



Centenarians mark the date

The senior years keep getting longer
Pages 11-13

Courage and commitment

Saint Joe student-athlete recognized
Page 4

Lenten faith sharing

Keeping the pace
Page 10

Best of the best crowned

CYO, ICCL teams compete
Page 17

Celebrating Lincoln

St. Mary parishioner makes film
Page 20



TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Churches rally to support unemployed

BY KAY COZAD



CNS PHOTO/RICK WILKING, REUTERS

People seeking work register for the Employment Guide job fair in Westminster, Colo., Feb. 18. A piece of the \$787 billion stimulus package will fund the extension of unemployment benefits through the end of 2009, and raise the payments by \$25 a week.

As the country experiences the extensive ripple effect of the recent economic downturn, unemployment figures around the country are skyrocketing. Recent numbers from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics show the national unemployment rate rose to a staggering 7.6 percent this month. Indiana has shouldered its own burden as factories close and faithful employees are terminated.

Many of the Catholic churches of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend are rallying in an effort to support those who are currently struggling to make ends meet. Several parishes have food pantries open to parishioners in need of food resources, as well as St. Vincent de Paul Society programs offering counseling and referrals for assistance. Others are investigating innovative ways to meet the needs of job-seeking individuals head on.

St. Vincent de Paul Church of Fort Wayne provides a "Job Opportunities" spot in their weekly bulletin, where parishioners can place a mini-resume ad for employment. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, also in Fort Wayne, is following suit with their weekly bulletin's full-page "Job Corner."

Jim Kitchens, pastoral minister at St. Elizabeth says, "It's a little step. We're trying to help everyone in the community... to keep hope."

He adds that he and others are assisting the unemployed of the parish with resume building and counseling, as well as brainstorming ideas for future ministries such as a monthly business person's breakfast for employment networking purposes.

In Elkhart County where the unemployment rate, recorded in December of 2008, was an astounding 15.3 percent, due to the recreational vehicle industry collapse, St. Vincent de Paul Parish and St. Thomas the Apostle have combined efforts to encourage the ongoing collection of food items as well as essential household products to be distributed through the food pantries. Assistance with utilities is also available through their St. Vincent de Paul Societies.

EMPLOY, PAGE 3

Catechumens, candidates state their intention to join the faith

BY LAUREN CAGGIANO

FORT WAYNE — The Catholic Church is alive and growing in northeast Indiana, as evidenced by the striking number of catechumens and candidates at the liturgy of the Rite of Election and Call of Candidates to Continuing Conversion.

The ceremony, a part of the process of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) in which interested adults are introduced into the Catholic faith and tradition, calls forth two groups of people. Catechumens are those who are unbaptized

but wish to enter the Catholic Church. To enter the Catholic faith, they receive the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and Eucharist.

Candidates, those with a church-recognized baptism, have not yet received the sacraments of Eucharist and confirmation.

At the liturgy, usually during Lent, both groups come before the congregation to make public their intentions to fully enter into the Catholic Church.

Celebrant Bishop John M. D'Arcy wel-

RITE, PAGE 3

TELLING OUR FAITH STORY

I love the Catholic Church, as a convert, because it is the pillar and foundation of truth. It is Jesus' body. It is so physical and beautiful — the Eucharist, its art and architecture. She, our good mother, profoundly understands human nature — our glory and misery — and her remedy deeply heals.



Dave McClow
St. Joseph, Garrett

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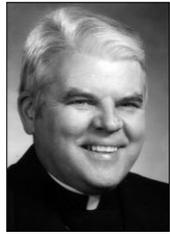
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Spiritual reading, an old church practice to be cherished



NEWS & NOTES

BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

When do you read, Bishop?

That was a question put to me recently. I answered with two responses. First, I do not read enough; and I read in the evening. Spiritual reading, an old practice in the church, is to be cherished, and today there are so many good things to read. Every year at Christmas, and again at Easter, I send to all my priests a spiritual book. I usually have several books going. That gives you a chance to dip into the one that you enjoy the most, or fits the particular need. I especially want to endorse spiritual reading as a Lenten practice. It gets us away from television and the computer.

Here is what I have been reading: "Mother Teresa's Secret Fire." This is a book by Father Joseph Langford, published by Our Sunday Visitor. Father Langford, who has a brother in St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, founded with Mother Teresa the congregation of priests who are part of the Missionaries of Charity.

She had an extraordinary experience of Christ while still a teacher, an experience which brought her to the streets, and alleys and gutters of Calcutta. It was something revealed to her on a small train in the mountains of India. The day it happened is still celebrated by her sisters as Inspiration Day. It seems she learned in prayer what the Lord meant by the words, "I thirst." It is a yearning that he has for a relationship with humanity, with each one of us. That yearning for souls is not just for Mother Teresa, but all of us are called to find our own Calcutta and bring Christ's love there.

In reading it, I thought of the traditional devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, in which Christ's love, both human and divine, is portrayed through the symbol of the heart.

Edith Stein

This extraordinary woman, a philosopher, teacher, and some would say a feminist, now a canonized saint and a martyr, was killed at Auschwitz, because she was Jewish. Her conversion to the Catholic Church came about after a career of teaching and association with the great philosophical minds of Germany.

It is encouraging that some of the young women at Notre Dame, in order to respond to the sad and harmful play, "Vagina Monologues," prepared a seminar, which has now become an annual event in honor of this saint and philosopher, the true dignity of the Christian woman.

The books I have been reading about her include "The Conversion of Edith Stein," by Florent Gaboriau, translated by our own

Ralph McInerny of Notre Dame — who also wrote a preface; "Edith Stein: St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross" by Maria Ruiz Scaperlanda; and the master's thesis by Sister Marie Morgan, OSF.

Many years after her conversion, and after much prayer and meditation on the Cross of Christ, Edith became a Carmelite. She was sent from Germany to Holland to live in a Carmelite convent there, in the hope that she would be saved from the gas chambers. It was not to be.

St. John of the Cross is one of the three Carmelite spiritual masters, along with St. Teresa of Avila and St. Therese of Lisieux, both of whom are doctors of the church. Last summer, a good friend gave me a copy of a book by an Irish writer, which is a commentary or interpretation of the writings of St. John of the Cross. "The Impact of God: Soundings from Saint John of The Cross" by Iain Matthew is properly described as a "guide into the mystery of God's love."

As you know, this Carmelite tradition of the two Teresa's and St. John of the Cross, greatly influenced Pope John Paul II, who as a young man, thought about becoming a Carmelite, until the legendary Cardinal Sapienza told him to stay on the road to be a diocesan priest, advice which certainly became a blessing for the world. I think I probably stayed away from St. John of the Cross, because of the foreboding titles of his work, like "The Dark Night of the Soul," but this author brings home the beauty of his teaching. This is a book to read a page or two at a time.

The audience talks

Pope Benedict XVI — or Joseph Ratzinger — as we knew him, as a theologian is a prolific writer. I have enjoyed many of his works over the years, especially "Introduction to Christianity," which I used over 30 years ago in a course I gave on faith at Saint John's Seminary in Brighton.

I have two articles, which he wrote on the priesthood, which I have used many times in giving retreats, and which I passed on this year to the distinguished patristic theologian and sometime baseball umpire, Father Michael Heintz, which he found helpful in a superb seminar he gave on the priesthood at Notre Dame.

The apostles and 'The Fathers'

Always a teacher, the pope's Wednesday talks at his general audience have become books. The first series was on the Twelve Apostles. A second volume coming from his audience talks was on the Fathers of the Church. This includes four talks on St. Augustine, whom the Holy Father is an expert. This is the book entitled "The Fathers," and I sent it to my priests this past Christmas. The book on the apostles, also by Our Sunday Visitor, contains some beautiful art.

'Milestones':

The pope tells his own story

You might want to read "Milestones," in which the gracious humanity of Joseph Ratzinger comes through. He tells about his childhood in Bavaria, through the Nazi years, his education, his experience of Vatican II where he was a peritor, or expert, right up until the time he was assigned to Rome. An easy book to read and a joy.

A book on the priesthood

One of the results of the theological and pastoral renewal of the Second Vatican Council has been an improved understanding of the ministerial priesthood. It took awhile. After Vatican II, with its emphasis on the role of the bishop and the enriching role of the laity, there came a difficult period as was true in church music, and also in catechetics. But through the efforts of Pope John Paul II, there has come now a great strengthening and deepening of the ordained priesthood — its relationship to the priesthood of Christ and to the priesthood of the baptized. One of our candidates for the priesthood gave me a helpful book, and I may send it to our priests at Easter time. It is a doctoral dissertation from Saint Thomas University in Rome, where I also studied, and it is a fine book for priests — "Reclaiming Our Priestly Character" by Father David E. Toups, STD.

The question of rights

One of the great warriors for truth in the Catholic Church is Janet Smith, Ph.D. on matters such as Catholic teaching on sexuality, marriage and the dignity of the human person. She is constantly writing and speaking throughout the country. Currently a professor at the Detroit seminary, I ran across a little book she wrote entitled "The Right to Privacy." It is a great book for lawyers or law students, and shows how we got saddled with Roe v. Wade and all the harm that it has done over the years.

A commercial

By the way, all these books can be obtained at our Cathedral Bookstore. If they do not have it, they will get it for you. The Cathedral Bookstore is at our new Archbishop Noll Catholic Center, and if you have not been there — you are in for a treat. You can also contact the bookstore through our Web site: www.diocesefwsb.org.

That is my style. I have a number of books at hand. Some I leave in the chapel for spiritual reading, and others in my living room. It is my hope and prayer to read more during Lent, and you should, too. More on this subject later.

The baseball games have started

Opening day draws near. Still no requests from the Red Sox to pitch batting practice. I live in hope.

See you all next week.

Physicians take legal, educational steps to defend conscience rights

BY NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — To combat what they see as threats to the conscience rights of health care professionals who oppose abortion, the Catholic Medical Association and other organizations are taking both legal and educational steps.

The Philadelphia-based Catholic Medical Association, which has some 1,100 members nationwide, has joined with the Christian Medical Association and the American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists in an effort to intervene legally against lawsuits filed by the attorneys general of eight states, Planned Parenthood of America and the National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association.

The suits seek to overturn a Department of Health and Human Services regulation that codifies several existing federal

statutes prohibiting discrimination against health professionals who decline to participate in abortions or other medical procedures because of their religious or other moral objections.

On Feb. 27, the Obama administration announced it was reviewing a proposal to rescind the regulation, which took effect two days before the inauguration of President Barack Obama. After the review by the Office of Management and Budget, the proposal is to be published in the Federal Register, opening a 30-day period for public comment.

Without the regulation, members of the groups taking steps to keep it in place would be subject to "the imminent threat of being forced ... to perform abortions, assist in abortions, train for abortions and refer individuals for abortions despite their religious, moral and ethical objections to the practice of abortion," said court papers filed with the U.S. District Court in Hartford, Conn.

Attorneys from the Alliance Defense Fund and the Center for Law & Religious Freedom filed the motions on behalf of three pro-life organizations.

Deirdre A. McQuade, assistant director for policy and communications in the U.S. bishops' Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, said conscience protection is "not something that Catholics are the only ones calling for."

"It is a matter of basic human and civil rights," she added. "You don't have to be religious to be against involvement with abortion."

McQuade noted that the Hippocratic oath, through which physicians pledge to "do no harm," originally included a promise to "offer no abortifacient."

"It's not therapeutic; it's not, properly speaking, medicine," she said. "Those who are faithful to the letter and the spirit of the Hippocratic oath don't perform abortions."

EMPLOY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Father Bill Sullivan, pastor of St. Thomas, says, first and foremost, "We pray daily for the unemployed."

In addition to prayer support he adds that a new men's group is forming to meet for prayer and networking as well.

St. John the Evangelist in Goshen offers support through their food pantry and Father Bob VanKempen, pastor of St. Mary of the Annunciation in Bristol, reports that in addition to the job posting bulletin board within the church and regular collections taken up to assist parish families with food and gift cards for essentials, there is assistance for resume building as well.

"We are connecting folks," he says. "It's networking. I'm always asking for connections."

In addition to parish support, Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne has joined the ranks that assist families with the job search. Recently a Web page was created for current parents who are unemployed to post resumes in hopes that local employers will visit the site.

Dwenger parent Tom Pentenburg, owner of Spherion staffing firm offers assistance from the site.

And Norm Robertson, parishioner of St. Pius X in Granger, in cooperation with pastor Father Bill Schooler, has hosted a workshop for the unemployed titled, "Searching for Employment," Feb. 26 and March 1. Robertson, owner of Express Employment Professionals, a staffing firm

located in Mishawaka, says, "This type ministry (outreach to unemployed) needs people to support both the spiritual side and the secular side. The priest and others support the spiritual through their pastoral ministry. I'm here for the new job search."

Workshop participants received training in several areas including how to build a resume, the activity needed to find the right job, interviewing techniques and acquiring reference checks.

"The workshop offers a different perspective on how to get your arms around a job search and how to make it work. ... Following some simple guidelines brings some hope and shows the light at the end of the tunnel. It positions them higher than their competitors," says Robertson, who reports pounding the pavement in a suit and tie from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. five days a week to make connections and deliver resumes when he himself was jobless.

"Setting goals for yourself with different contacts to make gives a person focus," he says.

And for Robertson and the workshop participants, keeping God in the job search is "a natural part of who we are," he says, adding that prayer opened and closed the workshop.

"I hoped the workshop would help give people some insights and add a little hope to their search."

The workshop training was marked by Robertson's experience and vision. Resumes, he says, are built with a core body of information, but with a skill set section that is changed in accordance with the job the candidate seeks. "In truth you need as many resumes as companies you send to," he reports.

Candidates must be able to generate activity when seeking employment. "I recommend they set a goal of how many resumes, calls, networking and companies they will contact. They should be able to visit 10 different companies a day. The activity keeps you from despair," says Robertson.

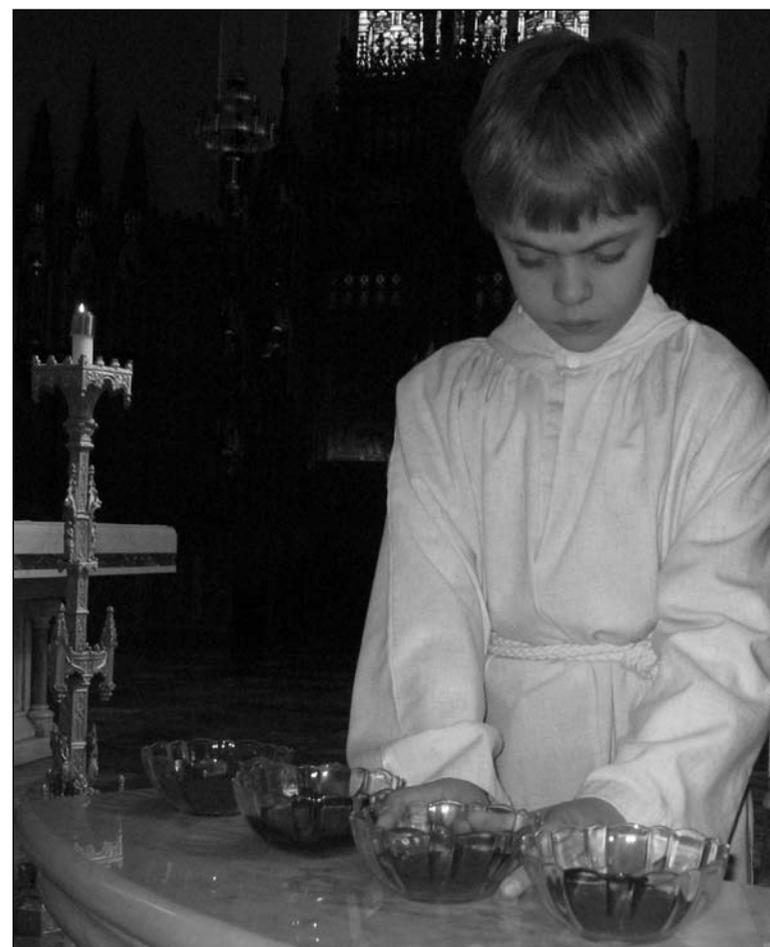
Interview training assists the candidates with "focusing on the conversation" rather than anticipating the next question and the all-important practice before the actual interview takes place. And reference checks are paramount in setting the candidate apart from the competition.

In the 14 years Robertson has worked in the job search field, he says he has never seen the extent of the current need. "Pop-up" groups, where men and woman meet sometimes on a weekly basis, are emerging within parish and secular communities as a practical networking tool. And Robertson is confident that workshops and staffing businesses like his, in conjunction with parish support, are viable resources for those seeking employment.

The need is great in these troubled economic times, but church communities want parishioners to know that they are not alone. Traditional assistance, as well as innovative job search and networking venues, are being offered in the spirit of hope and support.

For information on the Bishop Dwenger resume site visit www.bishopdwenger.com. Click on "alumni" and then "seeking employment." For information on job search resources e-mail Norm.Robertson@expresspros.com.

ASH WEDNESDAY



MARK WEBER

Justin Hoepfner, parishioner, places the ashes for distribution before Ash Wednesday noon Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne.

RITE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

came the faithful to the liturgy held at 2:30 p.m. March 1 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

Aspiring Catholics came from parishes across the eastern half of the diocese, from St. Mary in Huntington to St. Anthony, Angola. The support of the Catholic community was astonishing as the church was nearly full of family and friends.

In the opening prayer, Bishop D'Arcy noted this ceremony "confirms that choice of Jesus Christ, your savior."

He said the liturgy's central theme is that Jesus Christ has chosen the catechisms to live in the life of Christ."

Following the word of God, Bishop D'Arcy called the catechumens, or "the elect," forward to affirm their interest in joining the Catholic Church. He reminded the group of baptism's life-changing power.

The catechumens, with the support of their godparents, expressed their sincere intent to enter into baptismal covenant.

In the homily, Bishop D'Arcy said God allows us to choose good or evil and the choice to be baptized means more fully sharing in the life of Christ.

"Do you wish to fully enter

into the life of the church?" Bishop D'Arcy asked the catechumens.

Following the affirmations made by the catechumens, it is customary for the bishop to sign the Book of the Elect.

After this rite, Bishop D'Arcy addressed the congregation: "These catechumens are to be initiated into the sacred mystery," he said. "Let us all welcome these holy catechumens to be received into the Catholic Church."

Candidates and their sponsors were called up to the altar to enter into the next step of the catechesis process. Bishop D'Arcy called the candidates and their sponsors to reflect on their baptismal vows. After receiving confirmation and the Eucharist, these people will be able to more fully "share in the joys of Easter," he said.

At the Easter Vigil, the catechumens will celebrate the three sacraments of baptism, confirmation and Eucharist at their respective parishes.

A reception was held at the Grand Wayne Convention Center following the rite. South Bend will hold its Rite of Election Sunday, March 8, at 2:30 p.m. at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend, followed by another reception in the St. Matthew School.

Gavin Provost awarded for courage and commitment

BY KAREN CLIFFORD

GRANGER — It's not every day that a teenager from Granger, Ind., receives a phone call from Chicago Bears co-owner Patrick McCaskey. But for Gavin Provost, a senior at Saint Joseph's High School in South Bend and parishioner of St. Pius X Church in Granger, it is a call that will live in his memory forever.

McCaskey called Provost to congratulate him on his selection as this year's recipient of Sports Faith International's Spirit of Saint Paul Award. The award, given to a high school student, is based upon the 12 virtues of St. Paul and the attributes of courage and commitment.

According to its mission statement, Sports Faith International is "a media initiative working through the world of sports to positively change our culture." In addition, the organization "spotlights and encourages values, positive role models, and life-learning consistent with Judeo-Christian

values and the teachings of the Christian/Catholic faith."

St. Pius X parishioner Dick Dornbos states Sports Faith International is a collaborative effort, which includes Chicago Bears co-owner Patrick McCaskey, Archdiocese of Chicago's Francis Cardinal George, Catholic Knights, Catholic Athletes for Christ, Serra International USA Council Region 7, Relevant Radio, 5th Media and Sirango.

Thirteen Sports Faith International awards were presented on Feb. 21 in a ceremony at Halas Hall in Lake Forest, Ill. Three professional athletes were inducted in the Sports Faith Hall of Fame, as well as 10 High School Hall of Fame winners. Provost was one of the 10 High School Hall of Fame winners.

Dornbos is a member of Sports Faith International's advisory board. He notes the criterion for the High School Hall of Fame is excellence in athletics, academics, community service and Catholic faith. In addition, each nominee submitted a personal story of chal-



Gavin Provost, center, is pictured with Patrick McCaskey, co-owner of the Chicago Bears, left, and Dick Dornbos, who serves on Sports Faith International's (SFI) advisory board, right. Provost received the Spirit of Saint Paul Award at Halas Hall on Feb. 21 and was inducted in the SFI High School Hall of Fame.

lenges encountered in athletics and their everyday lives.

"This is an opportunity for Catholic high school student ath-

letes to be recognized for achievements on and off the field or court including community service," Dornbos says. "And Gavin is an inspiration to all of us to always do our best."

Provost was born with spina bifida, which causes paralysis of the legs and other neurological challenges. He has had 11 surgeries and years of speech, occupational and physical therapy.

Despite his disability, Provost does not consider himself different from any of his peers. He says, "If there is something that I want to do, I just do it."

Swimming proved to be an enjoyable venue for Provost from an early age. "Ever since I was a young boy, I always loved the water, even swimming from one end of the bathtub to the other. When I was nine years old, my mom asked me if I wanted to join a local swim team, and I eagerly accepted the invitation," Provost recalls.

By the end of his first year with a local swim team, Provost received the Most Inspirational Swimmer Award at the team banquet. He later went on to another local swim team for about four years before becoming a part of the Saint Joseph's High School swim team.

The transition to a team that had 14- to 18-year-old able-bodied swimmers and intense swimming practices was daunting for Provost. "I came very close to quitting my junior year because I was getting frustrated with myself," he remembers. But with his parents' and coach's encouragement, Provost decided to not worry about winning meets, rather improving his personal best.

"So I started racing against myself," Provost says. "I am still not winning races, but my times have decreased and my technique has improved."

Another team experience for Provost at Saint Joseph's was being the team manager of the football team. Football coach Kevin Downey invited Provost to a parallel bar dip competition with the football team. "It was then I realized my aptitude for dips and I won the competition! I now hold the Saint Joe all-time record for dips at 60, breaking my old record of 57," says Provost.

Coach Downey credits Provost's attitude for his achievements. "Gavin is not defined by his difficulties: he is defined by his successful attempts to encourage others around him by action as well as encouraging words. He is a leader of our school because of his relentless pursuit of excellence in celebrating life."

Besides his passion for sports, Provost credits his love of the Catholic faith as a major influence in his life. At the St. Pius X Easter vigil of 2006, Provost was baptized and confirmed into the Catholic faith.

St. Pius X pastor Father Bill Schooler recalls this important moment in Provost's faith journey. "He was carried into the font, and then he used his swimming skills to navigate his way out, once he passed through the waters of baptism."

Provost concludes that through athletics and faith, he does not worry about future challenges. "My faith helps me persevere against any obstacles I may encounter due to my disability, and athletics help me to be strong physically to meet and beat any of those obstacles I may encounter."

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Penalties, civil damages for terminating life of unborn increase under proposed laws

INDIANAPOLIS — Is terminating the life of an unborn baby a crime? The answer to this question all depends on which part of the Indiana Code a person refers. In one section, terminating an unborn baby's life through abortion is legal, but in another section, terminating the life of an unborn baby is a crime called feticide.

Despite this paradox in the law, state lawmakers voted overwhelmingly in support of two measures recognizing greater rights of unborn children. One measure increases criminal penalties for persons committing feticide and the other expands wrongful death civil suits allowing parents to collect damages when the life of their unborn child is cut short.

Senate Bill 236 authored by Sen. James Merritt (R-Indianapolis) increases penalty for feticide from a Class C felony to a Class B felony. Similar to the crime of homicide, if a person kills an unborn baby while committing or attempting to commit murder or another crime commits feticide. A person found guilty of causing the death of a child in utero may be sentenced to an additional term of imprisonment of six to 20 years. In criminal actions, the state prosecutes on behalf of the victim for crimes committed.

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, currently, at least 36 states have fetal homicide laws. Indiana would join at least 19 states that have fetal homicide laws that apply to the earliest stages of pregnancy including the following definitions of life: "any state of gestation," "conception," "fertilization" or "post-fertilization." For the purposes of feticide, SB 236

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BY BRIGID CURTIS AYER

defines an unborn baby as "child in utero at any stage." Senate Bill 236 passed the Senate 40-9.

Penalties for killing an unborn child in criminal suits would be increased under SB 236. Wrongful death laws in civil suits would be expanded under another proposal, the wrongful death or injury of a child bill, SB 341, authored by Sen. Brent Steele (R-Bedford). The bill expands wrongful death to include an unborn baby that had reached viability. Under the bill, viability is defined as a fetus that could survive outside the womb, which is about seven month gestational age. The bill passed the Senate 47-2.

The proposed legislation addressing fetal death was prompted by an incident that occurred in Indianapolis in April 2008 where a bank teller who was pregnant with twins was shot during an attempted bank robbery. She survived the gunshot wound, her twins did not. The woman was five months pregnant. Marion County prosecutors were unable to prosecute for manslaughter, a criminal charge, because the babies needed to be seven months old under criminal law. The couple was unable to collect damages under Indiana's wrongful death statute because the children were unborn.

Under Senate Bill 341, they

would still be unable to file a wrongful death civil lawsuit because the bill would only allow this for viable fetuses. However, in a criminal action, the perpetrator could have received a stiffer sentence under Senate Bill 236.

By definition in Black Law's dictionary, wrongful death is a claim in common law jurisdictions against a person who can be held liable for a death. The claim is brought in a civil action, usually by close relatives. Under common law, a dead person cannot bring a suit, and this created a legal hole in which activities that resulted in a person's injury would result in civil sanction but activities that resulted in a person's death would not.

The Indiana Catholic Conference, the church's official representative on public policy matters supports the bills. "The church is supportive of legislation that provides greater recognition, value and respect for the unborn human person," said Glenn Tebbe, executive director of the Indiana Catholic Conference.

Senate bills 236 and 341 move to the House for further consideration.

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."



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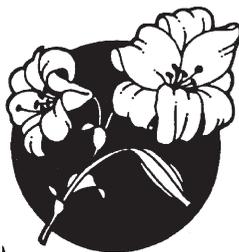
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U.S. archbishop expresses grave concerns about Legionaries of Christ

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Concerned that the Legionaries of Christ order stifles the free will of its members and lacks transparency, Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien of Baltimore told its director general in Rome that he cannot in good conscience recommend that anyone join the Legionaries or Regnum Christi, its affiliated lay movement. In the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the Legionaries of Christ are affiliated with Woodmont Academy in the Baltimore suburb of Cooksville. Regnum Christi is also active in several parishes. The archbishop's action came in the wake of revelations that the late Father Marcial Maciel Degollado, founder of the Legionaries of Christ, fathered a daughter while serving as leader of the international religious order. Pope Benedict XVI had previously removed the Mexican priest from public ministry in 2006, asking him to lead a life of prayer and penance after Father Maciel faced allegations of sexual abuse of seminarians and financial irregularities. "It seems to me and many others that this was a man with an entrepreneurial genius who, by systematic deception and duplicity, used our faith to manipulate others for his own selfish ends," Archbishop O'Brien told *The Catholic Review*, Baltimore archdiocesan newspaper, in a telephone interview following his Feb. 20 Rome meeting with Father Alvaro Corcuera, director general of the Legionaries. Father Maciel died in 2008. Jim Fair, a U.S. spokesman for the order, told the newspaper that revelations about Father Maciel have been a "great shock" and "great disappointment" to members, but that the order has achieved "very positive things" for the church.

Vatican: Recent apologies from traditionalist bishop aren't enough

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican said Bishop Richard Williamson's statement of regret for denying the extent of the Holocaust does not meet the Vatican's demand that he publicly recant his position. "The declaration of the bishop does not seem to respect the conditions established in the note of the Secretariat of State of Feb. 4, 2009, where it says that he 'must distance himself in an absolutely unequivocal and public way from his positions regarding the Shoah,'" Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the Vatican spokesman, said Feb. 27. The Vatican had said Bishop Williamson would not be allowed to function as a bishop in the church unless he disavowed his remarks about the Holocaust and publicly apologized. He is one of four traditionalist bishops whose excommunication was lifted in January by Pope Benedict XVI. On Feb. 26, Bishop Williamson released a statement in London say-

POPE MEETS PRIESTS FROM DIOCESE OF ROME



CNS/LOSSERVATORE ROMANO VIA REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI meets priests from the Diocese of Rome during an audience at the Vatican Feb. 26. At the meeting with more than 400 priests, the pope said his social encyclical has been delayed in order for it to address the current global economic crisis.

ing his superior, Bishop Bernard Fellay, and the pope "have requested that I reconsider the remarks I made on Swedish television four months ago because their consequences have been so heavy."

Man pleads guilty to setting fire that destroyed Indiana church

NEW CASTLE, Ind. (CNS) — St. Anne parishioners in New Castle are thankful that William S. Abbott finally told the truth Feb. 19 about starting the late-night fire which gutted their historic Henry County church nearly two years ago. Abbott, a 34-year-old New Castle resident who has a history of criminal offenses, admitted to Henry County prosecutor Kit Crane and staff prosecutors that he broke into the church April 7, 2007, a day before Easter, and set the building on fire. He pleaded guilty to arson, a Class A felony, and will receive a reduced prison sentence as part of his plea agreement. The felony charge, which has a maximum 50-year prison term, will be reduced to 40 years. Other charges of burglary, theft and two additional counts of arson will be dismissed in the plea agreement. Fingerprints and other evidence collected by investigators at and near the fire scene led authorities to arrest Abbott on arson charges May 10, 2007.

Traditionalist order not ready to accept Vatican II, superior says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The head of the traditionalist Society of St. Pius X said his order is not ready to accept the Second Vatican Council, which the Vatican has set as a condition for full reintegration in the church. Bishop Bernard Fellay, superior general of the Swiss-based society, said Vatican II has brought "only losses" among Catholic priests and the faithful. He made the remarks in an interview with the Swiss newspaper *Le Courrier* published Feb. 26. Pope Benedict XVI recently lifted the excommunications of Bishop Fellay and three other bishops, who were ordained against papal orders in 1988, as a step toward dialogue and reconciliation. The Vatican later said the society would have to recognize the teachings of Vatican II and of post-conciliar popes to be in full communion. In the interview, Bishop Fellay was asked if the society was ready to meet the condition of accepting the council. "No. The Vatican has recognized the need for preliminary discussions in order to take up fundamental questions that arise precisely from the Second Vatican Council. To make recognition of the council a preliminary condition is to put the cart before the horse," Bishop Fellay responded.

Bishop in Bangladesh announces sainthood cause of Canadian Holy Cross missionary

CHITTAGONG, Bangladesh (CNS) — Bishop Patrick D'Rozario of Chittagong announced the opening of the sainthood cause of Canadian Holy Cross Brother Flavian Laplante, founder of a popular Marian shrine in Bangladesh. Bishop D'Rozario also said that the shrine in Diang, which Brother Laplante started in 1976, has been elevated to a parish dedicated to Mary, reported the Asian church news agency UCA News. A diocesan tribunal has been formed to evaluate Brother Laplante's holiness and his work, Bishop D'Rozario said. About 7,000 devotees from all over Bangladesh visited the shrine during the pilgrimage period in mid-February, UCA News reported Feb. 26. Many welcomed the bishop's announcement and told UCA News that Brother Laplante deserved to be a saint. "Brother Flavian used to interact with fishermen so cordially and even stayed with them at sea overnight to protect them from pirates," recalled 80-year-old Holy Cross Brother Jarlath D'Suza. Brother Laplante was born in Quebec in 1907. He entered the Holy Cross novitiate

in 1923 and made his final profession in 1932. In 1933 the French-Canadian province of his order sent him to Bangladesh, where he worked in various places of the Chittagong Diocese before arriving in Diang in 1945. He died in 1981.

After 150 years, evolution debate continues among people of faith

WASHINGTON (CNS) — When scientists, theologians and philosophers gather March 3-7 in Rome for a Vatican-sponsored congress marking the 150th anniversary of the publication of Charles Darwin's theory on evolution, they hope to help Catholic Church officials better understand some of the current thought and research related to evolutionary biology. "The program is to reorient the conversation between the Catholic Church and modern natural science, to get a new kind of conversation going," explained Phillip Sloan, professor of liberal studies at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana and a congress planner. "It's establishing a dialogue on science and theology because of the great challenges that modern sciences are presenting to traditional theological understanding," he said. Sponsored by the Pontifical Council for Culture under its Science, Technology and the Ontological Quest project, the University of Notre Dame and several of Rome's pontifical universities, the gathering of international scholars and Vatican officials is one of a series of events surrounding the publication of Darwin's landmark work.

House failure to consider abortion-related amendments draws protest

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A Catholic congressman is protesting a decision of the House leadership to block consideration of two abortion-related amendments to the \$410 billion omnibus spending bill for fiscal 2009. Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., had sought to bar the use of taxpayer money to fund organizations that promote or perform abortion in other countries or organizations that support or participate in the management of forced sterilizations and forced abortion programs. The House Rules Committee voted Feb. 24 to restrict debate on the bill funding 12 federal agencies to one hour for and one hour against and to prohibit any amendments. The legislation passed the House Feb. 25 by a 398-24 vote. Smith, co-chairman of the House Pro-Life Caucus, said in a statement that surveys have shown most Americans do not want their tax dollars going to promote or provide abortions overseas. "Why not let the American people be heard on this issue?" he asked.

Bishop Luers Future Business Leaders of America compete at state

FORT WAYNE — With doughnuts in hand, Bishop Luers' students in the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) can be found at early Thursday morning meetings. Though doughnuts are an incentive, they are not the only factor that defines FBLA. Students join this popular club because of friends, the love of business, and, of course, the state competition held in Indianapolis.

Junior Tim Stein could not agree more. "I decided to join FBLA because I wanted to learn more about business and take a trip to state to hang out with friends."

"I joined FBLA last year and it was one of the best experiences," said sophomore Kelsey Norris.

Moderator Matthew Lazarro will take the FBLA students down to Indianapolis for state competition on March 13, 14 and 15 to be held in the Sheraton Hotel. Students from across Indiana will compete in business-related events, all with the hopes of advancing to nationals.

"I am participating in Public Speaking II because it is challenging and an adrenaline rush," said senior Sheila Hite.

As for junior Erin Conroy, she chose events that she can easily relate to and that will help her prepare for her future. "I am doing accounting I because I have already taken the class. I am also doing interview as practice for the real world," she said.

Many of the members of FBLA have gone to state competition before. Therefore, there is pressure to come out strong and do well. As for junior Patricia Skordos, she is not letting the stress get to her. "I have been to state before, so I am not nervous. There is just nothing to be nervous about."

Though state is a challenging competition, students are using their time away to have fun, create memories and make lasting friendships. Freshman Samantha Eckrich has high hopes for her three-day state trip. "I am most looking forward to a fun and enjoyable experience, as well as getting to know more people at Luers."

Members of the Bishop Luers FBLA team are Erin Conroy, Samantha Eckrich, Sheila Hite, Emily Hayes, Isaac Larson, Bill McManus, Molly Goodwin, Trevor Galloway, Kelsey Norris, Bridgette Doole, Anne Wyatt, Stephanie Wyatt, Josh Ware, Jacob Ware, Jonathan Warble, Jeff Teeters, Tim Stein, Patricia Skordos, Tyler Post and Matt Lazzaro. — Mary Carrier

Sisters of Providence host come and see weekend

SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS — The Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods will host a "Come and See" weekend for women who are

AROUND THE DIOCESE

BISHOP D'ARCY BEGINS HIGH SCHOOL VISITS



PROVIDED BY MONICA ZWICK, BISHOP LUERS HIGH SCHOOL

Bishop John M. D'Arcy began his annual high school visitation days at Bishop Luers High School on Feb. 24. Each year, the bishop spends the day at each high school and visits students, meets with faculty and staff and celebrates Mass. In the photo with Bishop D'Arcy are the senior Peer Ministers. They include, from left, Rudy Trevino, Michael Harding, Josh Archbold, Annie Pryor, Lauren Oberley, Kara Baumgartner, Nichole Welling, Amy Swygart, Natalie Bauman, Cody Miller, Allison Hayes, Joe Christen, Bobby Slocum, Jake Ware and Cameron Miser

interested in living a life as a vowed member of the congregation.

The weekend will be held Friday, April 3, through Sunday, April 5. Participants will have an opportunity to visit with sisters and learn more about their life and mission, ministries in education, eco-justice and outreach to others through additional ministry opportunities.

"Come and See" weekend is open to Catholic women, ages 18-42, who are seeking ways to faithfully live out the Gospel message of Jesus. There is no charge for the weekend. Housing and meals are provided.

To register contact Sister Bernice Kuper, Vocations Office, 1 Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind., 47876; or call (812) 535-2895, or e-mail bkuper@spsmw.org.

USF performs 'Dead Man Walking' March 20-29

FORT WAYNE — The School of Creative Arts at the University of Saint Francis will perform Tim Robbins' play, "Dead Man Walking," on March 20, 21, 27 and 28 at 8 p.m. and March 22 and 29 at 2 p.m. in the North Campus

Auditorium (2702 Spring St.). Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$10. Doors will open 30 minutes before show time for general seating.

In this gripping tale, a convicted murderer on death row is befriended by an empathetic Catholic sister. As the hours tick away to the condemned man's execution, powerful emotions are unleashed. Scenes from the brutal crime reveal the truth about what transpired.

After the March 22 performance, a panel from the Indiana Information Center on the Abolition of Capital Punishment (IICACP) and Journey of Hope will share their ideas about capital punishment. The IICACP will provide information on capital punishment in the state of Indiana, and speakers from Journey of Hope will talk about coping with the murders of their loved ones while protesting capital punishment.

This play is produced by special arrangement with Tim Robbins and the Dead Man Walking School Theatre Project and is based on the book "Dead Man Walking" by Sister Helen Prejean.

For more information, call (260) 399-7700 ext. 8001.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish hosts parish mission

FORT WAYNE — St. Elizabeth Ann Seton will be hosting a parish mission March 15-18 from 7-8 p.m. Its theme is "Be still and know that I am God" from Psalm 46:11.

Featured speakers include Father Bill Schooler, pastor of St. Pius X in Granger on the topics of faith on Sunday, March 15, and prayer on Monday, March 16.

Bishop John D'Arcy will speak on the gift of reconciliation Tuesday, March 17. Participants will then have an opportunity for reconciliation with many priests available for confession.

On Wednesday, March 18, Father Michael Heintz will offer Mass and reflect on the gift of the Eucharist.

Morning sessions will be offered on Monday, March 16, through Wednesday, March 18, from 9:30-10:30 a.m., after the 9 a.m. Mass. These morning sessions will be led by Ginny Kahrman and Linda Furge, of the Office of Spiritual Development. Kahrman and Furge and morning session participants will explore further the previous evening's top-

ics of faith, prayer and reconciliation in the Mother Seton Room.

Children's programs will be offered on Sunday, March 15, and Monday, March 16, for children in grades kindergarten through fifth grade. The children will enjoy Scripture, stories and crafts that reflect that evening's theme. On Tuesday, March 17, children's programs will be offered for kindergarten and first grade (older children are invited to come to church for the evening's talk on reconciliation). Childcare will also be available all four evenings for children ages 4 and under in the parish nursery. Reserving a spot for your child for both the children's programs and childcare is required by calling the parish office at (260) 432-0268.

For those needing transportation to attend the parish mission sessions, please call the parish office at (260) 432-0268.

St. Michael hosts parish mission

PLYMOUTH — Throughout the world Catholics and other Christians find Lent a time for deep personal reflection. St. Michael Church will conduct a parish mission during Lent with the theme, "We are The Carpenter's Tools," and welcomes those wishing to enrich their Lenten experience.

Each session will give individuals an opportunity to reflect on a "tool" from the toolbox God has given and how to grow in each person's use of them. Presenters will offer their thoughts to help participants deepen their own reflection and challenge us to use our "tools" to build up the kingdom of God.

Evening sessions will begin at 7 p.m. with the same topic being offered the following morning at 9:15 a.m. Following each session (except the reconciliation service) participants are encouraged to join us for refreshments and social time.

The schedule includes:

- March 8, The Tool of Faith — with two simultaneous sessions, one in Spanish with Holy Cross Father Chris Cox, pastor of St. Casimir and St. Adalbert parishes in South Bend, as speaker and one in English with Lisa Marino, director of RCIA at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend, as speaker.

- March 9, The Tool of Hope — The speaker will be Father Thomas Shoemaker, pastor of St. Jude in Fort Wayne. This evening will have a strong youth component.

- March 10, The Tool of Forgiveness — Bishop John M. D'Arcy will be the main speaker followed by a reconciliation service.

- March 11, The Tool of Sharing — The speaker will be Carl Loesch, principal of Marian High School.

- March 12, The Tool of Love — The mission will close with a Mass of the holy Eucharist led by Father William Kummer.

HOLY CROSS PARISH CELEBRATES CONFIRMATION WITH BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY



PROVIDED BY HOLY CROSS PARISH

Bishop John M. D'Arcy poses with two confirmands and their sponsor at the Feb. 15 confirmation ceremony at Holy Cross Parish in South Bend. From left, Holy Cross English teacher Stephanie Hile, stands with Bishop D'Arcy, Laura Hoover and Toria Sullivan. Hoover and Sullivan both requested Hile as their sponsor. There were 27 students confirmed.



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Diocese hosts high school retreat

NORTH WEBSTER — “Come Hungry, Be Satisfied” was the theme for the diocesan winter retreat for high school students held at Epworth Forest in North Webster. The retreat welcomed participation from 88 teens and 20 adults from 20 parishes across the diocese on the last weekend of February.

The weekend included a session by Father Bob Lengerich, associate pastor of St. Pius X Parish, Granger, who discussed sin and reconciliation. Father Mark Gurtner, pastor of Our Lady of Good Hope Parish, Fort Wayne, discussed “how we become what we eat in the Eucharist.” The retreat included Mass and adoration.

Response from the youths was positive. Retreatant Kaytlyn Troyer, of St. Joseph Parish, Mishawaka, commented: “I had an amazing time. I especially liked your spiritual pyramid. It put a lot of things into perspective for me and got me thinking about how little it would take to incorporate more aspects of spiritual life into my daily life.”

Jaxson Burkins of St. Dominic Parish, Bremen, added: “I just really wanted to thank you guys for giving me the opportunity to give my witness at the retreat. Every time that I give a witness, I feel so much closer to God. I’m not sure what it is, maybe the research or thought needed to be put into it, or whatever it is, every talk I give I always feel closer to him.”

And Caty Long, of St. Bavo,



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY NATHAN PROULX

Teen girls are praying over teen boys for purity and righteousness at the “Come Hungry, Be Satisfied” diocesan winter retreat for high school students.



In this photo, Casey Ryan gives a teaching for the boys’ cabin at the “Come Hungry, Be Satisfied” diocesan winter retreat for high school students.

Mishawaka, said, “This retreat was, wow, absolutely amazing, and that’s just the tip of the iceberg. But Saturday night was especially amazing. Everyone just blew me away.”

Joan Derbiszewski, from St. Pius X, Granger, commented: “This past weekend was the Winter Retreat, which I must say was beyond amazing. There were so many people filled with the fire of Christ that even a stranger would be able to feel the presence of the Holy Spirit among us.”

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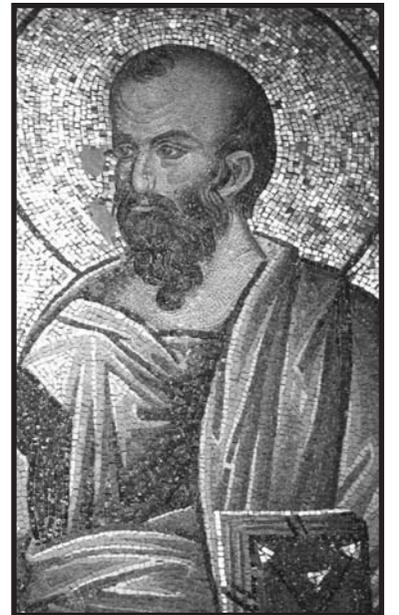
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Opening prayer

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us and persevere in running the race that lies before us while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith." — Heb 12: 1-2.

Commentary

"I rejoice greatly in the Lord that now at last you revived your concern for me. You were, of course, concerned about me but lacked an opportunity. Not that I say this because of need, for I have learned in whatever situation I find myself to be self-sufficient. I know indeed how to live in humble circumstances; I know also how to live with abundance. In every circumstance and in all things I have learned the secret of being well fed and of going hungry, of living in abundance and of being in need. I have the strength for everything through him who empowers me." — Phil 4: 10-13

The Webster Dictionary defines persevering as "to persist in a state, enterprise, or undertaking in spite of counterinfluences, opposition or discouragement." If anyone ever personified the word "persevering," it would be the Apostle Paul. Paul is remembered for traveling to distant lands and preaching the Gospel of Christ. He fervently shares Christ's love, despite experiencing much adversity during his travels: beatings, stoning, shipwrecks, desertion, imprisonment, and, ultimately, execution.

It was in Philippi where Paul establishes the first Christian community in Europe. Scholars say that Paul writes the letter to the Philippians while he is in prison

there. In fact, Paul does not know if he will live or face execution. Paul's initial greeting to the Philippians includes an acknowledgment of praise to God for a gesture of kindness from that community. The community of Philippi had given some money to aid Paul in his missionary journeys. Paul views this act of generosity as sharing in Christ's work. Furthermore, Paul explains that he has experienced many dichotomies within his lifetime and has learned to persevere. As a tentmaker Paul made a decent living for himself, indicating he was self-sufficient and lived with abundance.

After his conversion Paul gradually learns to put his trust in Christ, no matter what the circumstance. The majority of his life is dedicated to the day-by-day efforts of establishing Christian communities and proclaiming the Gospels to both Jews and Gentiles during his missionary journeys. Paul experiences humble surroundings, hunger and dependence on others for survival. He believes that Christ will never abandon him and will always provide him with the grace and strength he needs.

Spiritual side of persevering

Paul is a great role model of someone who perseveres especially in the midst of intense struggles. Carolyn Thomas, SCN, writes in "Reading the Letters of Saint Paul" that "Paul is a witness to the joy that characterizes the inner being of an authentic Christian, regardless of her or his misfortunes or situation in life. Joy embraces happiness as well as sorrow in the heart of St. Paul because his joy results from faith that God, who knows both the beginning and the end of events, reigns over all."

Remember that Paul writes the letter to the Philippians while he is imprisoned. Nevertheless, Paul expresses praise and gratitude often

for the graces Christ gave to him.

It can be easy to trust and glorify God when things are going well, but perhaps it is more difficult to rely on God when there is hardship. When there are hardships, our spiritual life may suffer as well. In fact, within the spiritual life many people encounter periods of intense dryness and little or no consolation.

Recently, Mother Teresa expressed in her writings how she endured many years where she did not perceive God's presence. Yet, through the grace of God, she persevered in efforts to serve the poor in Calcutta and shared the message of Christ's love all over the world.

In a letter written to Archbishop Perier, Mother Teresa wrote, "Please pray for me — the longing for God is terribly painful and yet the darkness is becoming greater. What contradiction there is in my soul. — The pain within is so great." — "Mother Teresa: Come Be My Light."

Both Mother Teresa and St. Paul are models of perseverance in the spiritual life and of the importance of maintaining focus on Christ, no matter what the circumstance.

How do you define perseverance? How does perseverance influence a person's spiritual life? How have you experienced the presence of God in good times and in bad?

Encountering obstacles

"For I am already being poured out like a libation, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me, which the Lord, the just judge, will award me on that day, and not only to me, but to all who have longed for his appearance. At my first defense no one appeared on my behalf, but everyone desert-

ed me. May it not be held against them. But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the proclamation might be completed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil threat and will bring me safe to his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever, Amen." — 2 Tim 4: 6-8, 16-18.

William Barclay notes that the term Paul uses for sacrifice literally means "to pour out as a libation to the gods." Paul willingly offers everything he has to God, ultimately including his very own life: "I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me. ..."

The analogy of competing in a race resonates strongly with me. I participated in track and field events during grade school. Athletes in any sport dedicate numerous hours to practice and training even though the actual event itself only lasts a brief period of time. I ran the 100-meter dash. During track meets, I only had to run the race once; however, in practice I had to run many 100-meter sprints. Track and field events were offered in the spring, and often the weather was cold or rainy. Unless there was lightning, participants were expected to compete. In any condition, it was important that I maintained my focus on the finish line. Likewise, Paul urges us to keep our focus on Christ because he will give the strength needed to finish strong.

Was there an especially challenging time within your life when you had to persevere? What are the obstacles that prevent you from focusing on Christ? The song "Here I Am, Lord" is meaningful to me when I experience a difficult situation because it reminds me of

God's faithfulness. Is there a hymn, poem, psalm or other piece that is especially meaningful to you during times of difficulty?

Finding the silver lining

Despite enduring much tribulation, Paul is cognizant of the many graces Christ bestows upon him. Paul also meets many individuals who influence some of his writings. Timothy is one of Paul's numerous traveling companions. Towards the end of Paul's life, he writes, in one of his letters to Timothy, a bishop: "The time of my departure is at hand. I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith."

Paul uses these letters as an opportunity to reflect on his own experiences so he can instruct Timothy on how to remain steadfast in his faith despite persecutions. Paul realizes that it is through God's grace that he has endured his many tribulations: "But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength."

Not only does Paul use his letter as a method of personal reflection, but includes a genuine hope for the future: "The Lord will rescue me from every evil threat and bring me safe to his heavenly kingdom."

Perseverance is definitely a virtue necessary to live out the Gospel message. It is associated with the gift of the Holy Spirit known as courage, which allows people the firmness of mind required both in doing good and in enduring evil.

How do you see the relationship between perseverance and courage? Who has been a model of perseverance within your life? How can you be a "Timothy" for someone you know like Paul?

For the complete six-week series visit www.diocesefwsb.org/OSD

Third Week of Lent

BY KAY COZAD

In preparation for the third week of Lent, beginning March 15, it is a time to continue to go even deeper into the mystery of Christ's passion, death and resurrection through sustained prayer, fasting and service. Use these Scriptures and action suggestions to receive the grace that the discipline of Lent offers to stay the course this week. (Scripture taken from the New American Bible Catholic edition.)

Third Sunday

"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. ..." Mt 28:19-20

Action: Pray for priests and religious. Tell your pastor how much you appreciate him and why.

Monday

"Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord." Ps 31:25

Action: Pray for those who are unemployed.

Tuesday

"He said, 'I tell you truly, this poor widow put in more than all the rest; for those others have made offerings from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has offered her whole livelihood.'" Lk 21:3-4

Action: Donate the money you save by not buying lunch or a special coffee today.

Wednesday

"Avoid not those who weep, but mourn with those who mourn..." Sir 7:34

Action: Send a card or visit a grieving friend.

Thursday

"... Everything should be done for building up." 1 Cor 14:26

Action: Compliment a child today.

Friday

"With all prayer and supplication, pray at every opportunity in the Spirit." Eph 6:18

Action: Attend the Stations of the Cross. Reflect on your Lenten journey so far.

Saturday

"When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord, You know that I love you.'" He said to him, "Feed my lambs." Jn 21:15

Action: Bake a treat and take it to a shut-in, neighbor or friend.

THESE HAPPY GOLDEN YEARS

Seniors make selfless giving, sacrifices a lifetime commitment

Holy Cross resident marks 104 years

BY SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

NOTRE DAME — When you meet Isabelle “Isy” Seymour for the first time it is hard to guess that she turned 104 years young on Jan. 28. She is a bright, cheerful, tiny woman with a twinkle in her eyes.

“She is an amazing person,” says Reneether Settles, nursing assistant at the Sanctuary of Holy Cross. “She is faithful to her daily prayers and devotions. She attends her own needs, not waiting on others to serve her.”

Isy, as she is fondly called, was born in Mishawaka in 1905. A member of St. Joseph Parish, Mishawaka, she attended school there. She was one of six children.

“I had three brothers and two sisters but they are all gone. I am the oldest one but I am still here.”

She reflects a lot about being the only living member of her immediate family. “I guess I need to keep praying for them.”

Some of her hobbies included crocheting and knitting. She also was an avid reader, but poor eyesight keeps her from currently doing any of these things.

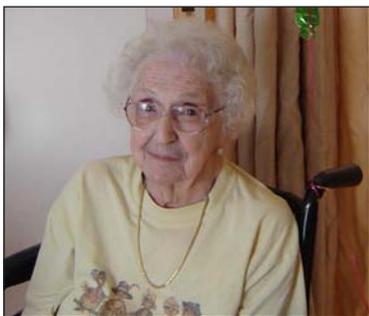
Isabelle was married for over 60 years. She met her beloved husband James at the Ball Band Company where she worked as a stenographer. After they were married they farmed 20 acres of land on the south end of South Bend. There they tended chickens and cows.

“I just loved being on the farm,” she says.

Isy also did her fair share of volunteering. One activity she frequently participated in was the Saint Joseph Hospital “Tag Days.” Volunteers collected money to help support the hospital. Those who contributed received a tag of recognition.

One of the loves shared by both Isy and her husband was traveling. They took driving trips every spring and fall after they retired.

“We usually went to the East,” she said. Once they visited the West and decided that it wasn’t the “dream world” she expected, so they never returned. Six years ago,



SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

Isy Seymour, at 104, credits not worrying too much and taking things as they come to her longevity. She is also quick to say that her faith has been her stronghold throughout her life.

after her husband died, Isy moved to the Sanctuary of Holy Cross, formerly called Holy Cross Care and Rehabilitation Center. It was a big transition, but she has managed to keep busy by praying and going to exercise class each day, which, says activity assistant Catherine Foreman, contributes to her longevity.

According to the community life director, Marcia Dills, “She never misses a Catholic Mass or rosary service.”

Sister Margaret Anne Nowacki, one of the Sisters of the Holy Cross who brings the Eucharist to the Catholic residents at Holy Cross, characterizes her as a delightful, holy lady.

When asked her formula for living a long life, Isy declares, “Don’t worry too much. Take things as they come.”

She is also quick to say that her faith has been her stronghold throughout her life.

Commenting on the recent inauguration of Barack Obama, Isy says, “I just wish him luck. It is a big job, a responsible job. I don’t know why anyone would want to take that over. It is a burden to try to satisfy everyone.”

Isy ponders why she has had such a long life. In response to being told that God must still have a plan for her, she says, “I am waiting for him to tell me.”

In the meantime she continues to pray, especially for her family and the needs of the world.

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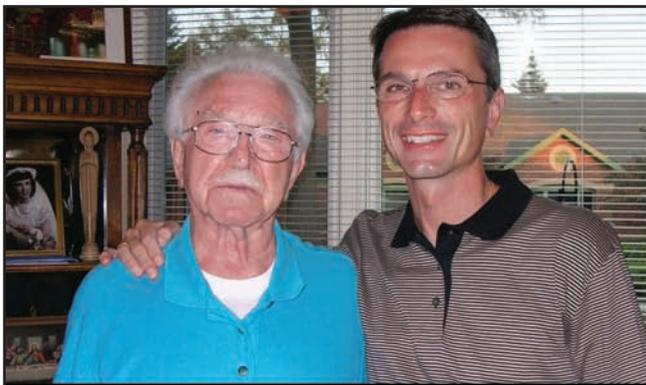
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Years ago, at wonderful St. Andrew’s School, we kids would ask one another this question after sister and Msgr. Hoerstman gave us a strong “sermon” on the “shoulds” of Lent. The response to this was usually the drawled out safe response of “caaandy,” followed by a heavy sigh, anticipating six long weeks of deprivation.

We counted the days until noon on Holy Saturday when the fast officially ended. Near noon, all the Catholic kids would gather in a nearby makeshift ball field and eagerly await the noon church bell to toll out the end of Lent. With one whoop, bats, balls and jump ropes were flung into the air to let fall at will. Eager kids scrambled home to haul out shoe boxes of loot accumulated during Lent. The annual candy fest was on.

This seems amusing now, and maybe we missed the point, but it was okay for our age and times in which we lived. In the Depression of the ‘30s and early ‘40s, candy was scarce anyway. Sometimes, though, it seemed that a similar simplistic response is still given by maturing adults.

Maybe it’s time we rephrased the question from: “What are you giving up for Lent?” to “What are you giving for Lent?” Christ doesn’t really care whether or not we eat sweets during Lent, or whether we enjoy a glass of wine. In the big picture these won’t matter. What will matter is whether or not we give someone something of ourselves with all the unconditional love we can muster — not expecting anything in return.

If we tell others what we’re “giving up” during Lent (especially when they’re relishing that very thing) they’ll feel “less holy” for enjoying it. It’s better to thank the cook and enjoy what’s there; there’s much less self-satisfaction. Prayer, fasting and almsgiving are our traditional Lenten practices but

SPIRITUALITY OF MATURING ADULTS

SISTER ANGELITA FENKER

are often interpreted too narrowly. In our maturing spirituality, we need to look for more meaningful ways to apply these to our adulthood.

Prayer, fasting and almsgiving are part of our everyday life anyway. During Lent, we work at sharpening our awareness of them in order to create new expressions for these in our life. In all three, we need to give up in order to give of ourselves to others for a greater good. We redirect our focus in order to discover fresh purpose for them in our life.

We combine these three into unique love-gifts. We do this during Lent to live more fully in an “attitude of gratitude” to Christ for his love-gift to us. By creatively giving these as love-gifts, we’ll not simply endure the inconveniences of Lent.

In prayer, we give some quality time to Christ in order to develop a more meaningful friendship with him. Spiritual reading enriches our prayer-time. When we pray, we speak to God; when we read, God speaks to us. We do whatever deepens this relationship.

In fasting, we give up something, but not necessarily food or drink. There are more important things to fast from than food or drink. We can fast from gossip, too much TV and other electronic media; from being critical, from self-righteousness, from procrastination, from excessive shopping, from complaining, etc. We each need to decide what’s the most meaningful for us to give up so that we can give to our spiritual maturing something which will benefit ourselves and others. This is a significant Lenten love-gift.

In almsgiving we give of our time, talent and treasure to someone who needs what we are able to give. Here too, we’ll have to give up something for this to happen, but the focus is on the love-gift, not the deprivation.

Simply put, these three practices of “Lenten-love” with our focus on giving, rather than on giving up will provide a Lent blessed with energizing spiritual maturing, which will have dynamic results the rest of the year. Then, when this Lent is over and the Risen Christ greets us anew on Easter Sunday, we’ll really experience the “abundant life” he promised to bring. All we need do is to concentrate on his dynamic love-gift, and let his Risen Presence flow through us as we give his love, light, life and presence to our world.



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Octogenarian still growing in faith

BY DEB WAGNER

FORT WAYNE — Marie Rorick still has such vitality to her spirit that it takes more than a few aback. The mother to 11 children, 25 grandchildren and soon to be a baker's dozen of great-grandchildren, has also found time to volunteer in her parish as well as for the community.

Rorick is a longtime member of St. Joseph Parish on Brooklyn Avenue in Fort Wayne. She is also an extraordinary minister to the sick, member of the Rosary Sodality Society and a member of Our Lady of Fatima, formerly called the Blue Army. In addition, she makes sure that the altar linens in the chapel of St. Joseph's Hospital are always kept clean and helps those who can no longer drive run errands. Marie herself is 87.

What does she say about all of this fuss as to what she does with her time? "You do things and you do not even think about it," she says.

Perhaps this philosophy is the reason why she has been an extraordinary minister to the sick at Covington Manor Nursing

Home ever since it was built. She wants to continue this ministry for a while saying, "I really enjoy it, though I feel so sorry for people that are so much younger than I. You feel so bad for them. I'll continue doing it as long as I can drive."

It was her ability to drive herself that made it possible for her to continue to exercise. She went to Lutheran Hospital's Heart Center to exercise until it closed. Rorick's exercise now occurs on a treadmill that she requested from her children two years ago. She figures that once she has said two rosaries that it is enough exercise on her treadmill for the day. "The Lord has been so good to me to be this age and so healthy," Rorick says.

Prayer and the rosary have always been important Rorick and her late husband, Dave, who died nine years ago. Dave and Marie used to pray the rosary together every night and involved the children until the children grew older and responsibilities drew them elsewhere. Rorick recalls that the rosary was prayed at the dinner table when the children were smaller, after dinner and before the dishes were



MARIE RORICK

cleared to the sink.

Prayer is what saw them through. The Roricks married right before World War II at St. Joseph Church and had their two oldest girls, while Dave was serving in the military. They began building the family homestead in southwest Fort Wayne.

Their third child, a son, was born while they were living in a garage that had been renovated for temporary housing until their home was built.

Do the economic times of yesterday compare to those of today? In the past, Rorick canned and sewed to help ends meet. "You had to watch, but it wasn't that it was a hardship at all," she recalls.

Rorick does not recall, though, that raising a large family was hectic, because only one child was born at a time and the older children helped with the younger children.

Mary Lou Orn, Rorick's oldest, remembers wearing spring coats with a sweater underneath all winter one year because they did not have winter coats to wear.

Rorick says that they did not have "a huge amount of material things because we were loved. We always had enough love."

The girls sometimes wore feed sack dresses, yet the family was always fortunate to have plenty of food on the table. Dave was able to secure a job at Peter Eckrich Meats after the war where he could buy meat for a discounted price.

Rorick, who had two older brothers and only one grandparent who was still living during her childhood, considered herself to be a loner. So, when it came

time to have children of her own, Rorick had to learn as she lived each day. She says her children taught her as they learned to share, care and watch out for one another.

Today, the children of Dave and Marie Rorick are doing well as a former shoe store owner, beautician, day care owner, salesperson or in factory maintenance and the like. One son was even in the seminary for a while. Tragically one daughter passed away. All of the children with the exception of one, who lives on the East Coast, live in the Fort Wayne-South Bend area and are involved in their own parishes in the diocese.

Rorick says she has time to pray now and to participate in the Mass as it is being celebrated. She says she has really grown in her faith by watching Mother Angelica on EWTN television and her ongoing devotion to the Blessed Mother. Rorick reflects on what she has learned throughout her years and says, "Now that I look back on my life, the Lord was moving me, putting me where he needed me and faith in his Blessed Mother was very important."

Former teacher celebrates 102nd birthday

BY DENISE FEDOROW

GOSHEN — Not everyone gets to live to see 100 but St. John the Evangelist parishioner Regina Gaffer has, and she feels very grateful. In fact, Gaffer celebrated her 102nd birthday on Jan. 30, and a party was held in her honor on the Jan. 31.

Gaffer and her husband Larry, who passed away a few years ago at 100 years of age, were longtime parishioners of St. John the Evangelist Church in Goshen. She recited the names of the priests who served the parish during the years she was active in the church. It's become difficult for her to attend Mass, so she receives Communion at home and said she prays and recites the rosary daily.

So when Father Chris Smith, pastor of St. John's, arrived at her birthday celebration with a bouquet of flowers, Gaffer was very touched and hugged him tightly.

"Oh, you made my day!" she said.

Gaffer and her husband were originally from Nebraska. Gaffer started teaching in 1926 at the age of 19. She taught in a rural school with grades 1-6 for 12 years. The couple moved to Goshen in the 1940s.

Gaffer's son, Steve, said his parents came to work in a restaurant owned by his father's brother and sister-in-law that was located where the former Kline's used to be on Main Street.



DENISE FEDOROW

A celebration was held in honor of St. John parishioner Regina Gaffer's 102nd birthday. Father Chris Smith delivered a blessing and a live bouquet of flowers, while St. John's School sixth-grader represented his schoolmates in delivering a spiritual bouquet. From left are John Picuch, representing the eucharistic caregivers at St. John Parish, Father Chris Smith, Regina Gaffer and T. J. Longacre.

The couple had two sons, Steve and Jack. Gaffer now lives with Steve and his wife Jean in their Goshen home. Jack and his wife Bev live in Cincinnati. Gaffer has six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, several of whom were celebrating with

her on Jan. 31.

After moving to Goshen, Gaffer taught 16 years at Jefferson Elementary and nine years at Concord, for a total of 37 years teaching.

Gaffer shared what she most enjoyed about teaching. "I loved

the children. I loved working with the schoolchildren," she said.

Steve said his mother was often given the most difficult students, some of whom would be in special education classes today, but they didn't have such classes

then. Jean said several of Gaffer's former students attended the open house on her 100th birthday and said her mother-in-law "knows everybody." When she could get out and about more, she would recognize her former students.

"She may not have always known them by name but she recognized them," Jean said.

Gaffer also taught the class at St. John's that prepared children for making their first Communion for many years. A special surprise for Gaffer on Jan. 31 was from St. John students. The entire student body made Regina a spiritual bouquet. The preschool students made paper flowers and each student in grades kindergarten through sixth grade created a card for the person believed to be the oldest member of the parish.

Sixth-grader T.J. Longacre delivered the greetings and birthday award from the students.

"Please tell all the children all my blessings are with them for remembering me," Gaffer told Father Smith and T.J. "This means so much to me."

Gaffer said she was most excited about being able to spend her birthday with family and is thankful for all her family, friends, church and God.

Gaffer attributes her long life to God's blessing. "I'm thankful to God for everything he's done for me," she said. "He sure has been good to me."

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Wittes retire after 32 years at Life Care Center

BY DEB WAGNER

FORT WAYNE — Paul and Patty Witte have faithfully distributed Communion to some of the Catholic residents at the Life Care Center in Fort Wayne for quite some time. After 32 years of ministry, the married couple has decided to retire for health reasons.

The Wittes alternated their weekend eucharistic minister duties with a few others. They shared the responsibility with Carol and Jim Didier for over 20 years until Jim's passing in 2000. Then the Wittes made the weekly visits by themselves for a while before Carol Gerardot began alternating weekends with them. The ministry team missed only one scheduled appearance at the Life Care Center when floodwaters made it impossible to reach the facility.

After so many years of service there is bound to be some stories to share. Patty tells of when she was to carry the lit candles for their prayer services. The smoke from the flames of the candles apparently set off the fire alarms and the fire trucks came with sirens blaring.

After a chuckle at the memory, Patty says, "So we don't light candles any more. Patty reflects on the ministry by saying, "We like to do it. It's nice to do it and we thought that if we did something like this, we wouldn't end up in a nursing home ourselves." So far, this has proven to hold true.

Paul and Patty were not only among the first group of lay people to distribute Communion, they were ready for other tasks as well. Paul says that even after distributing to the patients in their rooms at the nursing home they would often come back to the church to count the collection. With a reflective grin, he comments, "We were always available to help."

Paul and Patty have always been available to help as parishioners of Most Precious Blood

Parish for over 40 years. Patty says they enjoy their pastor, Father Joe Gaughan, very much. Paul calls him a godsend.

In their 64 years of marriage, the Wittes raised nine children. Paul was employed with the post office and two other side jobs. Patty was dedicated to the home. Their grown children now live from coast to coast, including five in this diocese.

There have been a few notable events for them in the church since they began visiting the Life Care Center. Paul's brother was a priest for 60 years and received the title of monsignor before dying about two years ago.

Paul and Patty's wedding ceremony was the first wedding for Paul's brother as priest celebrant. They then witnessed the division of the diocese between Fort Wayne-South Bend and Gary. Paul's brother then became a part of the Diocese of Gary.

Another change involved the lay eucharistic ministers. They sat in pews that faced the altar where the baptismal font is currently. The priests in those days gave eucharistic ministers permission to leave early in order to avoid conversation with other parishioners while they had Christ in their pix.

Paul and Patty used three pix in the beginning to hold the body of Christ while it was in transit to the 36 Catholic residents at the nursing home. Today, they take Communion to three residents.

Bringing Christ to Life Care Center residents in the form of the holy Eucharist was very important to Paul and Patty, especially Paul. As a former postal carrier, he worked odd hours for many years and became closer to the Eucharist "primarily from taking the Eucharist to the nursing home," he says.

Paul continues with his thought, "You come to realize that nursing homes are great facilities. But, at the same time you hope you never get there."

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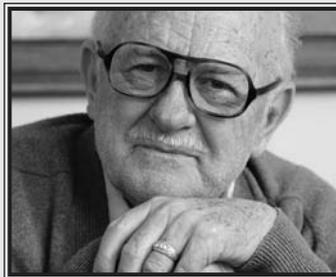
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Patty and Paul Witte, with the pix in their hands, are retiring as eucharistic ministers to Life Care Center residents after 32 years of service.

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EDITORIAL

The 'no excuses' guide to confession

Sin ... it's everywhere. From sins of omission to sins of commission, very few of us are filled with enough grace to fight off every temptation and keep the devil at bay.

Just turning on the evening news, we realize that sins of dishonesty, unethical business practices, greed and taking advantage of our fellow countrymen are some of the things that has slid us into these tough economic times.

It seems as if we need God's mercy more than ever. One of our parish priests once said, "Confession is the path to holiness." Still, why are so few of us benefitting from the sacrament of reconciliation? There are excuses and more excuses. Here are some and a few rebuttals:

- **I don't know what to say or what to do in the confessional.** Start by making an examination of conscience. Review the greatest commandments: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind"; and love your neighbor as yourself. Review the Ten Commandments. Review the Beatitudes. Many missalettes offer examination of conscience guides. If you go to a penitential service, the parish often provides guides. As far as the actual reconciliation process, the priest will assist you, especially if it's been a long time.

- **What if somebody hears me? Is it really private? Do priests go back and talk about my sins?** Priests adhere to a sacramental seal of confession — that they will not divulge anything confessed. And, chances are, anything you tell a priest will not be the first time he has heard it. Parishes are very cautious to make sure others cannot hear what is being confessed. As a courtesy, certainly the other penitents should make it a point to stay out of ear shot of the confessional area.

- **I had a bad experience with confession.** This is uncommon, but perhaps the priest hearing the confession was having a bad day, felt rushed, etc. They are human too. And they have to confess their sins, just as you do.

- **I've been away too long. I have too many sins to confess. I feel guilty for not having been to confession for such a long time. I'm not worthy to go to confession.** The mercy of God is greater than any one person's sins. In fact it overwhelms the amount of sins that we could confess.

- **Will the priest be understanding with me?** The priest may offer counsel to help you deal with a sin, especially if you ask for counsel. A psychologist once noted that when Catholics stopped confessing as often, he noticed an increase in the number of Catholic patients he saw. Confession is good for your soul and psychological well being.

- **I don't want to go face-to-face. I want to be anonymous.** Most parishes offer anonymity as well as face-to-face reconciliation.

- **I don't have mortal sins, do I have to go?** The Catechism of the Catholic Church, No. 1494, states, "One who desires to obtain reconciliation with God and with the church, must confess to a priest all the unconfessed grave sins he remembers after having carefully examined his conscience. The confession of venial faults, without being necessary in itself, is nevertheless strongly recommended by the church."

Confession has spiritual benefits. The catechism notes we are reconciled with God and recover grace. We are reconciled with the church. Other spiritual effects are the remission of the eternal punishment incurred by mortal sins; remission, at least in part, of temporal punishments resulting from sin; peace and serenity of conscience and spiritual consolation; and an increase of spiritual strength.

Jesus gave us the sacrament of reconciliation, shortly after he rose from the dead. John, chapter 20, tells us Jesus showed himself to his apostles: "He breathed on them, and said to them: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'"

This sacrament has been passed to us from the apostles. Lent is a time of repentance and examination of our consciences. Don't let fear, pride or vanity get in the way of the grace and mercy that God wishes for us all.

Many parishes will be having penance services. Some of these were posted, as well as an examination of conscience, in the Feb. 22 issue of *Today's Catholic*. Check bulletins or call other parishes for times when reconciliation is offered. If the times do not work, many priests offer reconciliation by appointment.

Pope John Paul II recommended monthly confession of sins.

Today's Catholic editorial board consists of Kay Cozad, Fred and Lisa Everett, Father Mark Gurtner, Father Michael Heintz, Tim Johnson and Vince LaBarbera.

COMMENTARY

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

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

Artificial conception use

In response to inquiries and comments which *Today's Catholic* has received regarding the answer we provided to the question concerning the ethical use of artificial contraception in the recent Wedding Supplement, we would like to refer readers to the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services promulgated by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in 2001: "Compassionate and understanding care should be given to a person who is the victim of sexual assault. Health care providers should cooperate with law enforcement officials and offer the person psychological and spiritual support as well as accurate medical information. A female who has been raped should be able to defend herself against a potential conception from the sexual assault. If, after appropriate testing, there is no evidence that conception has occurred already, she may be treated with medications that would prevent ovulation, sperm capacitation or fertilization. It is not permissible, however, to initiate or to recommend treatments that have as their purpose or direct effect the removal, destruction, or interference with the implantation of a fertilized ovum" (No. 36).

Fred and Lisa Everett
Co-Directors, Office of Family Life
Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

Appreciation for Women's Care Center support

I'd like to take this opportunity to especially thank our Catholic community for the incredible tangible assistance given to the Women's Care Center these last few months. Your article on our wonderful partners, the Christ Child Society, encouraged me to offer our sincere appreciation as well.

We welcomed 169 new babies in 2008 and we are expecting over 300 in the next few months. The downturn in the economy has certainly impacted our clients and their needs and worries are heartbreaking. Sadly, their financial struggles can also make abortion more of a consideration.

We have tried to personally thank all who have helped with baby showers, diaper drives and giving tree projects. If we have missed anyone it was certainly unintentional and we are truly sorry. Please know that your gifts have been gratefully received and have given great hope and encouragement to many moms and babies.

Anne Koehl
Allen County Director
Women's Care Center

Concern for human life good start for health care plan

I read with interest the letter in the Feb. 8 commentary regarding sending the postcards to our representatives to make sure they urge President Obama to reconsider his position on abortion. I had often wondered about the thinking of Catholics who enthusiastically support proponents of abortion.

President Obama did not support legislation that would have allowed a baby who survived an abortion to be given palliative care, but rather required the attending medical workers to place the living baby on a shelf in a laundry room until it died. A nurse who held one of these children during its last minutes placed her job in jeopardy. This seems to me to be an extreme view regarding abortion.

The letter-writer seems to be concerned about social justice, job creation and health insurance. I am unaware of specific plans to create jobs, other than a lot of government hiring, and the goal of health insurance for all is far in the future.

Plans for health insurance for all are also sketchy, with no proposals about how to pay for this program. It seems to me that a concern and regard for human life, particularly when it is helpless and completely innocent, would be a good beginning for health care. If President Obama's philosophy extends to the rest of us, perhaps our access to his universal health care will depend upon whether we are useful and our continued existence is convenient for others.

Patricia Hudson
Roanoke

Obligation to stand up for Christ, church teachings

I am writing this letter in response to Ann Britzke's letter highlighting varied reactions to her previous letter justifying her vote for Obama.

First, I sympathize over her concerns regarding some readers' reactions that opened fear and pain in her. I fully agree that it is unchristian to cause such emotions/feelings to a fellow Christian. Being Christians, and more so, as Catholics, it is our obligation to show love for one another and even to our non-Christian brothers and sisters. But, it is also our obligation to stand up for Christ's and his church's teachings in a civilized way.

Second, she needs to understand that initiating a letter justifying her vote for Obama who supports abortion and gay marriage caused an uproar because this was against the Catholic Church's stand to support pro-life candidates.

Third, how can she equate death

caused by sin of abortion against death caused by sin of war. Abortion equals death of defenseless innocent babies. War equals death of soldiers in battlefields who can defend themselves.

Fourth, policies to advance the poor and the downtrodden are definitely significant. But we should know that policies that support abortion and gay marriage are the worst evils of society. In the final summation, who will become the poor and the downtrodden when babies are killed by millions and same-sex marriages prevail in our society?

We have to live our lives for the love of Christ.

Celso Dagaas
Plymouth

A wake-up call

Abortion kills 4,000 babies every day in the United States. Many Catholics with good intentions seem to have selective hearing. Catholic teaching never allows for placing any issue before abortion when it comes to voting. The only time it is permissible to vote for a pro-abortion candidate is when ALL candidates are pro-abortion. Period.

I did some research after reading the March 1 edition of *Today's Catholic*. The war in Iraq began six years ago and has been responsible for the deaths of approximately 4,000 men and women in our armed forces. This is tragic in its own right. Yet these brave soldiers signed up to serve our country. They chose to risk their lives. How many of the 8,768,000 babies murdered during the same six years chose their fate?

Shame on anyone who resorted to hate mail in response to our disillusioned sister in Goshen. This type of action is contrary to our goal in the pro-life cause. I checked my Bible and nowhere did I find a place where Jesus or his apostles used such tactics to win souls. Our beloved church is full of misinformed children who are way off target on the issue of voting for pro-death candidates. Senders of hate mail and authors of hate speech are as much to blame for this as anyone. "Let he who is without sin cast the first stone." — Jn 8:7.

We are nearing 50 million Americans killed by abortion since Roe v. Wade. Between 11 and 15 babies are murdered every Thursday right here in Fort Wayne. Is your pocketbook more important than this?

Wake up my fellow Catholics. It is time to stop putting the abortion issue at the bottom of our list of priorities. How many more babies have to die before we see abortion for what it is? When will this legal holocaust end? Imagine if every one of the 60 million so-called Catholics in this country stood up as one in opposition! Ultimately, we are all responsible for the atrocity of abortion in our country. May God have mercy on us all.

Marti Lopshire
Fort Wayne

The Christian exodus from Middle East

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The need to find ways to stop the slow, yet steady departure of Christians from the Middle East has come into greater focus recently.

Pope Benedict XVI urged the dwindling Arab Christian minority to patiently persist in its struggle to survive and hold onto its religious and cultural identity when he met with bishops from Iraq, Iran and Turkey who were in Rome to report on their dioceses early this year.

And he will have many public occasions to reach out and appeal directly to Christians with his proposed visit to the Holy Land May 8-15.

The Christian exodus has become so severe that Iraqi bishops called on the pope to convene a regional synod to address the problem.

In the meantime, conferences were held in Detroit, Lebanon and Rome in February to underline the important role Christians play in Muslim-majority nations.

The Rome gathering organized

by the Sant'Egidio Community brought together Christian and Muslim scholars and religious leaders from the Middle East to discuss the value and contribution of the Eastern Christian churches in Arab nations.

One element that emerged from the meeting is that Christians don't belong in the Middle East simply because they've been there since the time of Jesus and are legitimate citizens of Arab nations. Many said they must stay because they possess a unique culture and mindset that help contribute to the building of a more peaceful, democratic nation.

Some said a strong Christian presence could help moderate Muslims counter the rising wave of Islamic extremism sweeping across the region.

Mohammed Sammak, political adviser to Lebanon's grand mufti and a conference participant, said, "The fewer Christians there are, the more (Islamic) fundamentalism rises," fills the void and gains the

THE VATICAN LETTER

CAROL GLATZ

upper hand; "that is why as a Muslim, I am opposed" to Christians emigrating.

Another danger, he said, is that if Muslim-majority nations do nothing to protect and encourage their Christian minorities to stay, then North American and European countries will think that Islam does not accept or respect Christianity.

If people living abroad see Muslims are unable to live with Christians even when they share the same culture, language and cit-

LETTER, PAGE 16

God's love sustains us during Lent



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

2nd Sunday in Lent Mk 9:2-10

Abraham was a very important figure in the process by which Jews reach a sense of ethnic and personal identity. He is regarded as the father of the Hebrew people.

Genetic links, however remote, between Jews of any age and Abraham are not the only consideration. He is seen as the great example of faith in God and of obedience to God.

For this reason, Abraham is a person whom Christians venerate.

Scholars believe that Abraham, who is revered also by Muslims, actually lived at one time, albeit the fact that he lived thousands of years ago.

In this reading, God promises divine protection to all of Abraham's descendants. Seventy years ago, Pope Pius XI said that Christians fall within the category of children of Abraham, since Christians descend from him as a spiritual father.

St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans furnishes the second reading. It was written amid a context similar to the context surrounding each of the other Pauline letters.

While Christians certainly were increasing in number in the last quarter of the first century A.D., they still at this time formed only a

tiny minority in the population of the Roman Empire.

Furthermore, these early Christians, because of their total commitment to the Gospel of love, seemed either foolish or threatening to the great majority of their contemporaries. Indeed, before the first century ended, the law itself turned against Christianity.

So, many Christians surely were uneasy. Paul reassured them. In this reading, he called them to faithfulness regardless of the "hardships" that easily, even likely, would come their way.

He said that their knowledge of God was their advantage and privilege. God was their strength. Christ had defeated death, and the Lord would prevail over every adversary, despite the force behind any adversary.

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew is the third lesson. It tells the story of the Transfiguration, a story found in the other Synoptics as well.

In the Transfiguration, the Lord's identity as Son of God is magnificently displayed. Rich symbols abound. Each has unmistakable roots in the Old Testament. Jesus is atop a high mountain. Each makes clear the fact of Christ's divine identity.

As marvelous as this message is the fact that God shares with humans the very essence of being within the Holy Trinity. The purpose is that we may know God.

Reflection

This weekend, we observe the second Sunday of Lent. Lent is well underway, now over two weeks along in its progress.

If Lent is to mean anything to us personally, we must dedicate ourselves to Lent, to sincere dedication to prayer and penance.

Is it worth it? Through the words of Paul, the church reminds us of life amid hardships. It is true that Americans do not have to hide from hostile police, as the Roman Christians long ago had to hide. But, we have our hardships. The greatest hardships come from within ourselves. Fears, doubts, and our own smugness confound our ability to see things clearly and to act in what truly is our best interests.

In these readings from Genesis and Matthew, the church details the message of Romans, that Christ sustains us, and that regardless of everything and anything, we have nothing to fear.

God's care for us, in Christ, is the product of God's love for us. God loves us. The wondrous revelation to the apostles of the Lord's divinity, seen in the Transfiguration, tell us of God's love. Loving us, God promised us life.

He is with us in Jesus, the Son of God. Although almighty, Jesus overwhelms no one. Lent is the process by which individually and voluntarily we turn to the Lord.

READINGS

Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18 Ps 116:10, 15-19 Rom 8:31b-34 Mk 9:2-10

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10 Ps 79:8-9, 11, 13 Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20 Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23 Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20 Ps 31:5-6, 14-16 Mt 20:17-28

Thursday: Jer 17:5-10 Ps 1:1-4, 6 Lk 16:19-31

Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a Ps 105:16-21 Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20 Ps 103:1-4, 9-12 Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

CATEQUIZEM

By Dominic Camplisson

Recalling Sts. Perpetua and Felicity, this quiz is perhaps pertinent.

1. According to the Old Testament, nothing happened peradventure but was rather because events (such as Pharaoh's heart hardening) were

- a. driven by God's will.
- b. conducted by free will.
- c. incomprehensible.

2. Jesus and his followers likely perambulated a fancy way of saying they traveled

- a. by horse.
- b. by boat.
- c. by foot.

3. Jesus was not laid in a perambulator but in a manger. What is it?

- a. A type of ambulance
- b. A trough for animal fodder
- c. A type of boat

4. Cloaks may be made nowadays of percale, Jesus' was considered unusual because it was

- a. red or purple, a sign of royalty
- b. silk or at least made of webs
- c. of one piece, not sewn

5. According to Catholic sacramentology this is real but not perceivable even with a microscope

- a. Transubstantiation
- b. bacteria
- c. Charon the Boatman

6. This disciple wanted to perceive Jesus' wounds personally before he would accept the Resurrection

- a. Paul
- b. Judas
- c. Thomas

7. Several of the disciples would have been familiar with a perch, or rather its Asian cousins, because they were

- a. fishermen
- b. Jews
- c. Pharisees

8. Jesus was, before being crucified, percussed, by Roman soldiers or in other words

- a. stricken.
- b. crowned.
- c. anointed.

9. This popular Christmas carol features a diminutive percussionist

- a. Tom Thumb
- b. The Little Drummer Boy
- c. The Cheribum of Yuletide

10. This is the fate of those who chose serious sin over virtue:

- a. Per Ardua ad Astra
- b. perdition
- c. peridentol

11. According to Scripture, St. Thomas's peregrinations led him here where he started a Christian community now called Mar Thomas

- a. Indonesia
- b. Cambodia
- c. India

12. Perestroika was a failed attempt to keep the Soviet Union alive. One of the beneficiaries of its collapse was a renewed

- a. Patriarchy of Constantinople
- b. Polish National Catholic Church
- c. Russian Orthodox Church.

13. Jesus admonished his followers to be this as the father is

- a. perfect.
- b. peripatetic.
- c. peristic.

14. The disciples had human weaknesses, but this was perfidious:

- a. Matthias
- b. Thomas
- c. Judas

15. If there is a pericope in church, the best idea is to

- a. listen to it being read.
- b. run and call 9-1-1.
- c. pour mayonnaise on it and toss it with dill and anchovies.

ANSWERS:

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

'Be still, and know that I am God'

BY MSGR. THOMAS McDONNELL

Ours is a culture which does not emphasize silence and culture. T.S. Eliot said it best when he noted that we are "distracted from distraction by distraction." And as we begin our quest for inner quiet and stillness, I believe that we should look at Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, as our model. We read in the first chapter of Luke: "After these days his wife Elizabeth became pregnant, and she secluded herself for five months saying, "Thus has the Lord dealt with me in the day he digned to take away my disgrace before men."

The Evangelist Luke never quite answers the question as to why Elizabeth secluded herself for five months — surprisingly at the outset of her pregnancy. It would seem that because she was touched by God she was cultivating the inner stillness beneath the gaze of God to appreciate marvels God has accomplished in and through her: "This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked

favorably on me..."

And we must never forget that the Lord has done marvels for ourselves — attaching himself to us at baptism, making himself available at the Eucharist, etc.

In our quest for inner stillness we must make an act of confidence and trust — realizing that the God who created and sustains the universe can be entrusted with my cares and concerns for the space of a few moments.

Simone Weil synthesizes this idea as we approach prayer: "It is not my business to think about myself. My business is to think about God. It is for God to think about me."

The "why" of our quest for inner stillness is contained in the second part of this commandment: "and know that I am God." So much of our spiritual life revolves around our idea of God. Yet sometimes we seem to make the word almost an abstraction — overlooking the personal and relational. If I do not cultivate an inner stillness, my meetings with God will resemble something more like brushing up against him in a crowd rather

than a deep personal encounter. And we must emphasize that he deserves our entire attention.

In trying to give precision to our concept of God, we might begin with the observation of St. Catherine of Siena. In her writings, she noted that God has a passionate love for each of us. The operative word is passionate. It connotes the idea of union of hearts and minds. It conveys the idea of God's intense (and burning) desire for us. Just as in ancient myths, fire was seen as being a key to mankind's progress, so as we reflect upon the attributes or characteristics of God, we realize that we are called in every age to discover fire again — to set the world aflame with the redemptive fire of God's love.

It is the passionate love of God which compelled him to attach himself to us. He is truly, through baptism, Emmanuel — God with (and in) us. He walks with each one of us on our journey to our heavenly home, ready to support us and guide us.

It is also this passionate love which led God to shed his

lifeblood — through his Son's death on the cross — for us and through the Eucharist to provide redemptive transfusions into our own beings.

Perhaps because of my own training in speculative theology, I have always been wary of allowing ideas, even the idea about God, to lapse into abstractions. Thus I would like to concretize a few more characteristics about God and his love. Above all, his passionate love for us is individualized and personal:

Can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb?

Even should she forget, I will never forget you.

See, upon the palm of my hand I have written your name. — Is 49:15-16.

His is also a protective love — if we ask for it:

Fear not, I am with you; be not

dismayed I am your God.

I will strengthen you and hold you, and uphold you with my right hand. — Is 41:10

We will in the course of these reflections touch upon many other characteristics of God's love. But it is always helpful to have an image before us, we might take the time to sit quietly before the cross and reflect upon the heart of Christ, pierced with a lance, which remains infinitely open and paradoxically inclusive — holding ourselves within.

Msgr. Thomas McDonnell is a retired priest from the Archdiocese of Boston. He has dedicated his life to the urban poor and disabled. A cancer survivor, he is the author of "Walking in the Dark Valley: When Cancer is a Constant Companion." This is the second of a four-part series through Lent.

Family rosary

My dad recalls with fondness childhood memories of climbing in the car with his family to visit friends ... and together they all would recite the rosary. He remembers waking up in the morning and seeing his mother sitting quietly in the dark in her special chair, clutching her beads and mouthing her prayers. He says seeing his parents pray the rosary in his childhood gave him comfort. He believes it spared him from many dangers, and perhaps most importantly that seeing his parents recite it and participating in it himself set an example for him and formed a habit that he eventually passed on to his own children. Saying the rosary was and is an integral part of his family life.

My sister's mother-in-law was riding in their car with her husband, praying the rosary as they normally did when they traveled. After the last decade was complete, the man died. His grief-stricken wife received much consolation knowing that just after the end of their prayers he was called home. She believes it was a special blessing of a happy death for him.

If a child wants a favor from his father, he will likely approach his gentle-hearted mother first. Timidly he beseeches her and makes his request. He knows that she will be an advocate for him. Likewise, when we pray the rosary, not only are we recalling through the mysteries the major events in Jesus' life, but also we are approaching the Father through Jesus' mother. She will be our advocate.

A practical question remains, however: How? How do we begin? How will our family react if we saunter in from work some evening and say, "Everyone in the living room. We're saying the rosary." If



EVERYDAY CATHOLIC

Theresa A. Thomas

we haven't been doing it up to this point, likely the announcement will be met with annoyance, procrastination, perhaps outright protest. If the children are very young, it's easier. You just buy some colorful rosary books and illustrations from the local Catholic bookstore. After bedtime stories and regular nightly prayers when they are snuggled in, you take out the rosary, show them the appropriate picture for the mystery and begin. They may fall asleep before you are through, perhaps with the image of a child-Christ being found in the temple permeating their half-doing dreams.

If the children are older, perhaps teens and you've never prayed the rosary as a family before, this may be more of a problem. You'll likely want to explain your thought process and motivation. Tell them you're doing some reading and recognizing the benefit of the rosary as a prayer and that you want to start sharing that as a family together. Give them some books on Fatima or St. Louis de Montfort's classic "The Secret of the Rosary." Buy some illustrated inexpensive rosary books for everyone to follow until the mysteries are all memorized. Let each child "take" a decade to pray aloud, and let him choose the special intention for that decade. If no one wants to be singled out to come up with an intention, as a family come up with 10 or 20 good ideas and write them down on slips of small paper. Place

them in a bowl and allow family members to select one before they recite "their" decade. Some favorite intentions of ours include "For our Holy Father and his intentions," "For the mental, spiritual and physical health of all members of our family," and "for all unborn children." Especially relevant today are prayers for the leadership in our country and for peace in the world. If the teens still protest after an explanation, remember that you, as a parent, are called to spiritually lead your children, regardless of their disapproval and perhaps rolling eyes. I promise, they'll get used to the prayers and perhaps even grow to look forward to them.

Whether you've been married two months or 22 years, it's never too early or late to start the beautiful devotion of praying the rosary together every day. Just like starting a diet, the hardest part is deciding to proceed and making time that first week while the habit is still being formed. The blessings of daily rosary recitation will blossom almost immediately. Families have reported greater peace and understanding when this prayer is said regularly.

Theresa Thomas, parishioner of St. Matthew Cathedral Parish in South Bend, is the mother of nine children and wife of David. Theresa Thomas may be contacted at: theresathomaseveryday-catholic@gmail.com.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for March 8, 2009

Mark 9:2-10

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Second Sunday of Lent, Cycle B: the revelation on Mount Tabor in Galilee. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

PETER	JOHN	TRANSFIGURED
DAZZLING	WHITE	APPEARED
RABBI	IT IS GOOD	THREE
TENTS	ELIJAH	TERRIFIED
CLOUD	A VOICE	BELOVED
LISTEN	SUDDENLY	SON OF MAN
THE DEAD	QUESTIONING	RISING

MOSES AND ELIJAH

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

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LETTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

izenship, he said, "then they'll think, 'so how can we Europeans live with Muslims.'"

Participant Bernard Sabella, a Catholic member of the Palestinian parliament and former sociology professor at Catholic-run Bethlehem University in the West Bank, said the exodus of Christians "is related to the global market. So if a young Palestinian — Christian or Muslim — can get

work in the United States or Dubai, then they will go."

Tarek Mitri, Lebanon's minister of information, said Christians "were victims of their good education" and marketable skills in that they were more likely to be able to choose and provide a better life for themselves and their families by emigrating to where there were more opportunities.

Syrian Orthodox Metropolitan Mar Gregorios Yohanna Ibrahim of Aleppo appealed to Muslim nations and authorities, telling them that their role is "to safeguard Christians. It is up to you."

Sports

SAINT JOSEPH'S HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY TEAM WIN STATE RUNNER-UP The Saint Joe Icercs ended an exciting and successful season with a No. 2 finish to Carmel Gold, 3-2, in the 4-A State Championship Game. Head Coach Jim Scarpone and assistants Matt Cielen and Chris Kleva (1984 Saint Joe graduate) led this team. Henry Chandler is the faculty moderator. The team includes juniors Josh McMillan, Al Harding, Robert Jamieson, Ryan Sopczynski, Michael Potter; sophomores Ian Lewis, Ethan Palmer, Jake Radde, Drake Fisher, Joey McCombs, Tim Heisler, Nick Kleva, Zach Fussey; freshmen Tyler Christensen, Kevin Kruszewski, Michael McFadden.

Holy Cross, St. Joe Mishawaka win Junior Varsity titles

BY JOE KOZINSKI

SOUTH BEND — The Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL) junior varsity finals were held at St. Monica on Saturday, Feb. 21, before a packed house. Both the A League and B League championship games were tightly-fought contests that came down to the last minute before the outcomes were decided.

Holy Cross from South Bend completed an outstanding 14-1 season by winning the A League title over St. Pius X from Granger. The powerhouse St. Joe Mishawaka program won their fifth junior varsity title in five years and also completed the tri-fecta in 2009 by earlier winning the varsity and Colors boys titles. St. Pius X from Granger made a strong showing by getting three of their four teams into the finals.

Consolation game

In the B League consolation game, Christ the King B2 came from five points down to start the fourth quarter, 22-17, and scored 15 fourth-quarter points to win the consolation title over St. Pius B1, 32-24. The Kings were led by Joe Stoud, Connor Cohoon and Isaac Terry with 8 points each. Pat Sandor had a strong game and led St. Pius with 8 points.

St. Bavo won the A League consolation championship over the St. Michael team from Plymouth, 35-28. St. Bavo is coached by Tom Hunsberger who has been coaching in the ICCL for 27 years in both the boys and girls programs. Paul Saros pumped in 10 points and Joe Molnar scored 9 points to lead the Panthers. St.

Michael was led by fourth-grade standout Nick Felke who scored 13 points, and Sam Stone who scored 6 points.

Championship games

In the B League championship game, St. Joe, Mishawaka, broke away from a tie game with less than a minute left to beat St. Pius B2, 28-25. In the last 25 seconds, Nick Thurin sank two key free throws, and Joe Ravotto sank one free throw to seal the three-point victory. Thurin and Ravotto led the Wildcats with 8 points each in the tightly contested game.

St. Joe is coached by Dennis Chandler, who has been coaching 22 years in the ICCL.

Sammy Quinn, as he has all year, led St. Pius with 7 points.

Holy Cross and St. Pius A2 went into the last minute tied in the back and forth contest. Caleb Bourbon got loose for two key baskets in the last 45 seconds and Conner Futa sank a key basket with eight seconds left to win the title for Holy Cross, 36-32. Jacob Jobe was a force inside for Holy Cross the entire game and finished with 10 points, while Brendan Chappell and Mark Maddenn each scored 7 points for the Crusaders.

Jason Ball in his ninth year coaching boys and girls teams in the ICCL led Holy Cross to the title.

Sharpshooting Billy Doslak one of the leading three-point shooters in the league this season led St. Pius with 13 points while Brayden Edwards and Luke Gebbie had strong games with 8 points each.

CYO Eagles, Squires and ICCL Wildcats take diocesan tourney

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — Clawing their way to the top from a fifth-place seed in the Catholic Youth League (CYO) tournament, the St. John, Fort Wayne Eagles started gelling at just the right time this season, earning the coveted honor of representing Fort Wayne in the CYO vs. ICCL (Inner-City Catholic League) 2009 showdown.

Tom Stark's Eagles faced the ICCL's first place team in the Colors Division, St. Pius X, in the afternoon's first game on Sunday, March 1, at St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel in Fort Wayne.

"Our team really came together and were playing their best basketball of the season at tourney time," explained assistant coach John Shank.

The Eagles won their sixth straight game downing the Granger group by a score of 61-37, despite three treys from Greenan Sullivan in the final quarter. Sullivan finished with 13 points in the loss. St. John's Matt Williamson also had 13, while Braxton Randolph and Thomas Starks chipped in 12 apiece.

In the second game, South Bend sent Christ the King to play CYO's small school champs, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel. The Squires, sparked by their offensive core, Wil Knapke and his 15 first half points, had a tight battle against Christ the King leading by just two at the midpoint, 27-25. Connor Edmonds paced the Kings with 18 in the first two quarters. The Squires eventually pulled away leading, 43-32, at the



MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

Vince Ravotto of the undefeated St. Joe Mishawaka team steps to the charity stripe during the diocesan championship game played against Fort Wayne St. Jude at Fort Wayne's St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel Msgr. Contant Gymnasium on Sunday, March 1.

end of three periods and finished with a final score of 55-41. Brian Teeters added 14 points and 9 rebounds for the victors in the school's first official diocesan championship.

Game 3 saw Fort Wayne's Gold League runner-up, St. Jude, matching up against ICCL powerhouse, St. Joseph, Mishawaka. St. Joe completed their mission on a quest for a diocesan championship with a 49-28 victory over St. Jude. Jumping out to a 16-0 lead, the Wildcats never looked back. The ICCL's St. Martin DePorres East Division Varsity Champs and overall post-season combined tournament champs finished 15-0 and went undefeated in regular season play all four years of their ICCL careers.

A pleased Coach Steve Ravotto explained, "This was a great group of boys who are set apart by their work ethic and determination. Besides being very good athletes they are also very good students and people. Each of these boys has made the honor roll and are leaders in the school." He added, "St. Jude fought hard."

Balanced scoring for the champs was led by Michael Whitfield with 18 points, Noah Deitchley 13 and Vince Ravotto 9. Andrew Spencer chalked up 10 points for his St. Jude Eagles. Ravotto further noted, "Our fifth-, seventh- and eighth-grade teams all won their championships this season — a pretty big feat for a school our size."

Notice of

ANNUAL CLEANUP

at Catholic Cemetery

The Catholic Cemetery of Fort Wayne will conduct their ANNUAL CLEANUP of decorations from March 15 thru March 31.

Please do NOT place any decorations during this entire time. If you wish to save your decoration, please have it removed **BEFORE** March 15 or call the Catholic Cemetery Office, 426-2044, by March 12, and we will hold it for you no more than 30 days.

Decorations may be placed **AFTER** March 31.

We thank you for your cooperation.



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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 46856; or e-mail: fhogan@fw.diocesefwsb.org. Events that require an admission charge or payment to participate will receive one free listing. For additional listings of that event, please call our advertising sales staff at (260) 456-2824 to purchase space.

FISH FRIES

Fish Fry

Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Father Solanus Council 11276 will have a fish fry Friday, March 6, from 5-8 p.m. in the cafeteria at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, 10700 Aboite Center Rd. Adult meals are \$8, children ages 6-8 are \$5 and children five or under eat free. Carry-out available.

Knights plan fish fry

Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 451, 601 Reed Rd., will have a fish fry on Friday, March 6, from 5-7:30 p.m. The cost is \$7 for adults, \$3 for children 12 and under. Fish, two sides and beverage are included.

Knights plan fish fry

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on Friday, March 6, from 5-7 p.m. Adults \$7.50, children (5-12) \$3. Chicken strips for \$7.50 and shrimp for \$8.50 will be available. Fish fries will continue each Friday during Lent.

Queen of Angels fish fry

Fort Wayne — Queen of Angels Parish will have a family-style fish fry Friday, March 6, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. Drive-through and carry-out service available. Adults \$7.50, children 6-10 \$3 and children five and under free.

Fish fry

Fort Wayne — St. Therese Parish will have a fish fry Friday, March 6, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. The proceeds will benefit the athletic department. The menu includes Dan's fish, scalloped potatoes, macaroni and cheese, coleslaw, applesauce and choice of dessert. Adults \$8, children (5-12) \$4.50 and children under five eat free.

Angola Knights' fish fries announced

Angola — The Knights of Columbus Council 7053 will have fish fries on Fridays, March 6 and 20, from 5-7 p.m. in the St. Anthony de Padua Parish hall, 700 W. Maumee St. The council will also host breakfast on the first Sunday of the month March 1-June 7 after Masses in the parish hall.

Queen of Peace fish fry

Mishawaka — The Knights of Columbus Council 8617 will host a fish fry from 5-7 p.m. on March 6 and 27 at Queen of Peace hall, corner of Vistula and Bittersweet. Tickets are \$7 pre-sale at the parish office or \$8 at the door for adults, \$4 for children 6-12. Drive-thru available until 6:30 p.m. Refreshments and sides included. Dessert available for donation. Call (574) 255-9674 for information.

MISC. HAPPENINGS

K-preschool roundup scheduled

Yoder — St. Aloysius School will have a kindergarten roundup March 11 and a preschool roundup March 12 in the school from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Meet the principal, teachers and tour the school. Full-day kindergarten and preschool programs are offered. Call (260) 622-7151 for more information or visit www.saintaloyusiuscatholicchurch.org

K-preschool roundup slated

Elkhart — St. Vincent de Paul School, 1114 S. Main St., will have a kindergarten and preschool roundup on Thursday, March 12, at 6:30 p.m. in the school library. Tours of the classrooms and information will be available. For information, call (574) 293-8451.

Spaghetti dinner planned

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5570 will have a spaghetti dinner Thursday, March 12, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Adults \$7, children ages 5-12 \$2.50. The council is located at 5202 Linden Ave., one block east of Mayflower Road.

Organ recital at Ancilla Domini Chapel

Donaldson — An organ recital by Marijim Thoene will be Friday, March 13, at 7 p.m. in the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ Ancilla Domini Chapel. The recital will feature compositions by J.S. Bach, Charles Tournemire, Jean Langlais, Jehan Alain and Alan Hovhaness.

Victory Noll Center presents self-care workshop

Huntington — Victory Noll Center is sponsoring a workshop designed by Cheri Kruckeberg allowing people to learn to care for themselves. With "B-R-E-A-T-H-E: Practices for Self-Care,"

Saturday, March 14, from 9 a.m. to noon at Victory Noll Center, located at 1900 W. Park Dr. Attendees will learn about and experience the practices of mindfulness meditation, gentle yoga and breath awareness. Physical limitations should not prevent anyone from attending, as modifications for each person's ability will be made. Wear loose-fitting clothes and bring a mat, blanket or beach towel. The cost is \$15, and is due by March 6.

Catholic Networking offered

Fort Wayne — The Catholic Business Network will have a Mass followed by a meeting Friday, March 6, at 6:30 a.m. at St. John the Baptist Parish, 4500 Fairfield Ave. Bring your business cards. For information visit www.thecatholicbusinessnetwork.com.

Theology of the body presented

Rome City — Cindy Black, director of the Office of Youth Ministry, will present "Sex in Rome City," a study of the theology of the body on Sunday, March 22, at noon for teens and young adults. Registration is required before March 16 by contacting Mary Arend at (260) 854-2106.

Scrapbooking day planned

Avilla — St. Mary School, 232 N. Main St., will have a scrapbooking day Saturday, March 14, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Cost is \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. Two meals, snack and door prizes offered. Contact Sandy Berendt at (260) 242-0215.

Casino night and hog roast

Monroeville — St. Joseph School HASA will have a casino night and hog roast Saturday, March 14, at the Monroeville Park Pavillion, 421 Monroe St. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. A Texas Hold'em tournament will be at 7 p.m. Call (260) 403-6429 to pre-register. Must be 21.

Card party and deluxe salad bar

New Carlisle — The Altar and Rosary Sodality of St. Stanislaus Kostka Church will have a card party and deluxe salad bar Sunday, March 22, at 11:30 a.m. Tickets are \$5 and must be purchased in advance. Call (574) 654-3364 for tickets. Proceeds purchase church items.

REST IN PEACE

Decatur

Lester D. Kaehr, 87,
St. Mary/Assumption

Daniel L. Lengerich, 74,
St. Mary/Assumption

Antonia Gordon, 94,
St. Mary/Assumption

Jeffrey T. Miller, 41,
St. Mary/Assumption

Fort Wayne

Violet Marie Ley, 93,
Queen of Angels

Joan Merkler, 79,
Cathedral of the
Immaculate
Conception

Daniel R. Adams, Jr.,
Most Precious Blood

George P. Geones, 82,
St. Jude

James B. Knapke, 75, St.

Joseph-Hessen Cassel

Alois Maier, 78, Our
Lady of Good Hope

Goshen

Joel Mason Schartzer,
61, St. John the
Evangelist

Mishawaka

Bernard L. Garrard, 78,
St. Joseph

Marlene Ann Davis, 74,
St. Bavo

New Carlisle

Eugene T. Turczynski,
78, St. Stanislaus

Notre Dame

Frank V. Mulligan, 77,
Sacred Heart Parish

South Bend

Josef Mroz, 85,
St. Adalbert

Ruth P. Segety, 88,
Holy Cross

Delphine R.
Mezykowski, 92,
Holy Cross

Ervin C. Luczkowski,
St. Stanislaus

Stan D. Cukrowski, 85,
St. Jude

Martha K. Galwas, 91,
St. Casimir

Thelma J. Roytek, 81,
St. Anthony de Padua

Forrest L. Miller, 78,
Christ the King

Pilgrimage planned

Fort Wayne — A pilgrimage to Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Irondale, Ala., will be June 2-5. Attend EWTN live show on Wednesday. Prices range from \$265-\$429 per person. Call (260) 639-3788 for information.

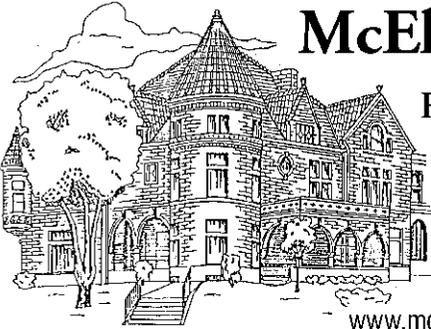
Support MacDougal Chapel

Fort Wayne — Support the renovation of MacDougal Chapel by

purchasing a brick engraved with the name of your family or loved one. Bricks can be reserved for a \$100 donation. For information call (260) 424-1485.

Vespers

Mishawaka — Queen of Peace Parish will offer sung Vespers (Evening Prayer) each Sunday of Lent at 5 p.m. in the church with Father Daniel Scheidt presiding.



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Visit www.diocesefwsb.org for a complete calendar of events in the diocese.

Windsong Pictures brings Abraham Lincoln to life

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — Windsong Pictures is proud to present the feature-length film, "The Boyhood of Abraham Lincoln: The making of the Man," free to the public at Indiana University-Purdue University (IPFW) at Fort Wayne. Premiere showings will be held March 9, 13 and 14 at 6:30 p.m. and March 15 at 2 p.m. in Neff Hall theater, room 101, before being released across the country.

This compelling film was produced as part of the national celebration of Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday and explores the life and legacy of the 16th president of the United States. With a cast and crew of 10,000 men, women and children, the two-hour motion picture celebrates Lincoln's boyhood years in Kentucky and Indiana and takes the viewer through his politically formative years in Illinois all the way to the White House.

Michael Floyd, executive producer says, "It is the most monumental film we've ever done!" Floyd, who teaches communication skills at Elmhurst High School, is a longtime parishioner of St. Mary Parish in Fort Wayne and believes strongly in Windsong's mission, "To reach out, touch others and make a difference."

All films produced by the nonprofit organization, operating solely on donations, are family friendly and are produced entirely by volunteer cast and crew.

Windsong Pictures began innocently 34 years ago when two young men, Floyd and student Bob Parsons produced an innovative film using an 8 mm camera borrowed from the football team. By 1991 Dave Habig joined the team and Windsong began in earnest to work with students, parents and community members of all ages to "explore the limitless potential that exists in the creative and integrated learning process of film production."

The independent film production organization uses the same techniques and processes that Hollywood filmmakers use. And in the past 34 years it has worked with over 40,000 students and 20,000 adults across 38 states to produce award-winning short and feature films as well as documentaries.

Screen tests, advertised on TV, radio, newspaper and by word of mouth, draw both young and old community members in, who start as extras in front of the camera. Many stay on and become part of the volunteer crew. There is never a fee to participate in Windsong Picture activities, workshops or seminars.

"Young people come to us from dysfunctional or economically deprived homes. We didn't want



PROVIDED BY MICHAEL FLOYD

Actor Fritz Klein is shown playing President Abraham Lincoln during the filming of "The Boyhood of Abraham Lincoln: The making of a Man." The full-length feature motion picture was produced by Windsong Pictures, a nonprofit film production company run by volunteers. The film took two years to make and includes the work of 10,000 crew and cast members.

money in the way. So all are welcome," says Floyd, who adds, "The wonderful people who work with us are like family."

The organization welcomes all ages, those with disabilities, including hearing impairments, and is nondenominational with volunteers coming from all reli-

gious backgrounds.

"The Boyhood of Abraham Lincoln," took two years to complete with hours of brainstorming, research, collaborative writing, casting, filming and editing. The cast was shaped by professional and amateur actors, one boy flying in from California for the filming

of his scenes.

Scenes were filmed on location at Fort Wayne's Lincoln Museum, and in Kentucky, southern Indiana and five other states. The musical score was composed by Indiana native Arvel Bird.

During the editing phase, the heart of the family that binds the organization shown brightly when Floyd's mother was diagnosed with breast cancer and the crew of volunteers moved to her home in an effort to allow Floyd to support and care for her.

The heartwarming film honoring the spirit of Abraham Lincoln will premiere at the 10th annual International Windsong Film Festival cosponsored by IPFW University Student Life and Windsong Pictures and was produced in association with the National Park Service, Fort Wayne Lincoln Museum, Illinois State Historical Parks, Kentucky and Illinois Lincoln Museums, Bicentennial Commissions, Federal Judiciary Education Branch and IPFW University Student Life.

Other Windsong Picture films being shown this month are companion film, "The Spirit of Abraham Lincoln," and "Little Snow White."

For more information or to make a donation to Windsong Pictures visit www.windsongpictures.com.



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