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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Living together the law of love

BY NANCY CAVADINI

Catholic-Jewish hold dialogue at St. Mary, Fort Wayne

FORT WAYNE — Rabbi Marla Spanjer opened talks at St. Mary Church, Fort Wayne, by observing that the Catholic-Jewish dialogue is the most successful of interfaith dialogues “because it comes naturally to us.”

The long-standing Catholic-Jewish dialogue in Fort Wayne met on Thursday, March 5, with Rabbi Spanjer of Congregation Achduth Vesholom and Bishop John D’Arcy each asked to speak on “Who we are and what we believe in a changing world.”

Attempting to sum up the Jewish faith, Rabbi Spanjer’s introduced an essential story of the Jewish tradition — that of Rabbi Hillel being asked to explain all of Judaism while standing on one foot.

Hillel’s reply was: “Do not do unto others as you would not have them do unto you. All the rest is commentary. Now go and learn it.”

The portion of the Torah with the Golden Rule is at the center — the very middle — of the Torah. Rabbi Spanjer recounted her own version of the story when she, with a name tag reading “Rabbi,” went to have a watch fixed. She was on crutches with a broken leg, and while standing in the watch shop on one foot, was asked: “Oh, you’re a rabbi. I’ve always wanted to know what Judaism was all about!”

Judaism is the Golden Rule plus all the details about how to apply it to actual life situations. As situations change over the years, commentary is added. She explained the historical development of Reform, Conservative and Orthodox Judaism. She spoke of the importance of empathy, especially as opposition to all genocide today, ensuring that nothing like the Shoah happens again.

Rabbi Spanjer added how important it is to understand that we are made in the image of God; this is an absolute belief, which gives essential sanctity to our life and which cannot be abrogated. And, the rabbi added the importance of the Sabbath — a weekly reminder that we are creation, not the Creator.



TIM JOHNSON

Joining Bishop John M. D’Arcy at St. Mary Church, Fort Wayne, for the Jewish-Catholic dialogue is Rabbi Marla Spanjer who sums up the Jewish faith as, “Do not do unto others as you would not have them do unto you. All the rest is commentary. Now go and learn it.” Rabbi Spanjer of Congregation Achduth Vesholom and Bishop D’Arcy were each asked to speak on “Who we are and what we believe in a changing world” on Thursday, March 5.

And finally, she added the importance of “tekun Olam,” to repair the broken world bit by bit through good works.

Rabbi Spanjer concluded her presentation with these kind thoughts: “Judaism isn’t just the way we’re different from everyone else. The biggest part of Judaism, far and above, is something we share with Christians. And even though it doesn’t distinguish us, it’s still part of what it means to be a Jew. There’s lots of other trappings that might distinguish us,

but part of what it is to be a Jew is not so far, in my opinion, from part of what it means to be a good Christian.”

Bishop D’Arcy was especially pleased to recount the history of Fort Wayne’s dialogue with the Jewish community, but also took time to recount the church’s strong commitment to this particular dialogue, especially in light of the recent damage caused by the con-

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New Obama stem-cell policy favors politics over ethics

BY NANCY FRAZIER O’BRIEN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — President Barack Obama’s executive order reversing the ban on federal funding of embryonic stem-cell research represents “a sad victory of politics over science and ethics,” Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia said shortly after the March 9 signing of the order at the White House.

The chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities was among Catholic, pro-life and other leaders who criticized the reversal,

which Obama had promised during his campaign.

Speaking in the East Room of the White House, Obama said the stem-cell policy of former President George W. Bush, in effect since Aug. 9, 2001, had forced “a false choice between sound science and moral values.”

Obama also urged Congress to consider further expansion of funding for such research, including the creation of new embryonic stem-cell lines. Since 1995, the Dickey/Wicker amendment to the annual appropriations bills for federal health pro-

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TELLING OUR FAITH STORY

I love the Catholic faith because it brings me closer to God. God and I have a close relationship. We communicate daily. Talking to him makes me a better person. As I study to be a confirmed Catholic, I feel I am learning more about myself.



Vanessa Godfrey
Seventh-grade student
St. Charles Borromeo School, Fort Wayne

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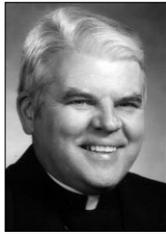
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The moment when the United States crossed the rubicon of life



NEWS & NOTES

BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

Science without ethics

We have seen it many times, a kind of secular liturgy where our nation's president, with supporters cheering and congratulating one another, watch as the chief executive signs a bill or executive order.

This was different. For many Americans who cherish life and love their country, it was a moment of sadness.

The sadness was increased by the distorted rationale, which the president used to support his decision.

I have read the executive order and the memorandum, which accompanied it. There is much about transparency, and giving scientists freedom to pursue their goals. There was much about the rigorous pursuit of science, nothing about ethics.

For science and scientists, like all of us, need ethical guidelines. Science and technology exist for the human person. The human person does not exist for technology or science.

I did not read any mention of the extraordinary advances, which have been made in adult stem-cell research, which is ethically sound. Only recently, there have been dramatic breakthroughs in these areas. For example, when adult stem cells are used for scientific experimentation, no one is destroyed. There is no taking away of human life. Pope Benedict XVI spoke recently in praise of such efforts.

"The prospects opened by this new chapter in research are fascinating in themselves, for they give a glimpse of the possible cure of degenerative tissue diseases that subsequently threaten those affected with disability and death."

"How is it possible not to feel the duty to praise all those who apply themselves to this research and all those who support the organization and cover its expenses?"

Such research is not only ethical, but productive, and a wonderful road for the great fight of humanity against disease and disability.

Where then, comes the resistance

The resistance is for those forms of research that provide for the "planned suppression of human beings who already exist, even if they have not yet been born. Research, in such cases, irrespective of efficacious therapeutic results is not truly at the service of humanity." — Pope Benedict XVI.

The dictatorship of relativism

President Obama has introduced a utilitarian ethic, an ethic of relativism into our national life, and has supported it. Is this not the great tragedy: that this dictatorship of relativism, with this executive act, is now in the driver's seat of ethical questions in our national life.

Let us see what our scholar pope had to say of acts, to which our nation is now committed.

"History itself has condemned such a science in the past and will condemn it in the future, not only because it lacks the light of God but also because it lacks humanity.

"I would like to repeat here what I already wrote some time ago. Here there is a problem that we cannot get around; no one can dispose of human life. An insurmountable limit to our possibilities of doing and experimenting must be established. The human being is not a disposable object, but every single individual represents God's presence in the world.

"In the face of the actual suppression of the human being there can be no compromises or prevarications. One cannot think that a society can effectively combat crime when society itself legalizes crime in the area of conceived life."

— Sept. 11, 2006.

The truth about life will triumph in the end through the power of God, but this event made me realize how important prayer is, prayer that all will recognize the dignity of the human person, that science will legally accept the limits on its research, limits imposed both by the law of God and by the dignity of the human person.

So, let us be certain as to what has happened here. You can never use a human being as a means to a good end. The argument is made that it is not a human being. But, what is it? It is a stage of life, in which all of us once existed. It should also be made clear that our tax dollars will now be used to wipe out human life. This is a decision of historical significance. People will look back on it with sadness, and will be aware that this is the moment when the United States crossed the rubicon of life; and where as a nation, through our highest elected officials — we seemed to chose death, not life.

Does this mean I am discouraged?

Not at all. The truth about life will triumph in the end through the power of God, but this event made me realize how important prayer is, prayer that all will recognize the dignity of the human person, that science will legally accept the limits on its research, limits imposed both by the law of God and by the dignity of the human person.

Optimism from a meeting

The same day as the president's decision, I met with a large group of people planning a major fundraiser for a most worthy cause. I refer to the Women's Care Center and to my good friend — Coach Lou Holtz. Lou and his wife, Beth, will be coming to Fort Wayne on June 2; and Lou, the former Notre Dame Coach and devout Catholic, will speak on behalf of the Women's Care Center. This center sees over 10,000 women a year, and in Fort Wayne — about 100 every day. It is spread throughout our diocese. Founded by my good friend, Janet Smith, Ph.D., at a small blue house near Notre Dame, it now has about 15 centers — most of them in our diocese from west to east. A group of Fort Wayne people is planning this major event. Their purpose is to save human lives.

Pope John Paul II noted the culture of life rising everywhere, in opposition to the culture of death. The day our president spoke the sad words in Washington before a cheering crowd, I was pleased a few hours later to meet with this group and see this extensive planning on the part of ordinary people who believed in the dignity of every person, and also accept the words of one of the earliest Christian writers.

"It is anticipated murder to prevent someone from being born; it makes little difference whether one kills a soul already born or puts it to death at birth. He who will one day be a man is a man already."

— "Tertullian," cited by John Paul II, "Gospel of Life."

An evening with my Jewish friends

What a joy to take part with the Jewish Rabbi, Marla Joy Spanjer, as part of a Jewish-Catholic dialogue in Fort Wayne. I spoke on the relationship between Catholics and Jews since the Second Vatican Council. A spirited discussion followed.

Parish missions

I am speaking at six parish missions during Lent. The first came at St. Louis, Besancon, a beautiful country church, nestled east of Fort Wayne. Two parishes came together, St. Joseph, Monroeville, and St. Louis, and we had a full church. It was the night of penance, and seven of us heard confessions for over an hour. How wonderful to see the long lines down the side aisles, as in days of old. A joyful drive, then, back home. A great joy, also, to speak to our Catholic school teachers. As always in this diocese, you do every thing twice; but we owe so much to our teachers and it was a pleasure to be joined with them, first at Marian High School and this week at Bishop Dwenger. So many joyful days in the life of this bishop, but surrounded by sadness to watch our country be taken down a road we must resist.

I will see you all next week.

STATEMENT FROM BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

Regarding President Obama's decision to allow federally funding the destruction of embryonic human beings for stem-cell research

On March 9, 2009, President Obama extended the ability of the federal government to directly fund the destruction of embryonic human beings in order to advance stem-cell research. We should be clear about what is happening here. The president, while claiming to separate science from politics, has, in fact, separated science from ethics. He has brought the American government into supporting the direct destruction of innocent human life.

While the Catholic Church is in full support of stem-cell research that is ethical and scientifically sound, it is opposed to all research that would use a human being — at whatever stage of development — simply as a means to an end. Embryonic stem-cell research does just this.

In addition, while President Obama declared his opposition to human cloning for purposes of reproduction, he left the door open to human cloning for the purposes of experimentation. In other words, while human beings could be cloned with taxpayer money in order to be exploited and killed for scientific research, they could not be cloned and implanted in the womb of a woman in order to be born. This is science at its very worst.

President Obama claims that his decision sets aside ideology in order to advance sound scientific research. The opposite is actually the truth. This decision by the president is an imposition of a utilitarian ideology, which allows a group of human beings that some believe do not share human dignity, to be used and exploited. Human history, of course, is rife with examples of the strong dominating the weak and defenseless. Doesn't the promise of a democratic America — of respect for the dignity of all — hold us to a higher standard?

Recent breakthroughs in stem-cell research — including the use of adult stem cells — should actually make this question moot. Just last year it was shown that a normal human skin cell could be successfully reprogrammed into an embryonic-like cell. This holds no ethical problems. Yet, there seems to be a headlong rush to do not only what is ethically wrong, but what is likely a scientific dead end.

I pray that Congress will not act to appropriate any funds for embryonic stem-cell research and, in doing so, respect the conscientious objections of millions of American taxpayers who want to preserve, protect and defend the dignity of every human life.

OBAMA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

grams has barred federal funding of research involving the creation or destruction of human embryos.

But the president had strong words against human cloning, which he said is "dangerous, profoundly wrong and has no place in our society, or any society." He said he would work to ensure that "our government never opens the door to the use of cloning for human reproduction."

Among the several dozen people present at the White House for the signing were members of Congress, scientists, families whose members had been or could be affected by stem-cell breakthroughs, and representatives of the Episcopal and United Methodist churches, several Jewish bodies and the Interfaith Alliance.

Obama said a "majority of Americans — from across the political spectrum, and of all backgrounds and beliefs — have come to a consensus that we should pursue" embryonic stem-cell research.

But Cardinal Rigali said the executive order "disregards the values of millions of American taxpayers who oppose research that requires taking human life" and "ignores the fact that ethically sound means for advancing stem-cell science and medical treatments are readily available and in need of increased support."

He reiterated points raised by Cardinal Francis E. George of

Isolating Embryonic Stem Cells

Scientists believe stem cells could repair diseased or injured tissues. The Catholic Church opposes stem-cell research that involves the destruction of human embryos.



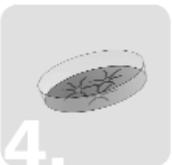
1. An egg is cloned or fertilized in vitro to create a human embryo.



2. The embryo begins to form and the inner cell mass is isolated.



3. Stem cells, present 5-7 days after fertilization, are removed and grown in a petri dish. The rest of the embryo is discarded.



4. Cells are manipulated to create specific human tissue such as nerve cells, muscle cells or blood cells.

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Chicago, USCCB president, who said in a Jan. 16 letter to Obama that a change in the policy on funding of embryonic stem-cell research "could be a terrible mistake — morally, politically and in terms of advancing the solidarity and well-being of our nation's people."

Obama said he "cannot guarantee that we will find the treatments and cures we seek. No president can promise that."

"But I can promise that we will seek them — actively, responsibly and with the urgency required to make up for lost ground," he added.

The Bush policy had allowed funding of embryonic stem-cell research only when the stem-cell line had been created before Aug. 9, 2001. The executive order Obama signed permits federal funding of stem-cell lines created since then, but would not allow funding of the creation of new lines, leaving that decision to Congress.

Obama also signed a "presidential memorandum on scientific

integrity" March 9, ordering the director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy to develop a strategy for ensuring that "the administration's decisions about public policy be guided by the most accurate and objective scientific advice available."

He said scientific advisers should be appointed "based on their credentials and experience, not their politics or ideology."

But Paul A. Long, vice president for public policy at the Michigan Catholic Conference, said the order "regrettably places ideology and political posturing ahead of proven scientific therapeutic advancements."

"There are endless studies and stories of patients who have been treated, even cured of their debilitating condition following stem-cell therapies that do not necessitate the destruction of human embryos, yet the ... executive order makes every tax-paying American citizen unwittingly complicit in the destruction of human embryos for experimental research."

Decree for the Pauline Year indulgence

A special indulgence has been conceded to the faithful on the occasion of the 2000th anniversary of the birth of St. Paul the Apostle. An indulgence is defined by the Catechism of the Catholic Church (No. 1471) as "... a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints."

In order to gain this Pauline year indulgence, the usual conditions apply:

1) Being truly repentant, one receives sacramental absolution in the sacrament of penance within 20 days either before or after the prescribed work which follows below.

2) I, the bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend, hereby decree by the authority granted me by the Apostolic Penitentiary, that the faithful may gain the Pauline Year Indulgence by piously making pilgrimage in our diocese to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception (Fort Wayne), Ss. Peter & Paul Church (Huntington), the Basilica of the Sacred Heart (Notre Dame), St. Matthew Cathedral (South Bend), Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine (Warsaw), St. Martin de Porres Church (Syracuse) or St. Paul Catholic Chapel (Clear Lake).

3) On the same day as the prescribed pilgrimage, one must receive holy Communion and pray for the Holy Father's intention. In order to gain this indulgence, in the places decreed above one must take part in a sacred function (such as a votive Mass for St. Paul) or in a pious public exercise (such as a public litany) in honor of St. Paul, or public reading from the letters of St. Paul.

4) Also, in order to gain the indulgence, one must embrace a spirit of total detachment from inclination to sin, even venial sins.

5) The faithful who are prevented by illness or another legitimate and important cause, always in a spirit of detachment from inclination to sin, with the intention of fulfilling the usual conditions as soon as possible, will also be able to obtain the plenary indulgence, as long as they spiritually join in a jubilee celebration in honor of St. Paul, offering their prayers and sufferings to God for Christian unity.

This indulgence may be gained in our diocese beginning the first Sunday of Lent, 2009, up until and through the feast of the Apostles, Peter and Paul, on June 29, 2009.

Bishop John M. D'Arcy

Catechesis on indulgences

Father Mark Gurtner, pastor of Our Lady of Good Hope Parish in Fort Wayne, provides the following catechetical background on indulgences.

What is an indulgence?

When we are sorry for a sin, that sorrow means that we regret doing the sin, that we intend with God's help to do the best we can to not do the sin again, and that we have the intention to make up for the sin. We have to be willing to right the wrong that we did. For example, if we steal \$500 from someone, then repent of it, we ask forgiveness from God and from the person from whom we stole, but that is not the end of it. If we are truly sorry, we must give the \$500 back.

Now, every sin is this way. With every sin, we hurt someone. Indeed, we hurt the whole body of Christ. So our sorrow for sin must include an intention to make up for the wrong to the whole body of Christ that we have done. Jesus forgives us freely. That is why he died on the cross for us so that our sins could be forgiven, but, once forgiven, we are asked by God to make up for the wrong that we did. Therefore, we are called to live a life of penance. By our prayers, our reception of the sacraments, our sacrifices, and so forth, we make up spiritually for the sins that we committed. Spurred on by God's grace and dependent on God's grace, our good works mystically "repair" the body of Christ from the sins that we have done.

However, our sins do great damage to individuals and to the body, more damage, maybe, than we could ever make up in this life. So God in his great love and mercy has provided a way for the damage that we have done to be made up for. That is what an indulgence is. God "indulges" us, that is, he wipes clean even the damage that our sins have caused. Through an indulgence, God uses the infinite good offered him by Jesus, Mary and the saints, and applies that good to us as a making up for our sins. What a beautiful sharing in the mystical body of Christ.

Who determines how one gets an indulgence?

By virtue of the power and authority that Christ gave to Peter and his successors, the pope is the one who determines by what good acts one can receive an indulgence.

Diocesan Catholic Schools nationally affirmed for faith formation

BY SISTER JANE CAREW

FORT WAYNE — Each March, the Catholic schools in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend are given the opportunity to evaluate the knowledge and practice of their faith. An instrument known as ACRE (Assessment of Catholic Religious Education) is given at grades levels 5, 8, 9 and 12.

Over the years, collectively the scores of students from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend have been above the national average. Because of this success, the diocese was contacted by a professor from the Education Department of the Catholic University of America. In collaboration with the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA), who designed the ACRE assessment, he is writing a book about the practices that bring success to faith formation in Catholic schools. NCEA decided to use the year 2004-2005 as a model. That year the grade-8 students, who are the present seniors in high school, were among the highest in the country. This is an opportunity to share with the diocese the various stages of development over the years.

It is a gratuitous gift from God to be recognized and able to share the various ways the faith of diocesan students has been strengthened. This diocese has been blessed historically with many priests, religious and laity devoted to forming others in the faith. Following are glimpses of the steps taken to provide a strong Catholic formation for our children and youth:

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend located in northeastern Indiana currently has a Catholic population of about 160,000. The Catholic roots of the diocese were established by the missionary labors of French priests and religious sisters who established early foundations of Catholic education. Particularly noteworthy were Holy Cross Father Edward Sorin and his companions who founded the University of Notre Dame in 1844. Recently canonized St. Mother Theodore Guérin and her

founding Sisters of Providence came from France in 1840. Following the rivers, Mother Guérin and her sisters eventually came to Fort Wayne in 1845 and established the first Catholic school.

The diocese has four flourishing Catholic high schools. The total number of teachers is 900, with 3,217 high school students and 9,795 elementary school students.

In 1985 Bishop John M. D'Arcy from the Archdiocese of Boston was installed as the eighth bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. During his first year he spent time getting to know his priests, parishes and the departments that assisted him in his ministry. During his second year he had each of his chancery departments evaluated by teams of two or three people who came for several days and provided him with objective critiques and advice. The team invited to evaluate the religious education component of parish and schools included Msgr. Francis Kelly and his associate, Wayne Smith of the religious education department at the National Catholic Education Association, and Sister M. Jane Carew, an experienced catechist from the Archdiocese of Boston. Over a period of three days, the team visited with directors of religious education and high school religion teachers, principals, parents and pastors in both the Fort Wayne and South Bend areas. At the end of these visits a thorough report was given to Bishop D'Arcy, who afterwards appointed Sister Jane as director of religious education in 1987.

Bishop D'Arcy gave the Office of Religious Education a mandate to provide catechetical formation for parish programs and Catholic schools. One of his major concerns was to strengthen the four high school religion departments. Faith formation was a further mandate for all teachers in the Catholic schools, elementary and high. Informed Catholic teachers, he believed, would bring Catholic principles and identity into all academic subjects. Bishop D'Arcy set a precedent that he would spend a day each spring visiting each of the high schools, meeting with religion teachers

and a select group of other teachers and students and visiting a number of the religion classes. The focus of these visits was intended to affirm the positive and improve areas of concern.

In 1989 the bishop obtained a \$320,000 grant from Our Sunday Visitor Publishing Company with the intention of providing all teachers of high school religion with a master's degree in theology. Several universities were interviewed and it was decided in 1990 that the University of Dayton would be chosen to provide theological formation to teachers of high school religious education and others in leadership. In 2002 the program was transferred to the University of Notre Dame under the direction of Dr. John Cavadini of its theology department.

Teachers for high school religion departments go through a screening process. They are recommended to Bishop D'Arcy for hiring in accordance with Canon 805.

All teachers have been required to attend the Institute of Catechetical Formation, a day of instruction sponsored by the diocese. The first Institute Day began in fall 1988 with an attendance of 700. This particular event included both teachers in Catholic schools and parish catechists. The first keynote speaker, then Jesuit Father and later Cardinal Avery Dulles, emphasized the integrity of content in religious instruction, a central focus of Bishop D'Arcy's vision. During the following seven years, two Institute Days for the Catholic school teachers were held each year, one in fall and one in spring in both Fort Wayne and South Bend. By 1995, the format of two Institute Days each year was altered to incorporate one Institute Day and other optional events. These options focus on particular catechetical needs in the elementary schools. Teachers of various grade levels gather to discuss the content of their grade level and gain insight for difficult areas of the curriculum.

Over the years a very strong collaborative relationship developed between the Catholic Schools Office and the Office of Catechesis. Other opportunities

offered to teachers have been specialized workshops, which focus on a particular area such as teaching prayer or sacraments, committees, which focus on spiritual and liturgical activities and grade level gatherings addressing their content.

The introduction of full-time religion teachers for grades 6, 7 and 8 has been very positive for the Catholic elementary schools. Some teachers have their masters in theology. Others have been trained and certified through a diocesan two-year program, Education for Ministry.

This use of ACRE began in the mid-1990s for four grades. Teachers are told never to "teach the test" prior to its administration but rather "teach to the test" throughout the year. In the present curriculum revision the ACRE content is included at each grade level. There is increased focus on vocabulary. All terminology learned in earlier grades are reviewed each year along with the new terms at each grade level. The elementary and high schools in this diocese collectively score above the national average, some well above the national average.

For the past eight years the use of the Information for Growth (IFG), which is also published by NCEA, has been helpful. The IFG is given to new teachers to assess their knowledge of Catholicism. The IFG also provides discernment for ongoing formation and enables the sessions at the Institute Day to address apparent weaknesses and to point out areas that need to be improved.

The diocese in conjunction with the University of Saint Francis also conducts a two-week program for teachers during the early part of June that provides catechetical content and methodology. Approximately 300 teachers have taken the Catholic Educators Program, which focuses on the four pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The teachers value learning the content in these important areas, while growing in what they describe as an "adult faith" and gaining new confidence for teaching.

Finally, for 20 years the diocese has received a continual flow of grant funds from Our Sunday Visitor for theological formation. Sixty-five people have received a master's degree in theology and 20 are presently pursuing this goal, which has provided a

tremendous gift of expertise for various levels of formation.

In summary, the factors that have enhanced strong faith formation in the diocese are:

- A bishop who is personally involved and constantly motivational for principals, teachers and students.
- The conformity of the formation with significant documents of the church; namely "Catechesi Tradendae," the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the "General Directory of Catechesis" of 1997, and the "National Directory of Catechesis" of 2005.
- The ongoing funding for 20 years from Our Sunday Visitor totaling over \$1.4 million.
- The consistency of the yearly Institute Days over 20 years.
- Having the diocesan director in place for 22 years. There have been four Catholic School superintendents during this time but formation programs have been sustained.
- The screening and selection process of those who pursue the master's in theology surfacing talented catechists.
- The availability of so many teachers with master's degrees in theology. They provide leadership and are the majority of those who continue to teach in various programs of adult formation throughout the diocese.
- The strong spirit of respect and collaboration between the Catholic Schools Office and the Office of Catechesis.
- The collegial spirit that exists between the diocese and the universities of Notre Dame and Saint Francis.
- The positive attitudes of the teachers, knowing that their efforts in the schools are bearing fruit.
- The growing trend of having full-time religion teachers for grades 6, 7 and 8.
- The recognition by the University of Saint Francis that the senior year of theology at Bishops Luers and Dwenger high schools is worthy of three elective credits in theology and then take two other theology courses at a more advanced level.
- The revision of curriculum guidelines which fully reflect the 2005 "National Directory of Catechesis." This curriculum is available on the diocesan Web site: www.diocesefwsb.org under the Office of Catechesis/curriculum.



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Teachers 'wade through' moral and philosophical challenges of technology

BY JUDY BRADFORD

SOUTH BEND — Teachers in Catholic schools have a unique opportunity to be examples of faith, charity and discernment in times of economic as well as social upheaval, Bishop John M. D'Arcy told educators recently.

The bishop spoke to some 450 teachers attending the Institute of Catechetical Formation, held at Marian High School on Feb. 27. On March 13, the Fort Wayne area Catholic teachers were scheduled for the institute day.

The day was devoted to personal and professional formation and organized by the Office of Catechesis; all South Bend area Catholic schools in the area were closed so teachers could attend a Mass and hear speakers.

During Mass at the conference, Bishop D'Arcy noted that during these tough economic times when out-of-work or underemployed parents are struggling, the diocese will be grappling with the loss of students who cannot afford Catholic school tuition.

While assuring teachers that they will still get raises, and that the diocesan pension and health insurance funds are "safe," he urged them to make small personal donations of \$10 to \$100 toward grants to students who cannot afford tuition.

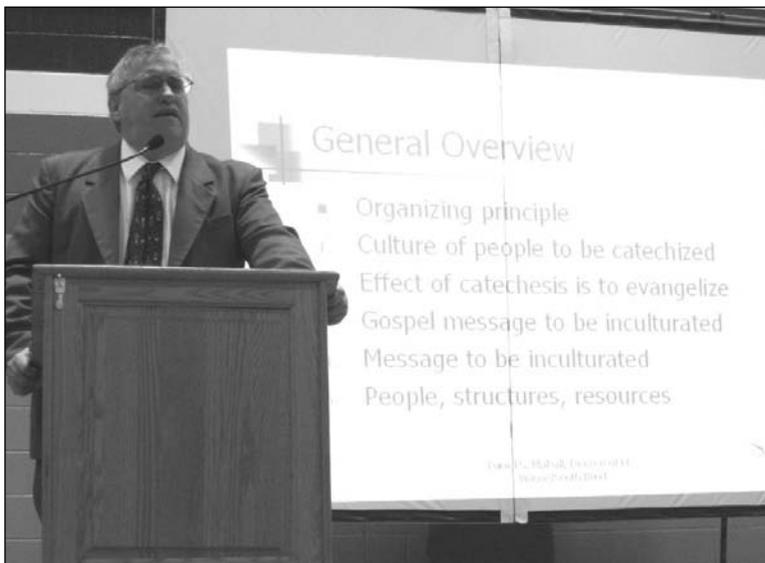
"We have to do more. We have to give of ourselves," said Bishop D'Arcy at the end of the Mass. "Everyone can do something, and we must bind together and do our best for this cause."

He said the diocese will be looking at the possibility of freezing salaries for non-teaching positions, or for employees at the diocesan level, if cuts have to be made. And if schools and parishes are to be merged, it will only be done to strengthen them, not weaken them.

He also urged teachers to promote charitable giving in their classrooms, and especially in the period leading to Easter.

"No classroom should go through Lent without doing something so students can learn in a practical way," he said.

The bishop recommended giving to Catholic organizations, mentioning by name the Christ Child Society, Women's Care Center, Catholic Charities and the



JUDY BRADFORD

Daniel S. Mulhall, a nationally-renowned catechetical expert, spoke on the culture of today's students and the importance of understanding it, to reach them for Christ.

St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Bishop D'Arcy congratulated teachers on several successes, including the high scores of eighth-graders in the Assessment of Catechesis/Religious Education (ACRE) test. Eighth-graders in the diocese were recently among the highest scoring in the nation.

"We thank you for taking the courses that you take to become better teachers. We have wonderful teachers," he commented.

At the beginning of the Mass, he urged teachers to help their students "wade through" some of the moral and philosophical challenges of technology, which can be used for ill and evil as well as good.

This came on the heels of a keynote speech given by Daniel S. Mulhall, national advisor for RCL Benziger, a well-known publisher of catechetical materials.

Mulhall stressed that teachers must seek to be in and understand their students' culture, which is rife with instant information devices, like computers, and constant communication devices such as cell phones.

He said teachers must make sure their students have "lived experiences" as they learn, because going out into the world without lived experiences is "like learning how to drive after playing 'Grand Theft Auto.'"

Teachers must also understand that student culture is shaped more by a scientific model than it

was 40 years ago. Students are of a generation "looking to solve mysteries" rather than have an acceptance of mystery that informs their faith and lives.

Teachers cannot be Luddites (people who eschew technology), and must investigate new ways to "penetrate the culture and make sense to the next generation of Catholics."

He said it will be a big challenge in view of ever-shrinking attention spans caused partly by video games, cell phones and online social networks.

INDULGENCE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

How does one get an indulgence?

There are two kinds of indulgences: partial and plenary. Partial indulgences make up partially for the damage our sins have done. To get a partial indulgence one simply has to do the prescribed act with a sorrowful heart for their sins and with the intention to receive the indulgence.

Plenary indulgences make up fully for the damage that our sins have done. To get a plenary indulgence five conditions must be met: one must go to sacramental confession within 20 days of doing the good act necessary for the indulgence, one must receive holy Communion to go along with that good act, one must offer prayers for the intention of the pope to go along with that good act, one must do the act itself, and one must be completely free from all attachment to sin, even venial sin. If the last condition is not met (because it is difficult for one to be completely free from all attachment to sin), one does not receive the plenary indulgence, but a partial indulgence is still received.

So, for example, a plenary indulgence is attached to a half hour of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. If one were to do this with the intention of receiving the indulgence on the same day as having received Communion and within 20 days of having gone to confession and having prayed for the pope's intention, then one would receive a plenary indulgence if one is completely detached from all sin.

Who can I offer the indulgence for?

One can receive an indulgence either for oneself or for the dead in purgatory. If one receives a plenary indulgence for one's self, all sin is made up for up to that point. If one receives a plenary indulgence for the dead, the person in purgatory for whom the indulgence is offered would then go to heaven. Partial indulgences can be applied the same way.

How often can I do an indulgence?

One may receive a plenary indulgence once a day. There is no limit to the number of partial indulgences that may be received.

How can I know what good acts have indulgences attached to them?

There are many different ways that one can receive partial and plenary indulgences. A complete list of ordinary indulgences is published in a book called "The Handbook of Indulgences" published by the Catholic Book Publishing Corporation. One can also see the list on the Web at: www.freecatholicbooks.com/books/indulgences.pdf. Special indulgences are granted by the Holy Father from time to time, for instance, the special St. Paul Jubilee indulgence offered to us during this Year of St. Paul.

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Focusing on Africa: Papal trip to highlight challenges, possibilities

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI opens a new chapter in his papal travels when he visits Cameroon and Angola in mid-March, a trip designed to highlight the church's message of hope on a continent beset by problems. The visit March 17-23 will mark the first trip to Africa for a pope who has sometimes been described as Eurocentric, and it launches a series of important church events in 2009 focusing on the African continent. For Pope Benedict, who is completing work on his first social encyclical, the trip will bring him closer to populations that are struggling daily against poverty, disease, corruption and armed conflict. The global financial crisis is aggravating the burden on Africa's poor, and the pope's words on economic justice may offer a preview of the encyclical's themes. The trip will unfold in two parts. In Cameroon, the pope will meet with bishops from the entire continent and hand-deliver the working document for the Synod of Bishops for Africa, which will take place in Rome in October. In Cameroon, the pope will also meet with representatives of the country's Muslim community, which comprises about 22 percent of the population.

On Women's Day, pope prays that dignity of all women will be respected

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI marked International Women's Day March 8 by praying that the dignity of all women would be recognized and respected. After leading the recitation of the Angelus prayer, the pope told a crowd gathered in St. Peter's Square that the observance honoring women "invites us to reflect on the condition of women and to renew a commitment to ensuring that always and everywhere every woman can live and demonstrate fully her own abilities, obtaining full respect for her dignity." While recent church documents stress the equal dignity of women and men and the importance of women in the church and society, the pope said that the witness of the lives of saintly women speaks even more loudly. "Our age had Mother Teresa of Calcutta; the humble daughter of Albania became by the grace of God an example for the whole world through her exercise of charity and her service of human promotion," he said. "Many other women work each day, hidden from view, for the good of humanity and for the kingdom of God," the pope said.

Evolution is not to blame for atheism, says U.S. professor

ROME (CNS) — Evolution is not to blame for attempts to remove God from the story of life, said a

NEWS BRIEFS

YOUNG MEN WEED GARDEN AT CENTER IN BOLIVIA



CNS PHOTO/BARBARA FRASER

Judan Cuno and Daniel Escalante, both 26, weed around vegetables in a greenhouse at the Light of Hope Center in El Alto, Bolivia, Feb. 27. The center is a refuge for boys and young men who have been living on the street. Growing vegetables is a form of therapy and helps defray food costs at the center.

U.S. professor speaking at a Vatican conference. Scientism, or the use of science beyond its proper sphere of investigating physical nature, is what has reduced the place of the divine in the world, said Robert J. Russell, founder and director of the Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences in Berkeley, Calif. "Evolution is not the problem. The problem is scientism; it's people like (Richard) Dawkins who use evolution as an argument for atheism," he told Catholic News Service March 5. Russell was one of dozens of experts in science, theology and philosophy invited to speak at an international conference in Rome to mark the 150th anniversary of the publication of "The Origin of Species," in which Charles Darwin put forth his theory on evolution. The March 3-7 gathering was sponsored and organized by the Pontifical Council for Culture's Science, Technology and the Ontological Quest project, the University of Notre Dame in Indiana and several of Rome's pontifical universities.

Vatican considers major communications document

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican is considering the preparation of a major document on new media and their implications for the church's communications strategy. Bishops from 82 countries began a five-day meeting in Rome March 9 to discuss modern media and the

new culture of communications that has arisen in recent years. The seminar was sponsored by the Pontifical Council for Social Communications. Archbishop Claudio Celli, president of the pontifical council, said the purpose of the seminar was to review with bishops the changing communications scene and see how the church should respond to the challenges and opportunities. The pontifical council, in a plenary meeting in late October, will then decide whether to go ahead with a new document on the subject, he said.

Pope says Holy Land trip will be mission of peace

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI said his trip to the Holy Land in May would be a pilgrimage of prayer for peace in the Middle East and the entire world. The pope, speaking at his noon blessing March 8, confirmed that the visit would take place May 8-15. His planned itinerary will take him to Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian territories. The pope said he was making the Holy Land pilgrimage "in order to ask the Lord, by visiting the sacred places of his earthly passage, for the precious gift of unity and peace for the Middle East and all humanity." He said, "Even now I am counting on the spiritual support of all of you, so that God may accompany me and fill with grace all those I will meet along the way." The pope also asked for prayers for the success of his visit to Cameroon

and Angola March 17-23. He said he was traveling to Africa "to show the concrete closeness of myself and of the church to the Christians and other peoples of that continent, which is particularly dear to me."

Cardinal to seek advice from bioethics center on health care proposal

BRAINTREE, Mass. (CNS) — Boston Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley announced March 6 that he would seek the advice of the National Catholic Bioethics Center on a proposed relationship between Catholic hospitals in his archdiocese and a state-subsidized health program for the poor. Caritas Christi Health Care, the second-largest health care system in New England, announced March 3 that it is considering an agreement that would allow it to be a health care provider for poor and low-income Massachusetts residents enrolled in the Commonwealth Care Program. The proposal has come under fire because the state-run program covers abortions and family planning services. But Caritas officials said their facilities at "all times and in all cases" would abide by the U.S. bishops' ethical directives for health care facilities forbidding abortions and all other procedures that contradict church teaching. "To be perfectly clear, Caritas Christi will never do anything to promote abortions, to direct any patients to providers of abortion or in any way

to participate in actions that are contrary to Catholic moral teaching, and anyone who suggests otherwise is doing a great disservice to the Catholic Church," Cardinal O'Malley said in his blog, www.cardinaleansblog.org.

Bishops join call for US to support long-term development in Iraq

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has joined a broad group of religious, justice, and relief and development organizations in calling upon President Barack Obama to assist and protect vulnerable Iraqis and pursue efforts that lead to long-term development in war-torn Iraq. In a March 4 letter to the White House, 44 organizations asked the president to mandate that "civilian agencies take the lead in formulating and implementing an effective humanitarian and development strategy." Stephen Colecchi, director of the U.S. bishops' Office of International Justice and Peace, said the letter's call parallels one aspect of the U.S. bishops' 2006 statement seeking a responsible transition in Iraq and the eventual withdrawal of American military forces from the country. A key to Iraq's development is creating a stable country where all Iraqis are safe and refugees — both Christian and non-Christian — can return to their communities, Colecchi told Catholic News Service March 9.

Document confirms Pope Pius XII's efforts to save Jews, expert says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A document found in a Rome convent confirms that Pope Pius XII quietly ordered church institutions to open their doors to Jews fleeing Nazi arrest and deportation, a church expert said. "The Holy Father wants to save his children, including the Jews, and orders that hospitality be shown to these persecuted people in the convents," said a note found in the historical journal of the Augustinian Community of Santi Quattro Coronati. The note, written by one of the nuns and dated November 1943, had an appendix with the names of 24 people, including Jews, who were hidden by the sisters of the cloistered convent, located near the Colosseum. Nazi soldiers began rounding up thousands of Jews in Rome and shipping them to death camps in October 1943. One of the accusations against Pope Pius XII, repeated in a number of books in recent years, was that he did little or nothing to stop the deportations. Jesuit Father Peter Gumpel, the "relator" or investigating judge of the sainthood cause of Pope Pius, found the document and spoke about it with Vatican Radio March 4. He said it was an important written confirmation of the many oral reports of Pope Pius' concern for the Jews and his unpublicized efforts to help them.

St. Mary welcomes all to parish mission

AVILLA — St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Avilla, invites everyone to join them on their journey in growing closer to God by participating in their parish mission. Four evening sessions on March 22-25 will offer prayer, music and reflection on the theme "A Journey for All Ages — Exodus to Eternity." All sessions will begin at 7 p.m. in the parish church at 228 N. Main St. in Avilla.

Guest speakers will provide the inspiration on the following topics:

- Sunday, March 22 — "Exodus to Jerusalem," with speaker, Bishop John M. D'Arcy;
- Monday, March 23 — "Mary's Journey — Our Journey," with speaker, Franciscan Capuchin Father Ron Rieder;
- Tuesday, March 24 — Reconciliation service, "The Journey to Calvary," with Father Chris Smith;
- Wednesday, March 25 — Celebration of the holy Eucharist, "The Cross to Eternity," with celebrant and homilist Father Daryl Rybicki.

Babysitting will be provided for toddlers through age 3. A children's mission will be available for ages 4 through second grade.

A potluck dinner will be held on Sunday at 5:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Light refreshments will be provided after each evening session.

Morning sessions will be available at 9 a.m. at the Sacred Heart Home in Avilla on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Ginny Kohrman, diocesan director of the Office of Spiritual Development, will provide prayer and reflection on the topic from the previous evening.

Local advisors earns first membership in Million Dollar Round Table

PARK RIDGE, Ill. — Outstanding product knowledge and client service have enabled Phillip J. Stackowicz and Keith C. Praski of the Knights of Columbus, John J. Stackowicz agency in South Bend to earn their first membership in the prestigious Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT). Achieving membership in MDRT is a distinguishing career milestone, attained only by those who have demonstrated exceptional professional knowledge, expertise and client service. The Round Table's membership represents the top life insurance and financial service professionals worldwide.

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St. Therese School, Fort Wayne, invited St. Aloysius School, Yoder, to celebrate Read Across America Day on March 4. Over 90 students participated in grades pre-kindergarten through second grade. The students participated in various activities that were related to Franklin books, which included making necklaces and a turtle snack. They even had a chance to pet live turtles. All of the students received a Franklin book when they left. All of the activities were made possible from a grant that St. Therese received from the GE Volunteers.

demonstrate exceptional professional knowledge, strict ethical conduct and outstanding client service. MDRT membership is recognized internationally as the standard of sales excellence in the life insurance and financial services business.

The Knights of Columbus is a fraternal benefit society founded in 1882 by Father Michael J. McGivney for benefiting widows and orphans of deceased members. It has grown to one of the premier life insurance companies in the industry while keeping Father McGivney's dream alive. Membership in the Knights of Columbus is at an all time high of over 1.8 million members with over 1,400 agents and general agents serving these members and placing over \$70 billion of life insurance on them and their families.

Michael and Grace Mastrangelo named Humanitarians of the Year

FORT WAYNE — The American Red Cross honored Dr. Michael and Grace Mastrangelo as the 2009 Humanitarians of the Year on Tuesday during a luncheon at the

new Holiday Inn. The Mastrangelos were presented with a hand-painted violin depicting their service to organizations including Matthew 25, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Lawton Park Greenhouse, Fort Wayne Philharmonic and the Red Cross.

Deputy Mayor Greg Purcell proclaimed March 3 as Dr. Michael and Mrs. Grace Mastrangelo Day. Rep. Souder District Director Derek Pillie shared a letter from Rep. Souder honoring the Mastrangelos. The 2008 Humanitarians of the Year, Ian and Mimi Rolland, presented the Mastrangelos with their award.

Saint Mary's College to host diversity conference

NOTRE DAME — The Student Diversity Board (SDB) at Saint Mary's College will host its fourth annual Diverse Students' Leadership Conference (DSLCL) on March 18-20, in the Student Center. The conference will show participants how diversity improves academic, professional and social settings.

The event, offered by Saint Mary's students, is free and open to the public. Representatives from several colleges and univer-

sities, as well as high schools, are expected to attend. The conference includes two keynote speeches, 25 workshops, a career fair and entertainment by headRush, a comedy troupe out of Oakland, Calif., that tackles social issues. Some of the topics being discussed during the conference include sexuality, religion, politics, environment and socioeconomic class.

Dr. Jennifer Fluri, assistant professor in the geography department and the Women's and Gender Studies Program at Dartmouth College, will be the opening keynote speaker.

Dr. Julianne Malveaux will give the closing keynote address. Malveaux is the president of Bennett College for Women, as well as an economist, author and editor.

For a brochure or to register for the conference, go to www3.saintmarys.edu/dslc.

Bishop Luers honors volunteers

FORT WAYNE — On Feb. 27, Bishop Luers honored four volunteers who have given over 106 combined years of service to the high school.

Diane Karst has been a math teacher at Bishop Luers High School since 1983. She began her teaching career at Huntington Catholic School. Karst has served as the assistant athletic director since 1981 supervising many sporting events. She has coached many sports at Bishop Luers High School including track, Basketball in 1985-1986 and volleyball.

Leo Stronzcek has been assisting Bishop Luers High School since 1970s. He was a familiar face on the football chain gang for many Friday nights in the 1970s and 80s. He began keeping the score book for Luers volleyball and basketball games beginning in 1988. Stronzcek was one of the founding fathers of the former Luers Bingo Club, the predecessor to the Athletic Booster Club.

Stronzcek serves as a member of the Development Committee and school board.

Gary Wasson is in his 12th year as a Luers volunteer. He has been a familiar face at the scorer's table during the volleyball and basketball seasons. He has been at the microphone for the baseball and soccer teams, and in the press box on Friday nights during football season.

Jack Zern, the "voice of the Knights," began his duties behind the microphone way back in the 1980s. Zern first started as the voice for Luers volleyball and then began announcing boy's and girl's basketball.

Bishop Luers High School is proud to celebrate 50 years of quality Catholic education.

Six area spellers vie for regional win

SOUTH BEND — Six spellers remained standing after the 15th Annual Catholic Schools Spelling Bee held Feb. 24 at the South Bend Knight's of Columbus headquarters.

St. Joseph, South Bend Principal Suzanne Wiwi has organized the spelling bee since the first contest in 1993. "I think it's great for the kids," she said. "It's healthy competition that stimulates the brain."

The winners will join other area public and home school students at the regional contest to be held March 19, at South Bend's Century Center. The regional winner will compete for the national crown in Washington, D.C.

The six winning spellers from area schools are Alex Daugherty, Holy Family; Kelly Dodson, Queen of Peace; Liam Maher, St. Joseph in South Bend; Max Ujdak, Holy Family; Brody Smith, Corpus Christi; and Tommy Favorite, St. Joseph in South Bend.

Owens goes to K of C free-throw competition

FORT WAYNE — Adam Owens, a sixth grader from St. Vincent de Paul School, Fort Wayne, qualified for the Knights of Columbus statewide free throw competition after making 23 of 25 shots at the regional contest at St. Vincent de Paul Activity Center on Feb. 22.

Mortgage foreclosures taking toll on tenants: Lawmakers working to correct problems

INDIANAPOLIS — The mortgage crisis is not just affecting homeowners. Testimony at a March 4 Senate hearing indicated that a prevalent fallout of the mortgage crisis is negatively impacting another group — renters. Tenants are being forced from their homes through no fault of their own and given little if any notice about these mortgage foreclosures.

Lawmakers can not stop the foreclosures from occurring but Sen. Teresa Lubbers (R-Indianapolis) and Rep. John Day (D-Indianapolis) are doing their part through legislation they have authored to ensure that tenants are at least receiving some kind of notice prior to a foreclosure and a possible change of address.

Rep. Day described a typical scenario of the problem this way. "Someone shows up at the tenant's door and tells them they have 24 hours to leave. When the

tenant asks why, 'I paid my rent last month.' The person replies, 'the property was sold to XYZ Company in Florida.' The tenant replies, 'Well I wasn't given a notice.' The person says, 'I'm sorry, but I've got a court order saying that you need to be out of the property in 24 hours.'"

Rep. Day said the problem is affecting all types of renters including young married people, college students, elderly and families with children. The Senate bill, SB 225, requires the landlord to give the notice, the House bill, HB 1081, requires the bank to give notice. The bills also provide some remedy if a foreclosure occurs.

Rep. Day continued, "One of the problems is the landlord may have already defaulted on the loan and they are gone. One question we are asking is 'How good is the remedy if the landlord is gone?' You can see this is not

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BY BRIGID CURTIS AYER

an easy issue," said Rep. Day.

"The purpose of the bill is to tell tenants that their building may be foreclosed, and what rights and options do they have at that point? We're trying to negotiate that through. Who should give that notice? When it should be given and if that notice is not given and there is a wrongful eviction, what remedies does the tenant have?"

Sen. Lubbers said, "The intent of the bill initially is to provide notification to renters when a

property had been in foreclosure so that there wouldn't be this very short window of time when a person could be told you need to be out of here. These people are paying their rent. They are meeting their responsibilities. But for something that is outside of their control, they may have to move.

"That probably will still be the case, but at least there is some control that timing of the move," said Sen. Lubbers. "Renters need to have some ability to know when this is happening."

Sen. Lubbers said that there isn't really any outright opposition to the bill meaning that most agree with its concept. "The negotiating now is more about trying to determine who is going to be responsible for notifying the tenants of the foreclosure," said Sen. Lubbers.

"The lending institutions don't want to be in the business of notification," said Sen. Lubbers. "My hope was to have the agreement be between the landlord-owner and the tenant; in this case it would be the landlord's responsibility to notify the tenant of the foreclosure. But there are some circumstances where the landlord is gone.

"That is the problem, and it's going to happen. There is no way we can address every situation in this bill or in the amendments that we have been working on, but we're hoping we can provide some notification and then some remedies as well. If the person who is in foreclosure has no money it's going to be hard for

the tenant to recoup any of the loss from them. But we allowed in this legislation some ability for the tenants to recoup some of the costs of relocating and legal fees if they are able.

"Chances are, and this is not universally true, but economically, people who rent do not have a lot of disposable income so there aren't a lot of options. The elderly or the poor are the most likely to have the least options. It seems like the very least we could do is to let them know what's going on," said Sen. Lubbers.

Sen. Lubber's bill, SB 225, passed out of the Senate with only two no votes. "But since then, it's gotten weighted down," said Sen. Lubbers. "Now it's like a moving target. As soon as we address one concern, others are raised," she said. "Most of the renters would prefer not to leave so we are trying to work out some of those details. There are landlord tenant regulations, but this seems to be a gap," said Sen. Lubbers.

Glenn Tebbe, executive director of the Indiana Catholic Conference said, "The church is supportive of the legislation because people should not be put under this kind of stress especially when these situations could be avoided with proper notification," said Tebbe.

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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THE CUTTING EDGE

SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

I have thought a lot about President Obama's campaign slogan when he was running for office. "Yes we can." It is a good motto for Christians too. Right now the world, and our country in particular, is a mess.

Companies are going bankrupt by the dozens. The stock market is down and more and more positions are being eliminated. In some places unemployment is at an all time high. People live in fear of losing their jobs and their homes. There are wars all over the world and too many people live in poverty. With all this there is the added concern about global warming and its effect on the environment. One can get depressed just thinking about it.

It seems to me that Christians have two

options. We can lose hope and give into feelings of despair or we can share our faith in a God who loves all of his creation and will not allow us to destroy it, even though it might appear we are doing otherwise.

There is no denial that the world situation can be overwhelming. We might ask what we can possibly do to make an impact toward change? I believe we can if each of us takes the responsibility to do our part to heal our little corner of the world and maybe beyond. Here are a few suggestions:

Those of us who are still fortunate enough to have a job, a home and food on the table can try to become more conscious of those whose lives seem to be falling apart. We can begin or continue to contribute food regularly to a pantry near us. This might require sacrifice and the willingness to live with less.

Perhaps we can find ways to entertain ourselves that don't cost a lot and give our savings to an organization that helps others. Rent a movie instead of going to a theater. Have dinner at home rather than go out to eat in a restaurant. Play games with friends at home and stay away from the

casino.

Another important thing we can do is offer moral and spiritual support to those who find themselves in crisis situations. It might be as simple as reaching out in friendship, listening compassionately and letting others know we are there for them. And of course we can offer them our prayers.

We can keep our ears open about possible jobs that are available and pass them on to those we know who are unemployed. Perhaps we can offer to watch the children of a single parent while he or she goes for an interview.

To support our troops, we can write to someone serving overseas and let him or her know someone cares about and appreciates his or her service.

And finally, we can try to make it a habit to look for positive things that often go unnoticed and point them out to others and help them see how God continues to work in the world despite all the turmoil.

We are called to be people of hope, not just in the good times. A good exercise might be to go through Scripture and find the many places where God promises to keep his covenant with us no matter what

YA!

YOUNG ADULT PERSPECTIVES

happens. God never breaks his promises. That is a good reason for hope.

Sister Margie Lavonis, CSC, a former campus minister and vocation director, works for the Sisters of the Holy Cross communications department. mlavonis@cscsisters.org.

Getting spiritually fit: The heavy lifting of Lent

Climbing back onto the exercise bandwagon — and staying aboard — is one of my Lenten resolutions. It began with a day of reckoning on the heels of Fat Tuesday: a fitness assessment.

The very term made me nervous, although the physical trainer Megan assured me it would be low-key, "just a few quick exercise tests to see where you're at."

Soon Megan discovered exactly where I'm at — where my arms are at, where my waist is at, where my thighs are at. She recorded the numbers silently, leaving me to wonder what she made of my girth.

Megan listed ways to gauge fitness: pounds, inches, blood pressure, and the Body Mass Index, a person's weight compared with her height. We can measure our exertion: the speed of our mile, the heft of a weight, the number of repetitions. And

we count our consumption: calories, fat grams, sodium milligrams, cholesterol levels. There is no shortage of metrics to pin on our physical health.

This is an apt time for me to return to the elliptical and set to the sweaty business of burning and toning. I'm one of 4 million couch potatoes who have been loafing through the winter in one of those Snugglies, designed to give just enough range of motion to grab the remote control and dig into a Pringles can. The only information the giant fleece reveals is the fact that you possess ankles and wrists, which makes a few extra pounds in the middle not only permissible, but snugglier.

My meeting with Megan confirmed that's been the case. It seems like a wise strategy, to begin gym memberships with an appraisal of how unfit the members are, giving them a clear rea-

son to return often.

Perhaps the Catholic Church would boost its attendance if it assessed our spiritual fitness, proclaiming numbers that would startle us onto a kneeler.

Of course, our spiritual life is immeasurable. That's the beauty of it — and the danger; there are no clear-cut indicators to halt us in our tracks. There is no Sin/Grace Index. No pride monitor. No repent-o-meter. We don't track hours at eucharistic adoration versus hours spend gossiping.

In the absence of such markers, we must strive for constant spiritual growth, ever watchful for ruts and backward slides.

It isn't a matter of endurance, how many rosaries we can hammer out. It's about making prayer regular and learning to listen, seeking God's will and embracing it.

As young adults we're accus-

tomed to black-and-white, hard-and-fast numerical assessments — the number of Facebook friends, the Amazon rank of a book, the number of results yielded from a split-second Google search.

But faith defies figures. We don't just forgive seven times, St. Matthew reminds us this month, but 70 times seven. At every opportunity. Again and again. Uncounted, unquestioned.

That's how the slow work of spiritual development begins.

Pope Benedict XVI recently reflected on our need for strong interior lives. "Dear young people," he said, "prepare yourselves to face the important stages of life with spiritual commitment,



TWENTY SOMETHING BY CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

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Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn. E-mail her at christina@readchristina.com.



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On Fire with St. Paul

Redemptive suffering

**LENTEN
FAITH SHARING**

BY LINDA FURGE

Lent always makes me uncomfortable, but I guess that's to be expected — what person ever wants to intentionally examine their “shadow side?” And it is somewhat depressing to realize that another year has gone by without as much progress as I would have liked in my ongoing intention to become a better person.

Lent is the church's liturgical preparation for Easter — a time when we “suffer” in order to try to comprehend what the suffering of Jesus Christ two millennia ago means today. St. Paul understood suffering to be a participation in our own salvation and that of others: “If we have died with him, we shall also live with him; if we endure, we shall also reign with him.” — 2 Tm 2:11-12.

Observance of Lent began very early in church history. It was focused on baptism and evolved from three different but related traditions: personal fasting by early Christians in preparation for Easter; pre-Easter practices of church members who had committed serious sin, wanted to be forgiven and restored into the church; and intense instruction for new converts preparing for baptism.

The traditions of Lent are also thought to have been connected to the agricultural communities of the fourth and fifth centuries, when Lent is first historically mentioned. Lent may have been a spiritual response to a physical reality of that time period. During this era of subsistence agriculture, food gathered and stored during the autumn would be running low with no new food crop expected until spring. And, actually, the word Lent is thought to have come from a German word meaning “spring” and, later on, “fast.”

As the practices of Lent evolved, everyone eventually embraced the three traditional practices of Lent: prayer (justice towards God), fasting and abstinence (justice towards self), and almsgiving (justice towards neighbor). Each of these Lenten “sufferings” help Christians affirm their baptismal commitment by reminding them of their need for God and their solidarity with their brothers and sisters.

St. Paul knows firsthand what suffering means, having endured much in his ministry. In 2 Cor 12:10, he mentions weakness, mistreatment, distress, persecutions, difficulties and powerlessness for the sake of Christ. His message is one of uniting our suffering with that of Christ in order to become like Christ. Suffering is redemptive and joins us to Christ, so as to transform us into Christ in order that we might be Christ for others. This is the spirit of Lent: we joyfully suffer as we undertake the penitential practices of Lent in order that we might be more conformed to our Savior, who suffered and died for us.

Prayer — Justice towards God

The Lord is near. Dismiss all anxiety from your minds. Present your needs to God in every form of prayer and in petitions full of gratitude. Then God's own peace, which is beyond all understanding, will stand guard over your hearts and minds, in Christ Jesus. — Phil 4:5-7.

The city of Philippi was a Roman colony; its citizens were proud Roman citizens. Life as a Christian had to be worrisome in Philippi; one's own life could be in jeopardy. Devotion to the Roman emperor meant calling him by his

primary titles “Lord and Savior.” However, since the Christians would only honor Jesus Christ as “Lord and Savior,” they were persecuted by the citizens of Philippi. In fact, Paul is a Roman prisoner in this Epistle to the Philippians.

Paul encourages the faith community to turn to God in prayer for all their needs and to trust that the Lord remains with them at all times. He reminds them that an “attitude of gratitude” in all things is essential. Prayer, in its dimensions of thanksgiving, petition, adoration and repentance, implies that we trust in God completely — and, with complete trust in God, comes peace beyond our human understanding.

Lent is a time when we, too, should reflect on our prayer life. Do we live and pray with a grateful heart and mind? Do we entrust our needs to the God's loving arms? Do we have faith in the peace that believing prayer brings?

Fasting, abstinence — Justice towards self

Endure your trials as the discipline of God, who deals with you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? At the time it is administered, all discipline seems a cause for grief and not for joy, but later it brings forth the fruit of peace and justice to those who are trained in its school. So strengthen your drooping hands and your weak knees. Make straight the paths you walk on, that your halting limbs may not be dislocated. — Heb 12:11-13.

Fasting has a long history in the church. It is probably the most visible of Lenten practices, one that has for decades distinguished Catholics during Lent. Jesus him-

self practiced it for 40 days and nights in the desert before he began his public ministry. We “suffer” by intentionally denying ourselves certain foods or drinks. We discipline our appetites and our bodies in order to strengthen our resolve and control.

The writer to the Hebrews encourages the Christian community to cheerfully endure because any trial is one sent from God and, therefore, has value and meaning. Discipline comes from love, and discipline from our loving God has only our highest good at heart. One response is to accept disciplinary practices, more or less gracefully, as simply duties to be carried out. Another is to actually resent the “punishment” of disciplinary practices. A third and best response is to search for the lesson God is teaching and to formulate a response based on the knowledge that any discipline has as its goal our ultimate salvation.

What is our response to the trials of life? How do we react to the disciplines of Lent? What are some ways we can “strengthen (y)our drooping hands and (y)our weak knees?”

Almsgiving — Justice towards others

Just as you are rich in every aspect, in faith and discourse, in knowledge, in total concern, and in our love for you, you may also abound in your work of charity. You are well acquainted with the favor shown you by our Lord Jesus Christ: how for your sake he made himself poor though he was rich, so that you might become rich by his poverty. The relief of others ought not to impoverish you; there should be a certain equality. Your plenty at the present time should supply their need so that their sur-

plus may in turn one day supply your need, with equality as the result. It is written, “He who gathered much had no excess and he who gathered little had no lack.” — 2 Cor 8:7,9,13-15.

Corinth was known for its paganism and immorality so Christianity was a hard sell for Paul. Even as the Christian community gained in strength and membership, it required a great deal of leadership and admonition from him. Much of their past behavior was rooted in selfishness and indulgence. Here Paul reminds them of their duty to be generous. They are to be generous because God has been generous with them, because they have the means to be generous, and because some day they might require someone else's generosity.

Is this not exactly our situation today as first-world Christians? Pope Benedict, in his first encyclical on love, says that charity is “as essential ... as the ministry of the sacraments and preaching of the Gospel” (22) and challenges us in much the same way as Paul admonished the Corinthians: “Consequently, more than anything, they must be persons moved by Christ's love, persons whose hearts Christ has conquered with this love, awakening within them a love of neighbor. The criterion inspiring their activity should be St. Paul's statement ..., ‘the love of Christ urges us on.’ — 2 Cor 5:14. The consciousness that, in Christ, God has given himself for us, even unto death, must inspire us to love no longer for ourselves but for him, and, with him, for others.” — “Deus Caritas Est,” 33.

Where do you rank on the generosity scale? Is stewardship (of time, talent, treasure) a part of your spiritual and day-to-day life? Jesus gave himself as gift to us; how can we better give ourselves to others?

Third Week of Lent

BY KAY COZAD

Now that the third week of Lent has arrived, it's time to maintain or refocus our attention to the Lenten promises of fasting, prayer and almsgiving. Take some time today and revisit the passion you felt on Ash Wednesday when you began your Lenten journey. Use these Scripture verses and accompanying actions to reinvest your heart in Christ's Passion this season.

Third Sunday

“But he was pierced for our offenses, crushed for our sins; Upon him was the chastisement that makes us whole, by his stripes we were healed.” — Is 53:5.

Action: Spend time meditating on Christ's sacrifice for our salvation. Join any suffering in your life with his passion and pray for healing.

Monday

“... Afflictions produce endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy spirit that has been given to us.” — Rom 5: 3-5.

Action: Resolve to improve your character by seeking the hope of God in every challenge.

Tuesday

“So they took Jesus and carrying the cross himself he went out to what is called the place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgatha.” — Jn 19: 16-17.

Action: Place a crucifix in a prominent place in your home to remind you of your Lenten promises.

Wednesday

“I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus.” — Phil 1:6.

Action: Resolve to build confidence in your faith life. Think and say only positive things about yourself today.

Thursday

“Yet I consider life of no importance to me, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to bear witness to the Gospel of God's grace.” — Acts 20: 24.

Action: Choose a saint to learn about and imitate. Pray to him or her for guidance during Lent.

Friday

“Give us today our daily bread.” — Mt 6:11.

Action: Attend a fish fry or share a meatless meal with a friend and explain why you fast during Lent.

Saturday

“Tend the flock of God in your midst...” — 1Pt 5:2.

Action: Call your parish for opportunities to assist there today. Invite others to join you.

Cell phones and school: A blessing or a curse

BY KAY COZAD

Technological advances in the past quarter century have produced a plethora of electronic devices and digital advancements designed to make life easier and more pleasurable for modern man. Gadgets such as laptop computers, iPods, Internet social networking sites like MySpace and Facebook and the ever-changing cell phone, seem to have permeated U.S. culture such that even the youngest members are adept at their use.

Those who possess cell phones are becoming younger these days with elementary and middle school students texting or talking into cell phones at every turn. Many times cell phone use can be distracting and even dangerous.

To combat the potential dangers of cell phone use in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend school system, each school principal may implement his or her own version of a general diocesan policy on use of electronic devices. Rebecca Elswerky, assistant superintendent of personnel in the Office of Catholic Schools, reports that the policy states that any conduct contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church that causes a threat, fear or physical harm is cause for suspension or expulsion.

With regard to use of electronic devices such as cell phones, Elswerky says, "There is no rule on cell phones. ... Each principal can take the diocesan-wide policies and make them specific."

Each of the four high schools in the diocese have cell phone policies in place, but have individual nuances to serve their specific population. Marian High School in Mishawaka does not allow students to possess a cell phone on their person within school hours, according to Dean of Students Janet Hatfield. However, the students can store their cell phones in their lockers

during school hours.

When a student is caught in possession of a phone, parents are called, and students are required to attend Saturday school. The phone is confiscated for a second offense, which requires the parents to retrieve the phone. Saturday school is also required.

Saint Joseph's High School in South Bend has a similar policy. According to Marty Harshman, assistant principal and discipline and attendance officer, cell phones are to be in the student's locker or car during school hours. Penalties for possession are confiscation of the phone and detention. At Saint Joseph's, the parents must come in to school to retrieve the phone at the end of the day.

Bishop Luers High School in Fort Wayne requires all cells to

be turned off and in lockers during school hours. Mary Keefer, principal there reports that when a student is found with a cell, it is immediately removed and kept in the school office for a week. "No excuses," she says.

Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne enforces the no cell phones policy during school hours, as well, with the first offense requiring parent contact and after school suspension. The second offense requires Saturday school with the third, an in-school suspension.

Chris Svarczkopf, assistant principal and dean of students says, "It (cell phones) is the leading cause of detention."

Elementary schools in the diocese also have cell phone policies in place for their students' safety. St. Jude in South Bend and St.

Jude in Fort Wayne both allow students to carry cell phones in their backpack, but only with parent and teacher approval. They may only be used for extracurricular activities after school or to contact parents. If found in use during school hours, the phone is confiscated until the parents come in at the end of the day.

Other elementary schools like Christ the King in South Bend and St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School in Fort Wayne have a no cell phone policy unless the student has special permission on any given day, in which case the

phone is held in the office during school hours and picked up after school. Penalties include confiscation and calling the parents, who are then required to retrieve the phone.

Administrators report that these policies not only reduce distractions in the classroom, but also minimize the chance of cheating. Students have been known to send pictures of tests or text answers via cell phone. Safety is another factor in the strict policy stance. As communication technology advances, risk of misuse increases as well.

Recently, reports of "sexting" have developed within the schools. Texting with inappropriate or suggestive photos many times is done in jest, but can carry a stiff penalty.

Allen County Prosecutor Karen Richards says students can be arrested. If convicted of this felony offense, the sentence may include probation, home detention or losing a driver's license. For those convicted over 18, registering as a sex offender is required.

Richards recommends that parents continue to discuss with their children what is appropriate use of the cell. "Parents need to have a conversation with their kids about what is passed on could affect the rest of their lives ... with college, employment, future spouse," she says. Of the young cell phone users she says, "They have the technology before they have the common sense to deal with it."

Parents can also monitor their child's cell phone use by using software available through their service provider.

Cell phones can be a convenient way to find a ride after school or connect students with friends or parents in a crisis, but as with all modern technology, applying and adhering to specific safety rules and using simple common sense will help students avoid present and future risk.



Bishop Luers High School reminds students the dangers of texting while driving their vehicles on their sign along Paulding Road.

TIM JOHNSON

Facebook connects teens with diocesan ministries

BY DEB WAGNER

FORT WAYNE — Facebook is the name of one of the many social networking sites on the Internet that connects people with others who work, study and otherwise interact with them.

Friends use Facebook to exchange information with one another, post photos and share links. The diocese has begun using Facebook as a means to relay and receive information from its Catholic young adults.

Cindy Black and Megan Oberhausen work in the Office of Youth Ministry. Black has been using Facebook for about a year and a half and Megan twice as long. They work with the parishes of the dioceses to establish solid Catholic youth programs by providing resources and materials as well as training for adult core members. Among other functions, they facilitate networking opportunities for parish youth ministers.

The Office of Youth Ministry facilitates several large diocesan-wide youth ministry events such as FaithFest, the confirmation rally, retreats, summer programs.

Facebook is used as a tool in their line of ministry for promoting events and programs.

Oberhausen gives this example: "By using the 'Events' application, we can publicize a youth ministry event to over 300 teens within a matter of minutes and they can RSVP with just a click."

Furthermore, Oberhausen feels that many teens use Facebook more frequently than e-mail, thus making Facebook a means by which to distribute fliers and registration materials.

Oberhausen says, "Facebook helps us stay connected to teen culture, which is so important in youth ministry. We need to show teens that their Catholic faith is relevant to their daily lives. Facebook helps us to minister to teens on their 'turf.'"

Mary Glowaski, who is the director of Campus and Young Adult Ministry (CYAM), also believes that the uses of Facebook and other like mediums are essential tools to communication with the population that her team serves.

Glowaski says, "Young people communicate primarily on Facebook or other Web-type sources. On Facebook there is an

opportunity to communicate privately with a student and, in the best of all worlds, to plan to meet."

Glowaski feels that while ministry is always done best face to face, the world of communication is changing and the ministry staff needs to move with the communication trends of today.

Glowaski works collaboratively with four Campus and Young Adult ministers throughout the diocese to address the spiritual and some social needs of young adults.

Facebook provides for the fast transfer of information and fosters a connection between teens and youth ministers such that each has a greater understanding of teen culture and the daily challenges and obstacles teens experience.

Glowaski says, "Crisis is not unfamiliar to young people. So if there is one, our ministers can respond very quickly and begin to help a young person stay on track ... then we can meet."

Glowaski cautions, however, that Facebook should not become so prominent in ministry that it overshadows the face-to-face interaction, which is always pre-

ferred.

Black says Facebook helps teen-to-teen communication and makes some feel more comfortable with attending social events.

"Teens RSVP that they are attending events and other teens can see who's going, so they are more likely to go knowing their friends or just other teens are going," Black says.

Francie Hogan is the *Today's Catholic* and diocesan Web page designer and communications associate for the diocesan Communications Office. She uses Facebook to send bulk announcements about upcoming events.

The use of Facebook does come with some additional words of caution.

The information on Facebook is very public and can be shared with others much like gossip. Oberhausen offers these words of wisdom: "As adults and youth ministers, we have to be very proactive about our Facebook use. What friends and groups are we connected with and what message does that send? Are the conversations posted on our walls clean and uplifting? It is so important that we are beyond reproach. Because Facebook is so

public, it is important to keep careful watch of your profile, wall, groups, events and applications and remove yourself from anything that doesn't respect the dignity of others or conflicts with the standards of our faith. It can be a great moment of evangelization and teaching when we do."

And to parents, Oberhausen adds: "Facebook can be a great tool for connecting with others, sharing information and publicizing events. But, like many things in our culture, we must be careful and prudent consumers. Teens should have their parents' permission before creating a Facebook account; parents have the right to discern whether Facebook is appropriate for their children. Like all things on the Internet, it is important for parents to know who their teens communicate with, how much personal information they disclose, what pictures of themselves they post and how much time they spend on Web sites. These can be great teaching moments, and it allows us to both protect our teens and hold them to high standards."

Evangelization in 21st century: Arkansas bishop joins Facebook

BY TARA LITTLE

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (CNS) — The days of Facebook only being for college and high school students are long gone. Little Rock Bishop Anthony B. Taylor is believed to be the first U.S. Catholic bishop to join the popular Web site.

As of Dec. 10, he had 815 friends worldwide and counting.

Started in 2004, Facebook rivals MySpace as one of the largest social networking sites on the Internet. It is the fourth most-trafficked site in the world, according to comScore, an Internet research company.

Facebook reports more than 120 million registered users. Of these, the fastest-growing segment is people 25 and older. The site is free to users, but small advertisements are interspersed with the content. Only Facebook members can view the site.

Members can join networks based on cities, workplaces and campuses to find friends and co-workers in the system. Every member has a profile page where he or she can add work and personal information, as well as install applications that perform a wide range of functions. Members can view their friends' profile pages, send private messages, share photos and interact in a variety of ways. Based on their interests, members also can join groups and fan clubs.

Shortly after being ordained as



This is a screen grab of the Facebook page of Bishop Anthony B. Taylor of Little Rock, Ark. In order to view his page, visitors must sign up for a free Facebook account and request to be his "friend."

Little Rock's bishop in June 2008, Bishop Taylor said he was told a fan club had been created about him on Facebook. When he went online to look at the page, he realized he had to sign up to see it, so he did.

Not long after posting his information and a photo, the word spread fast and before long he had more friend requests and group invitations than he could keep up with.

"I want to be available and

accessible to everybody in the diocese," said Bishop Taylor of his membership on Facebook. "This is a way to be present to the younger people of the diocese."

Stephen Elser, 17, a senior at Catholic High School in Little Rock, attended Bishop Taylor's ordination. Afterward he was so enthusiastic about the diocese finally having a bishop after a two-year period without one, Elser went onto Facebook and found the "Bishop Taylor Fan Club." Its

administrators had abandoned the page so he took it over and invited all his friends to join.

Elser said his goal was to get Bishop Taylor to join Facebook, which he did shortly thereafter.

"It actually kind of surprised me, I mean I hoped he'd get one, but it was just surprising," Elser told the *Arkansas Catholic*, the diocesan newspaper. "I thank God he did because I like how he posts his homilies."

Though unable to respond to the many messages he receives, Bishop Taylor does accept all friend requests. Beyond youths in the diocese, he is friends with people of all ages worldwide who are laypeople, clergy and religious.

The bishop also gets numerous invitations on Facebook to attend high school youth and campus ministry events from around the state.

"I'm not able to go to hardly any of them, but I become aware of what's going on," he said.

"I want to be part of their lives," Bishop Taylor said. "Technology like anything has good points and weak points. But it can certainly be used to spread the Gospel and to build up the community."

Many parish and diocesan leaders seem to agree. Several of Arkansas' priests, religious, youth and campus ministry and religious education workers are also on Facebook for the same reason — to evangelize.

"It's a tremendous tool of evangelization," said Father John

Antony, pastor of St. Raphael Church in Springdale. "Like St. Paul used to write letters to the churches, we use notes on Facebook to reach people with the Gospel."

He also posts homilies on Facebook and considers doing that a young adult ministry.

Catholic youths and youth ministers all over the country are no doubt using Facebook to make connections, share news about events or stay in touch.

In the Diocese of Toledo, Ohio, Deacon Jerry Ziemkiewicz, diocesan coordinator of youth ministry, has been using Facebook for a year and a half.

"It's been a good tool for continuing to do our youth ministry beyond our youth group gatherings, beyond our church," the deacon told the *Catholic Chronicle*, the diocesan newspaper.

High school senior Shannon Spayde, who serves on the diocesan youth council, said Facebook gives teen representatives from parishes around the diocese another way to get to know one another between meetings and helps former council members stay in touch.

She is happy to see youth ministers joining the networking site.

"I thought it was really awesome that they wanted to participate in our lives and be a part of a thing that we were part of, so we could connect on another level," said Spayde.

Pope asks young Catholics to use technology to share their faith

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI asked young Catholics to use their computers, Facebook accounts, blogs and Internet video posts to share with their peers the joy of faith in Christ.

“Be sure to announce the Gospel to your contemporaries with enthusiasm,” the pope told young people in his message for the 2009 celebration of World Communications Day.

“Human hearts are yearning for a world where love endures, where gifts are shared, where unity is built, where freedom finds meaning in truth and where identity is found in respectful communion,” said Pope Benedict’s message, which was released at the Vatican Jan. 23.

The theme for the 2009 World Communications Day, which will be celebrated May 24 in most dioceses, is “New Technologies, New Relationships: Promoting a Culture of Respect, Dialogue and Friendship.”

Releasing the message — which included e-mailing it directly to 100,000 young Catholics around the world and asking them to forward it or post it on their Web sites — the Vatican also announced that it would take a further step into the digital age by making video of the pope available on YouTube, a video-sharing Web site.



The Vatican’s YouTube video news channel features news clips of Pope Benedict XVI and major Vatican events. The channel, www.youtube.com/vatican, was unveiled Jan. 23.

In his message, Pope Benedict said that if used creatively and correctly new computer technologies can help people meet the human longing to connect with others and share the search for goodness, beauty and truth.

Of course, he said, people must “avoid the sharing of words and images that are degrading of human beings, that promote hatred and intolerance, that debase the goodness and intimacy of human sexuality or that exploit the weak and vulnerable.”

And praising the way young people use the Internet to form

and maintain friendships, he also cautioned against trivializing friendship by not forming real, face-to-face relationships.

“It would be sad if our desire to sustain and develop online friendships were to be at the cost of our availability to engage with our families, our neighbors and those we meet in the daily reality of our places of work, education and recreation,” Pope Benedict said.

“If the desire for virtual connectedness becomes obsessive, it may in fact function to isolate individuals from real social inter-

action while also disrupting the patterns of rest, silence and reflection that are necessary for healthy human development,” the pope said.

Still, Pope Benedict said, new technologies have an “extraordinary potential” to bring people together, to help them share information, to rally them to work for good causes and to educate.

“They respond to a fundamental desire of people to communicate and to relate to each other,” he said.

“When we find ourselves drawn toward other people, when we want to know more about them and make ourselves known to them, we are responding to God’s call — a call that is imprinted in our nature as beings created in the image and likeness of God, the God of communication and communion,” Pope Benedict said.

Much of the pope’s message was addressed to the “digital generation,” to young people who have grown up using computers and cellular phones, e-mail and text messaging.

He asked them “to bring the witness of their faith to the digital world” and to write openly about the joys of faith when they write their profiles on social-networking sites or blogs.

The first step in evangelization is to understand the culture in which the Gospel will be proclaimed, he said, and young Catholics are the ones who have

that understanding of their peers and of the Internet culture they use to communicate.

“You know their fears and their hopes, their aspirations and their disappointments,” the pope told young Catholics. “The greatest gift you can give to them is to share with them the good news of a God who became man, who suffered, died and rose again to save all people.”

Archbishop Claudio Maria Celli, president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, told reporters Jan. 23 that the message was distinctive for the sense of trust and openness it showed toward new technologies and for the fact that it was addressed primarily to young Catholics.

Msgr. Paul Tighe, secretary of the council, said people who have grown up with computer technology “and integrated it naturally into their lifestyles” communicate, learn, get information and engage in political and social activities differently than people over 40 years old, the so-called “digital immigrants.”

But, he said, young people and anyone else using the new technologies need to be careful about the content they are generating, sharing or drawing to the attention of others.

“We are all aware of the risks of news forms of cyberbullying and abusive postings that have emerged in recent years,” he said.

Italian dioceses suggest Lenten fasts from texting, bottled water

BY CINDY WOODEN

ROME (CNS) — The stereotypical Italian communicates with his hands and sips Chianti, but text messaging and drinking bottled water have become even more common and some dioceses are trying to put a stop to the practices — at least for Lent.

Archbishop Benito Cocchi of Modena-Nonantola has asked people “to fast” from sending text messages on their cellular phones, at least on the Fridays of Lent.

And the Archdiocese of Venice’s office for Christian lifestyles has asked the faithful there “to turn on the faucet” and give up bottled water.

Bishops and priests in neighboring dioceses have urged their members to do the same.

As Lent began Feb. 25, Archbishop Cocchi told the faithful that Lent was a time to use fewer words and less food, drinks and games in order to concentrate on strengthening a real relationship with God and with others.

The archdiocesan office for missionary awareness, he said, had a good idea: Give up sending text messages.

Studies have shown that only in



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

A young woman replies to a text message on a mobile phone in Washington. An Italian archbishop has asked Catholic young people give up texting on their mobile phones on Fridays in Lent.

Great Britain and Spain do people send more text messages per capita than in Italy. In February a study of teenagers in Italy’s Lombard region concluded that every Italian ages 13-16 sends an average of 47 text messages a day.

But for Archbishop Cocchi the no-text Lent was not just a matter of giving one’s thumbs a rest from hitting those tiny keys; rather, it was a way to remember that “our style of life has an impact on geographical locations far away.”

In fact, he said, the mineral ore columbite-tantalite is used to manufacture cellular phones. Some 80

percent of the world’s supply comes from Congo and many human rights organizations believe that the sale of the mineral has helped finance civil violence in the country.

“This year we want to remember that the use of our fingers on our cellular phones has contributed to writing the story of millions of lives in Congo,” Archbishop Cocchi said.

The proposal from the Archdiocese of Venice to give up bottled water was just the first idea on a list offered by the office for Christian lifestyles, but it was the suggestion cited most in newspapers and supported most by other dioceses.

Italians lead the world in the consumption of bottled water, even though their tap water is clean and pure; a 2008 study said that each Italian drinks 190 liters — more than 50 gallons — of bottled water each year.

Father Gianni Fazzini, director of the lifestyles office, said the Lenten process of conversion means Catholics should “review our consumption and choose products that respect creation and the workers who make those products.”

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EDITORIAL

Good news at the Indiana Statehouse

Senate Bill 528 recently passed the Indiana Senate 35-15 and is now in the Indiana House awaiting action. Authored by Sen. Carlin Yoder of Middlebury and co-sponsored by Sen. Joe Zakas of Granger, SB 528 would create the Indiana School Scholarship Tax Credit program for charitable contributions to scholarship granting organizations (SGOs). These SGOs would provide scholarships to lower-income Hoosiers to attend participating schools of their choice — including Catholic schools.

SB 528 would provide up to \$5 million a year in state tax credits and would fund more than 3,000 scholarships each year. These scholarships would be funded entirely through private, charitable donations. This bill would provide an incentive to encourage these donations by allowing individuals and corporations to be able to claim a tax credit on 50 percent of their contributions. In addition, SB 528 would actually save taxpayer money since the revenues that the state would lose from the tax credit would be more than offset by the savings in public school per-pupil tuition support as families choose private school options instead.

Also, two important pro-life bills — SB 89 and 90 — passed the Indiana Senate by wide margins. SB 89 would require an abortionist to have admitting privileges at local hospitals for follow-up care if needed. This bill would have the effect of limiting the ability of abortionists to come into Indiana from out of state or of allowing for greater peer review of their methods. Testimony offered last year by a Fort Wayne physician on shoddy practices underscores the importance of SB 89 to women's health.

SB 90 would strengthen Indiana's informed consent law by requiring that the mother be notified that the life of a human being begins at fertilization and that the fetus might feel pain during an abortion. In addition to the risks of abortion, mothers are to be informed of adoption alternatives. Speaker Pat Bauer of South Bend is supportive of both these bills and has placed them in the public policy committee where they will now hopefully be heard.

Good vs. evil of the technological age

Anybody with an e-mail account and a weak SPAM filter will soon realize that in this age of digital and communication advances, the technology can be used for good and evil.

Unsolicited commercials promoting medicines, replica watches, stock tips, etc., can be very frustrating when lumped in to the legitimate electronic mail that allows us to conduct business and communicate with family and friends.

A search on YouTube, a video sharing site, or through Google can innocently lead to a Web site that could be vulgar, even pornographic. Digital messages can bully and abuse. As a parent, this digital age calls for vigilance to our children's Web surfing and messaging.

Our cell phones are quickly becoming a greater communications tool as it can be used for surfing the Web, texting family and friends, sending photos, besides just making telephone calls.

Technology for its good purposes has been embraced at *Today's Catholic*. Almost all of our stories, photos, Catholic News Service are received electronically. This aids in efficiency of sharing the good news of evangelization across our diocese. Our Web site, www.diocesefwsb.org, which is being redesigned, hosts a PDF downloadable version of the current *Today's Catholic*. Instead of receiving it in the mail, you can receive a digital copy of the paper via your e-mail.

Simply contact Kathy Voirol at kvoiroi@fw.diocesefwsb.org to be switched from the mailed version to the digital version. Please note, however, that one needs a high-speed Internet connection to receive the e-mailed paper. The newspaper is also downloadable, as well as a 15-minute Podcast, on our Web site.

In his 2009 celebration of World Communications Day message (to be celebrated May 24), our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, has asked young Catholics to use their computers, Facebook accounts, blogs and Internet video posts to share the joy of faith in Christ.

"Be sure to announce the Gospel to your contemporaries with enthusiasm," he said, and added that using technology creatively and correctly, technologies can help people meet the human longing to connect with others and share the search for goodness, beauty and truth.

The choice is ours: We have great tools at our fingertips to help us evangelize.

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

Edith Stein Conference organizers applauded

I read with great pleasure Diane Freeby's article in the Feb. 22 addition about the Edith Stein Conference at Notre Dame. What a wonderful program developed by ND. These are the type of conferences that shape our Catholic faith and refute the tragedy of allowing V Monologues to be performed on a Catholic campus. My congratulations to these women who demonstrate their commitment to strong Catholic values.

John Reiter
South Bend

Pick and choose politicians mislead

Regarding Anne Britzke's reply in the Commentary column of March 1, she is defending the indefensible. But she is not alone. The fact that 54 percent of Catholics voted for Barack Obama is a scandal, and we are reaping the results of the new presidency. Obama has reversed the Mexico City policy to prohibit funding for abortions overseas, is reversing the ban on embryonic stem-cell research and is seeking to remove the conscience clause for health providers. This impacts particularly Catholic hospitals.

How we got here can be attributed to a misreading of "Living the Gospel of Life: A Challenge to American Catholics." The main thrust of the publication as articulated in paragraph 33 says, "The area for moral responsibility includes not only the halls of government, but voting booths as well. Laws that permit abortion, euthanasia and assisted suicide are profoundly unjust. Because they are unjust they cannot bind citizens in conscience, be supported, acquiesced in or recognized as valid."

A thorough reading of the document very definitely emphasizes attacks on life such as abortion and euthanasia. This document covers other subjects, but not with the full force of basic life issues. This has allowed an individual to pick and choose according to their own preconceptions. Catholic Answers, a catholic apologetics organization has issued a voters guide, which lists five non-negotiables, which are: abortion, euthanasia, human cloning, embryonic stem-cell research and homosexual marriage. Pope Benedict, when he was Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger spoke of this. "Not all moral issues have the same weight as abortion and euthanasia, capital punishment or the decision

to wage war.

Today Iraq is on its way to becoming a democracy. The war was fought not with the people of Iraq, but with a brutal dictator. Some mistakes were made in securing the peace, but the enemy did not want to see democracy flourish.

Pick and choose politicians have been with us too long. Their example has been an embarrassment to the church and all faithful Catholics. They are bold enough to lecture the church on moral matters. I appeal to you not to follow their example.

Max Cambre
Fort Wayne

Quick mental quiz on value of life

For those of you who agree with the recent "pro-life" voter who wrote a letter that stated that the Obama platform included so much "social justice" (race based preferences, open immigration, universal healthcare) that it outweighed his stance on abortion, I have a quick mental quiz to test the veracity of your logic.

Imagine that the election is to be held tomorrow with the same candidates. McCain holds the identical positions he did in November and so does Obama, but with one exception: he no longer supports abortion, but instead plans on executing a member of your family each day until your entire clan has been exterminated, and he has the complete support of Congress and the Supreme Court. Now, remember, if you are truly pro-life, you do not view your life to be more important than that of an

unborn child, given that you are both created in the image and likeness of God.

If you can honestly say that you would recast your vote for Obama under these circumstances then you at least have the courage of your convictions. However, if you no longer support the Obama platform then I submit that this is hypocrisy, as you are willing to sacrifice another's life, but not your own, in order to achieve "social justice."

Make no mistake, more children are now being killed as a direct result of this election. I hope that your access to universal healthcare was worth your vote in exchange for the lives of these little ones.

Andrew Landrigan, M.D.
Roanoke

Turn to Christ

Our Catholic friends need to turn to God for our social and religious salvation. Meditate on the Eucharist. "Fill my heart with the love of Jesus Christ."

He is the answer. The miracles in the Eucharist are beyond imagination. It's amazing that we don't drop down dead from the power and wonder of receiving God, the Trinity, into every cell of our bodies. There is an explosion of events happening all at once.

Trust and turn to him. He knows all the answers. Let him guide you. In his love he wants very much to bring us to his heart and care. We have to say yes.

Denise Rose
Hoagland

Cuthbert

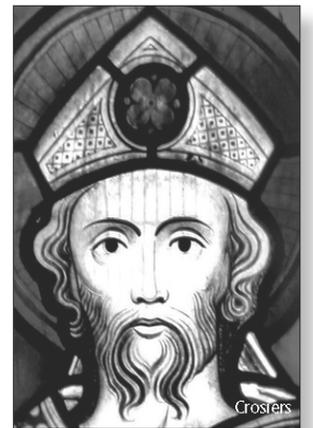
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feast - March 20

In the Venerable Bede's history, this English shepherd boy, sometimes claimed by the Irish, had a vision of an angel leading St. Aidan to heaven. He later became a monk at Melrose, journeying on horseback to remote areas to evangelize. In 664 he accompanied St.

Eata to Lindisfarne and in 676

retired to the islet of Farne to live alone. He became bishop of Hexham in 684, and after exchanging sees with Eata visited every part of his large diocese, preaching, counseling and distributing alms. He returned to his Farne retreat to die. Bede called him "the child of God."



'The elephant in the room'

In the months following my husband Trent's death I found myself left to carve a new life out for my two young daughters and myself. I longed to have more than my memories to sustain me during that difficult time. But more than that I had a burning desire to hear from others that they had not forgotten him.

Many bereaved feel an instinctive need to be affirmed in their grief — that their loved one is remembered long after they have been laid to rest. The need is present whether during a spontaneous meeting at the grocery store or a traditional family gathering. The mention of their loved one's name or a shared story, whether new or revisited, brings hope and gratitude to those in loss.

But in our grief-avoidant culture, where mourning can sometimes be minimized, or worse — dismissed, the mysterious phenomenon commonly labeled the "elephant in the room" tends to be pervasive. If you have ever experi-

enced it, you know the scenario — those gathered know of the loss, but speak of everything else but.

The bereaved finding themselves in these situations, where all present are tiptoeing around to avoid the elephant, discover the tension created by not speaking of the loss is palpable. That can leave them confused and deeply hurt.

Bobbi, who's 20-year-old daughter, Ann, died of cancer, says, "When people don't talk about my daughter, I feel they don't care for her anymore, or even me — like they've forgotten about her. It's actually more hurtful to me when people don't talk about her, than when they choose to say something."

Many times our friends and loved ones, who truly do want to support us, find it difficult to speak of the loss. I've heard well-meaning comments such as, "I don't want to bring it up if she's not thinking about it," or "I don't want to cause any more pain," frequently. These are common heartfelt

HOPE IN THE MOURNING

KAY COZAD

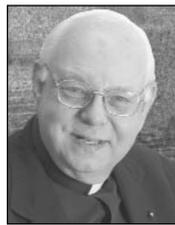
sentiments among supporters.

Unfortunately, most bereaved will freely admit when asked that the thought of their loved one is only a breath away and very little will expand the enduring, ever-present pain any more than is already felt. They just want to feel that the memory of their loved one is valued by others.

In my work in bereavement I find it encouraging to hear that many who companion those in loss are open to suggestions. I believe that the bereaved have the

HOPE, PAGE 16

Jesus is God's voice



MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

THE SUNDAY GOPEL

3rd Sunday of Lent Jn 2:13-25

The Book of Exodus is the source of the first biblical reading this weekend. This book is about the Hebrew people, enslaved and dreadfully mistreated in Egypt, as they escaped from Egypt and eventually found their new homeland.

None of this good fortune, of escaping and of ultimate settlement in a land of their own, happened as a result of coincidence, luck or human strategy. Rather, God's power led the Hebrews to a successful escape from Egypt. Moses, their leader in this endeavor, was God's representative, chosen by God for the task.

As the flight was underway, and as the people wandered across the bleak Sinai peninsula in search of the land God had promised them, Moses received from God, and gave to the people, what long has been called the Ten Commandments.

By observing these commandments, the people fulfilled their obligations under the Covenant. They also followed the path to peace and justice in life given by God, a path that they themselves could not have devised.

St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians supplies the second reading. For persons living in the

first century, the proclamation, and beyond this the deification, of a convicted felon was hard to accept.

The Jews, suffering under Roman oppression, and enduring so much, were not so apt to reverse Roman law or to see profound wisdom and justice in the system established to enforce Roman law.

However, the Corinthian Christians, many of whom had been pagans, regarded Roman jurisprudence to be supremely wise. Yet, a Roman court tried Jesus for, and convicted Jesus of, high treason. The consequence of treason, again as set forth in Roman law, was death by crucifixion — for persons who were not citizens of Rome itself.

Here, in this reading, Paul asserts that Jesus, the convicted felon, is the key to salvation. The apostle preaches, "Christ crucified." It is a "stumbling block for the Jews, and an absurdity for the Gentiles."

This weekend's Gospel reading recalls the time when Jesus, shortly before Passover, entered the temple precincts and found a brisk traffic underway in the things needed for ritual sacrifice.

Furious, as described by this Gospel, the Lord drove the merchants away.

He then predicted that the temple would fall, in itself a virtual blasphemy, and then made the astonishing announcement that he would rebuild the colossal structure in three days.

Scholars and leaders later used this occasion to make the case that Jesus was a blasphemer and a troublemaker.

The reading establishes Jesus as God's voice, and God's agent. As bystanders watch this happening unfold, they are reminded of God's word in the Scriptures. The Lord's

actions remind them of God.

However, they do not fully comprehend the Lord's words and actions. They are humans, nothing more, nothing less.

Reflection

Lent reminds us of our humanity. Everlastingly, however, it is hard for humans to admit their human limitations.

We celebrate our human accomplishments. We congratulate ourselves, for example, on the brilliant design of spaceships. Then, tragedies of the defective space shuttles and most recently the botched launch of a satellite to study climate change remind us that we never think of everything. Very much is beyond our control. Humans are shortsighted and often irrational.

Nevertheless, God loves us. He rescued the ancient Hebrews in Egypt. He has given us Jesus, the son of God, as our savior. In the Ten Commandments, God gave us the absolute pattern of our lives.

We need God. Jesus is the final and supreme teacher. Jesus is God.

READINGS

Sunday: Ex 20:1-17 Ps 19:8-11 1 Cor 1:22-25 Jn 2:13-25

Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15b Pss 42:2-3; 43:3-4 Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43 Ps 25:4-5b, 6, 7bc, 8-9 Mt 18:21-35

Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9 Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20 Mt 5:17-19

Thursday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16 Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29 Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22 Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a

Friday: Hos 14:2-10 Ps 81:6c-11b, 14, 17 Mk 12:28-34

Saturday: Hos 6:1-6 Ps 51:3-4, 18-21b Lk 18:9-14

THE CATEQUIZEM

By Dominic Camplisson

On March 9, 2009, the church remembered St. Frances of Rome. This quiz looks at her home, the eternal city.

- The Roman response to Christianity was persecution. Which emperor started this?**
a. Julius Caesar b. Nero c. Gaius (Caligula)
- Despite the threat of execution, the city had a Christian community by this century:**
a. The first b. The second c. The third
- The first Bishop of Rome was**
a. Cletus b. Linus c. Peter
- This apostle is thought, by tradition, to have been executed in Rome:**
a. Paul b. Stephen c. Thomas
- The empire sporadically attempted to eradicate Christianity, at times condemning Christians to**
a. die in the arena.
b. serve in the army.
c. worship the Delian Oracle on pain of banishment.
- Despite the fact that they had little success, persecutions only formally ended in**
a. the second century.
b. the third century.
c. the fourth century.
- The proclamation that ended it was not "of Rome" but was rather**
a. of Jerusalem. b. of Milan. c. of Ravenna.
- In a startling reversal of fortune in the fourth century, Christianity became this in Rome:**
a. A legal form of Judaism
b. The only permitted religion
c. The Roman rite of transmission
- Although Rome is considered the home of the papacy, for a time the popes left Rome for**
a. Avignon.
b. Constantinople.
c. Salt Lake City.
- Nevertheless, even then to be pope one must be elected**
a. Prefect of Rome
b. Bishop of Rome
c. Roman Rex
- Geographically this city is inside Rome:**
a. The Vatican
b. Urbi
c. Holy Sepulcher
- However politically that city is**
a. a suburb of the city of Rome.
b. a separate county of the Republic of Italy.
c. an independent state.
- The term "Roman Catholic" is not always accurate because the Catholic Church**
a. has a secret headquarters in new Mexico.
b. includes other churches, such as the Maronite, Ruthenian.
c. "Roman" has pagan overtones and the term "Latin" is preferred.

14. The Italian nationalists exceed their often proclaimed wish to confine the papal states to

- Rome west of the Tiber.
- Rome and a Garden.
- Rome, Home and Hippodrome.

15. Rome is not regarded as a superior See by most Orthodox, but many accept that it may be considered

- first amongst equals or first in dignity.
- first in line when the Christians line up on the last day.
- the first Christian Patriarchy to fall to the Muslims in 1453.

ANSWERS:

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

Election over; Pro-life Catholics evaluate what they can do now

BY MARY AKRE

In spite of the fact that the election was months ago, the question of whether or not a serious Catholic can vote for a strongly pro-abortion candidate still haunts us. Most Catholics seem to believe abortion is a moral evil, so the question revolves around whether or not there are "proportionate reasons" to vote for someone who has promised to pass the Freedom of Choice Act.

Considering that we already have a new president in the White House, the time for arguing about whether or not we can vote for him is past.

This is, however, a very good time to review the basic facts about abortion and evaluate what we can do now. Mainly, what do we do now?

As an issue, we must admit that the right to life is foundational. Our country was founded on the principle that we all have the "right to life," which was given to us by our Creator. "Above all, the common outcry, which is justly made

on behalf of human rights — for example, the right to health, to home, to work, to family, to culture — is false and illusory if the right to life, the most basic and fundamental right and the condition of all other personal rights, is not defended with maximum determination," said Pope John Paul II in "Evangelium Vitae."

Legalized abortion in a society is the state-sanctioned destruction of human life on a grand scale. Since 1973 there have been over 50 million abortions in the United States. This is a very hard number to wrap our minds around.

Joseph Stalin said, "One death is a tragedy. One million is a statistic."

We have lost one-third of an entire generation. Our children have lost one-third of their friends, coworkers and potential spouses. On average, one quarter of all babies who are conceived are aborted. There are 12 babies aborted, on average, each week in South Bend. This all works out to 3,300 abortions in the United States daily. We lost 3,000 Americans from the attack on the World Trade Center on 9-11. We lost 3,300

Americans from abortion yesterday, and the day before, and the day before...

Contrary to the idea that women need to be able to choose abortion, most women who have abortions feel as though they have no choice. Many are pressured by those close to them. Instead of supporting her as she faces motherhood, they tell her she can't handle it and abortion is a quick fix. But abortion cannot undo motherhood, and these women suffer terribly afterwards.

Is this meant in any way to condemn? Of course not. As Catholics we know that Jesus came not to condemn, but to save. He also comes to heal all our hurts and even to transform them. He can bring light and goodness even to our darkest times.

There are many women who are speaking out about their experiences and helping other women avoid the mistakes they made and the pain they suffer.

What do we do now? First, we must cry out to God for help. Our land needs healing. Prayer and fasting are priceless weapons in this war against the evil called

abortion.

We can support crisis pregnancy centers, which offer real solutions to women in need.

We also need to help change the perception of adoption, encourage adoption, and if possible, help change the laws to make adoption easier. Adoption is a beautiful thing, but it has been vilified in recent years in our culture.

When a woman has an abortion, she thinks she can undo motherhood and this problem of an "unwanted pregnancy" will just go away. In adoption, she has to face motherhood, but sees herself as a bad mother who "gave her child away." We need to show our society that women who chose adoption are not bad mothers, but have actually shown a level of virtue and self-sacrifice that is

truly heroic.

The only thing to do politically is to try to limit the damage. We need to send in our postcards protesting the Freedom of Choice Act. We can e-mail the White House and ask President Obama not to lift the protections for medical personnel who refuse to participate in actions they believe are gravely immoral.

Arguing at this point about who to vote for is an advantage only for the pro-abortion advocates. We need to come together in our love for our littlest brother and sisters and for their parents.

Mary Akre is the campaign director for the 40 Days for Life in South Bend.

The mighty, fallen

At a Tampa press conference on Feb. 17, Yankees' third baseman Alex Rodriguez was asked whether his use of steroids for three seasons constituted "cheating." "That is not for me to determine," Rodriguez responded.

OK, you asked for it. Memo to A-Rod: You cheated.

To which the fallen superstar might answer, "Well, everyone was doing 'roids, including the pitchers I was trying to hit" — and if everyone is cheating, it isn't cheating. To which the answers are: First, not everyone was doing it (including some minor leaguers who missed their chance at The Show and the big money because they had too much respect for the game, their health, their integrity, or perhaps all three). And second, if there's a fifth-grade conspiracy to cheat on the math test and everyone's in on it, it's still cheating.

A-rod is not the only confused camper in this sorry mess. I spend far too much time in my car listening to sports-talk radio, which I justify professionally because it's a good way to get a fix on the moral confusions of contemporary American culture.

Wasn't Andy Pettitte's use of steroids — which is to say, Andy Pettitte's cheating — less odious than A-Rod's, because Pettitte came cleaner sooner and gave a better press conference? (Answer: Pettitte may be more mature, today, than A-Rod — which is perhaps damning with faint praise. But cheating is cheating, period, and any assessment of Pettitte's career must reckon with that.)

Shouldn't Barry Bonds be in the Hall of Fame, despite his deliberate decision to juice himself in order to out-slug Mark McGwire

and Sammy Sosa? (Answer: None of them should be in the Hall of Fame, because the hall ballot instructs voters to measure character as well as statistics, and they all disrespected the game by breaking the rules — the implicit moral rules, as well as the legal and professional rules.)

Yet what ought to be fairly obvious moral calls are sliced-and-diced all over the airwaves, and the debate is not terribly edifying. Immaturity, racial animosities, cultural differences, economic pressures — all are trotted out, if not as vindications, then as excuses for better-baseball-through-chemistry. None of them makes the slightest degree of moral sense, for cheating is cheating, no matter what one's age, race, national origin or income-level.

Yet the moral confusions of the steroids debate are nothing new, for today's excuse-making was previewed in the debate over whether Pete Rose — an admittedly stellar player — should be in the Hall of Fame despite betting on games. To which the proper answer is: absolutely not, for every professional baseball player from the lowest minors on is told, and in no uncertain terms, that gambling on games gets you a lifetime ban from the sport, period. Pete Rose bet on games; the hall, rightly understood, is an integral part of the sport; therefore, no Pete Rose plaque at Cooperstown, no matter how many confessions Rose eventually makes. That's what Catholics used to call "temporal punishment due to sin." The sin may be forgiven, but it leaves a residue that requires purification. Purgatory in this case means, "No Cooperstown."



THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

GEORGE WEIGEL

Baseball's steroid era is a national disgrace in which both management and labor played despicable roles: the arrogant players' union, by ignoring its members' health and protecting outrageous salaries at grave moral and possibly physical cost; the blockhead owners, by sacrificing the game's integrity to a chemically-induced slugfest they believed would restore the sport's popular appeal after The Strike killed the World Series. There are few heroes here, save the guys who didn't cheat.

Is there any point in railing about this? Yes. Cultural critic Jacques Barzun, an immigrant to these shores, was right when he said that anyone who wanted to understand America had better understand baseball, the mirror of our national culture. If the Jackie Robinson/Pee Wee Reese Dodgers (or, in my case, the Frank Robinson/Brooks Robinson Orioles) embody America at its best, the steroid era holds up a mirror to an America in moral trouble. Both images bear considerable reflection.

George Weigel is a senior fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for March 15, 2009

John 2:13-25

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Third Sunday of Lent, Cycle B: Jesus and the money changers in Jerusalem. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

PASSOVER	JEW	JERUSALEM
TEMPLE	SHEEP	DOVES
MONEY	CHANGERS	CORDS
COINS	OVERTURNED	OUT OF HERE
STOP	CONSUME ME	SIGN
DESTROY	THREE	RAISE IT UP
CONSTRUCTION	FORTY-SIX	YEARS

ZEALOUS

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Y E A R S R E G N A H C
E R E H F O T U O J O R
L C C M R V A N A N S A
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HOPE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

opportunity to offer those around them permission to speak of the dead in their presence.

Bobbi's experience of the "elephant" weighed heavily during her first visit home for the holidays. She initially felt warmly embraced by her family. But as the day wore on, and she waited for acknowledgment that her sweet daughter was missing from the festivities, no one said a word.

Taking her cue from the members of her family, she too resisted expressing her grief and acknowledgment that her daughter's place stood empty. Bobbi left bewildered that her family seemed to have forgotten her daughter so soon.

After processing the event,

Bobbi realized that rather than forgetting, her family had made a misguided attempt to protect her from additional pain their words might cause. She attended the next gathering with renewed resolve — this time with a plan.

She would be the first to offer a mention of her daughter and hope that her family members would receive the permission they needed to speak freely of their grief. A collective sigh of relief was heard as she shared her story. The burden had been lifted and Bobbi and her family were touched by the communal sharing that took place.

"I have learned," she says, "to let people know it's okay to talk about my loved one. That it may make me cry, but that's okay. It will make me stronger." Her courage assisted the family in acknowledging the "elephant in the room" and set it free.

Sports

MARIAN WRESTLERS HONORED AT BANQUET Marian High School wrestling team held its annual end of season banquet at Brunos Pizza in South Bend on Thursday, March 5. Seniors honored include David Wagenblast, most valuable; Ryan Martin, most improved; and Robert Mauck, mental attitude award. Other letter earners were senior Nik Lindke, juniors Devon Gilbert and Brian Klockow, sophomore Zach Roberson, and freshmen Eric Plude, Casey Fielder and Austin Sieracki.

CYO champs crowned Eagles nest atop CYO

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — In the boys' small school bracket, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel defeated a scrappy Queen of Angels team, 35-19, for the 2009 Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) Blue League tournament championship at St. Charles on Saturday, Feb. 28.

The Squires finished with a perfect league record of 5-0 winning the Blue League season championship, while St. Aloysius was the boys' runner-up on the

regular season.

In the title game, the Squires got off to a slow start, leading just 13-7 at the half. Queen of Angels hung with the Squires hustling on each possession until the Squires started to pull away late in the third quarter.

In his rookie season, the Squires' big man Brian Teeters led all scorers with 12 points. Austin Stout added 10 for the tournament runner-up Royals. Jim Knapke's

CYO, PAGE 18

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — One more title, one more memory, one more celebration — large school CYO (Catholic Youth Organization) girls' basketball has been dominated by the blue and gold from St. Jude for many years now. This year's group of eighth graders completed the task of winning the tournament and league back to back years of their CYO careers and compiled a 23-2 record for the 2008-2009 season.

In the four years under Coach Dave Westendorf, this tight-knit group went an amazing 96-9 overall and 64-4 in CYO play.

"There was not a dry eye in the locker room when we were done," admitted Westendorf.

"The emotions of the day combined with the intensity and excitement every game against St. Charles brings made for a great game," added Westendorf.

He went on to explain, "These two teams are special, and the girls all know each other so well. Many of them play together on leagues outside of CYO and will go on to play together at Bishop Dwenger. We watched them (St. Charles) play a great game against St. Vincent and we knew it would be competitive."

The two teams faced each other



PROVIDED BY ST. JUDE, FORT WAYNE

St. Jude's eighth-grade girls' basketball team completed the task of winning the tournament and league back to back years of their CYO careers and compiled a 23-2 record for the 2008-2009 season. They took the large school CYO championship crown.

in the holiday tournament at St. Francis over the Christmas break and Herb Widner's Cardinals won, 41-35. During regular season play, St. Jude won, 38-26. And for the championship it was St. Jude, 40, St. Charles, 32. Before a packed gym at St. Charles Hession Center, the fans saw several lead changes with St. Jude down by as many as seven points and then just one at the half. The Eagles were on top by two going into the final quarter, but never led by more than the eight points. Alyssa Gibson from St. Charles led all scorers with 14 points, while Sha'Darrion Warfield paced the Eagles with 13.

It was the ultimate finish for the St. Aloysius Lady Gators. A Catholic Youth League (CYO) girls' small school (Blue League) perfect season and the tournament win on Saturday, Feb. 28, to top it off. A perfect ending to a stellar season, but the title game wasn't always pretty.

"We could not hit an ocean today," said a relieved Coach Bud Sorg after the championship. "If someone would have told me we would only score 19 points, I would not have believed it," he concluded.

The Gators finished with an outstanding 20-2 season, but the championship game nearly slipped away to a young Hessen Cassel Squires team. The Gators jumped out to 13-1 lead like they sometimes do, but Amy Knapke's Squires battled back scoring nine unanswered points to cut the deficit to 10-13 at the half. Hessen Cassel, who starts two sixth graders in their line up, continued their tenacity during a tight third quarter — down by just five with the scoreboard reading 12-17. Hannah Beckman hit a trey with

just over three minutes to play in the final quarter, to come within one of the Gators, 16-17. In the final two minutes, St. Aloysius standout Maria Zaremba fouled out of the game after scoring 13 of her team's 19 points. But teammate Demari Sorg stepped up to the line and drained two clutch free throws, which put the Gators up for good, 19-16.

In the seventh-grade tournament, the top seeded St. Vincent Panthers won the championship game over St. Charles, 30-22.

Girls

St. Aloysius 19, St. Joseph Hessen Cassel 16 — Beckman 7, Zaremba 13

St. Vincent (7) 30, St. Charles (7) 22 — Fisher 9, E. Butler 12

St. Jude (8) 40, St. Charles (8) 32 — Warfield 13, Gibson 14



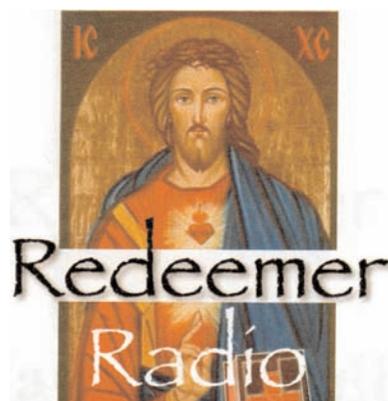
PROVIDED BY ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, FORT WAYNE

St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne, boys basketball team won the large school championship after defeating St. Jude, 51-40, for the crown on Feb. 28.



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PROVIDED BY ST. ALOYSIUS, YODER

St. Aloysius, Yoder, finished with an outstanding 20-2 season and won the small-school championship game against St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel School, 19-16.

CYO

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

championship team repeated their title from a year ago returning just one starter from the 2008 squad, the Squires' go-to-man, Wil Knapke.

The champs had a huge weekend going on to win their school's Diocesan Championship on Sunday, March 1, against Christ the King from South Bend, 55-41, to cap off a stellar season.

In the Gold League (large school) Division, the St. John, Fort Wayne Eagles defied the odds and came off a 3-3 league finish this season to take first place medals in the post-season tournament. In the championship game, St. John defeated St. Jude, 51-40.

St. John held a 21-14 lead at halftime and finished with a balanced scoring attack led by Jaquale Cooper with 14 points. Braxton Randolph added 13 and Matt Williamson 12 for the victors.



PROVIDED BY ST. JOSEPH-HESSEN CASSEL, FORT WAYNE

St. Joseph Hessen Cassel defeated Queen of Angels team, 35-19, for the 2009 CYO small school division tournament championship at St. Charles on Saturday, Feb. 28.

Andrew Spencer and Henry Berghoff combined for 30 points to lead St. Jude's offensive assault.

The Eagles continued their post-season run capturing the diocesan title by defeating St. Pius X, Granger, 61-37, in the show-down against the best teams from

South Bend's ICCL (Inter-City Catholic League) on Sunday, March 1. St. Pius X was the runner-up varsity team in the 2009 ICCL tournament.

In the seventh-grade league, Mark Eifert's St. Vincent Panthers won their third straight CYO

championship in as many years. The well-disciplined unit has also gone undefeated all three years in CYO competition.

In the title game of the White League contest, the Panthers got by St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth, the No. 2 seed, 45-24, but Eifert explained, "The game was closer than the score indicated. St. Joe-St. E's defense was tough. They improved throughout the season and played a really good game."

St. Vincent finished with an amazing 27-5 overall record. Their only losses this season came at the hands of public school junior high

teams and all-star Spiece groups. Lucas Capito led all scoring in the championship game with 12 points for St. Vincent, while Trey Casaburo chipped in nine for St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth.

Boys

St. John, Fort Wayne 51, St. Jude 40 — Cooper 14, Spencer 17
St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel 35, Queen of Angels 19 — Stout 10, Teeters 12

St. Vincent (7) 45, St. Joseph/St. Elizabeth (7) 24 — Capito 12, Casaburo 9

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WHAT'S HAPPENING carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. Send in your announcement at least two weeks prior to the event. Mail to: Today's Catholic, 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

Knights host fish dinner

Plymouth — The Knights of Columbus Council 1975 will host a fish dinner on Friday, March 27, from 4-7 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 901 E. Jefferson. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$3 for children 4-10. Children under the age of 3 can eat for free. Tickets are available in advance by calling Tom Sibal at (574) 935-8442 or at the door. A drive-through service is also available at the south door. Proceeds will benefit local charities.

Knights plan Friday fish fries

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus, 553 E. Washington St., will have fish fries on the Fridays of Lent through April 10 from 5-7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$7 per person, \$3.50 age 6-14 and children 1-5 free.

Lenten Fish Fry

South Bend — Sacred Heart of Jesus will have a Lenten fish fry by Tyner IOOF Friday, March 20, from 4-7 p.m. Adults and all carry-out drive-up tickets are \$8. Children ages 6-12 are \$3 and children ages 5 and under are free. Tickets available after each Mass or by calling (574) 291-3775.

Fish fry at St. Aloysius

Yoder — St. Aloysius will have a fish fry Friday, March 27, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. Adult and carry-out price is \$8.50, ages 6-11, \$4.50 and age 5 and under free. St. Aloysius is located on Highway 1, immediately south of the I-469 interchange.

Fish fry

Fort Wayne — St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel will have a fish fry Friday, March 13, from 4-7 p.m. Adults \$8, children 6-11 \$5.50 and children 5 and under free.

Fish fry at Precious Blood

Fort Wayne — Most Precious Blood Parish, 1529 Barthold St., will have a fish fry Friday, March 20, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. Adults \$8, children 6-12 \$4 and children 5 and under \$1. Carry-out available.

St. Adalbert plans fish fry

South Bend — St. Adalbert will have a fish fry Friday, March 20, from 3:30-7 p.m. in the Heritage

Center. Adults and carry-out \$7.50, children 5-12 \$3 and children under 5 free.

Fish Fry

New Haven — St. John the Baptist's Holy Name Society will have a fish fry Friday, March 13, from 4-7 p.m. Adults \$7, children 5-12 \$3.50 and children under 5 free.

K of C fish fry

South Bend — The Santa Maria Council of the Knights of Columbus, 553 E. Washington, will have an Alaskan fish fry every Friday night in the month of March, and April 3 and 10, from 5-7:30 p.m. Cost is \$7.

MISC. HAPPENINGS

Community garage sale

Fort Wayne — St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School's seventh-grade class will have a garage sale Saturday, March 21, from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the St. Joseph campus, 2211 Brooklyn Ave. Donations are being accepted from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the St. Joseph location on March 7 and 14. For pickup of large items, please call Celeste Streicher at (260) 459-1302. Tax receipts are available for all donations. Proceeds will help fund the 2010 eighth-grade class camps and trip. For additional information, call the school office at (260) 432-4000.

Open house planned

Warsaw — Sacred Heart School will have an open house for prospective students and families on Thursday, March 19, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. and on March 21 from 1-3 p.m. Sacred Heart has classes for preschool and full-day kindergarten through grade 6.

Open house planned

South Bend — Corpus Christi School will have an open house Sunday, March 22, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to answer any questions. Call (574) 272-9868 or visit www.corpuschristischool-southbend.org for information.

Preschool and pre-kindergarten roundup scheduled

Fort Wayne — St. Therese School, 2222 Lower Huntington Rd., will have a roundup on Monday, March 16, at 6:30 p.m. in the preschool classroom. Meet the principal, teachers and have a

tour of the campus. Registration packet will be available. Full-day programs are offered. Call (260) 747-2343 for more information.

College fair announced

Fort Wayne — The St. Henry Community Center will sponsor a college fair on Saturday, March 14, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for ages 12 through adult. There will be information on classes needed in junior high and high school to obtain college entrance. Twenty-First Century Scholars as well as area colleges and universities will be represented. Learn about financial aid and scholarships. For information contact Elaine Bakle at (260) 515-2078.

Queen of Angels organ recital

Fort Wayne — The American Guild of Organists will hold its members' recital at Queen of Angels Church on Sunday, March 15, at 4 p.m. The program will include six organists playing the new Johannus Organ. Admission is free.

Corporate Communion planned

South Bend — The Daughters of Isabella, Notre Dame Circle 572 will hold a Corporate Communion on Sunday, March 15, at the 10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Patrick Church on Taylor St. Breakfast will be at Le Peep, 127 S. Michigan St.

St. Patrick's Day party and casino bus trip planned

Fort Wayne — A St. Patrick's Day party will be Saturday, March 14, at Knights of Columbus, 601 Reed Rd. Music by Justus III from 8-11 p.m. Round dancing, square dancing and sing-a-long. Buffet, beer, wine and pop all evening. The cost is \$20 per couple. Call (260) 493-1914 to reserve your table. A Casino bus trip to Hoosier Park is planned for Wednesday, March 25, leaving from 601 Reed Rd. at 8 a.m. and returning around 6 p.m. Cost is \$25, which includes free buffet and credits for new members. Call for (260) 493-1914 for reservations.

Little Flower Holy Hour

Fort Wayne — Father Francis Chukwuma will celebrate the Little Flower Holy Hour at MacDougal Chapel on Tuesday, March 17, at 7:15 p.m. to pray

REST IN PEACE

Decatur

Charles H. Keating, 55, St. Mary/Assumption

Alvera T. Massonne, 82, St. Mary/Assumption

Elkhart

James P. McNeile, 79, St. Thomas the Apostle

Theresa H. Russo, 97, St. Vincent de Paul

Fort Wayne

Michael A. Dean, Sr., 56, St. Jude

Rose M. Pallone, 88, Queen of Angels

Josephine J. Cline, 79, St. Charles

Betty Jane Block, 79, Queen of Angels

Goshen

Audrey Libertone, 89, St. John the Evangelist

Mishawaka

Anthony Tripepi, 88, Queen of Peace

Ann Marie Blasko, 45, Queen of Peace

Gregory L. Nifong, 48, Queen of Peace

Mary Ann Murphy, 76, Queen of Peace

Ronald C. Smessaert, 75, St. Bavo

Michael G. Wisniewski, 21, St. Joseph

Notre Dame

Sister Mary Irene Kleinhanz, CSC, 86, Our Lady of Loretto

South Bend

Stella A. Buda, 78, Holy Family

Michael J. Casarez, 24, St. Adalbert

for priests and vocations. Father Chukwuma is affiliated with the Diocesan Marriage Tribunal and is in residence at the Cathedral.

Spaghetti dinner and country carnival planned

New Haven — St. Louis Academy will have a spaghetti dinner and country carnival with a raffle of donated items on Friday, March 13, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. in the parish hall. Pre-sale tickets for this meatless dinner are \$5 for adults, \$3 for children 6-11 and free for children 5 and under. Call the school office at (260) 749-5815. Add 50 cents to the price if purchased at the door. Proceeds benefit the seventh- and eighth-grade class trip.

Day of reflection

Mishawaka — A day of reflection at St. Francis Convent will be Wednesday, March 25, from 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. The theme for the day is "Triduum Reflections." Bring your Bible. The cost of the day is \$15 and includes lunch. Register by Friday, March 20, to Sister Barbara Anne Hallman at (574) 259-5427.

Card party and euchre tournament

Yoder — The St. Aloysius Knights will have a card party and euchre tournament Saturday, March 14, at 7 p.m. in the school basement. \$5 entry fee. Food and beverages for a free-will offering.

For information call (260) 638-4882.

Celebrity Wait Night

Fort Wayne — The Christ Child Society of Fort Wayne will have Celebrity Wait Night Tuesday, March 17, at Catablu Restaurant. Proceeds directly benefit needy children. There will be two seatings: 5:15 and 8 p.m. Call Ann Arnold at (260) 489-8426.

Lenten day of recollection

Fort Wayne — A Lenten day of recollection "The Seven Last Words of Christ" will be presented by secular Franciscan Bob Deck Saturday, March 21 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church. Lunch will be potluck style. Register by March 20 at (260) 490-9571.

NFP classes offered

Fort Wayne — The Couple to Couple League will offer Natural Family Planning classes starting Sunday, March 22, at 6 p.m. To register call (260) 489-1856.

Italian night at St. Joseph

Bluffton — An Italian night with spaghetti with meat sauce and chicken fettuccine alfredo will be Monday, March 30, from 4-7 p.m. Meal includes breadsticks, salad, drink and dessert. Adults \$7 and children 6-12 \$4. Children 5 and under free.

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.

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

DIALOGUE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

roversial Shoah statements by Bishop Richard Williamson.

After the conclusion of Bishop D'Arcy's remarks, Doris Fogel of Fort Wayne's Jewish Federation read to those present a letter bishop had sent to Fogel, which read: "A closer communion, which in Divine Providence has taken place between our two communities, which you and I have both fostered in this city, must continue and grow. Please be assured of my desire to work with you and others in the Jewish community to strengthen our bonds, which history and the common elements of our faith require us. Please be assured of my desire to help heal any breach that may have been caused by this unfortunate event."

After a history of the dialogue of the church with the Jewish peo-

ple, Bishop D'Arcy, referring to Rabbi Spanjer's talk, said "We live together the law of love."

St. Mary parishioner Andrea Thomas presented both speakers, and also proudly remembered the long tradition of dialogue between St. Mary's and Congregation Achduth Vesholom, with its beginning 35 years ago. After a hiatus, it was renewed by a call from Bishop D'Arcy to promote Catholic-Jewish relations, and was strongly supported at St. Mary's by Father Tom O'Connor.

Father Phillip Widmann, pastor of St. Mary, was present, as was Father Bob Schulte, diocesan vicar general, Msgr. Owen Campion, associate publisher of Our Sunday Visitor, Huntington, and the Jewish Federation's Executive Director Doris Fogel and Betty Stein.

The session closed with two prayers, lead first by Rabbi Spanjer, and then Bishop D'Arcy. The evening concluded with ongoing discussion among those in attendance.

Dwenger project provides shoes for Darfur, Sudan

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Dwenger High School has embarked on a service project collecting new athletic shoes for children affected by the genocide taking place in Darfur and Sudan and extends an invitation to the community to participate in the Holocaust Shoes for Darfur campaign. Bishop Dwenger High School is serving as a collection site for the shoes through Aug. 29.

Samaritan's Feet, an international humanitarian organization that provides some relief to suffering children and the poor around the world who are affected by displacement due to poverty, war and natural disasters, has teamed with the CANDLES Holocaust Museum in Terre Haute for this collection.

Melissa Wheeler, Bishop Dwenger theology teacher and coordinator of the project, tells *Today's Catholic*, "Samaritan's Feet, CANDLES and Bishop Dwenger advise people to donate new athletic shoes only.

"You need not spend lots of money, any new athletic shoes will do," she says. "Donations for shoes can be made through the Samaritan's Feet Web site, www.samaritansfeet.org."

Samaritan's Feet was founded in 2003 by Manny Ohonme, who as a nine-year-old boy growing up in Uganda, received a pair of athletic shoes, the first he had ever owned, from an American tourist. The shoes and the hope they brought qualified Ohonme for a U.S. basketball scholarship at the University of North Dakota.

Ohonme began a career in the business world upon graduation but never forgot the plight of young African boys and girls who were still living in poverty. Due to this passion Ohonme founded Samaritan's Feet, which is dedicat-

ed to collecting 10 million pairs of athletic shoes in 10 years for impoverished children.

Sixty-four years ago, Eva Mozes Kor arrived at the Auschwitz-Birkenau Nazi death camp, a prisoner and subject of Dr. Mengele's infamous experiments on twins. Within four months, the shoes she arrived in had fallen apart from walking the vast grounds of the camp where so many of her fellow Jewish prisoners perished in the Nazi genocide.

In 1984, Kor founded CANDLES, an organization dedicated to preserving the memory of the Mengele Twins.

"We are trying to enlist the help of shoe companies, businesses, schools, individuals, synagogues, churches and stores who would sponsor the drive and/or donate shoes," Wheeler says. "The shoes will be collected at Bishop Dwenger High School and distributed in Darfur periodically during the campaign."

"(Stores and organizations) could donate new athletic shoes to the organization, sponsor this drive by offering discounts for new athletic shoes purchased for Samaritan's Feet, or display posters and collection information," Wheeler says. "We are happy to provide a collection receptacle for shoes at your organization and collect the shoes periodically for our drive."

To donate contact Melissa Wheeler by e-mail at mwheeler@bishopdwenger.com or by phone at (260) 496-4700.

Learn more about Samaritan's Feet at www.samaritansfeet.org and the CANDLES Museum and Eva Kor's story at www.candlesholocaustmuseum.org.

Celtic cross dedication is part of St. Patrick Day celebrations

BY TOM UEBBING

SOUTH BEND — A casualty of the renovation of the sanctuary at St. Patrick's Church, South Bend, was a set of solid white Cararra marble steps that formerly rose from the sanctuary floor to an elevated pulpit. The new design eliminated the steps and set the pulpit on the floor. The workmen temporarily set the steps outside the church along the wall.

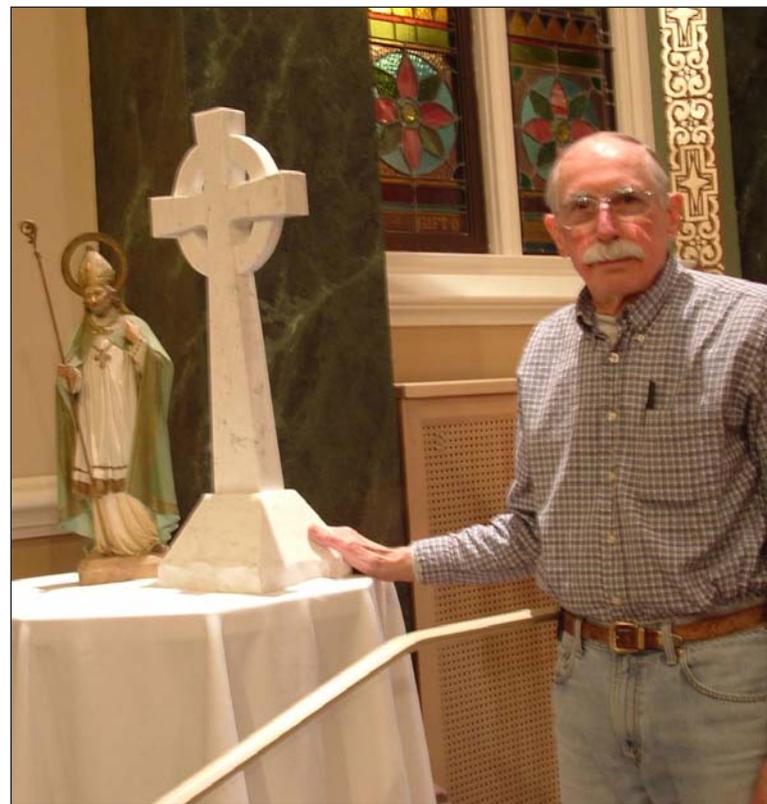
Temporary turned into two years and the pastor, Father Leonard Chrobot, asked sacristan Jim Burns to dispose of them.

A parishioner had the idea of contacting a cemetery monument company to see if they could use the marble, but they said it was not suitable for their kind of work.

Burns contacted a local sculptor, Dick Trench of Fire Arts, Inc. in South Bend. This studio specializes in three-dimensional art in stone, ceramic and metals.

Trench agreed to sculpt a section of the steps into a Celtic cross for the church in exchange for keeping the rest of the marble for other projects. Trench had a long career at Bendix/Allied Signal as a mechanical engineer and pursued his interest in stone sculpture on the side, taking a class at the South Bend Art Center taught by Konstantin Milonadis.

The cross will be presented to the parish following a 9 a.m. Mass on Saturday, March 14. The



TOM UEBBING

Sculptor Dick Trench made the Celtic cross for St. Patrick Parish using solid white Cararra marble from the church's steps. The cross will be dedicated following the 9 a.m. Mass on March 14 and placed on a pedestal along with a statue of the parish's patron, St. Patrick, next to the south wall of the sanctuary.

Mass is hosted by the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the parish. The Michiana Celtic Society sponsors the city's St. Patrick's Day parade, which will begin at 11 a.m. that morning, anticipating the saint's feast day on March 17.

St. Patrick's Parish will offer an afternoon of Irish culture including food, step dancing and music from noon to 4 p.m. The event is open to the public. Admission is free, but there is a charge for the food.

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St. Patrick's Day
March 17

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