Pope closes synod, says Bible put into practice through service

BY JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI closed the Synod of Bishops on the Bible by preaching a lesson on love of God and neighbor, saying the word of God must be put into practice through service to others.

The concluding liturgy came after the pope accepted 55 final synod propositions, including a proposal that women be admitted to the official ministry of lector, or Scripture reader, at Mass.

Joined by more than 250 bishops at a Mass Oct. 26 in St. Peter’s Basilica, the pope said the synod had highlighted a fundamental truth: that the church’s missionary activity will fall flat unless it is nourished by scriptural reading and understanding.

Those who think they’ve understood Scripture but fail to implement its most important teachings — in particular, the double commandment to love God and neighbor — “show that they are still far from having grasped its profound meaning,” he said.

There is “a singular connection that exists between listening to God and unselfish service to one’s brothers and sisters,” he said.

The papal liturgy closed an intense three-week period of speech-giving, small-group discussion and elaboration of final recommendations by the 253 voting members of the synod and some 50 other observers and experts.

One of the synod’s strongest recommendations was to improve the scriptural aspect of homilies, and the pope seemed to offer a model at the closing Mass.

Examining St. Matthew’s account of Christ’s words on the “greatest commandment,” the pope began by looking at the historical context of Judaic law and the originality of what Christ was proposing.

Then he drew connections with the previous readings from the Book of Exodus and a letter of St. Paul to underscore a crucial point: “To be disciples of Christ is to put into practice his teachings, which are summarized in the first and greatest commandment of divine law, the commandment of love.”

The pope said the synod had helped the church focus on the importance of Scripture, and he urged participants to return home and launch a program of scriptural renewal in their dioceses and parishes.

He expressed his disappointment that bishops from mainland China were not allowed by their government to attend the synod. He paid tribute to the Chinese bishops’ “communion with the universal church.

SYNOD, PAGE 3

Two ordained to the priesthood

FORT WAYNE — It was a day of praise and thanksgiving at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Oct. 25 as Bishop John M. D’Arcy ordained two new priests — Kevin M. Bauman and Andrew (Drew) P. Curry.

Joining in the celebration was a congregation to take seriously the command of the Lord and to pray to the Lord of the harvest.

“Pray that the Lord of the Harvest will send forth laborers of the harvest,” Bishop D’Arcy encouraged.

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Wedding anniversaries

At a Sunday afternoon Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne, 61 couples and guests celebrated silver, golden and “60-plus” wedding anniversaries. Margie and Joe Hunnicutt, St. Mary Parish, Huntington, shared memories with Bishop John M. D’Arcy.

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The ordination experience

It is difficult to put into words the experience of our ordination at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception last Saturday. I always feel the obligation of prayer and preparation for such an event, and a strong sense of unworthiness. It is right that it should be so. While a bishop can replace the age-old instruction with a homily, I never want to leave out the instruction. It represents the tradition of what the church believes about the ministerial priesthood. At the same time, I always experience the obligation of trying to articulate, not just what is in my heart, for that could be too subjective, but what the church teaches as applied to the present situation. So, in next week’s edition of Today’s Catholic, you will find printed the brief homily I gave after the Gospel and before the instruction from the ritual itself.

Special gratitude to the pastors of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Fort Wayne and St. Vincent Parish, Elkhart. Here we see one of the advantages of our candidates having an extended diaconate in their parishes. The priestly ordination becomes a parish event. Hundreds of families came, bringing their young people with them, and the cathedral was standing room only.

Also, since our theologians now are at a seminar in nearby Columbus, Ohio, and since they were on break, there were about 40 seminarians in addition to the students studying for our own diocese. This was especially encouraging to our people.

So many high points

There were 75 priests in attendance. A solemn quiet in the cathedral, after the confraternity of holy orders through the ancient sacramental rite of the laying on of hands. This follows the prostration of the two young men face-down on the cathedral floor while the Litany of Saints is sung in a combination of Latin and English. Then, the laying on of hands by the priests, all in quiet, all with reverence.

A call to love

On two different occasions, both in the instruction and when the priest is presented the chalice and paten, symbolic of his new authority to say Mass, the bishop repeats these words:

“Understand what you are doing, imitate what you handle, and model your life on the Lord’s cross.”

This willingness and eagerness, out of love, to share in the cross of Christ is essential to the life of the priest. Indeed, every Christian is called to it, but the priest, since he is the instrument of others hearing the word of God and keeping it, must consciously embrace the cross. The result of this will not be sadness, but rather, gladness; because he is sharing in the cross of the one he loves.

Sunday, a kind of completion

On Sunday, I offered Mass in the cathedral with those who were renewing their marriage vows after 25, 50, even 60 or more, years of married life. It was not hard to keep in my own heart and mind the fullness of Catholic life and to see how closely linked are these two sacraments. Indeed, the vocation to the priesthood comes awake in homes where there is prayer and love and obedience to God’s will.

And the poor

At the end of Mass with the married couples, we presented gifts from the Annual Bishop’s Appeal to many of our agencies, who are intensifying their work with the poor, in light of the present economic crisis. Grants were given to the Women’s Care Center, Vincent House, Catholic Charities, St. Vincent de Paul, the Christ Child Society, St. Martin’s Clinic in Garrett, and St. Mary’s Soup Kitchen.

Speaking of the Christ Child Society

I drove over last week to the former Sacred Heart School in Fort Wayne. I found an extraordinary sight. Coming down the steps and out into the cold fall air, were hundreds of people — mostly women. Upstairs in a former classroom, there were members of the Christ Child Society sitting at computers and helping to tabulate. Checking people as they came in was my good friend, Bill Dotterweich. This was the fifth of several weeks when these women give new coats to children whose families cannot afford them. They are recommended by public schools and Catholic schools, and by various social agencies — but mostly from schools. The Christ Child Society, founded first in South Bend and in the last 10-15 years in Fort Wayne, has no overhead, no administrative expenses. In Fort Wayne, they work very closely with the Women’s Care Center, which does so much good work in saving the unborn child. They give baby clothing and nutrition and so much else. But here it was — coats for young children and teenagers. Some women had spent numerous weekends purchasing these coats, brand new, but at reduced prices. In his encyclical “Deus Caritas Est,” Pope Benedict XVI indicated that Catholic outreach to the poor had certain characteristics, which must always be present. One of these is that it should show a profound humanity. He even says that people, who work in these agencies linked to the Catholic Church, make a gift of themselves. They do not give just food or clothing or housing, they give their very selves. All this was profoundly evident as these women purchased these coats, and prepared them, and gave them out, with such kindness.

I met two students from Bishop Luers High School, fluent in Spanish, who were there to help in translating. I hope our parishes will prepare to intensify their efforts for the clothing of the poor in the days ahead. Things will get worse economically before they get better.

Two beautiful feasts

November 1, All Saints Day, since it is on Saturday this year it is not a day of obligation, but it is a day to remember the universal call to holiness. We are all called to be saints and also to be mindful of all the saints in heaven, those in the calendar, and those known but to God. Surely many will want to attend a Mass. I will offer the 12:05 p.m. Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

Then Sunday, All Souls Day, the great Catholic tradition of praying for the dead and believing we can help them to obtain heaven by having Masses offered and praying and making sacrifices for them. Two beautiful feasts as we prepare for the month given over to praying for those who have gone before us.

No baseball news

I think I am rooting for the Phillies. Although I admire Tampa Bay, no one should be allowed a world championship for a franchise only 11 years old.

Fenway Park is dark. To paraphrase the Book of Ecclesiastes: “A time to cheer and a time to be quiet.” But it is too cold for night baseball.

See you all next week.
Friends, families celebrate ordination with new priests

BY DEB WAGNER

FORT WAYNE — They came by car, school bus and coach bus — all to see the ordination of Fathers Kevin Bauman and Andrew (Drew) Curry to the priesthood. The parishes where they were raised, the parishes in which they served as deacons, their fellow seminarians and business associates as well as relatives found a day to praise God and rejoice.

Friends and relatives of Father Kevin Bauman prayerfully joined him in his transition, saying, “It’s been a long time coming. The newly-ordained Father Bauman himself was modestly and confidently told Today’s Catholic that he “has been waiting for this day my whole life.”

Hazel Scott, who is non-Catholic and Father Bauman’s half-sister agrees, “This is a momentous time in our family to have Kevin make his vows. He’s been called for a long time.”

 friend Curry’s “pastoral and theological emphasis... is reserved to males.” Women already act as Scripture readers, but cannot be ordained as priests in the Catholic church. The synod’s propositions thanked the Vatican on its support for this decision.

Some Vatican clerics supported the synod’s stance, saying the decision to ordain women was a “step toward” equality for all genders. However, Pope Francis has not signaled his support for the idea of women entering the priesthood, and the Vatican has not issued a statement on the matter.

“Everybody is here today to pray for me. Me and all my friends because we all love.”

Barb Lowry is from St. Michael Parish in Plymouth, where Father Bauman served as seminarian and deacon. “Kevin you can just see God working,” she says. “He just radiates God’s love.”

Orla Mileski came with her husband and her son, Joe, from Benton Harbor, Mich. Father Bauman became one of their family when he met with Joe, who is a first year theology student. “Kevin is going to be an amazing priest,” Mileski says.

Mark Coomes came from Detroit to show his support and was particularly impressed with how Father Bauman was reminded throughout the Mass to strive to imitate what he celebrates — Christ’s cross — and throughout his life as a priest.

Mary traveled by bus to Fort Wayne from South Bend, Holy Family, Father Curry’s home parish, where he celebrated his first Mass on Sunday, Oct. 26, was well represented by enthusiastic parishioners.

Joy Cheminiak, a Holy Family parishioner, took the bus. She was moved by Father Curry’s decision to become a priest. “I was surprised because he never said anything about it when he was growing up.”

Will Heckanan, who graduated from John Adams High School in South Bend in 2007, met Father Curry through Antioch. They stayed in touch even after Curry went to the seminary.

Chip Leinen, a member of St. Pius X Parish, Granger, and co-director of Antioch with his wife, Virginia, met Curry at Franciscan University and was not surprised about Drew’s vocation. “He was always a religious person ... a faithful person.”

Kevin Bauman and Andrew (Drew) Curry lay prostrate on the floor of the cathedral during the Litany of Supplication as the prayers of the saints are invoked for the priest-candidates to live their vocation to the priesthood.

and Reyna Van Overberge brought their three children to experience an ordination because they are good friends of the Curry. They arrived at the cathedral early so they could get good seats.

Philip Sordelet and his friend Patrick Krach, a teen from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, Fort Wayne, focused on the symbolism of the ordination, especially the laying on of the hands and the fraternal kiss of peace. They said it was important to see because the unity among the priests that it symbolized.

Sister Margie Lavonis, CS, contributed to this story.

Pope Benedict XVI says Mass to celebrate the end of the Synod of Bishops on the Bible in St Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican Oct. 26.

ON PHOTO VIA ROSSEL, REUTERS

kevin bauman and andrew (drew) curry lay prostrate on the floor of the cathedral during the litany of supplication as the prayers of the saints are invoked for the priest-candidates to live their vocation to the priesthood.

A basic point made by bishops from developing countries, Proposition 42 said many local communities lack Bibles translated into their own languages. It encouraged an effort to train translation specialists.

Proposition 53 dealt with dialogue with Muslims, but did not specifically mention Scriptures. Instead, it insisted on “the importance of respect for life, the rights of men and women, and the distinction between the social-political and the religious order in promoting justice and peace in the world.” In a line added as an amendment, it said another important theme was “reciprocity and the freedom of conscience and of religion.”

The synod propositions thanked laypeople, in particular catechists and leaders of small communities, for their help in promoting scriptural understanding, especially in places where priests are absent. But, sounding a note of liturgical caution, the synod also recommended the formulation of “ritual directories” to help ensure that where catechists lead Sunday services such celebrations “are not confused with the eucharistic liturgy.”

The synod, reflecting an ongoing theme of the assembly, said the connection between Scripture and evangelization needs to be better understood. It said the call to the Gospel must be “explicit, done not only in the church, but everywhere” and must be accompanied by the daily witness of the faithful.

Missionary activity will often lead to persecution, the synod said. It appealed to civil authorities to respect and protect religious freedom.

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Battle of the day is the attack on the family

BY TOM UEBBING

SOUTH BEND — Citizens for Community Values (CCV) of Indiana is dedicated to protect families from the harmful effects of the pornography-sex industry “by promoting the principles of the Judeo-Christian ethic.” The citizen organization has a long string of victories in closing down or preventing the opening of strip bars. This year the group successfully opposed the opening of a strip club in New Buffalo, Mich.

America is at the crossroads of decision, a turning point of either solidifying the acceptance of false and destructive values or returning to the Christian values this nation was founded on. That could sum up the message of concern voiced at the CCV annual awards and benefit dinner Oct. 21 in South Bend.

Joseph Szalay, a Hungarian immigrant, who along with his wife Emma was honored with CCV’s Citizen of the Year Award, expressed it this way, “I am very proud to be Hungarian.”

Joseph and Emma Szalay accept the CCV Citizen of the Year Award with CCV Executive Director Patrick Mangan on left and CCV President Joseph P. Sergio, Ph.D. (Photo by Tom Uebbing)

Mangan, noted that “Now CBS and NBC are leading a lawsuit because they want to have the F- word in prime time. That’s the battle we are up against.” He continued “pornography is now part of 50 percent of the divorces in America. We are confronted with the very ugly reality.”

William Wilberforce, the British antislavery crusader who persevered against overwhelming odds, was held up as an example.

He went on to say how “the first thing the communists did was to destroy the family. ... I personally don’t know a Nazi or communist in this country, but I am sorry to be experiencing the philosophy and morality of what’s going on, this manna.”

CCV’s Executive Director Patrick Mangan said, “It is chilling for me to hear them articulate their concern that they have for America because of what they have seen happen in their own country in the past. The attack on the family is the battle of the day.”

Fred Crowe, a member of CCV’s board of directors, was the recipient of CCV’s Business Leader of the Year Award. He shared how he and his wife Rosemary are involved in a ministry in Michigan City.

“There are many people whose lives have been destroyed by sexual addiction and of course all the people they have offended, the victims.” He said these crimes are “nurtured by pornography.” Crowe noted that today people have to stand with their children at the school bus stop because of what might happen if they do not. Indiana Attorney General Steve Carter who was named CCV Public Servant of the Year, continued “Early in my term we worked together on an adult business ordinance. In so doing we were able to uphold the necessary morals that are too often absent in our society.”

In his keynote address Patrick Mangan, noted that “Now CBS and NBC are leading a lawsuit because they want to have the F- word in prime time. That’s the battle we are up against.” He continued “pornography is now part of 50 percent of the divorces in America. We are confronted with the very ugly reality.”

Mangan said he is often asked if we are in post-Christian America. “The answer is no ... but we are on the edge.”

But also surging through everything that was said was a strong message of encouragement, hope, faith and victory. Mangan pointed out examples of biblical heroes who stretched themselves as he has had to do in embarking on a prison ministry to sex offenders. Mangan strongly emphasized the process of repentance, forgiveness and restoration for those caught in the slavery of sexual sin.

“There is no greater task than setting the captives free.”

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USF professor discusses informed conscience in upcoming election

BY LAUREN CAGGIANO

FORT WAYNE — University of St. Francis Professor Adam Deville addressed an audience the evening of Oct. 23 on the morality behind making an informed decision about politics.

His lecture, entitled “Catholic Faith and Politics: Making an Informed Decision in November,” was an unbiased look at how our Catholic faith comes into play at the voting box.

Deville, an undergraduate and graduate professor at the university, summarized his objective.

“Our focus tonight is on the church’s teaching ... the theological perspective on sociopolitical issues,” he said.

Throughout the lecture, Deville referenced to the U.S. Council of Catholic Bishops document, “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship,” as it serves as an exemplary guide on the relationship between faith and reason and the church and state.

Although the church provides moral guidance in the form of documents like this, Deville emphasized that it has no interest in becoming entwined with the state.

“The church herself has no intention of giving the church power over the state,” he said.

Rather, it strives for a synoptic relationship in which both institutions respect the freedom and roles of each other.

According to Faithful Citizenship, Catholic social teaching underlines seven key themes to consider when voting.

The first, the right to life and the dignity of the human person, is often a divisive political and moral issue. “The church has always defended human life,” he said. “Human life is sacred.” This theme relates to practices like abortion, euthanasia, as well as torture, unjust war and the death penalty, which are “violations of natural law,” he said.

The right to life is paramount, he said, but Catholics should not be single-issue voters, he proposed. Abortion, however, is the single most critical issue, as it’s an “assault on the innocent,” he said.

The call to family and community participation is another issue the document addresses. Family-based marriages, parents’ rights and favorable economic policies are encouraged. The church also encourages subsidiarity, he said, which is political action on a local level.

Basic rights and respect for all people are another concept. Catholics should protect all human life and its rights, such as food, clothing, religion, healthcare and housing. Freedom of religion and family life is important as well. He said. Moreover, the document stressed the preferential option for the poor and vulnerable. This means we should treat the poor and vulnerable with utmost concern. Immigration reform falls in this realm, he noted.

Deville spoke of the document’s fifth point — the dignity of work and workers’ rights.

“The economy must serve the people, he said. “Employees should contribute to the common good, and in turn employers should give workers respect. They need to work together to advance justice.”

Solidarity is another issue Catholics should study. Solidarity concerns human and family life. We are to love our neighbor and help them in struggles, he said. Furthermore, Catholics are called to promote peace and justice, just war tradition and enforce moral criteria (in the political realm).

Last, the bishops emphasize caring for God’s creation. With concern for future generations, we have a moral obligation to protect the planet, he said. Environmental issues would fall into this category.

Deville concluded with a simple reminder about affecting changes.

“These issues won’t disappear after the election,” he said. “The culture needs to be transformed.” Moreover, Deville reminds us that political issues are not to be taken lightly.

The event was hosted by the Indiana State Senate President Pro Tempore David C. Long, the Three Rivers Educational Trust Fund and the Allen County Right to Life Committee.

The evening’s keynote speaker was 6th District U.S. House of Representatives Republican Congressman Mike Pence. Life is winning on Capitol Hill, he said, when a bill preventing Planned Parenthood from receiving Title X funding is passed by Congress.

And life is winning in America, he said, because of the work of crisis pregnancy centers and the prayers, education and tenacity of groups like Allen County Right to Life.

Early in the evening, Allen County Right to Life Executive Director Cathie Humbarger was the stunned recipient of the Sagamore of the Wabash Award in a surprise presentation by guest speaker Indiana Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman. “This is the highest honor the governor can bestow on a citizen,” said Skillman, and called Humbarger especially deserving because she brings women and faith-based ministries together.

Skillman reminded her listeners of some Indiana laws for life that have changed, citing Senate Bill 76, which requires health care providers to offer fetal ultrasound tests to pregnant women, and Senate Bill 568, which requires birthing centers and abortion clinics to be licensed, and the new “Choose Life” license plates made available this year in Indiana.

And special guest Marjorie Dannenfelser outlined efforts by The Susan B. Anthony List to promote, mobilize and represent pro-life women in the political process.

Another highlight of the evening was the announcement of the recipient of the Telemachus Award, which recognizes a person who advocates for life like the fourth-century monk who was killed opposing the senseless slaughter of gladiators in the Roman forum.

This year the honor was posthumously bestowed on the Rev. Dr. Kurt E. Marquardt, a former member of the Concordia Theological Seminary faculty as well as an Allen County Right to Life board member.

The 40 Days for Life campaign chairman Rob Gregory spoke briefly about that effort. New to the Fort Wayne area this year, 40 Days for Life is a national campaign featuring prayer, fasting, peaceful vigil and community outreach on behalf of life.

Keynote speaker Pence concluded his optimistic remarks by saying, “What’s happening in America is happening at kitchen tables — during discussions between mothers and daughters, grandparents and granddaughters.” In quiet counsel, life is winning the battle. “It’s not a choice. It’s a baby,” young women are told.

Banquet for life draws enthusiastic crowd

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

FORT WAYNE — The 11th annual Banquet for Life drew a large and enthusiastic crowd recently at the Grand Wayne Center in downtown Fort Wayne. The event was hosted by Indiana State Senate President Pro Tempore David C. Long, the Three Rivers Educational Trust Fund and the Allen County Right to Life Committee.

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Bishop says church must be generous, prudent in uncertain economy

WORCESTER, Mass. (CNS) In these uncertain economic times the “church has to set an example of what it means to be generous but also be very deliberate about how we spend the temporal goods the people have given us,” said Bishop Robert J. McManus of Worcester. He said he sent a letter to pastors recently urging them to be vigilant with the finances of the parishes. “In times like this the wisest thing is not expansion,” he said in a late October interview with The Catholic Free Press, Worcester diocesan newspaper.

“We have to be very prudent” not to embark on any parish improvement projects that involve significant funds, he added. The economic crisis also has a dimension that can lead people to seek spiritual comfort from the church. “Sometimes challenging times help people to put things into perspective. And if we are honest in our evaluation of what’s gone on for the last number of years, in some ways some people have been living over their heads,” the bishop said. In an Oct. 24 pastoral letter the people of the diocese, Bishop McManus said, “For many, the opportunity exists to rediscover a life of trust in God, of simpler choices, or the blessing of family life.

Pope to visit Africa in March to help prepare for October synod

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI announced that he plans to make his first trip to Africa next March, visiting Cameroon and Angola. The pope will make the trip to help prepare for the Synod of Bishops on Africa, scheduled for October 2009, and to mark the 500th anniversary of the evangelization of Africa. He announced the trip Oct. 26 at a closing Mass for the Synod of Bishops on the Bible. When he repeated the announcement shortly afterward to pilgrims gathered in St. Peter’s Square, a wave of applause swept through the crowd. However, the pope has not hosted a pope since 1998, when Pope John Paul II visited Nigeria. Pope Benedict said his intention was to meet with representatives from African bishops’ conferences in Cameroon and hand-deliver the African synod’s “instrumentum laboris,” or working document, The Synod of Bishops on Africa has been the second for Africa and is scheduled to take place in Rome. The theme is “The Church in Africa at the Service of Reconciliation, Justice and Peace.”

Torture violates basic human rights, Bishop Wenski tells forum

ORLANDO, Fla. (CNS) — Torture is a violation of fundamental human rights and has proven to be ineffective in obtaining worthwhile intelligence from foreign detainees, the chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on International Justice and Peace said. “Intelligence experts themselves say that the individual being tortured will say whatever those torturing him want to hear, and in no way advances the goal of having reliable and timely intelligence,” Bishop Thomas G. Wenski of Orlando, Fla., said during an Oct. 16 program sponsored by the Center for Victims of Torture at the main branch of the Orlando Public Library. The bishop joined other interfaith leaders and retired military officials at the forum in calling for a presidential ban on torture and cruelty. Bishop Wenski’s comments about torture were his most recent on the topic. In February in his column in the Florida Catholic diocesan newspaper, he wrote that the U.S. “should hold itself to the highest ethical standards and fully comply with earlier commitments to observe international law in its treatment of detainees.”

Do plethora of voter guides confuse or clarify issues for Catholics?

WASHINGTON (CNS) — If a group of Catholics were to sit down to read four or five of the “Catholic voter guides” in circulation before Election Day, it wouldn’t be surprising if they ended the session more confused than when they began. Various Catholic organizations, religious communities, bishops individually and collectively, and even some individual Catholics have put into writing their best advice on how Catholic social teaching should guide decisions in the voting booth. “Catholics must strive to put in place candidates, laws and political programs that are in full accord with nonnegotiable moral values,” says the California-based Catholic Answers Action, the cultural and political action arm of Catholic Answers, its “Voter’s Guide for Serious Catholics.”

CHCD ends funding to ACORN over financial irregularities

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Catholic Campaign for Human Development suspended funding a nationwide community organizing group after it was disclosed June that nearly $1 million had been embezzled. Funding was suspended for the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, popularly known as ACORN, because of the financial irregularities, said Ralph McCloud, executive director of CCHD, the U.S. bishops’ domestic anti-poverty and social justice program. “We’re not funding them at any level,” McCloud told Catholic News Service Oct. 1. The suspension covers all 40 ACORN affiliates nationwide that had been approved for $1.13 million in grants for the funding cycle that started July 1, 2008. McCloud said the suspension came soon after his office learned that ACORN disclosed that Dale Rathke, the brother of ACORN founder Wade Rathke, had embezzled nearly $1 million from the organization and its affiliates in 1999 and 2000. Dale Rathke stepped down from his position with the organization in June when the matter became public; no charges were filed against him. Wade Rathke stepped down as the group’s lead organizer at the same time but remains chief organizer for ACORN International LLC. CCHD has hired specialists in forensic accounting to investigate whether any of its past funding has been misappropriated, McCloud added.

White House report aims to keep inner-city Catholic schools open

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In the waning days of the Bush administration, the White House is sounding the alarm about about 1,200 faith-based schools in the U.S. and has issued a report it believes will help stop the closures. The report — “Preserving a Critical National Asset: America’s Disadvantaged Students and the Crisis in Faith-Based ‘Urban Schools’” — shows about half of the faith-based schools that have closed since 2002 have been Catholic institutions and most are located in poor urban neighborhoods. “The president is very concerned and upset that these institutions are closing,” said Karl Zinsmeister, assistant to President George W. Bush on domestic policy adviser. “Statistics show that students from poor urban neighborhoods who attend faith-based schools perform better academically than those who attend the public schools. We can’t afford to lose any more of these schools.”

Unclear if pope will support women officially in lector ministry

VATICAN CITY (CNS) Probably the most noisy — and somewhat unexpected — item in the final propositions of the Synod of Bishops on the Bible was a proposal to allow women to be installed officially in the ministry of lector, or Scripture readers, in Catholic churches. The proposal is unclear, according to Pope Benedict XVI will do with that proposal. The pope has not published the final propositions of the Synod of Bishops in its final sentence. What Pope Benedict XVI will do with that proposal is unclear, according to Vatican officials contacted shortly after the synod vote. The issue is not whether women can act as lectors, as they do in non-Catholic churches, in Catholic liturgies. They already do so at Masses all over the world, including papal Masses. The question is whether women can be installed officially in such a min- istry. The U.S. bishops’ committee on International Justice and Peace has said no. Canon law states that only qualified laymen can be “installed on a stable basis in the ministries of lector and acolyte.” At the same time, canon law does allow for “temporary deputation” as lector to both men and women, which is why women on study team appear as lectors.
AROUND THE DIOCESE

The Christ Child Society awarded grant

SOUTH BEND — The American Association of the Order of the Christ Child recently awarded the Christ Child Society of South Bend a $15,000 grant to refurbish their clothing distribution center. The South Bend Chapter is a not-for-profit association of volunteers dedicated to the personal service and clothing of all needy children and infants in the love and spirit of the Christ Child.

The new facility will meet many of the center’s growing needs but its configuration as a former Catholic school requires renovation to ensure clients are comfortable and to maintain workflow efficiency by volunteers.

The Order of Malta is a 900-year-old worldwide, lay, religious order of the Roman Catholic Church, which seeks to glorify God by promoting the sanctification of all members through his or her work with the sick and the poor and witness of the Catholic faith.

St. Vincent de Paul Society holds blanket drive

SOUTH BEND — The St. Vincent de Paul Society is planning its 17th annual blanket drive in Michiana that will run Oct. 27 through Nov. 9. New and gently used blankets and bedding will be collected and given to needy families.

Matthew J. Vigneault, executive director of the society, said many poor families keep their heat turned down low and are forced to wear winter coats inside to stay warm.

“Some of them can’t even afford heat at all, or have to use the heat from their stoves, which is dangerous,” he said. “They are underemployed, working for minimum wage or just above it. They must choose food over warmth, or medication over warmth or fixing the car over warmth.”

Most of the donated blankets will be distributed through the society’s Christmas program, which serves approximately 1,200 families. Many of these families have small children.

Blanket drives can be organized at a school, church, office or any other organization. To have blankets picked up from your drive, call (574) 234-6000 and ask for help.

Drop individual blanket donations at any St. Vincent de Paul drop box or at the Thrift Store located at 3408 Armoire Trail in South Bend.

Ancilla students receive gift cards to BP Amoco

DONALDSON — Ten Ancilla College students were the lucky recipients of BP Amoco gift cards worth $100 each in a recent drawing at the Donaldson-based campus.

Mike Brown, executive director of finance and administration, described the drawing as a way to thank students for choosing to attend Ancilla.

“Every student has to drive to get here,” said Brown. “Every time gasoline prices have fallen significantly over the last month, we wanted to do something to help out some of our students.”

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The drawing, recommended by the retention committee, was approved by Ancilla College President Dr. Ron May, and $1,000 was set aside from the operating budget to fund the drawing.

Ancilla student Jena Tadros, who was one of the 10 winners selected, was ecstatic upon learning she would receive the gift card.

“It means a lot because I’m a broke college student,” said Tadros. “Finding out that I won $100 of gas was great, and I never win anything, so I was really excited.”

Students deliver cans, packages to Catholic Charities

NOTRE DAME — In a student versus faculty and staff contest at Holy Cross College, students showed that they could give the most food to the Catholic Charities Annual Food Drive. And it wasn’t even close. This year faculty and staff brought in 466 food items, while students gave 2,616. Student groups and dormitory floors also competed against each other with the winning group representing Anselm Hall, which collected a total of 1,000 cans.

“In this time of rising unemployment, we were just happy we could help Michiana families in need,” said Nichole Molnar the student leader of the Social Concerns Committee.

Bishop Luers offers eighth-grade scholarship placement exam

FORT WAYNE — All eighth-grade students interested in attending Bishop Luers High School are invited to take the scholarship placement exam on Nov. 8 at Bishop Luers High School. Cost of the test is $10. Scholarships will be awarded by the Henry-Keeter Scholarship Fund.

Bishop Luers High School hosts open house

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Luers High School is hosting an open house on Nov. 16, from 2-4 p.m. All interested families are welcome to attend this event. Opportunities will be available to gather information about clubs, sports, financial aid and more. Tours will be conducted and all teachers and staff will be available. For more information, call the Bishop Luers Admissions Office (260) 456-1261.

St. Vincent to offer series Catholicism Revealed

FORT WAYNE — St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne, will once again offer its Monday night series, Catholicism Revealed, beginning Nov. 10, from 7:30 p.m. An optional rosary begins each night at 6:30 p.m.

On Nov. 10, University of Notre Dame Professor David Fagerberg will be the speaker on the topic, “Marriage: Sacramental Theology.”

This session will consider a liturgical theology of marriage by looking at the official church documents on marriage and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Seeing marriage as Christian mystery (sacrament) and covenant discloses that two people are supported by divine grace in a relationship that frees them and enables them to find their human happiness.

Fagerberg has published articles on liturgy, sacraments and liturgical theology in various journals, both academic and pastoral. His books include “Theologia Prima” and “The Size of Chesterton’s Catholicism.”

Other upcoming sessions include speaker Marilyn Fech on “Satan: Do You Recognize Him?” on Nov. 17, and Father Gary Sigler and Rabbi Mitch Kornspan, speakers on “A Priest, A Rabbi and You,” on Nov. 24.

Rally concludes 40 Days for Life

SOUTH BEND — The 40 Days for Life to End Abortion in the Michiana area will conclude with a victory rally on Nov. 2 at Little Flower Parish in South Bend from 7-8:30 p.m. Participants are asked to bring along a snack or dessert to share. Well-known pro-life author Francis Beckwith will be speaking and people will be sharing stories of the many blessings received during these past 40 days.

Corpus Christi students pray pro-life rosary

SOUTH BEND — If you’re looking for witness to hope, look no further than the Catholic youth. Considered by many to be the most pro-life generation, thanks in large part to the teachings of Pope John Paul II, young people across the diocese are refusing to give up on protection for the unborn.

The eighth graders at Corpus Christi School in South Bend recently learned more about abortion and the chilling effects it has on both mother and child. Following a presentation by Kathy Black, who showed the students models of babies at various degrees of development, they were left to ponder how their lives are allowed to be taken by legalized abortion, the eighth graders were left wanting to “do something.”

That “something” happened Friday, Oct. 24, when a group of students dedicated themselves to prayer and fasting, taking part in the 40 Days for Life campaign.

The group gathered early Saturday morning for breakfast and prayer before school, the eighth graders agreed to fast the rest of the school day, and when school was dismissed at noon. Joined by their religion teacher, Marilyn Ahearn and wearing special t-shirts supporting their pro-life views, the students prepared donations for the Women’s Care Center before heading out to pray outside the abortion clinic next door.

The day was not without its challenges. Besides the cold temperatures, wind and pouring rain, some people questioned the students presence outside the clinic. None of that deterred the group, who took turns leading a rosary with another group of adults who were already at the site. The students took turns leading special meditations. They not only prayed for the unborn babies at risk that day, but for their mothers and also for the conversion of those who promote and support abortion.

Following the rosary, the students dropped off supplies at the Women’s Care Center, then headed back to school where they dried off and settled in to watch the pro-life movie, “Bella.” They were riveted to the story of how faith and works of mercy helped one woman choose life for her baby.

— Diane Freeby

Sacred Heart Parish, Warsaw, hosted a rosary rally in conjunction with other rallies across the country Oct. 11 to pray for the nation. The rally was in commemoration of the 91st anniversary of the appearance of Our Lady at Fatima and is held annually on the Saturday in October closest to the Oct. 13 date. In the photo from left, are Edythe Sands, Christopher Rawlings, Bill Landrigan, Ida List, Diana Whitehead, Dorothy Clemmer, Carol Kloser, Cindy Demster, Dennis Alberts, Jerry Kloser, Jeff Neumann, Bob List, Carole Jaroch and Jane Serovy. Missing from the picture is Shirley Waldschmidt.
St. Louis Academy boasts junior broadcaster

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

NEW HAVEN — St. Louis Academy fifth-grader Jake VanHorn was recently honored by DeDe Hausmann, program coordinator and sponsor for the American Dairy Association of Indiana-Dairy and Nutrition Council at an all-school assembly for his top-10 finish in a 2008 Colts Junior Broadcaster contest.

Shortly after school started this year, Jacob learned of the contest that is open to students ages 10-14. His mother, Jennie, admitted, “Jake went online and submitted his essay at the very last second.” But of the 159 applicants, Jake’s was one of the 30 lucky enough to be chosen for the trip to Indianapolis.

Over the weekend of Sept. 27, Jake and his family visited the state’s capital and were treated to a memorable event. In the process, Jake was selected as one of the 10 finalists and received two tickets to the Dec. 14 game against the Detroit Lions as a grand prize.

A cooler, t-shirt, Superbowl chip-n-dip set, DVD and iTunes card were among several of the other “freebies” Jake was awarded.

“It was really cool to see what the players keep in their lockers,” said the impressed 11 year old. Part of the day included the opportunity to watch a real-life play from the Colts’ 2007 season on a big screen then “broadcast” it. One of Jake’s plays was a 59-yard touchdown pass, which he chose to “ad-lib” rather than read from the script provided. “It was really fun, but I was nervous in front of so many people,” explained Jake.

At the assembly, Hausmann gifted St. Louis Academy with jump ropes, a dodge ball, exercise bands and cones to be used for recess and gym class all while encouraging the students to exercise one hour each day and eat nutritious foods — including “Refueling with Chocolate Milk.” Jake, a left tackle for the St. John, New Haven Raiders, is the son of Brent and Jennie VanHorn and has a younger sister, Jessica.

The family belongs to St. Louis Academy student Jake VanHorn and Principal Cheryl Layton at a school presentation that awarded Jake a top-10 finish in a 2008 Colts Junior Broadcaster contest.

Warsaw Knights receive international recognition

WARSAW — Knights of Columbus Council 4511 of Warsaw is a winner of the Columbian and Father McGivney awards for the 2007-2008 fraternal year. The Father McGivney award, named for the founder of the organization, is given in recognition of outstanding membership recruitment and retention efforts. The Columbian award is presented for excellence in the sponsorship of programs that serve the church, community, families and youth — as well as council members.

The announcement was made by the Knights of Columbus international headquarters located in New Haven, Conn. Bill Landrigan, state district deputy, presented the engraved plaque to the council at a special ceremony held on Oct. 9.

“Receiving this award is quite an honor,” said Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson, president of the international organization, in recognizing the local winner, said, “Please accept my sincere congratulations on attaining this prestigious award. The dedication to the order shown by your council is seen in the high standard of excellence you have achieved. At the same time, I encourage you to carry forward this enthusiasm to meeting the challenges that will face the Knights of Columbus in the years ahead. May this award be a reminder and an inspiration to the members of your council to continue to promote the ideals of Columbianism for the good of the church, your community and the order.”

In accepting the award, Grand Knight Brad Durcholz, head of the local council, said “Receiving this award is quite an honor. We’re very pleased with these accomplishments and wish to congratulate all the members for an outstanding year.”

The Knights of Columbus is the world’s largest Catholic lay organization. It provides members and their families with volunteer opportunities in service to the Catholic Church, their communities, families and young people. With more than 1.7 million members in more than 13,000 councils around the world, the Knights of Columbus annually donate over $144 million and 68 million hours of service to charitable causes. Please visit www.kofc.org for more information.

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Ecumenical 40 Days rally marks midpoint

BY TOM UEBBING

SOUTH BEND — “These 40 days and 40 nights, will you walk the path of sacrifice or will you turn away?” That was the question in song that opened the midway rally in South Bend for the 40 Days for Life campaign to end abortion.

Participants gathered Oct. 12 at Grace African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in South Bend to be encouraged and strengthened in their efforts. Pastor Lorunce Applewhite began the gathering with prayer.

Main speaker Bryan Kemper began his presentation by describing his life as a teen drug addict from a broken family. He sported a Mohawk haircut and wore a safety sticker on his pants to “wake up the church” on this tragedy. “It’s up to us, it’s up to the church, you guys have an opportunity to set this town on fire and protect his own child.”

He described how “the issue is not about a procedure, it’s about personhood.” He then stated that only certain people are called to be pro-life advocates. “Love your neighbor as yourself” precludes that. He said when the Good Samaritan came upon the bloodyed victim in the ditch, he did not stop to pray “Lord, do you want me to start a ditch ministry?”

Kemper challenged the participants to “wake up the church” on this tragedy. “It’s up to us, it’s up to the church. You guys have an opportunity to see this town on fire for Christ and close down that abortion clinic.”

He said that if you go to pray at the clinic and there are abortions, “You have just given that child dignity” because you were there praying.

On one occasion a woman came up to him at the abortion clinic with her baby and said because he was there praying unbeknownst to him — she turned around and did not show up for her appointment at the abortion clinic.

Kris Opper described her journey. As he was going through withdrawal, she left the clinic and there were abortions, “You have just given that child dignity” because you were there praying.

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Kris Opper shared, how as an 18-year-old student bound for college, she got pregnant. She received the saving love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ. She later asked the Lord many times for forgiveness, but it was not until she went to a Bible study and fully received the saving love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ. She later asked the Lord many times for forgiveness, but it was not until she went to a Bible study and fully received the saving love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ.

Kemper pointed to apathy in the churches as one in four women have had an abortion. They do not talk about it and suffer much internally.

Mitch Ellisen described how he paid for his girlfriend to have an abortion. He felt deep guilt and shame as he realized he should have been that knight in shining armor coming to rescue her but instead failed in his duty to love and protect his own child.

Following a serious soccer injury to his brain he fell into a suicidal depression, but then was saved in 1987. He struggled very much trying to give his sin to Jesus Christ.

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The 40 Days for Life campaign continues through Nov. 2. For more information visit www.40daysfor-life.com.
BLUFFTON — My father had been looking for my mother ever since she passed away. His search increased in intensity during the week prior to his death. He hunted feverishly up and down the halls of the nursing home looking for his wife, my mother, Betty.

He missed her desperately as her death had never registered with him. “Where is she?” he would ask. “Have you seen Betty? When is she coming home?”

During the afternoon of July 3 my father began to say that he did not feel well inside — that his head hurt. His fingers had turned a tinge of blue and so the nursing staff put him to bed in hopes of increasing his oxygen levels.

He spent that afternoon with a visit from his brother Jim. He and his brother had wonderful conversations, the most the two of them had conversed in years. Since they both suffer from dementia their conversations were usually very short and not very involved.

His brother was so loving and caring as he held his hand and kept reminding my father who he was. He also kept telling dad “you’re a good man.” Of course this conversation was repeated several times, but each time it was exchanged it was done so with such a deep expression of love for his brother. I’m sure his brother’s voice and touch brought dad great comfort.

All of dad’s children had been there to visit with him. We had all expressed our love for him as we held his hand and comforted him when he was anxious and coughed. None of us knew what to expect. We knew that God would take him when he was ready. But were we ready for that moment? Was I ready to let him go? To return home?

I spent the night by my father’s side. I didn’t want him to ever be alone. I prayed several rosaries with the same rosary that had brought me such comfort when my mother had passed just 37 days earlier. My father-in-law made this special rosary. Since his passing, I have found great comfort praying the rosary and began a special alliance with our guardian angels. I found that when I prayed to the angels for guidance I usually felt a sense of peace.

I asked the angels to please surround my father with warmth and love; to light his way to heaven, let it be swift and painless and that he not be alone and frightened.

Very early the next morning, the Fourth of July, my father spoke his last words. After sleeping peacefully but with frequent shallow breathing he awoke with a startle. His eyes opened wide and focused on something directly in his line of vision. He began to speak, “Oh, she’s so beautiful. She’s so sweet. The pretty little girl, she’s so sweet.”

I asked him who she was. His response was only a repeat of the same words, “She’s so beautiful. She’s so sweet. The pretty little girl, she’s so sweet.”

I told him we should call her “Angel.” I told him that she was there to show him the way home. He repeated these words as his head moved slowly from left to right as if he was watching something moving around. I waved my hand in front of him and placed my face directly in line with his focus, but he continued with his words and the movement of his head.

Finally he stopped. He never spoke another coherent word.

In my heart I know that God had answered my prayers. That he had sent an angel to help escort my father to heaven, a trip that would also include finding Betty.

My father passed around 8 p.m. that evening. He left us peacefully without a struggle.

With his children by his side, we all knew that he had found Betty and his way home in the arms of an angel.

In the arms of an angel:

Remembering the last moments with my father

BY KATHY HOOT

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In the arms of an angel:

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BY KATHY HOOT
Trauma results in reconciliation

BY KAREN CLIFFORD

GRANGER — In the fall and winter of 1971, Darlene Bates encountered experiences that would change her life. A horrific car accident killed her first husband and leaving her in a coma, a vision of a bright light with outstretched hands and reconciliation with her estranged parents would allow Darlene’s earthly journey forever.

In the ensuing years Darlene would marry Emory Gerschoffer, join the Catholic Church and become a member of St. Pius X Church in Granger. But the date of Sept. 6, 1971 is still etched in Darlene’s memory as if it happened yesterday.

On that fateful day newlyweds Darlene and Paul Bates were on their way to visit Paul’s parents in Edwardsburg, Mich. They had only been married a month and six days when an oncoming car driven by a drunk driver came into their lane and crashed head on into the Bates’ car. Paul was thrown into the backseat, and he and the drunk driver were killed instantly. The Bates’ car engine was pushed into Darlene’s lap and the hood of the car came through the windshield. Darlene sustained a fractured skull, broken pelvis, dislocated hip, broken jaw, facial lacerations and multiple cuts and bruises over her entire body.

Darlene recalls that just prior to the accident she was eating chicken in the car.

“The impact of the windshield coming into the car caused the bone to be pushed down my throat, cutting the roof of my mouth wide open,” she says.

Darlene’s aunt learned about the accident from television reports and informed the parents. After discovering Darlene was taken to Elkhart General Hospital, they called the hospital and were told Darlene was not expected to live. When her parents first arrived at the hospital, Darlene had just come out of surgery and they could not identify her because of her severe injuries. When she was finally identified, they received more devastating news; Darlene was in a coma.

Darlene says, “The doctors told my parents that I would most likely be in a vegetative state and never be able to walk, have children or have a normal life.”

Prior to the accident, Darlene’s relationship with her parents was estranged due to her marriage to Paul. Paul and Darlene met while they were in high school and during their second year of courtship, Paul asked Darlene to marry him. While Darlene was ecstatic about the proposal, her parents were not. Darlene was the youngest of 20 children as both of her parents were widowers and had children from prior marriages and five children from their union.

Her father was ill, and Darlene often found herself having to stay home and help her mother take care of him. Because of her decision to marry Paul, her parents refused to allow Darlene live at home and she resided with Paul’s parents until they were married. Despite repeated attempts by Darlene for reconciliation, her parents refused to attend her wedding and remained alienated from her.

Following her accident, Darlene was in a coma for three months. Just prior to coming out of the coma Darlene remembers seeing a bright and beautiful light.

“The light I saw was gorgeous. Someone in front of me was holding out their hands wanting me to go with them. The light is positive it was God,” she recalls.

At that same moment, Darlene remembers hearing her mother’s voice.

“I heard my mom crying and saying ‘Please Darlene don’t leave me. I want to go with you, but I also wanted to be reconciled with my mom.’ It was at that point the hands she saw rescinded and disappeared, and she awoke.

Through the next two years, with the help of Darlene’s parents, she began the physical and emotional healing process. Darlene did not have the luxury of outpatient rehabilitation and it was through her parents’ devotion that she was able to relearn basic skills such as walking and talking.

By 1974, Darlene and her second husband Emory Gerschoffer were married and raising young citizens and Barbara Jones recently spoke with them.

FORT WAYNE — Fifth through eighth graders at St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School to Erin’s House for Grieving Children, a check for $415.22 on Oct. 10. Not only did the students surpass their goal, the parishioners at St. Joseph Catholic Church also held a collection for Erin’s House and raised over $600.

“Erin’s House is really all about children helping other children through their grief, this is a beautiful example of children helping children by means of their stewardship. These children raised enough money to provide the cake for the birthday celebrations we have at Erin’s House for two months. It was great to see these children feel good about how they are making a difference,” Burns said.

This increased focus on stewardship not only helps these charitable organizations, who, in these challenging economic times truly welcome this assistance, but it also increases the awareness of the different needs and services throughout our community. During the months of October and November, Vincent Village will be the recipient of the stewardship of these outstanding young citizens and Barbara Jones recently spoke with them.

Erin’s House benefits from local school children’s focus on stewardship

BY KAREN CLIFFORD

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Following her accident, Darlene was in a coma for three months. Just prior to coming out of the coma Darlene remembers seeing a bright and beautiful light.

“The light I saw was gorgeous. Someone in front of me was holding out their hands wanting me to go with them. The light is positive it was God,” she recalls.

At that same moment, Darlene remembers hearing her mother’s voice.

“I heard my mom crying and saying ‘Please, Darlene don’t leave me. I want to go with you, but I also wanted to be reconciled with my mom.’” It was at that point the hands she saw rescinded and disappeared, and she awoke.

Through the next two years, with the help of Darlene’s parents, she began the physical and emotional healing process. Darlene did not have the luxury of outpatient rehabilitation and it was through her parents’ devotion that she was able to relearn basic skills such as walking and talking.

By 1974, Darlene and her second husband Emory Gerschoffer were married and raising young citizens and Barbara Jones recently spoke with them.

FORT WAYNE — Fifth through eighth graders at St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School to Erin’s House for Grieving Children, a check for $415.22 on Oct. 10. Not only did the students surpass their goal, the parishioners at St. Joseph Catholic Church also held a collection for Erin’s House and raised over $600.

“Erin’s House is really all about children helping other children through their grief, this is a beautiful example of children helping children by means of their stewardship. These children raised enough money to provide the cake for the birthday celebrations we have at Erin’s House for two months. It was great to see these children feel good about how they are making a difference,” Burns said.

This increased focus on stewardship not only helps these charitable organizations, who, in these challenging economic times truly welcome this assistance, but it also increases the awareness of the different needs and services throughout our community. During the months of October and November, Vincent Village will be the recipient of the stewardship of these outstanding young citizens and Barbara Jones recently spoke with them.

Erin’s House provides support for the first organization for this increased focus on stewardship. Erin’s House provides support services for children, teens and their families who anticipate or have suffered the death of a loved one.

Father Tim Wrozek, pastor of St. Joseph Church, Fort Wayne, as shown at the presentation of the check by the fifth through eighth graders at St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School to Erin’s House for Grieving Children. On behalf of all of the students, Annie Children of the student council presented Katie Burns, development director at Erin’s House for Grieving Children, a check for $415.22 on Oct. 10. Not only did the students surpass their goal, the parishioners at St. Joseph Catholic Church also held a collection for Erin’s House and raised over $600.

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Couples offers hope to others after stillbirth

BY KAY COZAD

LIGONIER — Krystal and Corey Veach were joyfully anticipating the birth of their first child together this past summer. But at 37 weeks, after a normal pregnancy something inexplicable occurred.

The constant movement of the fetus, vigorous enough to wake Krystal during the night, ceased. Under the care of a New Eden Care Center midwife, she underwent testing at Goshen Hospital that confirmed that their precious baby had died. Corey, a materials handler and volunteer firefighter, rushed to her bedside and as family and friends arrived to support the young couple, the shock set in.

“At 37 weeks, we lost him. There was no warming,” says Krystal sadly. “It’s surreal.”

Following testing, labor was induced and the Veaches’ son, Wyatt, was stillborn in the early morning of June 22.

“Wyatt, was stillborn in the early morning of June 22. Corey, his father and grandfather had dug the grave for the precious baby. Deacon Jake Runyon presided over the ceremony and offered heartfelt consolation to the family.

A cradle Catholic, Krystal easily admits that she struggles with her faith in the midst of her grief. Counseling with Deacon Runyon has helped she says, but she still wonders “why?” She continues to attend Mass and finds that reading books on grief and loss consoles her.

Corey has drawn closer to God more than ever before, reading the Bible he had yet to open. The book of Job brings him comfort. “If He can do it, I can too,” he says.

Now as the couple returns to work, and tries to make sense of this tragedy, Krystal explains, “Each day is a little different. It’s like a roller coaster, you never know how you’re going to feel.”

For her part, Krystal crafted 100 packets that went to friends, family, church and community members. She also created bulletin announcements for her home parish of Blessed Sacrament in Albion. For her part, Krystal crafted pillar candles with Wyatt’s initial embossed on them for herself and family members, who lit the candles on that designated day. “Knowing all the people were lighting candles for the lost babies was very gratifying,” says Krystal. “I accomplished what I wanted to — to heighten awareness — because even if they didn’t light a candle, at least maybe they read my information.”

As for the future, Krystal says she doesn’t know what is in store for them, but hopes to continue to be an advocate of support to others in loss. Without them we couldn’t have made it. Our family and friends have been wonderful,” says Krystal.

The young couple was humbled by the outpouring of support with hundreds of cards, meals and visits during their time of grief.

After choosing a plot, the family met at the country cemetery in Milford where Wyatt would be buried on the hill three short days after his birth and a private graveside service was held.

Corey’s father and grandfather dug the grave for the precious baby. Deacon Jake Runyon presided over the ceremony and offered heartfelt consolation to the family.

As she moves forward in her grief other outreach efforts have included writing notes of sympathy and encouragement to parents who are newly bereaved.

Of reaching out to others the couple says hopefully, “it makes us feel better. If we can just help one person, then maybe that’s why God chose us.”

For more information on the candle lighting ceremony visit october15.com.
Human body disposal process raises alarms

B Y P E T R E J.

NEW ORLEANS (CNS) — It doesn’t make for polite dinner-table conversation, but the national Catholic Cemetery Conference is raising alarms about a potential option for disposing of human bodies in which a lye solution dissolves tissues into a syrupy, non-poisonous substance that can be safely flushed down a drain.

Although no funeral home in Minnesota and New Hampshire allows alkaline hydrolysis for human remains, a bereaved person might consider the option if other choices are not available.

Deacon Tom Tylutki, outreach coordinator of cemetery services for the Archdiocese of Chicago, said he issued the warning about Chicago-based Cremation Services of Illinois, which remains at the recently concluded meeting of the Catholic Cemetery Conference in Orlando, Fla., because of concerns that the practice violates the Catholic Church’s reverence for the sacredness of the human body.

“The process is not respectful,” said Tylutki, who added that the process “is one that is simply not respectful to dispose of human remains.”

“The process has no dignity and respect for the human body,” said Tylutki in an interview on the phone from his office in Gurnee, Ill.

In May, Bishop William E. Lori of Bridgeport, Conn., chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Doctrine, wrote Archbishop John G. Vlazny of Portland, Ore., that the practice “produces residue that ‘can easily be crushed into a powder’ and returned to the family ‘just as the ashes are returned to the family after cremation.’”

“Many gallons of liquid, however, which contain the matter that was the rest of the body, are to be poured down the drain (or perhaps spread on a field as fertilizer),” Bishop Lori wrote.

“Dissolving bodies in a vat of chemicals and pouring the resultant liquid off into a sewer is not respectful to dispose of human remains,” said Deacon Tylutki.

Deacon Tylutki said the church advocates burying remains in 1963 but taught clearly that it was not a sign denying the sacredness of the human body. The cremated remains are to be treated with reverence and interred, not kept in an urn in the house, scat tered on the seas or kept in a locked container.

Sometimes well-meaning Catholics who have not been properly trained may improperly preserve the ashes of a loved one rather than properly inter it in the ground, the Deacon said.

The bishop wrote, “We need the strength of the sacrament often ask to go to the sick available to Catholics, because someday God will be there to make it right. Through God’s grace and mercy there is a renewed hope in spiritual as well as physical healing.

“A few years ago, Bishop John M. D’Arcy graciously invited the Priests Fraternity of St. Peter the Apostle to the diocese. Father George Gabet, who had been a Jesuit and a priest of the Holy Cross Order, was invited to the diocese of Fort Wayne. His vocation to the priesthood was originally as a Jesuit, but after he was forced to leave the Jesuit Order, he was offered a position as an amphibious priest in the diocese. He accepted the position and has been making daily hospital visits to Parkview Hospital for the past 12 years. Father D’Souza has a long histo ry in bringing spiritual comfort to the ill and dying. He once worked with dying of Calcutta beside Blessed Mother Teresa and a parish priest in India, who worked with the dying of the sick with him. The experi ence of visiting the sick became part of his vocational journey and led him to forego a career in engineering to pursue a calling to the priesthood.

“Great is the satisfaction of all who are helped in the reconciliation of souls offended God, but the desire is there to make it right. Through God’s grace and mercy there is a renewed hope in spiritual as well as physical healing.

“I have left the church because they are not living in a sacramental marriage to take the appropriate steps and the divorced to apply for an annulment. For Father D’Souza, “the greatest joy is to bring someone back to the church. Someone is in need of the sacrament of anointing of the sick, please contact the nearest parish office.”
EDITORIAL

Community support in times of need

November is a month of rising passions as our country anticipates with fervor the election of our new president. Faithful citizens stand together in community to pray for guidance in the upcoming electoral season. We are called to be the pro-life candidates the Lord asks us to be and to defend the most vulnerable among us, especially the unborn child. It is a time of fervent intercession that might lead to a change in the electorate's heart. We must be prepared to celebrate the election results with a joyous jubilation that should be a celebration that should ring the heavens, as well.

The Good News is Ford Wayne, IN 46566-1169 or e-mail to: editor@fw.dioocesefbswb.org

Every month, the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend welcomes letters from readers. All letters must be 250 words or less, signed and include a phone number and address for verification. Today's Catholic reserves the right to edit for clarity and length. Address letters to: Today’s Catholic • P.O. Box 11169

Today’s Catholic, November 2, 2008

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Moral duty and civic duty to vote for life

In the Oct. 17, 2008 issue of Today’s Catholic, page 5, Ann Carey reported on two Notre Dame law professors justifying the political aspects of abortion. We would have to take umbrage with Professor Ronge’s opinions. He stated he was a committed Catholic and supported church teachings on abortion. When his obligation in a pluralistic society comes into play his convictions change. We cannot feel obligated to vote for a particular party, but in my understanding of church teaching, it is not a pro-papal, pro-Republican, is pro-abortion, we cannot in good conscience vote for the candidate. Bishops Robert Hermann of St. Louis, Robert W. Finn of Kansas City and Edwin O’Brien have all penned strongly-worded columns on abortion in the last few days, calling on their flocks to vote for life and to support the pro-life cause more generally, describing the November election as one that comes down to “saving our children or killing our children.” This, says Bishop Hermann in the St. Louis Law Review, “is not an issue facing each of us... can you really believe that voting for a pro-abortion candidate when there is a clear alternative and therefore no justifiable reason for doing so, is really not voting to have children killed? ... All other issues have to take second place to the issue of life.” Special attention to the weakest among us, the poor and the sick are fine and complementary but life comes first. I question that most Americans support Roe v. Wade. Where does he get that statistic? Let’s face it, Professor Ronge. Abortion kills a child, and that is a fact.

James Monmor

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Support marriage amendment

This November Californians will vote on whether to amend their constitution to define marriage as being only between one man and one woman. Legislators in California and Iowa they had a state law defining it so. Like Iowa, their state supreme court ruled the definition unconstitutional and threw out the law, opening the way for homosexual marriages and other heterosexual arrangements. Massachusetts did not have a state law and its supreme court ruled against the traditional definition of marriage.

So why are Hoosiers going to be able to vote on it in this November? Any amendment to the Indiana Constitution must pass two consecutive General Assemblies before it is put to the public for a vote. Whenever the party whose leadership opposes the amendment is controlling the speakership of the House, the amendment has not gotten out of committee for a vote of the full House and so the two consecutive years requirement has never been met. This process started in 2004, and in four years later Hoosiers still cannot vote on it. The Indiana Conference of Catholic Bishops does support the amendment.


The answers to these questions affirms the straightforward wording of the Indiana Marriage Amendment. The amendment provides that marriage in Indiana shall consist only of the union of one man and one woman and that Indiana law may not be construed to require that marriage be conferred upon unmarried couples or groups.

It urges you to do your homework and find out who pledges to actively support the passage of the Indiana Marriage Amendment.

Tom Uebbing

Catechetical Institute Day: An experience of joy and faith

BY SISTER JANE CAREW

In the midst of the world wide financial uncertainty, there is a spirit that material concerns cannot shake. That gift comes from God, his very own gift of self through the person of Jesus Christ. Growing in intimacy with Jesus Christ is the ultimate goal of the ministry of catechesis, the good news of our salvation.

Pope Benedict XVI has said, “It is not possible to proclaim the beauty of the Gospel without the sureness of his letters to the Jews and gentiles.”

This is a popular saying: “The best things in life are free!” One cannot buy peace of mind, forgiveness, the riches of the sacramental life which Catholiciusc has to offer, most especially through the Holy Eucharist. These gifts are available for all of us, no matter what the wisdom to choose them.

Yet in these times statistics indicate that parents are low, many parishes are not engaged in nurturing the faith of their children and the weaknesses of the catechesis can be seen in the hearts of many, many people.

In a recent article on the year of St. Paul, a very gifted priest, Father Alfred McBride, is challenging us to make a “declaration of independence from the culture” and a “declaration of dependence on Christ.” What a powerful call to choose our path.

On Nov. 8, the diocese is sponsoring its 18th annual Catechetical Day — a day of pure treasures, feeding minds and hearts with all the wisdom of how to continue to make a “declaration of dependence on Christ.”

Focusing on the person of Christ, the first event of the day will be a keynote talk by Dr. Gerard Baumberch from the University of Notre Dame. Dr. Baumberch is one of the most accomplished scholars in the area of catechetical leadership. Speaking on the gift of catechesis in the church, Dr. Baumberch will give insights on one of the most recent resources for catechetical ministry, the “2005 National Directory of Catechesis.”

This gem is the result of 43 years of renewal and provides accessibility of the “how” and “what” in resourcing the Good News of Christ.

Following the keynote, Bishop John M. D’Arcy will celebrate Mass. Our praise and thanksgiving will be of a Celtic origin with the accompaniment of Lornac musicians from St. Patrick Parish, South Bend. This group of six was formed in 2000 and are becoming well known in the South Bend area of the diocese.

Lunch will be served and three sessions of workshops will be available. A total of 45 sessions in English and 10 in Spanish will be presented. The topics cover Scripture, morality, liturgy and methods of teaching adults, youth, and children.

Although the official date of registrations is past, Bishop D’Arcy is encouraging people to come, even up to the last minute. Visit the www.dioocesefbswb.org and under departments, open up the Office of Catechesis, access the website, CICD (Catechetical Institute Day).

For information call Janice Martin (260) 399-1411, Megan Young in South Bend at (574) 259-9994, or e-mail Janice Martin at jmartin@fw.dioocesefbswb.org.

Sister Jane Carew is the director of the Office of Catechesis, Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.
Paul and baptism

We remarked last time that Paul understood the church as the mystical body. It stood with his understanding that the Risen Christ shared his spirit with us, and now he is in us, and we are in him. Indeed, Paul uses “in Christ” (en Christo) 164 times in his letters. You can hardly turn a page without finding it. Here is a sampling.

• Rom 6:11 “So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.”

• Rom 12:3 “For I delight in the law of God more than in all riches.”

• Cor 5:17 “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.”

• Gal 3:26 “For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.”

Phil 2:5 “Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus…”

To you, Christian is to be in Christ. However, this union is more than an historical union with an important teacher. It is more than an idealistic union, like what binds together fellow members of a club. Our union with Christ is a mystical and sacrificial union. Both the Christian and the church must be understood mystically and sacrificially. And that places us squarely before baptism, because it is the foundation of this life. In the baptismery of the Lateran in Rome there is this poem, perhaps written by Pope Leo III:

Here is born in Spirit-soaked fertility a brood destined for another city, begotten by God's blowing and borne upon this torrent by the church their virgin mother, …

This spring is life that floods the world, the wounds of Christ its awesome source.

Christians believe that Christ’s life is being lived in us. The result of baptism is to live in Christ. He is in us, and we are in him. The relationship Christ had with the Father is shared with all who become his brothers and sisters in the waters of the font. Baptism is how we are grafted into his life. Probably the most famous passage about baptism in Paul is from Romans 6, but it seems we sometimes only remember the half of it. We remember death, mortification, burial:

“Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death …”

PAUL, PAGE 16

No one lost with God’s forgiveness

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

All Soul’s Day
Jn 6:37-40

Almost 1,000 years ago, the feast of commemorating all the departed souls was initiated at the great Benedictine abbey of Cluny in France, situated roughly two-thirds of the way from Paris to Geneva. Once Cluny was a major center of learning and of missionary outreach. It is no wonder that a feast in honor of the departed is celebrated on the Catholic calendar.

On this weekend, instead of celebrating the 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time, the church is observing the feast of All Souls. The church has a lesson to teach. Whenever the church replaces the liturgy of a Sunday with the normal sequence of Ordinary Time with a feast, it intends to teach an important lesson to be learned.

The church’s message is simple. Only the just may enter heaven and be seated at the table of theScribes. Everyone else is turned away.

While forgiven, believers suffer the illness of their sins, while not bringing upon eternal death. Purgatory is the church’s theological explanation of how sinners overcome these ill effects. The lesson is about us humans, and about God’s great love for us, even if we have sinned. The first reading is from the Book of Wisdom. The purpose of this book is expressed in its name. It seems religious faith and devotion as the highest of human reasoning. Belief in God, and obedience to God, are only logical.

The reading is reassuring. It states that God will never forsake the righteous. But, God will test the righteous with fire tests gold. (Fire removes impurities from gold.)

For the next reading, the church presents a passage from the Epistle to the Romans. For two millennia Christians have regarded Romans to be one of the genuine masterpieces of Revelation. This reading consents that we while we have sinned, God still loves us. Indeed, the Son of God died for sinners that they might have eternal life. John’s Gospel supplies the last reading. In this reading, Jesus declares that no one who earnestly seeks God will be scorned. Each person is priceless. In God’s love, the plan is that no one shall be lost.

Reflection

Death and penance, and of course the drabness of the vestments and the subdued tone of the liturgy on All Souls, all easily bring before us the image of gloom and aneasement. However, in all of these readings, the church forthrightly calls us not to despair but rather to great hope. We are sinners. Nevertheless, God loves us. Actually, it was for us in our sins that the Son of God came as Redeemer, dying in sacrifice on Calvary.

So, God loves us, the church insists. However, just as the ancient prophets and the Christian mystics knew quite well, sin injures humans. Even if we beg to be forgiven, and have been forgiven, the effects of the injuries of sin. As sinners, we are wounded. Our selfishness has been strengthened, our vision further blurred. We are confused and uncertain.

Forgiveness gives us life again, but it does not eradicate the wounds, does not cover the scars. Purgatory is the opportunity to be purified, for the wounds to be erased. It is a state of longing. The souls in purgatory understand the folly of their sins and also realize the beauty of God. They yearn to see God. On this feast, we pray that God will hurry the process of purification so that the souls in purgatory soon will fully live with God.

We also must think of ourselves, recommitting ourselves to God. We know that sin has wounded us, but we also know that God will forgive us if we ask for mercy. He loves us.

READINGS

Sunday: Wis 3:1-9 Ps 23:1-6
Rom 5:5-11 Jn 6:37-40
Monday: Phil 2:14-19 13:1b-31k
14:12-14
Tuesday: Phil 2:5-11 Ps 22:6b-32
Lk 15:1-10
Wednesday: Phil 2:12-18 Ps 27:1, 4-13:14 Lk 14:25-33
Thursday: Phil 3:3a8 Ps 103:3-7
Lk 15:1-10
Friday: Phil 3:17-18 Ps 122:1-5
Lk 16:5-8
Saturday: Phil 4:10-19 Ps 112:1b-2, 5-6, 8a, 9 Lk 16:5-15

ANSWERS:

1. a. philosophy b. religion c. God

2. a. love and hate, hunt and gather, reap and sow b. man is doomed to fall c. clearly humans have more than one soul each

3. a. it is white b. it is mortal c. it is corporeal

4. a. the parents b. God c. the U.S. Department of Soul Security

5. a. it is white b. it is mortal c. it is corporeal

6. a. the soul of an angel as a human soul would not suffice b. a fully human soul c. a phantom soul, as he needed a soul on earth

7. a. the soul of the body, the Holy Spirit is to b. the human body of Jesus c. the body of Christ, which is the church

10. a. destroy it b. imitate a spiritual mark or indelible character on it c. make it divine like the soul of God

11. a. serious b. mortal c. venial

12. a. their bodily dead but their soul continues to exist. b. their body goes on to be reincarnated but they get a new soul. c. the soul is sent to the next human child conceived.

13. a. each body and soul is reunited. b. each soul becomes a god. c. each soul finds itself a soul mate.


15. a. the clergy, dissidents and conservatives b. scripture, faith and faithfulness c. sacred tradition, sacred Scripture and the magisterium of the church.

CATEQUIZ’EM

By Dominic Campbell

Around All Souls day, it is a good idea to what the church says about this most ethereal topic.

1. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church the soul can only have its origin in a. philosophy b. religion c. God

2. The very fact that humans can do these things points to the existence of a soul: a. be aware of truth and beauty b. have a sense of moral goodness, possession freedom and a conscience c. love and hate, hunt and gather, reap and sow d. man is doomed to fall c. clearly humans have more than one soul each.

Teaching methods must be adapted to the student’s situation vis-à-vis the topics taught.

4. Who produces a child’s soul?

a. the parents b. God c. the U.S. Department of Soul Security

5. What characteristic is basic to every human soul?

a. it is white b. it is mortal c. it is corporeal

6. What, according to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, is the treasure of a person’s soul?

a. the creed b. their earthly treasure or accumulated wealth, minus debts c. the esteem of the community

7. The church teaches that the soul is the essence of the person, and because of the soul a. the physical body can live b. man is doomed to fall c. everyone must be saved since the soul’s destiny is to be with God

8. Christ took on this type of soul when he was incarnated as a human: a. the soul of an angel as a human soul would not suffice b. a fully human soul c. a phantom soul, as he needed a soul on earth

9. In an analogy, the Catechism of the Catholic Church indicates that “What the soul is to the human body, the Holy Spirit is to a. human mind” b. the human body of Jesus c. the body of Christ, which is the church

10. A person cannot receive some sacraments more than once because they do this to the soul: a. destroy it b. imprint a spiritual mark or indelible character on it c. make it divine like the soul of God

11. This type of sin impedes the soul’s progress in the exercise of the virtues but does not sever the covenant with God: a. serious b. venial c. mortal

12. What happens when a person dies?

a. their body dies but their soul continues to exist. b. their body goes on to be reincarnated but they get a new soul. c. the soul is sent to the next human child conceived.

13. What ultimately happens to the soul in the Last Day?

a. each body and soul is reunited. b. each soul becomes a god. c. each soul finds itself a soul mate.

14. Who was taken up body and soul into the glory of heaven?

a. Isaiah b. Mary, Mother of God c. Judas

15. The church teaches that these three things always work together to save souls a. the clergy, dissidents and conservatives b. scripture, faith and faithfulness c. sacred tradition, sacred Scripture and the magisterium of the church.

PERIODICALS:

Sunday: Wis 3:1-9 Ps 23:1-6
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Saturday: Phil 4:10-19 Ps 112:1b-2, 5-6, 8a, 9 Lk 16:5-15
Exploring the tomb of Lazarus

What are the sites you see in Bethany where Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead?

The village of Bethany lies two miles from Jerusalem amid the bird flies. If you are walking, you have to start from the plateau on which Jerusalem is built, down the side of the mountain, across the Kidron Valley, and up the Mount of Olives.

Father Murphy-O’Conner says in the first century when Jesus lived, the area of Bethany was a center of gleaning. Plants of this period have been found a short distance north of the present church. Because of the famous Tomb of Lazarus, many houses grew up around this tomb. The same thing happened at Nazareth. He says, “Israel was an Old Testament patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are buried in the famous Cave of Machpelah.

Today, one can descend into the underground Tomb of Lazarus.

Jesus says inside this doorway of the tomb, 22 steps, lead down into the vestibule.

From here two steps descend into a narrow passage and the passage leads five feet into the vaulted inner burial chamber, about 7½ feet long and 8 feet wide, of the tomb. On three sides of this chamber are niches in the rock which widen out at the bottom to make slightly raised shelves for three burials.

The Gospel of John says the Tomb of Lazarus was a cave and a stone lay upon it. The stone to cover the entrance of the tomb would have been laid horizontally over the entire steps. Going down about 10 feet toward the bottom of the burial chamber of the Tomb of Lazarus is the opposite of what happens at the pyramids of Egypt. Here you go inside the pyramid and walk up the steps to the burial chamber.

St. Jerome mentions the existence of a church at Bethany in A.D. 390. The pilgrim Egeria in A.D. 384 visited this first church for the Easter vigil service and says there were so many people present that they filled not only the church, but all the fields around.

Father Murphy-O’Conner says this first church was destroyed by an earthquake and a second church was built in the fifth century with the same width, but longer.

The Crusaders in the Middle Ages shored up this second church by adding buttresses and doubling the size of the pillars. The Crusaders also built a new church over the Tomb of Lazarus and it served as a chapel for the Benedictine convent in 1138. But by the end of the 14th century, both churches were in ruins.

Then the Franciscans erected a new church and a monastery in 1545. This church is built on the plan of a Greek cross. There are beautiful frescoes on the walls depicting the raising of Lazarus from the dead. On the wall above the altar in Latin are Jesus’ words, “I am the resurrection and the life.” In this new church you can see some of the mosaic pavement of the second church. Then in the courtyard of the new church you can see a portion of the mosaic pavement of the first church. A bust of Pope Paul VI records his visit to the new church in 1964.

Baederker also mentions a modern Greek Orthodox church (1965) at Bethany, recognizable by its light blue dome and four-story tower overlooking the church. This church, on the other side of the Tomb of Lazarus, incorporates part of the north wall of the medieval Benedictine chapel. Near this Greek church is a medieval watchtower.

A.F. Freeman, in a field to the west of the church, is the traditional site of the House of Simon The Leper. Here Jesus rendered a supper, during which Mary of Bethany anointed Jesus’ head and feet with Spikenard, wiping them with her own hair, anointing the precious ointment in the Pharisee’s house in Galilee.

Franciscan excavations here in 1952 only uncovered pits, caves, cisterns and graves.

The Muslims also played a part at Bethany. By the end of the 14th century, the ancient entrance to the Tomb of Lazarus had been turned into a mosque. The Muslims also venerated the raising of Lazarus from the dead and at first permitted Christians to continue their liturgical visits. In 1968 Father Murphy-O’Conner says, when this Christian visitation became more difficult, the church was turned back into a mosque. Today the entrance to the 1566-1575. From the Mosque el-Ozir at Bethany you can look down into the atrium of the early churches. In the mosque the original entrance to the tomb is clearly visible.

Father Richard Hire is pastor of St. Martin de Porres Parish, Syracuse.
**Sports**

**Mishawaka Saints, Panthers advance**

BY JOE KOZINSKI

MISHAWAKA — The 2008 Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL) football playoffs kicked off at Marian’s Otolski Field with a bang as all five games ended with shutouts.

In varsity action the Mishawaka Catholic Saints turned the first play of the game into an 82-yard kickoff return for a touchdown courtesy of Tyler Nixon. The scoring didn’t stop there as the Saints’ Michael Whitfield added 25-yard touchdown run and a 38-yard interception return for a score. The Holy Cross-Chr...
At the Sunday afternoon Mass in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne, checks totaling $45,000 were distributed to various charities covered by the Annual Bishop’s Appeal. In the photo, from left, are Ann Helmke, representing Vincent House accepted $9,000; Bishop John M. D’Arcy; Debbie Schmidt, $23,000 for Catholic Charities; and Anne Koehl, $10,000 for Women’s Care Center. Not pictured, but also receiving funds were Karen Gregerson, $8,000 for Matthew 25; and Tammy Safford, RN, $1,000 for St. Martin’s Health Care, Inc.
WHAT’S HAPPENING?

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

CRAFT SALES AND BAZAARS

Craft bazaar at St. Mary’s Avilla — St. Mary School, 232 N. Main St., will have a craft bazaar Sunday, Nov. 9, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Booths are still available for $20 by calling (260) 897-4287.

Craft bazaar and bake sale South Bend — Holy Cross Parish, 1014 Wilbert St., will have a bazaar with baked goods, craft booths, raffles and lunch on Saturday, Dec. 6, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Fall festival planned South Bend — St. Casimir Parish, 1308 W. Dunham St., will have a fall festival Sunday, Nov. 9, at the parish. A chicken dinner will be served from 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Advance ticket sales only. No carry out available. Adults $8, children (5-10) $4, and children under 5 (accompanied by an adult) free. Contact (574) 287-9551 for more information.

Fall rummage sale Fort Wayne — St. Joseph, Hessen Cassel, will have a fall rummage sale in the school gym on Friday, Nov. 7, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 8, from 8 a.m. to noon. Saturday will be $3 per bag. Hessen Cassel is located just south of the 469 and U.S. 27 interchange.

Craft fair time South Bend — The St. Jude HASA will have a craft fair on Saturday, Nov. 8, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. featuring homemade crafts and refreshments.

Holiday craft bazaar South Bend — St. Anthony de Padua will have a holiday craft bazaar Saturday, Nov. 8, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the school auditorium. Lunch available.

Snowflake bazaar Huntington — St. Mary Parish, 903 N. Jefferson St., will host a snowflake bazaar, Saturday, Nov. 1, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., in the parish gym, and on Sunday, Nov. 2, after the Masses. Crafts, bake sale, raffle and lunch.

FUND RAISERS

Fish fry Warsaw — The Knights of Columbus Council #4511 will have a fish fry on Friday, Nov. 7, from 4:30-7 p.m. at the Knights Hall on Bell Drive. Tickets are $8 for adults and $4 for children age 6-12. Fish, baked beans, green beans, cole slaw, apple-sauce and beverage included.

Knights of Columbus

Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 451, 601 Reed Rd., will have a fish fry on Friday, Nov. 7, from 5-7:30 p.m. The cost is $7 for adults, $3 for children 12 and under. Fish, two sides and beverage are included.

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

Fish fry South Bend — Our Lady of Hungary will have a fish fry, Friday, Nov. 7, from 5-7 p.m. in the school, 735 W. Calvert. Tickets are $7 day of sale or $6.50 presale, $4.50 for children 6-12 and children under 6 free. Tickets may be purchased before or after Sunday Masses or at the rectory (574) 287-1700. Carry-out available.

Fall extravaganza South Bend — St. John the Baptist School will have a fall extravaganza dinner-auction Saturday, Nov. 8. Doors open at 6 p.m. to the Holy Family Parish Center, 56405 Mayflower Rd., with dinner at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are $17.50 per person and include auction and Polish style dinner. Live auction starts at 7:30 p.m., silent auction starts at 6 p.m. and closes at 8-45 p.m. Cash bar. Tickets and information by calling (574) 232-9849.

All Souls Day Mass

In the Resurrection Mausoleum Chapel of the Catholic Cemetery of Fort Wayne 3500 Lake Avenue Sunday, November 2 • 2:00 p.m. • The Reverend David Carekens Celebrant

Phoenix Institute

Phoenix Institute is a small family oriented foster care agency, looking for people to foster abused and neglected youth. Phoenix Institute is looking for stable and supportive families, single parents, married couples, families of color, empty nesters, people who rent or own. To become a foster parent, you don’t need a lot of money, a fancy house, or extensive parenting experience. What you do need is a commitment to learning and working as part of a team, a sense of humor, flexibility, and patience. And you need to want to provide a stable and supportive home to a child. Phoenix Institute has a staff with a rich history of working in foster care. Free training - 24 hour staff support -reimbursement provided.

Phoenix Institute

2200 Lake Avenue - Suite 260 Fort Wayne 46805 - (260) 424-0411 www.phoenixfostercare.com

MISC. HAPPENINGS

High school youth ministry to host Father Glen Kohrman New Haven — The KLS youth ministry will bring Father Glen Kohrman to speak Sunday, Nov. 16, from 7:30-9 p.m. at St. Louis Besonan Parish. Mass at 6 p.m. will be followed by dinner and speaker on the topic “The Church and Real Love in a Politically Correct World.” Admission is free.

Fifty percent off sale South Bend — The St. Vincent de Paul Society, 3408 Ardmore Tr., will have a half price sale Saturday, Nov. 15, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sale does not include large appliances, automobiles and electronics.

Bishop Luers hosts eighth grade day Fort Wayne — Bishop Luers High School is hosting an eighth-grade day on Friday, Nov. 7, from 8:30-10:30 a.m. All eighth-grade students interested in attending Bishop Luers High School are welcome. Call the admissions office to R.S.V.P. (260) 456-1261.

Fall festival planned Fort Wayne — Bishop Luers High School is hosting an eighth-grade day on Friday, Nov. 7, from 8:30-10:30 a.m. All eighth-grade students interested in attending Bishop Luers High School are welcome. Call the admissions office to R.S.V.P. (260) 456-1261.

Fort Wayne Catholic • November 2, 2008
Newly-ordained Father Kevin Bauman presided over his first Mass on Sunday, Oct. 26, at his home parish, St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend. Over 40 priests, deacons and seminarians were in attendance, along with members of the Knights of Columbus. Father Michael Hientz, rector of St. Matthew Cathedral, congratulated Father Bauman and welcomed him to St. Matthew again. A reception was held afterward to celebrate. Father Bauman has been assigned to St. Vincent de Paul in Elkhart. In the photo, Father Kevin Bauman says the closing prayers at this first Mass as a priest.