follow its making online. The Word on Fire Web site will feature a community forum and behind-the-scenes interviews, photos, and information to create an immersive experience that allows followers to become a part of the story.

Father Barron is an award-winning author of nine books on Catholicism and creator of five DVDs. 25 YouTube reviews of American culture and hundreds of podcasted sermons. With such new-media savvy, it’s no surprise he was adamant about using the latest in high-definition technology for the documentary. To further ensure the highest production values, Father Barron tapped as executive producer Mike Leonard, a 30-year veteran correspondent for NBC’s “Today” show.

The documentary is being funded entirely by private donations, with the goal of raising $10 million for the production, promotion, distribution and study guides for the film.

YODER KNIGHTS DONATE MONEY TO BI-COUNTY SERVICES

Provided by Frank Shanly, Bluffton News-Banner.

St. Aloysius Knights of Columbus representatives Russell Sorg, left, and Mike Follis, right, presented a check for $2,487.52 to Jim Wicket, president of the Bi-County Services in Bluffton on Thursday, Sept. 25. The money was raised through Tootsie roll candy sales in Wells County and will be used to help fund Bi-County’s Summer Fun program for children with disabilities.

IMAGINATION DAY CELEBRATES ANIMALS AND ENVIRONMENTS

Provided by Frank Shanly, Bluffton News-Banner.

St. Bernard School students in Wahsbach participated in its 14th annual Imagination Day on Friday, Sept. 27. This year’s theme was “Super Science Spectacular.” Students were divided into groups and participated throughout the day in activities, which focused on animals and environment. Group activities included a bald eagle Web quest, the eagle’s nest, the river otter, orangutan, animals and their habitats, the Kapok tree and the food chain. Students in the photo are: front row, from left, Valentino Bauco and Madison Garrett; middle row, Caleb Gidley, Rachel Orput and Sammy Hipiskind; and back row, Abby Stein and Andreas Palmert.
Men affected by abortion need healing, reconciliation, say speakers

BY ALICIA TORRES

OAKBROOK TERR., ILL. — For men suffering the aftermath of abortion, Thomas Golden offers a message of hope.

“We have to learn to love men. . . . That is how we are going to reclaim fatherhood,” he said.

Golden, author of “Swallowed by a Snake: The Gift of the Male Figure of Healing,” was a speaker at a conference titled “Reclaiming Fatherhood” Sept. 8-9 in Oakbrook, Ill. He has been teaching mental health professionals around the world about men and boys and the way they heal from stress, grief and trauma.

The conference on how abortion affects men was the second such gathering sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and the Archdiocese of Chicago’s Office for Evangelization, this year’s Archdiocesan Conference on Evangelization.

The first conference was held in November 2007 in San Francisco.

Co-sponsored by the Archdiocese of Chicago’s Office for Evangelization, this year’s event featured presentations by psychologists, a counselor and a sociologist.

Several fathers who have lost a child to abortion also spoke.

For those from 36 states and four countries gathered in Oakbrook, the message was clear: Society has not recognized the unique experience of men who have lost their fatherhood through abortion, and the ministries and resources available to guide the healing process must be made known.

Ministries offered by the Catholic Church and other faith traditions have been focused on supporting women who have had an abortion. Until recently, the grief and punishment that the men affected by abortion has not been as widely discussed.

Men are involved in an abortion decision in many ways, and the level of their involvement affects how much guilt they feel afterward, according to the speakers.

Men know about and fully support the decision, others may not know until years later that they lost a child to abortion.

Conference speakers noted that in the 35 years since the U.S. Supreme Court handed down its Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion, more than 40 million abortions have been performed and at the same time there has been in general a lack of attention to those suffering from the decision, particularly men.

Anthropologist Lionel Tiger of Rutgers University, author of “The Decline of Males,” maintained that society’s devaluing of masculine identity has contributed to the loss of people’s ability to address issues that deeply impact men, including the aftermath of abortion.

“We look at the labor force of economics, we are seeing males leaving the labor force and working more and more women tend to process grief by recalling events with close friends, while men are wired to taking action to process their grief. “When our father died, my brother and I built a box in which to place his ashes. It was during that time together in the shop that we confronted the loss of our father through the decisions they shared and memories recalled,” he said.

Men who have suffered abortion need to process in a similar way, added Golden, who in 1995 founded www.postabortion.com, the Internet’s first interactive site for grieving people.

“We have to learn about men, we have to study them and find out what helps them, what brings them to healing,” he said.

Vicki Thorn, founder of the post-abortion ministry Project Rachel, the Catholic Church’s post-abortion healing ministry, called for the need to recognize the differences between men and women.

“The first book ever writ- ten on men and abortion was in 1994. It has taken almost 25 years to actually get together to talk about the issue,” she said.

Vicki Thorn, founder and head of the National Office of Post-Abortion Reconciliation and Healing.

Speaker Golden said that women tend to process grief by recalling events with close friends, while men are wired to taking action to process their grief.

“One day, Sergio was happy to see that a so-called “adult bookstore” was being torn down, but his happiness was short-lived, for he soon found out the business would be replaced with one of the largest “adult emporiums” in the state.

“When I asked God why this was happening, he said, “For Today’s Catholic, “I got the conviction to do something.”

Sergio had earned master’s and doctorate degrees in psychology from the University of Notre Dame, so he knew how pornography harms people and society, but he never had been prompted to say anything publicly about it. He related that for two weeks, he argued with the Lord about getting involved, and eventually decided that he would devote three years of his life to working on the problem. That was 15 years ago, and Sergio is still working on the problem, with many successes to show for his efforts.

He was one of four founders of Citizens for Community Values, an organization devoted to reducing sexual exploitation, promiscuity and abuse by increasing public awareness of the harmful effects of pornography.

Sergio serves as president of the PVCV board of directors while simultaneously holding down his full-time job as president of The Sergio Corporation.

The PVCV has helped either close, or prevent from opening, over 30 sexually-oriented businesses in Indiana and lower Michigan. Among those successes is passage of ordinances regulating sexually-oriented businesses in South Bend, Mishawaka and St. Joseph County, as well as in White Pigeon, Mich.

Sergio, who is a member of Christ the King Parish in South Bend, holds his Catholic that he keeps motivated by what he calls the “continued sexualization of society” which is promoted at younger and younger ages. This harms a person’s understanding of sexuality as a part of life, he said, because sex becomes life for so many people, and they become addicted, with sex consuming their lives.

“Addiction to pornography has a predictable pattern of addiction that parallels drug addiction,” Sergio explained.

Our bodies are wired to react to sex and pornography, he said, and neurotransmitter fluids are released that change the chemistry of the brain. Thus, with porn use, drugs are released in the body that cause a euphoria that eventually goes away. Like drugs that are injected into the body, the person addicted to pornography needs more and more porn to reach a high, so he or she escalates up to more prurient materials, and many eventually act out through prostitution, molesta-

And of course, other consequences of our sexualized society are devastating, as well. When young people are encouraged by the culture to have sex anywhere any time, and with anyone, this results in our current epidemic of sexually transmitted disease and fuels the abortion industry, Sergio said. This all ties into the need to respect all of human life, from conception to natural death, he added.

CCV has had a significant impact on restricting adult businesses and prevented others from opening, he said, but legal actions are just “a holding action,” for pornography continues to be available, especially online. The bigger challenge is to educate people, he said.

One of Sergio’s efforts at education is a Bible study class he conducts at the St. Joseph County Jail, a popular class with prisoners. The prisoners don’t understand that porn is dangerous, he said, and talks about the big difference between the world’s view of sexuality and God’s view of sexuality.

“The prisoners react very well,” Sergio said. “I have their attention, and they ask good, serious questions. Many of them made bad choices in their past — some related to this. I feel honored to be able to have their time and attention.”

Sergio also speaks with perpetrators of sex crimes and hopes to “reach the heart of the predator...to find the right spot with the Lord,” working as Jesus did to embrace the person who has committed the evil.

Sergio invited readers of Today’s Catholic to attend the CCV annual banquet and fund-raising dinner on Oct. 21 at 7 p.m. at the Gillespie Center in the Hilton Garden Inn on the campus of Saint Mary’s College. Tickets are $30 per person. For reservations, call (574) 247-9299.
Everything about the Women’s Care Center is God’s work

By Diane Freeby

SOUTH BEND — In a political climate where abortion can become distorted, the mission of this area’s premier pregnancy help center is refreshingly simple and direct.

“We help women choose life for their babies,” stated Women’s Care Center President Ann Manion.

With the emphasis on “help,” Manion and her longtime sidekick and Women’s Care Center board member Kitty Fulnecky have spent the last two decades working tirelessly to make abortion a thing of the past, staying out of the political arena to do it. Both women give all credit to God and their Catholic faith.

“Everything about the Women’s Care Center is God’s work,” explained Fulnecky. “From the very beginning we’ve relied on Divine Providence!”

The “very beginning” was nearly 25 years ago, when a professor at the University of Notre Dame spent her spare time praying at a nearby abortion clinic. Dr. Janet E. Smith realized that young women needed an alternative where they could receive information and loving counsel. The Women’s Care Center was born in 1984, setting up shop in what was then the Women’s Care Center was born in 1984, setting up shop in what was then the Women’s Care Center location.

Manion and Fulnecky have spent the last two decades working tirelessly to make abortion a thing of the past, staying out of the political arena to do it. Both women give all credit to God and their Catholic faith.

“From the very beginning it’s always been a leap of faith, and he’s asking for another one! There was a naïve, childlike openness to God, because he presented opportunities to us that we were scared to death to think about.”

Because such leaps of faith aren’t based on any business model, some might question it. According to Manion, Fulnecky would always be the one to get up during a board meeting to give her “God speech.”

“That was Kitty’s role,” said Manion, “and lest she’d forget it, I’d call her up before the board meeting and remind her.”

Fulnecky says she has confidence in God’s providence after her years with the Women’s Care Center.

“The times where we tried to maneuver things ourselves have never worked out as well as when the door had literally been opened, people stepped forward and provided the means and the brains — and that’s the other thing. We always had people on the board who could help us.”

Manion believes by being a truly Catholic-based outreach, the Women’s Care Center is more effective than any other pregnancy help center in the country. Not all the counselors are Catholic, but everyone embraces the mission.

“I think our Catholic roots are why we are successful,” explained Manion. “Our evangelization is more subtle, and just more loving and caring... and Mother Teresa-like. Our counselors don’t preach, but try to show compassionate understanding to each woman they meet.”

“We have a lot of support from other individuals and churches,” added Fulnecky. “The Lutheran Foundation is one of the largest all-time supporters, next to Our Sunday Visitor.”

Bishop John M. D’Arcy has been a huge fan since the beginning, according to Manion, and has helped out in many ways.

“The Bishop’s Appeal gives us $10,000 a year,” said Manion. “In the early days, the bishop really carried the load. We would just hang on until October.”

Both women say they have received many graces during their time with the Women’s Care Center. Their husbands embrace the mission, and the children have grown up with strong Catholic faith in action.

While some would have us believe the battle over abortion can never be won, Manion and Fulnecky continue to make sure work in the pro-life trenches continues. According to this year’s annual report, over 9,000 women were assisted by the Women’s Care Center in 2007.

“Abortion numbers are coming down,” said Manion. “With record numbers of women served at all our centers, there seems to be no end in sight to the need to help more young moms and babies. None of what we do at the Women’s Care Center could be accomplished with out the vital prayers and financial donations of our supporters.”

One of the Women’s Care Center locations in South Bend is located next to an abortion provider. Nearby, the 40 Days for Life prayer vigil is underway until election day. As a Catholic, Manion believes completely the power of the Holy Spirit that makes people decide for life.

“I really, really like that effort,” she said, referring to the 40 Days for Life vigil. “I believe in the power of prayer, that a prayerful presence can have a real impact.”

Manion remains hopeful for the future.

“The hope I see is coming from the young people. My children and their friends are more pro-life than my generation. On a one-on-one level, people’s hearts are being changed.”

Ann Manion, president, left, and Kitty Fulnecky, board member of the Women’s Care Center, have spent the last two decades working tirelessly to make abortion a thing of the past, staying out of the political arena to do it. Both women give all credit to God and their Catholic faith.

The St. Vincent de Paul Girl Scouts, in Fort Wayne, held their annual fall campout on Sept. 19-20. This campout incorporates community service in our fun times. The Girl Scouts collected donations of baby diapers and wipes, pull-ups and carseats for the Women’s Care Center, an organization whose mission is to assist young women in pregnancy crisis (giving them an alternative to abortion).

About 100 Scouts made crafts, cooked dinner over the campfire, went on hikes, and then spent the night at Girl Scout Camp McMillen. Presenting donations to the Women’s Care Center are Chelsea Heise, Jessica Heise, Grace Kline and Lucy Kline.

Girls Scout Donate Items to Women’s Care Center

Provided by Cheryl Men
Respect Life

The Parishioners of Saint Matthew Cathedral support the clear and consistent teaching of the Judeo-Christian Tradition regarding the sanctity of human life and the obligation of believers to defend the most vulnerable members of society.

“Cease to do evil, learn to do good: seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, speak out on behalf of the widow.”
—Isaiah 1:17

“You shall not practice abortion nor harm the infant...nor plot to deceive your neighbor. You shall hate no one. You will correct some, pray for others, and some you will love more than your own life.”
—Didache 2 (c.110 AD)

Rev. Michael Heintz
Rev. André Léveillé, CSC
Miss Mary Ann Retseck, Principal
Mr. Scott Steiner, CCD Director
Mrs. Lisa Marino, RCIA Director

The St. Joseph Parish family stands in loving support of life in all its stages, from conception to natural death.

Abortion cannot be a human right...it is the very opposite.
—Cardinal Franz König

St. Joseph County Right to Life, Inc.
320 North Lafayette Blvd., South Bend 232-5433
prolife@michicana.org

Pope urges church to help couples see beauty of natural procreation

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The church must find ways to help Catholic couples see the beauty of respecting the true design of procreation and avoid artificial reproduction and contraception, Pope Benedict XVI said.

The encyclical, “Humanae Vitae” (“Of Human Life”), “illustrates and defends the beauty of conjugal love” while respecting the divine laws of nature, he said in a written message addressed Oct. 3 to participants of an international congress.

The Oct. 3-4 congress in Rome was sponsored by Rome’s Catholic University of the Sacred Heart and the John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and the Family. The Vatican released a copy of the message Oct. 3.

The church, in its teachings and pastoral programs, “must know how to guide couples to understand with their hearts the wonderful plan God has inscribed in the human body.”

Respect Life
Through the services of Catholic Charities
Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

• Brief Services • Information & Referrals • Immigration
• Pregnancy & Adoption Services • Senior AIDS
• Refugee Resettlement • Children’s Cottage Child Care
• Food Pantry (South Bend & Auburn)
• Villa of the Woods Residential Living
• RSVP Dekalb, Steuben, Noble, LaGrange, Elkhart & St. Joseph Counties
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1817 Miami Street, South Bend 46613

The Parishioners of Saint Matthew Cathedral support the clear and consistent teaching of the Judeo-Christian Tradition regarding the sanctity of human life and the obligation of believers to defend the most vulnerable members of society.

“God created man in his image, in the divine image he created him; male and female he created them.”
—Genesis 1:27

Holy Cross and St. Stanislaus Parish
SOUTH BEND

Here’s a miracle
To have and hold
Here’s a life
To shape and mould.
Born to be cherished
Born to know love
A little angel
Sent from above.

Little Flower Parish
54191 N. Ironwood Drive • South Bend

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Human Life is Sacred

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—Genesis 1:27

Holy Cross and St. Stanislaus Parish
SOUTH BEND
Feminism’s founders stood for life

BY LISA EVERETT

The candidacy of Gov. Sarah Palin has raised the public profile of pro-life feminism, a concept which many in our society consider a contradiction in terms. Some wonder how a woman can seriously claim to be a feminist if she does not believe in “reproductive freedom,” understood as unfettered access to contraception and abortion. Others believe that equality with men requires that women be liberated from the burden of bearing and raising children.

What many people do not realize, however, is that the radical, secular version of feminism that most of us are familiar with today is far removed from the original vision of the 19th century founders of the movement, who were women inspired largely by Christian concepts of morality and justice.

At the same time, the cardinal hailed therapeutic successes in research on adult stem cells and umbilical-cord blood.

“The Catholic Church strongly supports promoting and ethically sound stem-cell research and strongly opposes killing week-old human embryos, or human beings at any stage, to extract their stem cells,” he said.

The cardinal also noted that most Americans favor banning all abortion or permitting it only in rare cases, such as incest or danger to the mother’s life. He cited a recent Guttmacher Institute study which revealed that the U.S. abortion rate declined by 26 percent between 1989 and 2004.

However, the cardinal again raised concern about the Freedom of Choice Act — FOCA — which is pending in Congress.

Cardinal Rigali echoed his Sept. 19 call for defeat of the bill when it comes up for a vote, whether in the closing days of the current session after the Nov. 4 election or when the next Congress convenes in January and a new version of the legislation is introduced.

“FOCA establishes abortion as a ‘fundamental right’ throughout the nine months of pregnancy and forbids any law or policy that could interfere with that right or ‘discriminate against it’ in public funding and programs,” Cardinal Rigali explained. “If FOCA becomes law, it is a threat of reason- able, widely supported and constitutionally sound abortion regula- tions now in place would be invali- dated.”

“We cannot tolerate an even greater loss of innocent human lives. We cannot tolerate women and men” to post-abortion grief and suffering, he said.

Cardinal Rigali’s full statement can be found online at www.usccb.org/comm/archives/2008/08-141.shtml.

Cardinal Rigali calls upon Catholics to ‘build a culture of life’

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholics are called “to help build a culture of life in which every human life without exception is respected and defended,” the chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities said in a message for Respect Life Sunday Oct. 5.

Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia invited Catholics to build a culture of life and to “reeducate ourselves to defending the basic rights of those who are weakest and most marginalized: the poor, the homeless, the inno- cent unborn, and the frail and eld- erly who need our respect and our assistance” in a statement Sept. 30.

Two initiatives on the Nov. 4 ballot in the state of Washington and Michigan will be decided by the cardinal as examples where respect for life has waned. The Washington referendum legalize- do assisted-suicide suicide for ter- minally ill patients. In Michigan, an initiative would end the “deliberate destruction of human beings” for embryonic stem-cell research, Cardinal Rigali said.

At the same time, the cardinal said that its use in marriage would relat- edly destroy human life.

The early feminists likewise achieved only by fidelity, mutual sacrifice and commitment. Self- interest, however, is that the radical, secular version of feminism that most of us are familiar with today is far removed from the original vision of the 19th century founders of the movement, who were women inspired largely by Christian concepts of morality and justice.

In addition to insisting on their right to own property, participate in government, receive equitable wages and have equal opportuni- ties for advanced education and employment, one of the major goals of the original feminists was to address the abuse of sexuality both within and outside of marriage.

As David Reardon, director of the Elliott Institute for Social Sciences Research, recounts: “They condemned male promis- cuity, and denounced the social injustices that induced their sisters to degrade themselves in lives of prostitution. They demanded that husbands honor their commitments to their wives, and that sons learn to honor the integrity of all women. Equal rights, they believed, could be achieved only by fidelity, mutual sacrifice and commitment. Self- control, not self-indulgence, was their solution to marital unhappi- ness.”

These early feminists champi- oned mutual fidelity and mutual respect in marriage. When they objected to “enforced mother- hood,” they meant that a wife

s believers, how can we fail to see that abortion, euthanasia, and assisted suicide are a terrible rejection of God’s gift of life and love? And as believers, how can we fail to feel the duty to surround the sick and those in distress with the warmth of our affection and the support that will help them to embrace life.

—Pope John Paul II homily at Trans-World Dome, St. Louis, January 27, 1999

St. John the Evangelist Parish - Goshen
Rev. Christopher Smith, Pastor
St. Mary of the Annunciation Parish - Bristol
Rev. Robert Van Kempen, Pastor

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish - Elkhart
Rev. William Sullivan, Pastor
St. Vincent de Paul Parish - Elkhart
Rev. Philip DeVolder, Pastor
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Today’s Catholic welcomes letters from readers. All letters must be signed and include a phone number and address for verification.

BY FATHER ADAM SCHMIDT

A Day to honor Our Lady of Fatima

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13, many Catholics will celebrate the 91st anniversary of the miracle of the sun at Fatima, Portugal, of Oct. 13, 1917. What was the miracle? It was a rainy day, the area mudy — 70,000 were there who could not discover anew the humanity and the courage to pray and fast so that the power from on high will break down the walls of lies and deceit: the walls which conceal from the sight of so many ... the evil of practices and laws which are hostile to life.

May it be so.

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

Today's Catholic
THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mt 22:1-14

The holy city of Jerusalem, God’s city, and the royal capital, will be seen throughout the world as the center of a great nation.

The second reading is from the Epistle to the Philippians. On several occasions that are recorded in Acts or in the Pauline epistles, Paul was imprisoned, having been arrested for preaching against the establishment or simply for disturbing the peace. This passage from Philippians was written while Paul was in prison.

Being jailed, humiliated and abused was Paul’s plight. Nevertheless, he says that his faith in God never lessens, nor does his commitment to proclaiming the Gospel. Nothing else matters, not even his comfort or personal well-being. God gave Christ to the world. Paul must extend this gift far and wide.

St. Matthew’s Gospel furnishes the last reading. The reading is a parable, with three parts. In the first part, a “king” who represents God, invites guests to a wedding banquet for his son. Three people reject the invitation. The king invites guests again. Again, the invitation is ignored. Then, in the second part, the king invites outcasts and strangers to the feast. They come. However, in the third part, the king sees a guest at the banquet improperly dressed. He orders this guest to be thrown out.

The king’s servants represent the prophets. The prospective guests who spurn the invitation represent the people of Israel. The outcasts and strangers represent the aliens and the sinful.

The message is that God’s mercy extends to all. Prestige and wealth do not matter. People are called to stop their trouble-making and join the kingdom of heaven.

Reflection

These readings call us to several basic facts. First, it is that God never fails in mercy. He does not disobey the promise, spoken long ago through the prophets, and then finally by Christ, to guide people to everlasting life by revealing to them the laws of righteousness and by strengthening their resolve to be righteous.

The second fact is simple, and constant throughout history. Humans just cannot accept it. The fact is that humans sin. The sin of Adam and Eve weakens humans. Their nature is distorted. They are myopic. They exaggerate their own powers, discounting their need for God.

Conversion requires a frank realization of who and what humans are. They are sinful, but God loves them.

In this realization, humans come to the firm conviction that drove St. Paul to proclaim the Lord in spite of all. Nothing matters other than to be with God. There is no life apart from God. Everything other than God is sickle and impermanent, here but for a while.

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Reading


ANSWERS:
1. b, c, 2. a, b, 3. a, 4. a, 5. b, 6. c, 7. b, 8. a, 9. c, 10. b, 11. b, 12. a, 13. b, 14. c, 15. a, 16. c

Grieving the death of an infant

One of the most poignant stories in the Bible is that of the childless couple, Zechariah and Elizabeth. They longed to have a child, but after many years, they were still childless. Eventually, they welcomed a son named John the Baptist. The story of the birth of John the Baptist is a beautiful example of God’s mercy and love for all people. Zechariah and Elizabeth were given the gift of a child after years of waiting. This is a story of hope in the midst of despair. It shows us that God is always with us, even when we feel like we are alone.

There are many other stories in the Bible of people who experienced the loss of a child. The story of King David and the son he lost is one such example. David was grieving the loss of his son, Absalom. Though he had not yet met his two young daughters joyfully alive, this world? Therese says yes. This writing actually was written God. Isaiah loudly protested entanglements with pagan neigh-...
Roman roads aided in the spread of Christianity

How did Christianity spread so fast in the time of the apostles? J.K. Angula


Almost all the Holy Spirit is the spirit of the church who helps it grow and keep on the right track. There are other favorable human factors at the time of the apostles that enabled Christianity to flourish.

Remember that ancient Rome governed the world of the apostles, and they established the “Pax Romana” or Roman peace. J. Packer says historians date the Pax Romana from 30 B.C. to about A.D. 180 when Rome flourished in a time of economic greatness. During this period, the Roman Empire brought peace, prosperity and good government to an area that ranged from Great Britain to the Euphrates in Iraq and from the North Sea to the Sahara desert in northern Africa.

At the Battle of Actium in 31 B.C., Rome which finally united under one ruler, Octavian or Augustus Caesar, who concentrated on the empire’s internal problems and laid the foundation for strong rule and peace.

M. Tenney says the Pax Romana increased Rome’s trade and prosperity. The navy swept the Mediterranean Sea of pirates who impeded shipping between Rome, Asia Minor and Africa. Stable coinage and improved methods of shipping allowed for rapid expansion. Manufacturing sprung up in the Roman provinces, so potteries from France and glass from Germany could be found in Rome.

A key to maintaining peace was Augustus Caesar’s willingness to allow provinces self-governed. He dealt with problems in the empire coupled with his quick use of military force to stifle rebellion or terrorism. To create less problems, the Romans allowed conquered nations to keep their language, customs and religion, as long as the people stayed on peaceful terms with Rome.

A second factor that helped the spread of Christianity was the greatest system of Roman roads. White says the Romans were amazing road builders, spending five centuries completing a road system that extended to every corner of the empire that included 50,000 miles of first-class highways and 200,000 miles of lesser roads.

These Roman roads were built primarily as military routes to the provinces, but also allowed grain to be brought to Rome and wine and olive oil to the provinces. Soup lines could be built where roads crossed streams. Today you can see the famous Appian Way, the road on which St. Paul traveled to Rome.

Michael Grant says the roads of the Roman Empire were the most potent guarantees of external and internal peace and prosperity. A Roman road went along the coast of northern Africa from Morocco to Egypt. A Roman road went from Egypt through Israel, Syria, and Iraq to Turkey. A Roman road went from Turkey along the coast of the Black Sea to the area of Russia. A Roman road went from Turkey to Greece and Macedonia, along the Danube River in Eastern Europe, and along the Rhine River in Germany and then on to Paris. Finally Roman roads were also built on the separated country of England.

A third factor that helped the spread of Christianity was the ability to travel by ship on the Mediterranean Sea that many ancient countries bordered. Thus St. Paul was able to visit the islands of Cyprus, Crete, Rhodes, Malta and Sicily. Early Christian missionaries could visit the vast territory of the Northern African coast, the coast of Lebanon, Turkey, Greece, Italy, France and Spain.

Father John McKenzie adds a fourth factor in the spread of Christianity, namely that the one language of Greek was spoken everywhere in the Roman Empire. The New Testament itself was written in Greek. Some of the apostles, like Philip, had a Greek name, and Philip himself introduced Greek-speaking people to Jesus. Greek was the business language of this time.

Respecting life is just learning to love.

By mother was flipping through the church bulletin one Sunday when she observed a notice asking for parishioners to consider being foster families for Catholic Charities. Since my mother has a big heart, since her last pregnancy had ended in miscarriage and since she was in her early 40s and since it was pretty obvious she wasn’t going to be having any more babies, she immediately pulled dad aside. “We could do this,” she told him.

The last time he disappeared into the living room for awhile, and when they emerged, they told us they were going to be foster parents. This was a matter of weeks. My parents applied to be his foster parents, at the time, the last child to come to our family’s household was a baby named John. African American, and 3 weeks old, his original foster mother decided she couldn’t handle the little guy. Of course, mom and dad welcomed him with open arms. John integrated well into our family, and before we had known it, he had flown by.

John’s case was reopened when he was 2 years old, paving the way of his eligibility for adoption. Although my parents had not considered adopting any of the foster children they had taken in, this situation was obviously different. After two years, Johnny was one of us. We couldn’t “say goodbye” or give him up. My parents applied to be his parents.

Every parent knows that raising children is difficult. Adoptive parents know that there can be special challenges reserved just for adoptive parents like all families who have a good dose of common sense, faithfulness, dedication and patience that abounds. And it did in our family as well.

This month is Respect Life Month. I want to thank my parents for that long and no one had responded that he had given up on that too. But my family loved him despite his lack of emotion, sang songs and played finger games with him.

We read him books and sat with him on the porch, showing him things outside. My little brothers and sisters doted upon him constantly, and by the time he left us, he was progressing beautifully and chuckling happily again.

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**Sports**

**ICCL gridiron action rallies to final weeks**

SOUTH BEND — With just a few weeks left to complete the regular season play of the Inter-City Catholic League boys’ varsity football, the Mishawaka Catholic Schools remain unbeaten. The Saints defeated the St. Anthony-St. Joseph Panthers, 24-0, on Bob Otoloki Field at Marian High School on Sunday, Oct. 5. The Saints were lead by scoring runs by Vince Ravotto, Michael Whifield and Tyler Nixon. Chase Lentych-Hack kicked the three extra points.

In other-varsity action, at Saint Joseph’s High School, the Holy Cross Crusaders beat the King Crusaders beat the Holy Family Trojans, 16-0. The Crusaders were lead by Peter Rymera’s three touchdowns, of 30-, 2- and 12-yard runs. Brendan Connolly had touchdown runs of 42-yards and 20-yards for the Crusaders. Jacob Jobe kicked three two-point conversion kicks.

St. Matthew’s No. 59 returned the opening second half kick 70 yards for the Blazers’ touchdown. The Corpus Christi Cougars defeated the Holy Family Trojans, 18-0. The Cougars were led by Garrett Lukens 24-yard touchdown pass to Matt Williamson. Jabri Blood, 26-0. In the win, Nick Deiser added a score. Coach Mike Deiser also reported that Nic Morken and Dan Beckman took care of things defensively for Sts. JAT, who have won their last three outings.

**Last week of CYO play secures placements**

BY MICHIELE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — In the final week of 2008 regular season Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) football action, Sts. JAT (Joseph-Elizabeth/Aloysius/Theresa) took on St. Charles at Bishop Dwenger Sunday, Oct. 5. The Knights beat the Cardinals, 22-0, to secure a solid fourth place-finish in regular season play. Leading the offensive attack for the Knights was John Cassell, Aaron LeMaster, Matt Harris and Nick Deiser. Deiser had two touchdowns and Matt Harris added a third.

Coach Mike Deiser also reported that Nic Morken and Dan Beckman took care of things defensively for Sts. JAT, who have won their last three outings.

Showing great improvement in the last half of the season, Casey Cooney, Cam Messman, Adam Whisler, Jacob Burgen, Jordan Tippmann, Tyller Tippmann, Jacob Chelf, Mike Lombardi, Tony Price, Nathan Niese, Austin Pearson and Greg Robertson all chipped in a great effort for the Cardinals who ended up in the sixth spot.

Bouncing back from last week’s loss, the JAT, the St. John Fort Wayne-Hessen Cassel Eagles defeated St. Jude, 40-0, to wrap up a first-place finish in regular season play with a 6-1 record. In the game, Brandon Dock had a 20-yard touchdown run.

Thomas Stark threw a 10-yard strike to Brendan Gonzales and Sam Stronczek threw a 10-yarder to David Shank, while Brandon Volmerding had a 10-yard TD pass to Matt William, Jabi Bramley returned in 30 yards on the last score. The JAT team was perfect on the day with Stronczek handling the kicking chores. The two teams return to Bishop Dwenger Sunday, Oct. 12, meeting in the first round of the playoffs. Heading into the post season, the St. Vincent Panthers downed Queen of Angels/Most Precious Blood, 26-0. In the win, Nick German had three touchdown runs and Grady Eifert added a score. “I was most pleased with our offensive line and Chris Rama’s running game this week,” reported St. Vincent Cardinal football coach, according to Kitchen, the six-line man — Blake Bowers, Jeremy Reeser, Corinne Daniel, Austin Hillman, Brandon Evans and Jonathan Hake, who are coached by Matt Hatfield, Sean Lyons and Curtis Smith — controlled the line of scrimmage from the first play. St. Vincent finished with a 3-4 record and will square off against Sts. JAT in playoff action while Queen of Angels-Precious Blood will meet Holy Cross.

According to Kitchen, the six found Holy Cross and St. John New Haven vying for the second seed position. Each with just a single loss (both to the St. John Fort Wayne Eagles in the early weeks of the season), Holy Cross downed the Raiders, 24-8. The Raiders lone score came from Dillon Carey with Adam McCarthy adding the extra point. Defensively, Robbe Lake had an outstanding effort with three sacks in the loss. The Raiders (5-2) won a week of CYO and will face St. Charles (2-5) in the first game of the much anticipated “road to South Bend.”

**CYO volleyball teams forge ahead**

BY MICHIELE CASTLEMAN

CAST your vote for Catholic Radio AM 1450

FORT WAYNE — The ladies from St. Therese are off to a 4-0 start in Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) Blue League volleyball action. The combined team of seventh and eighth graders lists nine on their roster for 2008. Veteran Coach Lisa Palmer returns along with assistants Jamie Uecker, Sarah Walker, Jill Davidson and Dusty Luerging.

“We may be small in numbers this season, but we have an awesome group of girls to work with. They give 110 percent at every practice and work very hard,” explained Palmer.

Palmer was pleased with her team’s performance in two big wins during the month of September. First off, St. Therese beat the defending Blue League champs from Queen of Angels, 25-23, 25-24, in a tight battle that went back and forth with many lead changes. With excellent servers from Queen of Angels to contend with, St. Therese got behind in both games with passing troubles.

“It was anyone’s game up until the final point,” said Palmer. In the win, Taylor Luerging and Mackenzie North led the team in serving, while Anjelica Trevino had eight assists and Jessica Carsten five kills.

The next weekend at St. Aloysius, the Crusaders were victorious in three matches by scores of 25-18, 25-23, 15-9.

“Again, either team could have won this match. We passed the ball very well which meant we also attacked and set up the ball extremely well — like 24 times in the second game alone,” explained Palmer. Again, Cyos were strong in the serving area. "Both wins were a total team effort and our girls never gave up even when we were behind," summarized Palmer.

Also small in numbers, but not spirit this season is the team from St. Mary-St. Joseph. Coach Nancy Emhke started the volleyball program with the two schools hailing through the years of Avilla and Garrett four years ago. Also coaching the fifth- and sixth-grade girls along with assistant Maryanne Bredreau, Emhke’s varsity roster for 2008 consists of Kristy Freeman, Stephanie Elmke, Nichole Rorick, Natalie Pine, Rachel Ley, Rachel DePew and Lydia Waring.

Emhke struggles with current enrollment trends and rising gas prices. With no gym in Avilla, she transported her girls twice a week to practice after school, in addition to serving as coach, athletic director, accountant, booster club president and “staff psychologist” while her husband helps out as equipment manager, transportation director and concession stand supervisor.

Emhke’s overall objective for the program this season is to provide the girls an opportunity to learn more about the sport of volleyball. The leader also hopes the girls gain knowledge and skills and learn all the responsibilities of being part of a team. An additional goal for each player is to play to their potential.

“I am very pleased about the improvement in skill level the team is showing over the season so far,” reports Emhke, whose Carpenters/Eagles are 1-1 in Blue League play. Emhke, a clinical nurse specialist at the college level and recently had her number retired from Salem State College in Salem, Mass., where she was a volleyball standout.

The Reds from Precious Blood are 0-4 in league play so far this season, but first-year head coach Ashley Peters is encouraged by her young team’s serving and passing in an “upbeat game.” Peters adds, “A couple of wins would be nice, but our goal is for each player to improve this season.”

The Reds from Precious Blood have eight graders on their roster along with six seventh graders. Peters is a junior high coach and has coached at the college level and recently had her number retired from Salem State College in Salem, Mass., where she was a volleyball standout.

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As of the end of the week, the Reds from Precious Blood are 0-4 in league play so far this season, but first-year head coach Ashley Peters is encouraged by her young team’s serving and passing in an “upbeat game.” Peters adds, “A couple of wins would be nice, but our goal is for each player to improve this season.”

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Commentary

Ziggy says, “Life is an adventure!” And he’s right. I recently discovered (again) just how exciting it can be to start a new adventure. This past August I eased into my “fourth life,” nurse; second career, a benefit to possible negotiations of peace between England and France.

Over the years I have written about the life experiences I have encountered. Myarten began quickly as I reflected on my personal and professional lives and write their own mysteries. In 1308, the walls of Avignon (BlueBridge, $24.95), by Edwin Mullins. Mullins has filled with good things: the teachers developed, both personally and professionally as a group exercise for this academic year, were thought through, beautiful, and beautiful, and I have permission to share a few of them with you:

- My Faith Journey: 1) given my faith in baptism, 2) receiving Jesus in first Eucharist, 3) responding “yes” for myself in confirmation, 4) serving others in marriage and parenthood, 5) Thy will be done in daily commitment.
- Mysteries for 2008-09 Academic Year (St. Louis Academy): 1) mystery of community, 2) mystery of service, 3) mystery of growth, 4) mystery of hearing God’s call, 5) mystery of knowing and loving God.
- Mysteries for 2008-09 (St. Joseph School): 1) The seed of our faith, 2) the root of family, 3) the branch of knowledge, 4) the blossom of life experience, 5) the fruit of sharing.
- Holy Cross Brother Philip Armstrong wrote a wonderful little book, “Your Own Mysteries: Praying Your Life Through the Rosary,” in which he offers additional suggestions for writing your own mysteries:
  - People, living or dead, who were influential in your life.
  - Relatives, friends, colleagues, teachers, etc., living or dead.
  - Occasions of special joy, challenges, difficult or painful occasions.
  - Events for today’s news: how would Jesus respond?
  - Parables of Jesus that are most meaningful.
  - Gospel personalities that resonate with me.
  - Books, places, art or musical compositions that have impacted me.
- Unanswered questions or mysteries of my life.
  - Locations of particular beauty.
  - Gifts or talents I possess.
- Moments of special awareness or surprises God has sent my way.

We now offer Brother Philip’s suggestions for your consideration so you, too, can formulate your own mysteries of the rosary. Feel free to join me — and learn ... still ... after all these years.

Opening prayer

“My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my savior. For he has looked upon his handmaid’s lowliness; behold, from now on all ages will call me blessed. The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is from generation to generation on those who fear him. He has shown might with his arm, dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart. He has thrown down from the heights to the lowly. The hungry he has filled with good things; the rich he has sent away empty. He has helped Israel his servant, remembering his mercy, according to his promise to his fathers, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.” — Lk 1:46-55.

Still learning ... after all these years’

BY YORK YOUNG

Longtime readers of this column will know that I am an ardent seeker of information on religious topics, and particularly on historical and theological issues. In 14th-century Europe, civil strife and competing kings made for a personal feeling of unsettledness. The popes were involved, too, often in ways not very Christlike. The papal kingdom, which included several territories in present-day Italy, were a contentious issue for many of those competing kingdoms. With so much danger so close to Rome, the papacy was moved away from the Eternal City at the time, and seven popes resided in Avignon, an independent city at the time, which is now part of modern-day France. Beginning with Pope Clement V in 1308, the walls of Avignon provided a home base of sorts for the papacy for the next 70 years. But a glorious time it was not, from the perspective of church history. Power struggles were rife, and the rule of the day, nepotism and playing favorites were hard to avoid.

Pope Clement was a Frenchman, and once he took up residence on the border of France, it was hard for the papacy to avoid French influence. Pope Clement named several cardinals from France, including a few relatives. All of a sudden, after years of Italian control of the curia (papal offices) and the College of Cardinals, the French became the majority, heavily influencing the church for the next century.

During this time, some of the seven popes would occasionally take moral stands, but, generally, power and money ruled the day, not to mention an extreme lack of personal morality. Greed, lust, pride, gluttony — basically all the Seven Deadly Sins — were well understood in the papal court of the time, not excluding some popes.

But there were many interesting occurrences during this time. The first dramatic influx of the Black Death struck in 1348, during Pope Clement VI’s reign. Looking for blame, many in the Holy Roman Empire blamed the Jews, annihilating many Jewish communities. Pope Clement opened the Avignon gates and protected 200 Jews during this time. Meanwhile, the Hundred Years War was going on between France and England, which was repeated during the illness of the papacy so my heart rejoices in the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior. For he has looked upon his handmaid’s lowliness; behold, from now on all ages will call me blessed. The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is from generation to generation on those who fear him. He has shown might with his arm, dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart. He has thrown down from the heights to the lowly. The hungry he has filled with good things; the rich he has sent away empty. He has helped Israel his servant, remembering his mercy, according to his promise to his fathers, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.” — Lk 1:46-55.

Book covers the reign of seven popes in exile at Avignon

By Linda Forge

“As talk in the second half of the century focused on returning the papacy to Rome, Frenchmen contrived to keep it close to their borders and churchmen were convinced that Avignon's proximity was a benefit to possible negotiations of peace between England and France. Mullins does an excellent job of weaving in the papal history with an homage to the city of Avignon itself. Mullins has filled the pages with many in the 14th century, and grew to second largest in Paris in what is now France. With the poor tithe that forced all churches and religious orders to donate 10 percent of their income to the papacy — another black eye — the coffers of the church grew to expansive proportions. Before the move back to Rome was begun, however, it had all been spent, some on luxuries better left undiscovered, some on protection money to mercenaries and some to fight wars that maintained the territorial integrity of the Papal States.

This created more complication, but, ultimately, the call of Rome was too strong. Pope Urban V was able to move the church center back to Rome for a few years (1367-70), although events conspired to force a return to Avignon.

Returning to Rome was finally accomplished less than a decade later. Romans and Catholics should appreciate the relocation in the city along the Tiber River. For barely a century later the Renaissance began and the Vatican saw an artistic and architectural growth that lives to this day.
What's Happening?

Father Michael Heintz, Ph.D. to speak at St. Charles
Fort Wayne — Father Michael Heintz will speak on Models of Discipleship Tuesday, Oct. 28, at 7:30 p.m. in St. Charles Church. There will be an opportunity for questions and answers.

Day of Reflection
Mishawaka — A day of reflection will be held Wednesday, Oct. 29, from 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. at St. Francis Convent. The theme for the day is “God’s Holy Ones.” Please bring your Bible. The cost of the day is $15 and includes lunch. Register by Friday, Oct. 24, to Sister Barbara Anne Hallman at (574) 259-5427.

Living Healthier series sponsored by University of Saint Francis
Fort Wayne — The Living Healthier series continues with “Sleep Hygiene” by Cheryl Erickson, on Wednesday, Oct. 15, at 6:30 p.m. in the Msgr. Faber Activities Center. Cost is $8. Men and women are welcome. Call Henrietta at (260) 482-1660 or Rita at (260) 424-6345 for information.

Holiday bazaar
Mishawaka — The St. Joseph Church holiday bazaar will be Saturday, Oct. 25, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Over 80 craft and household items tables, raffles and baked goods will be offered. Bring canned or boxed food items and receive one free entry to the mini raffle for each item donated.

Fancy fair and cookie bar
Fort Wayne — At St. Gaspar Parish will have a fancy fair and cookie bar on Saturday, Nov. 1, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lunch available. For table rental call (260) 854-4888.

Clothing sale for families
Fort Wayne — St. Mary of the Annunciation, 411 W. Vistula St., will have a clothing sale Friday, Oct. 17 and Saturday, Oct. 18, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day.

Knights plan spaghetti dinner
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a spaghetti dinner on Friday, Sept. 19, from 5 to 7 p.m. Adults $7; children (5-12) $3. Dinner includes spaghetti, salad, garlic toast and coffee. Carry-out available.

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Community Center has night of music
Fort Wayne — The St. Henry Community Center will have “A Night of Musical Distinction,” Saturday, Oct. 18, from 7-11 p.m. Food, drink and live music from many cultures in the gym. 3029 E. Paulding Rd. Tickets are $15. Call (260) 515-2078.

Fishing derby helps eighth grade
Fort Wayne — St. Therese School will have a fish dinner Friday, Oct. 10, from 4:30-7 p.m. Tickets are $7.50 for adults, $4.50 for children 6-12 and free for children 5 and under. All proceeds benefit the class trip.

Drive through fish dinner
Fort Wayne — St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel will have a drive through fish dinner on Friday, Oct. 24, from 4-6:30 p.m. Tickets are $8. Proceeds benefit the Hessen Cassel Food Bank.

Rummage sale
New Haven — St. Louis Besancon Parish will have a rummage sale Saturday, Oct. 17, from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m and Saturday, Oct. 17, from 9 a.m. to noon. Fill a bag for $4 on Friday starting at 3 p.m and fill a bag for $2 on Saturday.

Craft fair helps music department
Fort Wayne — The Bishop Dwenger Music Boosters will have a craft fair and cookie sale Friday, Oct. 17, from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m and Saturday, Oct. 17, from 9 a.m. to noon. Fill a bag for $4 on Friday starting at 3 p.m and fill a bag for $2 on Saturday.

Pancake and sausage breakfast
Yoder — A pancake and sausage breakfast will be served Sunday, Oct. 19, at St. Aloysius Activity Center from 7:30-11 a.m. Proceeds benefit the Athletic Booster Club. Free will donation.

Fish and tenderloin fry
Fremont — A fish and tenderloin fry will be held Friday, Oct. 17, from 4-7 p.m. in the social hall, 1300 N. Main St. Adults $9, children 6-12 $6, children 5 and under free. Carry-out available.

Spaghetti dinner at Corpus Christi
South Bend — Corpus Christi Parish will have a spaghetti dinner Thursday, Oct. 23, from 4:30-7 p.m. Adults $8, children 5-12 $3 and children under 5 free. Tickets available at the rectory, school or at the door.

Fish dinner hosted by Knights
Plymouth — The Knights of Columbus Council 1975 will host a fish dinner on Friday, Oct. 17, at the Knights Hall at 901 E. Jefferson from 4-7 p.m. Tickets are $7 and available in advance by calling Tom Sibal at (574) 935-8442 or at the door. Drive-through service available at the Columbus Club south door.

St. John plans rummage sale
South Bend — St. John the Baptist Parish’s Altar and Rosary Society will have a rummage and bake sale Oct. 18-19, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and from 8 a.m. to noon on Sunday.

Rest in Peace

Bremen
Brantley Taylor, 78, St. Dominic

Decatur
Richard C. Mies, 78, St. Mary of the Assumption

Fort Wayne
James B. Conney Jr., 66, St. John the Baptist
Mel Quinn, 72, Precious Blood
David R. Skowronski, 58, St. Henry
Ramon Lopez Jr., 85, St. Joseph

LaGrange
Rumalda G. Gutierrez, 98, St. Joseph

Mishawaka
Maria Vloli, 85, St. Monica

New Haven
Gertrude C. Rorick, 86, St. Louis Besancon
Cheryl Stier, 53, St. John the Baptist

Notre Dame
Elizabeth A. Craig, 75, Sacred Heart Basilica

South Bend
Robert E. Brown, 73, Little Flower

Virginia S. Thornton, 89, Holy Cross
Paul T. Berndt, 87, Christ the King
Henrietta Wilder, 93, Christ the King
Felicia S. Dominkiewicz, 90, Little Flower

Webash
Alice Barnett, 87, St. Bernard

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What’s Happening? carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. Send in your announcement at least two weeks prior to the event. Mail to Today’s Catholic, PO. Box 11169, Fort Wayne 46856; or e-mail: fhogan@fw.dioceسفs.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.
Freedom means imitating Christ, especially serving poor, pope says

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christian freedom is not being able to do anything one wants, but being free to imitate Christ, especially in serving the poor, Pope Benedict XVI said.

“Let us allow ourselves to be guided by the Spirit, trying to live in the freedom that finds direction in faith in Christ and becomes concrete in service to our brothers and sisters,” the pope said Oct. 1 at his weekly general audience.

“Being increasingly like Christ is essential. That is how one becomes truly free,” the pope told an estimated 20,000 people gathered for his audience in St. Peter’s Square.

The pope’s audience talk focused on how St. Paul and the other apostles resolved differences they had, particularly regarding whether new Christians from pagan families were required to observe Jewish law.

“In the light of his encounter with the risen Christ,” St. Paul understood that righteousness for the new Christians came from following Christ, the pope said.

With great respect for the Twelve Apostles who had been with Jesus from the beginning of his public ministry, St. Paul nevertheless was frank about what he believed the Gospel required, the pope said.

“Only sincere dialogue, open prayer and charity for one’s brothers and sisters,” Pope Benedict said, “made the church look unconquerable to civil authorities.”

“Love for the poor and divine liturgy go together,” he said. “Love for God and for one’s brothers and sisters are part of every Mass celebrated in the church, which by its nature opposes the separation of worship and life, faith and works, prayer and charity for one’s brothers and sisters.”

Pope Benedict said.

Editor’s Note: The text of the pope’s audience remarks in English is posted online at: www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/audiences/2008/documents/hf_ben-xvi_aud_20081001_en.html.

U.S. CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS TALKS WITH WASHINGTON ARCHBISHOP FOLLOWING RED MASS

Red Mass continued from page 1

involvement in the clergy sexual abuse scandal, Cafardi first pointed out how families went to church authorities, not civil authorities, with their allegations because they trusted the church and believed the bishops would listen to them. It was not until the church was perceived to be failing, as it was with the case of Boston priest Father John J. Geoghan, that families began turning to the law instead.

The church was perceived as failing because the bishops had sought to protect the privacy of both the accused priests and the victims.

“Secrecy breeds suspicion,” Cafardi noted. He says that this approach caused one scandal to create a second scandal, one that implicated not just abusive priests, but leaders of the church.

“The church underestimated its people,” Cafardi explained, saying that the bishops feared openness on the topic of priestly sexual abuse would scandalize the faithful and draw them away. But, Cafardi said, the laity are smart enough to understand that priests are ordinary human beings and strong enough in their faith to endure such information. So instead of protecting the laity, the bishops’ secrecy created an environment in which the problem persisted and finally erupted in 2002.

Cafardi also noted that the lawyers who served various dioceses during this time advised bishops to take action that was overly adversarial toward victims and pastorally inappropriate, counseling them not to apologize or meet with families.

“Our client is different,” Cafardi said of lawyers who serve the church, noting that the “scorched earth” tactics of some lawyers made the church look unconcerned about the least among us.

As for the effect of the scandal, Cafardi observed, “Getting sued actually helped us,” in that it made the bishops realize they’re accountable to civil authorities.

Cafardi tied the experience of serving the church during the abuse scandal to St. Thomas More, the patron saint of lawyers, who served the church during some of its worst periods of corruption and yet still loved it.

“We need to look through the flaws of its leaders to the essence of the church itself,” he said.

REMEMBERING THOSE ABORTED AT MEMORIAL FOR LIFE

Craft Show
Nov. 1, 2008 8:00 am -3:00 pm
St. Charles Borromeo Parish
4916 Trier Road • Fort Wayne

Support the Dignity of Human Life.

Cathedral Books & Gifts
NEW HOURS
Saturday: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Tuesday: 8:30 am - 7:00 pm
Monday - Friday: 8:30 am - 5:00 pm
Baby Bibles • Crib Medals
Rosaries • Crucifixes
and much more!

915 South Clinton Street • Fort Wayne
(260) 422-4611

Escorted by a color guard from the Anthony Wayne Assembly of the Knights of Columbus, Jonathan Allgeier, with his father, Richard, carried an infant’s casket to commemorate victims of abortion in Fort Wayne. More than 300 people gathered on Sunday afternoon at the Catholic Cemetery for the memorial service. Music, prayers and statements by representatives of three faiths were followed by individuals placing roses on the infant casket.

“The ceremony closed with Tony Koehl playing “Taps.”