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Serving the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend



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TODAY'S CATHOLIC



CNS PHOTO/COURTESY OF SCALA, ART RESOURCE

The Resurrection is depicted in this Renaissance fresco from the Chapel of St. Sebastian in Lanslevillard, France. Easter, the feast of the Resurrection, is April 12 in the Latin rite this year.

Easter Message

BY BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

"He saw and believed." — Jn 20:8.

This profession from the Apostle John is from the Gospel that we will hear on Easter Sunday morning.

Was this the full Easter faith that is asked of us in our daily life? It seems not. A more correct understanding of this sentence is to say, "He began to believe."

One scholar of the Gospel of John puts it this way:

"This is not yet complete belief in the Resurrection: for that, it will be necessary for the mind of the disciple to be open to the understanding of the Scripture Luke 24:45 for him to see the Savior, himself, and to receive from him the gift of the Holy Spirit. Only on these conditions, will he reach the fullness of Easter faith."

— Ignace de La Potterie, "The Hour of Jesus."

There is ample evidence in the Resurrection accounts that the disciples were not ready to believe, and even in one case referred to the reports as "nonsense." Yet later, while fishing on the lake, the apostles saw the Lord Jesus and John cried out, "It is the Lord." Over 50 days the apostles saw him on many occasions and so did many others, as St. Paul recounts in the 15th chapter of Corinthians, "He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. To more than five hundred brothers at once, most of whom are still living ... after that he appeared to James, then to all the apostles." Even this, while necessary for the foundation of the church, was not yet full Easter faith.

So before belief that he had, indeed, risen was to spread across the world transforming hearts and minds, it was necessary for the apostles to see him. This was a foundation stone for the church. And prompted by the Holy Spirit, the fact of the Resurrection was preached all over the world; and it is still being preached today.

The fullness of Easter faith is found on the Sunday after Easter, when the Lord said to Thomas and the others, "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

A divine intervention was necessary for anyone to believe this. For us, it came at our baptism and continues with the sacramental life, especially the Eucharist. Only a few saw him face-to-face, but that was one of the necessary foundation stones for the faith that changed the world. We depend on their report and on the grace of Christ given to us to believe, although we do not see.

Easter is a time to express our faith, and it will grow through prayer and the Eucharist.

Let us stand every day in our actions and words for faith in the Risen Christ, who will transform all who approach him in freedom and love.

A blessed Easter to you all.

+ John M. D'Arcy

ND Response holds Palm Sunday prayer rally

BY DIANE FREEBY

NOTRE DAME — "Whatever else is clear," said Chicago's Cardinal Francis George, "it is clear that Notre Dame does not understand what it means to be Catholic when they issued this invitation."

A crowd of some 400 cheered as Notre Dame philosophy professor Fred Freddoso quoted the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops regarding Notre Dame's decision to have President Barack Obama speak at this year's commencement. Freddoso was one of the speakers at a Palm Sunday prayer rally, organized by the campus pro-life coalition, Notre Dame Response.

Students, faculty, families and pro-life supporters from both near and far gathered near the steps of the Administration Building. In addition to coffee and doughnuts, tables full of red envelopes and white carnations

filled the sidewalks. Many participated in the group's Red Envelope campaign, addressing empty red envelopes to be given to Notre Dame president, Holy Cross Father John I. Jenkins. Each envelope read:

"Father Jenkins, This envelope represents one child who died because of an abortion.

It is empty because the life that was taken is now unable to be a part of our world.

This envelope was going to be sent to President Obama on March 31. However, as he is scheduled to receive an honorary doctorate of laws degree from Notre Dame on May 17, we ask that you deliver it to him on our behalf at that time."

St. Joseph County Right to Life president Tom Gill was among those on hand. He commended the Notre Dame students, and said his group would be following their lead and suggests other pro-life supporters do the

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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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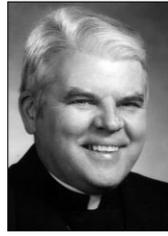
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Priests at prayer



NEWS & NOTES

BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

Lenten Day of Recollection

There were many special moments as a bishop, but none more important or more filled with grace than when our priests pray together around their bishop. It happens many times a year, and as I prepare these notes late on Palm Sunday evening, I look forward to the chrisms Masses. But that is not what I am speaking of here. I refer to our Days of Recollection.

We had one this past Tuesday at the place we always go, St. Martin de Porres — sitting beside Lake Wawasee. It is a point more or less of equal distance between our two large cities. This year, we had one of our very largest groups ever. All in all, I think 86 priests.

We start around 10:30 a.m. Well, we are supposed to start at 10:30 a.m., but coffee and danish and time together for priests — many of them living alone — is most welcome. So by the time we herd everybody upstairs to the church, it is closer to 11 a.m.

Our speaker this year was Father Tom Ascherman, SVD. Father Tom has much experience as a retreat master. He is the associate pastor at St. Patrick, Fort Wayne, and a true missionary.

He, like so many today, is a master of PowerPoint. The talk centered around St. Paul as teacher and missionary, for this is the Pauline Year, as you well know.

The focus — fitting enough for Lent — was on forgiveness. The morning talk on God forgiving us, and the afternoon was especially profound and moving on reconciliation — forgiveness between each other. Giving moving examples from his own life and spirituality, and focusing on Christ and his relationship with Peter and Matthew, and with many appropriate references to St. Paul, it was easy to see that our priests were very moved.

In both morning and evening, we had short passages from movies; the first on St. Paul; and the afternoon from the "Life of Christ," by Zeffarelli.

These served to draw all of us into a prayerful spirit.

There was no doubt that the use of the PowerPoint and the films drew us into the conference and the prayerful spirit of the Lenten season.

The nature of the day

At our Days of Recollection, the priests are looking for a word of inspiration, and the opportunity for the sacrament of penance; and this day provided both. Five

priests heard confessions, and it was my joy to receive the sacrament of reconciliation in preparation for Holy Week.

We break for lunch, and after the second conference there is a eucharistic service. The service included a Pauline litany and a reading from the Pauline letters. A wonderful day for those called to be missionaries and preachers of the word of God.

We have an extraordinary presbyterate, and a day with them is a joy.

An evening of prayer

Prompted by our Diocesan Review Board and Mary Glowaski — who acts as a coordinator for those who have been hurt by sexual abuse from a priest (alas, still so difficult to say), I led an evening of prayer and repentance this past week at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

The prayer service, beautifully put together, gave all of us some time for prayer. There was a litany of repentance and a time for silence. I am grateful to Mary, and also to Brian MacMichael who prepared this very moving service.

This service was rooted, also, in the directive that Pope Benedict XVI gave when he came to visit us a year ago:

“Rightly, you attach priority to showing compassion
and care to the victims. It is your God-given
responsibility as pastors to bind up the wounds
caused by every breach of trust, to foster healing,
to promote reconciliation and to reach out with loving
concern to those so seriously wronged.”

POPE BENEDICT XVI

“Rightly, you attach priority to showing compassion and care to the victims. It is your God-given responsibility as pastors to bind up the wounds caused by every breach of trust, to foster healing, to promote reconciliation and to reach out with loving concern to those so seriously wronged.”

Deacons soon to be priests

What a joy it will be to be assisted this week by three deacons; that is, transitional deacons — those close to being priests. We have 11 men, young in spirit, studying in a program to be permanent deacons; and they will be a blessing on the diocese. However, this year at the chrisms Masses, I will be assisted by three candidates for the priesthood.

Two of those who are scheduled to be with me at the Fort Wayne chrisms Mass this Tuesday night are: Deacon Jacob Runyon — a native of St. Louis Parish, Besancon, and Deacon Fernando Jimenez. Born in Mexico, Fernando is a member of St. Patrick Parish, Fort Wayne. These two men are scheduled to be ordained in

October; and what a joy it will be to be with them at the chrisms Mass in Fort Wayne.

On Monday evening at St. Matthew Parish, South Bend, I am scheduled to have three deacons with me; in addition to Fernando and Jake — there will be Charles McCoy, CSC. Charlie is a mathematics expert; having obtained his doctorate in that difficult science (he has my special respect, because I was so poor in mathematics). He is scheduled to be ordained on Easter Saturday at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, along with other Holy Cross deacons. He has been working as a deacon at Christ the King Parish, South Bend, under the excellent guidance of the pastor, Father Neil Wack, CSC.

We have 14 young men in the seminary for our diocese. I have accepted two more, and others are moving through the process. I hope you pray for this every day; that young men of good quality will continue to come forward for the holy priesthood in our diocese.

Hats off to the Knights

For the second year in a row, the Bishop Luers boys basketball team are state champions. As I write this, I am scheduled to drop in on their pep rally on Tuesday of Holy Week. Two in a row. Remarkable. Many people think this team could have played well against the teams in the classes above them; namely, 3-A and 4-A, and I believe that as well.

Congratulations, also, to one of their most faithful fans, Msgr. Bill Lester, who coached basketball years ago in Huntington. Monsignor attended many of the games, including the state championship game.

A visit with priests

On Palm Sunday afternoon, shortly after leading the beautiful liturgy at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, I had the great joy of visiting several of our priests who are ill. This is a special responsibility of the bishop, and it was a joy to visit at Saint Anne Home with Msgr. Lester, Fathers Ray Balzer, Paul Miller and Bob Traub. Like all at Saint Anne's, they are under the excellent pastoral care of Father Jack Overmyer — the chaplain there.

I then drove a few miles west to visit Father Bob Yast, former pastor of St. Anthony's, South Bend; St. Joseph, Mishawaka; and St. Patrick, Walkerton. They are all heroes, and it was a privilege to be with them for a short Holy Week visit.

A Blessed Easter to everyone.

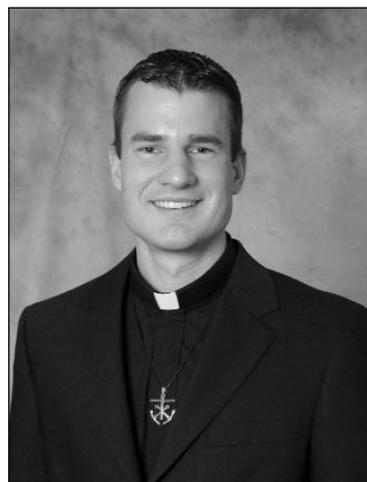
See you all next week. Opening day is here.

Congregation of Holy Cross to ordain three priests

NOTRE DAME — The Indiana Province of the Congregation of Holy Cross will ordain three new priests on Saturday, April 18, at 2 p.m. in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, located on the campus of the University of Notre Dame. Archbishop John G. Vlazny, D.D., of Portland, Ore., will confer the sacrament of holy orders on Rev. Mr. Vincent A. Kuna, CSC, Rev. Mr. Charles F. McCoy, CSC, and Rev. Mr. Aaron J. Michka, CSC.

“The international Holy Cross community is blessed to welcome these men who will bring hope and joy to many people through our ministries,” says Holy Cross Father Edwin H. Obermiller, director of the Office of Vocations for the Congregation of Holy Cross, Indiana Province-Eastern Province. “These ordinations are a time of gratitude and celebration for us.”

Vince Kuna, CSC, grew up in Naperville, Ill., where he attended grammar school and high school, lettering in varsity swimming and founding his high school's water polo club. Kuna received his bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame in 1999 and, in the fall of 2002, entered the candidate program at Moreau Seminary. Following a year at the Holy Cross novitiate in Colorado, he returned to Moreau Seminary in 2004 where he served in several ministerial settings, including hospital chaplain, teacher, RCIA and marriage preparation, in addition to earning his masters of divinity degree at Notre Dame in 2008. Kuna professed final vows with the Congregation of Holy Cross and was ordained to the diaconate last summer and has served at

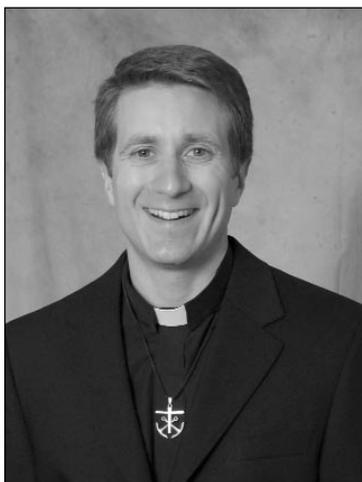


REV. MR. AARON J. MICHKA, CSC

Sacred Heart Parish in Colorado Springs as transitional deacon this past year.

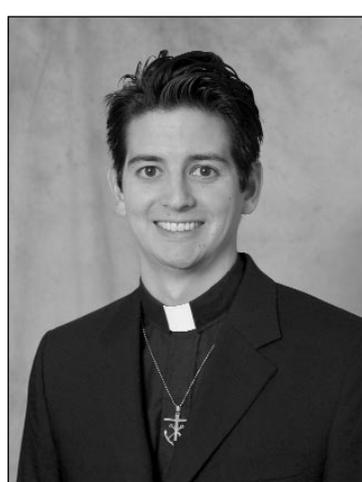
On Sunday, April 19, Kuna will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at 10 a.m., which will be carried on CatholicTV (Comcast Channel 268). He will also offer a Mass of Thanksgiving that evening in the chapel of St. Edward's Hall, a Notre Dame residence hall, at 10 p.m. Additional Masses of Thanksgiving are scheduled at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Naperville, Ill., on April 26 and at Sacred Heart Parish in Colorado Springs on May 10.

The middle of three children, **Charles F. McCoy, CSC**, grew up in the Chicago area and attended Deerfield High School where he graduated as valedictorian in 1991. He earned a bachelor's degree at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, and went on to graduate study at the University of Notre Dame



REV. MR. CHARLES F. MCCOY, CSC

where he earned a doctorate in mathematics. Prior to entering the candidate program at Moreau Seminary in 2002, he was a visiting assistant professor of mathematics at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Following his candidate year, McCoy spent a year at the Holy Cross novitiate in Colorado Springs and returned to Moreau Seminary in 2004 to complete his master of divinity degree at Notre Dame. During his years of study and formation at Moreau Seminary, McCoy volunteered with hospice and as a hospital chaplain, served as a counselor at the Women's Care Center in South Bend, worked with the marriage preparation program through the Office of Campus Ministry at Notre Dame, served as assistant hall director and visiting assistant professor of mathematics at the University of Portland and finally as assistant rector of Old College, the undergraduate seminary pro-



REV. MR. VINCENT A. KUNA, CSC

gram at the University of Notre Dame.

Following his final profession of vows with the Congregation of Holy Cross in the summer of 2008, McCoy was ordained to the diaconate and assigned to Christ the King Parish in South Bend, where he has served this past year as transitional deacon. Following his ordination on Easter Saturday, McCoy will offer a Mass of Thanksgiving on April 19 at 12:15 p.m. at Christ the King Parish, with Holy Cross Father Neil Wack, pastor, concelebrating. McCoy will also offer a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Patrick Parish in Lake Forest, Ill.

Born and raised in Cypress, Texas, **Aaron J. Michka, CSC**, attended Cy-Fair High School where he participated in band and lacrosse and was a member of the Student Council and the National Honor Society. With interests in music and the outdoors, Michka was also

an active member of his parish youth group and the Boy Scouts.

Following graduation from high school, Michka enrolled at the University of Notre Dame where he lived at Old College, the undergraduate seminary program at Notre Dame, and earned his bachelor's degree in philosophy from the university in 2004. Following a year at the Holy Cross novitiate in Colorado Springs, Michka returned to Moreau Seminary and Notre Dame where he earned his master of divinity degree in 2008. During his seminary years, Michka volunteered with Hospice, the Center for the Homeless and the Women's Care Center in South Bend, and also worked in prison ministry, adult education at a local parish, and marriage preparation through the Office of Campus Ministry at Notre Dame.

Michka professed his perpetual vows with the Congregation of Holy Cross and was ordained to the diaconate in the summer of 2008 and was assigned to Parroquia de Nuestra Madre Santísima de la Luz in Guadalupe, Nuevo Leon, Mexico, where he has served as deacon and director of the postulant program during the past year. Michka will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving at Notre Dame's Basilica of the Sacred Heart on April 19, 2009 at 11:45 a.m. with Holy Cross Father Peter Logsdon, pastor of Parroquia de Nuestra Madre Santísima de la Luz, concelebrating. He will also celebrate Masses of Thanksgiving in Guadalupe, Mexico, on April 26 and in his home parish, Prince of Peace Parish in Texas.

Head of Holy Cross order asks President Obama to rethink position on abortion

BY JOHN THAVIS

ROME (CNS) — The head of the Holy Cross religious order that founded the University of Notre Dame has written to U.S. President Barack Obama and asked him to rethink his positions on abortion and other life issues.

U.S. Father Hugh W. Cleary, Holy Cross superior general in Rome, said that when Obama receives an honorary degree from the Indiana university and delivers the commencement address in May, he should take to heart the objections of Catholics who have been scandalized by the invitation.

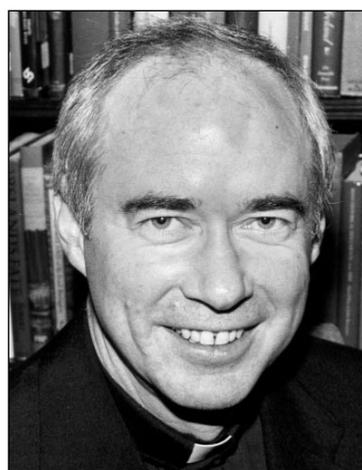
Father Cleary asked the president to use the occasion to “give your conscience a fresh opportunity to be formed anew in a holy awe and reverence before human life in every form at every stage — from conception to natural death.”

The 13-page letter, dated March 22, was made available to Catholic News Service in Rome. Father Cleary also prepared an abridged version of the text as an “open letter” to the president, which was expected to be published on the Web site of *America* magazine.

Father Cleary's letter began by congratulating Obama on being awarded an honorary doctorate from Notre Dame, and said the university was honored to have him deliver the commencement address.

The visit should be a “teachable moment” for all involved, Father Cleary said.

He asked the president to take advantage of the occasion to “rethink, through prayerful wrestling with your own conscience, your stated positions on the vital ‘life issues’ of our day, particularly in regard to abortion, embryonic forms of stem-cell research and your position on the



FATHER HUGH W. CLEARY, CSC

Freedom of Choice Act.”

Father Cleary repeatedly quoted Obama's words at the National Prayer Breakfast in February: “There is no God who condones taking the life of an innocent human being.” Sadly, the priest said, legalized abortion implies that a person's choice for person-

al freedom supersedes this obligation to protect and nurture human life.

“An ‘unwanted’ child comes in many forms: an untimely presence; a disabled or deformed creature; an embryo of the wrong sex; a child conceived out of wedlock; a child conceived through a hideous crime,” he said.

Father Cleary said the United States has a history of defining the parameters of human life “when it suits our self-interest.” One example was slavery, justified by denying that a black human being of African descent was fully human, he said.

Father Cleary noted that many U.S. Catholics today feel their beliefs are dismissed without the serious attention they deserve. Catholics recognize that they live in a pluralistic society, he said, but also believe they have something vital to say about life issues.

“We want to be taken serious-

ly. We insist on taking ourselves seriously; that is why there has been so much protest and turmoil in regard to your presence at Notre Dame,” he wrote.

He suggested that at his Notre Dame appearance Obama speak about how Catholics “can be taken seriously for our faith convictions without being dismissed offhandedly and shunned; it is too offensive to be ignored, it is unacceptable.”

Father Cleary said in his letter that he had been deluged with angry e-mails regarding Notre Dame's invitation to the president. He explained that he has no authority over the decision-making by the university, which is directed by a board of fellows and a board of trustees.

Priests and brothers of the Holy Cross order continue to serve at the university, and the university's president — at present, Father John I. Jenkins — is always a Holy Cross priest.

Discerning God's will focus of latest Young Adult Retreat

BY JEANNIE EWING

ANGOLA — As a young adult who has attended the Bishop's Retreat annually for nearly 10 years, it was clear that this year's retreat was going to be much different than the others on many levels. First of all, the Campus Young Adult Ministry (CYAM) staff was partially new, including Bridget Becker as a campus minister and Mary Glowaski as CYAM director. Under this new dynamic, combined with the seasoned staff, it was thrilling to watch the weekend unfold.

In addition to new staff members, there was a new location for the retreat — at Potawatomi Inn within Pokagon State Park. There, old friends reunited, while new ones joined in conversation and fellowship. The overall ambiance was one of change, but these were clearly the delicate work of God's providence, a gift



Those attending the Young Adult Retreat participated in group discussion on finding one's own vocation.

to all of those present.

The weekend's theme was "Discernment," an appropriate and fitting topic for every young adult, regardless of where they

are in their faith journey.

Participants were asked rhetorical questions, such as, "What are three decisions I am facing now in my life? How can I know



PHOTOS BY BENJAMIN R. EWING

Mary Glowaski, left, and Bridget Becker, the new staff of CYAM, pose at the Young Adult Retreat.

God's will as I make these decisions?" In many cases, these questions facilitated small group discussions regarding finding one's vocation as priest/religious, celibate single or married person.

The wisdom of Father Tom Shoemaker, Father Kevin Bauman and Bishop John M. D'Arcy revealed that, in discovering one's vocation, it is necessary to tap into several available resources. First and foremost is prayer, through eucharistic adoration or spontaneous prayer, which requires contemplation and communication with God in solitude. Secondly, through prayer a strong desire may open towards one vocation over the others. God plants these desires within souls. Discussion with family and friends about a particular vocation follows and spiritual direction may be appropriate for additional assistance. But above all, remaining close to the sacraments, especially the Eucharist and reconciliation is essential.

Retreatants learned that discernment is a process. Any conclusion to major life's decisions — or even the smaller, daily ones — requires patience in waiting on God's timing. Discernment is

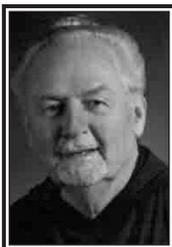
built on an ongoing, intimate relationship with God, that entails listening, solitude and silence. Because of this, all participants were asked to turn off cell phones, pages, iPods, laptops and TVs in the rooms.

This year's retreat was an oasis from the busyness of daily life. Living without personal technology for 48 hours provided countless opportunities for spiritual reflection. During free time, participants could choose to pray the rosary, attend eucharistic adoration, journal, read or walk a nature trail through the state park. As a result of disconnecting from personal technology, participants were able to reconnect to God.

As always, Bishop D'Arcy answered questions from participants on Saturday afternoon, many of which demonstrated that he continues the process of discernment in his recent decision as to whether or not to attend Notre Dame's commencement.

As the diocesan shepherd and a public representative of the Catholic Church, Bishop D'Arcy asked God through prayer before the Blessed Sacrament how he should respond to President Obama's speech and honorary law degree at Notre Dame. In courage and faith, he realized God was asking him to stand up for life issues by declining attendance at the commencement. In this way, he hopes that President Obama may come to understand how critical and central life issues are to the Catholic faith.

The weekend concluded with Sunday Mass during which Bishop D'Arcy concelebrated with Fathers Shoemaker and Bauman. Following the two-day retreat, each participant took away the gift of community as well as solitude and the reminder that God is actively involved in every detail of life. They all became living aspects of Sunday's Gospel message, "Unless a grain of wheat shall fall upon the ground and die, it remains but a single grain with no life."



Parish Mission St. Mary of the Annunciation • Bristol, Indiana May 2-6, 2009

Presented by Father Angelus M. Shaughnessy
Order of Friars Minor Capuchin

MASSES CELEBRATED:

Saturday, May 2 - 4:30 pm, Sunday, May 3 - 8:30 & 11:00 am, Wed., May 6 - 7:00 pm

Presentations by Father Shaughnessy May 3, 4, 5, at 7:00 pm

(Reception following Wednesday evening Mass)

CONFESSIONS...

Before and after each evening presentation (except Wednesday)

Before and after 9:00 am daily Mass and May 4, 5, 6 at 3:00 pm

Father Angelus has devoted his life to delivering God's message of joy, hope and a promise of everlasting life. A message and teaching the fundamentals of Christianity through his missionary work in Papua, New Guinea and throughout the United States. Matthew Edmund Shaughnessy, was born on November 16, 1929 in Rochester, Pa. He was baptized on November 24, 1929 at St. Cecilia's Church in Rochester. For eight years he attended school there under the guidance of the Sisters of Divine Providence and graduated in 1943. Upon graduation, he entered St. Fidelis College and Seminary in Herman, Pa. which was staffed by the Capuchin-Franciscan Friars of the St. Augustine Province where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Arts. A talented and capable athlete in his youth, Father Angelus turned down an offer to play professional baseball as a left-handed pitcher for the Cleveland Indians to enter the Capuchin Novitiate in Cumberland, Maryland. On July 14, 1953, Father solemnly professed his perpetual vows as a Capuchin Friar. Father's theological studies took him to Capuchin college in Washington, DC for four years where he received a Master's Degree in Religious Education. On June 4, 1955, Father Angelus was ordained to the priesthood at the hands of Bishop John McNamara in the crypt of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. From 1956 until 1966, Father Angelus served as the Director of Secular Franciscan Order (S.F.O.) at St. Augustine Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Father Angelus volunteered to work as a missionary in Papua New Guinea (P.N.G.) where he was spiritual director and teacher in the Pontifical Seminary of Madang for eleven years. As a major part of his parochial ministry, Father and his parishioners built eleven permanent churches and three bush churches. While ministering to the needs of the people of P.N.G., Father was privileged to baptize 1,227 men, women, and children. Results of his physical examination revealed that his cardiogram was unsatisfactory and in the summer of 1980, Father was reassigned to western Pennsylvania. Under the auspices of St. Fidelis Retreat Center, he maintained a rigorous schedule of parish missions and renewals, preached and directed retreats, accepted parish help-outs, days of recollection and appointments for personal individual counseling. He continued this work for nine years out of St. Mary's Friary, Export, PA and four years with St. Paulinus Church in Clairton, PA. Since July 1, 2001, Father Angelus has been stationed at Birmingham, Alabama as the Minister General to the Franciscan Missionaries of the Eternal Word. After circling the globe four times and traveling thousands of miles over barely navigable terrain, Father delights in characterizing this present ministry as "the good life - a taste of the hundredfold here on earth."

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Pittsburgh auxiliary bishop named to head Diocese of Kalamazoo

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has named Pittsburgh Auxiliary Bishop Paul J. Bradley, 63, to head the Diocese of Kalamazoo, Mich.

The appointment was announced in Washington April 6 by Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

Bishop Bradley succeeds Bishop James A. Murray, 76, whose resignation was accepted the same day by the pope. Canon law requires bishops to submit their resignation to the pope when they reach age 75.

In a statement Pittsburgh Bishop David A. Zubik called the appointment "bittersweet."

"We celebrate with the faithful of the Diocese of Kalamazoo, who will be blessed with Bishop Bradley's ministry," he said. "At the same time, we realize that we are losing an adviser, a leader, a spiritual mentor and a friend who has served the church of Pittsburgh so well since his ordination as a priest nearly 38 years ago."

Bishop Bradley said he felt humbled and honored by the appointment, and is eager to "become one with the faithful of Kalamazoo." But he admitted he will "surely miss the clergy, religious and faithful" of Pittsburgh, his home for his 63 years.

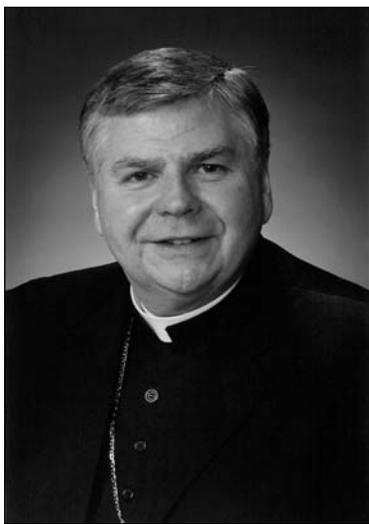
He will be installed June 5 at St. Augustine Cathedral in Kalamazoo.

Bishop Bradley was administrator of the Diocese of Pittsburgh for 15 months in 2006 and 2007 following Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl's appointment to the Archdiocese of Washington and before Bishop Zubik's appointment to Pittsburgh.

In that capacity, he established a \$1.25 million outreach fund for clergy sexual abuse victims. "Outreach and healing have been central to our response," Bishop Bradley said in a 2007 statement announcing the fund.

Later in 2007, he also appointed a nun as the diocese's first "parish life collaborator" to share in the pastoral care of a parish.

"No one in the church engages in ministry alone. Collaboration



CNS PHOTO/DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH

Pope Benedict XVI has named Pittsburgh Auxiliary Bishop Paul J. Bradley, 63, to head the Diocese of Kalamazoo, Mich. The appointment was announced in Washington April 6 by Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States. Bishop Bradley is pictured in an undated photo.

is the key to the success in all ministry and certainly in this newly established ministry in the life of the diocese," Bishop Bradley said at the commissioning of Sister Dorothy Pawlus, a Sister of the Holy Family of Nazareth, to her position at St. Bartholomew Parish in Penn Hills, Pa.

Bishop Bradley was ordained a priest for the Pittsburgh Diocese in 1971 and served for the next 12 years as parochial vicar in three parishes.

From 1983 to 1988 he was director of the diocesan Office for Family Life. For the next eight years he was secretary for human services; his office was later renamed the Secretariat for Social Concerns.

From 1991 to 1993 he also was a member of the ministry team serving Madonna del Castello Parish in Swissvale, Pa. In 1994 he was appointed pastor of St. Sebastian Parish in Pittsburgh, returning to his first diocesan assignment.

In January 2001, he was named rector of St. Paul

Cathedral and pastor of the cathedral parish.

Bishop Bradley was born Oct. 18, 1945, in Glassport, Pa. He attended St. Meinrad Seminary in St. Meinrad, Ind. He also earned a master's degree in social work from the University of Pittsburgh.

In 2003, he was named general secretary and vicar for the Pittsburgh Diocese. On Dec. 16, 2004, he was named auxiliary bishop of Pittsburgh by Pope John Paul II.

A former chancellor of the Diocese of Lansing, Mich., Bishop Murray had been rector of St. Mary Cathedral in Lansing since 1973, and moderator of the curia since 1991 until his January 1998 installation in Kalamazoo.

Bishop Murray at his episcopal ordination said he would seek more priests to serve in the diocese. The first priest he ordained was Father Lawrence Farrell, a 56-year-old widower and father of three grown children; he was the first priest to be ordained in the diocese in about four years.

Born July 5, 1932, in Jackson, Mich., Bishop Murray attended St. Mary elementary and high schools in Jackson, Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit and St. John Provincial Seminary in the Detroit suburb of Plymouth. He was ordained a priest of the Lansing Diocese in 1958.

Following ordination, he was named parochial vicar of St. Joseph Parish in St. Joseph, Mich., until 1961, when he was appointed assistant pastor at St. Mary Cathedral in Lansing. In 1962 he went to The Catholic University of America in Washington, where he earned a licentiate in canon law in 1964.

He was named assistant pastor of St. Therese Parish in Lansing, where he served from 1964 to 1968. He was appointed diocesan chancellor in 1968 — a post he held for 29 years. He was named a monsignor in 1993.

In 2001 "Rejoice in the Lord Always," a collection of 48 homilies delivered during his episcopal ministry, was published by Stuart Publishing Co. in Lansing.

Prayer and penance service offers healing for abuse victims

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

FORT WAYNE — A prayer and penance service held recently at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in downtown Fort Wayne was a quiet affirmation of the Catholic Church's determination to reach out to victims of abuse and their families. With Bishop John M. D'Arcy as presider, the event focused on spiritual healing and redemption.

Bishop D'Arcy opened the evening of prayer and repentance by saying, "We've come to do penance for our own sins and the sins of others."

He began by celebrating "the gift of the child," the wide-eyed innocent, who is always learning from others, trusting in his parents and open to God. Children approach Jesus Christ in the Eucharist by "opening their tiny hearts to him," he said, and understand God's goodness by the good they see in their parents, their teachers and others in positions of responsibility. When that trust is violated, innocence is destroyed and irrevocable harm is done.

Bishop D'Arcy cited passages from Matthew's Gospel when Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to them." Likewise, he said, Luke's Gospel reveals that Jesus rebuked his disciples when they tried to keep the children away from him. Indeed, Jesus exhorts all to be like children in order to enter his kingdom.

Speaking directly of the recent clergy abuse scandal, the bishop said, "Abuse by priests cries to heaven for vengeance ... there is no place in the church for a priest who has harmed a child." And

the church has moved to root out this evil, he added.

In a recent letter to diocesan priests about the upcoming prayer service Bishop D'Arcy clarified his position. "This evening of prayer must be united to all the other things that have been going on in our diocese, in which so many priests and laity have been involved; namely, the prevention and elimination of this terrible scourge through making the church ever more safe for children through our safe environment practices and our careful screening."

Pope Benedict XVI has instructed bishops to "bind up wounds, foster healing and promote reconciliation," said Bishop D'Arcy. So his duty is clear.

And all Catholics must be sensitive to the needs of the abused, he added. It is important for victims to know that the church wants to reach out to them and to bear their pain, and that this healing service is an extension of God's love and mercy. In addition, a diocesan victim outreach program is available, which offers counseling and a meeting with the bishop.

As harshly as he condemned abusers, Bishop D'Arcy closed by asking his listeners to begin the process of forgiving them. It may be difficult and requires purity of heart. "Blessed are the pure of heart for they shall see God," he reminded them.

The diocesan review committee, along with Mary Glowoski, victim's assistance coordinator in Fort Wayne, Father Bob Schulte, diocesan vicar general, and Brian MacMichael, director of the diocesan Office of Worship, worked together to plan the service.



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Outpouring of grief reflect Binghamton's immigrant roots

BINGHAMTON, N.Y. (CNS) — The 14 people who died April 3 in the shooting at the American Civic Association — and the dozens who escaped — reflected the city's immigrant past and present, as has the outpouring of support and grief from the region, according to area priests and others. As word of events at the immigrant services center spread that Friday, Buddhist, Muslim, Jewish, Catholic and Protestant religious leaders flocked to a Catholic Charities office nearby to provide support for anxious relatives and friends of people who were believed to be inside the agency. While police tried to understand what was happening at the center, counselors, clergy, translators and others gathered at Catholic Charities, said staff member Marsha Maroney. She told Catholic News Service April 6 that dozens of counselors and others with social service skills would be on hand at Catholic Charities for as long as people needed assistance in coping with the worst crime Binghamton-area residents could recall happening in their community. Police said Jiverly A. Wong, 41, barricaded an exit route at the center with his car, then killed 13 people including an English teacher and a dozen students. He shot and wounded four others before taking his own life, they said.

Iowa bishops: Allowing gay marriage 'will grievously harm families'

DAVENPORT, Iowa (CNS) — Iowa's Catholic bishops vigorously disagreed with the Iowa Supreme Court's unanimous decision April 3 that strikes down state law defining marriage as a union of one man and one woman. "This decision rejects the wisdom of thousands of years of human history. It implements a novel understanding of marriage, which will grievously harm families and children," the bishops said in a statement prepared by the Iowa Catholic Conference. The bishops vowed to continue to protect and promote marriage as a union between a man and a woman and asked Catholics and other citizens of Iowa to call for a constitutional amendment on marriage. With the high court's ruling, Iowa becomes the third state in the nation to recognize marriages for gay and lesbian couples, after Massachusetts and Connecticut. In its 7-0 decision, the court in Des Moines ruled that "limiting civil marriage to a union between a man and a woman violates the Iowa Constitution." The decision further allows gay and lesbian couples full access to the institution of civil marriage. The ruling resolves an action brought by six same-sex couples who were denied marriage licenses in Polk County because of the 1998 Defense of

NEWS BRIEFS

INJURED MAN WALKS PAST HOUSE AFTER EARTHQUAKE



CNS PHOTO/CHRIS HELGREN, REUTERS

An injured man walks past his destroyed house after an earthquake in the Italian village of Onna April 6. A powerful earthquake struck a huge area of central Italy as residents slept April 6, killing more than 200 people and making up to 50,000 homeless.

Marriage Act that defined marriage as a union between a man and a woman.

Pope mourns migrants who drowned trying to reach Europe

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Too many people fleeing extreme poverty and war die crossing the Mediterranean from Africa in search of a better life in Europe, Pope Benedict XVI said. During his midday recitation of the Angelus prayer April 5, the pope remembered the estimated 200-300 people who drowned a week earlier in the sea off the coast of Libya when stormy weather caused the sinking of the boats attempting to transport them to Italy. "We cannot resign ourselves to such tragedies, which unfortunately keep occurring," the pope said. The problem of the poor and oppressed trying to enter Europe through Italy and other Mediterranean countries is so large that it "makes ever more urgent coordinated strategies between the European Union and African states," the pope said. Pope Benedict also called for "the adoption of adequate humanitarian measures so that these migrants do not turn to unscrupulous traffickers," who charge hundreds of dollars for places on overcrowded, unsafe boats.

Vatican orders apostolic visitation of Legionaries of Christ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican has ordered an apostolic visitation of the institutions of the Legionaries of Christ following disclosures of sexual impropriety by the order's late founder, Father Marcial Maciel Degollado. The announcement of the unusual investigation was posted on the Web site of the Legionaries of Christ March 31, along with the text of a letter informing the Legionaries of the pope's decision. The letter, written by the Vatican secretary of state, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, said the pope wanted to help the Legionaries of Christ deal with its present problems with "truth and transparency." It said the visitation would be carried out by "a team of prelates," who were not identified. Apostolic visitation is a form of internal church investigation ordered by a pope and undertaken by his delegate or delegates. The pope sets the jurisdiction and powers of the visitation, which usually ends with the submission of a report to the Holy See. In February, Legionaries of Christ officials in Rome disclosed that Father Maciel had fathered a child. Sources in Rome said the order was also looking into accusations of financial irregularities by Father Maciel.

Changing tides may bring unrestricted US visits to Cuba

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The stars may be aligning for a reversal of the nearly 50-year-old ban on travel to Cuba by most U.S. citizens, a prospect hailed by farmers, the tourism industry and the Catholic Church in both countries, as well as by a majority of Cuban-Americans. Congress has already effectively relaxed the restrictions for Cuban-Americans to visit family in Cuba, by defunding enforcement of a portion of the law in the 2009 omnibus appropriations bill. The Treasury Department in March posted new guidelines saying Cuban-Americans may now visit relatives once a year, instead of once every three years. Treasury also posted information about procedural changes that will make it more viable for U.S. farmers to export their goods to Cuba. Meanwhile, bills introduced in the House and Senate with bipartisan support would allow unrestricted travel to Cuba by all U.S. citizens, ending the only U.S. ban on travel to a specific country. At an April 2 press conference, Republican and Democratic members of the House were joined by Cuban immigrants, including Miami Auxiliary Bishop Felipe J. Estevez, in calling for passage of the Freedom to Travel to Cuba Act, H.R. 874 and S. 428, in its Senate version.

Bad economy seen as cause for recent reports of increased abortions

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As Beth O'Reilly of Manassas, Va., grows larger with child, the Catholic mother of two other young children sees her home budget getting smaller as the economy becomes more unstable. She is seven months pregnant. She said the prospect of the added expenses that will accompany the arrival of her child has created some anxiety in her household, but her religious convictions prevented her from terminating her pregnancy. "If my husband loses his job, we're going to be in real trouble," she said. It didn't surprise her to learn that abortion clinics across the U.S. were reporting increased traffic in the past several months. She told Catholic News Service she was convinced the economic meltdown has caused expectant mothers to panic about their finances and how they will be able to afford a new baby right now. If abortions are indeed on the rise in the U.S. and that is tied to the economic meltdown, Deirdre McQuade, assistant director for policy and communications in the USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, told CNS March 30 that it's more important than ever to inform expectant mothers there is no need to resort to abortion and that assistance is available to them.

Some claim Ohio man's recovery related to Pope John Paul II

CLEVELAND (CNS) — Some people in Cleveland were connecting a 26-year-old local man's recovery from a gunshot wound to the head that doctors said should have killed him to a rosary blessed by Pope John Paul II that the man received from a hospital chaplain. Some labeled the recovery of Jory Aebly, who was shot execution-style during a mugging Feb. 21, a miracle and were speculating his case could help the sainthood cause of the late pope. Neither the Cleveland Diocese nor Vatican officials have commented on the case. Aebly and a co-worker, Jeremy Pechanec, 28, were both shot in the head in an apparent robbery when they were heading home after an evening out with friends in downtown Cleveland. Pechanec did not survive his injuries. After the shooting Aebly was taken to MetroHealth Medical Center, where doctors expected him to die. Father Arthur Snedeker, a Cleveland diocesan priest who is a chaplain at the hospital, gave Aebly the last rites of the church. At a press conference March 30, the day Aebly was released from the hospital, the priest told reporters he had prayed to Pope John Paul "to pray for Jory and to protect him." He said he gave the young man the last of a dozen rosaries the pope had blessed years before for the priest to give to patients.

Notre Dame hosts eucharistic procession

NOTRE DAME — The University of Notre Dame will hold its fifth annual eucharistic procession on Sunday, April 26. Mass will begin at 11:45 a.m. in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on the campus of the University of Notre Dame, followed by the procession and a picnic lunch provided by the campus Knights of Columbus.

All are welcome to join Father Patrick Neary, rector of Moreau Seminary, and the Notre Dame community as they celebrate Christ's presence in the Eucharist. Cosponsored by different groups from Notre Dame, Saint Mary's and Holy Cross College, the procession is a revival of an old tradition at the university.

Children of Mary is organizing a 40-hour devotion leading up to the eucharistic procession. Eucharistic adoration will be held for 40 hours before the procession in the Log Chapel near Bond Hall.

In case of rain, the procession will be held inside the basilica after the 11:45 a.m. Mass. The 2010 procession will be held on Sunday, April 18.

To support future eucharistic processions, donations can be made to Notre Dame Campus Ministry, with eucharistic procession added to the memo line. Mail donations to Father Kevin Russeau, CSC, 114 Coleman-Morse, Notre Dame, IN 46556. A charitable donation receipt will be sent to those who include their name and return address.

Student receives National Scholastic Art and Writing Award

FORT WAYNE — The National Scholastic Art Awards begin at the regional level in January, when teachers select and enter works of art from over 500 middle and high schools from Indiana and Ohio to the Fort Wayne Art Museum. Over 3,000 pieces are judged by three artists in areas of drawing, painting, design and sculpting.

Bishop Luers High School senior Nate Hoeffel won gold for his portfolio and his black dress design. Hoeffel was selected as one of the top five of the 200 gold recipients to receive the American Vision Award, as well. All regional level gold recipients' works were photographed and sent to New York for further judging.

The number of national gold winners totaled 10,000 entries. Hoeffel won gold in this group from a total of 200 winners. Hoeffel's dress, a linear design with more than 33 layers of tulle applied in ruffles and a yard of braided trim completing the bodice, will be on display in New York through June and July and will travel the U.S. for two years to promote the visual arts.

The award presentation from

AROUND THE DIOCESE

PREPARING HEARTS FOR HOLY WEEK



PROVIDED BY BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH

The CCD children and parishioners of Blessed Sacrament Parish in Albion meditated on the events of Holy Week last Sunday. The children in grades 1-4 presented a para-liturgy (reenactment) of the Last Supper. A group of young adults present the mimed Stations of the Cross, something some of the youth had participated in at St. Mary School in Avilla. Their hope was to prepare hearts to enter more deeply into the celebration of Holy Week.

National Scholastic Art will be the first week in June.

Hoeffel will be attending the Institute of Art in Chicago, for Fashion Design.

Bishop Dwenger hosts fishing for soles

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Dwenger High School Principal Fred Tone will be fishing for shoes for Darfur on April 16, when he will be on the roof of the school near the main entrance from 7-10 a.m. to collect new athletic shoes for the school's Holocaust Shoes for Darfur collection.

The school will meet for an assembly in the main gym at 2:35 p.m., when Principal Tone will fish for shoes. Each box of shoes will be listed with the name of the donor whether a teacher, student, alumnus, parent or community member. The winner caught will win a prize.

The prizes include — for a teacher, Principal Tone will serve as his/her substitute for a morning; a student will win a pizza party in the cafeteria at BDHS for him/herself and nine friends; all

other winners will receive a basket of Bishop Dwenger gear.

The public is invited to donate shoes and attend both events. For more information contact Melissa Wheeler at mwheeler@bish-opdwenger.com or (260) 496-4700.

Franciscans celebrate 800th anniversary

COLUMBIA CITY — The joy of Easter Week will be the backdrop for a special eucharistic celebration as Franciscans from the Fort Wayne area gather in Columbia City at St. Paul of the Cross Church on April 16 at 6:30 p.m. Father Larry Kramer, pastor of St. Paul of the Cross and himself a Secular Franciscan since his seminary days, will celebrate a Mass of thanksgiving in honor of the 800th anniversary of the founding of the Franciscan Order.

According to Sister Anita Holzmer, OSF, spiritual advisor to several of the Secular Franciscan fraternities in the area, April 16th is a very important day in the history of the Franciscan Order. "April 16 is the date traditionally given for the papal approval of the

primitive rule of the Order of Friars Minor," she said. "April 16, 2009, is thus a day for the entire Franciscan family to celebrate the foundational text that has enabled millions of Franciscan over the past eight centuries to live a Gospel way of life in imitation of Jesus Christ."

As part of the celebration, Father Kramer will lead a renewal of professions and vows for all Franciscans present, both secular and religious.

The Secular Franciscan fraternities of the Fort Wayne area invite everyone, both Franciscans and those who love all things Franciscan, to come join this special celebration. Refreshments will be served after Mass.

Assisting families affected by job loss

SOUTH BEND — Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center, Family and Children's Center (FCC) and the Century Center are sponsoring an event to help families cope with the difficulties of dealing with the worst economic recession in recent history. "Economic Hard Times: A Family Affair," will be

held at the Century Center in South Bend on Sunday, April 19, from 1-5 p.m. Admission and parking for the event at the Century Center are free.

Highlighting the event will be three presentations focusing on critical topics from how to communicate with children to supporting each other during economic uncertainty due to job loss. The following presentations will each be delivered twice throughout the day:

- 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. — It's Not What I Do, It's Who I Am: Redefining Myself

- 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. — How Much to Tell? How to Talk to Your Children

- 2:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. — It's Not About Me, It's About Us: Supporting Each Other

The event will also feature supporting organizations and vendors from social service agencies, consumer credit counseling services, utility companies, education institutions and employment counselors.

"This is our way to assist people who have lost their jobs or are affected by the job loss of a family member during these very difficult, uncertain and even frightening times," said Sister Laureen Painter, SJRMC's vice president of mission integration.

For more information on the "Economic Hard Times: A Family Affair," call (574) 855-5858.

Ancilla College hosts preview day

DONALDSON — Over 100 people were in attendance for Ancilla College's annual "Preview Day," an event designed to help students familiarize themselves with faculty and campus life.

The event — primarily organized by Sarah Lawrence, assistant director of admissions — gave potential students and their families the opportunity to learn more about academic opportunities, financial aid, athletics, campus life and even receive a detailed campus tour. Students were also able to discuss potential majors with faculty, as well as interview a panel of current Ancilla students.

Many of the attendees had the opportunity to take their placement tests and register for classes for the upcoming 2009 fall semester.

"We were ecstatic about the turnout for preview day," said Lawrence. "It was exciting to have potential students and their families on campus to showcase Ancilla College and all Ancilla has to offer."

Attendees were also treated to a catered lunch in Cana Hall and a formal welcoming by Ancilla College President Dr. Ron May.

Ancilla College is a Catholic, two-year, co-educational, liberal arts college in Donaldson, sponsored by the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ.

'Father Tom O'Connor Light of Christ Award' for 2009 to be presented

FORT WAYNE — St. Mary's Catholic Church and the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend announce that William D. Critell, principal of Price Elementary School and president of the Fort Wayne Principals Association, has been selected the winner of the 2009 Father Tom O'Connor Light of Christ Award in education.

Critell will receive the award from Bishop John M. D'Arcy and St. Mary's pastor Father Philip A. Widmann in a ceremony at noon on April 15 at St. Mary's Church in downtown Fort Wayne.

Critell, 54, earned both bachelor and masters degrees in education from Ball State University, where he also received an endorsement in teaching the disadvantaged. Most of his work in education has been in service to students from lower-income families.

Initially as principal at Bloomingdale Elementary School for 12 years and currently at Price, Critell has visited every business near the school to enhance the ability of the community and the school to work together. And he has striven to help students understand the environment is a critical part of their future, stressing the importance of healthy minds and bodies.

Critell was suggested for the Light of Christ Award by fellow educator Mary Mavis, who noted in her nomination letter that he is someone who always thinks outside the box. Mavis wrote, "Mr. Critell is an individual whom students look up to and come to for advice, help and to learn general life skills. He often rides the bus home with the students, eats lunch with them, interacts with them on the playground, and takes a genuine interest in their lives on a daily basis."

A native of Westfield, Mass., and a member of St. Peter Catholic Church in Fort Wayne, Critell describes himself as "just a big kid." According to the Father Tom Award committee, Critell's ability to move beyond the usual, his strong faith and his

long-standing work among the disadvantaged make him a good fit for the 2009 award.

The Father Tom O'Connor Light of Christ Award was created in late 2006 to honor individuals whose faith and life reflect the ideals and attributes exemplified by Father O'Connor during his years as a priest and as pastor of St. Mary Catholic Church. Nominations are open to persons of all faiths. Previous winners include Church of the Brethren member Cliff Kindy, 2007, for his efforts in the area of peace and justice, and Sister Janet Gildea, a medical doctor and a Sister of Charity in El Paso, Texas, 2008, for her work in racial and cultural diversity. The award carries with it a monetary gift to the winner's charity or project of choice. Bishop D'Arcy said the Award was created to encourage "the next generation of Father Toms."

University of Saint Francis hosts community health screenings, fair

FORT WAYNE — The School of Health Sciences at the University of Saint Francis (USF) will host Focus on Health on Friday, April 17, from 7:30 a.m. to noon at Hutzell Athletic Center.

At this event, participants 18 years and older may take advantage of many free health checks including blood pressure, vision, height/weight/BMI, and colorectal cancer screening kits. Balance testing for age groups at risk, foot screening, skin screening, hearing screening and peripheral vascular mini-screens will also be offered. An optional fasting blood chemistry test with cardiac profile is available for \$28, as is a hemogram that tests for anemia for \$7. This year a TSH (thyroid) and PSA (prostate for men only) will be available with blood draws for \$20 each. Francine's Friends will also be on site to offer mammograms. An appointment is required for mammograms; call (260) 483-1847 for scheduling and pricing.

For information, pick up a brochure at Wells Fargo Bank or the Allen County Public Library, visit www.fohealth.com or call (260) 399-7700 ext. 8501.

Proposal to create child poverty commission moving through General Assembly

INDIANAPOLIS — The word child poverty may conjure up an image of a youngster from a third world country, not a child from the heartland of the United States. But Indiana has its fair share of child poverty — as high as 28 percent in some counties according to U.S. Census information compiled by the Indiana Youth Institute. Why is the child poverty rate in Indiana so high?

Lawmakers in the Senate overwhelmingly supported a bill to investigate the issue by creating a two-year government commission to study the issue and make recommendations to combat the problem plaguing Indiana's children.

The proposal, SB 260, authored by Sen. Dennis Kruse, (R-Auburn), which passed the Senate, 41-7, would create a 23-member panel composed of child poverty experts from governmental agencies, non-profit advocacy groups, faith-based community groups, and area academia from Indiana University, the University of Notre Dame and Purdue University. The goal of the panel is to design a plan with bi-annual benchmarks to achieve a 50 percent reduction in childhood poverty in Indiana by 2020. The bill requires the commission to issue a final report by the year 2011.

The plan also must incorporate provisions, which assist the parents of children living in poverty including workforce training; educational opportunities; affordable housing; child care and early education programs; after school and mentoring programs; and access to affordable health care including access to mental health and substance abuse programs.

Sen. Kruse said he got involved in the issue in June of 2008 when he, along with four other lawmakers, attended a conference hosted by the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) and learned about the problems facing the working poor in America. Following the conference, the lawmakers divid-

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BY BRIGID CURTIS AYER

ed the legislative tasks and Kruse's assignment was to address childhood poverty.

"The purpose of the bill is to continue to keep the children of poverty before the Indiana General Assembly," said Kruse. "Poverty has been with us since the beginning of man and will probably always be with us, but that doesn't mean we ignore it or accept it. I think we have an obligation for our generation to do what we can do to reduce childhood poverty," said Kruse. "The commission will be an effort in Indiana to reduce childhood poverty by 50 percent by the year 2020. There are roughly 20 other states that have similar commissions in place to address the problem," he said.

One critic of the plan, including Rep. Cindy Noe (R-Carmel) who serves as the ranking Republican on the House Family, Child and Human Affairs Committee, the panel which passed the bill 9-1, believes that the proposal doesn't get at the root cause of the problem — family fragmentation. Noe supports an alternative proposal offered by Sen. Luke Kenley (R-Noblesville) Senate Current Resolution 26 (SCR 26), which requests that legislative council establish an interim study committee on the economic impact of family fragmentation.

According to "The Taxpayer Costs of Divorce and Unwed Childbearing," a study released by the Institute for American Values, the cost of family fragmentation to state and local taxpayers in Indiana is a least \$839 million annually.

Glenn Tebbe, executive director for the Indiana Catholic

Conference who testified before the House panel in support of SB 260, agrees that family fragmentation does contribute to childhood poverty and hopes that the commission will recommend governmental policies to promote family unity.

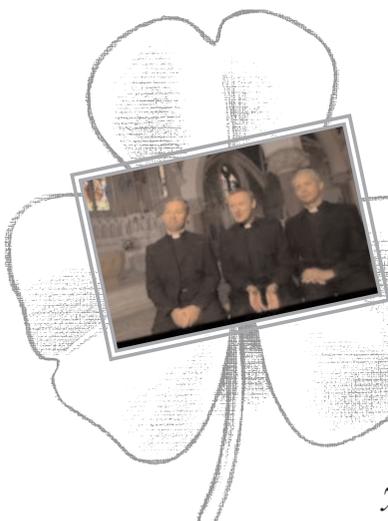
"The commission, which will be composed of the real experts in child poverty like those from our own Catholic Charities, academia, governmental agencies and community outreach organizations, are precisely the group best equipped to address the heart of the problem and address the full range of issues contributing to childhood poverty," said Tebbe. "Issues like employment, career development, access to health care and affordable housing must be addressed in addition to family fragmentation. This comprehensive approach provides Hoosier families in poverty the best opportunity to get out of poverty."

A legislative study committee as set forth in SCR 26 is composed exclusively of lawmakers. The panel would begin in July 2009 and make a recommendation to the General Assembly prior to the 2010 legislative session.

"Due to the nature and limited scope of a legislative study panel, SCR 26 alone would be insufficient to accomplish the goal of reducing child poverty," said Tebbe.

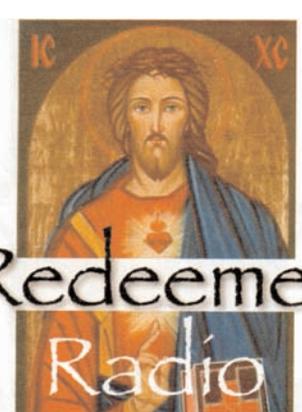
Tebbe is not alone in his thinking. Kruse said that while there has been some opposition to his bill, SB 260, it has been limited. "The vast majority are favoring it," said Kruse. "My anticipation is that the bill will pass this year and become law and the governor will hopefully sign it."

Senate Bill 260 passed the Senate panel, 9-0, and on the Senate floor, 41-7. The House Family, Child and Human Affairs Committee passed the bill, 9-1. The bill now moves to the full House floor for approval. The Indiana General Assembly must adjourn by April 29.



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St. Pius X School 'marches' to the arts

BY GWEN O'BRIEN

GRANGER — If artists march to the beat of a different drummer, the same could be said for the "March to the Arts" event held March 26 at St. Pius X Catholic School. There was the expected: parents marching through the halls looking for their children's paintings and drawings. And there was the unexpected: a well-rounded fine arts program, including student music and dance performances in the lobby every 15 minutes throughout the two-hour event.

The evening began in the gym with prayer led by the Father Bob Lengerich, associate pastor. Music teacher Joan Currie then conducted student choirs, representing several grades, in song. Art teacher Anne Wadzinski presented awards to about a dozen students celebrating their various artistic styles. The awards were not judged by first-, second- or third-place rankings, but rather by the style and philosophy of great artists like Picasso, Calder, Matisse, Seurat and Van Gogh.

Betsy Palmer, a school parent and the March to the Arts coordinator, explained the thought process behind the awards. "Calder said he painted with shapes, so the winner of the Calder Award would go to a student who used shapes in a bold way. Van Gogh said, 'What would life be if we had no courage to attempt anything?' This award would go to a student who showed courage in his or her artwork by taking a risk and trying something new."

Principal Elaine Holmes presented Wadzinski with a framed



DIANA LYNCH

St. Pius X Catholic School student Kristina Lynch poses next to her winning sculpture at "March to the Arts," a fine arts event held there recently. Kristina won the Calder Award for "creating artwork by focusing on shapes in a new way."

certificate from the school recognizing her for a fellowship she recently received through Lilly Endowment, Inc. Wadzinski is one of 129 Indiana educators to receive a Teacher Creativity Fellowship through Lilly. Thanks to the \$8,000 grant, this summer Wadzinski will pursue her project Art and Geology: A Systemic Connectedness. She will travel the Colorado Plateau and photograph its stratigraphy (regional rock and mineral formations), collect rock

samples and design and create ceramic works with inlaid rocks based on photographs.

"Anne spurs the imagination and encourages self expression in every child that enters the classroom. We are so blessed to have such a giving and talented teacher at St. Pius," Palmer said.

St. Pius X Catholic School is completing its first academic year. The "March to the Arts" event is expected to be an annual tradition at the school.

Diocese disperses \$199,345 to 19 parish projects

The Annual Bishop's Appeal of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend includes a funding program to assist less affluent parishes. A Parishes-in-Need Fund Committee, appointed by Bishop John M. D'Arcy, met recently to review parish requests for "needy" projects. The committee recommended a total of \$199,345 be granted to 15 parishes for 19 essential projects, enabling them to arrive at a more stable existence.

"Obviously, we can't meet every request submitted by the parishes," said Father Robert C. Schulte, vicar general/chancellor of the diocese. "We have to consider the nature of each request in light of the total needs and financial resources of the parish as well as the other parishes in the diocese requesting funding assistance," he continued. "If all or part of a request cannot be met, often the committee will recommend the parish apply to another fund of financial resource in the diocese or community or seek other alternatives."

Some funds usually remain in the account for use throughout the year by parishes when a new need arises. If all the money is not used in 2009, however, it will be carried over and allocated to next year's Parishes-in-Need fund, Father Schulte explained.

"Hopefully, this money will strengthen these parishes financially, increase their outreach and improve their ability to do the work of Christ," said Bishop D'Arcy.

This year's allocation of Parishes-in-Need funds brings to \$4,649,147 the amount granted from the Annual Bishop's Appeal to parishes in need during the 22 years of the appeal.

This year's dispersion and the primary parish projects include:

Fort Wayne

- Most Precious Blood — \$15,000 to update lighting in the school
- St. Henry — \$10,000 subsidy for sending students to other schools
- St. Therese — \$20,000 to replace roof of school building

Fort Wayne area

- St. Joseph, Garrett — \$16,000 for school energy conservation package
- Sacred Heart, Warsaw — \$6,000 to purchase eight laptop computers for teachers

South Bend

- Corpus Christi — \$25,000 for renovation of parking lots for parish and school property
- Holy Family — \$15,000 to replace roof on rectory
- Our Lady of Hungary — \$1,475 to replace leaking steam pipes, \$10,500 to repair plaster in five school classrooms and \$450 for a new door frame and crash bar for boiler room emergency door

- St. Adalbert — \$22,000 for correction of parish office exits in accord with fire code

- St. Augustine — \$5,000 for tuition subsidy and \$2,170 for ParishSoft software

- St. Casimir — \$5,500 to replace curb and sidewalk in front of former school building

- St. John the Baptist — \$2,000 for repair of roof on school building and \$4,250 to replace church doors

South Bend Area

- St. Mary, Bristol — \$13,000 for tuition subsidy for sending students to another school
- St. Monica, Mishawaka — \$20,000 to replace school roof
- St. Vincent de Paul, Elkhart — \$6,000 for "Almost Home" after-school care program.

Manager Needed

The St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Joseph County seeks a full-time Pantry Manager/Volunteer Coordinator. This position is responsible for managing all aspects of food acquisition, inventory, and distribution. This person is also responsible for coordinating the on-site volunteers of the Society. Last year the Society distributed more than 250,000 pounds of food from its pantry and eighteen member parishes. It also had volunteers work 4,500 hours. For a complete job description and further instructions on how to apply, please visit http://www.saintvincent-in.org/current_jobs.html No phone calls please.

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Young Catholic authors share their stories

BY JENNIFER OCHSTEIN

MISHAWAKA — Milissa Peffley won't likely soon forget the story "Tiny the Tomato."

When she gets home from a year-long tour in Iraq, her daughter, Sara York, will present it to her.

Sara, 9, a third grader at Christ the King school in South Bend, wrote it at school for the 17th Annual Catholic Schools Young Authors' Conference.

"She's coming home April 10," Sara said of her mom after sharing her story during small group time at the conference. "I'm saving it for her so she can read it because she wanted to read it."

It's likely that her mother may be "Tiny the Tomato's" biggest fan.

Sara said she made up the story about the tomato because she wanted to make something that

doesn't talk "come alive and do something."

"I made it fun," she said.

While writing is fun, more than that, Sara said, it helps her be creative.

"You can express your creativity and write about whatever you want," she said about why she likes writing.

That's partly what the conference organizers were hoping students would get from their time there.

"They can all be writers," said Marit Kuczanski, who is on the

**"You can express your
creativity and write
about whatever you want."**

SARA YORK



JENNIFER OCHSTEIN

Sara York, 9, a third grader at Christ the King school in South Bend, shared her story, "The Tiny Tomato," at the 17th Annual Catholic Schools Young Authors' Conference. She said she's saving the story for her mother.

conference committee and teaches kindergarten at Holy Family School in South Bend. "It's important for them to know that they can learn how to be writers."

And because they are not judged on the stories that they write and are not competing, they feel more comfortable sharing the work they've done, she said.

"They get to meet students from other schools and get to meet a real author," Kuczanski said.

Indeed, Laurence Pringle, an author from New York who writes about animals and nature, explained his craft to the young authors.

Along with sharing their work and sitting in on workshops with Pringle, the students were entertained by musical group Two Buds in My Ear. And while students shared their work, parents heard how they could reinforce the discipline of writing for their children.

But it seemed that Lucy Harmon, 8, a second grader at St. Joseph School in South Bend, didn't need convincing.

She shared her story called "The Happy Postman," based on the book called "The Jolly Postman," by Janet and Allan Ahlberg and American Girl Kitt Kittredge.

"I wanted to write this because I thought it would be funny if a happy postman was delivering letters," she said, adding, "I like to write about whatever I want."



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"When I pick my son up from preschool, the teacher and the children all have smiles on their faces! Mrs. Foldenauer really makes the parents feel involved!" -Tracey K.,

Corpus Christi parent

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Serrans honor high schools

BY ELMER J. DANCH

SOUTH BEND — Selected students from both Saint Joseph's and Marian high schools, along with their administrators and teachers, were significantly honored by the Serra Club of South Bend on its 60th anniversary — for exemplary courage, strong moral character and spiritual commitment to Jesus Christ and his church.

The special event was held at St. Patrick Center and attracted a record turnout. Dr. Richard Dornbos, District 7 governor of Serra, praised the recipients for their continued moral and spiritual service to others and presented special awards to the four students.

He also praised the parents for their sacrifices and for being Christian models to members of their family and community.

Prior to the luncheon, the entire group attended Mass in St. Patrick Church.

The four students specially honored were Matthew Goepfrich and Mary Kearney of Saint Joseph's High School; and Erin Rhody and Jim Hunckler of Marian High School.



PHOTOS BY ELMER J. DANCH

Students who were honored with exemplary awards are with their parents at the Serra Club award presentations. From left, are Kevin Kearney, Mary Kearney and Elizabeth Kearney, all of Saint Joseph's; Lynn Rhody, Erin Rhody and Eric Rhody, all of Marian.



Families of exemplary students who were cited for Serra Club honors also shared in the presentation awards. From left: Baby Joseph Hunckler being held by his father Matthew, Anita Hunckler and son Jim, all of Marian; Jo Ann Goepfrich, Matthew Goepfrich and Joseph Goepfrich, all of Saint Joseph's.

THE HISTORY OF THE EASTER LILY

Lilium longiflorum, the regal white lily
a fitting symbol for the spiritual meaning of Easter

BY DEB WAGNER

The Easter lily is a welcomed guest to the households of many every spring. The Latin name for the Easter lily is *Lilium longiflorum*. Although a native to the Ryukyu Islands of southern Japan, the Easter lily as an industry is an American success story.

Prior to 1941, the majority of the Easter lily bulbs were exported to the United States from Japan. World War II eliminated the dependence on Japanese-produced bulbs and commercial bulb production shifted to the U.S. The Japanese have never been able to regain any of their lost market share due to the superior quality of the U.S.-grown bulbs.

In 1919, a World War I soldier, Louis Houghton brought a suitcase full of hybrid lily bulbs to the southern coast of Oregon, which began the U.S. production of Easter lilies. He generously distributed bulbs to everyone he met. When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor in 1941, the supply chain of bulbs from the Japanese was abruptly cut off. As a result, the value of lily bulbs did anything but plummet and many turned their hobby of growing lilies into a business venture.

The Easter lily bulbs at that time were called "White Gold," and growers everywhere wanted to cash in on the crop. By 1945, there were about 1,200 growers producing bulbs up and down the Pacific coast, from Vancouver, Canada to Long Beach, Calif. Over the years, the total number of Easter Lily bulb producers shrunk to just 10 farms in a small, isolated coastal region straddling the Oregon-California border. This region, called the Easter lily capital of the world, produces nearly all of the bulbs for the blooming potted Easter lily market.

The Easter lily capital is accessible only by a narrow and winding coastal highway banked by magnificent redwood forests, overlooking the spectacularly scenic Pacific Ocean. It seems only fitting that the symbolic flower of Easter, which adds beauty, grace and fragrance to millions of homes, businesses and churches, has its roots in such a pristine and beautiful corner of the world.

But, producing quality, consistent lily bulbs proved to be an exact and demanding science with specific climatic requirements. The Easter lily bulbs are harvested in the fall, packed and shipped to commercial greenhouses, where they are planted in pots and forced under controlled conditions to bloom for the Easter holiday.

The states that produce the highest number of white trumpet shaped potted Easter lilies, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, are Michigan, California, Pennsylvania and Ohio.

For many, the beautiful trumpet-shaped white flowers symbolize purity, virtue, innocence, hope and life — the spiritual essence of Easter. Often called the "white-robed apostles of hope," lilies were found growing in the Garden of Gethsemane after Christ's agony. Church dogma says it is the beautiful white lilies that sprung up where drops of Christ's sweat fell to the ground in his final hours of sorrow. Churches continue this tradition at Easter time by banking their altars and surrounding their crosses with masses of Easter lilies, to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Since the beginning of time, lilies have also played significant roles in symbolism associated with the vocation of motherhood.

The pure white lily has long been closely associated with the Virgin Mary. In early paintings, the angel Gabriel is pictured extending to the Virgin Mary a branch of pure white lilies, announcing that she is to be the mother of the Christ Child. Saints are depicted bringing vases of white lilies to Mary and the infant Jesus.

It is also believed that when the Virgin Mary's tomb was visited three days after her burial, it was found empty save for bunches of majestic white lilies. Early writers and artists made the lily the emblem of the Annunciation and the Assumption of the Virgin: the pure white petals signifying her spotless body and the golden anthers her soul glowing with heavenly light.

In yet another expression of womanhood, lilies had a significant presence in the paradise of Adam and Eve. Tradition has it that when Eve left the Garden of Eden she shed real tears of repentance, and from those remorseful tears sprung lilies. The spiritual principle held here is that true repentance is the beginning of beauty.

A mark of purity and grace throughout the ages, the regal white lily is a fitting symbol for the spiritual meaning of Easter. Gracing millions of homes and churches, the flowers embody joy, hope and life. The Easter lily is a very sacred flower that serves as a beautiful reminder that Easter is a time for rejoicing and celebrating Jesus' resurrection.



Newfound faith helps parishioner weather storms

BY KAREN CLIFFORD

MISHAWAKA — Each year the journey in faith known as the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), beckons those who want to know more about the richness of the Catholic Church. Dale Seely, a parishioner at Queen of Peace Parish in Mishawaka, who was confirmed at last year's Easter Vigil, along with his sponsor Dennis Ferguson, and pastor, Father Daniel Scheidt, share their recollections of RCIA and how it continues to evolve at their parish.

Seely's immediate attraction to Catholicism was the liturgy. He was especially intrigued with the church's emphasis on apostolic succession.

"There was seriousness about sacred things that I did not find myself experiencing in other churches," Seely explains. Once the RCIA group began, he found the network of people to be comforting.

"When you walk into a parish it is sometimes very difficult to feel at home as such, especially when you don't know what is going on with Mass," he adds.

Seely recalls that he and his sponsor Dennis Ferguson both went to Bethel Bible College and participated in a Bible study class together 30 years ago. The two had lost touch over the years and it wasn't until Seely spotted Ferguson at Mass that he saw his college friend again. "I went up to

him and he didn't recognize me, which I don't understand because I haven't changed in 30 years," Seely jokes.

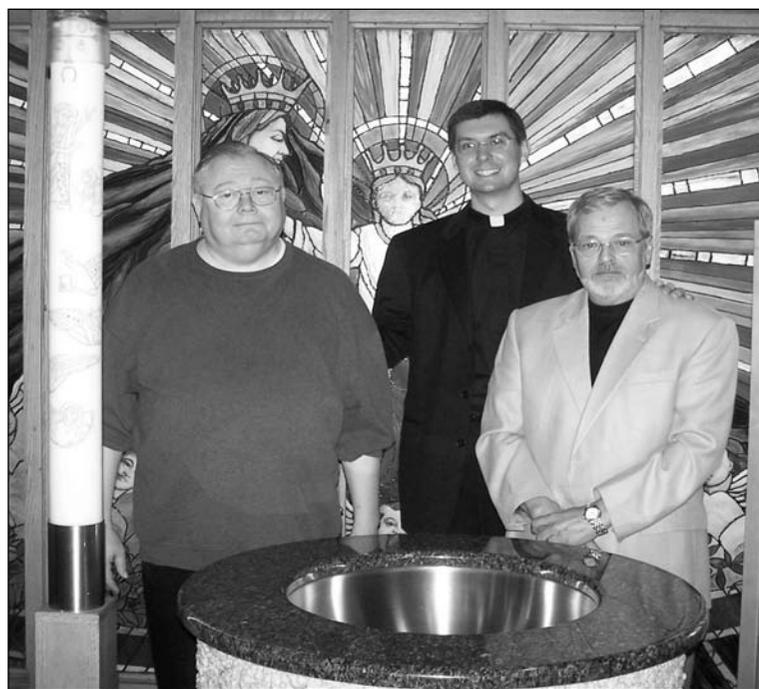
Ferguson was happy to become Seely's sponsor and noticed the spiritual growth in him as the RCIA process unfolded. Seeing him receive the Catholic sacraments and being evangelized in the faith were milestones that Ferguson remembers of Seely's spiritual journey.

One of the most anxious moments that Seely remembers was his first reconciliation. His approach to asking for God's forgiveness in a Protestant background did not require absolution from a priest. Seely credits Ferguson in helping him appreciate the value of the sacrament.

"One of the greatest surprises and delights was reconciliation. I found it an incredibly liberating and healing thing once I had gone through it," he says.

Father Scheidt recalls Seely's enthusiasm in RCIA and how it has evolved since his confirmation at the Easter Vigil. "It was amazing to see as the year went on, not only was his hunger satisfied, it increased all the more to the point where now he is actually leading a Bible study group in our parish. The movement that brought him into the church is now drawing other people to share in the gifts he has received," Father Scheidt says.

The weekly Bible class that both Seely and Ferguson lead has



BY KAREN CLIFFORD

From left are Dennis Ferguson, sponsor, Father Dan Scheidt, pastor of Queen of Peace and Dale Seely, who was confirmed in the Catholic Church at the 2008 Easter Vigil.

been enriching for all involved. Ferguson notes how both have seen their roles at church evolve. "I was his sponsor and now he is the captain of the Bible study and I'm the executive officer. That's how the Holy Spirit works."

In December of 2008, Seely lost his job in the RV industry. Father Scheidt says that Seely's faith has helped him through this difficult time.

"The same determination and

creativity that benefited him in the RV industry he's now devoting to the spread of the Gospel. It is amazing in God's providence how the Lord provides the resources necessary to weather the unpredictable storms of this world," Father Scheidt explains.

The RCIA process has had an effect on Seely's family and the Queen of Peace community as well. Seely's wife, Shelly, is going through RCIA this year at the

parish. During the time when Shelly was to have her first reconciliation, she and Dale were visiting Israel. With Father Scheidt's permission, Shelly was able to receive the sacrament while in Jerusalem.

Father Scheidt saw the value of including the entire Queen of Peace community this year in RCIA. "Every Wednesday we have had a back to basics Catholicism course to which the RCIA are invited, but also the rest of the parish is invited. Our numbers have ranged from anything from 50 to 120 people a week," says Father Scheidt. During Lent the group studied Matthew Kelly's book, "Rediscovering Catholicism."

"We break into small groups so that we get to know our faith, get to know Christ and also get to know each other better," he adds.

Those involved in RCIA continue to be active in the parish once they have gone through the Easter Vigil. Another man that had gone through Seely's RCIA class last year became a sponsor for someone going through the program this year, Father Scheidt notes.

"Some of the people that have gone through RCIA have become pillars of our parish and form the central volunteer core. There are a lot of parish resources that are expended, but the fruitfulness of the program is the people that receive these gifts become all the more generous in giving," Father Scheidt concludes.

Making Catholicism a 'family' event

Mom, dad and brother follow suit with son, sibling

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — Last year, as a seventh grader at St. Aloysius School, Yoder, Alec Wampole joined the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. This year at the Easter Vigil, his dad Chris, mom Lee, and younger brother Spencer, now a seventh grader himself, will follow Alec's lead.

On any given Sunday, it's not unusual to find Alec, now an eighth-grade student at the rural Yoder school, serving Mass, of which he comments, "I feel closer to God," when he assists.

Alec says it was "the community, the religious teaching at school and Father Dom," St. Aloysius pastor, that encouraged him to join the church a year ago.

Alec says that when he took RCIA instructions last year, "the teachers and my friends helped out a lot."

He adds, "My old pastor at our old church encouraged me too."

This year, as he witnesses his mother, father and brother joining the church, Alec comments, "I think it's a great thing for my fam-

ily to follow me into the Catholic faith."

As for mom, Lee, she says she would have joined the church last year, but it was too late for the RCIA classes when she and Chris looked into joining the church.

Lee says it is "fate" that draws her to Catholicism. "It's just the way the cards played out.

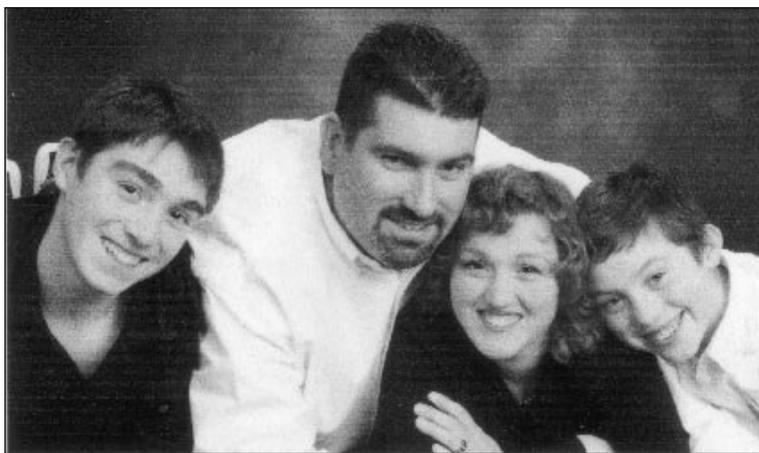
"I'm adopted, I'm from Spain," she says. "My adoption paper conditions stated that I was to be raised Catholic. My adoptive parents encouraged me to seek out many faiths, but discouraged me from being Catholic."

What Lee looks forward to the most is growing in the faith.

Lee and Chris have been coming to Mass at St. Aloysius Parish. They live in the city of Fort Wayne and drive out to St. Aloysius School every school day, twice, and now to Mass on weekends. But attending Mass as a family is important to the Wampoles.

"By keeping Christ as the center of the family, it helps to center or balance, unify the family," says Lee.

Dad Chris, adds, "I heard once that 'a family that prays together



THE WAMPOLE FAMILY

stays together.' There's more together time when we're at church."

Chris tells of his faith background, "I'm from Wisconsin and was raised as a Baptist. I was in Sunday school, etc. When I was 10, the church was hit by lightning and burned down. The pastor moved away, and we stopped going. I never asked why.

"After joining the Army and moving around every two years," he tells *Today's Catholic*, "I/we went to many different churches

— but even though they were Baptist, they all had different beliefs and teachings. It was almost like it was a different God at each church."

This is what led him to the Catholic Church, he says, "The teachings from the Catholic Church are consistent from church to church."

The Wampoles were pleased when Alec announced last year he wanted to join the church last year. "I was glad that he found something that he wanted, and that we

didn't have to force this on him," says Chris.

And Lee adds, "I wasn't surprised and was happy for Alec."

Chris feels that Catholicism is right for this military-background family. Chris says, "Alec loves to help people. He has that selfless service that the military preaches."

And Alec's devotion to the faith has caught the interest of his brother Spencer. Chris explains Spencer's influence: "For the most part it probably was Alec. Younger brothers have a tendency to look up to their older brothers and be like them whether they admit it or not."

But Chris quickly adds, "Also I'm sure the atmosphere at St. Al's was a key contributor too."

Spencer claims the influence of his school in his decision: "They've helped me become more attached to Christ. They've helped me choose the right path in friendship."

But he, too, adds, Alec's decision "inspired me to join." And Spencer, too, has intentions to immerse himself into parish life as a Mass server at St. Aloysius.

Divine Mercy Sunday forgives

BY DEB WAGNER

FORT WAYNE — Divine Mercy Sunday is celebrated seven days after Easter Sunday and reminds the faithful to pray for mercy and to forgive others in order to gain eternal life.

The message and devotion to Jesus as The Divine Mercy is based on the writings of St. Faustina Kowalska, an uneducated Polish nun, who, in obedience to her spiritual director, wrote a diary of about 600 pages recording the revelations she received about God's mercy. Even before her death in 1938, the devotion to The Divine Mercy had begun to spread throughout the world.

The message of Divine Mercy is not new, but is a reminder of what the church has always taught through Scripture and tradition — God is merciful and forgiving and his followers must show mercy and forgiveness as well.

Father Joseph Gaughan, pastor of Most Precious Blood Parish in Fort Wayne says, "It is theologically correct that there is no unforgivable sin except sin against the Holy Spirit." He further explains that "the function of the Holy Spirit is to draw us closer to Jesus Christ, but if we refuse the direction of the Holy Spirit through our freedom, then we cannot get to heaven." However, in the Divine Mercy devotion, the message calls people to understand that God's love is unlimited and available to everyone — especially the great-

est sinners.

Catholic Christians are called to trust in Jesus no matter what the trial and show mercy to others by performing the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

In her diary, "Divine Mercy in My Soul," Sister Kowalska says God gave her a striking vision of his mercy in 1933. She wrote, "I saw a great light, with God the Father in the midst of it. Between this light and the earth I saw Jesus nailed to the cross and in such a way that God, wanting to look upon the earth, had to look through Our Lord's wounds and I understood that God blessed the earth for the sake of Jesus." Of another vision on Sept. 13, 1935, she wrote "I saw an angel, the executor of God's wrath ... about to strike the earth ... I began to beg God earnestly for the world with words which I heard interiorly. As I prayed in this way, I saw the angel's helplessness, and he could not carry out the just punishment."

The following day an inner voice taught her to say this prayer on ordinary rosary beads: "First say one 'Our Father,' 'Hail Mary' and 'I believe.' Then on the large beads say the following words: 'Eternal Father, I offer you the body and blood, soul and divinity of your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.' On the smaller beads pray the following: 'For the sake of his sorrowful Passion have mercy on us and on the whole world.' In conclusion pray these words three times:

'Holy God, holy Mighty One, holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.'"

Sister Kowalska says Jesus later told her to say this chaplet repeatedly. It is believed that anyone who says it at the hour of death will receive great mercy. Priests often recommend it to sinners as the last hope and pray it themselves. It is believed that even the most hardened sinner, if he recites this chaplet, will receive grace from the infinite mercy of God.

The message of mercy is simple — God's mercy and forgiveness is for all.

Father Gaughan prays the Divine Mercy Chaplet almost everyday. His reasons for doing so are simple. "We're a society that really needs hope. God's grace is his mercy towards us. We need his mercy and mercy from others," he says.

POPE ARRIVES TO LEAD PALM SUNDAY MASS AT THE VATICAN



CNS PHOTO/MAX ROSSI, REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI arrives to lead Palm Sunday Mass in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican April 5. The pope said daily self-sacrifice in imitation of Christ was the key to the Christian life. "Sacrifice and renunciation belong to the just life. Whoever promises a life without this continuing gift of self is fooling people," the pope said.

Holy Week at St. Monica - Mishawaka

April 4 & 5, Palm Sunday

(REGULAR MASS SCHEDULE)

Vigil Mass Saturday: 5:30 pm

Sunday: 7:30, 9:30 & 11:00 am

April 9, Holy Thursday: 7:00 pm

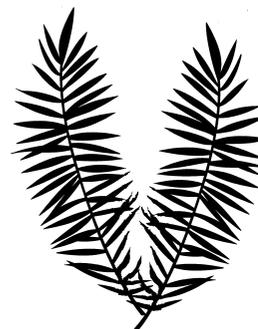
Mass of the Lord's Supper

April 10, Good Friday: Noon

Liturgy of the Passion

April 11, Holy Saturday:

8:00 pm - Easter Vigil



222 West Mishawaka Ave.
MISHAWAKA

April 12, Easter Morning Masses:

7:30 am

9:30 am: Children's Mass & Handbells

11:00 am - Adult Choir



Last Reconciliation Rites before Easter:

Friday, April 3 - 11:00 - 11:55 am,

prior to 12:05 pm Mass

and

Saturday, April 4: 9:00 am

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Now Come and Celebrate His Divine Mercy!



For the Sake of
Your Sorrowful Passion,
Have Mercy on Us

Feast Day Mass

**MERCY
SUNDAY**

April 19, 2009

Chaplet 2:30 PM

Holy Mass 3:00 PM

Confessions 1:30 to 3 PM

Eucharistic Adoration

2:00 to 2:30 PM



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EDITORIAL

Easter joy

The U.S. bishops report that as many as 150,000 new or returning Catholics are expected to join the Catholic Church in 2009. We feature some of these new Catholics, from our own diocese, in this week's paper.

Dioceses across the nation, including Fort Wayne-South Bend, celebrate the Rite of Election at the beginning of Lent. In our diocese, 425 participated in the rite from Fort Wayne and South Bend; this includes 164 catechumens and 261 candidates. A catechumen is an unbaptized individual. A candidate is an individual baptized in another Christian denomination or is a lapsed Catholic who was never formed in the faith and needed to complete his initiation.

It is a joy to welcome new members to our faith. We welcome and congratulate them. We also offer encouragement to those who have lapsed from the faith to come home. Perhaps what is needed is simply an invitation from you or me.

Let the students speak

We congratulate the motivation of the student groups at the University of Notre Dame who have created ND Response to lead the student responses denouncing the university's choice, President Barack Obama, for the May 17th commencement speech.

These students have taken the stance that life is sacred and that the U.S. president's policies on many of the issues are in direct opposition to church teaching.

A series of events planned by ND Response began last Sunday, Palm Sunday, with Harold Cassidy, who has litigated pro-life cases that have advanced the true rights and interests of pregnant mothers, being the keynote speaker.

The Sunday gathering was prayerful and "the university community (was) respectfully reminded to celebrate its Catholic character and to defend those nonnegotiable principles for which Notre Dame stands, including an overarching recognition of the inherent dignity and value of all human life. This event was also a response to University President Rev. John I. Jenkins, CSC, who expressed the hope ... that the invitation of President Obama will present an authentic 'basis for an engagement with him' on those key issues that 'we care so much about.'"

Let us support this student-led coalition, pray for their success and pray along with them. One can access and follow their efforts with e-mail updates or RSS feed by signing up at the www.NDRResponse.com Web site. The site notes that financial donations may be considered to the Notre Dame Fund to Protect Human Life, sponsored by the Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture. Donations to this fund are immediately available to assist in pro-life efforts at student and university-wide levels.

The students have organized a nightly rosary at the grotto at 9:30 p.m. to pray for the conversion of President Obama, for greater respect for life, "and the Catholic identity of Our Lady's university." Others are asked to support and join the ND Response coalition on this matter.

Also ongoing is the red envelope campaign. Red envelopes are empty representing "one child who died because of an abortion." The student coalition is asking that Father Jenkins personally deliver the red envelopes to President Obama.

Also to be noted, several other bishops and organizations have denounced the university's choice of commencement speaker. Besides Bishop John M. D'Arcy, who said he will not attend the commencement, several other bishops, as of press time, publicly announced their opposition to the university's invitation. They include the following: Cardinal Francis George of Chicago, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops president; Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of Galveston-Houston; Archbishop Timothy Dolan, newly appointed archbishop of New York; Archbishop John Nienstedt of St. Paul and Minneapolis; Archbishop Eusebius Beltran of Oklahoma City; Archbishop John Myers of Newark, N.J.; Bishop Thomas Olmsted of Phoenix; Bishop Gregory Aymond of Austin; Bishop Robert Lynch of St. Petersburg, Fla.; Bishop Edward Slattery of Tulsa; Bishop R. Walker Nickless of Sioux City, Iowa; Paul CB Schenck, on behalf of Bishop Kevin Rhoades of Harrisburg, Pa.; Bishop Thomas G. Doran of Rockford, Ill.; Bishop Robert C. Morlino of Madison, Wis.; Archbishop Alfred C. Hughes of New Orleans; Bishop Joseph F. Martino of Scranton, Pa., and Bishop John M. Dougherty, auxiliary bishop of Scranton. In addition, the Knights of Columbus and the St. Louis University Students for Life have voiced opposition to the invitation.

Today's Catholic editorial board is 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

All children are blessings

The column by Father Tad Pacholczyk in the March 29 issue of *Today's Catholic* made me cry, in sadness and in anger. I am offended that you printed it.

Father Pacholczyk writes of children born out of wedlock (40 percent of all American children today, according to recent news stories) and from in vitro fertilization. He says, "By pursuing children in a disordered way, we end up undermining the very blessings we seek for our life and for those around us."

I want to tell Father Pacholczyk that those "very blessings" he refers to are the children that God gives us. We rejoice with the parents over each and every child, no matter how the child was conceived.

I have learned that Father Pacholczyk is director of education

for the National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia and that he holds a doctorate from Yale and has studied at Massachusetts General/Harvard Medical School and in Rome. I hope he will continue his learning and find out more about love, families and children.

Nancy Shaffer
Niles, Mich.

Prayers for Father Jenkins

Regarding the invitation extended to President Obama to deliver the Notre Dame commencement address and receive an honorary degree, I'd like to ask Father John Jenkins three questions.

First, as president of Our Lady's university, you must surely want to honor her and our beloved Lord by whatever you do. How then does it happen that an honorary degree is to

be presented to a bold human being who flaunts God's laws by pushing embryonic experimentation and doing all in his power to further abortion and to promoting it so as to become a law of the land?

Secondly, if our country had a prominent, gifted lawyer, doctor, or scientist whom the public knew preyed on little children, would Notre Dame ask him to address the student body, if he promised he would not speak on sexual aberrations?

Lastly, the Son of God was spit on, ridiculed and put to death for us sinners; ought he to have his teachings put aside for a fallible creature who despises them? Isn't this adding another sword to Our Lady's seven?

Father Jenkins most assuredly has our prayers for he needs heaps of grace from the Holy Spirit in this distressing situation. How hard to right so far-reaching a wrong.

Marge Hunkeler
South Bend

Hey brother, gotta a light?

For you smokers ready to dig into your pocket for a lighter, it is an all too familiar phrase once used to strike up a conversation or maybe you really did need a light. But that's not where I am going with this column for April.

A priest in Youngstown, Ohio, who gave a homily I wish I had authored or at least recorded, recently mesmerized my wife and me. The general idea went something like this.

In a time when a friend or even a stranger was in need for help, anyone's help, were we there as a light in their life? Did we extend a hand or a kind word to soften a pain or fix a muffled cry for help? Were we a light to that person?

Try to remember all the moments in our lives where all we had to do was reach out as members of the Knights of Columbus and be a comforting light — maybe even a saving word. Remember a time when we observed a less fortunate someone, hungry or cold. Maybe there is an elder man or woman living out their life in a nursing home, alone, friendless, waiting to simply die. Could we have been there as a ray of God's love? Were they soundlessly asking if we had a light? Did we ignore a young child, maybe our own, when they pleaded for some attention, just a kind word? Is anyone listening? Gotta light?

Today we are faced with a society working overtime to redefine who and what a Catholic is. Never have we had a president that advo-



THE INDIANA KNIGHTS

BY ROBERT HARTENSTEIN

cated abortion or embryonic stem-cell research that took the life of a never-to-be-born child. We open the paper or turn on the television to more news about this-or-that scandal regarding Catholic lay people or priests. Some state legislature attempts to pass legislation somewhere to restrict specifically the Catholic Church in some way. And someone, somewhere, is asking if we gotta light.

Do we have the right answer to bring truth to the conversation and offer a light of hope and understanding? Are we as members of the Knights of Columbus ready to go all the way in providing that light?

We can choose to add fuel to an already bad situation or we can explain the truth of our faith and the fleeting madness of those rejecting God. It's easy to wave the flag of protest; harder still to stand apart saying enough is enough. "While you have the light, believe in the light and become children of light."

After Jesus had said this (we read in John 12:36) he withdrew and kept himself hidden.

Looking back at the first 300 years of Catholic history, persecution was the name of the game for Catholic Christians.

History is repeating itself in our

lives today, and we Knights must be there as a light of truth to our families, friends and community as an example of how to do what is right.

Our universities, especially Catholic universities, must be taken to the task of respecting the teachings of the church and not bowing to political niceties. We stand fully behind our priests and bishops in union with the church. They know we can be counted on to support all that they do. We ask again, gotta light?

In planning our lives as Knights and the future focus of our councils; be looking for opportunities to bring that light to others in our churches and communities. Seek out the tough decisions that others pass by. Look for the face of despair and offer a light.

The Knights of Columbus stand for charity, unity and fraternity as the very foundation of our order. The light of the Knights is the light of love for our brothers and sisters. Our light is the light of Catholic truth. Now more ever it is time to have the courage to stand tall for our faith.

Robert Hartenstein is the director of communications for the Indiana Knights of Columbus.

What shall I leave the 7th generation?

Every person has the God-given desire to make a difference. We all want our life to have made a positive impact on the world, and to leave it a better place simply because we have been born. Even animals, plants and trees do this through seeds and the drive to propagate their own species. We want to live in some way through those who follow us; but, not by what we achieved, necessarily, but more because of our life and the values and virtues we developed as we succeeded. These we'll pass on to those who will follow.

In working with Native Americans in Wyoming, I heard the above philosophical saying from several tribes. It makes sense as we, in our continued-maturing stage, do some serious pondering about the life we have led.

We'll never see the seventh generation in our families of origin or establishment. This requires us to immediately take our legacy off the 'things' approach of what we'd

like to leave. It drives us to focus on real life values and virtues, which have guided our individual lives. Wouldn't you give your right arm, so to speak, if you had a letter from your seven-times-great grandparents as to what was the essence of their lives? The same will be true for us seven generations down the line. Even if we have no physical offspring, we do have spiritual ones — special younger persons to whom we can leave something.

In the Jewish faith, there exists a custom of writing something called an 'ethical will.' In this document, the wise older generation in the family or community passes on sacred values and lived wisdom, which have guided them through life. In order to be truly generative, a necessary state of maturing, we must do the same. We may think: "Why do it, no one is interested in me." How do we know? Remember — seventh generation!

Psychologists who study the

SPIRITUALITY OF MATURING ADULTS

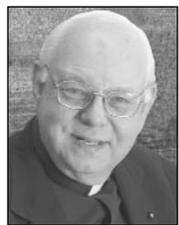
SISTER ANGELITA FENKER

value of handwritten notes and letters have discovered that these are the best because they communicate much more accurately who we are, just by our handwriting. As we write what we believe, it clarifies own goals. When we use machines, our thoughts get muddled with technicalities and perfection. As we hand-write, thoughts bubble up from our deepest depths that maybe we didn't even know were there.

Instead of an ethical will, I prefer to call it leaving a spiritual will.

FENKER, PAGE 16

Jesus lives!



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Easter Sunday Jn 20:1-9

Actually, a variety of biblical readings occurs in the course of liturgical celebrations for Easter. Nevertheless, all the readings center upon the event of the Resurrection itself.

(These reflections refer to the liturgy for Masses during the day on Easter, rather than the readings for the Easter Vigil.)

The first reading is from the Acts of the Apostles. It will begin a pattern for the Easter season. Throughout this season, the church will draw from Acts its first Scriptural reading.

In this reading for Easter, Peter addresses a crowd. His sermon, one of several in the early chapters of Acts, capsulized the Gospel message. Jesus is Lord. John the Baptist foretold the coming of Jesus. Jesus was the gift and representative of God. Jesus died on Calvary for the sins of all humanity.

However, after dying on Calvary, Jesus rose and was seen by witnesses. The Lord commissioned the surviving apostles to proclaim the Gospel as they went into places far and near.

The reading, while crisp and not too long, focuses attention upon the Lord and upon the basic message of the Christian Gospel.

Jesus is the savior. Jesus is God. His death redeemed the world, since it showed perfect obedience to God. He rose from the dead.

All this was in space and time. Human witnesses actually saw the Risen Lord.

St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians provides the second reading. It is short, but it is firm and insistent. Paul calls the Corinthian Christians to turn to Jesus. They are with the Lord. The Lord is with them. Such is the effect of the Incarnation, of the Redemption, and of the personal decision to turn to God.

Death is everywhere. It is the universal human experience. Jesus vanquishes death. Because of Jesus, we Christians also have defeated eternal death.

The Gospel of John furnishes the last reading. Triumphantly, it reveals the excitement in which it was written, as well as the sense that the Resurrection of Jesus was an event utterly unique in earthly history, but ultimately it proclaims the Lord's victory over death and over sin.

Those near to the Lord first experienced the meaning of the Resurrection. Mary Magdalene, forever faithful, actually discovers that the tomb is empty. She alerted Peter and the other apostles to her discovery.

Peter and the beloved disciple hurried to see for themselves. The beloved disciple saw the empty tomb and remembered the Lord's prophecy of rising from the dead.

Reflection

This weekend, celebrating the Lord's Resurrection, the church rejoices in the triumph of Jesus over death and evil. He is risen!

The second reading, that of Paul's first letter to Corinth, sets

the stage. The Resurrection of Jesus has profound implications for each human being.

St. Paul was justifiably, and totally, taken with the realization that through the Incarnation, the fact that in the one person of Jesus the nature of God and human nature coexist, we humans commune with God — if we turn ourselves to God willingly and truly.

So, the church calls us to be joyful. United with Christ in the Incarnation, in our faith, we need not fear death. Death has been defeated. We can live eternally. The key to life eternal is in our will to love God.

We continue to meet God, drawing from God strength and courage, and we learn of God from the church. The audience that heard Peter's sermon, repeated in Acts in the first reading, was typical of what we are. We are sinners.

Still, through Jesus, God touches us. Jesus revealed God most especially to the Apostles, of whom Peter was chief. Peter spoke for them all. Through him, therefore, Christ spoke again.

Christ speaks still through the Apostles, led by Peter. He lives!

READINGS

Sunday: Acts 10:34a,37-43 Ps 118:1-2,16ab-17,22-23 Col 3:1-4 Jn 20:1-9

Monday: Acts 2:14,22-23 Ps 16:1-2a,5,7-11 Mt 28:8-15

Tuesday: Acts 2:36-41 Ps 33:4-5,18-20,22 Jn 20:11-18

Wednesday: Acts 3:1-10 Ps 105:1-4,6-9 Lk 24:13-35

Thursday: Acts 3:11-26 Ps 8:2a,5-9 Lk 24:35-48

Friday: Acts 4:1-12 Ps 118:1-2,4,22-27a Jn 21:1-14

Saturday: Acts 4:13-21 Ps 118:1,14-15,16ab-21 Mk 16:9-15

CATEQUIZEM

By Dominic Camplisson

April is, of course, tax time, and this quiz looks at the Bible's and church's view of taxation.

1. Does the church teach that, in most cases, Catholics should pay taxes?

- a. yes, as part of their civic duty
- b. No, it is worldly.
- c. only if they would get caught if they did not

2. Jesus himself was born in Bethlehem because of taxes. What was the connection?

- a. Joseph, a bad carpenter, got a job collecting taxes in Bethlehem to support the baby.
- b. Joseph brought his pregnant wife there, because there was to be a census so that "all the world" could be taxed.
- c. Caesar Augustus taxed babies born in Jerusalem, but Bethlehem was just outside the city limits.

3. Why were tax collectors so hated by the Jews in Jesus' day?

- a. It was just a joke that had gotten out of hand.
- b. They were seen as dishonest collaborators with a foreign, pagan power.
- c. They demanded payment in coins, which the Jews disdained as they had pagan images.

4. The church teaches that the government should use taxes

- a. for moral purposes based in the interests of the individual
- b. to bail out companies owned by Catholics
- c. to pay monks and nuns salaries similar to those of civil savants

5. Although Jesus had disagreements with the Temple priesthood, he was a faithful Jew willing to pay this:

- a. the tax for the return of the diaspora
- b. the tax for the promotion of Roman civilization in Judaism
- c. the temple tax

6. Jesus had a very novel way of finding the money for this tax.

- a. He transformed a remnant of manna in the Holy of Holies into a piece of gold.
- b. He advised Peter the fisherman to hook a fish and find a coin in its mouth.
- c. He hammered part of the gold tooth of one of the disciples into a coin.

7. According to the New American Bible,

- a. as with manna, we do not need to do things; God will pay our taxes if we do not
- b. we should attend to our obligations faithfully
- c. violence against the rich is acceptable if they have more wealth than they deserve

8. Jesus was roundly criticized by many for consorting with the tax collectors. Yet he advised these men to

- a. get as much money out of the pagans as they could since it would support the church
- b. stop collecting more than what was prescribed
- c. process refunds as if your soul depends on it

9. Which apostle is thought to have been a tax collector?

- a. Mathew
- b. Mark
- c. John

10. The catechism is explicit in teaching that tax evasion is unacceptable. This is stated in an article that also warns against

- a. forgery of checks and invoices
- b. excessive loud singing in church
- c. clergy using money as this leads to sin

11. Some people erroneously believed that the answer to number 10 was actually

- a. a mortal sin
- b. a new category of sin
- c. a venial sin

12. The Catholic bishops' Web site encourages Catholic college students to ask:

- a. How can I get someone else to pay my taxes?
- b. Do my tax dollars reach the world's poor?
- c. Why do Texas and taxes have the same letters, but in a different order? Just coincidence or...?

ANSWERS:

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

Our world needs the message of Easter

BY SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

Recently I have done some reflection on what I would say if I were to give a homily on Easter Sunday and how I would relate the message of Christ's death and resurrection to the world situation, particularly here in the United States.

I would start by reminding the listeners that Christ's death and resurrection assures us that God has conquered evil and that good can, and does, come out of suffering.

There are times when our faith in this truth is challenged, like now, with our country's worsening economic situation. Banks continue to have serious problems. Many businesses are going bankrupt and others are laying people off or cutting hours. Home values are rapidly decreasing and many are not able to pay their mortgages. Poverty and violence are escalating. Even the weather in many places seems out of kilter, causing terrible storms and other unnatural disasters. This turmoil and suffering could easily cause us to question God's presence in all of this.

Or we ask why God is permitting this to happen? Even worse, some ask why God is doing this to us!

Needless to say, these serious and often overwhelming problems are not things that make one want to stand up in church and shout an Easter alleluia! Or are they?

Our faith in God's promises gives us cause to continue to sing alleluia. The celebration of Easter provides us with a good opportunity to reflect on situations in our past or that of others we know when good resulted from suffering. This is the pattern of our lives.

Perhaps you were broken hearted at not being accepted at the college of your choice and ended up in a school that offered many opportunities you would not have enjoyed, and you probably would not have met your spouse had you gone elsewhere.

Or maybe you lost a job you loved at a company where you dedicated the best years of your life, and as a result found some new work that challenged and brought you more satisfaction. In addition, it may have given you more time to spend with your family and allowed you to get involved in activities you always

wanted to do but did not have time.

Another example might be an experience of clinical depression or another illness that has made you more compassionate and understanding of others who suffer physical or mental illness.

Right now many Americans question whether good can possibly come out of the present situation in our country. I would like to offer a few things that I hope will happen, or I see already happening.

Those of us who are used to having much more than we need will learn to live with less and appreciate the many things we often take for granted. Others who are in better financial situations will reach out to others in need. Already there are heartwarming stories of people who are collecting food to fill pantries that have been depleted because of the unusually high demand. Many are thinking more about others and are not just absorbed in their own lives.

People will spend more quality time with their families, going out to eat less and enjoying one another's company instead of everyone

doing his or her own thing. More of us will learn the difference between needs and wants and will begin to appreciate the plight of the poor.

I believe when recovery comes many of us will have experienced what is really valuable in life. Hopefully, we will discover the fallacy of making money and material goods our first priority and will learn the importance of relationships and sharing with oth-

ers. Love will be more important than riches. Isn't this the message Jesus gave his followers?

The powerful message of Easter is that God never abandons us. As with Jesus, God does not leave us in our suffering. There is always a resurrection even though we may not see it right away. God's love always conquers. That is the Easter message, one that we really need to hear right now.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for April 12, 2009

Mark 16:1-7

Following is a word search based on an alternative Gospel reading for Easter Sunday, Cycle B: the women at the tomb of Jesus. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

SABBATH	MAGDALENE	MARY
SALOME	SPICES	ANOINT HIM
VERY EARLY	FIRST (DAY)	TOMB
SAYING	STONE	ENTRANCE
ROLLED BACK	YOUNG MAN	WHITE
ROBE	JESUS	NAZARETH
RAISED	PETER	GALILEE

VERY EARLY

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

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Sisters on a different mountaintop

On Jan. 30, an apostolic visitation of religious orders of women in the United States was announced. The Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR), whose membership includes most of the sisters whose manner of life and apostolates will be explored, subsequently released a measured statement, expressing its "surprise" at the Vatican-mandated visitation. The LCWR statement also hinted vaguely at a degree of alarm, noting that the visitation's "purposes and implications for the lives of U.S. women religious remain unclear."

A far more forthright comment on the visitation came from Sister Sandra Schneiders, IHM, who teaches New Testament at the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley and is completing a multi-volume study of post-Vatican II religious life. Dr. Schneiders' letter on the visitation was originally intended for friends and colleagues; it inevitably leaked into the blogosphere and was then published with Dr. Schneiders' permission in the online *National Catholic Reporter*. There was nothing vague about Dr. Schneiders' reaction to the impending visitation:

"I am not inclined to get into too much of a panic about this investigation — which is what it is. We just went through a similar investigation of seminaries, equally aggressive and dishonest. I do not put any credence at all in the claim that this is friendly, transparent, aimed to be helpful, etc. It is a hostile move and the conclusions are already in. It is meant to be intimidating. But I think if we believe in what we are doing (and I definitely

do), we just have to be peacefully about our business, which is announcing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, fostering the reign of God in this world.

"We cannot, of course, keep them from investigating. But we can receive them, politely and kindly, for what they are, uninvited guests who should be received in the parlor, not given the run of the house. When people ask questions they shouldn't ask, the questions should be answered accordingly. I just hope we will not, as we American religious so often do, think that by total 'openness' and efforts to 'dialogue' we are going to bring about mutual understanding and acceptance. This is not mutual and it is not a dialogue. The investigators are not coming to understand — believe me, we found that out in the seminary investigation. So let's be honest but reserved, supply no ammunition that can be aimed at us, be nonviolent even in the face of violence, but not be naive. Nonviolent resistance is what finally works as we've found out in so many arenas."

Between the circumspection of the LCWR and the call-to-arms of Sister Sandra Schneiders, I'll take Dr. Schneider's any day. Hers is perhaps the most candid summation of the cast of mind of many American religious women I've read in years. What it avoids, however, is the clear implication of Dr. Schneiders' use of "them" to identify the "investigators:" "them" are not, so to speak, "us." "We" are not of, or with, "them." "Them" reminds me of the Master of Trinity in "Chariots of Fire," speaking of a Cambridge student



GEORGE WEIGEL

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

whose approach to athletics (and indeed life) he deplored: "A different god; a different mountaintop."

What Sister Sandra Schneiders' admirably frank letter suggests is that the women religious who share her views live in a form of schism. It's not a formal, canonical schism. One might call it a kind of psychological schism, in which the outward forms of ecclesial unity are tenuously maintained, but the inner "self" (as these renewed sisters might put it) is, well, somewhere else.

The balance of Dr. Schneider's letter argues that she and her colleagues have "birthed a new form of religious life," and makes clear that she and those who stand with her will accept no one's appraisal of the Catholic authenticity of their creation but their own. That's an accurate, honest description of the current state of affairs. It's also bespeaks a form of schism. Will the impending visitation take a cue from Dr. Schneiders and have the courage to name these things for what they are? And if so, then what?

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

FENKER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

Why not begin now to create your own. Put yourself in Christ's presence and let your thoughts flow on to the paper. Don't be concerned about technicalities, even spelling — unless it's not readable. Remember and reflect on your personal life-story, then leave a legacy of intangible values and spiritual strengths to particular people in your life. Talents, and their use, are part of this legacy too.

Let's begin. Future generations will be grateful, even if you have to wait for heaven to be thanked personally. Get paper (a tablet is good) and a writing tool. Begin. Feel free to change where needed as you develop this. It will evolve on its own with God's grace.

1. List at least four spiritual gifts God has given you.

2. Name someone to whom you would like to leave each of these gifts.

3. List at least four special talents God has given you.

4. Choose someone to whom you want to leave these talents.

These simple questions begin your legacy. You might want to conclude each section by composing a blessing prayer for those you mentioned. If you are still in contact with these people, you may want to send them a note telling what you are leaving to them as your gift. It will help them find their own God-dream, and a fresh vision for life. They'll be eternally grateful for your precious, meaningful gifts. You'll be blessed too, even now.

Sister Angelita Fenker has been involved in education for over 60 years. Her doctorate is in spirituality with a focus on holistic family spirituality.

Sports

BISHOP DWENGER STUDENT NAMED WALK-ON FOR IU Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne recently announced that senior Stephen Fiacable has been named a Preferential Walk-On for Indiana University Bloomington's football team and will be joining the team for the 2009 season.

Marian plans to compete in warmer weather campaign

BY JOE KOZINSKI

MISHAWAKA — While the winter sports at Marian High School are being packed up and bundled until next year, the spring sports are currently being dusted off and ready to compete in a warmer campaign.

"Everything will come down to our spring sports as it pertains to the Bishop's Cup, the competition between rival Saint Joseph's and Marian," explained Reggie Glon, athletic director. "It's all knotted up right now and we have some of our stronger teams getting ready to square off.

"We return a veteran coaching staff and three of our teams advanced down state last season," Glon remarked. "The final games, matches or meets should determine the winner of the cup.

"Even though we look to have another great spring campaign, there are administrative challenges in front of us," Glon exclaimed.

"Due to the economic climate, we have had to review our budgets and make some painful decisions.

"Travel and personnel have suffered the most as it pertains to giving our athletes the best possible environment to compete," said Glon. "We do have an instrument to help in these times and that is our Media Guide, led by Kathy Bussmann and aided by JoAnne Eichhorn and Linda Martin. We are aggressively trying to acquire advertising revenue for the sports programs to counteract the slumping economy."

Boys golf

Playing in the state tournament and finishing sixth is not an ending to the story of the Marian Knights golf team, it's the beginning of a year of high expectations with cautious optimism.

"We have a very good nucleus of three veterans with five talented golfers in the running for the two remaining varsity spots," claimed Jim Kryder, 19-year coach of the Knights. "Being senior dominated has its good points and its bad. The good thing is that we have very talented experienced golfers.

"We are blessed to return Duke Recruit Adam Sumrall who combines the talents of a big hitter with the precision of his short game and the determination of a champion," Ryder said. "You put Adam with seniors Bryant Detmeter, also being recruited to play college golf, and Nick Fitzpatrick and we have the mak-

ings of a team that can have a very good stretch run.

"Over the years I have found that being the best and performing your best day in and day out are two different things," remarked Kryder. "We are blessed to have good players from great families that are willing to put the time in to be the best."

Rugby

Rugby is a team sport that most Americans can't comprehend, always being compared to the likes of football, wrestling and the battlefields of Europe. The raw aggressive characteristics make it a very exciting game to watch.

"We had a solid season last year and have actually gone up in numbers this Spring," explained rugby Coach Larry Daher. "We lost some key backs and key forwards but return one of the better players in the country in Collin Rahrig, who is on the under-18 national team.

"Though we will be considered young and inexperienced, we return senior captains Austin Perciful and Killian Probst," remarked Daher. "We will build on the hard work of other returnees; Blake Talos, Brett Hennesey, David Halter, Brandon Martin Antonio Winn and Andrew Hammond to steady the pitch during the early part of the season."

"It is going to take a while during the learning process but I hope that we can crescendo in the later stages of the season," said Daher. "I'm pleased to say that we have good quality kids that are very coachable but a little raw, that makes for an exciting year."

Softball

With a semi-state finish season's state tournament and a pre-season No. 2 ranking firmly placed on their backs, the Lady Knights are comfortable with the challenges ahead of them.

"We still have a lot to prove to the competition and to ourselves," commented 20-year veteran coach George Grenert. "We return our two leading hitters and defensive players in juniors Ashleigh and Alex Bousquet, which is big for us.

"If you talk about senior leadership, Santana Bozeman and Sam McCarty were at everything in the off season and led in drills," Grenert said. "Our strengths are the same as last year in great defense, but I feel we will be an improved hitting team this year.

"Pitching is our biggest ques-

tion mark, but I feel that our three hurlers will rise to the occasion and perform well," Grenert explained. "I and the girls really want to stay low key and workman like in our approach to the season."

Baseball

Not unlike the Lady Knights, the baseball team finished state runner-up and also has a preseason target affixed to their jerseys.

"The great thing about making a deep run in the state tourney is that everyone in the program realizes the responsibility they individually have to carry on the success," commented Tim Prister, Knight baseball coach. "The accountability and the leadership of our six returning seniors anchored our off season workouts.

"Right now it looks like our pitching staff is solid with the return of Jordan Niespodziany who won four of our five games in the state tournament and James Ross who gathered extensive experience last season," Prister said. "Our leadoff hitter Coley Parker returns and we expect big hits from Mike Karason at DH and Drew Smith at catcher-first base.

"We also have some talented underclassmen that will be asked to compete and others on the junior varsity in waiting," Prister said. "The plan is to have our seniors carry the majority of the load until the underclassmen mature during the course of the season."

Tennis

Tennis in St. Joseph County is coming back and is more competitive than ever as the Lady Knights ready for the upcoming campaign.

"The competition in the conference this year is really risen over the past seasons," explained Sarah Stanchin, tennis coach. "We had a solid squad last year but lost three varsity players to graduation.

"We return a nice group who have played and improved with seniors Adrienne Michaels and Merrill Welch and juniors Kathleen Klauer and Elizabeth Krizman," said Stanchin. "We will have a major addition on our squad with freshman Caroline Eberhart who is rated as one of the best players in the Midwest."

"We have a great group of leaders in our seniors and talent coming in the younger grades," remarked Stanchin. "Good competition, great leadership and upcoming talent should make for a fantastic season."

Girls track

After advancing some runners to last seasons regionals, this year's Lady Knights are looking to improve and develop their way to the state tournament.

"It looks like our numbers are way down from about five years ago when we peaked at 45 girls," explained Chris Killilea, girls track coach. "But the girls we have out are just busting their tails to improve and get better.

"So far we have seen great leadership from seniors Kaitlyn Koscielski and Elizebeth Majewski," remarked Killilea. "The leadership added to strength from our core junior class of Hanna Brammer, Kristin Florin, Rachel Whitfield and Emily Griffith gives us something positive to build on.

"I think that our relays will be strong but our individual events still have to be sorted out," Killilea commented. "It's a work in progress, but it could be very rewarding as the season goes on."

Boys track

Unlike the girls track program, the Knights boast good numbers on the boy's side, one problem exists — lack of experience.

"We are expecting and receiving leadership from seniors Paul Ogren and Tyrus Kozinski," Killilea said. "That is very important when you have many kids out with not much experience.

"I expect that we will be decent in the sprints and middle distances," remarked Killilea. "We have the potential to develop a quality distance team with the talent we have out.

"We do expect to score in the field events with the return of state finalist Matt Nuehoff in the high jump," Killilea said. "We also look to be competitive in all three relays, which will make this season very interesting."

DALY SULLIVAN WINS KNIGHTS' FREE THROW CONTEST



PROVIDED BY THE SULLIVAN FAMILY

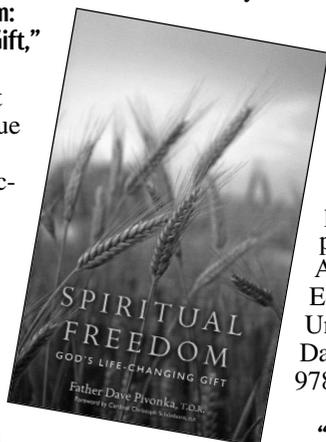
The winner of the Indiana State Championship for the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest was Daly Sullivan of St. Pius X Parish, Granger. Daly canned 20 of 25 shots to garner the state title.

New books for springtime reading

The following are recent releases that have been sent to Today's Catholic. Summaries were taken from press releases and include publisher and ISBN number.

"Spiritual Freedom: God's Life-changing Gift,"

by Father Dave Pivonka, TOR, not only defines the true nature of freedom but also offers practical tools to achieve conversion, healing and restoration. Father Pivonka uses Scripture, teaching, stories, humor and questions for reflection to inspire the reader to embrace the truth of who they are, children of God. Servant Books, ISBN: 978-0-86716-860-0



"Meet John Paul II: The People's Pope," by Janel Rodriguez invites the reader to consider the facts of John Paul's life — his impact on the world, his papacy that changed the face of the Catholic Church, his courage in handing crushing adversity — and to see the hand of God. Servant Books, ISBN: 978-0-86716-830-3

"Life of Christ," by Fulton J. Sheen is a reintroduction of this 50-year-old masterpiece by this beloved priest. In his recount of the life, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth, Sheen interprets Scripture with his customary reverence and provides new insight into the person and message of Jesus Christ. Doubleday, ISBN: 978-0-385-13220-6

"Things Hidden: Scripture as Spirituality," by Franciscan Father Richard Rohr explores the central themes of Scripture and discovers new meaning essential for modern Catholics. He uncovers what the Bible says about morality, power, wisdom and the generosity of God. St. Anthony Messenger Press, ISBN: 978-0-86716-659-0

"Faith, Finances, and the Future: The Notre Dame Study of U.S. Pastors,"

By Ronald Nuzzi, James Frabutt and Anthony Holter reports findings from a 2008 nationwide study of over 2,000 pastors from nearly every diocese in the country, who are responsible for a Catholic school. The authors include recommendations for addressing the most pressing issues those pastors identified. Alliance for Catholic Education Press at the University of Notre Dame, ISBN: 978-0-9788793-5-8

"Making Sense of God: A Woman's Perspective,"

Elizabeth Dreyer is one in the eight-book series "Called to Holiness: Spirituality for Catholic Women." Dreyer, a Catholic theologian, encourages women to acknowledge their dignity, harvest their gifts, and empower all women in church and society in this book. St. Anthony Messenger Press, ISBN: 978-0-86716-884-6

"Grieving With Grace," by Dolores R. Leckey is another in the "Called to Holiness: Spirituality for Catholic Women" series. It offers a moving and personal narrative from the author's own experience after the death of her husband. Leckey offers hope in adversity with entries from her journal. St. Anthony Messenger Press, ISBN: 978-0-86716-888-4

"God Loves You and There is Nothing You Can Do About It: Saying Yes to the Holy Spirit," by David Mangan, a member of the Renewal Ministries, an organization dedicated to the renewal of the Catholic Church, blends lively anecdotes, personal testimonies and humor to show the reader how to turn to God in expectant faith and be open to the "dynamite" of the Holy



Spirit. Servant Books, ISBN 978-0-86716-839-6

"Deeper Conversion: Extraordinary Grace for ordinary Times," by Sister Ann Shields, SGL, is a powerful book rich with Gospel meditations that will assist the reader in an examination of life in light of the Bible. Servant Books, ISBN: 978-0-86716-811-2

"Ireland's Saint: The Essential Biography of St. Patrick," by J. B. Bury, the first modern biographer of St. Patrick, seeks to discover the man beneath the layer of myth and legend. He explores the life of the missionary who traveled Ireland bringing Christianity to its shores. Paraclete Press, ISBN 978-1-55725-557-0

"Lourdes Today: A Pilgrimage to Mary's Grotto," by Kerry Crawford invites the reader to enter into the healing promise of the famous shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes through contemporary testimony, history and firsthand descriptions of 21st century Lourdes. Servant Books, ISBN: 978-0-86716-825-9

"The Mystery of the Transfiguration," by Raniero Cantalamessa, OFM Cap, considers this event from the perspective of Scripture and some of the great teachers of the church. The author explains that his goal is to bring the reader up to Mount Tabor in prayer so that in gazing on Christ, the reader will become like Christ, transformed in glory. Servant Books, ISBN: 978-0-86716-802-0

"African Saints: 40 Holy Men and Women, African Stories," by Camille Lewis Brown, Ph.D., offers 40 stories from a wealth of saints and other inspirational people from Africa who serve as role models of faith for all races. These

holy men and women witness to their utter dependence on God, strength in adversity and love for the Eucharist. St. Anthony Messenger Press, ISBN: 978-0-86716-805-1

"Real Women, Real Saints," by Gina Loehr is a compilation of over 100 biographies of women who have been canonized as saints in the Catholic Church. Each short story provides the essence of the saint's life and the link between their lives and the reader's. It is a valuable resource for those seeking a deeper communion with God. Servant Books, ISBN: 978-0-86716-858-7

"Jesus, Present Before Me: Meditations for Eucharistic Adoration," by Father Peter John Cameron, O.P., offers 30 days of eucharistic meditation that includes Scripture, meditation, reflection questions and closing prayer, eucharistic reflections on the 20 mysteries of the rosary, a eucharistic colloquy, a litany and a Way of the Eucharist. This book invites the reader to enter into the mystery and miracle of Jesus present in the Eucharist. Servant Books, ISBN: 978-0-86716-857-0

"Meet John XXIII: Joyful Pope and Father to All," by Patricia Treece, author of a number of books on saints, uses new research to bring the warmth of this pope's spirit and his solid practical spirituality to this biography. A fascinating, inspirational read. Servant Books, ISBN: 978-0-86716-729-0

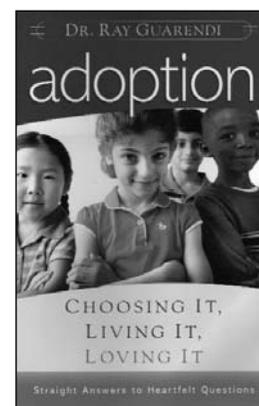
"Finding Happiness: Monastic Steps for a Fulfilling Life," by Abbot Christopher Jamison, author and host of the popular BBC documentary series "The Monastery," offers insight into an age-old spiritual way of living based on monastic principals that are easily applied to all degrees of religiousness. The book guides the reader through various aspects of happiness to reveal what monastic wisdom has to say about them. Liturgical Press, ISBN: 978-0-8146-1878-3

Best selling author Patrick Madrid offers an inspiring guide to Scripture with his latest book, "150 Bible Verses Every Catholic Should Know." The 12 chapters, including Salvation, Trial and Temptations and The Law of Love, provide thought provoking Scripture and commentary that lends themselves to everyday life situations. Servant Books, ISBN: 978-0-86716-902-7

"Francis and His Brothers: A Popular History of the Franciscan Friars," by Franciscan scholar and historian, Dominic V. Monti, OFM, aims to describe the 800-year-long journey of the followers of the reknown St. Francis from the beginning to present times. The history of these men provides information not only on medieval developments but the internal evolution and mission efforts of the friars during modern times. St. Anthony Messenger Press, ISBN: 978-0-86716-855-6

"Prayers for Catholic Men," By Mike Pacer is a pocket-sized guide for daily prayer that includes original and traditional prayers focusing on everyday life and times of special need. The prayers for work, family, personal strength, sexual purity and others include an encouraging reflection to inspire an open heart. This book offers a springboard for men to achieve a deeper prayer life. Servant Books, ISBN: 978-0-86716-881-5

"A Saint on Death Row: The Story of Dominique Green," by Thomas Cahill is the sobering, yet deeply spiritual story of a young man who was unjustly put to death after being convicted of a crime he says he did not commit. The book presents the innate goodness of this man as well as the American judicial system with all of its flaws. It offers the reader food for thought on the merits of the death penalty. Nan A. Talese/Doubleday ISBN: 978-0-385-52019-5



"Adoption: Choosing It, Living It, Loving It," by Dr. Ray Guarendi is a must have resource for anyone considering adoption, or for those who have already adopted. The author, father of 10 adopted children, looks at the most commonly asked questions about adoption with insight, humor and a

heart for the adoptive family. He hopes to dispell misperceptions about adoption, encourage others to think about it and to guide those adoptive parents to a more rewarding family life. Servant Books, ISBN: 978-0-86716-913-3

"Eve: A Novel of the First Woman," by Elissa Elliot offers this first time novelist's imaginative insight into the ageless story of Eve. The novel is richly imbued with biblical tradition, ancient history and laced with an intimate tone as Eve describes her life with Adam. A provoking and intriguing read. Delacorte Press Hardcover, ISBN 978-0-385-34144-8



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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

MISC. HAPPENINGS

Dyngus Day celebration planned
Granger — The Knights of Columbus Council 4263 will host a Dyngus Day celebration Monday, April 13, at St. Pius X auxiliary gym from 4-9:30 p.m. Sausage, cabbage, boiled eggs, beer and soda. Entertainment from 5-9 p.m. by Will Smaka Polka Band. Admission age 14 and up \$5, under 14 \$1. Food and drink additional.

Knights plan spaghetti dinner
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a spaghetti dinner on Friday, April 17, from 5 to 7 p.m. Adults \$7, children (5-12) \$3. Dinner includes spaghetti, salad, garlic toast and coffee. Carry-out available.

Run for the Rams dinner auction
Huntington — The Run for the Rams dinner and auction will be Saturday, May 2, at the PAL Club, 2099 Riverside Dr., at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$60 per person and may be purchased by calling (260) 356-2320. All proceeds benefit Huntington Catholic School.

Junior production at Precious Blood
Fort Wayne — Most Precious Blood School will perform Dear Edwina Junior, Friday, April 24, and Saturday, April 25, at 7 p.m.

in the gym. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children.

Homeward Bound walk planned
Fort Wayne — Homeward Bound, a 5K walk for families who are struggling, homeless and separated will be Sunday, April 26, at 2 p.m. in Headwaters Park. No fee is required to participate but visit www.homeward-boundindiana.org for information and to register. All proceeds will benefit the shelter program at Vincent Village.

Daughters Remembering retreat planned
Mishawaka — A retreat for adult daughters whose mothers have died will be May 1-2 at Sacred Waters. Sign in will begin on Friday at 6 p.m. and will close at 9 p.m. on Saturday. There is no cost to attend the retreat, but donations will be accepted to offset the cost of food and lodging. To register or for more information, please contact Sheri Nisely Frazier at (574) 243-3100 or (800) 413-9083.

Sermon on the Mount performed
Fort Wayne — Frank Runyeon will perform "Sermon on the Mount," Sunday, April 26, at 7 p.m. at St. Therese Church, 2304 Lower Huntington Rd. A reception will follow. Admission is free, but a freewill offering will be taken. Sponsored by St.

Aloysius, St. Joseph, Bluffton and St. Therese churches.

High School retreat planned
Fort Wayne — A New Life With Christ high school retreat will be April 18-19 at Pokagon State Park. Cost is \$25. Call John Zollinger at (260) 484-6609 by April 13 for more information and to reserve your spot. All high schoolers welcome.

Open house at St. John School
South Bend — St. John the Baptist School, 3616 St. John's Way; will host an open house for prospective preschool to eighth-grade students and their families Thursday, April 16, from 6-8 p.m. with formal presentations for preschool at 6:30 p.m., kindergarten at 7 p.m. and first grade at 7:30 p.m. The school offers a full and half day preschool program along with after-school care for all grades. Free child care will be available.

Our Lady of Hungary announces events
South Bend — The Our Lady of Hungary school council will have a rummage sale Saturday, April 18 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the school gym. Donations may be dropped off at the school from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. A Hair-Cut-A-Thon will be Monday, April 20, at 2:45 p.m. A minimum donation of \$10 is politely requested. People will be served

REST IN PEACE

Bluffton

Daniel A. Runyon, 48, St. Joseph

Bremen

Donald J. Loecher, 51, St. Dominic

Columbia City

Robert J. Saffer, 87, St. Paul of the Cross

Decatur

Eloise A. Roeder, 80, St. Mary/Assumption

Elkhart

James W. Riley, 80, St. Thomas the Apostle

Henry V. Konecny, 92, St. Vincent de Paul

Fort Wayne

Richard P. Rogers, 79, Queen of Angels

Thomas J. Stock, 75, Queen of Angels

Alice Beery, 94, St. Charles Borromeo

David W. Clark, 46, St. Jude

Dorothy L. Nicola, 85, Most Precious Blood

Clarence M. Brase, 90, St. Patrick

Betty Neidermeyer, 79, St. Jude

Lorraine Schorey, 66, St. Patrick

Mishawaka

Marjorie Lee Lang, 77, Queen of Peace

Notre Dame

Eugene J. Leahy, 87, Basilica/Sacred Heart

South Bend

Lloyd E. Crothers, 86, St. Matthew Cathedral

James L. Barnes, 69, Little Flower

Gertrude M. Ornat, 91, Corpus Christi

Donna G. Potts, 74, St. Matthew Cathedral

Leona A. Kolber, 85, St. Hedwig

Lucille V. Rajski, 93, St. Stanislaus

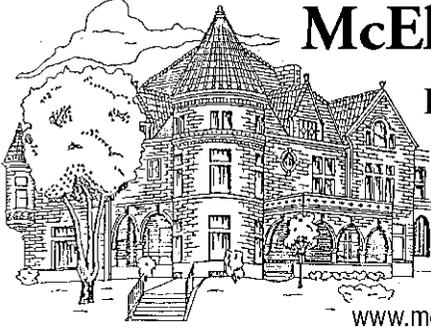
Richard Skowronski, 88, St. Adalbert

in the order they arrive. All stylists are licensed. Proceeds from these events go to the school.

Open house and wine tasting planned
Fort Wayne — St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel will have a sping open house Thursday, April 16, from 5-7:30 p.m. in the hall. Many vendors will be available. A wine tasting fundraiser will be

Saturday, April 18, from 7:30-10:30 p.m. in the Msgr. Content Center. Sample 19 wines and hors d'oeuvres. Tickets are \$25.

NFP classes offered
Fort Wayne — The Couple to Couple League will offer Natural Family Planning classes starting Sunday, April 19, at 6 p.m. To register call (260) 489-1856.



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PRAYER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

same.

"Get on their Web site," Gill said, referring to www.ndresponse.com, "so you can receive e-mails from them. I think they have things planned regularly from now until graduation."

Randall Terry, a well-known pro-life activist and founder of Operation Rescue, says ND Response should be doing more.

"Calling for President Jenkins' resignation," he exclaimed. "Calling for Obama to be canceled. Talking about boycotting the graduation."

Student leaders for ND Response say they're doing anything but sitting still. Chris Labadie, a senior in the theology department and chairman of ND Response, called university administrators to task for not only inviting Obama to speak, but for plans to confer upon him an honorary doctorate of law degree.

"To award a Notre Dame law degree to a lawyer and politician who has used the law to deny equality to the unborn, diminishes the value of the degree itself," said Labadie. "And so we pledge ourselves to acts of witness that will be characterized by respect, prayerfulness, outspoken fidelity to the church and true concern for the good of our university."

Among the upcoming activities is a 40-day rosary campaign, beginning on the Wednesday of Holy Week. It is the group's hope

to present to Obama a spiritual bouquet, backed up by one to 3 million rosaries prayed for the conversion of his heart. Those who wish to help are asked to go to the ND Response Web page and log the number of rosaries prayed.

Keynote address

The keynote speaker was Harold Cassidy, a nationally recognized attorney, who has litigated pro-life cases that have advanced the true rights and interests of pregnant mothers. He focused his remarks on the effects of the 1984 speech given on campus by then-governor of New York, Mario Cuomo.

"He assumes that the conclusion that the unborn child is a human being, whose life should be given the same legal protection of other human beings, is a purely religious belief," explained Cassidy. "In fact, he suggests that it is a Catholic belief, one that he can't force on non-Catholics."

Cassidy continued, "Gov. Cuomo's assumption that it is a religious belief gained great traction, and caused great harm. It has been used to undermine the credibility of Catholics who attempt to engage in serious discussion about the injustices of legal abortion."

Cassidy highlighted two recent cases that legally separate biological fact from ideological or religious fact. He then went on to compare President Obama with Cuomo, citing the many fine qualities each man has.

"Our disagreement is over an issue that is far more important than any of these," continued Cassidy, referring to the right to



DIANE FREEBY

The shirt at the Palm Sunday prayer rally signifies the plea, "Irish Fighting for Life"

life. "Its magnitude outweighs that of any other issue, and all other issues combined. It's a disagreement about the injustice of the killing of tens of thousands of human beings, and the destruction of the rights, interests and health of their mothers."

As he continued his speech, Cassidy was briefly interrupted by Notre Dame sophomore, Mistee Colbert. As others tried to quiet her

by standing in front of her, Cassidy asked them to stop, saying he welcomed those who disagree with him.

"I agree with you," shouted Colbert, "but Obama's coming here has nothing to do with abortion..."

Cassidy tried to continue his talk. "I'm speaking. You can speak when it's your turn."

"No, no ... I can speak right now!" asserted Colbert, who maintained that Obama only wants to congratulate the Notre Dame graduates, and not promote any of his agenda.

Later, Colbert told *Today's Catholic* she is a prelaw student who is against abortion, but thinks the dissent on campus is also racially motivated. Labadie says ND Response plans to meet with

Colbert and other concerned students to discuss that and other possibilities.

Meanwhile, Cassidy wrapped up his talk and the students led the crowd in praying the glorious mysteries of the rosary as the rain began to fall. Instead of seeking shelter, the crowd just popped open umbrellas and continued to pray. Following the rosary, Freddoso stepped to the podium and called the administration to task for not upholding their duty as Catholic leaders.

Freddoso speaks

"Now of course, the administrators of the university do not 'condone or endorse (Obama's) positions,' or presumably his actions on 'specific issues regarding the protection of human life,'" said Freddoso. "And to be sure, it is permissible to honor someone despite the bad things he's done, as long as those bad things are ... not all that bad."

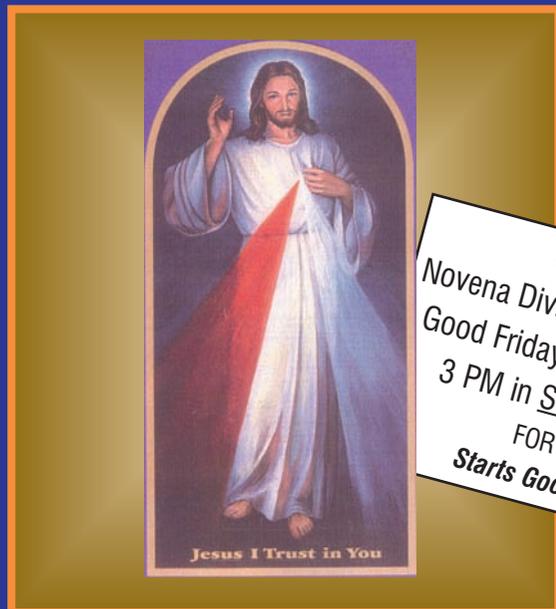
Freddoso cited Obama's reversal of the Mexico City policy, which had prohibited taxpayer money from going to groups that promote or perform abortions in other nations.

"This is bad, the university administrators admit," said Freddoso, "but it's not all that bad."

"The list goes on," continued Freddoso. "The point is absolutely clear. When it comes to issues that bear upon the protection of human life at its earliest stages, issues which as one administrator put it, quote, 'We care so much about,' unquote, there just is no bad action on the part of President Obama that we are going to count as 'all that bad.'"

Freddoso closed with the plea, "Mary, Mother of Sorrows, pray for us!"

As the crowd applauded and whistled, ND Response members invited everyone to proceed to the grotto to place a white carnation at the foot of the statue of Our Lady.



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Novena Divine Mercy Chaplet
Good Friday to Mercy Sunday
3 PM in St. Jude Church
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Starts Good Friday, April 10

Ninth Worldwide Mercy Sunday

April 19, 2009 Divine Mercy Sunday Devotion

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM: Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
(Reconciliation during these two hours or anytime during Lent)

3:00 PM: Divine Mercy Chaplet

- Procession and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
- Homily - Father James Seculoff

Presider: Father Thomas Shoemaker

St. Jude Church - Randallia Dr., at E. State Blvd., Fort Wayne

www.stjudefw.org/adoration

Bishop Luers High School Presents...

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Performance Schedule

April 30, May 1, May 2 at 7:30 p.m.

Matinee performance ~ May 2 at 2:00 p.m.

Cost: \$10

Join us for

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May 2 at 1:00 p.m. in the Café

Cost: \$15 per guest **Limited Seating is Available**
Includes Tea Party with Belle and fellow Characters from the play and reserved seating for the 2:00 p.m. performance.

Tickets will be available to purchase in the Campus Ministry Office on April 15th.

Bishop Luers High School

www.bishopluers.org

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