Catholic Schools Week will be celebrated Jan. 25-31 with a flurry of activities at schools and parishes across the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. The logo for the observance displays the words “Celebrate Service” and hands reaching out, surrounding a globe. The “t” in the word celebrate is formed as a cross.

“Civic engagement is a hallmark of Catholic education,” said Karen Ristau, president of the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA). “The majority of elementary and secondary schools participate in service projects ranging from collecting canned goods for the homeless to rebuilding schools in the hurricane-torn gulf, so it was natural that we choose service as a major theme.”

Schools typically celebrate Catholic Schools Week with Masses, open houses and activities for students, administrators, faculty, school staff, the community and families. Additionally this year many schools will undertake new service projects.

Service is something that is a focus at Catholic schools throughout the year. “Civic engagement is a hallmark of Catholic education,” said Karen Ristau, president of the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA). “The majority of elementary and secondary schools participate in service projects ranging from collecting canned goods for the homeless to rebuilding schools in the hurricane-torn gulf, so it was natural that we choose service as a major theme.”

Service is ‘big’ no matter how large the school

Bishop John M. D’Arcy leads a vigil prayer service following the 5:30 p.m. Mass at St. Matthew Co-cathedral in South Bend. The vigil included adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Benediction, hymns and special prayers.

SOUTH BEND — Catholics in the South Bend area marked the tragedy of the legalization of abortion and the staggering number of deaths at the 5:30 p.m. Mass and vigil at St. Matthew Co-cathedral Jan. 18. A similar prayer vigil was held at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne the same evening.

In his homily, Father Tom Foley, a visiting retired priest from the Archdiocese of Boston, asked the assembly to pray for our new president. He described the devastating effects the so-called Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA) would have, which President Obama has promised to sign if it reaches his desk.

The Web site www.fightfoca.com says the legislation would rescind any state laws limiting abortion in any way such as parental consent for minors, informed consent for the mother, partial birth abortions and the requirement that only licensed physicians perform abortions. It would compel taxpayer funding of abortion and force faith-based hospitals and healthcare facilities to perform abortions.

Father Foley announced that to prevent the passage of FOCA, the American Catholic bishops are launching a postcard campaign the weekend of Jan. 24-25, asking the faithful to mail postcards provided at church to their senators and congressmen. He also announced...
Mass honors Holy Cross founder
Blessed Basil Anthony Moreau

A Holy Cross moment

It was a great joy to offer a votive Mass at St. Joseph Parish, South Bend, the oldest Catholic parish in that city founded by the great Holy Cross missionary, Edward Sorin, CSC, who was also the founder of Notre Dame, and to celebrate Mass with a chalice, which he used.

All Holy Cross parishes were given permission by the local bishop to celebrate a votive Mass in honor of their founder who has been declared “Blessed,” the first step to canonization.

According to his biographer, Blessed Basil Anthony Moreau never intended to found a congregation but was a holy man, born in 1799 and lived in France at a time of great opposition to the church. It was after the French Revolution. In fact, I recalled the words of Pope Benedict XVI on the White House lawn on that lovely April day when he spoke of the difference between the French Revolution, which was anticlerical and anti-Catholic — and the American Revolution, which was not opposed to religion or the church. He saw this as significant, and that as a result, religion was respected in our civil culture.

It was not so for Moreau, but he set himself to do what must be done for the church to grow in such an anti-religious environment — teach catechism to the children and teach to both heart and mind — recruit priests and religious to bring the teaching of Christ to far away places like the new country of the United States of America and also Latin America and Africa and Asia. He also established parish missions. The image of the religious congregation he eventually established was that of the Holy Family.

This is the spirit certainly at St. Joseph Parish, South Bend, that of the family, and I admire very much the leadership there of Father John DeRiso, CSC. There were a large number of Holy Cross seminarians, candidates for the priesthood, and also a religious brother, Brother Dennis Meyers, CSC, and Sister Marjorie Lavonis, CSC. Thus, all three branches of the Holy Cross foundations were present.

Father Moreau was a true father, and though he observed heavy penance for himself he did not ask that of others. He resisted the excessive strictness of Jansenism and the narrowness of Gallicanism. Like Ignatius, he always felt the responsibility of staying close to the successor of Peter. This is the true spirit of Holy Cross. The family. Teaching the heart as well as the mind. A missionary spirit — both in the local parish and overseas. We can never fully grasp what they have given to this diocese, the great colleges and universities as well as parishes and hospitals. They have implanted the faith deeply. It was a privilege to observe this day with them at St. Joseph Parish, South Bend, in a full church.

More to come

As I put together these notes I am also preparing for a pastoral visit to Holy Cross College, the first of my visits this year to each of our Catholic institutions of higher learning, a responsibility I have based on “Ex Corde Ecclesiae” the great document of Pope John Paul II on Catholic universities.

Also this week through the invitation of Father Charles Lavelle, CSC, I will offer Mass at Holy Cross House, a beautiful institution on the campus of Notre Dame for the retired priests of Holy Cross.

An earlier Mass

The Mass on Sunday at St. Joseph Parish was at 10 a.m., but I was up earlier in my gracious apartment with the Sisters of Perpetual Adoration high on a hill in Mishawaka overlooking Marian High School. I was off through a beautiful, snowy landscape to St. Patrick Parish, South Bend, where it was my privilege to offer what is now called the extraordinary form of the Roman rite. There was a crowd of 200 people. I think I have offered this Mass only once in the last 42 or 43 years. I was assisted by Father George Gabet, FSSP.

Father George is a native of our diocese and a graduate of Bishop Dwenger High School, where among many other things he was a fine football player. It was my privilege to ordain him some years ago at our Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. This was the Mass that I said for the first nine or 10 years of my priesthood. I said afterwards I would probably get an A in Latin but a B minus in the ritual. With the help of Father George and a seminarian from our diocese, Greg Eichman of Fort Wayne, I offered this Mass. I will do so again in Fort Wayne, for it is imperative that those who worship through this liturgy be united with their bishop and not be separated from the diocesan community. I was much impressed with the spirit of reverence and faith of the congregation and impressed also with Father George and the seminarians, Greg Eichman, who helped me to prepare with such devotion and care. I gave Holy Communion as I did 50 years ago with everyone kneeling and saying the prayer before each one: “Corpus Domini Nostri Jesu Christi custodiat animam tuam in vitam aeternam — Amen” (“May this body of our Lord Jesus Christ lead you into everlasting life”)

At a nice reception, I met a number of graduate students from Notre Dame studying in the theology department and also some professors including Professor Sherin, an outstanding Latinist, and Professor Thomas Gordon Smith, a distinguished architect. I was off to St. Joseph for the Mass for Father Moreau. An extraordinary morning on a snow-filled Sunday in South Bend.

Many thanks to Father Leonard Chrobot, pastor of St. Patrick and St. Hedwig, for his presence at this Mass. In these two parishes, Mass is celebrated in Polish, Vietnamese, Latin and English.

Three wise men from the East

Father Michael Heintz is off on a short five-week sabbatical after achieving his doctorate in Patristic studies at Notre Dame. He is now seeking a similar level of accomplishment as a baseball umpire. Three of my classmates, Msgr. Pete Martocchio, Father Tom Foley and Father Paul McFarland drove halfway across the country to fill in for two weeks. It was a joy to have soup and sandwich with them at St. Matthew’s on Sunday night after a long day. I thank them for coming. Priests — 52 years but still active every day. My kudos especially to Msgr. Lester who is present at St. Matthew’s for the balance of the month. Although 89 years old, he celebrated five Masses on a previous weekend. That’s too much for anyone, but this splendid priest never complains.

My kudos especially to Msgr. Lester who is present at St. Matthew’s for the balance of the month. Although 89 years old, he celebrated five Masses on a previous weekend. That’s too much for anyone, but this splendid priest never complains.
Nation’s religious heritage ‘a strength, not a weakness,’ President Obama says

BY MARK PATTISON

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The United States’ multiple religious traditions are “a strength, not a weakness,” said President Barack Obama Jan. 20 in his inaugural address.

“Our patchwork heritage is a strength, not a weakness,” the nation’s 44th president said. “We are a nation of Christians and Muslims, Jews and Hindus — and nonbelievers,” he continued.

“We are shaped by every language and culture, drawn from every end of this earth, and because we have tasted the bitter swill of Civil War and segregation, and emerged from that dark chapter stronger and more united,” he said. “We cannot help but believe that the old hatreds shall someday pass; that the lines of tribe shall soon dissolve; that as the world grows smaller, our common humanity shall reveal itself; and that America must play its role in ushering in a new era of peace.”

Obama acknowledged the challenges facing the country throughout his 2,400-word address, delivered before a teeming throng at the Capitol and stretching forth on the National Mall. It was believed to be the largest single gathering of people in Washington history.

“Our challenges may be new. The instruments with which we meet them may be new,” Obama said. “But those values upon which our success depends — hard work and honesty, courage and fair play, tolerance and curiosity, loyalty and patriotism — these things are old. These things are true. They have been the quiet force of progress throughout our history.”

“So what is demanded,” the new president said, “is a return to these truths. “What is required of us now is a new era of responsibility, a recognition, on the part of every American, that we have duties to ourselves, our nation and the world,” he said.

“These are duties we do not grudgingly accept but rather seize gladly, firm in the knowledge that there is nothing so satisfying to the spirit, so defining of our character, than giving our all to a difficult task. This is the price and the promise of citizenship,” he said.

“This is the source of our confidence — the knowledge that God calls on us to shape an uncertain destiny,” he said.

Regarding the economy, Obama said the situation “calls for action, bold and swift, and we will act — not only to create new jobs, but to lay a new foundation for growth.”

“We will build the roads and bridges, the electric grids and digital lines that feed our commerce and bind us together,” he continued. “We will restore science to its rightful place, and wield technology’s wonders to raise health care’s quality and lower its cost.

“We will harness the sun and the winds and the soil to fuel our cars and run our factories. And we will transform our schools and colleges and universities to meet the demands of a new age. All this we can do. And all this we will do,” he said.

Obama said that “there are some who question the scale of our ambitions — who suggest that our system cannot tolerate too many big plans.”

But “their memories are short,” he said. “For they have forgotten what this country has already done, what free men and women can achieve when imagination is joined to common purpose, and necessity to courage.”

Before the inauguration ceremony, Obama and then-Vice President-elect Joe R. Biden Jr. and their wives took part in a morning prayer service at St. John’s Episcopal Church, across Lafayette Park from the White House. The sermon at the private service was delivered by Bishop T.D. Jakes, pastor of the Potter’s House megachurch in Dallas and more recently a writer and producer of films, including “Not Easy Broken” and “Woman Thou Art Loosed.”

Obama and Biden then went to the White House for a coffee with their predecessors, President George W. Bush and Vice President Richard B. Cheney. The day before, both Obama and Biden joined volunteers in various service projects on the national observance of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. birthday holiday, which was designated as a national day of service.

BISHOP CELEBRATES LATIN MASS

Bishop John M. D’Arcy celebrated the Mass in the extraordinary form of the Latin rite Jan. 18 for members of the St. Mother Theodore Guérin Community and others at St. Patrick Church in South Bend. Membership in the community is formal and subsists as part of St. Patrick Parish, although anyone may attend this 7:45 a.m. Sunday Latin Mass. Father George Gabet, a priest from the Priests’ Fraternity of St. Peter, is the chaplain for the 100 or so members of the St. Mother Théodore Guérin Community and ordinarily celebrates this Sunday Mass. Father Gabet fully participates in the presbyterate of the diocese.

Most Reverend John M. D’Arcy

Jan. 25, 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Catholic Schools in our diocese have been a great blessing. Founded by St. Mother Theodore Guerin, and the holy apostolic Msgr. Julian Benoit, they have represented a great gift.

For many years, it was religious — brothers, sisters and priests, but mostly sisters, who staffed our schools. Through them, the Gospel of Christ was implanted in many hearts.

Now our schools carry on, led mostly by lay people, but with a blessing still of a few religious.

The generosity of our people continues to make this great gift possible. I thank all of you, who through your generosity and prayers, keep our schools strong.

Above everything else, our Catholic schools must be places where our young people meet Jesus Christ. They are places of faith and learning. It is necessary that they be equal to or better than other schools in the academic area. In addition, their great gift is a place where the Gospel is preached, and taught, and believed in, and followed. They must continue to be places, also, where our young people learn to meet Jesus Christ among those in need. I thank all those who work to make our schools a blessing among us.

Barack Obama, with his wife Michelle at his side, at the 44th president as he sworn in by Chief Justice John Roberts.

With every best wish and prayer, I remain
Sincerely yours in our Lord,

Most Reverend John M. D’Arcy

LETTER FROM BISHOP JOHN M. D’ARCY

Catholic schools represent a great gift

(JANUARY 25, 2009)

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the call of the American Catholic bishops for a day of prayer and fasting Thursday, Jan. 22, the anniversary of Roe v. Wade, which legalized abortion.

Bishop D’Arcy led the vigil following Mass, which included adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Benediction, hymns and special prayers.

Each phrase of the Litany for Life recalled how God has worked to give and restore life from Adam and Eve down through the centuries to Christ, the “Resurrection and the life; the Way, the Truth and the Life; and the Bread of Life” who has “the words of eternal life.”

Bishop D’Arcy led a period of silent prayer for any woman contemplating abortion or man involved in the decision. He interceded for those who have taken a life before birth that they might seek forgiveness, turn to Christ and have a change of heart leading to respect for life. He prayed for elected officials that God would enlighten their hearts and that those in the medical profession would properly fulfill their vocations to save and preserve human life. Together everyone prayed the prayer for life addressed to Mary by Pope John Paul II in his encyclical “The Gospel of Life” (“Evangelium Vitae”).

In an early announcement, St. Joseph County Right to Life Committee member Tony Stein informed Today’s Catholic that their annual dinner will be Sept. 24 at South Bend’s Century Center and will feature Dr. Alveda King, niece of the revered martyr of the Civil Rights Movement, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

VIGIL
Bush proclaims Jan. 18 National Sanctity of Human Life Day

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Declaring that every life is "a gift from our Creator that is sacred, unique and worthy of protection," President George W. Bush proclaimed Jan. 18, the Sunday before the 36th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, as National Sanctity of Human Life Day.

On this day, our country recognizes that each person, including every person waiting to be born, has a special place and purpose in this world. We also underscore our dedication to heeding this message of conscience by speaking up for the weak and voiceless among us," he said in the proclamation issued Jan. 15.

Bush urged Americans "to recognize this day with appropriate ceremonies and to underscore our commitment to respecting and protecting the life and dignity of every human being."

On Jan. 22, 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court handed down the Roe v. Wade decision, which legalized abortion, and the Doe v. Bolton decision, which lifted state restrictions on abortion.

In his proclamation, the president noted that his administration had been "committed to building a culture of life by vigorously promoting adoption and parental notification laws, opposing federal funding for abortions overseas, encouraging teen abstinence, and funding crisis pregnancy programs."

Bush also noted the pro-life legislation he signed into law during his presidency, such as the federal law to protect infants born alive after an attempted abortion or other procedure, the federal ban on partial-birth abortion and the Unborn Victims of Violence Act.

"We aspire to build a society in which every child is welcome in life and protected in law," he said in the proclamation. "We also encourage more of our fellow Americans to join our just and noble cause. History tells us that with a cause rooted in our deepest principles and appealing to the best instincts of our citizens, we will prevail."

FOR SYNDICATION

Today’s Catholic delivery to all registered Catholic homes

O n Feb. 1, Today’s Catholic will be sent to the home of every registered Catholic in the Diocese Fort Wayne-South Bend. We are excited and humbled by this increase in circulation; however, we realize there will be several questions. We hope to answer some here:

• What if I still have remaining years on my subscription?

Your 2008 subscription will expire with the Jan. 27, 2009 issue. We realize that some renewed last year for more than one year, if that is the case we would suggest that you treat those prepaid years as a donation to the diocese.

• What if I purchased a gift subscription for someone?

If the recipient is a registered Catholic in the diocese he/she will receive the paper automatically starting Feb. 1, 2009. If the gift subscription was for longer than one year question one would apply.

• What if I still have remaining years on my subscription?

As Bishop D’Arcy wrote in “News & Notes” on Jan. 4, 2009, our newspaper is an instrument of evangelization and as the fallacy of conscience by speaking up for the weak and voiceless among us, we ask God’s blessing on this new effort.

Riley Hospital for Children at Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center

For some kids in our community, there is more than one annual trip to the doctor.

Saint Joseph Pediatric Specialty Clinics: Endocrinology & Diabetes, Cardiology, Rheumatology, Gastrointestinal, Cystic Fibrosis & Chronic, Pulmonary Disease, Neurology, Neuromuscular/Myelodysplasia, WAMI Weights & Measures

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Today’s Catholic 4

TODAY’S CATHOLIC

January 25, 2009

Pennsylvania Priest to Host French Canada & Nova Scotia Northeast Cruise & Tour

Enjoy early fall in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island Sail the Scenic St. Lawrence River to Quebec and Montreal

On September 18, 2009, join other Roman Catholics and your chaplain, Father Aaron Kriss, as he hosts his eighth YMT vacation, serving as your "Spiritual Director." Father Kriss is pastor of Holy Martyrs Roman Catholic Church in Tarentum, Pennsylvania, part of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh. Travel with other Roman Catholics on this 15-Day vacation including a seven-day deluxe Northeast Cruise with Holland America Line and a seven-day Northeast vacation. Mass will be celebrated daily aboard ship and some days on tour. Your group will spend one night in Boston with a city tour before boarding your 5-star ship the ms Maasdam. Ports include Bar Harbor, Maine, Halifax and Sydney, Nova Scotia; and Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. Cruise into the mouth of the St. Lawrence River to Saguenay Fjord with 1500 foot-high cliffs. Your final ports include Quebec City and Montreal. In Montreal, meet your local escort for a city tour of the "Paris of the Americas." Your motor coach tour will continue through the Adirondack and Catskill Mountains, Hyde Park, Philadelphia, and New York City, with included city tours. Prices start at only $2461 (per pers., dbl. occ.) including taxes and ship fuel surcharge, the motor coach tour with sightseeing, seven nights in hotels, and the seven day deluxe cruise. Add $600 for airfare from Ft. Wayne. Space is limited. $100 deposits are now due!

For information, reservations, letter from Father Kriss, and brochure with itinerary call 7 days a week: YMT Vacations 1-800-736-7300
Coalition urges Obama to end U.S. torture practices

BY DENNIS SADOWSKI

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Feeling the likelihood of success growing day by day, religious leaders renewed their efforts to press President Barack Obama to sign an executive order banning torture soon after he takes office.

Bishop Howard J. Hubbard of Albany, N.Y., chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on International Justice and Peace, joined nearly three dozen leaders as part of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture, the campaign wants to see Obama make good on his oft-repeated campaign pledge to end practices that the administration’s use of torture, but rather allowed the CIA to operate outside laws including torture and genocide,” he said.

“Bad behavior has to stop,” he said.

The letter included a declaration of principles that calls for a single national standard that upholds basic human rights in the treatment of detainees by the military and intelligence communities.

“Both the Holy See and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops have taken a strong position against the violation of fundamental human rights including torture and genocide,” Bishop Hubbard told Catholic News Service Jan. 13. “We believe, under any circumstances, this is cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment. Further, it’s not in accord with the values and ideals we have as a society.”

The Rev. Richard Killmer, the campaign’s executive director, said the campaign wants to see Obama sign the executive order as soon as possible, thus ending an approach to interrogation of prisoners.

During a Jan. 11 interview with ABC News, Obama confirmed he plans to close the prison, but he offered no timeline for doing so, saying the need to determine exactly where to house the 255 detainees who remain in custody.

“We are going to close Guantanamo and we are going to make sure that the procedures we set up are ones that abide by our Constitution,” he said.

To focus wider attention on its call to the incoming administration, the National Religious Campaign Against Torture posted on its Web site a clock counting down the time to Obama’s first full day as president, Jan. 21. Rev. Killmer said the clock will begin to count upward once Obama takes office indicating how long it takes for the new president to sign the order.

The clock is meant to encourage Obama “to do the right thing,” Rev. Killmer said.

The campaign also has prepared an ad for religious congregations, prayer groups and individuals to use until the executive order is issued. It is available online at www.tortureisamoralissue.org.

Vatican report: Most U.S. seminaries are generally healthy

BY CHAZ MUTH

WASHINGTON (CNS) — An apostolic visitation team concluded that U.S. Catholic seminaries and houses of priestly formation are generally healthy, but recommend a stronger focus on moral theology, increased oversight of seminarians and greater involvement of diocesan bishops in the formation process.

“This visitation has demonstrated that, since the 1990s, a greater sense of stability now prevails in the U.S. church,” the report said. “The appointment, over time, of rectors who are wise and faithful to the church has meant a gradual improvement, at least in the diocesan seminaries.”

The report, sparked by the sexual abuse crisis that hit the U.S. church, concluded that seminaries appeared to have made improvements in the area of seminarian morality, most notably with regard to homosexual behavior.

“Of course, here and there some case or other of immorality — again, usually homosexual behavior — continues to show up,” the report said. “However, in the main, the superiors now deal with these issues promptly and appropriately.”

The report was dated Dec. 15 and signed by Cardinal Zenon Grocholewski, head of the Congregation for Catholic Education, which supervises such institutions.

It was published on the Web site of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to coincide with National Vocation Awareness Week, which began Jan. 12.

The report said some seminarians need to examine how educators can ensure the good behavior of their students when they are off-campus as well as their access to emerging technology.

“Seminaries face extra challenges today, as compared to recent years,” the report said. “Among these is how to monitor the students’ use of the Internet.”

It recommended that seminaries and religious houses of priestly formation use Internet-filtering programs and restrict Internet use to public rooms within the seminary.

Bishops sometimes delegate too much responsibility for the acceptance of diocesan candidates to their vocation directors and other superintendents, the report said. “This is unfortunate, as it is the bishop who will ultimately have to call, or not call, the candidate to orders,” it said, recommending a more collaborative approach to the formation process.

Cardinal Sean P. O’Malley of Boston, chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations, said in a letter to U.S. bishops that it was “gratifying to read in the report that our seminaries are generally in a healthy condition that strongly promotes the formation of men for the sacred ministry in this country.”

“The general conclusions of the visitation are positive,” Cardinal O’Malley added. “I am sure that all bishops and religious superiors will take seriously the observations and recommendations of the congregation that will further strengthen our seminaries and houses of formation.”

The plan to hold apostolic visitations to assess the quality of formation in seminaries arose in 2002 special meeting of the U.S. cardinals and U.S. bishops’ officials with top Vatican officials.

Archbishop Edwin F. O’Brien, now head of the Baltimore Archdiocese, was chosen to coordinate the visitation team, which included 117 bishops and seminary personnel. Archbishop O’Brien then was rector of the Pontifical North American College, the U.S. seminary in Rome from 1990 to 1994. For five years before that and two years after, he headed the New York archdiocesan seminary, St. Joseph’s in Yonkers, N.Y.

Working in teams of three for smaller programs or four for the larger ones, the panels visited more than 200 U.S. seminaries and formation houses in 2005 and 2006. The visitations paid special attention to areas such as the quality of the seminarians’ human and spiritual formation for living chastely and of their intellectual formation for faithfulness to church teaching, especially in the area of moral theology.

Editor’s Note: The apostolic visitation report is available at www.usccb.org/cclv/final_report.pdf.
**NEWS BRIEFS**

**U.S. SOLDIER HANDS IRAQI GIRL NEW SHOES**

A U.S. soldier with the 926th Engineer Brigade hands new tennis shoes to a girl during the reopening of Al-Magreib al-Abdy primary school in Baghdad, Iraq, Jan. 15.

**Catholic actor Montalban dies at 88; was voice for Catholic faith in career**

WASHINGTON (CNS) — It would be “a terrible mistake” for President-elect Barack Obama to reverse current policies on embryonic stem-cell research, conscience protection and other life-related matters, the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops told him in a new letter. Such actions “could introduce significant negative and divisive factors into our national life, at a time when we need to come together to address the serious challenges facing our people,” said Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago in a letter dated Jan. 16 and made public Jan. 19. The letter came less than a week after Cardinal George sent another letter to Obama, Vice President-elect Joseph Biden and each member of Congress outlining the bishops’ broad policy agenda as the new administration and Congress begin their work. “I expect that some want you to take executive action soon to reverse current policies against government-sponsored destruction of unborn human life,” Cardinal George said. “I urge you to consider that this could be a terrible mistake — morally, politically and in terms of advancing the solidarity and well-being of our nation’s people.”

United with Christ, people have nothing, no one to fear, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — While people lacking faith in God may dread numerous dangers and hostile forces in the world, those who are firmly united with Christ have nothing and no one to fear, Pope Benedict XVI said. Jesus Christ is above every form of domination and death, “he is the truth of the world,” the pope said Jan. 14 at his weekly general audience. With an estimated 4,000 people gathered inside the Paul VI hall, Pope Benedict continued his audience talks about the life and teaching of St. Paul, focusing on the theme of Christ as the head of the church and the universe. In his letters to the Colossians and to the Ephesians, St. Paul gives Christians an enormously positive and important message: that Christ is above “every form of power that might aim to humiliate the human being,” said the pope. He said St. Paul taught that Christ, as head of the church, is the leader and Lord of the Christian community and guides it with his example and teaching.

Catholic actor Montalban dies at 88; was voice for faith in career

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — Catholic actor Ricardo Montalban, whose work in television and movies also included several Catholic projects, died Jan. 14 at age 88 at his home in Los Angeles. He had been suffering from congestive heart failure. A family representative told the news media his funeral would be private. The Mexican-born Montalban — best known for his role as Mr. Roarke on TV’s “Fantasy Island,” which ran for six seasons, and for his commercials for the Chrysler Cordoba with its “soft Corinthian leather” and “crushed velour” — always credited his faith for helping him in Hollywood. Montalban won several awards for his contributions to the entertainment industry and the Catholic faith. He also won an Emmy for the 1978 TV movie “How the West Was Won.”

In her last school stop, first lady Laura Bush visits Catholic school

BETHESDA, Md. (CNS) — First lady Laura Bush, who has visited countless schools in the United States and foreign countries, made her last school visit Jan. 13 to Little Flower School, a Catholic school in the Washington suburb of Bethesda. “Today is my very last school visit while my husband is president,” she told the students, faculty and staff. “I wanted to end my school visit with a terrific school like Little Flower.” Bush praised the school for receiving the U.S. Department of Education’s Blue Ribbon Schools Award last fall in recognition of its academic achievement. “That’s really a wonderful accomplishment,” she said. “Congratulations on being such smart kids.” Washington Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl introduced Bush and noted the first lady was “no stranger to education and no stranger to our schools.” A year ago, Bush visited Holy Redeemer School in Washington. Both visits were to commemorate Catholic Schools Week, an annual observance which this year will be celebrated Jan. 25-31 with the theme: “Catholic Schools Celebrate Service.”

Actor Patrick McGoohan, 80, dies; was TV’s ‘Secret Agent,’ ‘Prisoner’

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — Irish actor Patrick McGoohan, best known to television audiences for his title roles in the 1960s’ CBS drama series “Secret Agent” and “The Prisoner,” died Jan. 13 in Los Angeles. He was 80 years old. Funeral arrangements for the actor were not announced. McGoohan, a Catholic, introduced himself as “Drake, John Drake” in the style of James Bond for the series’ “Secret Agent.” But that’s where the comparison ended. While the Bond character was — and remains — quite the womanizer, McGoohan said his faith made him resist having his Drake character fall into the same lifestyle as Bond.

Pope encourages Iran’s Catholics to persevere patiently

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI encouraged Iran’s tiny Catholic communities to be patient and persistent as they try to improve relations with the government and ensure a continued Christian presence in the Islamic republic. He also called on the “vast and beautiful country” to contribute to “the common good of humanity” and “the common good of nations,” particularly in the Middle East. Iran’s four Armenian, Chaldean and Latin-rite Catholic bishops met the pope Jan. 16 at the end of their “ad limina” visits to report on the status of their dioceses. Pope Benedict said that in order to overcome some of the concrete difficulties Iranian Catholics face, including providing enough priests to minister to the country’s scattered Catholic communities, “the establishment of a bilateral commission with your government is being considered.” Such a commission, he said, also could be a channel “to develop relations and mutual understanding between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Catholic Church.”

Church leaders reaffirm traditional family at meeting in Mexico

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — Participants at the Sixth World Meeting of Families made impassioned defenses of the traditional family while rejecting allegations from protesters and local leftist politicians that the Catholic Church has been preaching exclusion. Speakers on the first day of the Jan. 14-18 meeting, which organizers say is being attended by more than 8,000 participants from more than 90 countries, emphasized the traditional definition of family — father, mother and children — while making suggestions that the institution be expanded to include homosexual couples. The meeting was organized by the Vatican’s Pontifical Council for the Family. “The church — we teach respect for marriage between a man and a woman because that is the foundation of the family,” Cardinal Norberto Rivera Carrera of Mexico City said during his opening remarks Jan. 14.

For 830 years, Apostolic Penitentiary has focused on forgiveness

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The crimes the Catholic Church considers to be most serious are investigated and punished by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, but the Vatican also has a specific office for helping the guilty find forgiveness and reconcile with God and the church in matters related to the conscience of individual Catholics, the work of the Apostolic Penitentiary, headed by U.S. Cardinal J. Francis Stafford, is probably the most secret of any Vatican office. The Apostolic Penitentiary’s work is connected to the sacred seal of confession. The low profile of the office combined with the seriousness of the sins brought to it means that members of the media flocked to a Jan. 13-14 symposium on the history of the Apostolic Penitentiary and of the sacrament of penance. Cardinal Stafford told reporters Jan. 13 that the penitentiary deals with five specific cases: a man who directly participated in an abortion and later wants to enter the priesthood; priests who have broken the seal of the confession; widows who have offered sacramental absolution to their own sexual partner; desecrating the Eucharist; and making an attempt on the life of the pope.
Local scholar attends historic inauguration

WASHINGTON, D.C. — This January, one outstanding university student from Roanoke, Haylee Eckert, will join other scholars from across the United States to take part in the inauguration of the 44th president of the United States. During the five-day program, the University Presidential Inaugural Conference (UPIC) will provide scholars with a deeper understanding of the history behind the electoral process and the rich traditions surrounding the presidential inauguration.

Eckert will have the opportunity to interact with a major presidential candidate, White House officials, congressional staff members, political experts and other VIPs. After the inauguration, she will attend the inaugural parade and attend a Black Tie Gala Inaugural Ball.

Eckert, a Bishop Luers High School graduate, is a freshman studying economics and business at Carthage College in Wisconsin. She was chosen as a scholar for her participation in the 2007 National Youth Leadership Forum held in Chicago. For additional information on the University Inaugural Conference, visit www.inaugural scholar.org.

Visiting Nurse & Hospice Home offers free bereavement programs and support groups

FORT WAYNE — Visiting Nurse & Hospice Home is offering several bereavement education programs and support groups, available for anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one.

Support groups offered are:
• Adult Bereavement Support Group — This ongoing support group is presented in conjunction with Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana and is led by Dar Richardson. The group meets on Mondays from 7-8:30 p.m. and the first and third Tuesday of every month from 2-3:30 p.m. at Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana, 6316 Midland Dr. For more information call (260) 484-9560.
• Hope in the Mourning Widows Support Group — This group, led by Kay Cozad, is for women who have lost a spouse and meets on the first and third Thursday of each month from 7-8:30 p.m. at Visiting Nurse & Hospice Home, 5910 Homestead Rd. For more information call (260) 435-7222.
• Bereavement Education Series — Each of the following Saturday programs, presented at First Presbyterian Church, 300 W. Wayne St., begins at 9 a.m. with a light breakfast and concludes at 11:30 a.m.
   Feb. 7 — “Learning to Live After the Death of a Spouse,” presented by Kay Cozad.
   March 21 — “Understanding Your Grief,” presented by Dar Richardson.

Notre Dame professor instrumental in Catholic-Jewish relations dies

WASHINGTON (CNS) — U.S. Catholic leaders are mourning the loss of Rabbi Michael Alan Signer, an important figure in Jewish-Catholic relations and a professor at the University of Notre Dame who died Jan. 10 after a long battle with pancreatic cancer.

Rabbi Signer was the Abrams professor of Jewish thought and culture and director of Notre Dame’s Holocaust Project, whose research focused on various aspects of Jewish-Christian relations. Michael Garvey, a spokesman for the university, told Catholic News Service Jan. 12, “I would say his influence on Catholic-Jewish relations in the United States was of great importance,” said Former James Massa, executive director of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Secretariat of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs. “As a scholar of ancient Christian texts and as a teacher for a generation of students at Notre Dame, Michael brought a wealth of erudition and critical insight to the Catholic Church’s dialogue with Judaism.”

Saint Mary’s College hosts symposium on St. Thomas Aquinas

NOTRE DAME — Saint Mary’s College will host its 12th annual Symposium on St. Thomas Aquinas Wednesday, Jan. 28, at 7 p.m. in the Student Center Lounge. The event is free and open to the public. A reception will follow the lecture.

This year’s speaker is Holy Cross Father John J. Jenkins, president of the University of Notre Dame. His lecture, titled “Faith, Inquiry and Community,” will cover aspects of Aquinas’ legacy and the significance that legacy has for Catholic colleges and universities in the 21st century. Father Jenkins is a professor of philosophy and author of the book, “Knowledge and Faith in Thomas Aquinas.”

The symposium is held each year on the feast of St. Thomas Aquinas and is sponsored by the Joyce McMahon Hank Aquinas Chair in Catholic Theology, held by Dr. Joseph Incandela, professor of religious studies and associate dean of faculty at Saint Mary’s College. For more information on the event, contact Celia Fallon in the associate dean of faculty’s office at (574) 284-4584.

Holy Cross College named an NAIA "Champions of Character" institution

NOTRE DAME — Holy Cross College was recently selected to be an NAIA Champions of Character institution. The college shares the NAIA dedication to high standards and believes that athletics are an integral part of the college experience and important to a student’s development of mind, body and spirit.

The Champions of Character mission aligns well with Holy Cross College’s. “It’s our goal to encourage the development of character values that will help students be more productive, considerate and compassionate members of society. Some of these values include respect, social and personal responsibility, servant leadership and sportsmanship,” said Nathan Walker, athletics director at Holy Cross. As a Champion of Character institution, Holy Cross College has proven that it understands and implements these values, not only in the athletic department, but throughout the
Pro-life, immigration bills return to Indiana General Assembly for winter session

INDIANAPOLIS — They’re back. Bills of previous years commonly return to the Indiana General Assembly for another chance at becoming a permanent fixture in the Indiana Code of laws. It takes patience and diligence on the part of supporters.

This year is no different for many familiar bills are returning for yet another go around at becoming law including pro-life and immigration legislation.

Of the 1,000 bills which have been filed to date, the Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC) is following 100 of them. Roughly 1,500 bills are expected to be introduced this year.

The bills to date cover a wide range of issues, but the most notable area issues for the ICC include legislation to strengthen informed consent laws, ban the death penalty for mentally ill individuals, change immigration laws and help lower income families.

In past years, the Indiana Catholic Conference supported two measures in the area of abortion, which return again this year. Sen. Patricia Miller (R-Indianapolis), a nurse by profession and a pro-life advocate, has a bill performing abortions to obtain hospital privileges in the county where the abortion is performed or a nearby county for the purpose of follow-up treatment for a woman who has had an abortion. And the measure requires the physician to notify the patient of the hospital locations where the patient can receive follow-up care. It also makes abortion physicians more accountable for the abortions they perform and provide better after care for the woman.

Another familiar bill the ICC has supported in years past is a measure to prohibit a person who is found to be mentally ill from receiving a death sentence. Sen. Karen Tallian (D-Portage), an opponent of the death penalty, has a bill, SB 22, which would establish a procedure for determining if a person on trial for murder is mentally ill. The bill prohibits those individuals determined as mentally ill to be sentenced to death.

Immigration reform bills also returning from previous legislative sessions include a bill, SB 580, authored by Sen. Mike Delph (R-Carmel), which has been the major proponent of punishing undocumented immigrants, which would penalize employers who knowingly hire undocumented workers. The bill provides three strikes and you’re out of business. It creates greater penalties for driving without a valid license. It prohibits state entities from contracting undocumented workers.

Also returning this year is a bill which increases the earned income tax credit (EITC) for low income working families. Rep. John Day (D-Indianapolis) a member of Holy Cross Parish in Indianapolis has succeeded in previous years in raising the EITC for working families. The EITC bill, House Bill 1026, authored by Day and co-authored by Rep. Michael Murphy (R-Indianapolis), a member of St. Jude Parish in Indianapolis, would increase the amount of the Indiana earned income tax credit from 9 percent to 10 percent of the federal earned income tax credit thus allowing lower income families to be exempt from income tax. It raises the income level at which taxes are collected. The effect of the bill would be for working families to keep more income in their pocket to support their families.

Once a bill is filed and read for the first time, it is assigned to a House or Senate committee. It is up to, Sen. David C. Long (R-Fort Wayne), the president pro tempore in Senate and the committee chair where the bill is assigned, to determine if the bill will get a hearing. In the House, Rep. Patrick Bauer (D-South Bend), Speaker of the House, and the committee chair in the House will determine which House bills get hearings.

The committee hearing process allows the bill’s author to explain the intent of the legislation and allows for public comment, critique and testimony in support or opposition to the proposed bill. It is at this time that committee members weigh the pros and cons of a bill and take a committee vote. If a bill passes committee with a majority vote, it goes to the House or Senate floor for second reading and voice vote.

Important bills being monitored by the ICC

Bills by the numbers
24 Social justice bills
22 Education bills
19 Pro-life bills
13 Immigration bills
7 Church, religious institution bills
4 Government reform bills

To explore the ICC’s new, online, public policy tool and join the ICC network go to the ICC Web page at www.indianacc.org and click “Legislative Action Center.”

New tabernacle consecrated

BY SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

SOUTH BEND — St. Joseph Parish, the oldest parish in the city of South Bend, celebrated Masses on Jan. 18, in honor of Blessed Basil Moreau, whose congregation has staffed the parish since it was founded in 1853.

“Because of the many years of service that Holy Cross priests, brothers and sisters have offered in this diocese at colleges and universities, in parishes and outreach to the poor, and because Blessed Moreau’s feast day is on Jan. 20,” said Holy Cross Father John DeRiso, pastor, “Bishop D’Arcy has given permission to celebrate the first Mass in honor of Blessed Basil Moreau at all the liturgies on Jan. 18.”

To help with this celebration during the parish’s sesquicentennial year, Bishop John M. D’Arcy presided at the 10 a.m. Mass and consecrated its new tabernacle.

In his homily Bishop D’Arcy characterized Blessed Basil, the French priest who founded the Congregations of Holy Cross, as a man whose asset was “he loved God and understood the meaning of the cross.” He was hard on himself but always kind to others.

Moreau understood suffering and chose to share in the cross of Christ, the cross of love. Even when his own community rejected him, he continued to serve by preaching at parish missions. He lived the words, “Ave crux. Spera unica,” which means, “Hail the cross, one hope.”

After the general intercessions, Bishop D’Arcy consecrated the new tabernacle with a blessing. Referring to the blessing of the new tabernacle, longtime parishioner, Mary Sparks said, “It is wonderful because the tabernacle is visible and you know right away that this is a Catholic Church.”
Keeping our children safe

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — In recent years, the Catholic community across the country and around the world was shocked and disheartened when allegations were made concerning the sexual abuse of children by Catholic clergy. As the church addressed this issue and worked to restore trust and hope for healing, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) set forth a charter to guide all U.S. dioceses in establishing an environment in which all children would be safe.

The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, a comprehensive set of procedures established by the U.S. bishops in 2002, consists of 17 articles and includes guidelines for reconciliation, healing, accountability and prevention of future acts of abuse.

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, under Bishop John M. D’Arcy, has complied with this charter since its inception and through the Office of Catechesis developed a unique program that has been implemented across the area. Currently the Office of Safe Environment is responsible for support of the program.

Catholic Cicciello, coordinator of the safe environment office, first became acquainted with the screening process as a classroom volunteer at her child’s school, and, in March of 2007, accepted the position offered by Bishop D’Arcy to coordinate the safe environment annual audit.

“I started to see the pieces of the program from the other side,” she says, adding that each diocesan parish and school is involved in screenings and education for staff and volunteers who work directly with children.

One component of her position is to coordinate and support the efforts of the screeners at each of the parishes and schools in the diocese, who are responsible for facilitating the criminal background checks on all adults who apply to work or volunteer with children. This is in compliance with Article 13 of the charter.

Most parishes and schools utilize an appointed screener, usually the secretary, director of religious education or principal of the school, but larger parishes and schools require two for the hundreds of screenings that take place each year.

Applying for employment or to volunteer within the diocese requires two to four criminal background checks followed by reference checks.

This time-consuming work requires patience and much paperwork, reports Cicciello, adding, “I want to applaud the background screeners. They do a boatload of work. It’s challenging work... not an easy job.”

When a criminal conviction is discovered, the screener reports it to the pastor or principal. With the support of the Office of Safe Environment, when the offense is not of a violent or sexual nature the acceptance of the applicant is left up to the pastoral discretion of the hiring staff.

Article 12 speaks to the maintenance of the safe environment program and the education and training of children, young adults, parents, educators, staff, volunteers, clergy and others. Following positive completion of the background and reference checks, the applicant is required to participate in two educational activities. A manual offering guidelines for interaction with children and reporting suspected child abuse is available as well as a 25-minute video, titled “Safe Environment Training,” developed by the diocese. An annual educational event has also been implemented for all students, preschool through eighth grade, in religious education and the Catholic schools, and their teachers, catechists, counselors and others. Titled “The Good Boundaries Script,” the 25-minute presentation is offered to children and adults in age-appropriate versions.

All screenings and participation in educational activities are documented by the background screener and reported to Cicciello and her trusted assistant Kathi Santay, at the Office of Safe Environment. They are then responsible to tally and report each category total for the annual audit chart required by the USCCB.

“Last year in June of ’08, we submitted a document for the fifth audit. And we received our fifth compliance rating,” says Cicciello confidently, adding that she feels compelled every year to tell people that they passed the audit.

The program requires many hands and much work, but is a good start to creating a safe environment for all Catholic children. Cicciello says, “The program is only six years old and we’re learning how to create and implement programs to keep kids safe. The church is going beyond and making amends.”

For more information on the charter visit www.usccb.org/ocyp.

A look at safe environment

ARTICLE 12

Dioceses/eparchies are to maintain “safe environment” programs which the diocesan/eparchial bishop deems to be in accord with Catholic moral principles. They are to be conducted cooperatively with parents, civil authorities, educators and community organizations to provide education and training for children, youth, parents, ministers, educators, volunteers, and others about ways to make and maintain a safe environment for children and young people. Dioceses/eparchies are to make clear to clergy and all members of the community the standards of conduct for clergy and other persons in positions of trust with regard to children.

ARTICLE 13

Dioceses/eparchies are to evaluate the background of all incardinated and non-incardinated priests and deacons who are engaged in ecclesiastical ministry in the diocese/eparchy and of all diocesan/eparchial and parish/school or other paid personnel and volunteers whose duties include ongoing, unsupervised contact with minors. Specifically, they are to utilize the resources of law enforcement and other community agencies. In addition, they are to employ adequate screening and evaluative techniques in deciding the fitness of candidates for ordination (cf. United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Program of Priestly Formation [fifth Edition], 2006, no. 39).
Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education and its contribution to the church and our nation. During this week, we focus on the important role of Catholic schools in providing a faith-centered education for all students but also to all those who make Catholic schools possible. Our teachers and administrators are committed to provide an education that strengthens our students in mind, heart and soul. Teachers and administrators provide a great service by using their gifts for Catholic schools. They have felt God’s call and answered by dedicating their lives to their vocation. Many pass by opportunities where they would be more financially comfortable knowing the rewards they receive by service in our schools are measured in a different way.

Parents also have reason to “Celebrate Service.” They have made the choice to send their children to Catholic schools for different reasons. Whatever these reasons might be they also participate by sacrificing in many ways. Service for others always involves some form of sacrifice. But parents know that by this sacrifice a great reward will benefit their child and the future they will have as a Christian adult.

I end with a quote from the founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross, the religious order that I am blessed to be a part. Blessed Father Basil Moreau stated in one of his circular letters to the congregation that “We shall always place education side by side with instruction; the mind will not be cultivated at the expense of the heart. While we prepare useful citizens for society, we shall likewise do our utmost to prepare citizens for heaven.”

“Celebrating Service” is a wonderful time for our diocese to celebrate who we are and what we do as we continue to “prepare citizens for heaven.”

Holy Cross Father Stephen Kempinger is the superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.
St. Jude students reap stewardship benefits

By Deb Wagner

FORT WAYNE — St. Jude Parish has long been known for two things — its stewardship and its socioeconomic affluence. While its economic status has changed to what some have characterized as mostly inner city, culturally diverse and blue-collar with the movement of some people to suburban areas, their commitment to stewardship now includes focus on the good character of its youth today.

Sister Kathleen Marie Knueven, SND, is principal of the parish and says, “I believe it is important to promote lifelong stewardship and the grateful sharing of the gifts of time, talent and treasure among our students at St. Jude. We cannot wait until adulthood to respond with gratitude that everything we have is given to us by God. Through service and projects we teach our students the importance of good stewardship and the joy of being a cheerful giver.”

The students’ efforts are also helping the environment. Some students made snowmen from mayonnaise jars for holiday decorating and gift-giving. Others have hosted garage sales and engaged in bottle and can recycling.

Pat Rupley is an eighth grader who has put a lot of time into this stewardship project. He says, "Everybody is working really hard on this project collecting bottles and cans from other people." Cans have been collected weekly in the school courtyard and then taken to a recycling center by a parent volunteer.

Students have hosted garage sales in October and Nelson’s Port-A-Pit chicken from a grocery store parking lot in the blustery cold and freezing rain of winter were an absolute hit. The eighth graders were out in the weather to serve those lined up to get a taste once only thought reserved for the summer months. The students did not seem to mind the weather. They were just happy to be working together.

“Even though it was cold and pouring down rain, selling Nelson’s chicken with my friends was a fun experience. I can’t wait until we go to Chicago together!” said Bri Campbell who joined almost two dozen other classmates that day.

Following the tragedies of Sept. 11, 2001 all class trips at St. Jude Parish were officially canceled, yet class trips often still took place after school was out for the summer. The students did not seem to mind the weather.

“We are a team.”

The students’ stewardship now includes focus on the good character of its youth today.

Sister Kathleen Marie Knueven, SND, is principal of the parish and parent wanted to bring back the class trip during the school year as an educational opportunity in which every eighth-grade student could participate. And what if a student was unable to help with this stewardship project for any number of reasons?

She said, “We are a class. We need to work as a whole and some are able to do more than others. We are a team.”

This is another valuable life lesson from stewardship.

Because of the willingness of students to participate in such stewardship projects, all of the St. Jude eighth grade students will be boarding a bus with their teachers and chaperones in March for an educational day long tour of downtown Chicago.

Students will hear about the great Chicago fire of 1871 and historic Holy Name Cathedral from their teachers before touring the latter. The students will view Chicago from atop the Sears Tower, visit the Museum of Science and Industry and enjoy having lunch and dinner together before returning to Fort Wayne later in the evening.
BY DENISE FEDOROW

SOUTH BEND — Stephen Donndelinger, principal of St. Jude School in South Bend, has seen some changes since he assumed his position three years ago — some of those changes were already in the works and some he initiated — and he knows more changes are to come, but he looks at that as a positive thing.

Because of the decision to close nearby St. Mary’s School, a number of St. Mary’s students were already enrolled at St. Jude’s when he took over as principal in the fall of 2006. Since then, a decision was also made to merge Sacred Heart, Lakeville, with St. Jude’s to form one large parish named St. Catherine of Sienna.

A new Catherine of Sienna Church will reportedly be built to accommodate the larger parish. A committee has been formed to study possible sites for the church, but whether a new school will be built is unknown at this time and Donndelinger said even if that decision were to be made it would take a number of years for that to happen.

“The idea that a new school will pop up as soon as a new church is built is probably not realistic,” Donndelinger said.

In the meantime, a vanted St. Jude Church and rectory would give the school some much-needed space to expand into.

“People ask why we don’t have a preschool — there’s no room,” he said.

The principal also cited a lack of an official teacher’s lounge and space for health resources, band and choir and a larger gym.

“If a new church is built nearby, but not on site, it gives us the ability to utilize that space — to me that’s an exciting prospect.”

Whether the school changes its name to St. Catherine’s and when is also up in the air, but Donndelinger said, “No matter what the name is, what’s important is what the school stands for and provides its students.”

Donndelinger graduated Notre Dame in 2000 and spent a couple of years working with children in the Juvenile Justice Center and taught in the South Bend school system. He also taught fourth grade at St. Monica School in Mishawaka. He was accepted into the ACE Master Program at the University of Notre Dame. When the principal position opened at his home parish, he applied.

This year, St. Jude has 165 students enrolled in grades kindergarten through eighth grade. The principal said his “comfort zone” would be 180-220 students to sustain the school and keep the quality of education and support for students.

Advantages and programs

Donndelinger said one of the advantages of attending St. Jude School, especially for south siders, is it’s the most centrally located school. Ensuring that every student, even those with disabilities is supported is “extremely important to us,” he said. St. Jude has a full time resource teacher plus an assistant a couple of days a week.

Donndelinger put several programs into place at the school, including a mentor program. Students are matched with adults in an after-school program, and Donndelinger said that extra attention makes a huge difference in the student’s performance.

He’s excited that six Marian High School students will be joining the mentor program. The principal himself, along with a math teacher met with a small group of students helping to build their algebra skills.

STEP scores remain consistently high at St. Jude’s, and Donndelinger is a proponent of looking beyond the actual scores and determining where improvement can be made.

Elective programs for students in grades 5-8 have been implemented for 45 minutes before lunch. On Mondays and Wednesdays there are academic electives including: Spanish, faith and service, gifted opportunity, and the ability to explore different areas and wants to give that same opportunity to his students.

He said the school is working to bring the elective program to the lower grades. They currently offer Spanish and will be bringing chess to the younger students.

“Future enrollment is built from the bottom up,” he said. And this year, St. Jude’s has the largest kindergarten class in five years.

Donndelinger said there’s a big effort to extend the school’s outreach and one avenue is connecting with the alumni base. He also believes a healthy kindergarten class is the key to future enrollment growth.

“Future enrollment is built from the bottom up,” he said. And this year, St. Jude’s has the largest kindergarten class in five years.

Donndelinger believes to have a successful Catholic school you have to provide an environment where children can develop his or her “spiritual, academic and social potential for success as lifelong learners,” as the school’s mission statement declares. The principal keeps that mission foremost in his mind.

St. Jude School has several fun activities planned for Catholic Schools Week, including a special lunchroom and days when students can dress in certain styles as decided by the student council. For more information about the school, visit the Web site at www.stjudeschool.net.
Legacy Auction set in support of St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School

FORT WAYNE — The St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School Home and School Association is planning for the 5th Annual Legacy Auction scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 24. The casually elegant event begins with cocktails and silent auction at 6:30 p.m., with dinner catered by Catablu at 7:30. The live auction will begin at 8:30. The theme for this year’s event is “Celebrating our Children” and will take place at St. Elizabeth Seton School, 10700 Aboite Center Rd.

Items up for bid are a $2,500 gift certificate from Bussick Orthodontist, items from Peg Perego and Vera Bradley and gift certificates from many local businesses. Also on display will be art work and photos from each classroom from preschool through eighth grade.

Tickets are $30 per person. A cash bar will be available. To purchase tickets call Norine Martin at (260) 436 1983 or the school office at (260) 432 4001.

The Legacy Auction kicks off the celebration of Catholic Schools Week, Jan. 24-31. Other events scheduled for Catholic Schools Week include Masses at St. Joseph Parish on Brooklyn Ave. and St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, a talent show and an open house on Jan. 28 at both campuses.
SERVICE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

St. Mary Principal Kathy Garlitz says, “Members send letters to all school families, make flyers for the community and advertise in the church bulletin as well as our sending parish bulletins to solicit blood donations for the Red Cross at a time and date in our school hall.

“Students also work at the blood drive with both the registration of donors and in the canteen, which they help supply with food and drink contributions.”

“One student council member,” Garlitz adds, “dresses as P.D. Plateet, the mascot for the drive, and entertains both the students and the donors the day of the drive.”

At St. Bernard School in Wabash, Theresa Carroll, principal, reports that the school kicks off Catholic Schools Week with a Day in the Life of Jesus.

The students will participate in activities that Jesus would have as part of his day. Carroll says, “They will work with Hebrew words and Scriptures the way Jesus would have learned them. We hope to also have a carpenter presentation.”

She adds, “Other events taking place during the week are a book drive, a service project planning period and Fun Football Friday. Our Pre-K learns the letter ‘F’ by doing all sorts of football activities. They color a football helmet, do the football shuffle and eat football game day food.”

St. John the Baptist School in New Haven has a service project planned for each grade level throughout the year. The sixth and eighth grades help at The Franciscan Center. Seventh graders volunteered as victims for the Allen County Emergency Response Teams. The fifth grade sings at Harborside nursing home. The fourth grade collects food for the Community Harvest Food Bank. The third grade sings in the choir at weekend Masses. The second grade makes cards for parish shut-ins. The first grade makes special cards and decorations for a nursing home. And the kindergarten and pre-kindergarten children make bird feeders.

At Queen of Angels School in Fort Wayne, Principal Marsha Jordan reports that each grade has at least three service projects and “service is something that is a continual focus.”

Highlighted projects include collecting pennies by the kindergartners and first grade for clean water at the Queen of Angels’ sister parish, St. Clare, in Haiti. “Over the last five or six years, we have collected several thousand dollars,” Jordan says. The two grades also send books to students in Namibia as part of a Peace Corps project.

The students collect food to replenish the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry in the school. They are also involved in visiting with residents at St. Anne Home and Retirement Center and making cards for nursing home residents and shut-ins. Students at Most Precious Blood will celebrate service this week by working with children at local hospitals. Principal Ali Bergman reports the varsity cheerleaders came up with the idea after they collected toys to be distributed at Parkview and Lutheran hospitals. In March, they plan a walk-a-thon to collect money for Riley Hospital in Indianapolis.

Activities for Catholic Schools Week at Holy Family School in South Bend include an open house in addition to an academic and book fair. Stump the Teacher is slated Monday, bingo on Tuesday, an inspirational movie on Thursday, a teachers vs. eighth grade volleyball game, acts of kindness throughout the week and a grandparents or special guest Mass on Friday.

At St. Matthew School in South Bend, the Young Vincentians play an active role in serving the poor and lonely in the Michiana area. Their biggest mission is to keep the food pantry clean and full. They hold food drives, stock the pantry shelves and clean the pantry.

The 68 Young Vincentians from St. Matthew begin each year by filling 100 backpacks for foster children in the Michiana area with small gifts, personal care items and snacks — donated by parishioners. They also participate in the St. Vincent de Paul blanket drive and sock drive. They participate in Eric’s Promise each Lenten season, fill Easter baskets and Walk for the Homeless each April. The Young Vincentians make lap blankets, small holiday gifts and write letters to shut-in at St. Matthew Cathedral Parish.

At Our Lady of Hungary School in South Bend, teacher Maureen Rouseve took students Christmas caroling at a local nursing home. The choir members delivered Christmas cards and drawings to each resident. The artwork was made by every student in the school.

Melissa Jay of Our Lady of Hungary School, says, “The songs, cards and drawings brought smiles to the eyes of the residents. Hugs were given.”

At St. Louis Besancon Academy, New Haven, Principal Cheryl Lynn says, “...Besides adopting a family of four from the Christmas Bureau — with only 61 students — and collecting diapers for the Christ Child Society, we collected items to send to soldiers on a ship in Iraq.

Bishop Luers High School
333 East Paulding Rd, Fort Wayne, IN 46816
www.bishopluers.org
260.466.1261

LUERS SPIRIT

What is LUERS SPIRIT?
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Our graduates include a large number of successful professionals and business owners. Many more become leaders in their communities all across America. In this way, the true meaning of Luers Spirit reaches far beyond our family of graduates.

Our commitment to Luers Spirit has produced an impressive graduation rate, remarkable record of athletic achievement, and a safe and socially rewarding student experience.

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Celebrating 50 Years of Quality Catholic Education
1958-2008
Martha Lewallen, principal of St. Anthony, retires

BY JUDY BRADFORD

SOUTH BEND — Martha Lewallen’s face lights up when she recalls a lunchroom scene, seven years ago, when eighth graders swarmed, like bugs, around a wheelchair-bound classmate of theirs.

“One of the parents had built a special lunch table because the ones that we had didn’t work out for her,” she explained, “and so many students were eager to sit next to her, at her special table.”

For Lewallen, that memory clearly represents the spirit of community and cooperation at St. Anthony de Padua School, where she has served as principal for the past 22 years. It’s a memory she will cherish as she prepares for her retirement at the end of this school year.

“I’m very proud of the community here, and how we pull together to help each and learn from each other, and be more inclusive.”

When Lewallen started teaching seventh and eighth graders at St. Anthony’s in 1982, there were no accommodations for disabled students. Now there’s an elevator, and teachers who can easily adapt to the needs of the disabled.

“When we have students who are out of the mainstream, it challenges us as a faculty. But they have also helped us as much as we have helped them,” she says. Lewallen wasn’t even thinking about being an administrator back in 1987 when the late Father Robert Yast, then pastor at St. Anthony Church, asked her to be principal.

“I had had some leadership opportunities, like doing the class scheduling, and being a team leader or running the patrol program here. But I liked working with the kids,” says Lewallen. However, she felt called to be an administrator, partly because Father Yast needed someone. His original plans to appoint an associate pastor fell through because the diocese desperately needed that pastor as a priest. “They couldn’t spare a priest, so he asked me,” she said.

There have been a lot of changes since then. In addition to welcoming disabled students, the school has also welcomed Hispanic and black students, bringing the minority population to 18 percent. “When I came here in 1982, there was one minority student out of 435. It’s just so wonderful to see students sharing crayons and even their lunches. I’m very proud of our diverse student body.”

The student body has grown smaller, particularly due to the opening last year of the St. Pius X School in Granger.

Sixty-five of St. Anthony’s students transferred there.

“We all knew we would be impacted, because those families were already members of the St. Pius Parish. I can’t blame them for transferring their children there, because it’s a shorter distance to drive to school and all the after-school activities.”

St. Anthony’s student K-8 student body, which now stands at 300, is even more closer-knit now, and probably has more middle-class families. She says that as she retires, the school’s staff, faculty and parents will continue to face challenges.

“We can’t protect children from everything, and parents have to help us with that. Parents need to remember that they are the first teachers, and remember to set a good example.”

The faculty remains strong, she says, partly because many of them are older and have experienced so many changes together.

“We have gone through the birth of our own children, raising those children, seeing our kids get married and also taking care of our own parents together. These are life stages that strengthen a group of people.”

Donna Hemmerlein, a fourth-grade teacher who served as assistant principal for 10 years until last year, agrees. But she adds that Lewallen has been at the center of that strength.

“We’re all family, and she’s responsible for that. She’s improved our faith development and fostered a Christian community that operates on mutual respect.

“Also, her work day didn’t stop at the end of the school day. She often worked evenings. She has always challenged us, and we’ve always wanted to do our best for her.”

The search for Lewallen’s replacement has begun, and includes a survey of school parents asking them what they would like in a new principal.

Meanwhile, Lewallen, who has taught in many American cities including Milwaukee, DeMoiens, Redondo Beach, Calif. and St. Joseph, Mich., plans to stay in South Bend with her husband James, an accountant with AMJ Accounting.

After a few months’ break, during which she plans to travel, she wants to work with the elderly, either as a volunteer or in a paid position, and also volunteer with the Christ Child Society.
Catholic school teachers gather for the Institute of Catechetical Formation

Each year, all of the diocesan Catholic school teachers gather for a day of personal and professional ongoing formation from many local talented catechetical experts, most of whom have received their theological formation because of a generous grant from Our Sunday Visitor. This event, sponsored by the diocesan Office of Catechesis, is known as the Institute of Catechetical Formation for Teachers. It is a unique opportunity for the over 900 teachers of the diocesan Catholic schools to learn more about their faith so that they in turn are better equipped to hand on the faith to children in the diocese.

This annual event takes place in two locations, one event in the Fort Wayne end of the diocese and one in South Bend. This year the event will take place in Mishawaka at Marian High School on Feb. 27 and in Fort Wayne at Bishop Dwenger High School on March 13. The day will begin at 8 a.m. with morning refreshments and end at 12:15 p.m. The event will include a keynote presentation, Mass celebrated by Bishop John M. D’Arcy, and a variety of workshop options for the teachers to attend. Ordinarily there are two sessions of workshops; however, this year, Bishop D’Arcy is celebrating Mass. His homily is his opportunity to speak to the entire body of Catholic school teachers nurturing their faith as their shepherd and chief catechist of the diocese.

The keynote speaker will be Daniel S. Mulhall, a highly respected catechetical expert with national renown. He has been actively engaged in catechetical ministry for over 30 years on the parish, diocesan and national levels. From 1998 to 2007, Mulhall worked for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. He is a highly respected catechetical expert with national renown. He has been actively engaged in catechetical ministry for over 30 years on the parish, diocesan and national levels. From 1998 to 2007, Mulhall worked for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. His homily is his opportunity to speak to the entire body of Catholic school teachers nurturing their faith as their shepherd and chief catechist of the diocese.

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The gift of faith nurtured in Catholic schools

BY SISTER JANE CAREW

Recently a newly hired teacher, Tyler McAtee at Bishop Luers High School, expressed his admiration for the strong level of Catholic identity permeating the school. Tyler, a graduate of Christendom College and well-formed in philosophy and theology, is grateful to be teaching in this environment.

The Office of Catechesis has worked very closely with the Office of Catholic Schools these past 22 years. This longterm collaboration has been the fruit of Bishop John M. D’Arcy’s vision from the time he came to the diocese. Different dioceses have different models.

Bishop D’Arcy’s model has been strong encouragement that these two offices work together to foster the growth in knowledge and love of the Catholic faith, enriching the lives of many teachers and students.

Two years after I came, Bishop D’Arcy approached me with a grant of $23,000 saying he wanted high school religious teachers and directors of religious education to obtain masters degrees in theology so as to teach the faith with knowledge and conviction. This generous grant came from Our Sunday Visitor.

In 1990 the University of Dayton came into the diocese each semester to teach a course which met over three weekends. Thirteen years later the University of Notre Dame wanted to reach out to the local church. We were pleased to have this within our diocese, so we have talented and dedicated catechists from both universities.

Nineteen years later, we give thanks for continued grant funding from Our Sunday Visitor and, with over 65 graduates and 20 still pursuing their degrees, the diocese has been very blessed. The highest concentration of graduates is in the four high schools. Collectively there are 33 teachers of religion, four of whom are engaged in campus ministry.

Over the years, the growth in the quality and substance of high school coursework is very impressive. The University of Saint Francis is presently in dialogue with Bishop Dwenger and Bishop Luers because students who go on to attend Saint Francis and take the introductory course in theology already know the material. The hope is that students from these two high schools will receive three college credits as an elective and subsequently take two other more advanced courses in theology. Certainly this is a testament to the excellence of the theology in our four high schools.

More Catholic elementary schools have fulltime teachers of religion for grades 6, 7 and 8. Some of these people are Cindy Esch at Christ the King, Debbie Feece at Holy Family, Diane Klee at Holy Cross and Edwardo Sequenza at St. Adalbert. It is our hope that this trend will continue to develop.

The various programs that have been provided for Catholic schools over the years have been Institute Days of Faith Formation in both Fort Wayne and South Bend. Initially these were held in fall and spring. Later the fall event was replaced by specialized workshops, gathering teachers of one grade level to focus on the content taught and the Emmaus Committees, which provided catechetical and spiritual enrichment.

In the past six years the Catholic Educator Program has provided a two-week course in early June in both Fort Wayne and South Bend. Topics have included the creed, morality and sacraments. Taught by gifted high school religion teachers, this program has been attended by about 280 teachers. It consistently receives high praise as teachers learn catechetical methodology and experience a deepening of love for their Catholic faith.

The result of these endeavors enhances the Catholic identity of schools. A great delight for all to experience is the excellent results of yearly ACRE (Assessment of Catholic Religious Education). Given each year in March to grades 5, 8, 9 and 12th levels, collectively the diocesan Catholic schools score well above the national average. Individual schools score 10, 15 and 20 points above the national average.

Dr. John Convey from the education department of Catholic University of America is working with the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA) to compile a book on ACRE. Because our grade 8 students in 2005 were amongst the highest in the country, the diocese has been asked to compile a manuscript describing our catechetical formation program.

Newly revised curriculum guidelines, preschool to grade 8, are the present enhancement project. These are based on the 2005 United States National Catechetical Directory. The initial response from teachers is very positive. The revised curriculums are designed to continue the formation of the teacher, identify and develop the content for each grade level and enhance the understanding and vocabulary of children and youth. The completion of this major endeavor will assure the strengthening of faith formation for many years to come.

Thanks to the dedicated principals, teachers and Bishop D’Arcy’s early visioning, the Catholic schools in this diocese are implementing and experiencing the vision of the catechetical renewal begun at Vatican II, which has unfolded over the past 40 years.

Our newly-hired Tyler McAtee at Bishop Luers exemplify many teachers and schools who delight in knowing they are in a truly Catholic learning environment and successfully handing on the faith.

Sister Jane Carew is the co-director of the Office of Catechesis.

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BY MONICA MURPHY

SOUTH BEND — I was a little overwhelmed as I drove up to the parking lot of Saint Joseph’s High School for my first day of school. Though a little excited, the butterflies never left my stomach. I was just about to embark on a new chapter of my life, and the journey that awaited me was something that I could hardly imagine for myself.

My new principal, Susan Richter, stood outside and greeted me with a warm and heartfelt smile, “Welcome to Saint Joseph High School; we are glad to have you.” Her uplifting smile reassured me that my time here would be a huge blessing.

My call to service and faith began at Saint Joe where I was introduced to endless opportunities to become involved and to find my calling in life. Now that I am a senior and look back on my years here, I have been tremendously blessed to have been able to go to such a wonderful school.

I believe that one of the biggest reasons why I have dedicated so much time to Saint Joe is because it is like a second home, and because I love being at this school. Every day is a new journey.

Parents who have children in eighth grade will ask, “Monica, how have you liked Saint Joe?” I respond by saying that I absolutely love it and could not imagine myself going anywhere else.

At Saint Joe we are all one family, together growing in love and faith, helping one another to reach ambitious dreams. The teachers have challenged me to be the best person that I can be. In and outside of the classroom, I have wonderful relationships with my teachers and look up to them as role models and essential guides for my life. Their sacrifice and commitment to Catholic education is truly a blessing and this has made me more appreciative over the past four years.

The dedication of faith, excellence, and service is exemplified at Saint Joe. Over the years I have seen conversions, deeper relationships with the Lord, and have noticed the chapel full of students during the lunch hour. The school spirit and the number of students involved in community service amazes me and makes me overjoyed. Most of my peers are proud of where they go to school.

The greatest memory that I have at Saint Joe is that of Principal Richter, who is a true inspiration and light for all of the Saint Joe family. She is a big blessing. Saint Joe High School is what it is today. Her kindness, love, compassion, faith, determination, hard work, commitment and selflessness are beyond explanation. Her passion is Saint Joseph’s High School. Her sacrifice sheds light. Her grace evokes change. She is the disciple living out Christ’s message.

She always gives her time to the teachers, faculty and students. I remember last year when my math class was having a study session at the Martin’s grocery store, and she was there shopping. She saw us and put her cart aside and joined us at our table. I remember last spring, right before a group of us left for Medjugorje, when she joined us for Mass in our chapel and also greeted us on our return late the following Saturday night. In the Saint Joe Spirit, she cheers the sports teams on and is always present at our plays and musicals. She is dedicated and loves this school and community.

It is people like Richter, who provide hope for the future, whose hard work and endless gifts shine throughout the community. Even though she is faced with new challenges every day, she overcomes them and keeps envisioning unimaginable goals.

How fortunate am I to have had a great education at Saint Joe? Very. I have a lot to be thankful for. When I leave for college next year, I am going to miss Saint Joe, but I can look back and smile remembering the experience that I had and all of those whom I have met. Catholic education is a wonderful blessing, this community is a blessing, and our educators are a blessing. Saint Joe continues to live out its mission and will keep succeeding in all areas. We are Saint Joe. We stand proud.

Monica Murphy is a senior at Saint Joseph’s High School.

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Dwenger student rallies school for Ugandan children

BY LAUREN CAGGIANO

FORT WAYNE — Think globally, act locally. Bishop Dwenger senior Jenna Roy has certainly embraced that mantra in and outside the classroom. Roy, 18, has been instrumental in making her classmates more socially aware.

For the past two years Roy has rallied behind the “Invisible Children” movement. This non-profit group was founded by American filmmakers who brought the plight of Ugandan children to life with their film “Invisible Children: Rough Cut.”

According to the group’s Web site, www.invisiblechildren.com, “the war in northern Uganda has been called the most neglected humanitarian emergency in the world today. For the past 23 years, the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) and the Government of Uganda (GoU) have been waging a war that has left nearly 2 million innocent civilians caught in the middle.

With dwindling support for their cause and heightened government offensives, the LRA has their cause and heightened government offensives, the LRA has their cause and heightened government offensives, the LRA has their cause and heightened government offensives, the LRA has strengthened their forces in northern Uganda. Roy first became active in the moment when she and two other Bishop Dwenger students participated in a national public awareness stint, Global Night Commute, in Chicago. On April 28, 2006, more than 80,000 people took a stand by lying down in 126 cities across the United States. People walked for miles to their city centers and slept in the streets to make a visual call to end night commuting in northern Uganda.

In Chicago, Roy said she and the 16,000 participants slept in cardboard boxes in a parking lot in solidarity with the night commuters. They fasted all day, with water and saltines as they only nourishment.

“It was the craziest experience,” she said. “I’ve never been so happy to get water and crackers.” Roy said it was beautiful to see people united under a common goal. And she has channeled that energy into local efforts.

It started with a documentary that transformed her high school. Roy was responsible for bringing the traveling tour bus to Bishop Dwenger. Last fall as part of the tour, the junior and senior class viewed a screening of “Go,” which details the progress of various organizations in Uganda. In fact, since the film’s release, night commuting has ended for the children of northern Uganda.

Roy said the film was a unifying force in her school, as it “broke down social barriers.” “It didn’t matter who you hung out with ... it was really neat how much (my peers) got out of it,” she said.

Students were eager to rally behind the cause and before long they had organized several fund-raising events. As part of the Schools for Schools program, Better World Books has partnered with schools nationally, including Bishop Dwenger, to support the Invisible Children’s cause. The company will buy used books and donate the profits to programs that promote literacy internationally.

The students also collect money in the lunchroom and gather recycling materials, which produce a small return for the cause. Roy said the Social Justice Club is also working to sell handmade bracelets which represent an Ugandan child’s personal struggle. The accompanying video puts a face to the tragedy, Roy said.

Roy said her journey with the cause has shed some light on her possible career goals. She hopes to study internationals studies at an East Coast university and do humanitarian work at some point. Roy will get a glimpse of her possible career this summer, when she teaches English in Ghana.

For information about Invisible Children’s Cause, visit www.invisiblechildren.com.

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Let the FAFSA help family get cash for college

Here’s a great New Year’s resolution for every family with a college-bound student: Complete and file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 10.

Filing the FAFSA is a must-do to qualify for most federal grants and loans, resources provided by the state of Indiana, and support provided by college and universities. There is no cost to apply; it never hurts to try; it is the only way students can know their full financial aid eligibility.

Many Hoosiers miss the opportunity to receive financial aid simply because they do not take the time to complete their FAFSA. There is money out there to help pay for college, but students have to take an important step and apply for it.

To be considered for the most state aid options, the U.S. Department of Education must receive the FAFSA no later than March 10. Filing the FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov is the easiest and fastest way of completing the form accurately and on time.

To help raise awareness of the importance of FAFSA completion, Learn More Indiana is asking caring adults like you to join Indiana’s College Success Coalition and help Hoosiers put their hands on cash for college by promoting the following:

- College Goal Sunday, Feb. 15 at 2 p.m. - Provides free assistance at 36 locations throughout Indiana for students and parents filling out the FAFSA. Hoosiers can submit their FAFSA online at any time. For more information, visit www.collegegoalsunday.org or call 1-800-992-2076.

• FAFSA Friday is an additional push for families needing assistance with filling out the FAFSA prior to the March 10 deadline. On Friday, Feb. 27, Learn More Indiana will connect Hoosiers to financial aid advisors through a statewide webinar. Students, counselors, teachers and parents can view the presentation and chat with financial aid advisors by logging onto www.learnmoreindiana.org/FAFSAFriday between the hours of 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.-9 p.m.

When Hoosiers agree to do a little, they end up doing a lot to help students get to and through college. Join Indiana’s College Success Coalition at www.learnmoreindiana.org/coalition.

Show them the money

- 69 percent of first-generation college students believe they can’t afford college
- 69 percent say they need financial aid information
- 69 percent don’t know the difference between need-based and merit-based financial aid

There is good news: Millions of dollars are available to help Hoosiers pay for college. Make sure students you know submit the FAFSA by the March 10 deadline.

Learn More Indiana is a partnership of the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, the Indiana Department of Education, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development and the State Student Assistance Commission of Indiana all working together to provide information that supports learning.

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Bishops in the department of education. He now serves as the national catechetical advisor for RCL Benziger, a well-known publisher of catechetical materials. His keynote, entitled “Evangelizing a Changing Culture,” will look at the principles of catechesis as discussed in the U.S. bishops’ document the “National Directory for Catechesis.” Mulhall will discuss how to be successful in an evangelizing catechesis — a catechesis that helps students to fall in love with Christ and his church as they grow in knowledge of the faith.

After Mass, teachers will attend a workshop chosen during preregistration. The nearly 20 workshops offered give the teachers a wide variety of options intended to provide intellectual and spiritual enrichment and to meet the formation needs of each individual teacher.

Although designed to be a day of religious formation, teachers who instruct students in sciences other than theology should not be disappointed with the workshop topics, as many are specifically aimed to promote the teaching of Catholic culture across the curriculum.

A few workshop topics include: “Run so as to Win” Conscience Formation; An Introduction to the Theology of the Body; What Jesus has to say
Catholic Education Association’s (NCEA) Assessment of Catechesis Religious Education (ACRE). During this week’s celebration of Catholic Schools, parents and students are encouraged not to forget to thank the teachers for their hard work and dedication to their job and to their own ongoing formation at events like the Institute of Catechetical Formation for Teachers.

Danielle Abril is the liaison to Catholic elementary schools in the diocesan Office of Catechesis.
Linking service to the Catholic faith

TODAY'S CATHOLIC welcomes letters from readers. All letters must be signed and include a number phone and address for verification.

Today's Catholic reserves the right to edit for clarity and length. Address letters to: Today's Catholic • P.O. Box 11169 • Fort Wayne, IN • 46856-1169 or e-mail to: editor@fw.diocesefwsb.org

In this week's story about St. Jude School in South Bend, Principal Robert Fenton did a great job of giving the parents reasons to be proud of the choice they had made to send their children to a Catholic school. But students who have lived in South Bend are well aware that the school community that brought them into the faith will not end with the early grades of their education. They will continue to be involved in the school community through the middle years and high school.

In the past, the climate of the school community was a major factor in keeping students involved in school activities. The same is true today, with the choice of a Catholic education continuing to be a lifelong decision. It is the school community that brings the students and families together in a way that cannot be replicated at any other educational institution.

A lifelong journey

One of the “unsuspecting” benefits of our Catholic schools is that it brings the parents and church community together in a way that cannot be replicated at any other educational institution.

When a student leaves a Catholic school, they do so as a member of the church community. They are not just students in a classroom, but as part of a family of faith. The school community is a place where students can grow in their faith and be supported by their peers.

One of the most important aspects of a Catholic education is the importance of service. Students are encouraged to be actively involved in their community through volunteer work and service projects. This not only helps the students to develop a sense of compassion and empathy, but also teaches them the importance of giving back to their community.

In conclusion, a Catholic education is not just about learning academic skills, but also about developing a sense of community and service. It is through these values that students are able to grow in their faith and become active members of the church community.

Editorial

Need to oppose FOCA legislation

When running for office President Obama promised Planned Parenthood that “the first thing I will do as president is to sign the Freedom of Choice Act — FOCA.” FOCA is a biased act as it favors one group who strongly push for the destruction of the preborn and it disregards the many who support life. FOCA will put into law a woman’s so-called “right” to kill her preborn child, negate current state laws that afford some protection to the unborn, such as parental notification, and force hospitals, doctors, nurses and health-care workers to promote and perform abortions against their consciences.

FOCA will respect our country since it means government sanctioned killing of future citizens and its consequent obliteration of respect for human life. Instead of the government protecting its citizens, it will be in the business of obliterating life.

We urgently need to contact members of Congress requesting them to oppose so evil a piece of legislation.

Margaret Hunkele

South Bend

Clarifying abortion

In the 2008 hit movie, “Juno,” the teenage title character seduces her boyfriend and becomes pregnant. Realizing that she is not in the position to become a parent, she decides to have an abortion. On her way to the abortion clinic, her pro-life friend tells her that her unborn baby already has fingerprints. Shocked to learn that she has a live human being in her womb, Juno decides to give birth and put her baby up for adoption. In a few short scenes the movie clarifies a controversy that has been raging for almost 40 years.

Most of those who want unrestricted, elective abortion to remain the law of the land simply ignore the reality of life in the womb. Others, such as the United States Supreme Court and President-elect Barack Obama, delude themselves into believing that an unborn embryo or fetus is “not really” a human being in spite of the scientific facts to the contrary.

Science tells us that each unique, individual life begins at conception when a man unites with a woman's egg. From then on, all that is needed for it to mature is time, oxygen, nutrition — and a safe environment. But the Supreme Court insists that “no one knows” when human life begins and Obama says flatly that the question is “beyond his pay grade.”

Since Jan. 22, 1973, when the Supreme Court decreed abortion on demand became law in the United States, an estimated 50 million tiny human beings have been destroyed by elective abortions. In the past seven years, many states have managed to enact a few common sense rules to help protect women and the unborn, individual and parental rights. But Obama and the Democratic Party have threatened to undo even those minimal protections by enacting the Freedom of Choice Act.

Postcards against FOCA

In response to Sister Angeline Walczyk’s letter on President-elect Obama’s ban on torture, I wish that the sister would have the same concern for our new president’s promise to issue an executive order to allow government funding of embryonic stem-cell research and his campaign promise to sign the Freedom of Choice Act. It would be nice if the concern for terrorists would also be extended to unborn babies, which are being killed at the rate of 4,000 per day in this country.

We now have the prospect of our new president reinstating one of the worst forms of torture in the procedure of partial-birth abortion, which the Supreme Court banned and Congress upheld under the Bush administration. All gains in the pro-life arena that have been made over the past 36 years would be ended.

Father Frank Pavone, Priests for Life, at the Pro-Life Conference in Ann Arbor, Mich., last weekend told us of seeing a sign on a Florida beach that said we are not allowed to crush the eggs of sea turtles because they are federally protected. I told him, “But we live in a country where the eggs of sea turtles are protected but unborn babies.”

Let’s all ensure that President Obama knows that the American people wish to end the dismemberment and killing of unborn babies by signing and mailing the postcards that will be distributed at Catholic churches throughout our nation this month regarding the Freedom of Choice Act and restore our adherence to God’s laws.

Marianne Dunne
Fort Wayne

Poor attempt to establish a true correlation

I must respond to the Jan. 18 article, “Why linking the birth-control pill to infertility in men,” that I thought was a pretentious attempt to establish a true correlation.

Before I get vitiligo, let me state that I am a practicing Catholic and hold zero sympathies for birth-control supporters. I believe all human life is sacred and a gift from God.

But the way this piece was put together was a sensational and despicable act of trying to make birth-control the source of all evil. Take for example the focal point of the scientist’s studies. Sexual abnormalities were found in fish that had been exposed to sewage contaminated with synthetic estrogens used in the pill. Well, I sure as heck am not a fish, and I definitely won’t be eating sewage. So there’s one case debunking the male infertility/birth control argument.

Next, the article itself strayed from the original subject and confused that it was in fact chemicals in the environment that could come from the pill, (or countless other sources) which are really the contributing variable to infertility. Basically, it was never the birth-control pill alone that had anything to do with male infertility.

I feel this paper should stop scar- ing it’s readers with radical head- lines; and to publish the studies as they are written. Allow the public to think for themselves and form their conscience. I was very disappointed by this misleading propaganda but mainly saddened that the Vatican allowed it to be released.

Paul J. Fedespel
Fort Wayne

A ‘person is a person, no matter how small’

President Obama has retracted Lincoln’s historic, 1861 journey to the White House. As Obama’s election is a triumph of racial equality and opportunity it is “allegorical fitting and prophetic” to observe that when Abraham Lincoln made his way to the capital, African slaves were counted as three-fifths of a person for the purpose of determining a state’s number of congressmen. Otherwise they were non-persons under the law — mere property.

Right now American babies in the womb have zero rights and are non-persons under the law. Even a nine month gestated baby in the womb can be killed at the mother’s visit to the abortion clinic.

Since every person you ever see including yourself started life as a one cell zygote and since no two persons in the history of the world have ever been alike, to kill a being that is human in any stage of development is to kill a human being, all sapphistry about modern unborn babies is a lie.

I appeal to President Obama to step back from his campaign promise to strengthen and expand abortion rights to recognize the humanity and personhood of every child in the womb. “A person is a person, no matter how small.”

Tom Uebbing
South Bend
The Lord reaches to us in mercy and love

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Mk 1:14-20

The Book of Jonah is the source for the first reading. Jonah was not the author. The author is unknown. Scholars believe that the Book of Jonah was written sometime after the Babylonian Exile of the Jews. This reading speaks of Jonah’s visit to Nineveh, the capital of the Assyrian Empire, located roughly in the region of modern Syria. He went there, at God’s command, to call the people to conversion.

The Jews who first heard this reading would have had a definite mindset about Nineveh and its inhabitants. By the time that this book was written, foreigners already had subjected God’s people time and again to conquests. Of all these conquerors, none was more brutal than the Assyrians.

As a result, the Jews regarded Assyrians as utterly evil, just as threats to the Jewish population, and even as threats, but as powerful instruments very able of upsetting the worship of the One God of Israel.

Nineveh was the capital of Assyria, the heart of this godless and inhumane empire.

Yet, Jonah succeeds in converting the people of the city. The message is clear. Anyone, even someone with the hardest heart, can repent. And also, God wants all people to repent. This weekend’s second reading is from the First Epistle to the Corinthians. Paul had a challenge in leading the Corinthian Christians to a fully devout Christian life. The city was what Nineveh was imagined to have been. Corinth was depraved, utterly engulfed in paganism and wickedness.

St. Paul calls upon the Christians of Corinth to remember that time passes quickly, and that life is short. They have before them two options. The first is life in Jesus, a life that is everlasting, but it requires fidelity to the Gospel and the Gospel’s values. The other option is eternal death, awaiting those who spurn the Gospel.

In this comparison, Paul obviously urges the Corinthians to be holy.

The Gospel of Mark provides the last reading. It is the story of the Lord’s calling of Andrew, Simon Peter, James and John to be apostles.

All the early Christians found stories of the Twelve especially important. It was from the apostles that the Gospel of Jesus came, going far and wide. The apostles were the links with Jesus. Therefore, it was vital to assure and present their credentials. The credentials of, of course, were that they had been called by Christ, had heard the message of Christ, and had remained loyal to Christ.

Some would say that the Apostles mentioned in this reading were not the best candidates. They were simple men. Yet, Jesus called them, and they responded in the affirmative.

THE VATICAN LETTER

JOHN THAVIS

Moral Majority movement, reacted by asking how long it would be before a similar request came from Mexico, the chief holy city of Islam.

And of course, lawsuits were filed, although they were eventually dismissed.

The traditional argument against U.S.-Vatican relations was that the Vatican — technically, the “Holy See” — was first and foremost a church, not a state, and

LETTER, PAGE 20

Reflection

The church called us to celebrate the birth of Christ. Two weeks later it led us to the celebration of the feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. A day later, it offered us the feast of the Lord’s baptism by John in the Jordan River.

All these celebrations, among the greatest of the church’s year of worship, taught critical lessons about Jesus. He is human, the Son of Mary. He is the Son of God. He is the Savior, assuming our sins, even though Jesus was without sin. Now, the church moves into the process of asking us to respond. It tells us that Jesus called certain persons for particular roles. He calls us. Whatever the role, the cornerstone must be faithfulness to the Gospel.

No one is too sinful to be beyond redemption, if merely they sincerely choose to be redeemed.

To an extent, we all live in Nineveh. Yet the Lord reaches to us in mercy and love.

It is our responsibility to respond affirmatively. Death is the other option. The choice belongs to us.

READINGS

Sunday: Jon 3:1-5,10 Ps 25:4-9
1 Cor 7:29-31 Mk 1:14-20
Monday: 2 Tim 1:1-8 PPp 96:3-1 Mk 3:22-30
Tuesday: Heb 10:30 Ps 40:2,4,7-8, 10-11 Mk 33:1-35
Wednesday: Heb 10:11-18 Ps 110:1-4 Mk 4:1-20
Thursday: Heb 10:19-25 Ps 24:1-4ab,5-6 Mk 4:21-25
Friday: Heb 10:32-39 Ps 37:3-6,23-24, 39-40 Mk 46:26-34
Saturday: Heb 11:1-2,8-19 (Ps) Lk 1:69-75 Mk 43:35-41

CATEQUIZEM

By Dominic Campilison

In the liturgical calendar, January sees the first week in ordinary time after Christmas. This quiz looks at ordinary things.

1. Several rather involved speculations about Adam and Eve revolve around whether they had these rather mundane features, common to humans who are born.
   a. ears
   b. navel
   c. fingerprints

2. The patriarchs were notable for this married state, which was ordinary for them, but later forbidden to Jews and Christians and most people (with the notable exception of Muslims and for a time Mormons)
   a. Contracting child marriages with girls under 21
   b. Polyandry
   c. Polygamy (polygyny)

3. David, the greatest king of the Israelites, had this rather common background
   a. child prophet
   b. Latin
   c. Estruscan

4. The average Palestinian Jew in Jesus’ time spoke most likely Aramaic, but also sometimes some of this, the ordinary language of many of the people of the East
   a. Greek (koine)
   b. Latin
   c. Estruscan

5. Jesus chose followers who had fairly mundane occupations. Amongst these was this fisherman
   a. Paul
   b. Peter
   c. Kipperbang

6. Jesus’ doak, intriguingly for one who preached poverty, was not ordinary because it was
   a. brown
   b. silk
   c. seamless

7. Despite the barbarity described in Scripture, crucifixion was a fairly ordinary type of execution, reserved for
   a. religious maniacs
   b. Romans
   c. Non-Romans

8. These fierce imperialists, mentioned in the Old Testament, probably invented crucifixion, and regarded mass dotted and fally alive as ordinary means of control
   a. The Assyrians
   b. The Judeans
   c. The Pharaohs

9. An ordinary in the Catholic Church usually (not always) refers to a
   a. sacrament
   b. convert
   c. bishop

10. Although theoretically a greater range of men can become pope, the man selected is ordinarily a
    a. former abbot
    b. cardinal
    c. personal prelate

11. Up until the election of John Paul II, they were also (or for several centuries) ordinarily
    a. native Latin speakers
    b. Greek Catholics
    c. Italian

12. Latin gradually replaced the Greek language in the Western church; why?
    a. Latin was the official language of the church before Constantine.
    b. Latin was the ordinary language of most people in the West.
    c. Latin was ordinarily easier to write because of the simpler numbering system.

13. In the Eastern Catholic (and Orthodox) churches these sacraments (mysteries) are ordinarily received one after the other on the same occasion:
    a. Baptism; Eucharist, confirmation/christmation
    b. Extreme unction, viaticum, confession
    c. Holy orders, ordination, laicization

14. Although Masses are ordinarily said in the local languages, Benedict XVI made it easier for many communities to use this language as a routine offering:
    a. Estruscan
    b. Latin
    c. Greek (Old Church Slavonic)

15. One key difference between Western (Roman) Catholic priests and Eastern priests (including some Eastern Catholic priests) is that Eastern priests can ordinarily
    a. be married before they are ordained.
    b. be celibate when ordained and later married.
    c. can be ordained as bishops even if married.

ANSWERS:

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

U.S.-Vatican relations mark anniversary

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican and the United States quickly celebrated a silver anniversary in mid-January, marking 25 years of formal diplomatic relations.

The U.S. Embassy to the Holy See observed the event with a symposium and a dinner, where about 50 guests raised their glasses in a toast to a milestone that today seems inevitable, but once seemed unthinkable.

The U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, Mary Ann Glendening, who was to leave her post six days later to return to a teaching job at Harvard, drew appreciative laughter at the dinner when she read from an 1865 letter that described Rome as the perfect listening post.

At that time, the secretary of the U.S.legation to the Papal States wrote to his superiors in Washington and asked for a bigger budget so he could give “small but frequent entertainments” to other diplomats and the monsignors heading Vatican departments.

“European diplomacy is carried on by dinners and parties — you gather information this way to be obtained in no other manner,” he wrote.

A glance around the embassy’s banquet tables found clerical and diplomatic guests nodding in assent.

But if the idea of having a full-time ambassador stationed at the Vatican seems like a no-brainer that hasn’t always been the case. In 1984, President Ronald Reagan’s decision to move from an on-again, off-again “personal envoy” to full-fledged diplomatic relations was controversial, to say the least.

Baptists, Seventh-day Adventists and Protestant organizations criticized the move. Complaints came from Americans United for Separation of Church and State, and even the National Council of Churches. The late Rev. Jerry Falwell, who headed the

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   c. can be ordained as bishops even if married.

ANSWERS:

1b, 2c, 3b, 4a, 5b, 6c, 7c, 8, 9c, 10b, 11c, 12b, 13a, 14b, 15a
The men of Judah anointed David king

How did David get to be the king of Israel after Saul? Saul, the first king of Israel, was battling the Philistines at Mount Gilboa, a mountain ridge that rises to 1,667 feet above sea level, in 1004 B.C. Three of Saul’s sons — Jonathan, Abinadab and Malchishua — were killed. Saul himself was seriously wounded, and he fell upon his own sword. The Philistines cut off Saul’s head, stripped him of his armor and placed it in the pagan temple of Ashtar and then impaled Saul’s body and those of his sons from the walls of Bet Shean, a town near the mountain, 16 miles south of the Sea of Galilee on the banks of the river Harod.

After Saul’s death, men from Jabesh-gilead, on the other side of the Jordan, walked for two hours at night and removed Saul’s body and those of his sons from the walls of Bet Shean and brought them to Jabesh where they cremated them. Then they took their bones and buried them under the tamarisk tree in Jabesh. This land is a rolling plateau watered by many streams and a good rainfall giving it a fertile soil for pasture. These men of Jabesh were grateful to Saul for he had delivered their city from the threat of the king of Ammon. Later on David translated the bodies of Saul and his sons to a grave in the land of Benjamin, for Saul was a man of Benjamin and his royal residence was at Gibeah.

Father McKenzie says that Gibeah lies four miles north of the old city of Jerusalem. Here you can see a strong stone citadel, 169 x 114 feet, with double casemated walls and bastions dating from the time of Saul. The citadel was destroyed by fire, probably by the Philistines. Two hundred years later, a tower was built over the remains of the citadel.

When David heard of the death of Saul and his sons, he chanted an elegy: “Tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Ashkelon, lest the Philistine maidens rejoice.” David was a close friend of Saul’s son Jonathan, so he sang: “I grieve for you my brother. Most dear have you been to me.” David then went to Hebron where the men of Judah anointed him king of the Judahites. Hebron is 23 miles outside of Jerusalem. Here is the case of Machpelah where Abraham buried his wife Sarah. Also buried here are Abraham, Isaac, Rebecca, Jacob and Leah. David lived in Hebron for 7-1/2 years with his wives. Here you can see the shrine built over the cave of Machpelah and the Sultan’s Pool where David executed the murderers of Ishbaal, Saul’s last son.

Not only was Saul’s last son Ishbaal murdered, but Abner, the commander of Saul’s army was murdered by Joab, and the two bandit chieftains of Ishbaal were done away with by David, so now David was the only candidate for the monarchy of Israel. Eventually all the tribes of Israel came to David in Hebron and anointed him king of all Israel. David was 30 years old when he became king and he reigned for 40 years. Eventually David captured the city of Jerusalem, brought the Ark of the Covenant there and made it his royal residence.

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

SCRIpTure seARCh

Gospel for January 25, 2009
Matthew 2:1-12

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time. Cycle B: Jesus begins his ministry and mission. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

THE TIME HAS COME

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

should not be privileged by a diplomatic presence.

President Franklin Roosevelt appointed the first envoy to the Vatican just before World War II. But when President Harry Truman tried to appoint a successor in 1951, he met with a storm of protest, and the post went vacant for nearly 20 years. Reagan’s decision to elevate the position to ambassador was considered a courageous one that might cost him politically. It wasn’t long before most of the criticism faded. One big reason was that under Pope John Paul II, who was a strong critic of Eastern European communism, U.S. and Vatican interests were seen to coincide.

It wasn’t just a matter of moral support, but information-sharing as well. At one crucial moment in history, a few hours after a papal meeting with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in 1989, the Vatican told the United States in a confidential assessment that Gorbachev could be trusted as a genuine reformer. The late pope’s high profile as a defender of human rights and human dignity, along with his frequent trips to the United States, also made the Vatican seem more like a natural ally and less like a foreign planet.

After the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, the Vatican’s qualified support for a U.S. military response in Afghanistan had embassy employees handing out pamphlets with the U.S. and Vatican flags. Today, the United States has one of the biggest and most active embassies to the Holy See and has launched cooperative projects with the Vatican in areas like human trafficking and religious freedom.

THE SIDELINES

Placing a phone call to God

Imagine calling up your best friend on the phone — whether it is your boyfriend or girlfriend, or your best bud — and putting that person on speakerphone all day. How am I to know if we are communicating to God, I would be talking to you simply speak, that person on the phone — whether during the day and simply say, “I’m thinking of you.” If we didn’t need a reason to stop the rut that most people are in. Something not quite as fortunate happened to us during the course of our lives. We’ve got to get this done, call this client, pound out this agreement and contest this ruling. People are getting under your skin and trying to take the bread from your table every day. How then, if I had a nickel for every time I tried to form an open line of communication with God, I would be halfway home to the ultimate destination by now.

But it’s tough. We get so caught up in our work most days that we don’t have time to talk to God, or rather, we place a greater emphasis on other things in our lives. We’ve got to get this done, call this client, pound out this agreement and contest this ruling. People are getting under your skin and trying to take the bread from your table every day. How then, if I had a nickel for every time I tried to form an open line of communication with God, I would be halfway home to the ultimate destination by now.

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Sports

Two days of basketball sizzles the ICCL hardwoods

SOUTH BEND — Despite the frigid temperatures outdoors, indoors the hardwoods were sizzling. With just two more weekends of regular-season play, Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL) boys and girls varsity basketball continues to heat up.

And varsity basketball action filled a double-rotor of activity last weekend with games Jan. 17-18.

Andrew Schafer of St. Thomas the Apostle, Elkhart, led the way of all Saturday’s top scorers with 25 points to defeat Holy Cross, 44-38. Patrick Connors of Holy Cross had 19 points.

Christ the King edged St. Joseph, South Bend, 39-35, as the Kings’ Ryan Wobbe tossed in 14 points in this overtime win. Tommy Favorite of St. Joseph had 20 points in the loss.

St. Joseph, Mishawaka, upset St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne, 24-6. This is the sixth consecutive season USF has finished in the Top 5 and eighth time in the last nine seasons USF finished in the Top 10.

In other games played Jan. 18, Andrew Schafer had 15 points to lead his team with 10 points.

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ST. JOHN EAGLES SOAR OWARD THROUGH CYO BASKETBALL SEASON

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — During the month of December, St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne, kicked off their Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) season with a 35-34 victory over St. Joseph, Decatur. Jaquell Cooper and Thomas Starks led the Eagles with 13 points apiece. Matt Williamson, John Fink, Nick Burrell and Brandon Dock each scored two and David Shank added one for the Eagles.

Next on the schedule, St. John beat St. Vincent 47-31. The Eagles were led in scoring again by Cooper with 16, followed by Dock with eight, Starks seven and Williamson five. Jack Shrum and Braxton Randolph each scored three. John Fink and Nick Burrell added two apiece and Zach Soehngen scored one.

Before the break, St. John bested St. Charles, 40-33. Shank and Williamson led the Eagles with 10 points apiece, followed by Fink with eight and Cooper six. Starks, Burrell and Dock each added a bucket in the win over the Cardinals.

In the “battle of the St. Johns,” the Eagles lost to New Haven by just three points as league action resumed for the Eagles last weekend in a hard-fought battle, 38-41. Cooper and Williamson each had 14 points in the loss.

Coach Tom Starks reported, “It was a great game between two well-matched teams.”

Starks added, “The Raiders’ big man (Weston Painter) has great size and great knowledge of the game. We’ll do something different if we face them again.”

With 14 seconds left in the game, the Eagles trailed, 38-39.

The Eagles fouled Raider Jake Britton, who made both free throws for the final score.

Now 3-1 in conference action and 5-4 overall, the Eagles have 13 players on their eighth-grade roster. This season, the team is adjusting to the merging with Benoit Academy.

Starks understands, “They were used to a different style of play that they were very successful at. We have to be patient with each other. I see improvement every game and every practice.”

Starks feels the Gold League is very evenly matched this season. He summarized, “There is no huge standout team dominating the league. In my opinion, any team could beat another on any given day; the victor will be the one who comes to play.”

Also working to develop the quick Eagles and get them ready for the next level are Dan Sink, John Shank and Chris Erb.

In Blue League CYO hoops action at the St. Aloysius site on Saturday, Jan. 17, the St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel Squires boys remained undefeated in league play beating the host Gators. In the girls’ matchup, the Lady Gators also kept their record perfect in conference games downing Hessen Cassel. In the Precious Blood vs. St. Therese pairings, St. Therese girls and Precious Blood boys were victorious.

Boys

St. Joseph Hessen Cassel, 43; St. Aloysius, 36 — Knapek 19, Thiele, 12

Precious Blood, 41; St. Therese 34 — Hamel 19, Calvon 15

St. John, New Haven, 41; St. John, Fort Wayne 38 — Cooper, Williamson 14, Painter 16

Girls

St. Aloysius, 36; St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel, 19 — Knapek 9, Zaremba 21

St. Therese, 41; Precious Blood, 22 — An. Trevino 14, Haley 10

Fifth and sixth grade

St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel hosted a winter tournament and won both the boys and the girls’ championships. The St. Louis-St. Rose Twins were the boys’ runner-ups while the St. Joe Decatur girls took second-place honors. 

KNOTHITS’ FREETHROW WINNERS

PROVIDED BY THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS DISTRICT 15
Warmly recommended book observes the inner sanctum of Pope John Paul II’s life

BY YORK YOUNG

There’s a saying in the church about previous popes: “There’s nothing dæder than a dead pope.”

That may sound heartless, but the life of the church marches on, and the continuance of the papacy forces Catholics, and the world at large, to focus on the new pontiff after his election in the weeks following the death of his predecessor.

Pope John Paul II may be bucking that trend, ever so slightly. To be sure, his successor, Pope Benedict XVI, has done what new pontiffs do in the modern era. He has set forth some teaching (see his encyclicals “Deus Caritas Est” and “Spe Salvi” for his look at charity and hope), been a visible inspirational presence to many in limited world travel, met several world leaders, and commented on wars and other tragic news in the world when needed.

But Pope John Paul had gained quite a following in his years in Peter’s Chair — for many reasons, not the least of which was his 26-year reign (third longest on record) as leader of the largest religion in the world and displayed an enthusiasm and joy that shocked people.

Books on Pope John Paul have continued to be published in the three years since his death, some might say at a prodigious rate. Many of these may be an attempt to capitalize on his iconic status, but there are some heartfelt tomes being produced, some with unique angles.

All of which brings us to “Pope John Paul II: An Intimate Life,” by Caroline Pigozzi (Faith Works, $21.99), a French journalist. Her take is that through determination, some coincidence and possibly Providence, she was able to observe the inner sanctum of Pope John Paul’s life and became more than an acquaintance, conversing with him on many occasions.

Some of her details indicate her access was exceptional, while other passages make it seem like she’s a school girl trespassing on school property after hours.

Because of that, the book is uneven, but her affection and sympathy for both the pope and what he stood for makes up for much of it. Traveling with the papal retinue is discussed, and if you’ve not read or heard what that is like, than there is some fresh material here for you.

Pigozzi is strongest when she discusses how Pope John Paul overcame his physical debilitations and set a spiritual example during those trials that explains much of why some are calling for sainthood for him already. Believing all his work was for the greater glory of God and his kingdom, there is little wonder that, today, many have already tagged him with the appellation John Paul the Great.

Pigozzi clearly believes he was great, and appears to have written this book so that you may believe that as well. Warmly recommended.

NEW YORK (CNS) – Following are capsule reviews of movies issued by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Office for Film and Broadcasting.

“Hotel for Dogs” (Dreamworks/Nickelodeon)

Wholesomely enjoyable canine caper in which an orphaned brother and sister (Jake T. Austin and Emma Roberts) shelter their dog, along with a motley group of strays, in an abandoned hotel, outwitting their neglectful foster parents (Lisa Kudrow and Kevin Dillon) and causing complications for their genuinely caring social worker (Don Cheadle). Director Thor Freudenthal’s cuddly adaptation of Lois Duncan’s 1971 children’s book, his feature debut, sees the affectionate siblings working together and with friends to care for their expanding pack and improvising a part-human, part-animal surrogate family. A couple of crass words. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

“Paul Blart: Mall Cop” (Columbia)

Largely good-natured slapstick comedy relies on the physicality of Kevin James, who, in addition to co-writing the script, portrays the titular plus-size security guard defending a New Jersey mall from a pack of acrobatic thieves on the busiest shopping day of the year. Because the loveably hapless hero embodies numerous qualities infrequently championed on-screen nowadays — including chivalry, diligence and honesty — any moderately untoward moments in director Steve Carr’s effort are eclipsed by a positive message concerning respect for those not usually deemed successful or attractive, particularly those who don’t fit the ideal body mold in our looks-conscious society. Frequent violence of a slapstick nature, some suggestive humor, several instances of crude and crass language, and one sequence involving alcohol use. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is PG — parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.
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, P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne, 46865; or e-mail: fhogan@fw.diocecesfwsb.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.

Pancake breakfast and open house
Fort Wayne — Most Precious Blood School, 1515 Barthold St., will have an open house and pancake breakfast Sunday, Jan. 25, from 9 a.m. to noon. Adults $6, children ages 3-12 $3 and families are $15. The parish will also host Winter fest, an adult-only party on Saturday, Jan. 24, from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. Escuhe, blackjack, Texas Hold ‘em and bowling will be ongoing throughout the day. Refreshments will be available. Call (260) 424-5535 for more information and to sign up your five member bowling team for the 9-pin, no tap bowling tournament.

Percentage of sales helps St. Vincent de Paul Society
South Bend — St. Vincent de Paul Society will host an all day fundraiser from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. at MacDougal Chapel. TheIntention is for all families especially those families with difficulties.

Casino bus trip announced
Fort Wayne — A Hoosier Park Casino bus trip sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 451, 601 Reed Rd., will be Wednesday, Jan. 28. Bus leaves at 8 a.m. and returns at 6 p.m. Price is $25, which includes buffet and new club member credits. For reservations call (260) 493-1914.

Concert at St. Joseph
Bluffton — Tajci’s “I Do Believe” concert will be Sunday, Feb. 8, at 2 p.m. at St. Joseph Church, 1300 N. Main St. A dance and silent auction will be held. babysitting available and food and fellowship will follow.

REST IN PEACE

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